

Transcript – Bible Study_1 Timothy_3

Alrighty, Shabbat Shalom. And Shabbat Shalom to everyone with us. Pull up a chair and let's study the Word of Yahweh.

Okay, so we are back to book of Timothy chapter 3 and verse 1. This is going over this chapter, the qualifications of elders and deacons. We always do this when we're ready to ordain somebody, but it's good to go over it because the first thing is, we see here:

1st Timothy 3:1a *Faithful is the Word: ...*

It certainly is. So somebody who is being recognized for the office of an elder or deacon needs to be faithful in the congregation. And that is a key to it. An elder has to be faithful.

1st Timothy 3:1b *If anyone desires the office of an Elder, he desires a good work.*

So we see also that it is in office, elders and deacons. I know there's people out there that say there are no elders, there are no pastors, whatever. But right here it's very clear that **it is an office**. It is in office that is there. And this is going to lay the foundations for the qualifications to fulfill that office.

Through the years I've had different people that have come into the congregation. And sometimes the first time you meet them, you're barely saying hello and they're already telling you their desire to be ordained and asking what's involved. And sometimes when they don't fit those qualifications, they're not always that happy.

So, it says: *If anyone desires the office of an Elder, he desires a good work*. So it is a great work. It is a calling. It's not something that somebody would just do like in the world today. The same way that someone may go to college to become a computer programmer. People say, "Hey, you know what? I'll go to college and become a pastor or an elder" and it doesn't work that way. It is a calling from Yahweh. It is something that Yahweh has to call you to.

And it is something like I tell our elders when I'm doing leadership training that if your only desire is, if your only desire is not to please Yahweh, if that's not your only desire, you will burn out because particularly you're doing a job that is basically 24 seven. It's not a paying job. And it involves a lot, a lot of different circumstances. So, unless you are totally convicted of that and you look at it as a calling and I've seen it happen with a lot of different people, they will burn out.

So, and it says he desires a good work because it is a great work that's there. It is a great blessing, one of the greatest blessings of my life to be in this office now for 30 years. And let's go to Ephesians 4 to see that, like I said, there are elders and it is in office and there is judicial order in Yahweh's congregation. And Ephesians 4 and verse 11 says:

Ephesians 4:11-12 *And indeed He (Yahshua) has assigned some to be apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some shepherds and teachers; ... Why is that right? ... for the perfecting ... the maturity ... of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the building up of the body of Messiah,*

So that's why Yahshua put ... He trained Himself the 12 apostles who trained others, who trained others, who trained others and here we are today. So that is why elders are there, right? Beside the preaching work that's done ...

Ephesians 4:12-14 *for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the building up of the body of Messiah, until we all may come to the unity of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of Elohim, to a full-grown man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Messiah, so that we may no longer be children, being blown and carried about by every wind of false doctrine of men, who through their craftiness are very skillful in deceiving the people;*

And wow! Boy, what an understatement that is today. But it is very, very true that there are a lot of wolves out there, not even in sheep's clothing anymore, they're in wolves clothing and they're out there deceiving the flock and pulling people into all kinds of heresies and that's one of the reasons why an elder is there.

So, 1st Peter 5 in verse 2 ... 1st Peter 5 in verse 2, he says:

1st Peter 5:2 *Feed the flock of Elohim which is entrusted to your care, and shepherd them spiritually, not by compulsion, but willingly; not for money sake, but with all your heart;*

So, here it is again now, Peter in verse 1 he's saying he's a fellow elder and he's exhorting the elders that are with him to feed the flock. That's the main purpose of an elder that's entrusted in our care and to shepherd them spiritually.

So, it's kind of interesting that Yahweh could use any analogy in the world but He uses the analogy of a shepherd with sheep for his flock, that's the analogy that He's using and it's really actually pretty good analogy. He is the Chief Shepherd, of course. We are just shepherds underneath Him, doing His work for Him.

Back to verse 1 there and one more. Acts 20 and verse 28 ... Acts 20 and verse 28. It says:

Acts 20:28-29 *Then take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit placed you as overseers, to shepherd the congregation of YAHWEH which He purchased through His own blood ... And then he says ... For I know this, that after my departure grievous wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;*

And of course, when the wolves come in they don't ... they don't care. The hireling does not care for the sheep. He only cares for himself. So, we have to make sure that we are overseers but we are simply the overseer of the flock belongs to Yahshua. And I think sometimes where elders get off base is where they start to believe that they are the owner of the flock instead of just an overseer of the flock.

