

## TRANSCRIPT – The Qumran Community and You – Part 2

Alrighty, Chag Semeach again! It's always like that during Sukkot that it seems to start a little on the slow side, and especially you come early, a day or two, and you're hoping to get that extra time. And as soon as Sukkot starts, it's like Ooooh, you turn it's just about over. So here we are only two days left of Sukkot, but then of course we have the Last Great Day and then also having the blessing of Sabbath after that. So we'll have an extra day over here.

Today I want to continue in the message I gave yesterday, *The Qumran Community and You*. So this is part 2. And just starting again in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10 in verse 6 ... 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10 in verse 6 says:

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:6,11** *But these things became examples for us, so that we may not be lusting after evil, even as those indeed lusted ... in verse 11 ... And all these things happened to those **as examples**, and it was written **for our warning**, on whom the ends of the ages has come.*

So lately almost every sermon I do seems to have that scripture in there because one way or another, the things we need to **learn are the examples from the Israelites**. If you remember last year I gave a full message on that, the examples from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10. But just as the Israelites in the wilderness was an example for end-time believers, right, so is the Qumran scrolls. Like I said, it wasn't that these scrolls were found a thousand years ago, like the Masoretic text, and we're using them today; these scrolls were hidden on the **very eve** of Israel ceasing to be a sovereign nation; and they're **found on the very eve** that Israeli is becoming a sovereign nation again. So without a shadow of a doubt, **the scrolls can only be for our time** because we didn't have them before. They weren't there. And like I said yesterday, it's great enough that we have these scrolls to prove the Bible and to prove that the Masoretic text we have today is not doctored and what-not. But again, the Bible books are only one third of the scrolls. The commentaries on all those books are extremely interesting to see how they interpreted that. And then also the Community scrolls on the Community rules, and their prayers of thanksgiving and all the things. So there's **so much to learn from the scrolls** that I think we could be studying them from today until Yahshua comes and we still won't get everything out of them.

So it can't be a coincidence, Yahweh doesn't work in coincidences; and how they were found and when they found prove that. But today we're going to look **deeper** into the **reason why** the Sect left the Jerusalem Community and went to the wilderness to prepare. So like I said, I wanted to put that first sermon out there, not only to get your familiar with what's there, to understand the importance of them; but to understand **what they believed**, how they were ... like I said, very similar to us in many ways, how they believed in a Messiah. But today I **really want** to get into the **specific message for us on the importance of these scrolls**. Because like I said, these were the first prototype. They're really the first community. They're the first kibbutz, so to speak and there's a lot of lessons that went in there. So why did they leave Jerusalem when they did? Why did they go to the wilderness to prepare?

**The wilderness has always been a place of Yahweh's servants to prepare before their assignment to build faith.** You know when we're looking in scripture we see so many of the servants of Yahweh: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, John the Baptist and even Yahshua. They **all went to the wilderness** before preparing for their job. And **now, we have the greatest job in the history of the earth right now** because **our job** is going to be **helping Yahshua to redeem the earth**. By the time He returns very shortly there's a lot that's going to happen between today and then; 98% of the people on this planet will be dead. There's just cleaning up the dead bodies like it talks about in Jerusalem, they say will take five months, just to clean up the carnage there from all the death that's going to happen there. Then there's going to millions of people all over the world; in India, in China, in Africa, that don't know what's going on, that survived, that didn't die. And we're going to have to go to these places. We're going to have to help them build communities, teach

them the agriculture in the Bible, teach them about the herbal plants, right; the plants, the leaves of the plants and the healings for the nations.

We're going to have to teach them judicial order. We're going to have to teach them scripture. We're going to have to teach them proper worship. So we're going to have a **lot of work** on our hands. And **we're in the forefront of this**. **We're going to be the kings and the leaders of this**. You know we're not just going to be messengers coming with a message to somebody. So this is why **if we don't prepare now, we won't be ready when Yahshua returns**. We won't be ready to take that job.

So that's why the wilderness is there and it's the **perfect place**, not only because of its solitude, but because of the bareness there. When you're in the wilderness there's **bareness** and the wilderness does not have a lot of terrain for growing and it doesn't have a lot of water. It doesn't have a lot of things. So by that, **we need to trust in Yahweh for everything**. It really teaches us in the wilderness. So although it's a great place of solitude; you could really get connected to Yahweh because of that; but also it's also a place we need to learn trusting of Yahweh for everything. So like I said, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, John the Baptist and even Yahshua, go to the wilderness to prepare. Matthew 4 in verse 1, this is right after Yahshua's baptism, right? What happens?

**Matthew 4:1** *Then Yahshua was led up into the **wilderness** by the Spirit, to be tempted by the Devil.*

So as soon as He's baptized, as soon the Holy Spirit, the dove comes, as soon as Yahweh says, *This is My Beloved Son, follow Him*. Now He's getting His mandate. **The first thing He does is go to the wilderness**, very first thing. Where is He going? He's going to the Judean wilderness, right where the Qumran people were. Right in the same area that's all part of the Judean desert; and He's going in the same place. Joshua 15 in verse 61 ... talking about the villages there ... Joshua 15 in verse 61 says:

**Joshua 15:61-62** *In the wilderness, Beth-Arabah, Middin, and Secacah and Nibshan, and the city of Salt ... right? The city of Salt, down there at the Dead Sea ... and En-Gedi ... which is also right near there ... six cities and their villages.*

So we know that the area where the Qumran had their community, it was an important area there. It was an area that going all the way back to the time of Joshua they looked at as important; an important area that was there and because also there's water. There are some areas in Israel wilderness where there is no water. They have to funnel their water in. It wasn't right in the community. They had no water in the community itself but they had water that was not too far there. And what's interesting like I said, if we go to John 1:28, it says:

**John 1:28** *These things took place ... where John is baptizing ... in **Bethabara** at the crossing of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.*

So in verse 61 of Joshua 15, Beth-ar-aba and Bethabara are the same place. It's the same place. So John is baptizing, like I said, just a **few hours walk** from where John is baptizing, to the Qumran Community, right near the Jordan River.

And we talked about yesterday that they believed from **Ezekiel 4**, I'm not going to go there again today, that for 390 years from the destruction of the Temple, that the end time would start and there would be twenty years of searching or probing; then there was going to be forty years with a righteous teacher and forty years of an end-time war. So they went in 196 BC to what they **thought** was a hundred years planned that they're waiting for.

And as I mentioned before ... really, really important in this is that to show you how **serious** these people were and **how convicted they were** and had no doubt in their mind ... that wow, you're ... at this point, they're **giving up their life with the belief that it's not going to happen then**. They're belief is not that's it's going to happen in a year, or seven years, or

ten years, even twenty years; if they're believing it's a hundred years until the Messiah comes, that means every single person that went down there is realizing they will not be there. That they're going to die and they would be resurrected in the Kingdom, but they're not going to be there.

