



Elementary Principles of Messiah, Part 18  
Eternal Judgment, Part B  
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Sabbath Sermon 08/02/2025

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{Title slide} Shabbat shalom, brothers and sisters. It's nice to see you here today. As we move into our second message concerning "Eternal Judgment" as part of our series on the "Elementary Principles of Messiah Yeshua," I want to briefly note the prophetic significance of the Sabbath Day, which is also known as the LORD's Day (Is. 58:13-14). The weekly Sabbath is a prophetic template for the Day of the LORD—for Judgment Day—it is "a shadow of the things to come" (Col. 2:17). The Sabbath is a dress rehearsal that displays how much we desire to be with "the LORD of the Sabbath" (Mt. 12:8) and His people when He comes—how much we long to come into the presence of the King, to receive His sanctifying Holy fire, and to accept His invitation for life everlasting in His Kingdom. As Pastor Daniel Joseph of Corner Fringe Ministries once said, "The level of [our] desire for the Sabbath is a gauge for how much [we] long for the Kingdom of God." It is a great "litmus test," he said, that shows where we are at with our faith. If this is true—and I believe that it is—then those who treat Shabbat as an afterthought or completely ignore the LORD's Day altogether are by default displaying a greater desire for the world and its trappings, and it's critical to understand that these things and those people who love them more than God will be completely consumed with fire on the Last Day. The substance of the Sabbath Day is Messiah Yeshua (Col. 2:17), and He invites His people to cast off their weariness, their labors and their heavy ladens so that He can give us rest (Mt. 11:28). The Sabbath points to the eternal rest of the LORD (Hebrews 3-4), and we're all invited, but we have to accept the invitation. In this world, the Seventh Day provides liberty from the curse of work and the toils and concerns of this world and gives us complete peace in Christ. It also expresses our faith in Yeshua's promise of life and freedom from the curse of death. This is not an esoteric understanding. Even Rabbi Abraham Joshua Herchel, writing in his literary work called "The Sabbath," said quite pointedly: "Unless one learns how to relish the taste of Sabbath ... one will be unable to enjoy the taste of eternity in the world to come." Contemplate this. ... The Fourth Commandment is no less important than the other nine, and may even be the pinnacle that displays our love

for the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, as well as one another! How else can we wash one another's feet if we do not assemble ourselves together and bear one another's burdens? Indeed, if the saints of God endure until the end by keeping the commandments of God and our faith in Yeshua, as we often read in Revelation 14:12, then the Sabbath commandment certainly provides the brightest sign of where we stand in our relationship with God. As Yeshua Himself said in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven." As we go out to preach the Gospel of our LORD, making disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching the commandments of God, we ought to share the invitation from Yeshua to set ourselves apart from the world, because judgment is coming upon the earth. This is an elementary principle of the faith.

{Next slide} As we get into today's message, then, I want to show you how the LORD invites us to set ourselves apart from the world and the eternal judgment that is coming upon it. In Isaiah 26, starting in verse 3, we read: "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You." How much do we love the LORD? ... How much are our minds devoted to God and the things He has instructed His people to do? ... He loves us and wants us to be blessed! He wants "perfect peace" for us, but our minds must be stayed on Him to achieve this, not just now but forever and ever. We have to trust in the LORD's Way, detailed by the Holy Scriptures, rather than the ways of men, described by the dogmas of false religion. In Deuteronomy 10:12-13, Moses presented a similar position to what Isaiah prophesied. We read: "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?" Yeshua called this the greatest commandment, and He also said similarly in John 14:15, "If you love Me, keep My commandments," both identifying Himself as God and giving us the same instruction as before. The commandments of God are meant for our good—so that we might be blessed—so that we might have "perfect peace," and when we obey them we show our love for God. The whole of God's instruction is centered around love: the love of God for us to bless us eternally and our reciprocal love for God as well as love for one another, because we trust that God knows what is best for His own creation and want the same outcome that He does.