So that's verse 1: *Faithful is the Word: If anyone desires the office of an Elder, he desires a good work.* Verse 2, now he'll get into the qualifications:

1st Timothy 3:2 *He who becomes an Elder must be **blameless**, the husband of one wife, alert mentally, sensible, of good behavior, hospitable, and able to teach;*

So, of course nobody is blameless. We are all sinners and fall short of the glory of Yahweh but what he is talking about when he says *blameless*, he is talking about that he doesn't have an evil reputation. That he's not

looked at, like in the community where he lives there, if he goes outside, people will go, "That guy, he's a liar. He's a thief. He's this or that." So, he can't have an evil reputation. And he can only be married to one wife. And this is where some people get disqualified.

If somebody has a wife and divorces, even though Yahweh doesn't recognize divorce, he marries a second time, then he marries a third time and he has three living wives, he would not qualify for the office of an elder, or a deacon for that matter. So, an elder has to be the husband of one wife. Now if his wife passed away and died, no problem with him remarry but he could not marry a second wife, divorced or not and be considered for elderhood.

2nd Timothy 2 and verse 24, it says:

2nd Timothy 2:24 *But a servant of YAHWEH ought not to quarrel, but to be gentle towards all, apt at teaching, patient,*

So again, we see teaching is another character trait an elder has to have here. And not every elder has to be the greatest teacher but he has to be able to teach. Unless somebody like in our congregation, unless they knew the doctrine very well, the 27 lessons, I would never think of ordaining an elder. So, he has to know the doctrine because he's the one that's going to be over charge of people. And he's the one that's going to be teaching. So, how can he teach what he doesn't know?

So, it's important that the elder is able to understand the doctrine and teach the doctrine. And that's the point, the doctrine is not ours, it's Yahshua's. The doctrine comes from Jerusalem. And what we do is basically, we're just teaching that doctrine. So, I tell elders that they don't have the right to change Yahshua's doctrine; or to bring their own doctrine or they're disqualifying themselves from the office of an elder. And elders one who understands the doctrine of Yahshua, the scriptural doctrine, and then he brings it to the congregations.

If we go to the book of Acts, and Acts chapter 16, and verse 4 says:

Acts 16:4-5 *And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the need to keep the decrees that had been determined by the apostles and the elders in Jerusalem. Then indeed the congregations were being made stronger in the faith, and increased in number day by day.*

And I can tell you this firsthand, that for a congregation to grow and for Yahweh to bless that congregation, they have to have proper doctrine. Because if a congregation is not having the proper doctrine, why would Yahweh bring in new people that are going to get messed up by false doctrine there? So, it's extremely important, that like I said, he's able to like I said, have one wife and is able to have proper doctrine.

Getting back to the wife issue, let's go back to Leviticus 21. Leviticus 21 in verse 6 and 7, and this is talking about the priest. So, anything that would be, Yahweh would do, because the Levitical priest was only a shadow. So, something was mandated to the Levitical priest, as a shadow of course, Yahweh is going to have the same to the reality of the Melchizedek priest. But in Leviticus 21 verse 6 and 7 says about the priests:

Leviticus 21:6-7 *they are holy to their Elohim (kadosh), ... they're set apart to their Elohim ... and they shall not pollute the name of their Elohim. For they offer the fire offerings of YAHWEH, bread of their Elohim, and they*

are kadosh. They shall not take a woman who is a harlot, or polluted; nor shall they take a woman divorced from her husband; for he is holy to his Elohim.

He is set apart to his Elohim. So again, it's not only that the man wouldn't be ordained, if in the past he married and divorced and maybe he has three living spouses, but even if he's only married once, but his wife was married before and she has living spouses. That's what it says. So, for elderhood or deaconhood both the woman and the man need to only have one living spouse.

Like I said, if a spouse died, that's not a problem because there's nothing in Scripture that prohibits a male or female, if the spouse died from remarrying. But in the case of a priest, or an elder, same thing, elders are just New Testament priests, the woman could not be divorced with another living spouse for him to be considered for that position.