So they **literally sacrificed the rest of their life** at that point, from society, to go into the wilderness and sanctify themselves. Because **they believed unless they were sanctified** and they sanctified their children and their grandchildren ... the Messiah couldn't come. So it shows dedication. **It's hard enough a lot of times to be convicted now thinking Yahshua's returning in just a few years and we really don't give all our effort.** There's a good chance, we're in the year 2020, there's a very good chance, I believe more than 50/50 that before 2030 comes, Yahshua will be here on the earth. And there's a lot of things that point to that. There's a very good chance. And if not by 2030, probably not far from there, right, it's certainly not fifty or eighty years. There's many prophecies we can go in and show that; and if you look what's happening to the world. And yet, **have we given our full commitment? Are we living that way every day, as if it's that way?**

So these people did it. They believed that way. They went to Qumran **knowing** that they wouldn't, **in their mind**, knowing they would be dead before the Kingdom; but they went to the wilderness to make a **righteous remnant** so that the Messiah would be able to return. They realized, unless a grain of wheat falls and dies, it stays by itself, right? But if it dies, that many more come from that. And **they sacrificed their own wants and desires for the betterment of the Kingdom.** They went for their children, their grandchildren. They **understood sanctification totally**, totally understood it. And we know it because for 270 years it never changed.

There was **never** ... almost like you look at the Amish today ... wow, how after 400 years can they still be riding horse and buggies? How could they still not have electricity? And I tell this story where the Amish man is with a group of people and they were asking him, "Well, we're Christians, what makes you different than us? Are you really that much different?" And I think it was an audience of maybe about fifty people he was with, and he asked them, he said, "How many people have a television?" Every single one of them raised their hand. He said, "How many people know how evil television is and all the evil things on it?" Every single person raised their hand. He said, "Now how many will go home and get rid of their television?" Not one person raised their hand. He said, "That's what makes us different than you." **They act on their convictions.** They're serious. They're acting on their convictions. And this is why I say as a people, when Yahweh showed me this year, we're not ready yet for the wilderness; because **you don't only have to act on your convictions, you got to be ready to die for your convictions.** You better be pretty convicted for that.

One of the things I go over in the Bible school is I ask the people to write down, **what are you willing to die for?** Because **you're never going to die for a doubt.** You will never die for a doubt. I know I wouldn't die for a doubt. So you **better know what you're ready to die for.** I'll die for my family. I'll die for the Word of Yahweh. I'll die for the Truth. I'll die for you. I'll die for my brethren. You better know what you're ready to die for because you might get challenged on that. So these people **acted on their convictions** and **that's what kept them together**; 270 years is a **long time** to be together.

Like I said, I've seen groups unfortunately, that were started and usually within a month or two. Not only I've said this, not only ended but friendships that were for years ended because of that. And **this is one of the big things we have to get out of this. They went for sanctification. They understood it.** They thought of **themselves** as repeating the wilderness experience of the Israelites! Where did we hear that before? Our whole Feast is on that! That's the way they thought. They thought they were the **second wilderness** because scripture says there's going to be a second wilderness and they believed they were at the end time. They even called themselves one of their names was *the exiles of the wilderness*. That was one of the names they called themselves, *the exiles of the wilderness*. They **divided** in Qumran; they divided into tribes; following the arrangement of the Israelites at the Tabernacle. So that's the way they set up their

camp and where they stayed and what-not. So they literally divided into the tribes following the arrangement of the Israelites.

I'm going to read, not too much out of the book today, *The Dead Sea Scrolls* by Randall Price, but I'm going to read a couple things. And I just want to read about this, them going to the wilderness; because this is really, really **a point you got to get and you got to meditate on**. You really got to mediate on it. Because here we are like I said, **they thought ...** Yahweh put in their mind to make them **think they were the last generation so that they would really act it out for us because we are the real last generation**. So now there's things we could learn because they **really believed it. They weren't acting**, they really believed it. And we have to look at things they did and things we'll do today. This is in the Rules of the Community from the scrolls themselves and they said:

*When these things shall come to pass in the Community of Israel, according to these rules they shall withdraw from the city of men of iniquity, Jerusalem. To go to the wilderness to clear the way of Adonai, as it is written, in the wilderness clear the way of Yahweh. Make level in the desert a highway for our Elohim.*

We went over that yesterday. **Isaiah 40 verse 3**, the **same scripture** that even Yahshua used for John the Baptist and John the Baptist used it himself, *a voice crying in the wilderness*. **That was their motto**. That was the scripture for the Community there and they wrote it of themselves, right? But that's what they said **when things get bad, when things get corrupted**, what do you do? Do you stay there and try to change the corrupted people? No! **You leave there. You get out of there**. That's what scripture tells us. We're going to read it today. It's all over scripture. It's just a matter **do we believe it?** Are we **convicted** of it? Because they're actually **commands**; the same way that **Yahshua says, "Unless you forsake everything, you can't be My disciple."** There's a lot of **literal commands** to us that we need to do if we want to be disciples. And many times we're not doing it and then we're calling ourselves disciples, just like Christianity. There's a reason why 99% of Christianity are Sunday keepers and yet, they still think that they are followers of Yahshua. And yet, they're not following even in the smallest of things.

*So since through the retreat to the wilderness, the Qumran Community identified with Biblical Israel and its sin. It was in this place that the nation had once before been punished for disobedience because of unbelief. So they're in the same place, you know just like us in the wilderness, right? The same place where Israel failed, is the same place where Yahweh's bringing His people to succeed. For this reason the Prophet Isaiah saw the sight as a place of spiritual preparation. The first stage of which was repentance. Therefore, the Sect referred to itself as the Penitence of the Wilderness ... The Penitence of the Wilderness.*

And you know like I said, for **Yahweh telling us a people, we're not ready yet**. In one sense it's a little bit of a dagger in your heart; but in other sense, it's good **because if I'm not ready, I want to know. I want to know why I'm not ready**, right? **I want to know so I can change; because I want to be ready**. I want to **be ready** for when Yahshua returns. I want to be that bride. Because remember, the bride goes into the wilderness with spot and wrinkle and comes out without spot and wrinkle. So we can't kid ourselves. **We can't kid ourselves thinking that we're so spiritual and we're so good and we're doing all these things when we're not ready yet**. There's a lot of things we got to change in our life and the time is getting shorter but we have to take this as something positive. That if we know what it is, okay, now let's work on it. Like I said, let's get a plan of action; **let's work together** so that we can accomplish this. But this is the way they thought.

So this is why they're going to the wilderness. They're seeing the evilness and that's why they call sons of Light and sons of darkness. And literally, just like the New Testament tells us, that **we should be joining with the sons of Light; be encouraging each other, working with each other**. But **the sons of darkness, we are to abstain from. It's not our job to go out here and change these people. It's our job to bring the "good news" and the ones that Yahweh brings, those**

**are the people we work with.** But it's **not our job to try to go to the world** and try to change them, might have to **witness** of their sin, but that's not our job to change them. Everybody has free will and everybody's got to make that choice.

*So they left the corrupted religious system.* Like I said, yes and just like we have, *that was manmade and pagan; and also political ... as we did ... and also they did not believe in the false Jewish calendar that they believed was manmade.*

So like I said, that's something I might even do a whole message on that later to confuse you because you can never talk about the calendar without confusing people. But today, I'm not going to talk about the calendar. I want you to focus on this other stuff we're going over.

