

Pentecost Day – The Ten Commandments – Part 9

Exodus 20

18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

When the people of Israel saw the lightnings, the smoking mountain, and heard the thundering and the loud noise of the trumpet... it scared them! Literally hearing God's voice can be a frightening thing while we are in the flesh. The voice of God also scared the three disciples of Jesus when God spoke to them 'out of the cloud' on the 'mount of transfiguration' (Mth 7:5-6). Today we use a term of being 'scared to death' to explain extreme fright and that adequately explains how Israel felt. They were *really* scared. Indeed, God did create quite the show of power and for good reason...

Exodus 20

20 And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.

God wanted people to fear Him... why? He wanted to 'prove' them, which means He was testing them (#5254 in the Hebrew). And why would He do that? It was not that He wanted them to be so scared of Him that they refused to hear Him, *He simply wanted their respect*. Why? Because He wanted them to **obey Him**...

By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

Prov 16:6

God gave quite the 'show' of power so Israel would not be so rebellious (as they had already been). He was forming a nation out of them and part of the agreement was that they would *obey* His righteous laws. They needed to know He (a God they could not see) was well able to chastise them. They also needed confirmation that Moses was His delegated leader and Aaron the delegated priest. Deut 33:2 tells us that *he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them*. And Ps 68:17 tells us that *the chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place*. So, God (YHVH) was not alone on that mountain. He had many of His servants from the other dimension with him and they were all in very high-tech vehicles the Bible describes as 'whirlwinds' and 'chariots of God'. Elijah was taken up in one of these (2 Kings 2) and Ezekiel saw these vehicles when God came down to give him his commission to be a watchman for Israel (Ezek 1 and 10).

Learn more about these amazing flying vehicles in the special studies:

You Will See Clouds and Wheels, Part 1 - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/392>

You Will See Clouds and Wheels, Part 2 - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/393>

You can also read about them in the book of Ezekiel - https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Ezekiel

It was on account of what Israel said here (requesting that Moses would speak to them instead of God, because they were so scared of God's power) that God would promise them that He would later come to them in a flesh body and explain His laws in a way that would not be so 'scary'...

15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me [Moses was a type of the Messiah]; unto him ye shall hearken;

16 According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.

17 And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.

18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

Deut 18:15-19

This prophesy is a promise that the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would come to Israel and teach them in a way that was not 'scary', like what Israel experience on Mount Sinai when God gave them the Ten Commandments. John the prophet was asked if he was 'that prophet' but he denied it (John 1:21) saying, *I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not: He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose* (John 1:26-27). And, while not everyone believed that Jesus was 'that prophet', many did. After He fed the five thousand there were some who, *when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world* (John 6:14). This prophesy was, therefore, a very well-known prophesy in Jesus' day and age. Most all of Israel was waiting for 'that prophet' but the traditions of man had worked into the religion so much by then, they did not realize the Messiah would have two advents (even though it's written in numerous places). Therefore, Jesus was rejected by many even though Jesus did do and say (teach) all that God commanded Him...

28 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.

29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

John 8:28-29

But, until the Messiah (Jesus) came, God wanted to instill some godly fear into Israel's hearts because they had been, so far, quite rebellious. As Moses pointed out, God wanted them to

respect Him enough *to obey Him*. He wanted them to ‘depart from evil’ ***because they feared the consequences for sinning***. This is the kind of ‘fear’ we should have for God. We should *not* fear to have a relationship with Him but rather, ***we should fear to do evil***. You see, if men (or women) do not believe there is a God Almighty, who punishes all sin, then **there is no sin they won’t fear to do**. Their wickedness is unlimited. If you ever wonder how people can commit such terrible acts of violence as murder, rape and the like (Gal 5:19-21), it’s *because they do not fear to do evil*. They don’t think there’s any punishment for doing so (1 Tim 4:2). This creates a lot of wickedness in the world. And in Genesis 6:6 we’re told the massive amount of sin in the world made God sorry He even sent His children into flesh bodies [Study more on this with: **Two Bodies** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/406> and **Spiritual and Material Dimensions** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/263> special studies].