Okay, let's go to verse 3:

1st Timothy 3:3 *not a drunkard, or one whose hand is quick to strike, but humble, not contentious, not loving money;*

So, it's not somebody who's filled with pride but somebody who's teachable; somebody who is approachable because an elder is going to be approached all the time throughout the year. Probably a hundred times in every year on being approached for different reasons, by different people for different things. So, an elder has to be approachable. He has to be humble, not contentious, not always fighting, and not loving money.

That's another thing, where when you look, like I said in the world, where a lot of these preachers are making big bucks; millions of dollars some of them in these mega churches. And it's insane, the money that they're taking and what they're doing. And really it's such a bad mark on the true good news of Yahshua. But we see here, that a true elder of Yahweh is not loving money.

1st Timothy 6:5 through 11 ... 1st Timothy 6:5 through 11, he says:

1st Timothy 6:5 *meddling, of men whose mind has been corrupted and deprived of the truth, who think that worshiping of Elohim is for worldly gain. Keep away from such people.*

So, not only people, but like I said in the Christian world, these pastors, some of them, that's all they're looking for. And the Bible says keep away from them.

1st Timothy 6:6 *But our gain is greater contentment, for it is the worship of Elohim.*

So, that's our gain; our gain is worship. And the more you worship Yahweh, the happier you are, the greater your life is - *but our gain is greater contentment*. So, it's not wanting more, it's not always thinking the grass is green on the other side. It's not always looking but it's being content.

And I love the Richard Wurmbbrand, when he's saying how after 13 years in concentration camp and then he came out and he went to an American supermarket, and he walked all around. He said, "Wow, that looks really good but you know what? I can do without it. Boy, this looks really good. Do I really need it? Wow, that would be great to buy but you know what? I can do without." And he said, "I had the pleasure of seeing many

wonderful things in that supermarket and I had the greater pleasure of not buying any." So, that's the point of it.

1st Timothy 6:6-8 *but our gain is greater contentment for it is the worship of Elohim. For we have brought nothing into the world, and it is plain that neither can we carry anything out. But having food and clothing, let us be satisfied with these.*

1st Timothy 6:9-11 *But those purposing to be rich fall into temptation, and a snare, and many foolish and hurtful lusts, which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all evils, by means of which some having lusted after it were seduced from the faith, and they themselves pierced through by many pains. But you, O man of YAHWEH, flee these things and pursue righteousness, holiness, faith, love, patience, and meekness.*

So, that's the point. An elder of Yahweh can't be seeking after the physical things. And one thing is if they are, they certainly come to the wrong congregation because we're not a big congregation with a lot of money. We don't have paid elderhood. And I admire all the men that work with me. They're good men. They're solid men. They work hard and we're all doing it because we know our reward is coming later.

And I tell the story of a bumper sticker I saw one time that said, *An elder of Yahweh; the pay is not good but the retirement plan is excellent.* And that's really what it is about it's about - the retirement plan. It's not about the pay because there is no pay, not physical pay. Again, not that there's anything wrong with it. The Bible does say a workman is worthy of his hire.

And we do have a few elders in very poor areas that are able to take some money for just food or whatever that's needed. There's nothing wrong with that. But in general, we don't have any paid elderhood. And I think it's better that way. After I saw what happened in Church of God and how all the ... when they changed all the doctrines, all the paid elders wound up staying and going along with the changes simply because they were hirelings and they needed the money. And it was all the local elders who weren't getting paid that stepped down and quit. So, I saw how money can be. It is a root of all evil and it can be a temptation. And it's just better not to have that in any way shape or form.

Hebrews 13 and verse 5 ... Hebrews 13 and verse 5 says:

Hebrews 13:5 *Set your way of life without money-loving, being satisfied with present things; for He has said, "Not at all will I leave you, not at all will I forsake you," never!*

So again, being content - that is the key to life. That is the key to happiness. *Set your way of life without money loving being satisfied with present things*, because you know what? When we're dissatisfied, the only one we're being dissatisfied with is Yahweh.

So, you may be saying, "Oh, I should be getting more money from my boss. Or I should be getting this from this one or that one from that one" but actually as we see in Exodus, when we're griping and when we're complaining, the one we're complaining against is Yahweh, not man. So, we want to make sure we're content because Yahweh has blessed us so much.