*So they believed **when society got too bad we are commanded to withdraw to the wilderness.*** Now if they did this 2000 years ago, c'mon, what would they be saying today? Their hair would be standing up. I don't know about you, but I talked to not worldly people ... I talked to brethren sometimes that don't see that it's that bad out there. And they say, "Oh yeah, I know it's kind of bad but it's going to get a lot worse". It might get a lot worse as far as war and famine and pestilence, but **as far as human nature, it's about as bad as you can get out there.** It really is about as bad as you can get.

And the fact, like I said, on a world-wide level that abortion is good, right, abortion is good. It's a woman's right; everywhere in the world that you can kill the fetus of your womb and that's just a woman's choice. And homosexuality is good, right? And that's a person's personal choice, but if you for religious reasons, not that you're even condemning. We're not out there with signs against people. We just simply don't believe it *"that you're evil! You're evil because you don't believe it! You are taking away someone's human rights."* And this is on a world-wide level. So **how much worse can human nature get?**

And just with the Covid, look around, people beating each other up in Walmart's over nothing. There was in the news, one lady that she was crippled, she's on a walker; and she's making copies and she asked a woman to put her mask on. The woman knocked her over. It's human nature at a level that you can't even imagine. And as bad as it was in the first century with Yahshua, I don't believe it was anything the way we're seeing today. And yet, there's many brethren that still think, "No, no, no, we got to be in the world, right? Got to be part of that world." It says, *be in the world but not of the world.* And there's also a part where you have to separate.

There's a point in the end time, just like our brother, were our brethren wrong? Are Waldenses and are Anabaptists ... were they wrong for 1260 years on being in the mountains as we see? They weren't in the world. I'm not saying to stop witnessing. I'm not saying to stop having plans to bring the good news. We're starting right after Sukkot. All I did was mention about starting this new plan of going out two by two and most of the third world area. I'm already getting all kinds of plans of actions from our elders. They're all excited about it, about getting out there because **the work doesn't stop.** In this year 2020, right, in the year of lockdown, in the year of Covid, in the year where many of brethren are living in places that airports are closed, you can't leave your city, Yahweh has blessed our Congregation like you can't imagine.

Brand new congregations coming up from everywhere! Hundreds and hundreds if not even in the thousands of people being baptized. I'm getting reports all the time and miracle after miracle that's happening, healings and just things so. **Yahweh is really still working;** it may be a little harder for us now. We may have to plan a little better. We may have to have a little more ingenuity. We have to realize we're in the underground congregation, but there's still work to do. So I'm not saying that. What I'm saying is, the same as these people, although they did not believe in proselytizing, they had **zero mindset** of proselytizing. They believed just completely staying separate from the world.

I think that **on the end of separation and sanctification, we have to really look at them.** That I believe is **one if not the most important thing** why Yahweh had this for us. So we can understand how to do it. **So we can understand how to build a community and how to do it in the community;** because they had the whole system there because that's the way they were living. They believed when society got too bare, we're commanded to withdraw to the wilderness. They believed even though Israel was back in the land from Babylon, that they should still stay in the wilderness until a way would cleanse the land of the wicked and then the tribes would return, similar to what we believe today.

And you know, hey, I'm not afraid to admit I'm wrong and when I got to Israel, twenty something years ago, I honestly believed with all my heart that Yahweh was going to be bringing the tribes back there shortly. I really thought it would be between 2007-2010, not all the tribes. I've always said the majority of the regathering happens after Yahshua returns but I really **thought** that there would be a remnant back there. And here we are thirteen years later, it hasn't happened yet. And now I'm realizing it's certainly not going to happen now. It might happen in the short future, but it's not going to happen. It will **not happen** until the defilement is cleared from there. There is no way Yahweh will bring the tribes back to live and they're on the precipice of judgement. We already see it, even has begun. And war is coming, not just in Israel but all over the world. And I believe it's **after** this war, probably at the time of the beast power, maybe even being there that remnants of pockets may come. Again, in the wilderness in Israel, I don't know. But I certainly see it hasn't happened now and it's not close to happening at this point. So, but **Yahweh is taking His people to the wilderness all over the world and He's preparing us;** and that's what we have to do. It's not for us to decide His time when He's taking His people back there, but **it is up to us to decide if we'll sanctify our life.**

Because Yahshua said, it's one of the saddest scriptures to me where He said that if He wouldn't speak the rocks will cry out, when they told Him. And He said, *"If I wouldn't speak the rocks will cry out."* And I thought how sad is that. That if the day has to come that the rocks are crying out with His message because He didn't have anybody else to give it. So what good would it be? Let's even say if it was a year from now that Yahweh is going to bring the tribes back there, what would it be if we weren't ready, if there was nobody ready what would happen? That would be the saddest thing. So I praise Yahweh that He's given more time to His people, but we got to prepare. **We got to prepare and sanctification is a major part of that preparation.**

So they believed even though Israel was back living in the land, they're living in the land of Israel, they **still believed** that they needed to separate in the wilderness until Yahweh would cleanse the land of the wicked and **then** the tribes would live throughout all the land. Their writings were for the last generation. They say it all the time. They believed it because of the prophets, but not for them, for us. Even though they **believed** they were the last generation, they weren't, we know it; because it's two thousand years later, but **we are.** So I think that's also very, very interesting that Yahweh allowed them to believe like that **so we can actually get the mindset of them** not saying they're preparing for something thousands of years in the future; they thought it was right then; so there are good lessons in there. They believed the Ruach Ha'Chodesh, the Holy Spirit, was the power of Elohim; and given to their sect as set-apart first-fruits of the Kingdom. Exactly what we believe, that's what they believed. It was given to the leaders in greater power to interpret the Torah to them. They acted on Scripture in faith and they never doubted ... **they never doubted ... conviction. That's what held them together.**

And that's why I say, you could look, right, and they were human beings 2000 years ago before the New Testament is really starting, and as it's starts ... so I'm not saying everything in Qumran 100% that we should be doing hook, line and sinker ... I'm saying there's something here to learn, right? But my point of it is **what kept them together was their conviction** and that's the point of it. Not that you can pinpoint and say, "Well, look at this. They believed this. We don't believe that." I'm not saying we are to believe everything they believe. I'm saying **their conviction** held them together.

And in Yahshua's Congregation for 2000 years there's only been splits and chisums since the first century. So there hasn't been that conviction and I see in the end times. **I see people convicted one day, the next day totally not believing in thing they believed in the day before.** And I've said this, when I was baptized, and we had a thousand people in our local congregation, if one person fell away, it would be like at Passover. You know you come, "Where is brother so and so?" "Ah, he didn't make it." You'd be grieving your heart for one person. Today, at least fifty percent of the people, at least **in western society that are being baptized, fall away within the first year**, at least fifty percent. That would scare me.

And **why isn't it happening in third world? Because third world is sanctified away from society.** Our brethren in the third world, even if they're not living in community, **they're living away from the society.** They're not being part of society. They're staying separated; they're staying sanctified. And in western society, a lot of times people just don't understand what that means. They think it's simply meeting on Saturday and not eating pork. And those **do sanctify us** from the world, but **that's only the beginning of the sanctification process.**

And like I said, whatever you focus on becomes most real to you. And if you're living in the world and you're working in the world and your friends are in the world, and you're playing golf in the world; and everything you do is around really people, then you're in the world. And chances are you're not going to make it. **You have to be able to sanctify your life.** And I'll tell you, some of the strongest brethren that we have right now are actually the ones in prison. You can't believe the letters. I get **hundreds** of letters! We have full congregations in the prisons. I'm having a problem now because of two things: because number one, we don't have the manpower; and number two, of Covid, of trying to get elders to the prisons to do baptisms but we have **hundreds** of people!

