

## RESPECT FOR THE SILENCE OF THE SCRIPTURES

### INTRODUCTION:

1. God has spoken all we need to know to go to heaven.
2. God, in Deuteronomy, tells Israel what He wants them to know.
3. God expects them to know - And to obey.
  - A. Deut. 4:1-2: “Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you. You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take anything from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.”
  - B. Deut. 5:30-33: “Go and say to them, ‘Return to your tents.’ But as for you, stand here by Me, and I will speak to you all the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which you shall teach them, that they may observe them in the land which I am giving them to possess. Therefore you shall be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. You shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God has commanded you that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.”
  - C. Deut. 6:17-18, 25: “You shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and possess the good land of which the Lord swore to your fathers. .... Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the Lord our God, as He has commanded us.”
  - D. Deut. 10:12-13: “And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good?”

- E. Deut. 12:32: “Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.”
- F. Deut. 13:4, 18: “You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. .... because you have listened to the voice of the Lord your God, to keep all His commandments which I command you today, to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord your God.”
- G. Deut. 28:1: “Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.”
- H. Deut. 28:15: “But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you.”
- I. Deut. 32:46-47: “And He said to them: ‘Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe - all the words of this law. For it is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess.’”

Note: All these Scriptures command us to obey carefully what God has said.

- J. Deut. 12:8: “You shall not at all do as we are doing here today -- every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes --”
- K. Deut. 11:26-28: “Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.”
- L. Prov. 4:20-27: “My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life

to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and put perverse lips far from you. Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil.”

4. God demands that we follow His commands exactly as He has stated. --

A. Noah.

Gen. 6:15, 22: “And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. .... Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.”

B. Moses.

Exodus 26:30: “And you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its pattern which you were shown on the mountain.”

Exodus 29:32, 42-43: “Then Aaron and his sons shall eat the flesh of the ram, and the bread that is in the basket, by the door of the tabernacle of meeting. .... This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the Lord, where I will meet you to speak with you. And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory.”

5. Some who failed to follow God’s command exactly.

A. Nadab and Abihu:

Lev. 10:1-3: “Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. Then Moses said to Aaron, ‘This is what the Lord spoke, saying: ‘By those who come near Me, I must be regarded as holy; and before all the people I must be glorified.’”

Lev. 10:8-11: “Then the Lord spoke to Aaron, saying: “Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with

you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations, that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean, and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord has spoken to them by the hand of Moses.”

B. Moses at Meribath-Kadesh.

Numbers 20:1-13: “Then the children of Israel, the whole congregation, came into the Wilderness of Zin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh; and Miriam died there and was buried there. Now there was no water for the congregation; so they gathered together against Moses and Aaron. And the people contended with Moses and spoke, saying, ‘If only we had died when our brethren died before the Lord! Why have you brought up the congregation of the Lord into this wilderness, that we and our animals should die here? And why have you made us come up out of Egypt, to bring us to this evil place? It is not a place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates; nor is there any water to drink.’

So Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and they fell on their faces. And the glory of the Lord appeared to them. Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water, thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals.’

So Moses took the rod from before the Lord as He commanded him. And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said to them, ‘Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?’

Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank. Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, ‘Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.’ This was the water of Meribath, because the children of Israel contended with the Lord, and He was hallowed among them.”

C. Saul - An Unauthorized Sacrifice.

1 Sam. 13:8-14: “Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. So Saul said, ‘Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me.’ And he offered the burnt offering. Now it happened, as soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him. And Samuel said, ‘What have you done!’ And Saul said, ‘When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, then I said, ‘The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the Lord.’ Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering.’ And Samuel said to Saul, ‘You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.’”

D. David - Uzzah - Ark From Kirjath Jearim.

1 Chron. 13:11-13: “And David became angry because of the Lord’s outbreak against Uzza; therefore that place is called Perez Uzza to this day. David was afraid of God that day, saying, ‘How can I bring the ark of God with me?’ And David would not move the ark with him into the City of David, but took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.

1 Chron. 15:2, 13-15: “Then David said, ‘No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the Lord has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever.’ ..... For because you did not do it the first time, the Lord our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order.’ So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel. And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders, by its poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the Lord.”

E. Mankind cannot direct his own steps.

Isa. 55:8-9: “‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.’”