Not just the elders, everyone. He's blessed all of us with His Spirit, with His Word. I mean I can't even imagine what my life would have been like the last 40 years without being part of Yahweh's congregation and all the things that He blesses us with. It's - whatever you focus on becomes most real to you. So, you could focus on the hundred things that you have and you're being blessed with; or you could focus on the one thing that you want, that you don't have. Because whatever you're going to focus on, that's going to make your life in your situation.

And in any given moment, you are choosing whether you're being happy at that moment; or you're being unhappy at that moment. That's your choice. So, if you're focusing on something you don't have and you're being unhappy, that is your choice. You could just as easily focus on, like I said, the 99 things that you are blessed with; your health, having arms, having legs, having eyes to see the truth, all the things you could think about, friends, family situations, food on the table every day.

There's a million things. And when you're thinking about that, you'll be happy. That's your choice. You have the choice to be happy. You have the choice not to be happy. So, it's a choice you're making at any given moment, and basically, it's what you're focusing on that's going to make that happen or not happen. So, but an elder of Yahweh should not be seeking money primarily.

Titus, let's go to Titus chapter 1 in verse 5. He goes over the same qualifications that I'm going here. Titus 1 in verse 5, he says:

Titus 1:5 *For this cause I left you in Crete, that you might set in order the things lacking and ordain elders in every city, as I ordered you:*

So, here it is that the Apostle Paul is ordering Titus to go and ordain other elders. Is there an office of an elder? Of course, there is.

Titus 1:6-7 *Appoint only an Elder who is blameless, husband of one wife, having faithful children, not in accusation of loose behavior, or disobedient, for the overseer must be blameless as a steward of Elohim, not self-willed, nor prone to anger, not excessive in the use of wine, not quick to strike with his fist, not greedy of ill gain; ...* Just like we read in Timothy.

Titus 1:8-9 *but hospitable, a lover of good, discreet, just, holy, temperate, Holding fast the doctrine of faith, that he may be able both to encourage by sound doctrine and to convict those who are proud.*

So again, *holding fast the doctrine of faith*. **Faithful is the Word** - that's the key. The key is: being faithful in all things. Jacob chapter 1, *the double-minded man is unstable in all his ways*. Sometimes somebody will come up to me and they'll say something about somebody, "Oh, he did this and he did that." And I'm like, well of course, the double-minded person is going to be unstable **in everything**. You have to expect it. You should be shocked if he's not double-minded in 10 out of 10 things because that's what the double-minded is in all their ways.

Let's get back to 1st Timothy 3 in verse 4 now:

1st Timothy 3:4 *ruling his own house well, ... like we just read there in Titus ... having children in subjection with all purity.*

So, if we go to Genesis 18, this was one of the reasons *why* Yahweh used Abraham. Genesis 18 in verse 18. It's a really amazing scripture. And why did Yahweh make the covenant with Abraham? Why? He's the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, from father to son, to grandson, and look what He says. He says:

Genesis 18:18-19 *And Abraham shall surely become a great and powerful nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have known him, so that whatever he may command his sons and his house after him, even they may keep the way of YAHWEH, to do righteousness and justice; to the intent that YAHWEH may bring on Abraham that which He has spoken of him.*

Wow, so one of the main reasons that Abraham could be used because Yahweh was certain that what He was teaching Abraham. Abraham would bring it down to his children and his grandchildren. And did he? Yes, we see Isaac kept in the covenant. We see Jacob kept in the covenant, and then the twelve sons of Israel.

And it's one of the courses I do at the Bible school with the men, *Where Have all the Men Gone?* And the interesting part is in the Bible, beside Abraham, you throughout the whole Bible throughout six thousand years you find very few fathers that actually you find the sons and the grandsons following in the faith. You hardly ever see it, Old Testament or New Testament.

And it was one of the worst examples, a good example to not follow is, King David. When you look at how bad he fathered in by not correcting his children, and letting Amnon what he did to his sister Tamar and get away with that. And then what happened after that? And just tragedy after tragedy after tragedy because of the poor decisions that he made.

And you see it even in the New Testament. I never hear about the Apostle Peter's son, or the Apostle Paul's son, or the Apostle Jacob's son, or any of their sons for that matter. So, it's important though that an elder is somebody like Abraham that will share the truth and have his house in order.

