

Devoted Disciple

Series 4: Kingdom of God
Messianic Hope

10 Daily Scripture Passages
2 Samuel 7- Micah 5
Personal Time,
Paired Discussion,
Participating in Fellowship

Series 4: Kingdom of God:

□ Booklet 1: Messianic Hope

2 Samuel 7- Micah 5

Overview:

As disciples, we are called by faith to devote our lives, to give ourselves to our Lord and His coming Kingdom. So, our devotion is firmly fixed on the unseen reality of the Kingdom. Thankfully, the Word of God paints a prophetic picture of both our King and the promise of His coming Kingdom, so that we may best serve our King by understanding His Kingdom purposes. So, let's consider the Lord's prophetic picture of our coming King and His Kingdom, that we may *seek* His Kingdom first! (Mt. 6:33).

Devoted to the Lord:

30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' Mark 12:30.

As Jesus instructed us, we are to *love the Lord our God* with all that we have, with all our lives. In the Bible, such love is a *giving* love, to present to him all of who you are... heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Importantly, we give, that is, *devote* ourselves to him every day. Why? Because it is too easy to lose focus and give ourselves to unworthy things. We give ourselves up to the *flesh*, to live merely in satisfying our own desires. To the world and its agendas and anxieties, following its own purposes. And, even to things such as career, ambition, or greed.

To keep your faith focused on God and your love given faithfully to Him, have regular *devotional times* with the Lord. Every day, in the morning or some other good time, commit to meeting with the Lord in *devotion*. This booklet helps you go through keep Bible passages to hear from God and share with your friends, family, and fellowship groups. Start here!

Devote yourself to the Lord God: At the start of every devotional, use the Checklist below to Devote All of who you are to the Lord! Position yourself to hear the Word from Him in *faith*. *Do you have a...*



- Do I want to humble myself under the Lord God by faith?
- Will I live as my own Lord, relying on my own understanding?

Prayer of Devotion: Lord God, I devote myself to you today: In soul—humbling myself under your Lordship; In mind—to know you and your Word by *faith*; In heart—to love Jesus and the Father to do your will; and in soul—to give my life to you as a living sacrifice! Please teach me now by your Holy Spirit, that I might be live out your holy Word! In Jesus name, Amen

□1. Promised Messiah: the Son of David, the Son of God.

Read 2 Samuel 7

What does the Lord God promise to David regarding his Chosen Offspring (that is, Seed or Son)?

12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. **2 Samuel 7:12-13.**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: How will Mashiach help God's people by building an eternal House and Kingdom?

QA: How can Mashiach help us if He is both the Son of God and the Son of David? Why must our Kinsman-Redeemer be both the Son of God and the Son of David?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. What does David wish to give to God? Why? (2 Samuel 7:1-7)

1.Earthly House of Cedar: David's Desire. David is concerned because he himself dwells in a "house of cedar" (7:2) but God's *ark* is only housed in a "tent." So, it is David's ambition to build God a physical house, a "house of cedar."

Q2. What does God promise David, and how does this far exceed David's own desires and expectations? (8-12)

2. Forever House: A Household for God and David. David's ambition was to build God a house like his, a physical "house of cedar" (2). However, God promises David something far more enduring and profound. God promises to build for David a "house" (11) which would be shared as God's "house" as well (13). Clearly, God is not promising David at this point a "house of cedar," a *temple*, for it would be a sacrilege to think that any *temple* for the Lord could be shared with a human being. Rather, God promises David a shared *house* or household, a family of descendants.

Q3. Whose Son will Messiah be besides David, and what will he do? (13-17)

3. Chosen Messiah: Family Redeemer. Surprisingly, God promises that His Son (7:12) will also be the Son of God (14). This is possible because God promises to *raise up David's Seed* (12) long after David has died and is sleeping with his fathers (which precludes Solomon, who was born naturally). By using David's own *bodily material* (12), God as David's redeemer (Ps. 19:14) *raises up Seed* for him in the pattern of both Judah (Gen. 38:8; 26) and Boaz (Ruth 4:10) by laws of duty and redemption.

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

What does the Lord God promise to David regarding his Chosen Offspring (that is, Seed or Son)?

4.1. Messiah- Son of David, Son of God: Our Family Redeemer:

Speaking for all of us who have been blessed by God, King David desired to do something good for God in return. He longed to build an *earthly house* for God, a *dwelling* place of *cedar* (2 Sam. 7:2) where the Lord's name would be honored. David captures the heart of the Jewish people, to build an earthly house, a Temple or *beit Hamikdash* to honor the Lord.

But, the Lord God had a greater plan. God had a heart to build a *forever house* for both David and Himself, a house built by Messiah, who was to be the Son of David *and* the Son of God (7:11-13). No earthly *house of cedar* would last forever. Rather, Messiah would be a *household*, a *forever family* of children of both David and God. This Messiah would *build* such a royal household by *redeeming them by suffering discipline for their iniquity* (14) and by establishing an eternal throne to rule with them over an eternal *kingdom* (16).

You have a rightful place in God's *royal house* as a child of God, born into this eternal kingdom family through Jesus Messiah (Jn. 1:12-13).

Notes¹: Raising up Seed: When God promises to *raise up David's Seed* following his death (7:12), He acts as a redeemer like *dutiful Judah* (Gen. 38:8) and *redeeming Boaz* (Ruth 4:10), so that the *Seed* (that is, Son) to be raised up would be the Son of two fathers, David (12) and God (14) according to the laws of *duty* (Deut. 25:5) and *redemption* (Ruth 4:10). For, only such a Messiah can *redeem us* of our enslavement to sin, bearing our infinite guilt as *the Son of God* (Is. 53:10) and dying in the flesh as a ransom as *the Son of David* (Man) to make us righteous (Is. 53:11-12).

¹ **House for David and God:** The Lord God does not restrict His eternal purposes to fit human expectations. So, He sends Messiah not to simply build an earthly house of *cedar* (2 Sam. 7:7) but to build, to redeem, a royal household for both David (11) and God (13). Such a combined house is populated with *redeemed children* and not simply constructed with beams of cedar. Moreover, David would never presume to *enshrine his name with the Lord's in a Temple*, but a living family beautifully combines two lines of *earth* and *heaven* through Messiah, the heavenly Son of God and the earthly Son of David.