Isa. 53:5-6: “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

Jer. 10:23: “O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.”

F. John 14:15, 21: “If you love Me, keep My commandments. .... He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

G. 1 John 5:3: “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”

**I. JESUS RESPECTED HIS FATHER’S WILL.**

A. John 4:34: “Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.’”

B. John 5:19-20: “Then Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do, for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner .. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.’”

C. John 5:30, 36: “I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent me. .... But I have a greater witness than John’s; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish - the very works that I do - bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.”

D. John 6:38: “For I came down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who Sent Me.”

- E. John 7:16-18: “Jesus answered them and said, ‘My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak of Myself. He who speaks for himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.’”
- F. John 8:26-29: “‘I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard from Him.’ They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father. Then Jesus said to them, ‘When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He; and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father has taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.’”
- G. John 8:31-32: “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you continue in My word, then you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’”
- H. John 10:18: “No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”
- I. John 12:48-50: “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him - the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father said to Me, so I speak.”
- J. John 15:10: “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”
- K. John 14:10, 31: “Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak of My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. .... But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandments, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.”
- L. 1 John 2:6: “He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”

## II. COMMANDED NOT TO GO BEYOND GOD'S WORD.

- A. 1 Thess. 5:19-22: “Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.”
- B. Deut. 4:2: “You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take anything from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.”
- C. Deut. 12:32: “Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.”
- D. Prov. 30:5-6: “Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, lest He reprove you, and you be found a liar.”
- E. 1 Cor. 4:6: “And these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.”
- F. Gal. 1:6-9: “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or any angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”
- G. 2 John 9: “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.”
- H. Matt. 24:35: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”
- I. 1 Pet. 1:23-25: “Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because ‘All flesh is as grass. And all glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever.’ And this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.”
- J. Jude 3: “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to

you exhorting that you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”

- K. Acts 20:27: “For I have not shunned to declare to you all the counsel of God.”
- L. Matt. 15:1-14: “Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus saying, ‘Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.’ But He answered and said to them, ‘Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? For God commanded, saying, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or his mother: Whatever you might be profited by me is a gift - and does not honor his father or his mother, he will be free.’ Thus, you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.’

‘Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: ‘This people draws near to Me with their mouth, and honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’

And He called the multitude and said to them, ‘Hear and understand: Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.’ Then His disciples came and said to Him, ‘Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?’ But He answered and said, ‘Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.’ Then Peter answered and said to Him, ‘Explain this parable to us.’”

Mark 7:1-13: “Ten the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. And when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. And when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches. Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, ‘Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?’

He answered and said to them, ‘Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me,

teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men - the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other things you do.’ And He said to them, ‘All too well you reject the commandments of God, that you may keep your tradition. For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or mother: Whatever you might be profited by me is Corban (that is, a gift), he shall be free;’ and you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.’”

- M. 2 Tim. 2:15: “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
- N. 2 Tim. 1:13: “Hold fast the patten of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”

### **III. THE NECESSITY OF DILIGENT BIBLE STUDY - AND APPLICATION.**

- A. Ps. 1:1-2: “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.”

Ps. 119:97-99: “Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.”

- B. Deut. 6:4-9: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart; you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”
- C. Deut. 11:18-23: “Therefore you shall lay up these words of Mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when

you rise up. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth. For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do - to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him, - then the Lord will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess greater and mightier nations than yourselves.”

- D. John 6:45: “It is written in the prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.”
- E. Heb. 5:11-14: “of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”
- F. Prov. 2:3-5: “Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.”
- G. James 1:22-25: (God’s Word Applied) - “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”
- H. 2 Pet. 1:2-3: “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who has called us by glory and virtue.”
- I. 2 Cor. 3:3: (God’s Word Applied)- “Inasmuch as you are manifestly declared to be an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, on the heart.”

- J. Rom. 12:1-2: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”
- K. 2 Tim. 2:7: “Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.”
- L. Ezra 7:10: “For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.”
- M. 1 Cor. 4:6: “And these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.”
- N. 2 Thess. 2:10-12: “And with all deception of unrighteousness in those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all might be condemned who do not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”
- O. John 13:17: “If you know these things, happy are you if you do them.”

