# God's Point

of

No Return!

Rev. Charles E. Darnell, PhD



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Edited with the assistance of Teresa Spurling (my wife), PhD, NBCT

Published by
VisionQuest Duŏ(ishing
Campbellsville, Kentucky 42718-7416



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The Publication Manual presents explicit style requirements but acknowledges that alternatives are sometimes necessary; authors should balance the rules of the Publication Manual with good judgment. Preface: p. xx.

# Introduction

Once again, my God is sending me information to give to everyone as a warning message for them to know and think about. Let's begin with a statement made by King Solomon, the son of King David. Turn with me to Ecclesiastes 1:9. Here are the words of King Solomon, What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. (ESV) With that statement made, as it is stated, can we ask several questions? Does this mean that everything that is going on around the world has happened previously? Does this indicate that mankind continues to sin and rebel against God and has since the fall from grace in the Garden of Eden? Can these actions be a duality between individuals and nations? Can we find examples of current situations in previously recorded history? Can this history be found in the Bible? Is this something to do with prophecy? Can a particular prophecy also have a duality between something of the past and something for the future? Can there be a repentance or wrath situation tied to any of these prophecies? Finally, can there be a point of no return, or red line that is not to be crossed, that brings on God's wrath?

These are tough questions and we seem to be in perilous times where there is much turmoil occurring around the world. We see trouble in the Middle East, trouble in Ukraine and Russia. Europe and the United States are experiencing protests, near riots, inflation and different mindsets between political parties. What can we learn from history that might, and I do mean just might, give mankind some insight toward man himself and also a view of nations? Let's look at prophecy to see if God set a point of no return for nations and also mankind. As a watchman, I now turn to the Bible to attempt to find some answers and also some warnings of what the future may hold in store for mankind if they do not change their ways and actions.

## A Point of No Return

Can a person, or a nation, reach a point in their rebellion against God that He lets them go to their own destruction, abandoning them to an eternity in hell? Oh, I think so and God's Word clearly states this for both the individual and the nations. Let's review something that I don't believe many people have looked at or even considered. God established seven feast days across every given year. There are three feast celebrations in the Spring, one in early Summer and three celebrations in the Fall. Would you believe that these feasts have to do with several things along the pathway of man's journey upon the Earth? Consider these three animals and who they metaphorically represent: serpent, Lamb and Lion. Every person who has ever heard any portion of the Word of God should understand who is represented by each of these animals. If you need help with an answer consider that Satan (Lucifer) is represented by the serpent. Jesus (Yeshua), as the Lamb of God, at the First Coming of Christ to the Earth and the Lion, as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, at the Second Advent of Christ. Satan is the adversary of mankind through all ages from the creation to the Kingdom of God. By God's grace, He sent to mankind a means to overcome the temptations and sinful nature of Satan's influence. That was the First Advent of Christ as the Lamb of God. By God's Holy love for His creation, He sent His Son to fulfill prophecy and die for our sins and have atonement through the shed blood of Christ as payment for mankind's ungodly rebellion. The Second Advent of Christ will usher in the One Thousand year Kingdom of God with Yeshua as King of kings and Lord of lords.

There is another teaching hidden within these seven feast days. First, consider the order of these feast:

Passover

Feast of Unleavened Bread

Firstfruits

Pentecost

**Trumpets** 

Day of Atonement

Feast of Tabernacles

These feasts must be celebrated in their order, as given by God. In following my guideline of the information that God sends to me, I am placing the entire 23rd chapter of Leviticus here for your reading. Leviticus 23 established the order of feasts as given to Moses in the wilderness. <sup>1</sup> The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, These are the appointed feasts of the Lord that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed feasts.

#### The Sabbath

<sup>3</sup> "Six days shall work be done, but on <u>the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest</u>, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to the Lord in all your dwelling places.

### The Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread

<sup>4</sup> "These are the appointed feasts of the Lord, the holy convocations, which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them. <sup>5</sup> In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight, is the Lord's Passover. <sup>6</sup> And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. <sup>7</sup> On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. <sup>8</sup> But you shall present a food offering to the Lord for seven days. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work."