□2. Kingdom of Messiah: Branch of the Lord.

Read Isaiah 2, 4

How will Messiah branch out through the earth to establish God's Kingdom Rule over every nation?

2 In that day the branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors of Israel. **Isaiah 4:2**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: What is the glorious future that the Lord God plans for His people and their Mashiach, the Branch?

QA: How will the Lord God use the Day of the Lord to prepare humanity for His future Kingdom?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How will the nations view the Lord's house in the last days? (Is. 2:2-5)

1.Mountain of the Lord: Messiah's Coming Kingdom. Messiah's Kingdom will be built around His people, the family and *house of the Lord* (Is. 2:2) which is viewed as the earth's *highest mountain* among all the others mountains. As a great *mountain*, we will be honored as His people, being the central hub to which *the nations shall flow* (2) in order to learn of the Lord and his ways (3), a motivator for us now to seek to know him and His ways, for one day we will reveal the Lord and his ways to all peoples!

Q2. How will the Day of the Lord prepare earth's people for a global awareness of the Lord and His glory? (2:6-22)

2.Day of the Lord: Terrifying Dawn. Before the glorious *last days* in which the earth and its people honor the Lord, the terrifying Day of the Lord comes first (2:12). Because the whole earth, and even the Lord's own people, are defiled by their corrupting *idolatry* (2:6, 8), the Lord must *humble* humanity (9) by revealing his terrifying presence (10). When confronted by the Lord's dawning glory, human pride will evaporate as a meaningless delusion, human might will hide in terror (19), and people will discard their idols as useless (20).

Q3. How will the Lord's Messiah be like a *branch* filling the earth in the last days? (4:1-6; Zech. 3:8-9; Jer. 23:5-6)

3.Branch of the Lord: Glorious Jerusalem. Humanity's humility, reflected in the dependence rather than self-sufficiency of its women, enjoys the *glorious beauty* of the Lord's Messiah, the Branch (4:2), who spreads out from Zion to bear fruit throughout the land. Then, the Lord God will shelter Jerusalem with his glorious presence as *fire* and *cloud* (4:4-5).

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How will Messiah branch out through the earth to establish God's Kingdom Rule over every nation?

4.2. Branch of the Lord: Messiah's Dawning Kingdom: If you have come to Jesus Messiah as your Lord, there is a glorious Kingdom future awaiting you! For, when we come to God through our Messiah, we are not merely individuals but a mighty *house*, built first around the *God of Jacob* and His servants, the prophets and apostles (2:3). In all the earth, our *house* becomes as the world's chief *mountain*, the center of all nations of earth (2:2). For, the way you know your God now will be earth's most valued treasure, as all earth's people come to you, saying, *teach us his ways!* (3).

But, standing in the way of God's Kingdom future is the *hardness of His people, Israel* (6) who have filled their land with *man-made idols and fleshly works*—the self-made religion seeking to establish a Law-based rather than Messiah-led future (8). So, the Lord God plans a *Day of the Lord* to terrify human pride by His coming (10, 12), so that all humanity, starting with Jacob, forsake *fleshly confidence* (22).

For, on that day, your Messiah will be a *beautiful and glorious Branch* to fill the whole world with the *fruit* of God's presence (4:2). And, we will dwell with him in our resurrected glory, covering Jerusalem as a bright cloud and flaming fire (4:5).

Notes²: Messiah- God's Promised Seed-Branch. God's original name for His Messiah, the chosen *Son* of our family line, is the *Seed* (Heb. *zera*). The Lord God promised that Messiah would be the Seed of woman to crush Serpent's power (Gen. 3:15); Seed of Abraham to inherit Israel's eternal homeland to bless all nations (Gen. 17:8, 22:18); Seed of David to redeem a people, build a household, and rule an eternal kingdom (2 Sam. 7:12-16). This *Seed* branches out by multiplying as a countless people (Gen. 22:17) and bearing fruit throughout the whole earth (Is. 4:2).

² **Mountain and Kingdom of the Lord:** Great peoples and nations are described as *mountains*, so the nation and people of God are His holy *mountain*, mount Zion, a kingdom which will fill and rule the entire earth in His Messiah (Dan. 2:35,44-45).

□3. Kingdom of Son of David: Eternal King

Read Isaiah 9

How will Messiah, the Son of David, deliver His people from darkness?

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q. Why is the coming Kingdom of Mashiach a better home for us than this world's land of "darkness" in the "shadow of death"?

QA: What makes the coming Kingdom of Mashiach, the Son of David, the perfect place to live?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. Why is Messiah the only one who can help us in our human condition?
(Is. 9:1-2)

1. People in Darkness: Promised Light of Messiah: All of earth's people need God's Messiah, for the whole world and its people have been helpless in a spiritually irreversible trap. Isaiah describes us as a *people who walked in darkness* (9:2). Our spiritual environment is darkened without the presence of God, for Godlessness and sin rule the earth. And, we all live in *deep darkness*, literally, the *shadow of death* (2). We are dead in our sins, and powerless under Satan, the lord of sin and death (Eph. 2:2).

Q2. How can we rejoice as God's people in this world of spiritual darkness and oppression? (9:3-5)

2. Joyful Victory: Breaks Oppression. Under Satan's power of spiritual darkness and death, there is no real basis for joy. For, his spiritual power of darkness *burdened* our lives (9:4), paralyzed us like a *restraining staff* across our *shoulders*, and *abused us* like a punishing *rod*. But, Satan's power was *broken* and *burned* by our conquering Messiah (5).

Q3. How will Messiah help us as His people? (9:6-7)

3. Ruling Son of David: Mighty God. The Messiah, the Son of David, brings us a full and total salvation, establishing an *eternal Kingdom* (7) established on *justice and righteousness*. This government finally brings *peace* to the entire world. Messiah has the power to rule eternally in peace for He alone is the *Mighty God*, the *Everlasting Father*, the *Wonderful Counselor*, and the *Prince of Peace* (6).