{Next slide} We have to trust the Word of God in its fullness in order to truly experience the "perfect peace" of God, and we also have to demonstrate our trust by abiding in

His instruction and seeking its application in our lives. The only reason we would do this is if we truly have faith in Him. Obedience is a demonstration of our faith in the Word of God, which saves us from destruction. The LORD said in Jeremiah 29:11, “I know the thoughts that I think toward you ... thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11), but He also added our responsibility to receive the gift that He’s offering through the grace of Yeshua. We read in verse 13: “You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” We can’t do whatever we want in the world and expect to find the LORD, we have to ask God for His will in our lives and then align our thoughts and actions with the LORD’s Way according to His Word on account of our trust in Him. Messiah Yeshua said the same thing in Matthew 7:7, where we read: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” The LORD has told us what is good, and so we ought to prioritize what He has instructed on account for our love for Him and our desire to dwell with Him in “perfect peace” forever. As Isaiah 26 continues into verse 4, the prophet expressed this very same thing. We read: “Trust in the LORD forever, for in Yah, the LORD, is everlasting strength.” “Everlasting strength” is simply another way to say “eternal life.” And remember Romans 8:1, where we read: “there is now no condemnation for those who are in Messiah Yeshua...”? We have to be in Yah—in Yeshua—which means to live completely according to His will because we trust in Him—in order to obtain the everlasting life He promises.

{Next slide} With that being said, I want to show you what Isaiah wrote a little further along in the same prophesy relative to the Last Day, which again, is metaphorically symbolized by the Sabbath as well as the Passover Seder. In Isaiah 26:19-21, we read: “Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain.” As we studied in the section of this series on the Resurrection of the Dead, there will be a resurrection of the righteous and a resurrection of the wicked—two resurrections—and I believe they will happen on the same day—the Last Day. This is the same day when those who are “alive in Christ” will be caught up and their corruptible bodies will put on incorruptible bodies—for “we shall all be changed.” While it’s clear that the righteous will be resurrected into the LORD’s protection, as we can clearly see here, we can also see that the wicked will face the indignation of God at that time. Thus, the Last Day is either going to be a day of celebration, complete with singing and rejoicing,

much like we practice each Shabbat, or a day of torment, complete with eternal separation from God, much like those who disregard the Shabbat. All people will face judgment, those with faithful obedience will enter life, and those who have opposed God in one way or another will face the wrath of the Lamb. On that very day, the LORD will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity. No longer will the slain be covered up by the earth—no longer will they sleep in their graves—but all will be judged and separated, like wheat from the tares and sheep from the goats. King David, who had great faith, trusted the LORD would resurrect him into everlasting life, which is evident from what he wrote in Psalm 27:5. There we read: “For in the time of trouble [the LORD] shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.” David completely trusted the LORD’s promises, and thus during the time of trouble—during the time of God’s wrath—he is expecting complete peace. Now, as a brief aside, please understand that this “time of trouble” is not to be confused with the so-called “tribulation,” as we’ve covered in past messages. To remind you: Yeshua said in Matthew 24:(29-30), “Immediately after the tribulation of those days ... then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn.” This “time of trouble” is equivalent to the final battle, when those men and women who were married to the world and all of its fleshly desires will literally go to war against Messiah Yeshua upon His return, but this is a war they cannot win. Yeshua, at that time, will bring His wrath against all who oppose Him and His ways. According to Revelation 11, at the time when “the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our LORD and of His Messiah,” who “shall reign forever and ever,” on this very same Last Day when the LORD appears on the clouds of Heaven and His angels gather the living and the dead, Judgment Day also comes. In verse 18, we read: “The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.”

{Next slide} The LORD Yeshua told the prophet John in Revelation 22:12: “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.” Where is our trust? What is most important to us in our hearts? According to Matthew 15:18-19 Yeshua said, “But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.” What kind of witness do we have in our lives? What kind of works are we doing? What have we put first in our hearts. Paul wrote in Galatians 6:7-8: “Do not be deceived, God is not

mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

{Next slide} Based on what Paul wrote in Galatians 5:19-21, “adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries and the like” are sins of the flesh that lead to death. Paul added: “Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” On the contrary, those who exhibit the works of the Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control,” these will “reap everlasting life.” The works we do in this life, which are based on our heart condition, are going to determine what happens to us on the Last Day when Yeshua comes to judge the living and the dead. Consider the prophetic words of David and Solomon when it comes to this dichotomy. First, we read in Psalm 37:37-38, “Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; for the future of that man is peace. But the transgressors shall be destroyed together; the future of the wicked shall be cut off.” Just as we read in Isaiah: It’s “perfect peace” for those whose minds are stayed on God and all His ways, but there is destruction for those who turn their backs on the LORD. The LORD is repeatedly telling us: “Choose this day whom you will serve.” When we turn to Proverbs 28:18, we can see the urgency of the LORD’s calling on our lives, just like Yeshua said earlier: “Behold, I am coming quickly.” In Proverbs, we read: “Whoever walks blamelessly will be saved, but he who is perverse in his ways will suddenly fall.”