This is why God was setting up Israel as a government. He first delegated Adam, then Noah, and then He chose Abraham to carry on the commission to rule the world **in righteousness** *because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws* (Gen 26:5). And He specifically gave Abraham the promise of his children (through Isaac) governing the world because God knew Abraham would teach God’s Laws to his children, grandchildren and so forth (Gen 18:19). It was because Abraham learned how to discern God’s voice from other spirits (and from his carnal mind) that he learned how to ‘walk in the Spirit’ (as Gal 5 speaks of) even before the Holy Spirit was given, as a result of the blood shed by Jesus Christ (John 7:39). You see, after the fall of Adam and Eve, God told them about the coming Messiah. He even warned Satan of it in Genesis 3:15 when He promised the Messiah would crush his head - which He did at the cross when He defeated death by paying for our sins and then literally rising from the dead three days later (Heb 2:14, Mth 12:40, 26:61, John 2:19). The knowledge of the Messiah was passed on to Adam and Eve’s sons which is why Abel gave God a *blood sacrifice* instead of just the ‘fruit of the earth’ as Cain (who wasn’t Adam’s son, but Satan’s son). And that is also why God had no ‘respect’ for Cain’s offering. Cain did not believe in the promised Messiah but Abel did. Their actions regarding their sacrifices proved it (Gen 4). [Learn more in the special study **Parable of the Tares** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/251>, and the three part study on **He That Hath an Ear**, <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/381>, <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/382>, <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/383>].

This knowledge of the Promised Messiah was continuously passed down through the years even to Noah and then Abraham. This is why Abraham had no fear in literally sacrificing his own son, Isaac (Gen 22) – Abraham truly believed that God could (and would) raise Isaac up; because that was the promise God had given about the Messiah – i.e., that He would pay for the sins of the world and overcome sin by raising from the dead. However, Isaac was not the Messiah; he was only a type (like Moses) of the Messiah. This knowledge about the Promised Messiah was still with Israel many years later while in Egypt. That’s actually what Moses thought his commission in life would be, as Acts 7:25 reveals. Of course, Moses was also not the Messiah but only a type of the Messiah. Moses having to run away from Egypt after killing an Egyptian in defense of a slave (which was his own brethren) was greatly humbling to Moses and he had thought his

mission serving God was over until God appeared to him in the fiery bush that fateful day (Ex 3). So now that Israel is free, God is trying to instill a healthy ‘fear of God’ in them so they would be inclined to obey Him *from the heart* instead of disobeying Him because, as we’ve seen already, Israel was rebellious pretty much ‘coming out the gate’ of Egypt.

In order for God to fulfill His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – promises that He would use their descendants to rule the world *in righteousness* (Gen 12, 15, 17, 22, 26, 28, 35), God had to give Israel His Laws because, they were delegated to punish evil. That’s why *He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel* (Ps 103:7). Yet, sadly, Israel became corrupt, and eventually, they became incorrigibly corrupt, which is why He had to allow their governments to be broken up and taken captive by the Assyrians first (the northern kingdom of Israel and most of the kingdom of Judah) and then by the Babylonians (Jerusalem). Israel eventually broke free of their captors and migrated through the Caucus Mountains, into Europe and eventually over to America. We now know them as “the West” or “the Christian nations”, although they don’t act very Christian anymore. It was during the height of the Christian Era that the world was blessed, as has never seen before – it was all because the Christian nations took the Gospel of Jesus Christ (which was brought to them by the apostles of Jesus Christ) to nearly the entire world (to *all* races).

