

WEEKLY INSPIRATIONAL SCRIPTURE

by David R Hughes

2/13/21 False Teachers

Matthew 24:4-5 and Matthew 24: 21-27 KJV

⁴ And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

⁵ For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

²¹ For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

²² And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

²³ Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

²⁴ For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

²⁵ Behold, I have told you before.

²⁶ Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

²⁷ For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

My Comments: drh

Jesus first warned the disciples in verses 4 and 5 that many others would come preaching in the name of Jesus saying He is Christ (the anointed one) and this would happen very soon (and the time draweth near, Luke 21: 8 a parallel scripture to Matthew 24: 5, not speaking of the end of the age here) but they are not to follow them or their false doctrines or different gospel. ("For the mystery of iniquity doth already work" see 2 Thessalonians 2:7) Christian teachers with Babylonian and other false doctrines infiltrated the early church in Asia while Paul was preaching and writing letters to them. By the fourth century AD, many of the false pagan doctrines eventually became official church doctrine as the Roman Catholic Church tried to convert more pagans by giving Christian names to popular pagan idols and traditions. Some of those traditions such as the pagan aspects of Easter, Christmas and Sunday worship were passed on to the Protestant churches and will continue being practiced by them until Christ comes to destroy false religion which all had their beginnings with the Babylonian Mystery Religion. (Read Alexander Hislop's book "The Two Babylons") That is why all true Christians who desire to worship God in spirit and truth must "Come Out of Her" before Christ returns at the seventh trumpet. Listen to the original song "Come Out of Her" song #4 on my album The Gospel According to Merlin. It is located on the Music Albums page at the lower part of the page in this website.

Later in this Olivet Discourse Jesus warns of false Christs and false prophets. These imposters will be so convincing that they could possibly deceive even the chosen true Christians into following them. Many people will be deceived by them at the end of the age so Jesus describes His coming to help us discern the truth. It will not be a secret coming but for the whole world to see, and quickly like the speed of light flashing across the sky from a lightning strike.

2/6/21 The Power of the Gospel & The Condemnation of the Unrighteous

Romans 1:16-32 NET (Paul writing to Roman Christians)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is God's power for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel from faith to faith, just as it is written, "The righteous by faith will live."

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth by their unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world his invisible attributes—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, because they are understood through what has been made. So people are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not glorify him as God or give him thanks, but they became futile in their thoughts and their senseless hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for an image resembling mortal human beings or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles. ²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the desires of their hearts to impurity, to dishonor their bodies among themselves. ²⁵ They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served the creation rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. ²⁶ For this reason God gave them over to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged the natural sexual relations for unnatural ones, ²⁷ and likewise the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed in their passions for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. ²⁸ And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what should not be done. ²⁹ They are filled with every kind of unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, malice. They are rife with envy, murder, strife, deceit, hostility. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, contrivers of all sorts of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ senseless, covenant-breakers, heartless, ruthless. ³² Although they fully know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but also approve of those who practice them.

My Comments: drh

I used New English Translation (NET) to help better clarify some of the statements made by Paul.

16-17 Paul declares his faith in Christ and the Gospel that he preaches openly without shame because it is an expression of God's power to bring salvation to all who believe and accept Christ's sacrifice for the covering of their sin before God. He admits that the Gospel and Salvation goes first to the Jews, but then also to the Greeks (Gentiles). The gospel reveals to us what God's righteousness is and the phrase "from faith to faith" perhaps meaning from first to last (of our journey through faith in God).

18-20 The wrath of God against all ungodly and unrighteous people knowing the truth of their sins is revealed from heaven by God through Jesus Christ. Paul speaks of unrighteousness people (such as pagan Rome, Egypt, Babylon etc.) who suppress the truth by lies and deceit, that are condemned to the wrath of God. The justification of wrath on them is revealed from heaven and they are without excuse because all of creation clearly reveals God's power and divine nature and can be understood simply by observing His creation.