{Next slide} The Day of the LORD is going to come suddenly, as we read in 1st Thessalonians 5:2-3. There Paul wrote, “For you yourselves know perfectly that the Day of the LORD so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.” Do you see the urgency of the Gospel? Do you see the pressing need to trust Yeshua for the forgiveness of our iniquity and to follow Him in His righteousness? Don’t let any man ever say you will experience peace or safety when you follow the dictates of your own heart or trust in the wisdom of this world. There is no security apart from Yeshua! We read in Psalm 145:20: “The LORD preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy.” The day of judgment is coming, and we will know it’s coming sooner than later when the depravity of the world increases like the labor pains of a woman about to give birth. The intensity and frequency of sin-caused suffering in this world will increase until the very end, when “the earth will give birth to its dead” and every person, alive or dead, will face the

judgment seat of Messiah Yeshua. Indeed, this is the very reason why we ought to make it our number one purpose to be “well pleasing to God”—to do the things that He instructed us to do. Paul wrote in 2nd Corinthians 5:9-10, every person who ever lived will all at once “receive the things done in his body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” Are we putting Yeshua and His instruction first? Have we surrendered our lives to Him yet? What are you waiting for?

{Next slide} Scripture is not ambiguous about the urgency of faith. In Isaiah 13:6-9, we read this: “Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. Therefore all hands will be limp, every man’s heart will melt, and they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; they will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; they will be amazed at one another; their faces will be like flames. Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it.” This judgment sure sounds universal, doesn’t it? Doesn’t it sound like “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Messiah, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad”? John wrote the same thing in Revelation 6:15-17, where we read this: “And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man[—that’s everyone, by the way—every man, woman and child], hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?’” We are all guilty of some kind of sin that leads to death in this life. There is not any one of us that is perfect before God. We all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. How could any one of us stand on our own merit? Simple answer: We can’t. And so we will mourn, but this word has a double meaning. Every eye shall see Him when He comes on the clouds of the heavens. Every eye shall see the One who sits on the throne. We will look on God, whom we pierced. “We will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn,” we read in Zechariah 12:10. The sinners will be destroyed at this time. These will be burned up, literally, in the judgment of the LORD. They will mourn because there will be no escaping the judgment of the wicked. But what about those receiving judgment for the good things done in the body? What about the rhetorical question: Who is able to stand on Judgement Day? Can anyone?

{Next slide} Scripture identifies a testimony of two in multiple passages that answers that rhetorical question, and those who have done good will mourn in humility before the LORD on account of the grace Yeshua offered us on account of His suffering. I’m

going to show you a couple prophetic examples in both the Book of Revelation and in Psalms, but before I share the passages from Revelation, it's important to point out that this book was not written in chronological order. Much like the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, among others, the prophecies written by John in Revelation were layered one after another, each explaining the same spiritual truths from different perspectives. Thus, the "great multitude" of Revelation 7 and the "great multitude" of Revelation 19 are the same "great multitude." Both descriptions share an important truth about what is needed to stand before the judgment seat of Messiah Yeshua. And those who stand are the same group of people who will enjoy the resurrection into everlasting life and the same group of people who will enter the Kingdom of God. The first example comes from Revelation 7, verses 11-12 and 14, where we read: "After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" These people, who have come from every nation and every time period since the creation of the world, can stand before the throne of God specifically because of the salvation offered to them by the Lamb of God, who is Yeshua. As we read on in verse 14, the passage describes this group as "the ones who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Remember, Yeshua goes to resurrect the dead and take up the living on the Last Day, "directly after the tribulation of those days." Whether these were living through the tribulation and caught up alive or resurrected from the dead, these are people who put their trust in Yeshua—that He is God who came in the flesh as a blood sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins and then resurrected from the dead. These were justified by the blood of Yeshua—they were saved by the grace of God. As we turn to Revelation 19, verses 6-8, we can see that this same "great multitude" had a voice similar to the sound of many waters and mighty thunderings, meaning that they came from every nation and every time period since the creation of the world and they were praising the LORD in unison, saying: "Alleluia! For the LORD God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." This wife is spiritual Israel—the church—the Body of Christ—all those who did righteous deeds because they loved the Bridegroom and eagerly awaited His return. We read, "His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints." When taken together, these two passages demonstrate the same truth of all the rest of Scripture, which is best stated in Revelation 14:12: "Here is the endurance of the saints; here are they who keep the commandments of