#### The Feast of Firstfruits

<sup>9</sup> And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>10</sup> "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you and reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the firstfruits of your

harvest to the priest, <sup>11</sup> and he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, so that you may be accepted. On the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. <sup>12</sup> And on the day when you wave the sheaf, you shall offer a male lamb a year old without blemish as a burnt offering to the Lord. <sup>13</sup> And the grain offering with it shall be two tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, a food offering to the Lord with a pleasing aroma, and the drink offering with it shall be of wine, a fourth of a hin. <sup>14</sup> And you shall eat neither bread nor grain parched or fresh until this same day, until you have brought the offering of your God: it is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

#### The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)

15 "You shall count seven full weeks from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering. 16 You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you shall present a grain offering of new grain to the Lord. 17 You shall bring from your dwelling places two loaves of bread to be waved, made of two tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour, and they shall be baked with leaven, as firstfruits to the Lord. 18 And you shall present with the bread seven lambs a year old without blemish, and one bull from the herd and two rams. They shall be a burnt offering to the Lord, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the Lord. 19 And you shall offer one male goat for a sin offering, and two male lambs a year old as a sacrifice of peace offerings. 20 And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits as a wave offering before the Lord, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to the Lord for the priest. 21 And you shall make proclamation on the same day. You shall hold a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work. It is a statute forever in all your dwelling places throughout your generations.

<sup>22</sup> "And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God."

### The Feast of Trumpets

<sup>23</sup> And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>24</sup> "<u>Speak to the people of Israel</u>, saying, In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of solemn rest, a memorial proclaimed with blast of trumpets, a holy convocation. <sup>25</sup> You shall not do any ordinary work, and you shall present a food offering to the Lord."

## The Day of Atonement

<sup>26</sup> And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>27</sup> "Now on the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be for you a time of holy convocation, and you shall afflict yourselves and present a food offering to the Lord. <sup>28</sup> And you shall not do any work on that very day, for it is a Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the Lord your God. <sup>29</sup> For whoever is not afflicted on that very day shall be cut off from his people. <sup>30</sup> And whoever does any work on that very day, that person I will destroy from among his people. <sup>31</sup> You shall not do any work. <u>It is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwelling places</u>. <sup>32</sup> It shall be to you a Sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict yourselves. On the ninth day of the month beginning at evening, from evening to evening shall you keep your Sabbath."

#### The Feast of Booths (Tabernacles)

<sup>33</sup> And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>34</sup> "<u>Speak to the people of Israel</u>, saying, On the fifteenth day of this seventh month and for seven days is the Feast of Booths to the Lord. <sup>35</sup> On the first day shall be a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. <sup>36</sup> For seven days you shall present food offerings to the Lord. On the eighth day you shall hold a holy convocation and present a food offering to the Lord. It is a solemn assembly; you shall not do any ordinary work.

<sup>37</sup> "These are the appointed feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim as times of holy convocation, for presenting to the Lord food offerings, burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings, each on its proper day, <sup>38</sup> besides the Lord's Sabbaths and besides your gifts and

besides all your vow offerings and besides all your freewill offerings, which you give to the Lord.

<sup>39</sup> "On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the produce of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of the Lord seven days. On the first day shall be a solemn rest, and on the eighth day shall be a solemn rest. <sup>40</sup> And you shall take on the first day the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days. <sup>41</sup> You shall celebrate it as a feast to the Lord for seven days in the year. It is a statute forever throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month. <sup>42</sup> You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All native Israelites shall dwell in booths, <sup>43</sup> that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."

<sup>44</sup> Thus Moses declared to the people of Israel the appointed feasts of the Lord. (ESV)

Now, I know up front that there are those who will state that they are not Jewish and these feasts, especially the sacrifice requirements, are not to be carried over to the teachings of the New Testament. I agree with that partially. The sacrifice requirements for burnt offerings, etc. are fulfilled by the sacrifice of Christ Himself. Christ is our sin offering! However, other parts of these rules are very much to be followed in today's society. It just happens that most New Testament believers do not accept that much of the Old Testament applies to them. In so doing, they do not hold the examples of many of the stories from the Old Testament.