21-23 Considering the people should know God according to vs. 18-20, but do not glorify Him or give Him thanks and they allow their minds to become useless and their hearts without compassion and love, they become fools, worshipping lifeless idols, (man-made images of God's creation) even though they claim to be wise. (Modern day idols can be automobiles, boats, buildings, sports,

organizations, statues, governments etc. and even churches. They are man-made things we are devoted to and allow to rule our time, finances, work, and emotions other than God)

24-25 So God allowed their uncleanness to run its course through the lusts of their hearts dishonoring their bodies with each other. These are the people who change the truth of God into a lie and serve images of creation more than the Creator Himself who lives forever.

26-31 Paul lists in detail all the uncleanness these ungodly people are given over to for the destruction of their souls by the fullness of their sins.

32 The people are aware that God will righteously judge the wickedness of their sins with death but they love and take pleasure in their sins anyway.

(Listen to the song "Taking A Train to the Kingdom of God" on the Gospel According to Merlin. It is located on the Music Albums page at the lower part of the page in this website)

CONTINUE TO LAST WEEK'S SCRIPTURES BELOW

1/30/21 Come Out of Her

Revelation 18 KJV

And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. ² And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. ³ For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. ⁴ And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. ⁵ For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. ⁶ Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. ⁷ How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. ⁸ Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. ⁹ And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, ¹⁰ Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. ¹¹ And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: ¹² The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, ¹³ And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. ¹⁴ And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. ¹⁵ The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, ¹⁶ And saying, Alas, alas that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! ¹⁷ For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, ¹⁸ And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! ¹⁹ And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate. ²⁰ Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. ²¹ And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. ²² And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; ²³ And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. ²⁴ And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

My Comments: drh

Babylon means confusion. Revelation 17:3 refers to Mystery Babylon the Great as a woman. Biblical symbolism refers to church or a religion as women. Therefore we can surmise that this Babylon is a false religious system that has created and spread spiritual confusion with false Babylonian doctrine and spiritual fornication through idolatry on a worldwide scale (see Rev. 17:2). Her traits of selfish pride and vanity are described in detail along with the colors of her elaborate clothing. Her unbelievable wealth is also described and the despicable ways she obtained it. Revelation 17:16 says the ten horns (kings or rulers) on the beast (antichrist government) will hate the whore (Mystery Babylon), make her desolate and naked, and eat her flesh and burn her with fire. That destruction is described here in chapter 18 in detail. Also according to Revelation 17:6 this Babylonian Mystery Religion will be drunk with blood of the saints and martyrs of Jesus. Revelation 17:9 states "And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated." This false Babylonian religion is located on the seven heads of the beast (antichrist government) which is a place with seven mountains (hills - NIV). Rome is the city famously known as the city with seven hills or mountains. The seven heads are seven successive resurrections of an empire that has ruled over Rome and Europe since it was healed from a deadly wound received in 476 AD when the pagan Roman Empire was ended by the invasion of the barbarian Arian Christian Herulli under King Odoacer and the boy emperor Romulus Augustus was deposed. See the "Beast of Revelation Diagram" located on this page of the website. It only appears on desktop format because it is a large spreadsheet. The final seventh head has not come into power yet but it will rule over Europe and the west for three and one half years at the end of this age just before Christ returns to rule the whole earth. As before during the Holy Roman Empire's 1260 year reign from Justinian who installed Vigilius as Pope with "papal supremacy" in 538 AD until Napoleon imprisoned pope Pius VI in 1798, the beast (Rome) will enforce with penalty of economic or physical death, Roman Catholic Sunday rest & Worship and their false Babylonians doctrines only to be observed. Read Alexander Hislop's book "The Two Babylons". The "Venerable Day of the Sun" was first proclaimed the official Roman lawful day of rest by Constantine the Emperor in 321 AD. Later at the Church Council of Laodicea in 364 AD the Roman Catholic Church outlawed resting or "Judaizing" (observing God's 4th commandment) on the 7th Day Sabbath established by God when He sanctified it and declared it to be a sign. See Genesis 2: 2-3. Deuteronomy 5: 12-14, Exodus 31: 17, Ezekiel 20:12. The Roman Catholic Church claims to have the only authority on earth and heaven to have transferred the holiness of the Sabbath to the Babylonian worshipped Sun day, the first day of the week. The fourth commandment was not changed by Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath, and it was not changed anywhere in the scriptures by the apostles who continued observing and preaching on the Sabbath. Therefore Sunday worship and rest is a tradition of men and Jesus declared in Mark 7: 7-9 "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. ⁸ For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. ⁹ And he said unto them, Full well **ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.**"

Although we are no longer under the sacrificial laws of the Old Covenant because they were fulfilled by Christ, all ten of the Ten Commandments are still valid and necessary today if we want to live in the ways of God, the Father. There are also other Roman Catholic traditions of men kept by Protestant Christians today.