God and faith in Yeshua.” This is the testimony of two needed to stand in the day of wrath. Those who don’t know the LORD Yeshua or don’t keep the commandments of God or both will face eternal judgment on that very same day.

{Next slide} If we turn to Psalms 1 and 2, we can see this same testimony in reverse order. Psalm 1 explains, “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, or set foot on the path of sinners, or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the Law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, yielding its fruit in season, whose leaf does not wither, and who prospers in all he does. Not so the wicked! For they are like chaff driven off by the wind. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the LORD guards the path of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.” The wicked, those who live their lives in opposition to God’s commandments and mock those who obey the LORD, will not be able to stand in the judgment. These will perish—by fire—on Judgment Day. But the righteous who delight in the law of the LORD and meditate on it day and night, putting it into practice in their lives, will stand strong during the great tribulation. These people will not perish, but rather will continue to bear fruit even during the heat of persecution, helped by the living waters of the Holy Spirit. For their faithfulness, the LORD will guard their paths. Yeshua promised, according to John 14:15-18, “If you love Me, keep My commandments ... and I will send you another Helper ... the Spirit of Truth.” And according to Psalm 1, those who keep God’s commandments will be planted alongside living water that will help them flourish even during tribulation. While the wicked and sinners will not stand before God, the inverse is also true. In the assembly of the righteous, the saints who have kept the commandments of God will stand. Their narrow path into the Kingdom of God will be preserved.

{Next slide} Likewise, Psalm 2 presents another dichotomy between the righteous and the wicked, but this time there is a different factor that separates the two. I haven’t put the whole Psalm up on the screen—only some pertinent verses. Consider verses 2-6, where we read: “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, ‘Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us.’ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: ‘Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.’” In this passage, it’s clear that the kings of the earth who reject the LORD’s Anointed One, the Messiah Yeshua, do not want to obey His Word—they reject Him as the promised Messiah and Son of God. They desire to “break their bonds in pieces and



cast away their cords,” which means they have no desire to be connected to God through faith in Yeshua. What’s worse, they believe that in their doubt they can still have victory over God. Perhaps they even say “peace and security” when there is no hope of peace or security for them. These are the ones who will line up in battle array against Yeshua when He comes on the clouds, actually thinking they can defeat Him. The LORD will literally laugh at them as He prepares to pour out His wrath. As the Psalm continues, the LORD warns those with agency—any kings of the earth—“be wise ... be admonished. ... Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry and you perish in your rebellion, when His wrath ignites in an instant. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.” Any who take refuge in Yeshua, the Son of God, the LORD’s anointed Messiah, will be hidden away in the LORD’s tabernacle on the Day of Wrath. Anyone who is part of the Body of Yeshua, believers who trust in Him and worship Him as the Son of God, will be blessed by eternal life in the Kingdom of God. Just as Paul wrote in Philippians 2:12, “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,” so too ought all of God’s people who want to stand in the Day of Judgment “serve the LORD with fear, rejoice with trembling and kiss the Son, lest He be angry and you perish in your rebellion.” To “kiss the Son” is to worship Yeshua. To “serve the LORD with fear” is to keep His commandments. This testimony of two is needed for anyone who hopes to endure the wrath of God relative to His eternal judgment.

