

God LOVES You!**DAY 4 Esau - Edom**

Genesis 25:19–34 Now these are the records of the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham became the father of Isaac; **20** and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife. **21** Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived. **22** But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is so, why then am I this way?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. **23** The LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb; And two peoples will be separated from your body; And one people shall be stronger than the other; And the older shall serve the younger." **24** When her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. **25** Now the first came forth red, all over like a hairy garment; and they named him Esau. **26** Afterward his brother came forth with his hand holding on to Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob; and Isaac was sixty years old when she gave birth to them. **27** When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the field, but Jacob was a peaceful man, living in tents. **28** Now Isaac loved Esau, because he had a taste for game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. **29** When Jacob had cooked stew, Esau came in from the field and he was famished; **30** and Esau said to Jacob, "Please let me have a swallow of that red stuff there, for I am famished." Therefore his name was called Edom. **31** But Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." **32** Esau said, "Behold, I am about to die; so of what use then is the birthright to me?" **33** And Jacob said, "First swear to me"; so he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. **34** Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and rose and went on his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Genesis 28:6–9 Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take to himself a wife from there, and that when he blessed him he charged him, saying, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan," **7** and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Paddan-aram. **8** So Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan displeased his father Isaac; **9** and Esau went to Ishmael, and married, besides the wives that he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth.

Romans 9:6–13 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; **7** nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED." **8** That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants. **9** For this is the word of promise: "AT THIS TIME I WILL COME, AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON." **10** And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac; **11** for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, **12** it was said to her, "THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER." **13** Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."

Obadiah 4 "Though you build high like the eagle, Though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down," declares the LORD.

Obadiah 10–16 "Because of violence to your brother Jacob, You will be covered with shame, And you will be cut off forever. **11** "On the day that you stood aloof, On the day that strangers carried off his wealth, And foreigners entered his gate And cast lots for Jerusalem— You too were as one of them. **12** "Do not gloat over your brother's day, The day of his misfortune. And do not rejoice over the sons of Judah In the day of their destruction; Yes, do not boast In the day of their distress. **13** "Do not enter the gate of My people In the day of their disaster. Yes, you, do not gloat over their calamity In the day of their disaster. And do not loot their wealth In the day of their disaster. **14** "Do not stand at the fork of the road To cut down their fugitives; And do not imprison their survivors In the day of their distress. **15** "For the day of the LORD draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head. **16** "Because just as you drank on My holy mountain, All the nations will drink continually. They will drink and swallow And become as if they had never existed.

Hebrews 12:15–17 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; **16** that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. **17** For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

Romans 9:6–21 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; **7** nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "through Isaac your descendants will be named." **8** That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants. **9** For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son." **10** And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac; **11** for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, **12** it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger." **13** Just as it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." **14** What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be! **15** For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." **16** So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. **17** For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth." **18** So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires. **19** You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?" **20** On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it? **21** Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?

Romans 8:28–29 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. **29** For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

DAY 5 Responsibility of a Priest

Leviticus 21:6, 8 'They shall be holy to their God and not profane the name of their God, for they present the offerings by fire to the Lord, the food of their God; so they shall be holy. ... 'You shall consecrate him, therefore, for he offers the food of your God; he shall be holy to you; for I the Lord, who sanctifies you, am holy.

Leviticus 21:17 "Speak to Aaron, saying, 'No man of your offspring throughout their generations who has a defect shall approach to offer the food of his God.'

Leviticus 22:1–2 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, **2** "Tell Aaron and his sons to be careful with the holy gifts of the sons of Israel, which they dedicate to Me, so as not to profane My holy name; I am the Lord.

Leviticus 22:20–25 'Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it will not be accepted for you. **21** 'When a man offers a sacrifice of peace offerings to the Lord to fulfill a special vow or for a freewill offering, of the herd or of the flock, it must be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no defect in it. **22** 'Those that are blind or fractured or maimed or having a running sore or eczema or scabs, you shall not offer to the Lord, nor make of them an offering by fire on the altar to the Lord. **23** 'In respect to an ox or a lamb which has an overgrown or stunted member, you may present it for a freewill offering, but for a vow it will not be accepted. **24** 'Also anything with its testicles bruised or crushed or torn or cut, you shall not offer to the Lord, or sacrifice in your land, **25** nor shall you accept any such from the hand of a foreigner for offering as the food of your God; for their corruption is in them, they have a defect, they shall not be accepted for you.'