See instructions for God's commandment laws in Deuteronomy 6: 8-9 & Mark 10: 17-27. Also listen to the original song "Come Out of Her" song #4 on my album The Gospel According to Merlin. It is located on the Music Albums page at the lower part of the page in this website.

1/23/2021 A Nation Worthy of God's Vengeance

Jeremiah 9: 1-9 - King James Version (KJV)

¹Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

²Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! for **they be all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men.**

³And they **bend their tongues** like their bow for lies: but they are **not valiant for the truth** upon the earth; for they **proceed from evil to evil**, and they **know not me**, saith the LORD.

⁴Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother: for **every brother will utterly supplant**, and every neighbour **will walk with slanders.**

⁵And **they will deceive every one his neighbour**, and **will not speak the truth**: they **have taught their tongue to speak lies**, and **weary themselves to commit iniquity.**

⁶Thine habitation is in the midst of deceit; **through deceit they refuse to know me**, saith the LORD.

⁷Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, **Behold, I will melt them, and try them**; for how shall I do for the daughter of my people?

⁸**Their tongue is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait.**

⁹Shall I not visit them for these things?

saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?

My Comments: drh

These scriptures from Jeremiah were referring to the kingdom of Judah before they were conquered and taken captive into Babylon. He has great sorrow for the people of Judah for their sins against God and each other and even wishes to leave them and go into the wilderness. But he did not leave. Jeremiah details the sins that he sees the people committing and their disregard for truth. We are seeing much of this in the United States of America and the world today, and these scriptures become very significant to us because verse 9 states that God will be avenged on such a nation.

1/16/2021 God's Mercy, Salvation, Judgement and Kingship

Psalm 67 - King James Version (KJV)

¹God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah.

²That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.

³Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

⁴O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah.

⁵Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

⁶Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

⁷God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

My Comments: drh

King David appeals to God for mercy on His people and to bless them by revealing Himself to them so they may learn God's way of eternal life and give that knowledge to all the earth. And that the salvation from sin and sickness His knowledge brings will fill the earth. King David knows that God inhabits praise and God will answer the prayers of those who love Him and praise Him so he encourages the people to praise God for His blessings. David then looks forward to the coming Kingdom of God on earth when God will reign through His Son, Yahshua Christ. It will be a joyous time for all the nations of the world because Yahshua will be their judge and He will judge righteously and will reign over them with the ruling authority of God Himself. King David sees the coming Kingdom of God as reason for all the people to praise God. And when that kingdom comes God will bless the earth with the wonderful fruitfulness of all its natural bounty and all people and nations on the earth will respect and give reverence to the power and the glory of God Almighty.

1/09/2021 God's Law, Sin and Grace

Romans 6 - King James Version (KJV)

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? ³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: ⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. ⁷ For he that is dead is freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: ⁹ Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. ¹⁰ For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. ¹¹ Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. ¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. ¹³ Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. ¹⁶ Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? ¹⁷ But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. ¹⁸ Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. ¹⁹ I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. ²⁰ For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. ²¹ What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. ²² But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

My Comments: drh

According to 1 John 3, to sin is to transgress the law, for sin is the transgression of the law. A believer who truly accepts the doctrine and way of Yahshua Christ and loves God is no longer under the law because God's laws are now written in their heart, (Jeremiah 31: 33 & Hebrews 10: 16-22) meaning they love God's law and they have freely chosen to sacrifice their own way (v.6 our old man is crucified with Him) and become one with God's way of eternal life. In effect, they have become one with the lawgiver. That person is no longer ruled by sin and is no longer under the penalty for sin (breaking God's law) which is death. If we truly repent (turn away from a sinful life) and believe Yahshua was crucified and raised from the dead by the power of God, we will be forgiven of all our confessed sins (1 John 5: 4-5), as defined by the laws of God which were previously contrary to our nature and condemned us, before being blotted out by His crucifixion, thus taking away that condemnation by His forgiveness so we can be born again spiritually with a heart that is in one accord with God's eternal law. Grace is His forgiveness for sins we have committed and repented of when we believe in the Gospel of the Kingdom and Yahshua, the Son of the Living God. Receiving God's grace and turning from sin, we are then able to receive God's Holy Spirit and His free gift of eternal life through His Son. To continue sinning will earn us the wages of sin which is death of our spirit, the second death. (Revelation 21: 8)