Of course, we know that the Christian nations have since fallen to apostasy and the entire world has now been corrupted but what many don’t understand is *why* – the downfall ‘falling away’ of the Christian nations paves the way for Jesus’s enemies to be made His ‘footstool’ (Heb 10:13) [Learn more about **The Footstool Factor** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/989>] when the antichrist (Satan himself) is cast out of heaven for one final testing (proving) of God’s children (Rev 12, 2 Thess 2, Dan 8-12). Then, Jesus Christ will return to establish the final worldwide government that will be eternally based upon righteousness. But *this government was first established with Israel* and that’s why it’s so important to study its beginnings, and development, as well as the prophecies concerning it. ***We must know history in order to understand prophesy.*** And God’s Word warns us to be on guard for imposters (Deut 18:20-22) because, when Satan is here on earth, he’ll be claiming to be the Messiah/Savior of the world – most all religions are waiting for a Messiah and will flock to Satan when he arrives (2 Thess 2, Dan 9-12). If we study God’s Word, we’ll learn His Laws, His ways *and His voice* - **this is what will help us to discern the fake Christ (Satan) from the true Christ (Jesus)** – because *the fake comes before the true Christ*, which is contrary to what most Christians are erroneously taught in Churches today [Learn about the false doctrine of the **Rapture Theory** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/334>]. So, let’s continue to learn more about the foundations of God’s government so we can learn more about what lies in our future...

Exodus 20

21 And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.

Moses was a brave heart. Even though Heb 12:21 tells us Moses was also afraid of the sight on the mountain, *he still answered God's call*. This shows that Moses knew how to take dominion (control) over his carnal mind (heart) and do what's right, even when he had a strong emotion (like fear). He overcame his fleshly inclinations. As Gal 5:24 describes it: *they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts*. Moses is an excellent type for us today too. He, like Abraham, learned to 'walk in the Spirit' even before the Messiah came. He learned to listen to, *and obey*, God's voice. This is an important type for us because, we living in this final generation [**Parable of the Fig Tree** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/950>] also face a 'thick darkness'. Joel 2:1-11 and Zeph 1:15-18 both warn about this 'thick darkness' but, for those of us living in these final days of the earth age, *the darkness is not something you can physically see*. It is a *spiritual* darkness that will come upon the land. We learned about this **Thick Darkness** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/972>] back in chapter 10 of Exodus. In the Bible, light is likened to truth (Ps 4:6, 18:28, 27:1, 36:9, 27:6, 119:105, 130, Prov 6:23, Isa 8:20, Dan 2:23, Hosea 6:5, Micah 7:8-9, Mth 5:14-16, Eph 5:8-14, 1 Thess 5:5, 1 Pt 2:9) and darkness is likened to lies (Prov 2:13, 4:19, 20:20, Ecc 2:14). And God has separated the two through His Son, Jesus Christ, which is the Word of God (Acts 26:18, Isa 42:6-16, 60:1-4, John 1, Gen 1:2-5). Also, someone who cannot see truth is likened to a blind person who cannot see physical light (Ps 146:8, Ezek 12, Isa 29:18, 35:5, 43:8, 56:10, 59:10, Mth 11:5, 15:14, John 9:39-41, 2 Pt 1:9, Rev 3:17). As John said...

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**
 - 2 The same was in the beginning with God.*
 - 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*
 - 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*
 - 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*
 - 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.*
 - 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.*
 - 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.*
 - 9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.***
 - 10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.*
 - 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not. [Deut 18 prophesy of Jesus]*
 - 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*
 - 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*
 - 14 And **the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,** (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*
- John 1:1-14

Jesus too declared...

*Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.***

John 8:12

*46 **I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.***

John 12:46

Jesus Christ is therefore THE Light, which is why John further explained in his epistles...

*5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.***

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned [self-righteous], we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 1:5-10

8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

*9 He that saith he is in the light, and **hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.***

*10 **He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.***

*11 But **he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.***

1 John 2:8-11

So, the darkness is likened to lies in God's Word. Thus, when we are warned in the Scriptures about a 'thick darkness' coming - *God is warning us about a great deception coming.* That's why the 'Day of the Lord' is likened to a 'Great Darkness'...

*18 Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? **the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light.***

19 As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.

*20 **Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?***

Amos 5:18-20

This is also why He said through Joel...