Consider: What do my teachers have to say?

How will Messiah, the Son of David, deliver His people from darkness?

4.3. The Son of David: Mighty God. As people living in spiritual sin and death, we live in a world covered entirely in spiritual darkness (Is. 9:2). Because your eyes have dimmed in this surrounding *darkness*, the Lord God sends Messiah to you as a *great light* from heaven (2). For, your Messiah embodies the life-giving power of God as *the Mighty God*, who is the *Wonderful Counselor* to reveal the wonder of this light to you; the *Everlasting Father* to favor you with God's kindness and grace; and, the *Prince of Peace* to secure your heart in His rest and inheritance.

Messiah comes to you not as *blinding light*, but *born as a child*, a familiar son who brings God's salvation to you as simply joining His family. A firstborn son sent to bring you home to God as a son restored to the family. So, the Son of David does not simply bring you the *light of revelation*. He brings you safely home to God's family and Kingdom of light, ruling protectively over you on His *throne of peace* (7).

Notes³: Name of Messiah: Biblically, names indicate a person's glory, and God's glory and name are *holy*, separate from all creation. Yet, God shares His name with God when He says, *let us create man in our image, in our likeness* (Gen. 1:26a). So, when Messiah is born, he bears and shares the *name* of God with God and as God. For, his *name* is Mighty God (9:6). In the same way that God shares a holy glory—an *image* and *likeness*, Messiah shares the name of God, as the *Everlasting Father*—God who is the *head* of all things (6); as the *Wonderful Counselor*, the Spirit of God who brings God's presence near as in the day of creation (Gen. 1:3); and, as the *Prince of Peace*, the Son of God who is *begotten* of God by being *born* (9:6) as the Son of David to inherit His eternal throne (2 Sam. 7:16).

³ **Messiah born as a Son:** Isaiah prophecies that Messiah will be *born* as a *child*, given to Israel as the promised *Son* to inherit then distribute all God's promises to the sons of Jacob as their Firstborn Heir (Gen. 49:10—*until He comes to Shiloh*). But, he will not be *born* in the natural way, for David's line of kings had been cut off by God at Jeconiah (Jer. 22:30). Rather, God himself must *beget* the Son of God (Ps. 2:7), *raising him up* as the Seed of David coming from David's own body (2 Sam. 7:12). So, based on the laws of *duty* (Gen. 38:8) and *redemption* (Ruth 4:10), God raised up Jesus as the Seed of David from a virgin of David's house, Mary (Matt. 1:18) so that He is both the Son of God (1:23) and the Son of David (1:1).

□4. Redeeming Servant: Atoning for Sins of People.

Read Isaiah 49:1-7; 53.

How will the Messiah as the Lord's Servant Redeem His people of sins?

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. **Isaiah 53:6, 10**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: Why does the Lord God need to send His Servant to Redeem us, starting with Israel and then the rest of His people?

QA: How does the Redeemer's atoning sacrifice and resurrection from the dead help us as His people?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. Who is the Lord's Servant and what does the Lord send him to do?
(Is. 49:1-7)

1. Redeeming Servant: to Israel and Nations. The Lord calls His Servant by the name *Israel* (49:3), even though he is addressing the Messiah. This Servant Israel is the Messiah, because his mission is to *raise up the tribes of Jacob* and to call back the chosen ones from *Israel* (6). As the *firstborn son of all the sons of Israel*, Messiah bears the name of his father Israel.

Q2. How does the Lord's Servant help his people with their biggest need?
(53:1-10)

2. Atoning Lamb: Offering for Guilt. The history of the sons of Israel is a story of the Lord's discipline and judgment for their sins. So, the Lord God raises up Messiah as the *promised Seed, the young plant* (Is. 53:2) to serve Him as the *arm of the Lord* to save His people from their sins. So, Messiah was born in human flesh (Is. 49:1) to live as a *man of sorrows* (53:2) who would be *pierced* for the transgressions of his people (53:5, Zech. 12:10) in order to sacrifice his *soul* as a guilt offering (10).

Q3. What is the result of the Servant's sacrifice and death? (53:11-12)

3. Resurrected Servant: Makes Righteous. When the Messiah is *pierced for transgression* (5) and has his *soul poured out to death* (12), He gives himself to death to atone for the sins of his people. However, Messiah is then resurrected to life, for after His death the Lord promises to show him the fruit of His sacrifice (53:11) and to divide His inheritance among his fellow heirs (12).

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How will the Messiah as the Lord's Servant Redeem His people of sins?

4.4. Redeeming Servant: Atoning Lamb. God says we are all like sheep who have strayed from him into danger. Not only are we helpless, but we blindly wander, focusing only on what to eat in front of us (Is. 53:6).

So, the Lord sends Messiah, His Servant to gather you and all of us to safety. He calls Messiah Israel, because He embodies God's age-old work to purify the sons of Jacob for himself (3). So, this Servant Messiah first gathers straying Israel to God but also all nations *to the end of the earth* (6). So, the Lord redeems all people by His Servant!

Messiah serves the Lord God sacrificially, for people *despise* him because he humbles himself to serve (7). For you, he lived as a *man of sorrows* (53:3) to *bear your griefs* and *carry your sin*, the source of all your suffering (4-5). Messiah served you to the end, giving up even his *soul*, His eternal life with His Father God, to pay His life to ransom your *guilt* (10).

Because the Messiah *served* the Lord *to death*, God promises to prosper and satisfy him with life to see you be *reborn as a child in His image* (10), made *righteous* (11) and safe in His Father's family and Kingdom.

Notes⁴: My Servant Israel. When God promises Abraham and David a *land* (Gen. 17:8), *people* (Gen. 22:17), and *kingdom* (2 Sam. 7:16), He assigns this promise to their *Seed* (Son), the firstborn Son and Heir of all the sons of Abraham and David. So, Messiah represents as Head all the sons of Israel, so is called Israel (Is. 49:3), and all the sons of David, so is called David (Jer. 30:9). For, to *raise up seed* for David as God promises (2 Sam. 7:12) means to raise up His *name* (Deut. 25:5-7) as well as His *Seed* (Gen. 38:8).