And you know what? I try to share with them; it's a blessing; the same way I say somebody who might be blind, right? In one way, its, "Oh, I'm sorry you're blind." It's like, yeah but that person has never seen evil. They've never seen a bad act; they've never seen an evil act. So sometimes it's a blessing; and the same way the people in prison. Talk about sanctified, you know you're about as set-apart as you can get with a lot of bars around you and barbwire. And I'm not saying it's the best situation, but I'm saying **it's a mental thing**, what you think too. That sometimes it could be ... sometimes they could be way more sanctified in that prison than they can outside of there because of society and how evil society is. So **it's all how we're looking at it.**

They acted in Scripture in faith. They **never doubted** over 270 years of a community. And like I said, it would be there today, the only reason it broke up was they attacked and killed. But I honestly believe that if that never happened, if they were allowed to keep going, I believe they would be there today; because **their conviction** went from generation to generation to generation. And the generation in the year 70AD was **not an ounce less convicted than the one in 196 that went into the wilderness. If anything they had more conviction; that they were even ready to die instead of to compromise.**

Even when their prophecies failed, right? When the prophecies failed, **they didn't blame other people. They didn't blame their leaders. They didn't blame Yahweh; they blamed themselves for not being righteous enough.** They **fully believed** that they were the end-time remnant of Yahweh. They believed a final war was going to come between good and evil and the Day of Yahweh was going to come to bring wrath on the wicked; and resurrect the just for the millennial Kingdom of the Messiah, the Son of David, exactly what we believe. But **they were convicted and they were willing to die for it** because they could have surrendered to the Romans and lived. The Romans weren't looking to just kill everybody. They wouldn't do it ... they wouldn't do it. They were not going to compromise at that point.

I want to read something here about the Community in the book, because one thing that's very interesting is, one of the things that they saw, the Community. That was that they **saw that things were changing.** They saw that. Okay, human

nature's always bad and there's always evil in the world, but they saw what they thought the last generation, **they saw it getting worse**. And that's why they started saying, *sons of Light* and *sons of darkness*. They saw this polarization happening. As I'm reading this I'm thinking, wow, look at today. Today you can't get the world more polarized. If you lived in the 1800's and you were a believer and your neighbor wasn't, probably the differences between you and your neighbor were very minimal. You were probably good friends and children played together because you were both Christian. You were both believers. The only difference they met on Sunday, you met on Saturday. Maybe they didn't know the name of Yahweh, but they all wore long dresses. They all believed in sanctification. They were convicted in what they believed with Scripture. They believed in staying separate from the world. There wasn't much different between a Christian believer in the 1800's and a true believer, except doctrine; which is important. But today, today it's unheard of.

You know you go in some of these Christian churches they're playing evil demonic rock music; the way they dress, people walking with shorts, cut off shirts, purple hair, blasting on their evil, wicked music. It's like its wow, this is supposed to be glorifying just because they use a name. That isn't even the right name. But it's like the polarization, look at politics; there's **never been** more polarization than today. Society, families, they say from President Trump getting elected, how many people got divorced over that? Can you imagine? People getting divorced because somebody is president? Somebody wins and somebody loses.

So this is what they believe: they believe the world was **so polarized** that you had to separate ... you had to separate. There's no other choice. And do we see that? **This is the lesson Yahweh has in here for us**. Because when you get to the wilderness, there's no choice anymore. Now you're separated. There's no choice, you're out there. You don't have a choice, you're there. But **if you want to get there you have to make that choice to get there**. So this is what it says, it says:

*Central to this coming age of conflict, is the image of evil rulers and deceivers ... that's what they're believing ... counterparts to the true Messiah. The Dead Sea Sect saw a cosmic conflict between the Spirit of Truth, holiness, the Prince of Light; and the angel of darkness, the spirit of perversity, the spirit of the pit. The conflict on the human level was between the members of the Qumran Sect categorized as the sons of Light, the sons of Truth; and the opponents referred to as the sons of darkness, son of perversity, sons of the pit; the conflict between the forces of light - good; and darkness - evil.*

That actually the ones who studied it say actually that was their main motive. That was **there motive was helping the people that Yahweh was calling to see the difference between light and darkness** so that we could make a choice in that. And today, like I say, everything is grey; and yet, in the Bible, in Hebrew, there's no color grey; everything is white or everything is black. So it's got to be one way or the other. The Community saw society becoming more polarized between light and darkness, good and evil; and they knew they had to separate; just as **the early believers also went to the wilderness to be sanctified**, the same way. Why did our believers, why did they leave society and they went to Armenia; and they went up to the mountains in Italy and France and these different places? For the same reason, for sanctification.

They were the **forerunners** of the second wilderness for us because that's exactly what they were doing. They believed they were it and they were setting a prototype. And again, they knew a lot more than we do. Think about it, in the first century and even the second century BC, they weren't that far from the Babylonian captivity in the Kingdom of Israel. So there's **a lot of things that they knew that we don't know today**. And they actually lived through this.

Just like the Amish, the Amish are a **great prototype** for us today for how to bring up our families; how to be dealing in family. They're very blessed in that area, in sanctification from the world. 1<sup>st</sup> John 2 in verse 15 ... 1<sup>st</sup> John 2 in verse 15 ...



and there's certain scriptures that are **so connected**, they're so like cornerstones of what we do. We read them in a lot of sermons, like 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:15. But the only thing I think about some times is that because we read a sermon, read a scripture. Maybe in ten other sermons, you don't want it to get used to it. You don't want to just read over it like because you heard it before. **Meditate on this scripture and think about what I'm saying here from Yahweh.** Not my words, but His. Okay? **These are the Words of Yahweh for us today:**

**1<sup>st</sup> John 2:15** *Do not love the world, nor the things in the world ...* **Do not love the world, nor the things in the world.**

**Comment:** So what do you think? Do you think that all these things in the world; all the pleasures that are out there, all the nice things ... like I said, all the electronical gadgets and the video games and even TV's and VCR's and DVD's and every kind of pleasure seeking things and Smart phones and all these things ... are they of the world or are they of Yahweh? They're of the world. That if you're honest with it, not to say every one you're using in a bad way, but they are of the world. And He says, "*Do not love the things of the world.*" And the very next sentence says:

**1<sup>st</sup> John 2:15** *If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him ... If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

So at the end of the day, like I said, when people have problems they can't overcome, and people have counseled in me for years and years and years, they're making the same mistake and they're doing the same sin and sometimes come with tears in eyes and like, "Don, I can't overcome." And I tell them, honestly, "You know why?" Because you like what you're doing." I've never had someone come up and say, "I've got this horrible habit. Every morning I wake up, I turn on the stove and I stick my hand on the stove." And they show me a blackened hand all burnt. Nobody has that happen, you know why? It's painful. When you put your hand on a stove and you burn your hand away, you don't look at it as pleasurable.