1/02/21 The Good Shepherd

Psalm 23 King James Version (KJV)

23 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

A shepherd's reading of the Twenty Third Psalm

We are as sheep of the herd belonging to our God with His son Yahshua (Jesus) as our shepherd. Occasionally a herd of sheep needs to be led into far off pastures to graze and be exercised before being brought back to the safety and comfort of their home. Only a good qualified shepherd can take them out and bring them all back safely and satisfied. "And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd." Ezekiel 34: 23

I am as a sheep belonging to Yahweh with His son, Yahshua who is my shepherd. He will provide all of my needs. He takes me to beautiful green pastures where I can be fed and rest in peacefulness and comfort. He leads me away from dangerous rushing waters to the safe and calm streams where I am refreshed and restored with its cool and clear water. He always leads me along the safe and right paths for the sake of His name as the Good Shepherd.

Even though I walk through the valley where the death of innocents throws its eerie shadow over the land, I will not fear any of its evils because Yahshua is here with me. His rod of strength and staff of guidance give me comfort and peace. He calmly sets up a place close by me in this dangerous valley for His afternoon meal while wolves and other predators who want to destroy me and consume my flesh look down upon me with selfish desire from the surrounding hills.

After the long hot day's journey, He will lead me back home and through the gate where He will pour cool oil upon my head and give me refreshing water from His overflowing cup that quenches my thirst completely. I know that the goodness of this day will continue for the rest of my life because of His love and mercy and I choose to live in God's household forever.

David Hughes (inspired by the book "***The song of our Syrian***" guest by William Allen Knight)

12/26/2020 Old and New Wine

Luke 5: 33-39 kjv (parallel verses Matt. 9: 14-17 & Mark 2: 16-22)

³³ And they said unto him, Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink? ³⁴ And he said unto them, Can ye make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? ³⁵ But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days. ³⁶ And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was taken out of the new agreeth not with the old. ³⁷ And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. ³⁸ But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved. ³⁹ No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.

My Comments: drh

This teaching from Jesus was a result of some observers (John's disciples in Matt.9:14) noticing Jesus' disciples did not follow certain stringent customs and rules of the Pharisees also followed by John the Baptist's disciples. In particular, their ascetic lifestyle, practice of fasting and praying publicly was insinuated to be necessary for Jesus' disciples as well as John's disciples. Jewish fasting was practiced as mourning for sins, or sincere regret and making amends for wrongdoing by denying self. Jesus made the point that being with the bridegroom (of His church) before the wedding was not an appropriate time to mourn or in this case to fast. Jesus also pointed out that fasting was not wrong because His disciples would fast when He was gone from their physical presence. The question they asked was valid considering the Pharisees and even John's disciples did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah at that time. John appeared to need more convincing when he asked through his disciples from prison "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?" Matthew 11:3 Strong's Concordance shows the Greek word translated bottles in KJV should be leather bottles or wineskins. New wineskins (usually goat skins) were flexible and old used wineskins were stretched out and brittle. Since new wine was not yet completely fermented, it would release gases causing new wineskins to stretch and old wineskins to burst. A similar example of how a new unshrunk piece of cloth being used to repair a tear on an old already washed and shrunk garment would cause the garment to tear again when washed and dried. The new wine represents Jesus' new teaching regarding the Jewish religion and their ways of keeping the Old Covenant "handwriting of ordinances" and worshipping God. His teaching allowed healing and doing acts of goodness on the Sabbath. He taught that "For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the *tradition of men*, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things you do...Full well you *reject* the commandment of God, that you may keep your *own tradition*". (Mark 7:8-9) Jesus' authority to forgive sins or transgressions of the law was a particularly important new teaching that the Pharisees would not accept because they did not believe He was the Son of God. If the Jews accepted Jesus' new ways and new approach to their religion but tried to hold on to and incorporate them into the old doctrines and traditions of men taught by the Pharisees, they would be harmed or damaged spiritually even to the point of destruction. A good analogy of this would be in a Jewish marriage where one of the two spouses is converted to Christianity and the other remains devoted to the Pharisees' teachings. The result would be a difficult marriage at minimum and possibly the complete destruction of the marriage. Add children to the analogy and the difficulties would be even worse. In verse 39 Jesus shows that John's disciples at that time and the Pharisees did not fast because they still believed the "old wine" of their traditions and doctrines was better.

