

EYES FOR THE DEAD >>>

DEUTERONOMY 13:5 – 14:29

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God will examine false prophets, false apostles and false gods in this and our next several reports. From our beginning at verse five of chapter thirteen, through the end of the eighteenth chapter, we're going to have a six-chapter-long preparation for the test of a false prophet in Israel. This is one entirely neglected and ignored section of Scripture, as you might imagine. Modern religion just doesn't open to this part of the Bible, friends. The children of Israel had no problem identifying false prophets in the camp, and they made no qualms about dealing with them harshly and severely. The prophets were given a Biblical, God given test by which the false prophet was ferreted out and summarily executed. Make no mistake, my beloved; the children of Israel did not play around with the false prophet – not for a minute....

XIII

5 And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

~ I don't recall a time when reading the Bible in the classroom was done when I attended school. In my parents generation, in the United States, the Bible was a regular part of the classroom curriculum and government operations. While I don't think it was particularly meaningful because it was never taught properly, correctly or completely – and certainly not in an educated manner – it was still revered and respected as a societal mooring. The attempt to ban it altogether from schools has always been a half-hearted cause as it would necessitate all other religions being taught, also. Well, we don't have teachers qualified to handle Scripture. The only lesson a liberal education system could manufacture would harm to the cause of

Christ. They are utterly confused by the Bible to begin with. The Bible is dangerous when mishandled or irresponsibly used for our own desire – PARTICULARLY selfish, greedy gain – or when we do not give the Lord all the glory for the privilege of handling Holy Writ. You can absolutely destroy another persons life with a false doctrine.

Today, the Bible is questioned as the Word of God and considered only with suspicion in our schools. Debate is the only angle the Bible is ever presented from: so, their entire approach is disingenuous and the consideration given by mankind is NEVER a legitimate undertaking to which they have afforded thoughtful consideration. Most importantly, their epic failure to understand true wisdom, judgment, discernment and knowledge from Holy Writ, by the self-proclaimed prophet, is because they are NEVER taught – nor led – by the Holy Spirit of God; although they vehemently insist they are, and that you accept their authority. These are the hallmarks of a false prophet.

Today, organized religion consists only of those people who are cultic in their nature and lifestyle. I know that's not a nice, sweet statement – and I know it's offensive; however, the love and prosperity crowd are unbelievers who are opposed to God entirely. They thrive and flourish and are the overwhelming majority. This ilk has literally taken over. Many are husband and wife tag-teams. It's easy for the discerning believer to see what's going on behind mansion walls. The psychological baby talk people are insisting on while gathering for volleyball and potluck dinners is shameful - and meaningless. They deem themselves happening; and life is generally successful for them, to be sure, but these people fall one by one – and they fall hard – and usually end up all alone and dying in agony; mentally hurting and totally confused by the simplest of tasks. Well, then there's the healing group, who really should figure out they cannot raise the dead – because the healing group is hurting, too; you can just write that down – or – if you have the credentials, a psychotropic prescription might do them well. They will surely die, saith the Lord.

If some crackpot suddenly appeared in Israel claiming to be a prophet, but he couldn't quote Scripture properly, correctly and completely, extreme

surgery was used, and that person was removed from the camp post haste. Moses could speak to a man around the campfire at night and judge that man after hearing them speak just two sentences – you may be absolutely sure. When you have a cancer, the best possible procedure is to start cutting. I know you soft-hearted and soft-headed people don't even read anymore, but that's too bad – for you – when surgery is needed, you pray and do something; with the emphasis on do something. This is the way God dealt with this matter because it is an awful thing to rebel against Him in His Name; and you WILL lose – every time. When you spin the roulette wheel of your life, God decides which color and which number comes up, and whatever number or color you have picked – guess what? – that won't be it.

If you want to understand the level of evil this section of Scripture refers to, read the account of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. Those two plunged the nation Israel into idolatrous chaos and brought the most severe judgment to date at that period in their history. They could not have cared less, because they prospered in wickedness, idolatry and covetousness at every turn for decades until the day God finally rubbed them out. Their activities were a huge nail in the coffin of the northern kingdom going into Assyrian captivity. It's really just as serious as that with the false prophets today; particularly in countries like Africa and in the orient....

6 If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers;

7 Namely, of the gods of the people which are round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth;

8 Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him:

9 But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people.

~ When considered and accepted properly, correctly and completely, Holy Writ is so extreme and radical that, in our soft, affluent, misguided and misinformed society, this sounds like a terroristic threat. This is so contrary to and far removed from contemporary thinking that it seems to have no application in our present society whatsoever. This is a serious matter, my safari friends. When you start talking about stoning your brother – well – people question that “religion;” and I understand their questions, because I have the same questions. However, God happens to be the one Who wrote the Bible – not YOU – and that is the way He commanded the nation Israel to deal with false prophets in the day in which we are studying. This was severe - but it was to be done because God commanded it. Of course, the design was to “put away evil from amongst the camp,” because false teaching is evil, and stoning was extremely effective at cleansing the camp.