*The sun shall be turned into **darkness**, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible **day of the LORD** come.*

Joel 2:31

The great darkness God is warning us about is the great deception that comes shortly before the true Jesus Christ returns. It's a 'great darkness' because of the massive amount of lies (likened to a flood, Rev 12:15) that Satan and his angels will be telling while they are here on earth trying to get everyone to believe Satan is the Messiah of the world (Rev 13:6, 2 Thess 2). In Rev 9, Satan's wicked (fallen) angels are likened to locusts (also in Joel 1-2) who spiritually consume truth out of people's minds the same way physical locusts consume green (living) vegetation. We learned about this back in Exodus 10 [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/968>]. God will allow those who want to believe a lie to fall for Satan's lies, which is why it is written that He will 'send' them strong delusion (2 Thess 2:11); it doesn't mean God lies (Titus 1:2), it means *He allows us to believe a lie* (i.e., that Satan is the Messiah) *if we want to*. He'll let us believe lies until the Second Advent of Jesus Christ; when the true Jesus returns, all the world will know the truth and bow a knee to the true King of kings (Isa 45:23, Rom 14:11-12).

And, because most of the world will believe Satan's lies (even many Christians), God likens the Second Advent of Jesus Christ to a 'day of darkness' and 'not of light' because most people will be grieved terribly when they realized that the true Jesus Christ is returning because they'll know they were deceived by Satan himself (as the two witnesses will be warning of – Rev 11). They will be so upset, ashamed and scared that they'll even wish the rocks would fall upon them in hopes they won't have to face God (Rev 6:16, Isa 2:21) - as if we can hide from Him (Ps 139:7-10). Therefore, when Jesus really does return, most people will view it as a 'day of darkness' because it'll be a 'day of vengeance' upon God's enemies! (Lk 21:22)

But we cannot forget: before that, we will face a massive propaganda push by Satan and his many fallen angels. This is the 'great deception', also called the 'falling away' that Daniel 11 and 2 Thess 2 warn us about. But, like Moses, *we cannot be so afraid of the darkness that we fail to respond to God's call. **Moses climbed the mountain, directly into the smoke and fire, just so he could answer God's call.*** What was the call? Moses was to teach Israel the truth. We are charged with the same calling in these end days, even when Satan is here...

*3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, **when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?***

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.

6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.
7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.
8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.
9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.
10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.
11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.
12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.
13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.
14 And **this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.**

Matt 24:3-14

When the disciples asked Jesus what the signs of His Second coming would be and what the signs of the end of the world were, Jesus specifically said that, before the end could come, the Gospel of Jesus Christ would *have* to be delivered to the world. Rev 14:6-12 confirms this as well. We know that the two witnesses will be spear heading this calling (Rev 11) but the Gospels also tells us (Lk 21:12-15, Mk 13:9-11) God will use many other witnesses to spread the Gospel during the tribulation of the antichrist [view the documentation that Satan is the antichrist in the special study: **Antichrist, Satan or Man** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/345>].

So, we must (like Moses) learn to overcome our carnal mind (Gal 5:24) so we too can answer God's call to go into the thick darkness and preach the Light to those who are blind...

1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;
2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but **by manifestation of the truth** commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost;
4 **In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**
5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.
6 **For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**
7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels [i.e., the Holy Spirit residing within our flesh body], that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.
2 Cor 4:1-7

Exodus 20

22 And the LORD said unto Moses, Thus thou shalt say unto the children of Israel, Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven.

God (YHVH) wanted Israel to know that it was HIM talking on the mountain. So, He told Moses to ‘point it out’ to them *so they would know God’s voice...* likewise today, we who know God’s voice should help others learn to discern between His voice and the voice of ‘false’ shepherds (John 10).

Exodus 20

23 Ye shall not make with me gods of silver, neither shall ye make unto you gods of gold.

God (YHVH) plainly told Israel that He didn’t want to be worshiped with images of gold and silver. He did not want Israel to worship gold and silver ‘in His name’. Why? Because gold and silver have long been a common commodity used for bartering (i.e., money). He knows how corrupting money is and that most people worship it (Mth 6:24). That’s why He said, through Paul, that *the love of money is the root of all evil* (1 Tim 6:10). This is why we should be very weary of any Church who preaches on tithing. A man speaks about what’s in his heart (Lk 6:45) and if tithing is often intertwined into the sermons, that should be a red flag that getting money is the main reason that “Pastor” is preaching... not to share the truth of God’s Word. God will take care of those who are actually feeding His children with truth but those who teach lies have to beg to ‘stay in business’. Be careful of them. Money should not be set up as a god in any Church or home. In other words, *money should not be the object of affection* in any heart, home, Church or even business or government. We all have to live in this world and money is a part of it, but obtaining money cannot be more important than loving and serving God and helping His children physically and (most importantly) *spiritually* (Mth 25:31-46).