Romans 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Do I LOVE God As I SHOULD?

DAY 2 Israel & Believers

Exodus 19:1–6 In the third month after the sons of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. **2** When they set out from Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai and camped in the wilderness; and there Israel camped in front of the mountain. **3** Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: **4** ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings, and brought you to Myself. **5** ‘Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; **6** and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”

1 Peter 2:1–5 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, **2** like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, **3** if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. **4** And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, **5** you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9–10 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; **10** for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

Revelation 5:6–10 And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. **7** And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. **8** When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. **9** And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. **10** “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Matthew 28:16–20 But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. **17** When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. **18** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Day 3 God’s Covenant with Levi

Numbers 3:1–12 Now these are the records of the generations of Aaron and Moses at the time when the Lord spoke with Moses on Mount Sinai. **2** These then are the names of the sons of Aaron: Nadab the firstborn, and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. **3** These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the anointed priests, whom he ordained to serve as priests. **4** But Nadab and Abihu died before the Lord when they offered strange fire before the Lord in the wilderness of Sinai; and they had no children. So Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests in the lifetime of their father Aaron. **5** Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, **6** “Bring the tribe of Levi near and set them before Aaron the

priest, that they may serve him. 7 "They shall perform the duties for him and for the whole congregation before the tent of meeting, to do the service of the tabernacle. 8 "They shall also keep all the furnishings of the tent of meeting, along with the duties of the sons of Israel, to do the service of the tabernacle. 9 "You shall thus give the Levites to Aaron and to his sons; they are wholly given to him from among the sons of Israel. 10 "So you shall appoint Aaron and his sons that they may keep their priesthood, but the layman who comes near shall be put to death." 11 Again the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 12 "Now, behold, I have taken the Levites from among the sons of Israel instead of every firstborn, the first issue of the womb among the sons of Israel. So the Levites shall be Mine

Numbers 18:21–32 "To the sons of Levi, behold, I have given all the tithe in Israel for an inheritance, in return for their service which they perform, the service of the tent of meeting. 22 "The sons of Israel shall not come near the tent of meeting again, or they will bear sin and die. 23 "Only the Levites shall perform the service of the tent of meeting, and they shall bear their iniquity; it shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations, and among the sons of Israel they shall have no inheritance. 24 "For the tithe of the sons of Israel, which they offer as an offering to the Lord, I have given to the Levites for an inheritance; therefore I have said concerning them, 'They shall have no inheritance among the sons of Israel.' " 25 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 26 "Moreover, you shall speak to the Levites and say to them, 'When you take from the sons of Israel the tithe which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then you shall present an offering from it to the Lord, a tithe of the tithe. 27 'Your offering shall be reckoned to you as the grain from the threshing floor or the full produce from the wine vat. 28 'So you shall also present an offering to the Lord from your tithes, which you receive from the sons of Israel; and from it you shall give the Lord's offering to Aaron the priest. 29 'Out of all your gifts you shall present every offering due to the Lord, from all the best of them, the sacred part from them.' 30 "You shall say to them, 'When you have offered from it the best of it, then the rest shall be reckoned to the Levites as the product of the threshing floor, and as the product of the wine vat. 31 'You may eat it anywhere, you and your households, for it is your compensation in return for your service in the tent of meeting. 32 'You will bear no sin by reason of it when you have offered the best of it. But you shall not profane the sacred gifts of the sons of Israel, or you will die.' "

Deuteronomy 33:1–11 Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the sons of Israel before his death. 2 He said, "The Lord came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came from the midst of ten thousand holy ones; At His right hand there was flashing lightning for them. 3 "Indeed, He loves the people; All Your holy ones are in Your hand, And they followed in Your steps; Everyone receives of Your words. 4 "Moses charged us with a law, A possession for the assembly of Jacob. 5 "And He was king in Jeshurun, When the heads of the people were gathered, The tribes of Israel together. 6 "May Reuben live and not die, Nor his men be few." 7 And this regarding Judah; so he said, "Hear, O Lord, the voice of Judah, And bring him to his people. With his hands he contended for them, And may You be a help against his adversaries." 8 Of Levi he said, "Let Your Thummim and Your Urim belong to Your godly man, Whom You proved at Massah, With whom You contended at the waters of Meribah; 9 Who said of his father and his mother, 'I did not consider them'; And he did not acknowledge his brothers, Nor did he regard his own sons, For they observed Your word, And kept Your covenant. 10 "They shall teach Your ordinances to Jacob, And Your law to Israel. They shall put incense before You, And whole burnt offerings on Your altar. 11 "O Lord, bless his substance, And accept the work of his hands; Shatter the loins of those who rise up against him, And those who hate him, so that they will not rise again."