So back to 1st Timothy 3:

1st Timothy 3:4-5 *ruling his own house well, having children in subjection with all purity. But if anyone does not know how to rule his own house, how will he care ... and that word in Aramaic is literally lead ... a Congregation of Elohim?*

If he can't even run his own house, how is he going to run a whole congregation? Then it says:

1st Timothy 3:6 *He should not be a new disciple, ... you're not going to take somebody that's brand new and ordain them ... lest being puffed up he may fall into the condemnation of the devil.*

Aramaic literally says satan. So yeah, somebody that's brand new that hasn't gone through all of the purification of fire and it hasn't learned. And I look now, I'm 30 years as an elder, and wow, I look back the first probably 15 years as an elder where I had a lot of knowledge and I did the best job that I knew how to do, but I didn't have the same type of character I believe that you grow into, as you get older. So, that's why you would never ordain a new person.

1st Timothy 5 in verse 22 ... 1st Timothy 5 in verse 22, says:

1st Timothy 5:22 *Do not lay hands on any one hastily, nor share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.*

So, you're not just going to meet somebody and lay hands on them for elderhood within minutes of not even knowing the person. In the past, we've had elders sometimes that were doing that. They would just, basically. And I'm trying to explain to them, if you ordain the right person you just double your efforts because now you have a second person. So, you can get doubled on.

If you ordain the wrong person, you just divided your authority. You just gave half of your authority to somebody who's going to come against you. And I've seen it happen on both ends, both ways. So, you certainly don't want to be ordaining somebody that you don't know if his loyalty is with Yahweh and the congregation? Or his loyalty is just to himself?

Verse 7 he says:

1st Timothy 3:7 *But he must also have a good witness from those outside, that he not fall into reproach and into a snare of the devil.*

Like we said, so he can't be a shady character. He can't be somebody that has a shady reputation that all the people that he works with; or all the people where they live they just see him as a bad person because then he's going to be up for being blackmailed. It's the same with a politician, if a politician has a shady past he's putting himself up for blackmail; or being tempted by non-believers to break the Torah, such as working on the Sabbath.

And I've seen it. I've seen it with brethren. I see it with elders sometimes. That they've worked on the Sabbath not to lose a job. So, if that's the case, then you don't have faith because you're risking your eternal life over a job that you're not going to have forever anyway. Like I said, when you're on your deathbed, nobody's thinking of a job they had 25 years ago. No, you're thinking of your relationship with Yahweh. You're thinking of your family. You're thinking of your eternal life.

So, a job is never worth your eternal life and it certainly isn't worth violating Yahweh's Sabbath for a job because jobs come and jobs go, that's just part of life. But that's why you want to make sure that he's not a person with shady character because he can fall into reproach and Satan can use that to tempt him.

1st Thessalonians 4 and verse 11 ... 1st Thessalonians 4 and verse 11, says:

1st Thessalonians 4:11-12 *And that ye strive to be quiet, and to attend to your own affairs; and that ye labor with your own hands; as we commanded you; that you may lead a life of good example toward those outside, and that you may have need of nothing.*

So, that's the point. Like there's times where you don't always tell somebody you're a pastor, an elder, or whatever, but there's times later as people get to know you they'll be like, "I knew there was something different about you" and you want to make sure that you're honest and you do have a good reputation for these things.

Then verse 8:

1st Timothy 3:8 *Likewise, deacons are to be pure, not double-tongued, ... not saying one thing and then something else ... not addicted to much wine, not greedy of ill gain,*

Same things as we see of an elder. So basically, the job description may be different of a deacon and elder but the qualifications are basically the same. So one, the deacon is more of a servant in helping the elder and the brethren in the congregation doing physical serving, where the elder is doing more of preaching and ministry work, but it's very interesting that the qualifications are almost exactly the same.

1st Timothy 3:9 *having the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.*

Wow, and this is for the deacon now. The deacon has to have the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience so he can't be always questioning. Because the same kind of thing, whether you're a deacon or an elder, you are doing a lot of sacrificing in your own personal life with your family with your finances, with everything, for Yahweh and His work. And you don't want to be double-tongued. And you don't want to be questioning your calling but having the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.