Like we said, **everything your mind does is for pain or pleasure.** You're here because you saw more pleasure to coming than the pain it took to get here. There's some that aren't here because maybe the opposite. They wanted to be here, but they saw more pain to getting here than the pleasure what they're going to get. Everything you do is for that reason. So **if you're doing a sin and you can't overcome that sin. It's that simple, because you're liking the sin. Your mind is thinking you're getting pleasure out of that sin.** And you got to **break that habit.** You have to **reframe it.** Like I said, ask better questions. What's going to happen if I don't overcome the sin? What is the end result of the sin? What if people find out about this and whatever it is?

And it's the same thing here that you can't sit there and say you're not fulfilling this scripture if you're sitting there with every gadget in the world. And we're in a technological age which means there's a new one coming out every couple of months, right? So if we were sitting here maybe twenty-five years ago, I'd just be talking about you might have a computer. One of those big, big computer things and maybe you have AOL that was the big thing at that time, right? But none of us stopped there. We went and got the next one and we went and got the iPad and then we got the phone; and to the Facebook and this and this and this; and then WhatsApp and this app and that app. And there'll be another app tomorrow that's going to be so easy for you to use, you'll get it.

*Do not love the things of the world. If anyone loves the things of the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* And this is, **this is going to be your life or death because at what point do you stop?** Brethren will take this vaccine. You know why? It's probably not the mark of the beast; it's probably just the first one. But when the mark of the beast comes, *I won't take it!* But you know what? Maybe it is the mark of the beast. And you know where the mark of the beast is? It's not in your right hand; it's also in your forehead. You know why? They're not going to a chip in your forehead. Your forehead is where you think.

So when someone says where your heart is, there your mind is also. A heart is just a muscle that pumps. Your heart doesn't do anything. It's an analogy that we use. But **it's your mind that thinks**. So when we say, where our heart is, we're really saying where our mind is. So when the chip is in your right hand and in your forehead, it's saying **it's in your mind, it's in your heart**. You're wanting it, you're taking it. **You're enjoying it some way or you wouldn't do it!** No one is forcing you to have Facebook. No one is forcing you to have WhatsApp. No one is forcing you to have a smartphone. **You're doing it because you're seeing some kind of benefit to it.** But I can tell you, the Qumran Sect wouldn't do it. They wouldn't have anything like that.

You know in the Amish, I love the way they look at things because they don't say, "We don't have electricity because electricity is evil." Because electricity really isn't evil; they look and say, they look at ... remember I said *do everything with the end in mind*... they're saying, "What's the end result of this?" Right? And they're thinking the end result is: we're giving an avenue to bring something into our house and down the line there might be something bad in this. When Thomas Edison made the light bulb and the electricity in whatever it was, the early 1900's, nobody imagined it would be what it is today, but they did. They did and they didn't take it.

**1 John 2:15-16** *Do not love the world nor the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not him. Why? Because all that is in the world, including all these gadgets and all these apps that people have ... because all that is in the world: The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

Believe me, I'm not here to judge because I know it's difficult. Even now traveling it's becoming very difficult to even get a boarding pass if you don't have a smartphone because they want you to use the smartphone to be able to do it. Just now when we traveled we couldn't get through the gate. It wouldn't open because the boarding pass wouldn't work. And they just said, "Just use the smartphone." "I don't have one." They're looking at me like I'm a caveman. I had to go all the way back. I had to stand in line and I had to get a new thing. And they just kept saying, "Well, just use ..." And I'm trying to explain to them, "Look, there's no phone. It's not here." And that's most of the things that they use now. So it is convenience. I'm not saying that but it's of the world. It's of the world. And we see it.

How can you watch that thing from last night on knowing with Google and Facebook and all of these conglomerates of all this media, **it's all satanically inspired**. And at the end of the day satan wants to get everybody; but he wants to get us more. And he really has the people of Yahweh because we're not the Amish. Unfortunately we got the call a little too late. And that's why I say everybody's got to look at their life. There's reasons why you might have to have certain things. If you're a doctor, you have to be on call. You have to get ... because life makes all ... I'm not judging anybody. All I'm telling you is **judge yourself**. It says if we judge ourselves we wouldn't have to be judged. **Look in your life and see what you can get rid of and what you can throw out that window**. If it's essential and you need it now, you have to make that decision but if you don't, get rid of it. Don't do it for convenience sake because one convenience goes into the next convenience. And like I said, at what point do you stop?

Now we're at a point where they're going to put a tattoo in the hand that's forced on all humanity, just like the Bible says. That only works with Luciferous. And still people will say they'll have a reason to take it. They'll have a reason to take it. And **unless you stop somewhere and start moving back from the world and what satan has brought, that Yahweh says He hates, you're not going to make it**. Like I said, in almost every other generation that ever was the vast majority of the people will be in the Kingdom. This generation, the last generation, they asked Yahshua, "*Will many be saved?*" Very simple question; what was His answer? *No ... no!* And that's why He says, *Go down the narrow path; wide is the road and broad is the way that leads to destruction; most will enter. Narrow is the road, constricted the way; and*

most will not have the strength. And as we're living in this time, I understand that; because I'm losing strength. I'm losing strength **physically**; I'm losing strength **mentally**; and I pray I don't lose strength spiritually.

But sometimes you get exhausted from the world because it is **tough** out there. It's tough out there but **the reward is the greatest that can be**. The ones from now, that's why the first-fruits to Yahweh forever; the ones going to the wilderness. It's not the Apostle Peter; it's not the Waldenses; it's us! **It's 144,000 of people on this earth today**. And you know what? You want to be one of them? Then **live the life of somebody who's going to be 144,000. Don't live the life of the average person in the world and just think some way you'll be there. You have to be like these people!** And this is why I love it. They're **convicted** and **nothing in the world will stop their conviction**. We're living in the Laodicean era, right? Laodicean **thinks he's convicted** but compromises on everything. And this is where we have to look. I do in my life every day. *Father, if there's an ounce of Laodicean in me, get it out of me! Show me what I don't see.*" I've been praying that now for two years and He's shown me a lot of stuff that's good; because **unless you know it, you're not going to overcome**. So this is where they're at ... this is where they're at. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6 in verse 14:

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:14** *Do not be equally yoked ... it says united in marriage; but it's **equally yoked in all ways ... with unbelievers. For what partnership does righteousness have with lawlessness? And what fellowship does light have with darkness?***

**Comment:** This is what they're talking about, **being connected with people of the world**, right? There's the sons of Light, there's the sons of darkness and **we're supposed to separate from that**.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:15-16** *And what agreement does the Messiah have with Satan? Or what part does a believer have with an unbeliever? And **what harmony has the sanctuary of Elohim with idols?** ... There's a lot more of idolatry than we think ... **For you are the sanctuary of the living Elohim, as it said, "I will dwell in them and walk in them, and I will be their Elohim, and they will be My people."***

**Comment:** And either you believe that or not. Do you believe the Holy Spirit is **living in you**; and if you do, like I said, you're going to do to every level; on a spiritual level you're going to be sanctified; you're going to take care of your body. You're not going to eat regularly food that you know is going to kill you. So you can't sit there and say, "Yes, I believe the Holy Spirit is in me. Yes, I'm reading this scripture that says that the Holy Spirit is **living in me** and He's among me." And then every day of my life, I'm eating donuts. I'm eating something that's going to kill me. Because again, **if you're physical body isn't strong, your mind isn't going to be strong; and spiritually it's going to affect you**. Sugar is addictive, as many other things are. So what does He say?