Numbers 25:1–13 While Israel remained at Shittim, the people began to play the harlot with the daughters of Moab. 2 For they invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. 3 So Israel joined themselves to Baal of Peor, and the Lord was angry against Israel. 4 The Lord said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of the people and execute them in broad daylight before the Lord, so that the fierce anger of the Lord may turn away from Israel." 5 So Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Each of you slay his men who have joined themselves to Baal of Peor." 6 Then behold, one of the sons of Israel came and brought to his relatives a Midianite woman, in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the sons of Israel, while they were weeping at the doorway of the tent of meeting. 7 When Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he arose from the midst of the congregation and took a spear in his hand, 8 and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and pierced both of them through, the man of Israel and the woman, through the body.

So the plague on the sons of Israel was checked. 9 Those who died by the plague were 24,000. 10 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 11 “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned away My wrath from the sons of Israel in that he was jealous with My jealousy among them, so that I did not destroy the sons of Israel in My jealousy. 12 “Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give him My covenant of peace; 13 and it shall be for him and his descendants after him, a covenant of a perpetual priesthood, because he was jealous for his God and made atonement for the sons of Israel.’ ”

Day 4 Married the Daughter of a Foreign God

Exodus 20:1–6 Then God spoke all these words, saying, 2 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 3 “You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. 5 “You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Exodus 23:31–33 “I will fix your boundary from the Red Sea to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the River Euphrates; for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you will drive them out before you. 32 “You shall make no covenant with them or with their gods. 33 “They shall not live in your land, because they will make you sin against Me; for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.”

Deuteronomy 7:1–6 “When the LORD your God brings you into the land where you are entering to possess it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and stronger than you, 2 and when the LORD your God delivers them before you and you defeat them, then you shall utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them and show no favor to them. 3 “Furthermore, you shall not intermarry with them; you shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor shall you take their daughters for your sons. 4 “For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods; then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you and He will quickly destroy you. 5 “But thus you shall do to them: you shall tear down their altars, and smash their sacred pillars, and hew down their Asherim, and burn their graven images with fire. 6 “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

1 Kings 11:1–11 Now King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, 2 from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the sons of Israel, “You shall not associate with them, nor shall they associate with you, for they will surely turn your heart away after their gods.” Solomon held fast to these in love. 3 He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away. 4 For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites. 6 Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not follow the LORD fully, as David his father had done. 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon. 8 Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. 9 Now the LORD was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, 10 and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not observe what the LORD had commanded. 11 So the LORD said to Solomon, “Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant.

Ezra 9:1–4 Now when these things had been completed, the princes approached me, saying, “The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, according to

their abominations, those of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians and the Amorites. **2** "For they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy race has intermingled with the peoples of the lands; indeed, the hands of the princes and the rulers have been foremost in this unfaithfulness." **3** When I heard about this matter, I tore my garment and my robe, and pulled some of the hair from my head and my beard, and sat down appalled. **4** Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel on account of the unfaithfulness of the exiles gathered to me, and I sat appalled until the evening offering.

Ezra 9:10–14 "Now, our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken Your commandments, **11** which You have commanded by Your servants the prophets, saying, 'The land which you are entering to possess is an unclean land with the uncleanness of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations which have filled it from end to end and with their impurity. **12** 'So now do not give your daughters to their sons nor take their daughters to your sons, and never seek their peace or their prosperity, that you may be strong and eat the good things of the land and leave it as an inheritance to your sons forever.' **13** "After all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and our great guilt, since You our God have requited us less than our iniquities deserve, and have given us an escaped remnant as this, **14** shall we again break Your commandments and intermarry with the peoples who commit these abominations? Would You not be angry with us to the point of destruction, until there is no remnant nor any who escape?"