{Next slide} Next, I want to share a few historical allegories that emphasize the points I want to leave you with on “Eternal Judgment.” Most importantly, what’s the answer to the question: How do we escape condemnation and enter eternal life? The first two examples that address this question were presented by Yeshua in Luke 17 and Peter in 2nd Peter 2. Both focus on the urgency of our calling to clothe ourselves in the righteousness of Messiah as well as the uncertainty of when our time will run out to make a decision to follow Yeshua. As Yeshua Himself said in Matthew 24:36, “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.” It’s true that this statement is a Hebraic idiom referring to the Day of Trumpets, or Yom Teruah, which prophetically points to the coming of the King. Yom Teruah begins on the first day of the seventh month on the Hebraic calendar. Due to the uncertainty of the New Moon sighting as a clear marker for the start of each month, and the controversies regarding the many different practices for identifying the start of Hebraic months, it is certainly true that no one knows the day or hour that Yom Teruah really begins. But even if we all agreed on when the Feast of Trumpets begins, we have to ask: Is it possible for us to know the exact year of Yeshua’s return? I don’t believe so. Nevertheless, Yeshua has given us a few hints on the types of things we ought to be

looking out for during the season of His return, and here's the alarming news: It really could happen at any time. First, we read in Luke 17, verses 26-27, "And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all." The only ark we have to consider today is Yeshua, for He called Himself the door for the sheep to enter the Kingdom of God for salvation. In order to avoid the coming judgment that will destroy the ungodly, we will have to enter the ark, which is to confess our faith in Yeshua and master the Elementary Principles of Messiah Yeshua that we've been talking about throughout this series. As to the precise time of His coming, the world might not look much different than it does now; it might not look much different than it always has. People will be getting married, eating and drinking, and going about life as usual, and then the whole world will be destroyed. How will we discern the difference between the day before and the day of the event? Peter begins to explain in 2nd Peter 2, verses 4-9, where we read: "For if God ... did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; ... then the LORD knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the Day of Judgment,..." (2nd Peter 2:4-9). It's clear that there will be a stark difference between those who are righteous and those who are ungodly, and not only that, there will not be very many godly people who remain on the earth—in the case of Noah, there were only eight righteous in the midst of millions of lawless people.

{Next slide} The actual story of Noah in Genesis 6-9 bears this out to be true, and the most pertinent piece for today comes from Genesis 6:5-9, where we read: "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.' But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. This is the genealogy [written record] of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God." From this testimony, we can discern that God had searched the hearts of every man, woman and child on the face of the planet and found them rotten to the core, with the exception of one man and his family. Humanity was so wicked that people thought ONLY about evil things—continually! Remember what Yeshua said in Matthew 15, which we covered earlier: what is in the heart proceeds from a person into his speech and actions. If every intent of the heart of every person alive on the earth was evil continually, then

the world was surely falling apart in Noah's day. All of the evil described in the Bible combined would likely not rise to the level of depravity that was going on in the antediluvian times. God was sorry that He had made man?!?! Really?!? Do we ever stop to think about how evil things really were? According to Yeshua, this is the type of world we can expect to be living in leading up to the return of Yeshua and judgment day. While the world will never again be flooded by water, the LORD has indeed said repeatedly through His prophets that fire is coming to consume the ungodly. But how bad will it be? If it's going to be like Noah's day, does that mean that only eight people will be saved again? It's certainly possible. Consider what Yeshua said in Luke 18, verses 7-8, where we read: "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" We have to ask ourselves: Will the righteous all be martyred or will most followers of Yeshua fall away from the faith on account of the pressures of the world? It's hard to say, especially with the parallel verse in Matthew 24:22, which reads: "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened." The lesson for us here is that we have to be like Noah, who was a righteous man, who kept himself pure, and who walked with God and obeyed Him all the days of His life on account of his faith. If we are not like this, walking through the narrow door that is faith in Messiah Yeshua, we are certainly at risk of eternal judgment.

{Next slide} As Yeshua continued in Luke 17, we encounter an even scarier truth to consider as Judgment Day approaches, which is this: We might be walking with Yeshua now, living on the narrow path on the way into His Kingdom right now today, but on account of some attraction we have to the world, the flesh, or to the pride of life, or even some threat in the world that might take our eyes off of Yeshua, we might fall away from the narrow path onto a path of destruction. In Luke 17, verses 28-33, we read: "Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it." While many of the same lessons are in this example, Yeshua added a few more details into the story to emphasize a particular point: We can't be half-hearted in our faith and expect to enter the Kingdom of God. If we do not go all-in for Yeshua, we may face the Eternal