Modern lawmakers and judges have no Christian background whatsoever today. As a result, laws are misinterpreted, and subsequently misapplied, as they are misappropriated completely out of context, across the statute books, and totally against the ideology and principles upon which they were formed. Christian application of and correct Scriptural consideration results in strict obedience to the law. If you doubt that – close your Bible and forget it – because you don't believe God. A penalty must be exacted for crime in order for a society to enforce its community's standards of living, my liberal friends. If we do not have right thinking men and women in the community who are willing to execute the capital criminal, then we will never be safe on the streets again; there's really no sense to even police the streets according to that thinking.

Well, dissension happens to be exactly what we have done as a collective nation; and that's where we are today as a global society. It is because of the complete and total ignorance of the Word of God by a world that claims it for their own personal covetous agenda and use that makes my report scandalously liable, questionable and totally unfamiliar; not to mention disturbing. Well, our study gets even worse – so, buckle your seat belts. It

becomes much, much worse; I promise you. We'll leave it at this – for now – but pray for wisdom, judgment and spiritual discernment because some of the principles laid out here we do well not to miss....

10 And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

11 And all Israel shall hear, and fear, and shall do no more any such wickedness as this is among you.

12 If thou shalt hear say in one of thy cities, which the LORD thy God hath given thee to dwell there, saying,

13 Certain men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which ye have not known;

14 Then shalt thou enquire, and make search, and ask diligently; and, behold, if it be truth, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought among you;

15 Thou shalt surely smite the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, destroying it utterly, and all that is therein, and the cattle thereof, with the edge of the sword.

16 And thou shalt gather all the spoil of it into the midst of the street thereof, and shalt burn with fire the city, and all the spoil thereof every whit, for the LORD thy God: and it shall be an heap for ever; it shall not be built again.

~ Yes, sir; we could certainly make a Side Note and call it Severe Safari. God will wipe out entire cities – and this is just one example. Well, suppose the death angel was sent down to survey your city for destruction – God would ask some real questions to anyone who claimed salvation. God will ask if they have been protesting His Word or sitting lackadaisically off to the side.

If nothing was being done by anyone, then that city was to be judged. Many believe the Christian view should be to remain silent. As a result, there is no real position taken on important issues of truth in the world by the church or anyone else anymore. Well, my friends; truth is relevant all right – relevant to the Lord Jesus Christ. God never said silence is golden – not even close....

17 And there shall cleave nought of the cursed thing to thine hand: that the LORD may turn from the fierceness of his anger, and shew thee mercy, and have compassion upon thee, and multiply thee, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers;

18 When thou shalt hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep all his commandments which I command thee this day, to do that which is right in the eyes of the LORD thy God.

XIV

1 Ye are the children of the LORD your God: ye shall not cut yourselves, nor make any baldness between your eyes for the dead.

2 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.

3 Thou shalt not eat any abominable thing.

4 These are the beasts which ye shall eat: the ox, the sheep, and the goat,

5 The hart, and the roebuck, and the fallow deer, and the wild goat, and the pygarg, and the wild ox, and the chamois.

6 And every beast that parteth the hoof, and cleaveth the cleft into two claws, and cheweth the cud among the beasts, that ye shall eat.

~ So, we have the safari diet provided again. I don't think this section of Scripture needs much additional comment. We examined in Leviticus how

this means so much more to us, spiritually speaking, than any religious eating ritual ever could. The children of Israel would have received a physical benefit by observing the menu God laid out for them. Down through mankind's centuries of culinary craziness, this menu has remained legitimate regarding health value when deciding what is beneficial to eat and what is not beneficial to eat for our human bodies. Our relationship to God is not about whether we eat meat or don't eat meat – if the children of Israel observed this law, they would remain healthy. That was the promise to them at that time.

“Parting the hoof” speaks spiritually of our walk with Christ. Our walk is to be a separated walk and life. Interestingly, Paul said, “... I am separated UNTO the Gospel.” Paul wasn't living separated FROM the people, except when he was in prison. The important thing for us is to be separated unto Christ. I know people just want to yell “legalism” when it comes to trying to make their case for Christian conduct – and when they want to dismiss everything we're studying now – and there is a real problem with people getting rid of the Ten Commandments while replacing them with twenty-five more. They make an honest attempt to live by their own standards – fail – and, sooner or later, they become Christian Tragedy's or religious nuts – as we have seen time and time again on safari. When you start making rules and regulations for other people, you'll quickly discover the Word of God damningly contradicts your life....