Ezra 10:1–3 Now while Ezra was praying and making confession, weeping and prostrating himself before the house of God, a very large assembly, men, women and children, gathered to him from Israel; for the people wept bitterly. **2** Shecaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, said to Ezra, "We have been unfaithful to our God and have married foreign women from the peoples of the land; yet now there is hope for Israel in spite of this. **3** "So now let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives and their children, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.

Ezra 10:9–12 So all the men of Judah and Benjamin assembled at Jerusalem within the three days. It was the ninth month on the twentieth of the month, and all the people sat in the open square before the house of God, trembling because of this matter and the heavy rain. **10** Then Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, "You have been unfaithful and have married foreign wives adding to the guilt of Israel. **11** "Now therefore, make confession to the LORD God of your fathers and do His will; and separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives." **12** Then all the assembly replied with a loud voice, "That's right! As you have said, so it is our duty to do.

Nehemiah 13:23–29 In those days I also saw that the Jews had married women from Ashdod, Ammon and Moab. **24** As for their children, half spoke in the language of Ashdod, and none of them was able to speak the language of Judah, but the language of his own people. **25** So I contended with them and cursed them and struck some of them and pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God, "You shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor take of their daughters for your sons or for yourselves. **26** "Did not Solomon king of Israel sin regarding these things? Yet among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel; nevertheless the foreign women caused even him to sin. **27** "Do we then hear about you that you have committed all this great evil by acting unfaithfully against our God by marrying foreign women?" **28** Even one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was a son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite, so I drove him away from me. **29** Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.

2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? **15** Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? **16** Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. **17** "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. **18** "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and

daughters to Me,” Says the Lord Almighty. **1** Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

DAY 5 Is Marriage Sacred?

Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”

Genesis 2:21–25 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. **22** The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. **23** The man said, “This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.” **24** For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. **25** And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

1 Corinthians 6:15–18 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! **16** Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, “THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.” **17** But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. **18** Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

Leviticus 21:10–15 ‘The priest who is the highest among his brothers, on whose head the anointing oil has been poured and who has been consecrated to wear the garments, shall not uncover his head nor tear his clothes; **11** nor shall he approach any dead person, nor defile himself even for his father or his mother; **12** nor shall he go out of the sanctuary nor profane the sanctuary of his God, for the consecration of the anointing oil of his God is on him; I am the LORD. **13** ‘He shall take a wife in her virginity. **14** ‘A widow, or a divorced woman, or one who is profaned by harlotry, these he may not take; but rather he is to marry a virgin of his own people, **15** so that he will not profane his offspring among his people; for I am the LORD who sanctifies him.’ ”

Deuteronomy 22:13–21 “If any man takes a wife and goes in to her and then turns against her, **14** and charges her with shameful deeds and publicly defames her, and says, ‘I took this woman, but when I came near her, I did not find her a virgin,’ **15** then the girl’s father and her mother shall take and bring out the evidence of the girl’s virginity to the elders of the city at the gate. **16** “The girl’s father shall say to the elders, ‘I gave my daughter to this man for a wife, but he turned against her; **17** and behold, he has charged her with shameful deeds, saying, “I did not find your daughter a virgin.” But this is the evidence of my daughter’s virginity.’ And they shall spread the garment before the elders of the city. **18** “So the elders of that city shall take the man and chastise him, **19** and they shall fine him a hundred shekels of silver and give it to the girl’s father, because he publicly defamed a virgin of Israel. And she shall remain his wife; he cannot divorce her all his days. **20** “But if this charge is true, that the girl was not found a virgin, **21** then they shall bring out the girl to the doorway of her father’s house, and the men of her city shall stone her to death because she has committed an act of folly in Israel by playing the harlot in her father’s house; thus you shall purge the evil from among you.

Matthew 19:1–9 When Jesus had finished these words, He departed from Galilee and came into the region of Judea beyond the Jordan; **2** and large crowds followed Him, and He healed them there. **3** Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?” **4** And He answered and said, “Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, **5** and said, ‘FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH’? **6** “So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no

man separate.” **7** They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY?” **8** He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. **9** “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

Deuteronomy 24:1–4 “When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out from his house, **2** and she leaves his house and goes and becomes another man’s wife, **3** and if the latter husband turns against her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her to be his wife, **4** then her former husband who sent her away is not allowed to take her again to be his wife, since she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance.