⁴ **Soul an Offering for Guilt (53:10):** Because God is the Creator of the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1:1), all things owe the Lord their lives and existence. So, every living creature owes God their worship, especially the offering of what is *first* in their lives, including all *firstborn* (Gen. 4:4; Lev. 27:26). Thus, the Lord God has the Creator's right to ask Abraham for Isaac's life as an *offering* (Gen. 22:2) and to require the life of Israel's firstborn Son, Messiah, as an *offering for guilt* (Is. 53:10) to redeem His people from their enslaving sin-debt to death (Is. 9:2; 53:6).

□5. Spirit-anointed Messiah: Restoring His People

Read Isaiah 11, 61.

Why must the Messiah be Spirit-anointed to fulfill God's Mission?

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; **Isaiah 11, 61**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: How does the Holy Spirit anoint the Mashiach to minister to His people with spiritual power on earth?

QA: By the Spirit, how does Mashiach help us to live and grow as God's people on this earth?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How does the Spirit *anoint and empower* Messiah to accomplish His mission? (Isaiah 11:1-5; 61:1-3)

1. Anointed by the Spirit: Power to Heal. Because Messiah, the Son of God, is born in humbled flesh to suffer for sins (Is. 53:6), he needs the Lord's Spirit to fulfill His spiritual mission of bringing the Kingdom of God and its healing to his people. So the Spirit equips him with His Father's *wisdom, power, and fellowship* (11:2) for his ministry of the Word, healing, and freedom for the spiritual captives (16:1). Anointed by the same Spirit, we have such a spiritual ministry too!

Q2. How does Messiah prepare His people for God's Kingdom Family? (11:6-9; 61:4-9)

2. Righteous People: Children of Kingdom. By the Spirit, the Messiah makes His people *righteous* to grow up in God's spiritual Kingdom Family (61:3). As His holy people, the saints then serve their Father God as *priests of the Lord* (61:6), presenting him with precious offerings of prayer, worship, and stewardship. By spreading the knowledge of their God through the earth, they bring peace to its people (Mt. 5:9).

Q3. How will Messiah's rule restore the world? (11:10-16; 61:10-11)

3. Restored World: Peace and Righteousness. The Lord Messiah will be the *central authority* in all the earth, and all the nations will seek him (Is. 11:11). He will gather His people Israel and bring His peace to the nations (13). Through the rule of the Messiah, *righteousness and praise* will arise in the nations (61:11).

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

Why must the Messiah be Spirit-anointed to fulfill God's Mission?

4.5. Spirit-anointed Messiah: Healing and Restoring. Some imagine Messiah to be simply an earthly, fleshly king. But, God knows that our real need is spiritual, and only a Spirit-anointed Messiah can truly heal our deepest wounds and restore us to God's eternal, spiritual Kingdom and family.

Though Messiah is the Son of God (Ps. 2:7, 2 Sam. 7:14), he is still born as weak *flesh* (Is. 9:6), so the Lord God promises to *anoint* Him with the Spirit to give him spiritual *insight, healing power, and intimacy* with His God and Father (Is. 11:2). So, your Messiah has all the power He needs to enrich you with the Word of God, heal your broken heart, and free you from any spiritual enslavement (Is. 61:1).

For, the Messiah prepares you for life and service in His Kingdom Family by making you an *oak of righteousness* (61:3) so you may *glorify* the Lord to serve Him as a pleasing *priest* (6).

Around you and our family of spiritually restored saints, Messiah establishes His *righteous rule* so that the *knowledge of the Lord* covers the earth like waters (11:9). So, Messiah builds his world-spanning Kingdom around His family, who know their Father God in righteousness!

Notes⁵: Ministry of Holy Spirit. In this sin-poisoned world of darkness and spiritual death (Is. 9:2), we are damaged and broken people who need to be restored for God's spiritual kingdom. We have no spiritual life or insight, so the Spirit of God *good news* of God's Word (61:1). Our hearts are *broken* by sin, so Messiah *binds us up* by the Spirit. Our souls are *captivated and enslaved* to this sinful world, so the Spirit gives Messiah the spiritual power to free us from *our confinement!* As with our Messiah, the Holy Spirit also *anoints us with the oil of gladness and praise* to glorify our Lord! (3).

⁵ **Kingdom Rule:** In His Kingdom, Messiah rules to bring peace to His people because He has *breaks* the power of the *oppressor* (9:4) and destroys all threats and opposition (5). Instead, He rules as the *Mighty God* on David's throne to bring justice and righteousness.

□6. Branch of David: Spreading World-wide Rule.

Read Jeremiah 22:24-30; 23:1-8; 30:1-11.

How will the Lord establish David's rule even after His line is broken?

5 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’ **Jeremiah 23:5-6**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: Why do we, as God's people, need a righteous King like David to rule over us?

QA: How does Mashiach rule over us in the name of his fathers as “the Lord our God” and “David our King”?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. What does the Lord prophesy about David's line of kings through Coniah as Judah falls under God's judgment? (Jer. 22:24-30)

1. Rejected Coniah: Seed of David Cutoff. Judah's fall into wickedness is reflected in the moral failure of its kings, David's line of royalty tracing back to Solomon. So, as Judah falls to God's judgment, its last king before exile, Jeconiah, is cursed so that *none of his Seed* shall sit on the *throne of David* (22:30). However, this presents a problem. If David's line of kingship has led to Jeconiah, whose future *offspring* are disqualified for the throne, how will Messiah, the Son of David, enter the line?

Q2. How does the Lord God promise to establish Messiah as the Son of David? (Jer. 23:1-8)

2. Restoring Line: Raised up Branch. The *shepherds over God's people* have scattered God's flock by their unfaithfulness (Jer. 23:1) at the time of Judah's exile, and this corruption spread even to David's line of kings which became unworthy of producing *seed* suitable for David's throne (22:30). Due to Judah's corruption, the Lord God himself promises to *raise up a righteous Branch, a King for David* (23:5), who will come from David's own body, as God had originally promised David (2 Sam. 7:12). This Messiah, the Son of David, would be the "Lord" who would make his people *righteous* (6). As Isaiah had promised, this Servant would *many to be accounted righteous* (Is. 53:11), for He would be the *anointed one* to establish an *everlasting righteousness* (Dan. 9:24).