Exodus 20

*24 An altar of **earth** thou shalt make unto me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen: in all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee.*

*25 And if thou wilt make me an altar of **stone**, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it.*

Next, God (YHVH) explains the way He wants an altar made for Him. And, interestingly, He specifies that only an altar ‘of earth’ or an ‘altar of stone’ is acceptable. What’s an altar? It’s a raised structure or place on which sacrifices are offered or incense is burned in worship. This is important to understand because God is defining how we worship Him. Of course, now that Jesus has died for our sins (and risen from the dead) we are not to offer blood sacrifices anymore for His sacrifice fulfilled all blood sacrifices once and for all (Heb 10:10). But, at the time of Moses, Jesus had not yet come so animal sacrifices were still instituted because they looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Now, God specifically said He wanted only an altar of stone or earth – that’s all that is acceptable to Him. On one level this simply means

God did not want them *create* (carve) an altar for Him because all too often that is how the religious folk would steal from the people. They made beautiful ‘houses of worship’ and tried to convince people that, just because the Church (or synagogue) looks pretty that God is there and people should tithe to them (sound’s familiar, doesn’t it?). Jesus made it clear to us that this isn’t the case. Fancy Churches, clothing and rituals *do not clean our heart* (Mth 23:25-28, 15:13-20, Mk 7:20-23). The only reason God established the Aaronic priesthood (and all the rituals and blood sacrifices contained therein) *was to teach the people how to come to God through the Messiah that was promised to come*. It was a way to give the people an object lesson, much like we teach children through simple object lessons so they can understand more complex things as they grow. Thus, all those blood sacrifices and rituals were therefore done away with when Jesus Christ paid for our sins, because His blood was able to redeem all His children *forever* (Heb 10:10) and Jesus’ death also paid for the Gift of the Holy Spirit to be given (John 7:39, 14), which is what helps to clean us spiritually because the Holy Spirit helps us to understand how to actually obey God’s Word *from the heart* (John 16:13, Titus 3:5, 2 Thes 2:13, 1 Pt 1:2).

This brings us into the spiritual aspect of this command: an altar is *also often used figuratively to describe a thing given great or undue precedence or value especially at the cost of something else*. So, **the spiritual altar is your very soul: it’s where you offer spiritual sacrifices, such as: thanksgiving** (Ps 107:11, 116:17, Amos 4:5), **praise** (Jer 17:26, 33:1, Heb 13:15) and **righteousness** (Deut 33:19, Ps 4:5). And, in order to truly offer those sacrifices, you must have truth in your soul. This is why Jesus said that those who worship God *must worship him in spirit and in truth* (John 4:24). Without truth we end up being self-righteous hypocrites because we do not truly clean our heart (carnal mind) of sinful thoughts, desires (lusts), pride or intentions (Mth 15:13-20, Mk 7:20-23, 2 John 2:16). So, if, in your heart you regard the traditions of man as more important than God’s Word, *you are building the altar in your heart from un-natural rock or earth*. Note that God is likened to our Rock in Deut 32 and then came to this earth in an earthen vessel (flesh) (John 1:1, 14, Heb 2). So, we cannot truly be worshiping God unless we build up our mind and heart (carnal mind) by studying and obeying God’s Word sincerely. This will then cause us to give God spiritual sacrifices of thanksgiving, praise and righteousness because God’s Word changes the way we think and what we desire when we truly absorb it into our heart and mind – it changes who we are for the better. So, we should not build our spiritual altar with carved rock or metals, which is symbolic of lies (traditions of man).