Colossians 1 in verse 26. What is that mystery of the faith? Colossians 1 in verse 26:

Colossians 1:26-27 *even the mystery having been hidden from the ages and from the generations, but now is revealed to His saints; to whom Elohim willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the nations, which is Messiah in you, the hope of glory;*

That is the mystery - **Messiah in you, the hope of glory**. And what a great mystery that is. It is a major mystery, the power of the resurrection that people will not just die but they'll be resurrected. So, we have the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.

Verse 10:

1st Timothy 3:10 *And also let these be tested first, then let them serve, being without reproach.*

So, I'll read our note, our study note here, it says:

The elder and the deacon both had to prove themselves and mature in the faith before ordination would be considered. Ordination was not with the hope that someone would fulfill a particular job, but was a recognition of someone who was already fulfilling the job of an elder or deacon.

And that is so true because there's times where the work of Yahweh is growing and they need an elder or a deacon in an area. And they're just picking somebody out basically 'eeny, meeny, miny, mo' and ordaining the person. And you can't do that ... you can't do that. It doesn't matter whether you need an elder. What matters is if somebody's fulfilling the role of an elder, if he's qualified to fill that role.

So, when ... and I know for me, this is the way I've always done it, when I lay hands on somebody whether it's to be an elder or a deacon, it's somebody who's fulfilling that role. Yes, they have potential because before being ordained, not being officially in the office, they're not going to be doing everything they'll be doing after they're ordained.

But you're not just ordaining someone *hoping* that something's going to happen to them and they're going to start fulfilling this role. No, you want to make sure that they're being tested first. So you're seeing that they're actually fulfilling the role. And now what you're really doing is just recognizing it before the congregation with the laying on of hands.

Verse 11:

1st Timothy 3:11-12 *Likewise, their wives are to be chaste, not slanderers, ... not gossipers ... temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be husbands of one wife, ruling their own houses and children well.*

So the same thing as an elder, can't have two, or three, or four living spouses, and your wife also can't have living spouse beside the one husband.

1st Timothy 3:12-13 *Let deacons be husbands of one wife, ruling their own houses and children well. For those having served well gain a good grade for themselves and much boldness in faith, those in Messiah Yahshua ... For those having served well gain a good grade for themselves.*

Like I said, the pay may not be great but the retirement plan is excellent! So, those who are actually fulfilling their role as an elder or as a deacon, they are making a good grade for themselves and much boldness and faith and growing in faith. Because being an elder and being a deacon gives you the opportunity to grow in more faith because of the responsibility you have. And Yahweh will give more faith to you if you are fulfilling the role like it says here; if you're serving well, the way you should and then he says:

1st Timothy 3:14 *I write these things to you, hoping to come to you shortly.*

So, where is he? Remember chapter 1 in verse 2 and 3:

1st Timothy 1:2-3 *to Timothy, a true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, peace from YAHWEH our Father and our Master Yahshua Messiah. Even as I called on you to remain in Ephesus, as I was going to Macedonia, that you might charge some not to teach different doctrines,*

And the Apostle Paul is saying that he hopes to come to him shortly in Ephesus. He says,

1st Timothy 3:15 *but if I delay that you may know how to behave in the house of Elohim which is the congregation of the living Elohim, the pillar and foundation of the truth.*

And wow, what an important scripture because we're in a time where much talk is going up about building a third temple and doing sacrifices. And like I said, millions of Christians talking about getting involved in this kind of stuff. Don't ask me why, but what is the temple of Yahweh? What is the sanctuary of Yahweh?

1st Peter 2 and verse 5 ... 1st Peter 2 and verse 5, he says:

1st Peter 2:5 *You also as living stones are being built into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to YAHWEH through Yahshua Messiah.*

So, we are living stones in a spiritual house. We are that. And if we go to John 2 verse 18 ... John chapter 2 and verse 18, this is where Yahshua is being questioned and look what they say:

John 2:18-19 *Then the Jews answered and said to Him, What sign do You show to us, since You do these things? 9 Yahshua said to them, tear down this sanctuary, ... the temple ... and in three days I will raise it up.*

John 2:20-21 *Then the Jews said, This sanctuary was forty six years being built, and do You raise it up in three days? But He spoke about the sanctuary of His body.*

So very clearly, we see we are the body of Messiah and we are the sanctuary of Yahweh.