Q3. Who will the Lord *raise up* to shepherd His people? (Jer. 30:1-11)

3. Recovering People: Raised up King. In the last days, the Lord will finally re-gather His people and restore their fortunes (30:3). No longer will unfaithful and corrupted shepherds jeopardize the welfare of the Lord's flock. Rather, God raises up for His people a righteous King. Because Messiah is to be both the Son of God (2 Sam. 7:14) and the Son of David (2 Sam. 7:12), He embodies the righteous character of His fathers even as he is called by their name, for Messiah is *the Lord their God* and *David their King* whom the Lord has raised up for them (30:9).

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How will the Lord establish David's rule even after His line is broken?

4.6. Branch of David: Spreading World-wide Rule. When the Lord promised to raise up Messiah for you as a Seed of David (2 Sam. 7:12), He was ensuring for you and his household a righteous and eternal kingdom (16). However, David's royal line became more and more corrupt, until God cut it off completely, warning that *none of Coniah's Seed shall sit on David's throne* (Jer. 22:30). Rather, God himself would be the one to *raise up Seed* for David (2 Sam. 7:12). Using David's own bodily material (12), this *Righteous Branch* (Jer. 23:5) would redeem and save all of us, taking away our sin to be our *righteousness* (6).

So, God gathered us into His forever household, forming around Judah and Israel as the throne of His restorative Kingdom (30:1-3). Over our house, God promised David that our Righteous Messiah would be both the Son of God (2 Sam. 7:14) and the Son of David (12). As their perfect Son, Messiah comes in the name and person of his Fathers. So, when you serve Jesus as your Messiah, you serve Him as *the Lord your God* and as *David your King* (30:9), for the Son comes to us as Son of David and Son of God.

Notes⁶: Righteous Branch: Lord our Righteousness. Normally, the Lord calls the Messiah the promised *Seed*, the chosen Heir of our household (Gen. 22:17, 2 Samuel 7:12). As a seed multiplies into a multitude, so Messiah *births* offspring *as the stars of heaven* (Gen. 22:17). Once multiplying, God's Seed is now called the *righteous Branch*, supplying all His people with a life-sustaining *righteousness* (23:6). And, once this Branch and His holy household are revealed to the world, then the Branch of the Lord *shall be beautiful and glorious*, bearing fruit from its homeland in Israel to nourish the world (Is. 4:2-3).

⁶ **Lord God and King David (Jer. 30:9):** One day, the Lord God will restore Israel to its Kingdom Glory. And, Israel will realize that salvation is found under the Lordship of her Shepherding King. The glory of Israel's forever Kingdom is enthroned in the person of her glorious King. Yet, Israel has had two worthy Kings to occupy the throne. God, her Redeemer, and David, her King. Thus, it was the Lord's will that Messiah would be the Son of two fathers—David (2 Samuel 7:12) and God (7:14). When God raises up Jesus as Messiah the Seed according to the Jewish Law of duty (Gen. 38:8) and redemption (Ruth 4:10), He rules on behalf of his fathers, so His people *shall serve Messiah as the Lord their God—for He is the Son of God--* and David their king—for He is the Son of David).

□7. Protective Lord: Dwelling with His People.

Read Zechariah 2-3:6-10

How will the Lord Messiah dwell with His people in the last days?

10 Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the Lord. 11 And many nations shall join themselves to the Lord in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. **Zechariah 2:10-11**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: Why will Lord Mashiach come to dwell with His people in Jerusalem?

QA: What does the high priest Joshua foretell about the coming Mashiach and the purpose of his mission?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How will the Lord live with Jerusalem and its people in the last days?
(Zech. 2:1-5)

1. Lord as Wall of Fire. If this Godless world is in a spiritual darkness and shroud of death (Is. 9:2), then the Lord will dwell among His people as *fire*. The Lord declares that he will be a *wall of fire* around Jerusalem and its people (Zech. 2:5). That is, His presence is not just *showy* but a revealing of true spiritual strength and comforting protection. As *fire* surrounding Jerusalem, the Lord will also be the *glory* in her *midst* (5).

Q2. Why does the Lord of Hosts send Lord Messiah to dwell with His people? (2:6-13)

2. Lord Dwells in Love with His People: Though Jeremiah prophesies of the Lord's judgment to exile Judah to Babylon then throughout the world (6:1), the prophet also reveals the Lord God's heart to rescue His people in the last days. In love, the Lord sends Messiah, the *Lord of Hosts*, to call His scattered people home and to protect them (2:8). The Lord loves His people as *the apple of His eye*, so He sends Messiah to protect them for His own sake. So, Messiah dwells in the midst of Israel as the central rule over world affairs (11) and as the affirming sign of the Lord's heart for His people. As Messiah lives among them, Israel knows that their inheritance in the Lord is assured (12).

Q3. What does Joshua the high priest learn about the coming Messiah, the Branch of the Lord? (3:6-10).

3. Branch: Stone Removing Iniquity. As a *sign* of the coming Branch, the Messiah to be named *Joshua*—that is, Jesus, Yeshua, Joshua is introduced to Lord's plan for His Servant. The Messianic Branch is a *stone*, for He will build the house of the Lord (2 Sam. 7:13). This *stone* is also like the stone cleansing Isaiah of His sin (Is. 6:6), for He removes the *iniquity* of the land in a single act of atonement (Zech. 3:9). Finally, this stone acquires perfect knowledge, *seven eyes* (9; Rev. 5:6).

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How will the Lord Messiah dwell with His people in the last days?

4.7. Lord God sends Lord to Dwell with His People: When the Lord God sends His Chosen Son to dwell with His people, this Messiah rules in the name of His Father as Lord.

It will take the Messiah's full display of his glorious power for His people to wholeheartedly know Him, for He says, "And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the Lord of Hosts has sent me to you" (2:11). Amazingly, the Lord's people will need to see His power as Lord to know Him as their rightful Lord.