In short, our mind and heart cannot be established on anything other than the true Word of God, which is the Old Testament (the altar of Rock, which is God Himself) and the New Testament (the altar of earthen vessel, which is Jesus Christ). When Pastors do not teach the truth have to create their own doctrine (or use another man-made doctrine). This is distorting God’s Word just as carving a rock or shaping metal for the altar of God is distorting God’s natural materials to make Him an altar. God said, *do not try to mold the altar*. Just use natural rocks or earth (soil, clay). So again, what this means spiritually is that we are not to create our own doctrine (this is usually done to get money). We are to stick with His Word and teach it to the fullest, not taking away anything or adding anything (Rev 22:18-19). Altering your doctrine to make more money

(or even just to keep your ‘job’) does not help God’s children. We need truth for our soul to function properly. Truth is healing and cleansing (John 15:3).

Note also that God promises to bless us ‘in all places where I record my name’ (vs 24). The word ‘record’ is #2142 and means: *to mark* (so as to be recognized), i.e. *to remember*; by implication, *to mention*; also (as denominative from OT:2145) *to be male*. God wants His name remembered and marked, where? While His name was physically put in Shiloh first (Jer 7:12), then in Bethel (1 Sam 10:3) and later to Jerusalem (2 Chron 6:6, 7:16), even Zion (Ps 78:68), **God now wants to put His name in our heart through His Holy Spirit** (John 14:26, Acts 9:15). *He does this by putting His Word into our heart and mind because His Word reveals His nature, which is what His name describes* [What is God’s Name? <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/861>]. God has told us in Jer 31:31, Heb 8:10 and 10:16 that **He wants His Words written on our heart and mind**. Those who keep His Word (His name) and do not deny His name are well pleasing to Him and given great promises, such as in Rev 3:7-12. But we cannot forget that to make God an altar now, after Jesus (the Messiah) has come to die for our sins means to clean our heart for Him (kick out the sin) and allow His Holy Spirit to guide us so we can learn to obey God’s Word *from the heart* (Gal 5). As it is written...

11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

1 Cor 3:11-18

Learning the ways of the world (how to get ahead in Satan’s evil system) makes us a fool and God expects us to kick out the desire to obtain lots of money (possessions, wealth) through Satan’s system and instead, learn to obey Him *from the heart*. Our very soul is supposed to be a ‘temple’ for God because He wants His Words to be written in our heart and mind; He also wants His Holy Spirit to dwell within our soul so He can guide us, teach us and instruct us, just like He did for Jacob..

10 He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.

11 As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:

12 So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.
Deut 32:10-12

Those who allow God's name (Words) to be written in their heart *will crucify the flesh with the affections and lusts* (Gal 5:24, Lk 9:23). This change in our heart (cleansing it and putting God's Word in our heart and mind so we learn to obey Him) is the only thing we can carry with us when we die in the flesh. And, God promises it will stay with us forever...

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.
Rev 3:12

God's Word (His name) will eventually be made our 'operating manual' – it'll be coded into our heart and mind so tightly that we'll be 'hardwired' (so to speak) to obey God. [Learn more in the special study on spiritually engraving - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1017>]. But the process to this must be initiated *now*, in the flesh body, as we seek to obey God by studying His Word, try sincerely to kick out (and keep out) or sins and allow His Holy Spirit to guide us each and every day. This is the spiritual lesson that God's command to make an altar of only earth and/or rock means and in allowing Him to put His 'name' in us. We must clean our heart out and set the Rock (Jesus Christ) into the bottom of our heart so we can build upon that 'foundation' through the prophets and apostles...

18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.
19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;
20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;
21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:
22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.
Eph 2:18-22

Paul was very blunt in His explanations many times and he clearly tells us that God wants to live within our very soul through His Holy Spirit and His Word. We must make sure to build our heart upon His Word because it's the only Rock strong enough to help us through the winds and waves of lies and deceptions that are coming...

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*
24 *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which **built his house** [mind and heart] **upon a rock**:*
25 *And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock [Jesus Christ].*
26 *And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house [mind and heart] upon the sand [lies, traditions of men]:*
27 *And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*
Matt 7:21-27

So, let's remember to stick with God's Word and build Him a spiritual Temple *within our soul* by cleaning our heart and mind *and keeping it clean*.

