

Weaving the Word

Bird Blood House

May 12, 2019

Welcome to where we're learning to tighten our grip and lighten our grip!



What do You cling to? And, what clings to you? Ever try to clean fine dust off of something charged with static electricity? It just swirls around and defies cleaning. **If we don't cling to Christ, sin will cling to us. We cling for life. Sin clings for death.**



Leprosy is God's comparable for sin, especially hypocrisy. (Is 1:6) **We must un-cling from every leprous thing.** "But, what if I'm not sure it's *spiritual leprosy*?" Well, as my grandma would say, "If you're not sure it's herpes, don't kiss it!"



It's almost Passover, one year before the cross. Jesus just finished ministering in Galilee with 72 junior disciples, while His Twelve were sent throughout Judea to the House of Israel. (Mt 10:6, 23) And they're touching and healing *all* the lepers. And **anywhere they were rejected, they were to shake the dust off their feet as a testimony.** (Mk 6:10-11)



[Saying] The very *dust* of your city which *clings to us* we *wipe off* against you. Nevertheless know *this*, that the *kingdom of God* has *come near you.*' – Luke 10:11 NKJ



And, a horde of healed lepers was in Jerusalem for their cleansing; **each one requiring the freeing of a bird, covered in the blood of another.** This explosion of healings was being tweeted from every rooftop!



All who *hate* me *whisper ...* "An *evil disease*," they say, "*clings to him.* ... Even my own *familiar friend* in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has *lifted up his heel against me.* – Psalm 41:7-9 NKJ



Jesus quotes this Psalm at the Last Supper in regard to Judas. Remember how **Scripture refers to self-serving leaders and rulers as dogs, wolves, and foxes?**¹ Recall why they *lift* their *heel*? **To claim, mark, and defend their territory.** Which is why they are pictured in Scripture as those who "urinate against the wall". (1 Sam 25:34; 1 Kng 14:10; 2 Kng 9:8) But, surprise! **Jesus is our Firewall!**



"For *I,*" says the *LORD,* "will be a *wall of fire* all around Jerusalem, and *I* will be *the glory in her midst.*" – Zechariah 2:5 NKJ

¹ Isaiah 56:10-11; Lam 5:18; Ezek 13:4; Zeph 3:3; Mat 7:6, 15; Luke 13:32



When **Moses established the Tabernacle**, the fiery glory of God's presence descended on it. (Ex 40:34-35) Same thing occurred when the **Temple of Solomon was confirmed** to replace the Tent. (1 Kng 8:10; 2 Chr 7:1-2) And, same thing happened when **the body of Christ was established** to replace the Temple. (Jn 1:33) **This is how the Father confirms His new House.** And, Jesus quickly began gathering *living stones* for the project. And when He met Simon, He said, "You will be called Peter" (which means Rock). (Jn 1:42)



When He returns to Jerusalem, He chases the merchants *and* the sacrificial animals out of the Temple. And answers for His actions, saying:



"Destroy *this temple*, and in *three days* I will *raise it up*." ... But He was speaking of the *temple of His body*. – John 2:18-21 NKJ



Critics not only miss the point, they cry out "Contradiction!" John says Jesus cleansed the Temple at the beginning; whereas, Matthew, Mark, and Luke all say He cleansed it three years later. Well, *everyone's* wrong. **He never cleansed it. He replaced it.** Still, the Temple accounts don't match up. 'Cause **He did it twice.**

But, in order to harmonize any of the Gospel stories, **we must know Jesus' motives;** and to know those, **we must know Jesus' Bible.**

It is the *glory of God* to *conceal a matter*; [He conceals the *solution*; we conceal the *problem*. We conceal to *avoid the battle*; He conceals to help us *overcome*] to search out a matter is the *glory of kings*. – Proverbs 25:2 NIV

Oh-ho! So, we're off the hook! Not so fast there your highness.

[Jesus Christ] ... the *ruler* over the **kings** of the earth. To Him who *loved us* and *washed us* from our sins in His own blood, and has *made us kings* and **priests** to His God and Father – Revelation 1:5b-6 NKJ

If you were God, where would you hide things in the Bible? In the best hiding places! The genealogies. The Levitical laws. And, *especially* the leprosy ones. Who wants to touch those?!

God explains in Leviticus (13-4) how a priest deals with leprosy in people and houses. Then, He says His people (His house) are full of leprosy. So, He sends His own Son to deal with His house.

Have you ever had mold you couldn't get rid of? Well, you've had House leprosy!

And it required the same bird procedure.

Let's read one of the most *unreadable passages* in Leviticus; *and* as I read, I want you to watch for Jesus to jump out of hiding.