#### **IV. BENEFITS OF KNOWING THE OLD TESTAMENT.**

- A. 2 Pet. 1:19: “We also have the prophetic word made more sure, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.”
- B. 1 Cor. 10:11: “Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages have come.”
- C. Heb. 8:1-4: “Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord set up, and not man. For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer. For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, seeing that there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law.”

- D. James 5:11: “Indeed, we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the purpose of the Lord, that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.”
- E. Acts 3:24: “Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold these days.”
- F. Rom. 11:22: “Therefore, consider the goodness and severity of God; on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.”
- G. Rom. 15:4: “For whatever things were written before were written for learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

**V. EXAMPLES OF PREACHING FROM THE PROPHETS.**

- A. Amos 5:10-13: “They hate the one who rebukes in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks uprightly. Therefore, because you tread down the poor and take grain taxes from him, though you have built houses of hewn stone, yet you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink wine from them. For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins. You afflict the just and take bribes; you divert the poor from justice at the gate. Therefore the prudent keep silent at that time, for it is an evil time.”
- B. Malachi 1:6-14: “A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My reverence? Says the Lord of hosts to you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, ‘In what way have we despised Your name?’ You offer defiled food at My altar. But you say, ‘In what way have we defiled You?’ By saying, ‘The table of the Lord is contemptible.’ And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably? Says the Lord of hosts.”

“But now entreat God’s favor, that He may be gracious to us. While this is being done by your hands, will He accept you favorably? Says the Lord of hosts. ‘Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, so that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you.’ Says the Lord of hosts, ‘Nor will I accept an offering from your hands, for from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; in every place incense shall be offered to My name,

and a pure offering; for My name shall be great among the nations,' says the Lord of hosts."

"But you profane it, in that you say, 'The table of the Lord is defiled; and its fruit, its food, is contemptible.' You also say, 'Oh, what a weariness! And you sneer at it.' says the Lord of hosts. 'And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?' says the Lord. 'But cursed be the deceiver who has in his flock a male, and makes a vow, but sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished - for I am a great King.' says the Lord of hosts."

- C. Micah 7:1-6: "Woe is me! For I am like those who gather summer fruits, like those who glean vintage grapes; there is no cluster to eat of the first-ripe fruit which my soul desires. The faithful man has perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among men. They all lie in wait for blood; every man hunts his brother with a net. That they may successfully do evil with both hands - the prince asks for gifts, the judge seeks a bribe, and the great man utters his evil desires; so they scheme together. The best of them is like a brier; the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge; the day of your watchman and your punishment comes; now shall be their perplexity. Do not trust in a friend; do not put your confidence in a companion; guard the doors of your mouth from her who lies in your bosom. For son dishonors father, daughter rises against her mother, daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house."

## VI. A LACK OF BIBLE KNOWLEDGE CAUSES RELIGIOUS ERROR.

- A. Hosea 4:6: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children."
- B. Luke 8:11: "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God."
- C. 2 Pet. 1:3: "As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who has called us by glory and virtue."
- D. John 5:39: "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me."
- E. Mark 7:9: "And He said to them, 'All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.'"

- F. 1 Pet. 2:2: “As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.”
- G. 1 Tim. 4:13: “Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”
- H. Acts 17:11: “These were more noble minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.”
- I. 2 Pet. 3:16: “As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which those who are untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.”
- J. Matt. 5:6: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”
- K. Ps. 19:7: “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.”
- L. Heb. 4:12: “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerned of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

## **VII. UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE.**

- A. Must believe the Bible can be understood.
- B. Must have an open mind.
- C. Must desire to know God’s will - The Truth.
- D. Must be diligent in study.
- E. Parallel passages help us get the whole.
  - 1. Matt. 26:51: “And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.”
  - 2. Mark 14:47: “And one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.”

3. Luke 22:50: “And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.”
4. John 18:10: “Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus.”

F. What May I learn of God.

What may I learn of Myself.

What may I learn of the Way of Life.

G. Is there any sin of which I stand convicted by the word before me, which I must confess and forsake, and for which I must ask forgiveness?

H. Is there any wrong path I have been following so that now I must change my course?

I. What grace am I neglecting? And may I not be able now to add something to my life which will make it more harmonious and complete?