Let's make one more view of these appointed feast days of our God. There is still one more hidden message that is associated with these feast days.

Passover is a | Warning Jesus' First Advent, as the Lamb of God Feast of Unleavened Bread is a | Sacrifice God's free gift to all mankind | Resurrection The Atonement by the Blood of Christ

Pentecost is | The Church Age | Grace of God - The period of time we are currently in

Trumpets is the | Rapture Christ's Second Advent
Day of Atonement represents the | Tribulation Jesus as the Lion of Judah
Feast of Tabernacles represents the | Millennium King of kings and Lord of lords

God has had me to search His Word for over forty years, and during that time I've had to take some very serious views of my upbringing and the statements made as church doctrine. Some of this now appears in my writings as a bold statement that many people are "Following a counterfeit religion!" I know that there are many who have stopped reading my work for this very reason. However, if you would take the time to search out the truth, you would also come to the conclusion that the doctrine you are following under the leadership of your denomination is not in accordance to the teachings of Yeshua in God's Holy Word. Just as an example, let's take the feast days that we are currently viewing. Didn't Yeshua observe the Father's feast days? If you tell me no, you really need to read your Bible a lot more. Otherwise, my question is this: If Jesus followed these ordained feast days, why don't you? Are you starting to understand my words to you and the warnings that I have been writing for well over a year? Jesus, the Christ, or by His Hebrew name, Yeshua, made a strong teaching in the Olivet Discord when He said in Matthew 24:4-5. 4 And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. 5 For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. (ESV) We are currently in a political contest leading to the election for our President. How many lies have already been told? Doesn't these words of Christ apply completely and absolutely toward this election? Didn't our framing fathers of our Constitution rely heavily upon our God given Judo-Christian morals and values? Why is there so much now being stated over laws, democracy and freedoms?

For the moment, let's look at Leviticus 23 for a few more details. Notice in verses 2, 10, 24, and 31 the instruction: "Speak to the people of Israel". Recall that we are viewing things God is telling Moses to establish rules, requirements and how the covenant between God and the Hebrews are to be conducted. Notice in this phrase that Moses is to speak to the people of Israel. Strange, why not call them Hebrews? Remember, the Hebrew people have been in Egypt for over 300 years and most of the teachings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob have been forgotten. In fact, I doubt if these Hebrew people even remember that God changed Jacob's name to Israel and that they are the descendants of Israel. But, and at the same time, there are many other people who are descendants of this same Israel. In my studies, I have written three books on the mystery surrounding the Prophet Jeremiah. Why is it that the book of Jeremiah doesn't really close with the fulfillment of the six appointed tasks that Jeremiah was to complete. God instructed Jeremiah to perform six things. Jeremiah 1:10, 10 See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant." (ESV) I'll ask two questions. First, where is the completion of the building and the planting Jeremiah was to complete? We should all know that if God gives you an assignment, that assignment is to be completed prior to your death. That leads to the second question. Where is the record of Jeremiah's death? The ending of the book of Jeremiah is very strange. Chapter 51 ends with the statement that the end of Jeremiah's writing is here. Yet, there is another whole chapter that doesn't really have anything to do with Jeremiah. Why?