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:17** *Because of this, "Come out from among them and **be separated**, says YAHWEH, and **do not touch the unclean thing**, and I will receive you."*

**Comment:** And that's the problem, as Babylonians and as Laodiceans and we all have part of it in us, **we're living lives of compromise and we don't even realize it**. Because you know what? We're looking at the next guy and figure *I'm not as bad as them*. That's not good enough in the end time. Because everything has shifted, they said this in politics now. What used to be right wing is now in the middle. What used to be left wing, you can't even measure it any more. Everything has shifted in life. And that's why the Bible says; **don't compare yourselves with each other. We got to compare ourselves to Yahshua**. So **we can't think because we're a little better than the next guy in the world that we're making it**. No, these people were there and they looked at themselves and they were convicted.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:17-18** *Because of this, "Come out from among them and be separated, says YAHWEH, and **do not touch the unclean thing, and I will receive you.**"... **That's the way to prepare...** "And I will be a Father to you, and you will be sons and daughters to Me, says YAHWEH Almighty."*

So it's satan's society; it's the worst it's ever been. We're not to fight it. We're simply to abstain from it. **We're not to fight it. We're simply to abstain from it.** And again, we can't leave the earth; we're not to go up to Mars or the Moon. So in one way or another **all of us will have some type of worldly influence but you have to isolate it.** It's almost like a virus. You have to quarantine that influence, whatever it is, you want to quarantine. You might not be blessed to be working only with brethren. So quarantine them. Make sure you're not building good friendships with people that are of the world. Make sure you're limited especially people using bad language.

I know when I worked in the world, that was the thing that just horrific to me and I couldn't stand it. If I was around that I would quit my job but I'm not going to listen to foul language and this stuff, bad music coming in my mind every day. Might get to the point that they put handcuffs on me and I'm in a cell and that's how they're torturing me. There's nothing I can do, but I certainly ain't going to give my soul over to that, give my mind over to that kind of subjection because you don't have to at this point. Matthew 24 says:

**Matthew 24:21-22** *There will be great suffering, such as has not happened from the beginning of the world, nor ever will be. And except those days were shortened, no flesh would live. But on account of the chosen, those days will be shortened.*

So here it is, **many are called, few are chosen.** Yahweh has chosen each of you for this! But **you got to have that conviction; it's got to be burning in your heart in order to be fulfilling the great calling.** Back to 1<sup>st</sup> John 2 in verse 18, after he talks about not loving the world and the things of the world, right, what does he say next?

**1<sup>st</sup> John 2:17-18** *The world is passing, and its lust. But the one doing the will of Elohim abides forever ... and we're seeing that this world is passing quick. It can't pass quick enough for all of us, but then he says ... *Little children, it is a last hour ... right?* He's talking to the end-time people now. And he says ... *as you heard that the anti-Messiah is coming, even now many anti-Messiahs have risen up, from which you know that it is a last hour.**

**Comment:** And we have this false paradigm because of the Christian movies that anti-Messiah is the devil and the guy is doing, but actually, what the word actually means in Scripture: '*anti*' is '*in place of*'. Like, have you ever heard the word anti-past, right? It's a salad, but it's *anti-pasta*. It's in the place of pasta. So instead of eating pasta for dinner, you're going to eat an anti-past; which is like a salad with vegetables. And that's what he's saying here, it's in the place of the Messiah and when he's saying many out there because many people, Laodiceans, are doing their own thing. They made their own doctrines. They're making their own whatever; and they're doing their own thing. And then he says, because some of them were people may have even been part of us. Like I said, not everybody sitting in that seat is a brother or a sister. You got to prove it.

**1<sup>st</sup> John 2:19** *They went out from us, but they were **not of us**. For if they were **of us**, they would have remained with us; but **they left** so that it might be revealed that they are not of us.*

**Comment:** I have this problem sometimes in third world that people for whatever reason, even in leadership, they're having a problem and they both write me and say, "I'm not working with so and so anymore, but we're still under you." And the other people, "we're still under you." And I say, "It doesn't work that way." **There's one body, there's one faith, there's one Congregation.** So either you got to work your problems out or you're certainly not working with me because there's one Congregation world-wide and there's one Congregation in every country. And I'm not going to work with

two leaderships that are at each other's throat; both claiming they're working under me; and using that as a sword to other brethren, doesn't work that way. So we have problems, but you know what? There's one faith, there's one baptism, there's one Congregation. And what I see is the people who leave that don't come back are the only ones that don't want judicial order. They don't want to be part of it. And you see that. And he said:

**1<sup>st</sup> John 2:20-21** *but you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things ... right? The Holy Spirit is opening up our mind. And that's why it doesn't mean there won't be problems, but we work them out. We're a family. All things can be worked out ... I did not write to you because you did not know the truth, but because you know it, and because every lie is not of the truth.*

And to be honest, the reason why **most** wind up leaving the Congregation really has nothing to do with doctrine or even arguments. It has to do with because of the world ... because of the world. There was a lady in our Congregation several years back that ... really, really nice lady, and I think this a lot like you meet this person and they'll say, "You know when I heard your message that was it. I knew it was the truth." And they're convicted. And they sound like they believe it; and they say, "And that's it, that's it. Once I have the truth I'm not giving it up." And then something will come up, in this case, there was a person that this woman wanted to marry that is not scripturally able to in Scripture. And she just disappeared, never heard from her again. And she chose that. She chose living in an adulterous relationship over being part of Yahweh's first-fruits.

And it happens every day for another reason. It could somebody's job. They're working on the Sabbath and they don't want to give it up. They don't want to give it up. And then they just disappear. It's happened with elders, happens with brethren. It's happened with a lot. But what does it say here: *They went out **from us**, because they were **not of us**. For if they were **of us**, they would have **remained with us**; but they left so that it might be revealed that they are not of us.*

Because like I said, we're all human. We all have mistakes we're all trying to overcome, but we're **doing it together**. **We're encouraging each other**. We're not knocking each other down and we're working on this together. But there's some that aren't. And that's why it's important for you to understand that. Because for people that aren't committed and people that are going back to the world are people that are living lifestyles of sin. Man, you don't want to have contact with those kind of people. But it's hard enough in the world as it is with our self, never mind dealing with this. And it's all part of sanctification. 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:21 and 22 ... 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:21 and 22 says:

**2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:21-22** *For it was better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than having recognized it to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But the word of the true proverb has happened to them: "The dog returns to his own vomit; also, the sow that was washed, to wallowing in the mud."*

So it's really interesting because ... and this is one difference between Qumran and Yahshua's Congregation. In Yahshua's Congregation it's very open and you err on the side of mercy and love, right? So people that come in you have to take them at face value and you give them opportunity and if they come in, they come in and if they leave, they leave. In Qumran they didn't do this. In Qumran, that's why in 270 years they never had anybody leave because they really, really vetted people, big time. And even like I said, having a one year probationary period and at the end of the year, unless all 200 people in that Community gave the white ball, the person was not allowed to stay. So they really understood sanctification but there's also a side of mercy also. Because like I said, you don't know but for a lot of these people, like I said, they never really repented. It's an emotional experience and a lot of them go right back to where they are.