Leviticus 21:14–15 ‘A widow, or a divorced woman, or one who is profaned by harlotry, these he may not take; but rather he is to marry a virgin of his own people, **15** so that he will not profane his offspring among his people; for I am the LORD who sanctifies him.’ ”

Isaiah 61:6–9 But you will be called the priests of the LORD; You will be spoken of as ministers of our God. You will eat the wealth of nations, And in their riches you will boast. **7** Instead of your shame you will have a double portion, And instead of humiliation they will shout for joy over their portion. Therefore they will possess a double portion in their land, Everlasting joy will be theirs. **8** For I, the LORD, love justice, I hate robbery in the burnt offering; And I will faithfully give them their recompense And make an everlasting covenant with them. **9** Then their offspring will be known among the nations, And their descendants in the midst of the peoples. All who see them will recognize them Because they are the offspring whom the LORD has blessed.

1 Corinthians 7:10–16 But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband **11** (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife. **12** But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her. **13** And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not send her husband away. **14** For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy. **15** Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace. **16** For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

GOD'S MESSENGERS & THE TITHE

DAY 2 My Messenger & The Messenger of the Covenant

Matthew 11:1–10 When Jesus had finished giving instructions to His twelve disciples, He departed from there to teach and preach in their cities. **2** Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent word by his disciples **3** and said to Him, “Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?” **4** Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you hear and see: **5** the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM. **6** “And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.” **7** As these men were going away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? **8** “But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ palaces! **9** “But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet. **10** “This is the one about whom it is written, ‘BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.’

Luke 1:5–17 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. **6** They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. **7** But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years. **8** Now it happened that while he was performing his priestly service before God in the appointed order of his division, **9** according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. **10** And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering. **11** And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. **12** Zacharias was troubled when he saw the angel, and fear gripped him. **13** But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John. **14** “You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. **15** “For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother’s womb. **16** “And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. **17** “It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Luke 1:59–60 And it happened that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to call him Zacharias, after his father. **60** But his mother answered and said, “No indeed; but he shall be called John.”

Luke 1:76–79 “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; For you will go on BEFORE THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS; **77** To give to His people the knowledge of salvation By the forgiveness of their sins, **78** Because of the tender mercy of our God, With which the Sunrise from on high will visit us, **79** TO SHINE UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH, To guide our feet into the way of peace.”

The Messenger of the Covenant

Isaiah 42:1–8 “Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. **2** “He will not cry out or raise His voice, Nor make His voice heard in the street. **3** “A bruised reed He will not break And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. **4** “He will not be disheartened or crushed Until He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law.” **5** Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it, **6** “I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations, **7** To open blind eyes,

To bring out prisoners from the dungeon And those who dwell in darkness from the prison. **8** "I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.

Matthew 12:15–21 But Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. Many followed Him, and He healed them all, **16** and warned them not to tell who He was. **17** This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: **18** "BEHOLD, MY SERVANT WHOM I HAVE CHOSEN; MY BELOVED IN WHOM MY SOUL IS WELL-PLEASSED; I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT UPON HIM, AND HE SHALL PROCLAIM JUSTICE TO THE GENTILES. **19** "HE WILL NOT QUARREL, NOR CRY OUT; NOR WILL ANYONE HEAR HIS VOICE IN THE STREETS. **20** "A BATTERED REED HE WILL NOT BREAK OFF, AND A SMOLDERING WICK HE WILL NOT PUT OUT, UNTIL HE LEADS JUSTICE TO VICTORY. **21** "AND IN HIS NAME THE GENTILES WILL HOPE."

Matthew 26:26–29 While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." **27** And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; **28** for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. **29** "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

Luke 22:18–20 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes." **19** And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." **20** And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

Day 3 & 4 The Tithe

Exodus 23:14–17 "Three times a year you shall celebrate a feast to Me. **15** "You shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread; for seven days you are to eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, at the appointed time in the month Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt. And none shall appear before Me empty-handed. **16** "Also you shall observe the Feast of the Harvest of the first fruits of your labors from what you sow in the field; also the Feast of the Ingathering at the end of the year when you gather in the fruit of your labors from the field. **17** "Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord GOD.