7 Nevertheless these ye shall not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the cloven hoof; as the camel, and the hare, and the coney: for they chew the cud, but divide not the hoof; therefore, they are unclean unto you.

~ Chewing the cud speaks spiritually to our time spent meditating in and on the Word of God. And that is exactly how the Psalmist phrased it, as we shall see later. John ate the scroll; we eat the Word of God that is the Bread of Life. To attempt to apply this as a strict set of conduct is a misapplication of the Word of God. People seem to want to single out pork for some reason. Well, let's suppose you want to eat a raven, owl or a pelican; that's fine with me – go ahead – but don't invite me to dinner because I won't be

eating. However, if you want to make pork baby back ribs and crab legs – friends, I’m there! We all pick and choose off of an extremely varied menu and we shouldn’t be bragging about what we eat or don’t eat anyways – it’s unimportant. Are you feeding every day on the Bread of Life that came down from Heaven? That is the true test of obedience in our lives....

8 And the swine, because it divideth the hoof, yet cheweth not the cud, it is unclean unto you: ye shall not eat of their flesh, nor touch their dead carcase.

9 These ye shall eat of all that are in the waters: all that have fins and scales shall ye eat:

10 And whatsoever hath not fins and scales ye may not eat; it is unclean unto you.

11 Of all clean birds ye shall eat.

12 But these are they of which ye shall not eat: the eagle, and the ossifrage, and the ospray,

13 And the glede, and the kite, and the vulture after his kind,

14 And every raven after his kind,

15 And the owl, and the night hawk, and the cuckow, and the hawk after his kind,

16 The little owl, and the great owl, and the swan,

17 And the pelican, and the gier eagle, and the cormorant,

18 And the stork, and the heron after her kind, and the lapwing, and the bat.

19 And every creeping thing that flieth is unclean unto you: they shall not be eaten.

20 But of all clean fowls ye may eat.

21 Ye shall not eat of any thing that dieth of itself: thou shalt give it unto the stranger that is in thy gates, that he may eat it; or thou mayest sell it unto an alien: for thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not see the a kid in his mother's milk.

22 Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year.

23 And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always.

24 And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which the LORD thy God shall choose to set his name there, when the LORD thy God hath blessed thee:

25 Then shalt thou turn it into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose:

...Paul the apostle said, "... every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" - second Corinthians chapter nine verse seven. That's our New Testament admonition for Christian giving. Remember, in Israel, the tithe required ten percent of EVERYTHING; so, if you had a field, then ten percent of the harvest was required giving at the temple. Then, if you sold that harvest, ten percent of the money was also required. If you turned that harvest into wine, ten percent of the wine was required giving. They were also instructed not to glean the whole field so that strangers and poor people could come in and gather. Then, there was also a separate required tithe for government to be given at the temple AND certain things that had

to be brought to the required feast days. There was also the Year of Jubilee when all debt was to be forgiven. All of that is part of the Mosaic System of Levitical Law concerning tithing.

Ultimately, the Israelite's gave AT LEAST thirty or forty percent total in tithing - some gave MUCH more. Today, ten percent isn't NEARLY enough for some people. For example, if you make a hundred million dollars then giving half of that - maybe more - would be about right. For others, ten percent is too much to give; in fact, some people should be RECEIVING money from the church. So, to place ourselves under the Mosaic Law is going to be very unsatisfactory. I have to wonder how many of these people who are so legalistic on tithing have ever actually prayed about how much the Lord wants them to give to whom and when and for what purpose. One thing I can tell you is this: God doesn't want ten percent - or half - He wants it ALL! It's already His anyways. Let's start in prayer about Christian giving and see where the Lord leads ~

As your safari guide, I should also point out to you that there are one hundred sixty-eight hours in each week; so, ten percent of that would be sixteen point eight hours per week - divided by seven, equals two point four hours each day you owe God in Bible study. How are you doing with keeping up? In addition to that, there were various other tithes such as the tithe of the seed and the annual tithe – and others. A proper study on tithing and what it really means would be a valuable study for most people. Thank God He has a concern for His poor people on safari who are simply taking the entire Word of God to the entire world in the sound doctrine of the apostles. Continuing the cause of Christ and furthering the Gospel is exactly what we do - and what we're going to examine in our next report ~

26 And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household,

27 And the Levite that is within thy gates; thou shalt not forsake him; for he hath no part nor inheritance with thee.

28 At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates:

29 And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest.

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