And I feel bad. I feel bad for every single person that goes back. But it really, when you look in the world today there's never been a tougher time to be a believer than today. It's tough. And you might think, "Well maybe it was tougher in

the days like the Waldenses when they were getting killed ... maybe, but you know what? I think I'd rather have martyrism than have what we live today ... have my mind being tortured by worldliness every day around you. So it could be one way or another, but one thing is certain, **for the Qumran Community and for us, we have to sanctify our life.**

So I want to read you now some of the requirements for the Qumran Community; because it was very interesting: First, like we talked about, their membership was contractual. You'd literally had to sign a contract and it was voluntary. They called themselves *volunteers*. So they did look at themselves, almost like the kibbutz of owning anything. They looked at themselves as a volunteer. They accepted new members only after a long and supervised probationary period. Acceptance had to be unanimous – vote of all members to keep the unity in the camp. Like I said, if even one person black-balled, they were denied.

**Acts 2:39-47** ... I'm not going to go there again ... where it talks about **they had everything in common; and the Holy Spirit was leading them and no one thought of anything as their own; but this is the way they lived.** And there's **no other group** in the first century besides the believers that modeled this way. No other congregation, Judaism or anything. But that the Yahad Community of the Essenes was like that. They had **everything in common**. If something was needed, everything was given. They studied the Scripture a third of every night and they believed it. They were convicted and they acted on it. All those ... and I'm reading now from the actual manual of discipline ... it says:

*All those who freely devote themselves to His truths shall bring all their knowledge, their powers and their possessions into the Community of Elohim that they might purify their knowledge in the truth of Elohim's precepts in order their powers according to His way of perfection; and all their possessions according to His righteous counsel.*

So **it wasn't just physical mammon; it was their knowledge and their powers.** So again, if you were a carpenter you would build the house in the Community before you build your own house. Everything was looked at - Community first; and that was knowledge-based as well as physical-based.

*They shall not depart from any Command of Elohim concerning their tithes. They shall be neither early, nor late, for any of their appointed times. They shall stray neither to the right or to the left of any of the true precepts of Elohim. All those who embrace the Community rule shall enter into the Covenant before Elohim to obey all His Commandments so that they may not abandon Him during the dominion of Belial during the time of the man of sin ... right ... because of fear or terror or affliction.*

So that's important. We also believe there is a man of sin coming, right, the mark of the beast; a world-wide government. They believed the same thing and they say all those who embrace the Community rule shall enter into the Covenant before Elohim to obey all His Commandments so that they may not abandon Him during that time. **Obedience builds your faith.** Obedience makes you stronger and obedience will stop you from that.

*They say, they shall rebuke one another in **truth, humility and love**. Let no man address his companion with anger, or ill temper, or arrogance, or with envy prompted by the spirit of wickedness. Let him not hate him because of his uncircumcised heart but let him rebuke him on the very same day; lest he incur guilt because of him. And furthermore, let no man accuse his companion before the Congregation without having admonished him in the presence of witnesses.*

So again, all being done with love. I think where he says, *let him do it the very same day*, I think of **Ephesians 4:26** *Don't let the sun go down on your wrath*, right? Here are some more of the rules:

*They shall judge in the Community court by an inquiry of the council. If one of them has lied deliberately in matters of property, he shall be excluded from the pure meal of the Congregation for one year; and shall do penance with respect to*

*one quarter of his food.* And this is what we call the works of the law, right? It's not only killing of animals, but it's also penance that comes in here. So if someone lies deliberately, he's excluded from the pure meal of the Congregation; which was important. We know the real pure meal is Passover; it's once a year. But they had a meal like that every day; beside they did keep the Passover, but they had like this meal that they looked at as ... wow, their blessing from Yahweh that His blessing on them every day providing their daily meal to these sanctified believers; the saints, the remnant, the 144,000. And if somebody did something wrong they were excluded from that meal and a quarter of their food.

*Whoever has answered his companion with obstinacy, or has addressed him impatiently going so far as to take no account of the dignity of his fellow by disobeying the order of a brother and scribe before him; he has taken the law in his own hands; therefore, he shall do penance for one year ... he shall do penance for one year if he does that.*

*Whoever has deliberately lied shall do penance for six months. Whoever has deliberately insulted his companion unjustly shall do penance for one year and shall be excluded. Whoever has deliberately deceived his companion by word or deed shall do penance for six months. If he has failed to care for his companion, he shall do penance for three months. But if he has failed to care for the property of the Community, thereby causing its loss, he shall restore it in full.*

Remember I said **the sum is worth more than the individual pieces.** Their mind was on that. **Individually we're nothing; together we're the Community of Yahweh.**

*Whoever has borne malice against his companion unjustly will do penance for six months to a year. And likewise, whoever has taken revenge in any matter whatsoever. Whoever has spoken foolishly ... they said something foolishly ... three months ... you have to do penance. Whoever has interrupted his companion while speaking ... ten days. Whoever has been poorly dressed when drawing his hand from beneath his garment and his nakedness has been seen, he will do penance for thirty days.*

So again, modesty, remember this was only men living here. You're talking about two hundred men and even then there's actually a hard rule that if somebody came and was not properly dressed and their nakedness was able to be seen, they would have to do penance, thirty days.

*Whoever has gone about slandering his companion shall be excluded from the pure meal of the Congregation for one year and shall do penance. But whoever has slandered the Congregation he will be expelled from among them and shall never more return.*

So you can understand why **no one ever** it happened to because **you wouldn't be there unless you were convicted of it.** That's why I say, you might agree with some of these points, disagree ... I'm not agreeing with everything they say, but I am agreeing with their conviction. And I'm **seeing the only way a Community can work is if every single person has the same mind, the mind of Messiah,** if we all have the same **conviction** and the **same belief system.** If not, what's going to happen? You're not going to be there for more than hours or days where you're going to believe one way and some else believes, and that's what's happened. I've seen it happen like that before; and that's why the **conviction** to that way of life means more than any way.

And I've already said we're not a proselytizing Congregation. What I'm doing is I'm making an environment for the way that Yahweh says to and then whoever believes the same way comes. We're not out there trying to force people to change or to come. The people coming are the ones that **believe that way.** They're the ones that contact. It happens every week, every month. I get letters from somebody. *I've been watching your tapes for a year. I've been watching this. I believe the same exact way!* I don't even know who the person is. **They're being led by the Holy Spirit the same way**

**we are; and that's what makes the unity.** Not somebody trying to force you to do something or not to do something. It's got to come from the Holy Spirit.

We have to be **fully convicted to this way of life.** So if they slandered a companion; it's one year. But if they slandered the **Congregation** they're expelled forever, can never come back. And I look at when I brought out about ten years ago, the protocols of an elder and its one page I will serve Yahweh with all my heart, mind, soul, and strength. I will not slander another elder. If there's a problem between, I'll go directly to the person. And I was attacked like that unmercifully. I was attacked like I'm some kind of Hitler for putting together a one page document making **elders uphold their standard as an elder.** And what my wife said to me, "You know something? I think **every believer** should sign something like that."