Imagine the glory of that day, when the Lord reveals Himself to Israel and all humanity as the *wall of fire* surrounding Israel and the *glory of God* in her midst (2:5).

It is this same Lord who reveals himself to you by faith, to be a wall of fire and the glory of God in your midst, for Jesus is indeed Immanuel, *God with us* (Matt. 1:23).

To you who believe, your Lord Messiah is the *Branch* who nourishes you with spiritual fruit (3:8) and the *precious stone* who removes your *iniquity* (3:9), the all-knowing *cornerstone* from which our Holy House and Kingdom arises (Eph. 2:19-20).

Notes⁷: Know that the Lord has Sent me (2:11). No people have a greater right to Messiah than his own people, Israel. Yet, in their rejection of Jesus as Messiah, the world has been reconciled to God (Rom. 11:15). Israel's great sacrifice has blessed the world.

But, there is a *day* when Israel will look upon her Messiah with a terrible realization that He is and has always been her long-lost *Firstborn Son*, sent away in a fit of misguided religious zeal (Zech. 12:10).

After *two days*—two long millennia—of deadening unbelief (Hos. 6:2), Israel's doubt will finally be *assuaged* as she feels the Messiah's *fiery love protecting her and awakes to His comforting presence in her midst!* (Zech. 2:10).

⁷ **Stone Removing Iniquity** : Before the Lord's presence are fiery stones of His holy altar, such as the one touching Isaiah's lips to atone for His guilt (Is. 6:7). In this way, Jesus, the Son of God, is the Stone of God, the Rock of Israel (2 Sam. 23:3) who atones for the sins of God's people.

❑8. Pierced Redeeming Son: Mournful Recognition

Read Zechariah 12:1-7, 10-14; 14:1-9

How does Messiah save Israel first before returning to rule Earth?

10 “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. **Zechariah 12:10**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: Why do the people of Jerusalem mourn grievously as for a lost firstborn when they finally look upon the face of Lord Mashiach?

QA: How do you think the world will change when Mashiach comes and rules over the whole earth?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How does the Lord favor Israel in the last days? (Zech. 12:1-9):

1.Lord Saves Israel: As an act of divine judgment, the Lord God reveals His glory by favoring Israel and making it a *heavy stone* and a *cup of staggering* for the nations of the earth (12:2). As when Goliath threatened David, the Lord shows that He faithfully defends his people even when the world's overwhelming forces are arrayed against them. Protecting Israel for the sake of His own name and glory, the Lord *seeks to destroy* the nations that threaten *Jerusalem* (12:9), so He sends Messiah to personally save Israe from destruction.

Q2. What happens when Israel looks upon her saving Messiah? (Zech. 12:10-14).

2. Israel Mourns Pierced Son: Recognizing Messiah. For two thousand years, Israel has rejected God's chosen Messiah, walking a path of barren darkness. At this point in her history, she has already seen the mass evacuation of the Church (1 Thess. 4:16). Now, the Day of the Lord arrives as Jesus Messiah reveals Himself to Israel as he destroys her encircling enemies! First, the Lord sends His Spirit to turn the faces of Israel up to heaven in helpless prayers for mercy (12:10). Then, as they look up, they *look upon me, on him whom they have pierced*. Of course, only Jesus Messiah has been pierced for Israel's sins according to prophecy (Ps. 22:16; Is. 53:5), and it is Jesus whom Israel recognizes as the *firstborn son* she has carelessly rejected. So Israel mourns for their folly in a national repentance (10-14).

Q3. How does the Lord Messiah reveal Himself once more to the nations on His Day? (Zech. 14:1-9).

3. Lord Messiah Returns: Earth's only King. Once Israel repents, it proclaims as a nation the Gospel of Jesus Messiah and His coming Kingdom to all the nations! However, Satan's *Antichrist* attacks and defeats Israel, defiling the temple and the city's women (14:2). So, the Lord Messiah returns with His armies to earth, this time *touching and splitting the Mount of Olives* (14:4) and defeating the Antichrist and earth's rebellious armies once and for all. From this point, the *Lord* will rule as *king over all the earth*, so that there is only one *Lord* and only one *name* to be exalted in all the earth (9). So begins the Kingdom of God!

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How does Messiah save Israel first before returning to rule Earth?

4.8. Pierced Son Saves Israel: Day of the Lord: Sometimes, the most courageous acts are done with a broken heart. And so, God's Messiah was the holy stone *removing the world's iniquity* (Zech. 3:9). Yet, even as countless were cleansed by Messiah's atoning work, His own people Israel rejected him as an imposter.

If you love Messiah, rejoice in the great day of homecoming when Jesus and his people Israel are finally reconciled! On that day, as Israel is encircled by its deadly enemies, Jesus Messiah will reveal himself to Israel in all his saving glory! (12:10). Pleading for the Lord's mercy, Israel will look up. In the words of Jesus, *"they will look on me, on him whom they have pierced"* and will recognize him in that moment that He indeed is their *chosen child*, the *firstborn son* they had abandoned all these generations. So, they will *mourn* (11-14) only to be *reborn* by His indwelling (Ezek. 37:13-14) and consecrating (Rev. 7:3) Holy Spirit.

Notes⁸: Day of the Lord: Revealed to Israel and the Nations. On the Day of the Lord, Jesus Messiah is first revealed to Israel for its national repentance and salvation (Zech. 12:10). Once restored to their Messiah by the Lord's redemption, Israel immediately proclaims Jesus as Messiah throughout the world, bringing about a world-wide salvation. When Antichrist defiles Israel, the Lord Jesus returns with His armies to reclaim the earth and rescue His people (14:3-4).

⁸ **Israel's Heart-breaking Salvation:** Like their ancestor Jacob wrestling with God (Gen. 32:24), Israel looks to the Lord God for mercy only when she looks to the Lord in helplessness (Zech. 12:10). The Lord responds by pouring out on her *the spirit of grace and supplication* to open Israel's eyes to know the Messiah as Jesus. Revealing their utter brokenness before their Messiah, Israel mourns by families and by clans (12:11-14). Only such heart-break can generations of hardness turn to prayers of consecration.

