WHAT THE GENUINE MUST BE AWARE OF AS FATHER CHASTISES

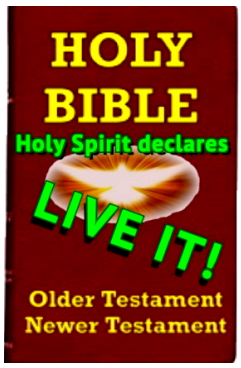
10/13/25 Prophetic Nugget

"When Your judgments are executed, people learn righteousness" **(Isaiah 26:9).**

The *Genuine View* The Older Testament As Foundational

So We Will Not Desire Evil As They Did

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,



In previous Nuggets we've been insisting that on your faith pilgrimage to your salvation, **that the *genuinely* born again absolutely trust in the authority of Scripture as the sole source to your faith practices.** Your commitment is vital, not only because of your personal faith practices but also when you join together in fellowship with others. Nominal Christians are joined by theologically contrived creeds and religious practices and social programs. But the Bible firmly attests this to be true:

- the *genuine* are united by the rule of our Lord Jesus as their only Head;
- they are united by mutually applying our Lord's commands as a sign of their love for Him;
- the Holy Spirit brings together the *genuine* and combines their various spiritual gifts to function as one body to mutually accomplish our heavenly Father's purposes.

Even though these biblical truths are foreign to the nominal Christian, these are the way of life which God's Word commands the *genuine* so that we unwaveringly live as our **Lord's redemptive ambassadors doing our Father's will.** Remember, the *genuinely* born again are at war against a demonic enemy. And like the military that joins diverse people together for a common purpose, the Holy Spirit joins the *genuine* together as a fellowship family to fulfill our heavenly Father's purposes. Both the mature and immature must abide together, growing in fulfilling this mutual purpose.

"'Whoever trusts in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who trusted in Him were to receive" (John 7:38-39).

Keep in mind there was no Newer Testament to guide our Lord's earliest followers. In the above declaration, our Lord Jesus is pointing to the criteria for becoming His follower and our Father's child that are found in the Older Testament, the Scripture to which Jesus was referring. First, everything an unbeliever needs to know in order to become *genuinely* born again is found in the Older Testament. Also, the Older Testament contains real life examples to guide the way of life of the *genuine*. Just like the military, where there is criteria for entrance into it and principles to guide the personnel, the *genuine* find these foundations originating in the Older Testament. Not only are there commands in the Older Testament that apply to the *genuine*, there are also examples to help us refrain from sinning.

"For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:20).

"I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law" (Romans 7:7).

"So that the law has become our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (Galatians 3:24).

Moses stated concerning God's gracious instruction, His law, *"And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?"* (Deuteronomy 4:8). We want to provide you an abbreviated insight into God's law as our earliest forefathers in the faith understood it: The Ceremonial Law prescribed the sacrificial rites and ceremonies of worship. Ceremonial law was fulfilled when Lord Jesus came ratifying the New Covenant. There's also Moral Law to guide human conduct and is binding until the end of time. (The 10 commandments are an example.)

The *genuine* obediently keep the moral laws of the Older Testament because they love Who gave them. The Newer Testament adds 1,050 commands to the Older Testament as a way of life for those who love and serve Jesus a their Lord and Savior. God's commands prescribe a righteous way of living for the *genuine*. Keeping His commands won't save us, but they are absolutely necessary to guide us into righteous living by His Spirit. And to live this way you must know when you violate God's way of righteousness through sin. This is why we're told in the Newer Testament that *"through the law comes knowledge of sin."* What is sin? *"Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness"* (1John 3:4). Without the law of God that's in both the Older and Newer Testaments, you can't know when you offend Him through sin. This is why the *genuine* out of love for our Lord Jesus are steadfast in applying His commands.

"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.
Rather fear Him Who can destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28).

There's a necessary fear of violating God's law because He gave them to us to impart wisdom and instruction: *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction"* (Proverbs 1:7). Holy and reverent fear is a part of our true devotion to Him, and combined with love and trust reveals the *genuine's* appreciation for how much greater our God is than we are. This awesome regard reinforces our need to refrain from sin, and produces repentance when we do: *"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God"* (2Corinthians 7:1).

"Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did"
(1Corinthians 10:6).

In the Older Testament are examples for the *genuine* to reflect on to gain wisdom to guide their own lives. In 1Corinthians 10:4-12 Paul explicitly warns how potentially like the self-willed, rebellious Israelites *we* can be if we give way to evil desires as they did:

"And all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. But with most of them God was not pleased, for they were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things became examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become ***idolaters*** *as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." Nor let us commit* ***sexual immorality*** *as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. Nor let us* ***not put Christ to the test****, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor* ***grumble****, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now all these things happened to them as examples, but they were written for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let he who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."*

You probably agree that sexual immorality, grumbling, or putting Christ to the test through disbelief are actions you need to avoid. But are you an **idolater**? Idolatry has been most often connected with worshiping saints or their images. But there's also **hero worship** in which you excessively admire certain people. (Many clergy in nominal Christianity are idolized to the extent that congregants don't even confirm in Scripture what's spoken from the pulpit (Acts 17:11).) We can also idolize ourselves. In this Humanist-dominated society, **personal self-esteem** is heralded. And through social media, people can create such a positive impression of themselves that **others idolize them**. The *genuine* need to be cautious about all of these various idolatries. **HUMILITY** is our Lord's safeguard for you!

Foundational both for conversion and righteous living is the Older Testament. It reveals the consequences for people who thought they were acceptable to our Lord but in reality weren't. Don't let this be you. Humbly live as our Lord's redemptive ambassador through His Spirit, and don't ever think too little of yourself. Please be encouraged by the pelican story which Mike recounts in our May 2002 Newsletter: ***Does the Lord See You Determined for Him?***