Ephesians 2 and verse 19 ... Ephesians 2 and verse 19, it says:

Ephesians 2:19 *So, then, you are no longer strangers and family members living abroad, but you are natives of the same family of the saints and children of the family of YAHWEH, ... Praise Yahweh for that.*

Ephesians 2:20-22 *being built up on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Yahshua Messiah Himself being the cornerstone of the building, in whom all the building being fitted together grows into a holy sanctuary in YAHWEH, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of Elohim in the Spirit.*

Wow! So, that's the key here - that **we are living stones in that sanctuary** and that is what he says here.

1st Timothy 3:15 *But if I delay, that you may know how to behave in the house of Elohim, which is the Congregation of the living Elohim,*

We are a living sanctuary and we are pillars in that sanctuary - the pillar in the foundation of the truth. I say it's really interesting because when you look at pillars, and not pillows on a bed but pillars, like pillars of buildings. And whether you go to Israel, or Jordan, or Greece, or any of these ancient places, you see these ancient pillars that are thousands of years old that are still standing there because that's what a pillar is. A pillar holds up the foundation.

And even if the building comes down, even if the roof comes down, the pillar still stands. So, **we are the pillars of the foundation of truth**. And as you look at the world today and you see how things are getting worse, seems to be by the day, and there doesn't seem to be any truth anymore.

We are ... we are that staple. We are that pillar of truth that people should be able to come and see. And especially when it comes to Scripture, that where they're not going to get this anywhere else, they're going to get it with us. So, praise Yahweh for that.

1st Timothy 3:15 *But if I delay, that you may know how to behave in the house of Elohim, which is the Congregation of the living Elohim, the pillar and foundation of the truth.*

And verse 16:

1st Timothy 3:16 *Truly, great is the divine mystery of righteousness: which was revealed in the flesh, was justified in the Spirit, was seen by cherubs, was proclaimed among nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.*

So of course, he's talking about Yahshua - *great is the divine mystery of righteousness*. He is the mystery *which was revealed in the flesh*. That He put His divinity to the side and came down in human body for some odd 32/33 years, *was justified in the Spirit*; the Spirit of Yahweh that was embedded into Miriam, His mother, when He was born.

Was seen by cherubs. The cherub's assisted Him after He was tempted by the enemy after His baptism. *Was proclaimed among nations*; which are still being done. That's our great commission to bring this good news to all nations. And *was believed on in the world and was taken up in glory*.

Wow! So, if we go to Acts chapter 1 and verse 8:

Acts 1:8-10 *But when the spirit of Holiness comes upon you, you will receive the power, and you will be witnesses of Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the end of the earth ... Just like we read ... And saying these things, as they looked on, He was taken up in a cloud and He was hidden from their sight. And as they were intently looking into the heaven, He having gone, even behold, two men in white clothing stood by them,*

Acts 1:11-12 *who also said, Men, Galileans, why do you stand looking up to the heaven? This Yahshua who was taken up from you to heaven, likewise He will come just as you have seen Him who ascended into heaven. Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount being called Of Olive Grove, which is near Jerusalem, a distance of seven furlongs away.*

So, wow like he said, as He was taken up, He is going to come back.

Hebrews 1 and verse 3 ... Hebrews 1 and verse 3, says:

Hebrews 1:3 *for He (Yahshua) is the brightness of His glory, the express image of His being, and upholding all things by the power of His Word; having made purification of our sins through Himself, He sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

Wow! So, showing ... *Truly, great is the divine mystery of righteousness: which was revealed in the flesh, was justified in the Spirit, was seen by cherubs, was proclaimed among nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory. (1st Timothy 3:16)*

One more scripture here ... 1st Peter 3 ... 1st Peter 3 and verse 21-22:

1st Peter 3:21-22 *And you also are saved in that same manner by baptism, not merely when you wash the filth from the body, but by confessing YAHWEH with a pure conscience, and by the resurrection of Yahshua the Messiah; who going into Heaven is at the right hand of YAHWEH; cherubs, and authorities, and powers being made subject to Him.*

So, I've counted, there's about 13 scriptures that talk about **right now** ... right now not any analogy, or anything else but **right now** there's 13 scriptures that say Yahshua **right now** is in Heaven sitting at the right hand of the Father. And yet, there's still people out there who try to say Yahshua and Yahweh are the same being. So, I don't know how they get that but it's just not. They're two separate beings, distinct beings, and what makes Them echad is the one Ruach, the one Spirit.