□9. Day of Lord's Judgment: Terrifying Presence.

Read Joel 2, Malachi 4.

How does the Day of the Lord change the hearts of earth's people?

30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. 32 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Joel 2:30-32a

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: Why will the coming of Lord Mashiach terrify the people of earth? What do they fear?

QA: How do the Spirit's works and the Lord's Messenger prepare people for the arrival of Mashiach? How would you respond to Mashiach at his coming?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. Why is the Day of the Lord so terrifying, and what is the Lord's purpose for it? (Joel 2:1-17)

1. Terrifying Day of Lord: Repent and Consecrate. In the shadow of this current reality, humanity has no hint of the Lord's terrifying glory. So, when the Lord reveals His judgment on the *Day of the Lord* (2:1), it will be a dark day for the world. First, the Lord's *great and powerful people* descend upon the world as an inescapable force, like shadow spreading across the mountains (2) or an irresistible *powerful army drawn up for battle* (5). When mere flesh encounters them, there is only abject fear for the Lord *commands this exceedingly great army* (11). So, humanity's only good choice is to *hear the Lord's words to Return to the Lord* (13).

Q2. How will the Lord's Spirit work among His people before the Day of the Lord, and for what purpose? (Joel 2:26-32).

2.Spirit and Signs: Before Day of Lord. Before the *great and awesome Day of the Lord* (2:31) the Lord will give signs in the heavens and wonders on earth (30) to prepare people for the Lord's revealing. On earth, the Lord *pours out His Spirit on all flesh*, so that mere people will act in spiritually powerful ways—*prophesying, dreams, and visions* (2:28). In the heavens, a darkened sun and a bloody moon (31). Revealing the spiritual reality *humbles people* in the face of true power, so that *everyone who calls pon the name of the Lord is saved* (32).

Q3. What will the Lord do before the Day of the Lord to prepare people for His coming? (Mal. 4:1-6)

3.Prophet Restores: Before Day of Lord. The Lord will send a *prophet* before the Day of the Lord who serves in the power of *Elijah*. In the same way that Elijah showed people both the *futility of idols* and also the *true spiritual power of the Lord*, so this prophet going before the Lord and His day will uncover the folly of human rebellion and the necessity for faith in Messiah. To prepare a people for the Messiah, this prophet turns the hearts of children and their fathers toward each other in peace (6).

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How can I be tested and approved as Righteous when this World's Foundations are destroyed?

4.9. Spiritual Signs and Wonders: Before Day of Lord: God sends Messiah into the world to break our delusion that we live in a time and place that is entirely material, with neither God nor spirituality of any importance. So, the *Day of the Lord* which Joel promises should alarm us in our complacency (Joel 2:1). An actual *day* is fast approaching when *the Lord* Messiah himself comes *embodying all of heaven's power and glory*.

In our human delusion, we imagine that *heaven is unimportant* and *earth is in our control*. So, the Lord Messiah *utters His voice* in command of His *exceedingly great army* (2:11), an irresistible force that spreads like a *darkening storm* over the world's *mountains* (2:2). Face-to-face with this doom, *all faces grow pale* (6).

Anguished and helpless, people have only one option. The Lord calls out, "Return to me with all your heart" and "Rend your hearts" (12-13). Humbling ourselves before the Lord is our only hope!

Notes⁹: Signs and Spirit Poured Out. Turning to the Lord God is near impossible for most people because their *hearts* are hardened by this world (Joel 2:13). So, the Lord first judges the *unseen darkness* of this world, the powers that rule beyond human control as the *sun darkens and the moon bleeds*. On earth, blood, fire, and smoke shake human pride (2:30). Godless hearts believe only what is seen, so the Spirit *washes over all flesh* in the spiritual power of *prophecies, dreams, and visions* (28). So, *fleshly hearts* realize the power of God's spiritual glory!

⁹ **Prophet Elijah:** Human hearts of flesh are hardened to the Lord, for Godless flesh insists on being its own *lord* (Rom. 8:7-8). To this *wilderness of fleshly hardness*, God sends the *prophet* to prepare people for *the way of the Lord* (Is. 40:3). As Elijah turned the hearts of Israel back to the Lord (1 Kings 18:37), so the prophet rebukes Godlessness to prepare hearts for the Lord's coming. He prepares hearts by *restoring natural human affections* between fathers and children (Mal. 4:6). Before the Day of the Lord Messiah, the prophet will *turn* hearts of fathers to their children and children to their fathers (Mal. 4:6), perhaps as a way to face the *tests* afflicting the world!

□10. Shepherding Mashiach: Bringing Peaceful Kingdom

Read Micah 4:1-5; 5

How will God's Shepherding Messiah renew Israel and the World?

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. 5 And he shall be their peace. **Micah 5:4-5a**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: How will we live with the Lord Mashiach in the new world he will create at his coming?

QA: How will Mashiach shepherd us and the world for our good?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How will the Lord Messiah transform the world in the last days?
(Mic. 4:1-5)

1. Peaceful Kingdom: Nations Gathered: The Lord Messiah establishes His peaceful Kingdom around His *people, the House of the Lord* which settles in Zion, *their eternal homeland* (4:1-2). From this *holy mountain*, the lawful rule of *Lord Messiah* fairly judges *disputes* between strong nations and assures the nations of equitable and fair outcomes (3), allowing them to *beat their swords into plowshares*.

Q2. Why is the Messiah qualified to rule the nations as their Lord?
(Mic. 5:1-5)

2. Shepherd of Judah: Worldwide Peace. Weak *flesh* hampers the rule of earthly kings. But, the Lord Messiah is eternal, from *ancient days* and has the experienced wisdom to rule over the nations. This Lord is not hampered by *fleshly* Self-interest, for He rules as a *shepherd* caring for His precious flock (5:4). Nor is he limited in right or power, for Lord Messiah rules *in the name of the Lord His God* and His surpassing power. So, in Lord Messiah, the people of earth will find their unshakeable *peace*.