Nehemiah 10:32–39 We also placed ourselves under obligation to contribute yearly one third of a shekel for the service of the house of our God: **33** for the showbread, for the continual grain offering, for the continual burnt offering, the sabbaths, the new moon, for the appointed times, for the holy things and for the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and all the work of the house of our God. **34** Likewise we cast lots for the supply of wood among the priests, the Levites and the people so that they might bring it to the house of our God, according to our fathers' households, at fixed times annually, to burn on the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the law; **35** and that they might bring the first fruits of our ground and the first fruits of all the fruit of every tree to the house of the LORD annually, **36** and bring to the house of our God the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, and the firstborn of our herds and our flocks as it is written in the law, for the priests who are ministering in the house of our God. **37** We will also bring the first of our dough, our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the new wine and the oil to the priests at the chambers of the house of our God, and the tithe of our ground to the Levites, for the Levites are they who receive the tithes in all the rural towns. **38** The priest, the son of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive tithes, and the Levites shall bring up the tenth of the tithes to the house of our God, to the chambers of the storehouse. **39** For the sons of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the contribution of the grain, the new wine and the oil to the chambers; there are the utensils of the sanctuary, the priests who are ministering, the gatekeepers and the singers. Thus we will not neglect the house of our God.

Nehemiah 13:10–14 I also discovered that the portions of the Levites had not been given them, so that the Levites and the singers who performed the service had gone away, each to his own field. **11** So I reprimanded the officials and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" Then I gathered them together and restored them to their posts. **12** All Judah then brought the tithe of the grain, wine and oil into the storehouses. **13** In charge of the

storehouses I appointed Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and Pedaiah of the Levites, and in addition to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah; for they were considered reliable, and it was their task to distribute to their kinsmen. **14** Remember me for this, O my God, and do not blot out my loyal deeds which I have performed for the house of my God and its services.

Deuteronomy 12:10–12 “When you cross the Jordan and live in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies around you so that you live in security, **11** then it shall come about that the place in which the LORD your God will choose for His name to dwell, there you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution of your hand, and all your choice votive offerings which you will vow to the LORD. **12** “And you shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levite who is within your gates, since he has no portion or inheritance with you.

Deuteronomy 14:22–29 “You shall surely tithe all the produce from what you sow, which comes out of the field every year. **23** “You shall eat in the presence of the LORD your God, at the place where He chooses to establish His name, the tithe of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and your flock, so that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always. **24** “If the distance is so great for you that you are not able to bring the tithe, since the place where the LORD your God chooses to set His name is too far away from you when the LORD your God blesses you, **25** then you shall exchange it for money, and bind the money in your hand and go to the place which the LORD your God chooses. **26** “You may spend the money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen, or sheep, or wine, or strong drink, or whatever your heart desires; and there you shall eat in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice, you and your household. **27** “Also you shall not neglect the Levite who is in your town, for he has no portion or inheritance among you. **28** “At the end of every third year you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in that year, and shall deposit it in your town. **29** “The Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance among you, and the alien, the orphan and the widow who are in your town, shall come and eat and be satisfied, in order that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.

Leviticus 22:17–25 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **18** “Speak to Aaron and to his sons and to all the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘Any man of the house of Israel or of the aliens in Israel who presents his offering, whether it is any of their votive or any of their freewill offerings, which they present to the LORD for a burnt offering—**19** for you to be accepted—it must be a male without defect from the cattle, the sheep, or the goats. **20** ‘Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it will not be accepted for you. **21** ‘When a man offers a sacrifice of peace offerings to the LORD to fulfill a special vow or for a freewill offering, of the herd or of the flock, it must be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no defect in it. **22** ‘Those that are blind or fractured or maimed or having a running sore or eczema or scabs, you shall not offer to the LORD, nor make of them an offering by fire on the altar to the LORD. **23** ‘In respect to an ox or a lamb which has an overgrown or stunted member, you may present it for a freewill offering, but for a vow it will not be accepted. **24** ‘Also anything with its testicles bruised or crushed or torn or cut, you shall not offer to the LORD, or sacrifice in your land, **25** nor shall you accept any such from the hand of a foreigner for offering as the food of your God; for their corruption is in them, they have a defect, they shall not be accepted for you.’ ”