12/19/2020 The True Church

Revelation 3: 7-11 kjv

⁷ And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; ⁸ I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. ⁹ Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. ¹⁰ Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. ¹¹ Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

My Comments: drh

Jesus here is speaking to a church that is in the future from the time it was written down by John from his vision of the revelation of Jesus Christ. The church in Philadelphia at the time of John's vision is used as an example to describe and speak to this future church. Christ declares His own righteousness in God's sight and that He is true and that He holds the key of David meaning He fulfills the promise made to King David that his throne would last forever and He (Christ) has authority to rule on that throne over the kingdom of God from the New Jerusalem. He opens and shuts doors for whoever He chooses that no man is able to change or interfere with. Yahshua approves of the works done by the people in this church and opens a door for them. They are small in number but have kept God's word and have spoken God's truth boldly in Yahshua's name without fear. This church was persecuted and slandered by those professing to be Jews (the people of God) in the first century AD and will be by them and also false (Babylonian) Christians until the tribulation, but eventually God will set this Philadelphia church in high authority over them when they will come to know God's love for them. The people of this church will be kept from the temptation of Satan's great deception to worship him during the world's tribulation at the end of the age because they kept the word of His patience. *"To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life."* (Romans 2:7). However, they must continue in their good works and faithfulness until Christ comes to avoid losing their crown of eternal life.

12/12/2020 HIDDEN SINS OF THE MIND OR IMAGINATION

Matthew 5: 17-30

¹⁷ Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.
¹⁸ For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. ¹⁹ Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. ²¹ Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: ²² But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother **without a cause** shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. ²³ Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; ²⁴ Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. ²⁵ Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. ²⁶ Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing. ²⁷ Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: ²⁸ But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. ²⁹ And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. ³⁰ And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Re: Matt. 5: 22

Raca, (Smith's Bible Dictionary)

A term of reproach derived from the Chaldee reka , worthless. ("Raca denotes a certain looseness of life and manners, while fool, in the same passage, means a downright wicked and reprobate person.") "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good." Psalm 14:1

My Comments: drh

Yahshua greatly emphasized that He did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it. *Matt. 5: 17* "For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John." *Matt. 11: 13* He also pointed out that to even sin in your mind or with your imagination was still wrong and against God. The scribes and Pharisees were hypocrites and Yahshua pointed out their hidden (mental) sins. In *Matthew 23: 27* He said " Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness." Yahshua also declared that if our righteousness was no better than them, we would not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Other sins of the mind Christ pointed out were imagined hatred for someone without cause and imagining adultery. These may be hard sayings but anyone who desires to be a true Christian must repent and turn away from all sins, hidden (mental) and in the flesh. All sin leads to death of the spirit called the second death.

Use the helmet of salvation to protect your mind from sin. Combat those thoughts with ones like “Yahshua laid down His life for us and was crucified but was raised from death in accordance with God’s plan so that we could be saved from the penalty of sin which is eternal death of the spirit.” Or Psalm 119:37 “Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.” Or 119:35, “Make me to go in the path of thy commandments for therein do I delight”. Or 119:36 “Incline my heart unto thy testimonies and not to covetousness”. We will not be saved if we choose to continue in our sins knowingly. Always be aware that your heart (spirit) controls your body and your mind (imagination) so let God’s spirit guide your spirit rather than letting desires of the flesh control them. God’s Holy Spirit will not lead you into sin.

Regarding Matt. 5: 29-30:

Yahshua is speaking figuratively in saying pluck out your right eye or cut off your right hand if their sins are offensive to you as a Christian. This extreme exaggeration is for shock value to make us understand and remember the seriousness of the results of sin, even if it is in the mind only. For the heart (spirit) of a person is what decides to sin or be righteous according to God’s word. Obviously, to only do away with the right members of the body still leaves the left members to sin according to what the heart (spirit) chooses. So we can be sure that these verses are using the common technique of hyperbole which is exaggerating for effect.