Judgment, which is coming by way of fire, just as it did in this prophetic example. In other words, we have to be willing to give up all things in this world that take us away from putting Yeshua first. If we are not elevating Yeshua to the throne of our hearts, we are at risk of eternal judgment. There are many similar verses in Scripture that express different nuances of the same concept. For instance, in Luke 14:26, we learn that to be a disciple of Yeshua, we have to be willing to give up personal relationships with friends and family members who are not aligned with the faith and may be standing in the way, or at the very least disregard their worldly advice; otherwise, we aren't going to make it. We cannot follow the commandments of men and make it into Heaven. We cannot follow advice from false Christian teachers who twist the Word of God for their own purposes and make it into God's abode. Only when we obey God's commandments because of our sincere faith in His Word can we make it into the Kingdom. We have to be willing to sacrifice absolutely everything, even our very own lives. Yeshua said, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." Yeshua said in Matthew 7:14: "narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." Perhaps the LORD will not ask us to follow Him onto a literal cross, perhaps He will—most of the apostles did—, but the bottom line is this: If we look back at our non-Christian life and desire it more than we desire to follow Yeshua, wherever He may lead—if we forsake the calling to follow Yeshua in any way—then we are at risk of the judgment. It sure would be terrible to live a luke-warm Christianity and still not make it into the Kingdom of God, but that is the reality facing MANY today who say "LORD, LORD," but "practice lawlessness," according to Yeshua in Matthew 7:21-23.

{Next slide} In 2nd Peter 2, verses 4-9, we also learn a little bit more about Lot's situation to help us better understand the way we ought to tread. We read: "For if God ... turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)—then the LORD knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,..." (2 Peter 2:4-9) The actual story of Lot's salvation is in Genesis 19, and I urge you to read the whole thing and ask me follow-up questions if you need to, but the one thing I want to emphasize here from 2nd Peter is the apostle's insistence that Lot was a righteous man who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked; his soul was tormented day-by-day by what He saw. In this description, we have to assume that Lot did not desire the destruction of the wicked, for that would be foolish,

according to Amos 5:18, which reads, “Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!” Rather, I believe Lot prayed for his townspeople and plead for them to turn toward righteousness, as his story detailed. And such behavior is aligned with the Word of the LORD. Yeshua said in Matthew 5:44-45: “love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven...”

{Next slide} For instance, in Genesis 19:7, Lot plead with homosexual sodomites who were banging on his door, seeking to sin with the angels who had come in to destroy the town, exclaiming, “Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly!” He offered his daughters up for what would presumably be a marriage arrangement instead. In verse 14, “Lot went out and spoke to his son-in-laws, who had married his daughters, and said, ‘Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city! But to his son-in-law he seemed to be joking.” Even though he preached Gospel truth about the coming judgment of God, they would not hear him. He lingered in the town, hoping to be able to reach someone with the LORD’s mercy, but on account of his righteous heart, the LORD sent angels to take him out of the city by the hand along with his wife and daughters. The urgency of the LORD is what we need to see here. When fire and brimstone rained down on Sodom, the LORD’s patience had expired. On Judgment Day, which is yet to come, when the LORD’s long-suffering comes to an end with this world and all the evil that is in it, He will remove the righteous few and rain down fire and brimstone on the rest, just like this: We read in Genesis 19, verses 15-17: “When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, ‘Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city.’ And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife’s hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, ‘Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.’” Sadly, as we’ve already discussed, Lot’s wife looked back and she became a pillar of salt. Lot and his daughters were saved by the angels, but Lot’s wife became a casualty in the judgment of God. God rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, utterly destroying these cities and everyone in them in the same way the LORD will once again destroy the whole world and its inhabitants at the end of the age. On the Last Day, the LORD will collect His elect by the hand of His angels—those who have their eyes on His will alone and do not look back toward the world that is perishing, even if it means leaving friends or family behind who refuse to put their faith and trust in the LORD. Eternity with the LORD is what we ought to put first in our lives, no matter what.