So again, *Truly, great is the divine mystery of righteousness: which was revealed in the flesh, was justified in the Spirit, was seen by cherubs, was proclaimed among nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory. (1st Timothy 3:16)*

So wow, what a great chapter. What a really great chapter that's there.

And I will be taking off a few weeks because I have the big African conference coming up and then when I come back we will continue the Bible study and get into Timothy chapter 4. And then we'll see where we'll go after that, after we do chapter 4, chapter 5 and chapter 6.

But I pray you have a blessed Sabbath and before we end here, I do just want to go into a couple of world news I didn't go into any world news at the beginning. But I want to go to just a few because there are a couple of very big things and I'm not going to get into a lot of articles. I'll just mention a couple but there are a couple very, very big things that are happening now that we should be watching.

World News Update ~

And one says, **As Australia Advances National Facial Recognition Network, Despite Privacy Concerns**. So one of the things that's going on is with this digital ID. So, this is moving very, very fast and almost like what happened with COVID, it came out of the blue. And before you know it, like they panicked people into scaring them about the sickness and all that stuff.

And before you know it, people being locked in houses and not being able to go to supermarkets and all this other stuff. And I said it when it ended; I said what a blessing COVID was because it showed us where we had a change in our life for what's coming next.

And now the next thing is the digital ID. So, I don't know exactly how they're going to play it out or how they're going to do it but I can tell you it's moving fast with it and a lot of countries are starting to move in that direction.

I have an article over here that says: **The Countries Where digital ID Already Exists**. So, there's already ... I don't know if it's 26 or 28/27 countries where there's already digital ID. Most of Europe already has it but they're moving faster with it. And once it gets set up the digital ID, like I said, now when you come to Europe you no longer will be having a passport that's stamped but it'll all be by biometrics and digital ID.

Great Britain announced a few weeks ago you will not be able to work in Great Britain, in the United Kingdom unless you have the digital ID. So, I don't know, I don't know how long it's going to take but I know once that thing is here, and unless you have the mark of the beast and that's why I'm encouraging our elders and brethren get rid of that phone, that smartphone because it definitely is connected with it.

And get rid of it, so that you could start figuring out how to make alternatives because at least now you can have alternatives. Nobody gave me even one reason what they couldn't do without the smartphone. You can still make phone calls with a regular flip phone. You can still get text messages. You know pretty much anything you could do with a laptop you could do, but you're not in that QR code with all those different apps in the smartphones and the technology the tracking technology and all that stuff.

So, it's moving really, really fast. I'm guessing it'll be one to two years before the system is completely here where you're not going to be able to do anything by itself. But who knows? Only Yahweh knows. It could be faster, it could be a little slower, but it right now it seems to be moving very, very fast.

And the other thing I just wanted to mention in world news to watch, is everything going on now with Israel. And it's really like you don't know what's coming next there. But one thing that's really interesting, Vice President of the US, Vance, JD Vance, was in Israel this week. And while he was there they actually took a vote in the Knesset to annex the West Bank and the vote passed.

So, they with their laws, it still has to go through other things. So, they're not at that point of doing it yet, but to take that vote right there when he was there. And it says, **Trump Says, Israel Not Going to do anything with the West Bank as US Fumes over Annexation Vote.**

So, they felt like, man, they were so mad at that. And they actually did that while the Vice President was there. But your guess is as good as mine because I know Prime Minister Netanyahu wants to do it. I know the right wing people want to do it. They want to annex the West Bank. They think now is the time to do it.

And Trump said if they do it, President Trump said that they will lose all US support. And one of the things with Babylon going down, remember is, because they back off and stop supporting Israel which then allows the nations to come and attack Israel.

So, we're seeing a lot of this stuff being set up. I mean really amazing. And that annexation if that happens that will be a biggie because the Arab nations are not going to go along with it. America is going to cut them off. If that happens, and you better believe if that happens, Israel is going to be attacked because they won't have America to support them. And things are going to move really fast.

So keep an eye, keep praying for the peace of Jerusalem. And I pray that everybody is doing well and blessed and has a great Shabbat. So, we'll see you in a few weeks after the African trip. Shabbat Shalom!