Notice also how God showed Ezekiel the sins of mental imagery being committed by people of Judah before the destruction of the temple and Babylonian captivity.

Ezekiel 8: 7-14

⁷ And he brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, behold a hole in the wall. ⁸ Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall: and when I had digged in the wall, behold a door. ⁹ And he said unto me, go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. ¹⁰ So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed upon the wall round about. ¹¹ And there stood before them seventy men of the ancients of the house of Israel, and in the midst of them stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, with every man his censer in his hand; and a thick cloud of incense went up. ¹² Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, **every man in the chambers of his imagery?** for they say, the LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth. ¹³ He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do. ¹⁴ Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD's house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.

12/05/2020 Spiritual Circumcision & Christ's Victory Over Death

Colossians 2: 8-17 King James Version

⁸ Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. ⁹ For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. ¹⁰ And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: ¹¹ In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: ¹² Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; ¹⁴ Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; ¹⁵ And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. ¹⁶ Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: ¹⁷ Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

DRH Comments:

Be careful not to follow after men who are puffed up with their worldly philosophical writings and discourse and promote manmade traditions but ignore God the creator and the gospel message of Christ in whose physical body God lived. In Christ we become complete, receiving the circumcision of God's spirit, believing that He is the Son of God and turning away from all sin instigated by our flesh. Though we were under penalty of death due to our sins, we are raised with Him to eternal life through God's plan of salvation through the which is belief in Christ, repentance, forgiveness, and baptism. If we truly repent (turn away from a sinful life) and believe Yahshua was crucified and raised from the dead by the power of God, we will be forgiven of all our confessed sins as defined by the laws of God, that were previously contrary to our nature and condemned us, before being blotted out by His crucifixion, thus taking away (nailing it to His cross) that condemnation of written law by His forgiveness so we can be born again spiritually with a heart and nature that is in one accord with God's eternal law. Christ's crucifixion also defeated the unseen controlling evil spirits and exposed their evil intentions against mankind. Since the evil powers have been exposed to us now, we should not let any of their followers judge us regarding foods, holy days and sabbath days for not submitting to their manmade traditions and harsh hypocritical ways that make void the commandments of God. The annual feasts with their sabbath days represent different aspects of God's plan of salvation through His son, Yahshua Christ. If the disciples had not been keeping Pentecost (Fifty Days) where Yahshua previously told them to, they would not have been there to receive God's Holy Spirit. Passover reflected Yahshua's crucifixion and death until he fulfilled it. Passover is now kept in remembrance of His crucifixion and death to atone for our sins. Other holy days are depictions of things to come that Christ will accomplish until all is accomplished.

³ Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law. Romans 3: 31

11/28/2020 For those doing battle in the spiritual world

Ephesians 6:11-17 King James Version

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

DRH Comments:

Gird your loins with truth. Prepare yourself for spiritual warfare by seeking biblical, spiritual truth and remember Yahshua said "You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free".

Having the breastplate of righteousness. Protect your heart by constantly choosing the right ways according to God's word.

Shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Be ready to walk in God's ways and according to His Spirit by growing in understanding of the Gospel of Christ which brings us peace so you can share it when needed.

Above all taking the shield of faith. Recall the promises of God and the promises of His protection for those who love Him and believe those promises as David did when he went up against Goliath.

Take the helmet of salvation. Guard the thoughts of your mind by focusing on God's plan of salvation from sin and death through believing in your heart that Jesus Christ is the living Son of God and turning away from all sin.

Take the sword of the Spirit. The word of God will consume and defeat all His enemies. Let God's Spirit to speak through you.

11/21/2020 For those who mourn the fallen condition of this world.

James. 4:7-12 kjv

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. 9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. 11 Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. 12 There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

DRH Comments:

These verses refer to being repentant from sin and refraining from frivolous worldly laughter and joy such as laughter from comedy or ridiculing, and joy from winning something, personal accomplishments or receiving awards, money or gifts, etc. not our joy of salvation through Christ.

Psalm 51: 8-12

⁸ Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

⁹ Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹ Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

¹² Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.