Because if you look at that one page, it's only what every believer should be doing; but again, the Laodicean doesn't want to hear it. They don't want to hear it. And I write in that document, I actually outlay that **every Congregation is autonomous.** I'm not here over every congregation, right, and lay out my job; my job is to bring the doctrine from Jerusalem, to do the training and set the feasts, that's it. I'm not going in local congregations and telling them how to run their service and how to ... most of the places I don't know what they're doing. I get reports in general, but that's the way it works.

But like I said, there's people, and the ones who attack me the worst aren't even part of our Congregation. I'm wondering what does it matter to you? What does it matter if me and another elder want to make a commitment to each other that we're going to be honest and have integrity and not lie to each other? And you're offended at that? When you're not even in our Congregation and it has nothing to do with you? But that's why I say, the Laodicean that comes out from there.

*Whoever has murmured against the authority of the Community will be expelled and shall not return. But if he's murmured against his companion unjustly, he will do penance for six months.*

So like I said, **even with these stringent rules** there's no record of **anyone ever having to be fully put out of the Congregation,** in 270 years; which means their belief and their conviction. And that's why you might say, "A year of probation ... this and that." But it worked! By doing that they never had to get rid of anybody because everybody there was **convicted of it.** And we have to think that way, the same way today.

**You can't change anyone. You can only change yourself.** And that's the point of it, **we're here to change ourselves, but also we're making an environment conducive to people that believe like us.** So how would you feel at least time if I allowed all kinds of people in that aren't part of our Congregation of belief, totally different, that are not having the same sanctification, modesty? We'd have chaos; which we did some times in Jerusalem. Because we did have an open feast there and we let people come in because it was different circumstances at that time. But it wasn't always pretty when that kind of thing happened.

So people didn't join simply because they disagreed with other religious systems but because **they fully believed in the doctrine and the leadership** of the Community of the Qumran Sect. So it wasn't just like ... ah, they also didn't like the Pharisees or they didn't like the Sadducees ... and they're like, "Hey, there's this group down there. Let's see if we can join them." No, **people that join this group were 100% convicted that what they were doing was true.** This conviction worked out problems; and like I said, kept them together for 270 years; and it only **ended** because they were killed. It wasn't that they disbanded. **There was never an ounce of doubt to their purpose.** They were **truly echad in all things,** like we read in **Acts 39** ... verse 39 through 47. **Truly, they were echad like the first century Congregation.**



And you know in all this study of the history of the Congregation, I've never seen a Congregation like that first one. There's never anything in history of one being exactly like that one; having all things in common and the unity and the miracles with all that. And as we come full circle, that's why **I believe now** Yahweh is building up a Congregation just like the one in the first century. But again, it comes with **surrender to Him and to His Spirit** to be able to do those things.

There was never a doubt and not an ounce of doubt, they were truly echad. Their commitment and loyalty to preparing for the Kingdom **never changed** in 270 years. Even when their prophecies failed, even when different things happened. **Their commitment to the Kingdom of Yahweh did not change** at all. And that's a long time, 270 years, right? That's like going back here until about 1700 almost, 1720. It's a lot of things happened between 1720 and today. So it's a long time. Ezekiel 20 in verse 34 ... Ezekiel 20 in verse 34, he says:

**Ezekiel 20:34-37** *I will bring you out from the people and gather you from the lands in which you are scattered among them with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out. And I will bring you **into the wilderness of the people**, and I will be judging with you there face to face. Just as I was judging your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will be judging you, declares Adonai YAHWEH. And I will cause you to pass under the rod ... right? Ownership ... and I will bring you into the **bond of the covenant**.*

So **this is what the wilderness is all about; it's about Yahweh hand picking 144,000 and one by one taking them in and bringing them into the bond of the covenant as His possession**. The Qumran Sect knew the end-time remnant had to go to the wilderness to purify itself to be part of the Kingdom of Yahweh. They understood one must separate from satan's corrupt system to be sanctified by Yahweh; and **they lived what they believed**.

Last scripture, Luke 14 in verse 25 ... and like I said, it was not only because they thought there was no time left. They actually went thinking there was a hundred years and they still had the same conviction. Luke 14:25 says:

**Luke 14:25-30** *And great crowds came together. And turning, He said to them, If anyone comes to Me and does not love less than Me, father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sister, and beside me, **even his own life**, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not **bear his torture stake** and come after Me, he cannot be My disciple ... Each of us have that torture stake to bear. Each of have things Yahweh put in our life that we have to deal with on a daily basis and it's to be overcomers ... And whoever does not bear his torture stake and come after Me, he cannot be My disciple. For who of you desiring to build a tower does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has the things to finish; that having laid a foundation, and not having strength to finish, all those seeing begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build, and did not have strength to finish ... verse 33:*

**Luke 14:33** *So then every one of you who does not forsake **all his possessions** is not able to be My disciple.*

So **we must put Yahweh and Yahshua before everything in our life. If we're not preparing than we don't believe. Faith without works is dead**. And when we get to the real wilderness and maybe it's a blessing that we're not totally ready for it yet because when we get to the real wilderness, are you prepared, and we've lived in tents, right? So we know what it's like; and it's kind of fun when you do it for a few days or a week, but if you're thinking about it for forty years like the Israelites, it might not be as fun as if you're only doing it for a week.

But are you prepared to live for good in tents without cars. You know there's no cars in the wilderness, no computers, no TV, no cell phones, no air conditioning, no refrigerator, no stoves, no indoor toilets. That's a biggy. Hopefully, the toilet paper; I can do without the indoor toilet, but again, toilet paper can come from anywhere. No refrigerators, no stoves, no indoor toilets, no stores to buy food; only snakes, scorpions, wild animals, hot days, cold nights; **but the Spirit of Yahweh burning in His people**. That's the wilderness. That's the wilderness that His people are going to go through

for several years until the Kingdom comes. We have to prepare now. Like I said, **it doesn't come overnight**. And I tell people, don't get overwhelmed, sometimes you hear a message like this, you're overwhelmed. Just **take it a step at a time. Start with one thing at a time**. You don't have to give up everything at once. Take it a step at a time. Just like a diet. You got to lose one pound before you lose fifty pounds.

And the same way here, write down, make a goal, look in your life and say to yourself, "You know what? Well, maybe I can't get rid of this now because of my job but you know what? I can get off of this app or I can get rid of this thing. Maybe I kind of still need my computer, but you know what? I'm going limit it. I'm only going to put the computer two hours a day, the internet. So I can't get rid of it yet, but I ..." So think about that; everything in steps; and **every step you move forward is a step in the right direction**.

So again, it's a message not of judgment, but encouragement because I know it's ... I know it in my own life, it's ten times harder to get rid of something than to take it. And some of the things are very hard to get rid of because they're needed in our life and for certain things, medical things, job things, helping somebody. But we really have to look because like I said, in the wilderness you won't have any of it. The Qumran Sect they thought they were the last generation that we are living in now. We must follow their footsteps of dedication and discipline and knowledge to be ready to know when the Kingdom is coming. So Yahweh bless, Chag Semeach!