1 Chronicles 29:6–17 Then the rulers of the fathers’ households, and the princes of the tribes of Israel, and the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, with the overseers over the king’s work, offered willingly; **7** and for the service for the house of God they gave 5,000 talents and 10,000 darics of gold, and 10,000 talents of silver, and 18,000 talents of brass, and 100,000 talents of iron. **8** Whoever possessed precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the LORD, in care of Jehiel the Gershonite. **9** Then the people rejoiced because they had offered so willingly, for they made their offering to the LORD with a whole heart, and King David also rejoiced greatly. **10** So David blessed the LORD in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, “Blessed are You, O LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever. **11** “Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. **12** “Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone. **13** “Now therefore, our God,

we thank You, and praise Your glorious name. **14** “But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given You. **15** “For we are sojourners before You, and tenants, as all our fathers were; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope. **16** “O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided to build You a house for Your holy name, it is from Your hand, and all is Yours. **17** “Since I know, O my God, that You try the heart and delight in uprightness, I, in the integrity of my heart, have willingly offered all these things; so now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here, make their offerings willingly to You.

Ezra 1:4–6 ‘Every survivor, at whatever place he may live, let the men of that place support him with silver and gold, with goods and cattle, together with a freewill offering for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.’” **5** Then the heads of fathers’ households of Judah and Benjamin and the priests and the Levites arose, even everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up and rebuild the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem. **6** All those about them encouraged them with articles of silver, with gold, with goods, with cattle and with valuables, aside from all that was given as a freewill offering.

Genesis 14:17–20 Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley). **18** And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. **19** He blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; **20** And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” He gave him a tenth of all.

Hebrews 7:1–10 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2 to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all the spoils, was first of all, by the translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace. 3 Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually. 4 Now observe how great this man was to whom Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tenth of the choicest spoils. 5 And those indeed of the sons of Levi who receive the priest’s office have commandment in the Law to collect a tenth from the people, that is, from their brethren, although these are descended from Abraham. 6 But the one whose genealogy is not traced from them collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed the one who had the promises. 7 But without any dispute the lesser is blessed by the greater. 8 In this case mortal men receive tithes, but in that case one receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives on. 9 And, so to speak, through Abraham even Levi, who received tithes, paid tithes, 10 for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

Genesis 28:20–22 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me on this journey that I take, and will give me food to eat and garments to wear, **21** and I return to my father’s house in safety, then the LORD will be my God. **22** “This stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”

Acts 2:41–47 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. **42** They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43** Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. **44** And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; **45** and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. **46** Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

1 Corinthians 16:1–2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. **2** On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

2 Corinthians 8:1–5 Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, **2** that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. **3** For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, **4** begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, **5** and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

2 Corinthians 9:5–8 So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, so that the same would be ready as a bountiful gift and not affected by covetousness. **6** Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. **7** Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **8** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

2 Corinthians 9:10–11 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; **11** you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

Day 5 Elijah

2 Kings 2:1–3 And it came about when the LORD was about to take up Elijah by a whirlwind to heaven, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. **2** Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here please, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. **3** Then the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?” And he said, “Yes, I know; be still.”

2 Kings 2:11–12 As they were going along and talking, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven. **12** Elisha saw it and cried out, “My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw Elijah no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Hebrews 9:27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

Genesis 5:21–24 Enoch lived sixty-five years, and became the father of Methuselah. **22** Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years after he became the father of Methuselah, and he had other sons and daughters. **23** So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. **24** Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.

Matthew 11:7–14 As these men were going away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? **8** “But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ palaces! **9** “But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet. **10** “This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You, Who will prepare Your way before You.’ **11** “Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. **12** “From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force. **13** “For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John. **14** “And if you are willing to accept it, John himself is Elijah who was to come.

Matthew 17:1–4 Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. **2** And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His

garments became as white as light. **3** And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. **4** Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

Matthew 17:9–13 As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead." **10** And His disciples asked Him, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" **11** And He answered and said, "Elijah is coming and will restore all things; **12** but I say to you that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." **13** Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist.

Revelation 11:1–13 Then there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, "Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. **2** "Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months. **3** "And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." **4** These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. **5** And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way. **6** These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire. **7** When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them. **8** And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. **9** Those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb. **10** And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. **11** But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. **12** And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." Then they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them. **13** And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.