Q3. What place will Israel have in Lord Messiah's Kingdom in the last days? (5:7-15)

3. Israel Exalted: Jacob and Nations Cleansed. Accustomed to *fleshly* rule, the nations of the earth are like *flocks of sheep* who have never known the Lord nor His power. So, God establishes the *remnant of Jacob* in Messiah's kingdom as an example to the world of a *people holy to the Lord!* Like a *lion among the beasts*, Israel is endowed with the glorious power of her Lord! (5:8). The nations were raised on *lawless and fleshly customs*, but *Israel* has known the Lord and his Law from birth. So, the Lord's cleansing work will move from His House to the nations of the world (14), so that nations who resist His rule experience His wrath (15).

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How will God's Shepherding Messiah renew Israel and the World?

4.10. Shepherding Messiah: Bringing Peaceful Kingdom: Ever since sin established a Godless, human rule over this earth, we have known only oppression and conflict. For, underlying this human rule is an ingrained *fear*. Such pervasive fear—from attack or loss—stems from the dark *god* stalking this godless vacuum. But, when the Lord God establishes His *shepherding Messiah* to rule the world, we will finally know peace, for “*no one shall make them afraid*” (4:4).

This Messiah will rule with the *heart and power* of a *shepherd*, for he will *shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord* (5:4). Under His limitless and good Lordship, Messiah's people can *dwell securely by resting in His greatness* (4).

As you learn to rest in the *greatness* of your shepherding Messiah, you can foretaste even now a freedom from fear to enjoy the glorious peace of His Kingdom rule. For, His peace starts with us, His *house* to become the chief *mountain* to which all nations will stream to know our Lord and His ways! (4:1-2).

Notes¹⁰: Holy House. As members of the Lord's *holy house*, we now enjoy the *peace of Messiah* ruling in our hearts and fellowship (Col. 3:15). This peace *rules* in the authority of our Lord's cross, putting to death every fleshly fear and iniquity to unsettle our faith.

The Lord establishes and builds our House around His covenantal people of Abraham. Once gathered in by Messiah's redemption, our house takes root in the ancient homeland of Israel then spreads throughout the earth (Mic. 4:1-3) to teach all nations of the earth the ways of our Lord.

¹⁰ **Shepherding King Messiah:** The Lord's Kingdom purpose to bring all nations of the earth together as one flock begins with Israel. For, Messiah, the *ruler of Israel*, is the Son of Man given dominion by the Ancient of Days (Dan. 7:13). Ruling Israel first as its rightful Shepherd, Messiah will then bring all the *ends of the earth* under His protective care, so that in the end, *He shall be their peace* (Mic. 5:5).

Prayer Requests:

Request/ Date:	Answer Prayer/ Thankfulness

Journaling: What is the Lord teaching me/ Doing in my life?

Weekly Sermon Notes:	Lord's Lessons and Works in my life:

Devotion: Self-Assessment.

☐1. Devoted Soul: Humbled under Lord not Self (Serpent)- Serving

16 And the **Lord God commanded** the man, saying, “**You may surely eat** of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil** you **shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat of it **you shall surely die.**” Genesis 2:16-17, also Gen. 3:1-6

☐Humbled Under Lord God (2:17)

- Led by *Lord God* (2:17)
- Under *Commanding Authority*
- *Freely obeys for good life;*
- Rejects sin and *evil* leading to *death*.

☐Self (Serpent)-Serving (3:1-6)

- Listening to *Worldly Serpent* who questions God (3:1)
- *Self is like God* as own Lord (3:5)
- *Self-righteous Self* decides *fleshly good* (6)
- *Self-interested Self* decides *fleshly evil to avoid*.

☐2. Devoted Mind: Faith in Lord not Unbelief in Fleshly Understanding

Trust in the Lord with all your **heart**, and do not **lean** on your **own understanding**. 6 In all your ways **acknowledge him**, and he will make straight your paths. 7 Be **not wise** in your **own eyes**; **fear the Lord**, and **turn away from evil**. Prov. 3:5-7; also Gen. 3:6-7

☐Faith in Lord (2:17)

- Fear Lord as the only true God (Prov. 3:7)
- Trust in God as Lord of power, truth, and will (3:5);
- Be willing to follow His *ways* and honor him in your life (6) and turn from evil (7).

☐Unbelief in Fleshly Understanding

- Flatter Self as *wiser* than God (3:7).
- Trust in own understanding to know truth, purpose, power (5).
- Find earthly reasons to sin and follow your own way not the Lord’s commands (Gen. 3:6-7).

☐3. Devoted Heart: Loving God as Father not Worldly Flesh

15 Do not **love the world** or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the **love of the Father** is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—

the **desires** of the **flesh** and the **desires** of the **eyes** and **pride of life**—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the **world** is **passing** away along with its desires, but whoever does **the will of God** abides **forever**. 1 John 2:15-17

☐ Loving God as Father (2:15)

- Loves the Father (15)
- Desires to do the Will of God (17)
- Seeks what *abides forever* (17).

☐ Worldly Flesh (16)

- Loves the World (2:15)
- Follows the desires of flesh, what it sees as *good*, and its *prideful life in the world* (16)
- Clings to a world that is *passing away* (17).

☐4. Devoted Strength: Giving Body as a Living Sacrifice not Conformed to World

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, **by the mercies of God**, to **present** your **bodies as a living sacrifice, holy** and **acceptable to God**, which is your **spiritual worship**. 2 Do **not be conformed** to this **world**, but be **transformed** by the **renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the **will of God**, what is **good** and **acceptable** and **perfect**. Rm. 12:1-2

☐ Giving Self as a Living Sacrifice (12:1)

- Gives Body as a Living Sacrifice to God (Rom. 12:1).
- Lives sacrificially to be holy, acceptable, and pleasing to God;
- *Transformed by renewing of mind by God's Word* (2)
- Discerns and proves God's Will as *good, acceptable, and perfect* (2)

☐ Conformed to World (2)

- Gives Flesh to be conformed to this world (2);
- Lives by fleshly works not needing God's mercy (1);
- Conforms to the World and its Godlessness;
- Unchanging, fixed, stubborn, fleshly mind.