{Next slide} One final example of historical allegory for Judgment Day is found in Daniel 3, when Nebuchadnezzar, the pagan king of Babylon, made a golden obelisk in the middle of the city and commanded all of the people of the realm to worship it, including a number of Jews who had been taken captive. We read the words he heralded in verses 4-6: "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up; and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace." This is a real scenario that has happened many times in history and it has already happened within our lifetimes; it's going to happen again—it's only a matter of time. Let me just get right to the point: When any government whatsoever attempts to force you to worship a false god, or inject unclean and unproven materials into your body, or do anything in violation of the commandments of God, it is your duty to disobey the government's edict and honor God's commandments instead. When any government agent or official edict commands you to stop preaching the Truth about salvation through faith in Messiah Yeshua, you must disobey their orders and obey the commandments of God instead. There are many verses I could show you that support this assertion, but allow me to simply point you to a sermon I produced back in October 2021 that you'll find under the heading, "Controversial First Fruits Ministries Teachings" on our website, [Https://firstfruits.cc](https://firstfruits.cc). I get into this position with great detail there. I also produced a sermon called, "Give to God What is God's" and another called "The Mark of the Beast" that also teach some finer points on this topic. I'll put links up later for these sermons, but feel free to look for them under our "Government" playlist on YouTube or Odysee. For now, I want you to understand this: In order to make it into God's Kingdom, we must endure in our faith in Messiah Yeshua and consequently keep the commandments of God with all of our heart. It doesn't matter what authority figure or important person tries to move us away from this course, we can't let it happen.

{Next slide} In our historical allegory from Daniel 3, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were three Jews who refused to obey the command of the king in Babylon, and he was furious. He gave them one chance to answer for themselves and relent to his demand, saying, in verse 15, "Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?" Who is the God indeed? I'm certain that this situation is palpable for you in some way. You've already experienced something like

this, and if you failed, the good news is this: You can repent. There's still time until Judgment Day. However, moving forward, please hear me on this: In any situation that is at all similar, we ought to respond exactly the same way as these godly men, as we read in Daniel 3:16-18: "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.'" What happens next is an allegory for the Day of the LORD, when God is going to bring His elect into safety and destroy the wicked, and the result of this story is the same end that we can expect if we put our faith and trust in Yeshua.

{Next slide} We read in Daniel 3, verses 21-25: "Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, 'Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?' They answered and said to the king, 'True, O king.' 'Look!' he answered, 'I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.'" From this point forward, Nebuchadnezzar worshipped our God, the God who created the Heavens and the Earth and everything in it, the God who was in the fire with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, the God Whom we call by the name Yahweh and the name Yeshua. And in fact, on Judgment Day, according to Philippians 2:10-11, "at the name of Yeshua every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Messiah Yeshua is LORD, to the glory of God the Father." Just like Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego, we who truly worship Yeshua will stand in the fire that consumes the earth and be purified by it, and not a hair on our heads will be singed, but every thing and every person that is impure or wicked will be utterly consumed forever. There will be no remnant of the wicked remaining.

{Next slide} As we close, I want to read you a prophesy of this very Day from Isaiah 33:10-17, which ties everything we've discussed today together. We read, relative to the exaltation of Yeshua at His second coming: "'Now I will arise,'" says the LORD.

‘Now I will be exalted. Now I will lift Myself up. You conceive chaff, you will give birth to stubble. My breath is a fire that will consume you. Then peoples will be burned as lime, like thorns cut down, burned in the fire. Hear, you who are afar off, what I have done, and you who are near, acknowledge My might.’ Sinners in Zion are afraid. Trembling has seized the godless: ‘Who among us can live with the consuming fire?’ ‘Who among us can live with everlasting burnings?’ One who walks righteously, and speaks uprightly, who refuses unjust gain by extortion, who shakes his hands free of bribes, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, and shuts his eyes from looking on evil. He will dwell on the heights—his refuge will be an impregnable cliff. His bread will be provided, his water assured. Your eyes will see the King in His beauty. They will gaze at a far-distant land.” The choice is up to us today which way we want to go. When we trust in the LORD and do His will in our lives, trusting in Yeshua as our shield, the fourth man standing in the fire with us as the Son of God, we will live even in the midst of God's consuming fire. If we fail to put God first, if we deny Yeshua, or if we rebel against God's commandments, we risk being consumed. Today is the day to decide. If you have heard the Word of the LORD today and it has convicted you, I urge you to confess your sins and repent, to go and sin no more, and to give your life to Yeshua without further delay. Next week, God willing, we will finish up our series on the Elementary Principles of Messiah Yeshua by discussing what it means to move onto completion. Shabbat shalom.