Exodus 20

26 *Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar; that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon.*

Many heathenistic religious rites have sexual acts wound into them and God specifically does not want any of that when we worship Him. That's why Easter is such an abomination to Him [learn why in: The Truth About Easter - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/975>]. So, God (YHVH) specifically stipulates not to make steps going up to His altar. Why? Because back in those days, men wore loose garments that are much like what we think of as a robe (kind of like a dress but for men). In fact, many men in the Middle East still wear something similar in what is called a 'throbe' (or thaub), which you likely will see in news about the Middle East. And back then, they did not have pants on underneath so their butt (and private parts) could be exposed when walking up steps. This is what God was saying: **He didn't want His priests to expose themselves (their nakedness) to the congregation**. This is why, in Exodus 28:42 God commanded Moses to make Aaron and his sons (the priest) 'linen breeches' (which we call underwear or 'boxers' today) to cover themselves. That's just moral decency.

The subject of 'nakedness' brings up a point that is often confused. Since it's such a common misconception, we'll address it quickly even though it's not specifically related to this subject. There is a common mis-teaching about 'uncovering' someone's nakedness. Some people teach that it is literally to see someone's naked body but, this is not the case at all. It's a *figure of speech* that means to have sex with someone. This is first spoken of in Genesis 9 when Ham (Noah's son) '*saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without*' (Gen 9:22). This is simply a term that means he had sex with his father's wife (his own mother in this case) and then went and bragged about it to his brothers. He did this, of course, when his father was well drunken so it could very well have been that his mother was drunk as well (after all, who the heck wants to have sex with their own kid? No one in their right mind...) but it's not specifically written. At any rate, it's a sin in the sight of God and Noah was rightly angry when he was told

about what happened. This is why Canaan (the child that came from the union) was cursed. The children of Canaan followed after suite of their father Haam's disregard for God's Laws which was why the Canaanites were one of the people who Israel was commanded to totally annihilate when they went into the Promise Land (they had also mixed sexually with the fallen angels). We are told specifically that seeing your father's 'nakedness' means having sexual relations with his wife in Lev 18:7. And in Lev 18:6, He also tells us we should not have sexual relations with anyone who is 'near of kin' and He goes on to specify who 'near of kin' is further in the chapter. Prohibition of sleeping with your father's wife was not restricted only to your mother. Since men often had many wives in those days, God's Law also tells us that any of your father's wives you are not to sleep with.

This then shows us that the term 'nakedness' can (and has been) used as a figure of speech and that's what we'll now look at, for there is a deeper level to this statute of God prohibiting steps being made to His altar so the nakedness of His priests would not be seen. So, on a deeper level, this represents *spiritual nakedness*, which God's Word addresses even in this book of Exodus. In a few chapters, we'll see Israel committing a horrible sin against our Heavenly Father when they made a golden calf and began to have a big party to 'worship' it. And who was spear heading this act of idolatry? Aaron himself – God's High Priest. While Aaron tried to place the blame on the people, Moses knew it was his responsibility to take care of things while Moses was on the mountain getting instructions for God. Because Aaron failed to keep 'law and order' in the camp, he failed to keep the people from going after other gods... which was his commission! Because of this, it is written that: *And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)* (Ex 32:25). It's written that Aaron made the people naked... this was not speaking literally (although they were likely committing fornication in their parties) but it was speaking spiritually. *How do you get spiritually naked?* Well, in order to understand this, we must first consider the kind of spiritual clothing we are to have on...

*Let thy priests be clothed with **righteousness**; and let thy saints shout for joy.*
Ps 132:9

7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

*8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for **the fine linen is the righteousness of saints**.*

Rev 19:7-8

*I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the **robe of righteousness**, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.*

Isa 61:10

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

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**:*
Eph 6:10-17

Being spiritually naked means, you do not have righteousness within your soul - you've been corrupted. Those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and King will seek to put on His righteous by learning to obey God's Word. They will strive to prepare for spiritual battle by putting on truth, righteousness, the Gospel of peace (Jesus Christ), faith, salvation and the Word of God in their mind *and heart*. Putting these things into our heart (carnal mind) and mind is how we cloth ourselves spiritually and God's Word gives us instructions on how to do this...