And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying: “When ... **I put the leprous plague in a house** [Jesus said, “If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin” (Jn 15:22)] ... and **he who owns the house** [When Jesus was twelve, “they found him in the temple ... ‘Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?’” (Lk 2:46, 49)] **comes and tells the priest** [“Even though Jesus was God’s Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. In this way, God qualified him as a perfect High Priest” (Heb 5:9-10)], saying, ‘**It seems to me that there is some plague in the house,**’ [“Stop making My Father’s house a marketplace!” (Jn 2:16)] then [like the first time; when, “making a whip of cords, Jesus drove them all out” (Jn 2:15)] **the priest shall command that they empty the house, before the priest goes into it to examine the plague,** [“And he shouted at the merchants, ‘Get these things out of here!’” (Jn 2:16)] ... and **afterward the priest shall go in to examine the house** [Three years later, “Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything” (Mk 11:11)]. And **he shall examine the plague** [“It is written, ‘My house shall be a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a den of robbers.” (Lk 19:46)]; and indeed **if the plague is on the walls of the house** [“Her priests have ... profaned ... Her princes ... are like wolves ... her prophets have daubed (smeared) them with untempered mortar, (taphel: foolishness; falsehoods; slimy plaster)” (Ezek 22:26-28)] with **ingrained streaks, greenish [yĕraqraq: pale green; greenish-yellow; yellowness] or reddish, which appear to be deep in the wall,** [coincidentally, those are the colors of the streaks left by the “heel-lifters,”] then **the priest shall go out of the house** [“Jesus went out and departed from the temple,” four days before the cross (Mt 24:1)], to **the door of the house** [“I am the door” (Jn 10:9)], and **shut up the house seven days** [Four days till the cross; three more till He appears and ascends into the skies over Jerusalem]. And **the priest shall come again on the seventh day and look** [“When the disciples were together, with the doors locked ... Jesus came” (Jn 20:19)]; and indeed if the plague has spread on the walls of the house, **then the priest shall command that they take away the stones in which is the plague, and they shall cast them into an unclean place outside the city.** [Seven days earlier: “As he came out of the temple ... Jesus said ... “There will not be left here one stone upon another” (Mk 13:1-2)] **And he shall cause the house to be scraped inside, all around** [“Your enemies will ... level you ... to the ground” (Lk 19:43-44)], and **the dust that they scrape off they shall pour out in an unclean place outside the city** [“And he led them out as far as Bethany, {where He ate His second-to-last supper at Simon the Lepers (Mk 14:3) near Jerusalem’s massive graveyard} ... and was carried up into heaven,” (Lk 24:50-51) “and a cloud hid him from their sight.” (Acts 1:9) “The clouds are the dust of His feet. ... and the rocks are thrown down by Him” (Nah 1:3, 6)]. Then **they shall take other stones and put them in the place of those stones** [“And on this rock I will build my church,” (Mt 16:18) “The wall ... had twelve foundations ... the twelve apostles” (Rev 21:14); “Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple” (Eph 2:20-21); “You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house” (1 Pet 2:4-5)], and **he shall take other mortar** [“In him all things hold together” (Col 1:17-18)] and **plaster the house** [“He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,” “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool” (Is 61:10, 1:18)]. – Lev 14:33-42 NKJ



We’re made of dust; and to dust we return. But, we can fly away home, if we’ve been cleansed and set free by His blood. But, **we must cling to Christ or we’ll cling to the dust;** because, **the dust clings to us; and, we can’t shake it off on our own.** We’re released from the dust when our trust is in Him. **It’s determined by what we cling to and what we let go of.**

If you *cling* to your life, you will lose it, and if you *let your life go*, you will save it. – Luke 17:33 NLT

Refusing to accept God's way, they *cling* to their own way of *getting right* with God ... – Rom 10:3 NLT

You *disregard* God's commandment but *cling* to human tradition. – Mark 7:8 NAB

[*Observe*] the law that Moses ... commanded you, to *love* the Lord your God ... and to *cling* to him and to *serve* him with *all your heart* and with *all your soul*. – Joshua 22:5b ESV

Let us also *lay aside* every *weight*, and *sin* which *clings* so *closely* ... – Hebrews 12:1 RSV

That is *why* we have a *great High Priest* who has gone to heaven ... Let us *cling* to him and *never stop trusting* him. – Hebrews 4:14 NLT

Cling to Him, for He is your life – Deuteronomy 30:20b NKJ

Cling tightly to your faith in Christ, and *always keep* your conscience clear. For some people have *deliberately violated* their consciences; as a result, their faith has been *shipwrecked*. – 1 Tim 1:19 NLT

Premeditated sin makes us guilty of two crimes: the offense itself, and trying to pull a fast one on the Lord of our life. “As a cage is full of birds, so their houses are full of deceit.” (Jer 5:27 NKJ)



Premeditated sin mocks the price Jesus paid to cleanse our sin, and set us free. If you were adrift at sea, would you ever think, “I’ll just let go of my life ring for a little bit. You know, just have some fun sinking down – without drowning, of course ... hopefully. Then I’ll return to my life preserver.”

Let love be without hypocrisy. [Don’t think what you conceal only hurts you] Abhor what is evil. *Cling* to what is good. [Which requires letting go of what is bad. The more sincere our faith, the more we love what He loves, and hate what He hates. Love hates that which brings harm, and loves that which brings healing. So] Be kindly affectionate to one another ... – Romans 12:9-11 NKJ

Scripture often depicts this world as a raging sea. And, Psalm 44 was written by the relatives of the priests who rebelled against Moses; and the ground opened up and swallowed them! (Num 26:9-10)

We have *sunk down* to the dust; our bodies *cling* to the ground. *Rise up! Help us! Redeem us* because of your faithful love. – Psalm 44:25-26 CSV

My soul *clings* to the dust; give me life according to your word! ... *strengthen* me according to your word! ... I have *chosen* the way of *faithfulness* ... I *cling* to your testimonies, O Lord; – Psalm 119:25-31 ESV

I will *walk* within my house with a *perfect heart*. I will set *nothing wicked* before my eyes; ... It shall *not cling* to me. A *perverse heart* shall *depart* from me; – Psalm 101:2b-4a NKJ

For You *have* been my help, and in the *shadow* of Your wings I *sing* for joy. My soul *clings* to You; – Psalm 63:7-8a NAS

What’ll it be? **We can cling in trust or be clung in dust.** So, get a grip and *let’s fly!*