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
*4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that **by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*
*5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith **virtue** [courage]; and to virtue knowledge;*
6 And to knowledge temperance [self-control]; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness [piety, or loyalty to God];
7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity [love].
8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.
*10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, **give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall** [to deception]:*
11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
2 Peter 1:3-11

In order to be 'worthy' to inherit God's Kingdom (Gal 5:21, 1 Cor 6:9-11) we must put off sin and put on righteousness. This is the change in spiritual clothing that must take place and it has to be done from the heart. Simply knowing in your mind what God wants and 'going through the

motions' of what you think pleases Him simply won't 'cut it'. God wants our sincere love. This means He wants us to put off the sinful thoughts and desires in our heart and instead put on 'bowels and mercies' (Phil 2:1) for our fellow mankind.

12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

*15 And **let the peace of God rule in your hearts**, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*

*16 **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;** teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Col 3:12-17

So, when Moses allowed Israel to make a golden calf (he actually was the one who molded it!) he allowed their hearts and minds to become corrupted. Apparently, he was too weak to stand up the majority of the people's complaints. This Christ won't do – Christ will never fail us because He is un-corruptible in both body, soul and Spirit. Jesus Christ is '*full of grace and truth*' (John 1:14) but also '*the power of God unto salvation*' (Rom 1:16) which means He is not corrupt and also won't put up with corruption in His government (the Body of Christ). This is why He chastises us when we need it (Heb 12) and also why He gave us His blessed Holy Spirit (Acts 2:33) after He shed His precious blood to pay for our sins (Col 1:14, Heb 9:14). In other words, ***becoming spiritually corrupt is how you become spiritually naked***. So, in order to be 'clothed' spiritually, you've got to repent to God (in the belief and name of Jesus Christ) and work to put on righteousness (which takes times and daily effort), which is defined only in God's Word.

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Tim 1:7

This then, is the kind of clothing God expects us to have on and to help His other children put on.

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Rev 3:18

Since Jesus Christ has already paid the price for the redemption of our soul, the gold we are to buy (in the scripture above) to get the white raiment is simply *our growing faith* in spite of persecution for it (1 Pt 4:12-14). To reiterate: 'buying' 'gold' is simply *keeping our faith*, and

allowing it to grow, despite the persecutions - this produces righteousness. Put another way: deep conviction in the Word of God is the only thing that allows us to stand up to great pressure to cave to societal pressures like ‘political correctness’ and ‘cancel culture’ – *the ability to withstand ‘pressure’ is what we need to make it through the coming tribulation of the antichrist, who is Satan himself* [**Do Not Be Deceived** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/235>]. Like Daniel and his friends (Dan 3), we too will face fiery trials but they will be *spiritual*. Just as gold and silver are made pure when put into fire, likewise someone truly convicted by God’s Word is edified when they have to go through ‘hard times’ **because it tests our convictions** and thus, strengthens our convictions even further IF we keep our faith in Jesus Christ...

1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

*3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and **he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.***

Mal 3:1-3

For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried.

Ps 66:10

*Behold, **I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.***

Isa 48:10

*And I will bring the third part through the fire, and **will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried:** they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.*

Zech 13:9

Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

Dan 12:10

We have to face ourselves and decide if we truly believe in the Word of God or not. We need those difficulties throughout life to see what’s truly in our heart and discern how to kick the sin out so we can continue to be spiritually purified. We do not get purified in our heart by the physical actions alone (religious rituals and traditions). We get purified by learning the Word of God (John 15:3) and the problems, difficulties, hard times, trials and tribulations in our life that teach us how to apply God’s Word in those situations - they test and cleanse our character as fire tests and cleanses. (1 Cor 10:13). Trials and tribulations test what’s in our heart to see who we truly are. It helps us to see (manifest) what our true intentions are and what we need to change. It

helps to bring us to repentance (which is a continual process in life, even for the seasoned Christian) just as fire burns the slag off of silver and gold. So, we must strive (Lk 13:24) to put on spiritual clothing so we won't be found 'naked' when the true Jesus Christ returns...

*Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and **keepeth** [guard] his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*

Rev 16:15

AMEN.