Many days of fact finding have taken place to find the answers to those two questions. Most ministers, and professors of Bible studies, will state that Herbert Armstrong was wrong in his teaching that the two sons of Joseph are the peoples of Great Britain (Ephraim) and America (Manasseh). Recall that God gave the House of Israel (the ten lost tribes) a divorce and scattered them in an exile under Assyria. Jeremiah 3:8, 8 Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also. (NKJV) To this day, those ten lost tribes have not been rejoined to the House of Judah. But, they will be rejoined to the House of Judah and God knows where all the descendants are located. Ezekiel 37:15-23. 15 The word of the Lord came to me: 16 "Son of man, take a stick and write on it, 'For Judah, and the people of Israel associated with him'; then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with him.' 17 And join them one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand. 18 And when your people say to you, 'Will you not tell us what you mean by these?' 19 say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am about to take the stick of Joseph (that is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with him. And I will join with it the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, that they may be one in my hand. <sup>20</sup> When the sticks on which you write are in your hand before their eyes, 21 then say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land. 22 And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms. 23 They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. But I will save them from all the backslidings in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (ESV) Therefore, God instructed Moses to speak to the people of Israel, that means all the descendants of the House of Israel, scattered throughout the Earth, along with the descendants of the House of Judah. To all those who claim to be believers that do not understand that there are two different houses that constitute the complete House of Israel (a nation), please go back to your Bible and read once again the Old Testament.

I'm being bold and speaking bold. Jesus even told His disciples in the last days to be bold. Look at 2nd Timothy 4:1-5 for an illustration. <sup>1</sup> I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who

in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. <sup>5</sup> As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (ESV) Well, here is another statement. Most ministers will not dare touch these subjects. They are so ingrained into the minds of modern day believers that they are not taught, nor even mentioned, because the teachers and ministers of today's crop of preachers are so afraid of losing monetarily (their income source) by membership rejection, decline in the funds in the offering plate or some other loss of finance, that they will not teach the truth. My ministry, on the other hand, is not dependent upon church membership or an offering plate to meet my needs. My God has shown me to trust and He will bless. In fact, My God desires for everyone to be prosperous in their work and their finances.

The second phase that is underlined is recorded in verses 14, 21, 31 and 41 and states: "It is a statute forever throughout your generations". Please explain when humans stopped having generations? If God made this a statute that remains valid forever, why are we not being obedient to God's instructions? Once again, are you beginning to see why I say that most people, who call themselves believers, are following a false or counterfeit religion? They are not following what God's Word says. The council meeting officiated by Constantine in 324 CE changed so much toward Christianity. One thing that was changed was the reassignment of the Sabbath from Friday at sunset to Saturday at sunset, to the day of the sun, called Sunday. Recall that Constantine was a sun god worshiper. He was happy to do this for the Pope at that time. Another thing that was changed was the day (assigned by man and not God) for the death of Christ. Christ's death would no longer be honored and followed as Passover, but instead would now be a movable day created by men. How did you get the pagan fertility practices in a Christian holy day? Oh, so the baby chicks and baby rabbits are not representative of fertility practices? Oh, how misled you are! Christmas is no better! The 25th day of December is not the birthday of Jesus. This date is actually a pagan holiday to have a feast to celebrate the shortest day of the year, and that the power of the sun would soon be returning.

That only begins to explain why I say what I say. Mankind has been in rebellion against God ever since the expelling of man from the Garden of Eden. It wasn't long after that incident that man decided to build a tower to reach heaven, just to show what they could do from their own mindset. Because of this action, God gave them different languages to mix them up so they couldn't all come together as just one people with just one language. This can be found in Genesis chapter 11. For the moment, let's jump over to the book of Romans in the New Testament and see what Paul tells to the Romans. Please look at Romans chapter 1. We see, in chapter 1, both sides of mankind's intent. In verses 16 and 17, we see one side and Paul explaining the power of the Gospel. <sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." (ESV) I desire to make two quick notes about this passage. First, notice the underlined simple statement that Paul makes. It is the power of the Gospel, through God, to grant salvation to everyone who believes in His Son, Yeshua! The second note is just after this portion of verse 16, and just prior to verse 17, that we find the other item to note. Salvation was granted to the Jew first and then to the Greek (Gentile or non-Jewish). Wake up folks! Jesus, the person you claim to be following in your religion, was born a Jew, in the land of the Jews. He was baptized in the Jordon River of the Jews. He celebrated all Jewish feasts, and He was crucified by the Jews in the major city of the Jews and He was buried in a tomb in the land of the Jews. He arose from that grave, in the land of the Jews, three days later, and after spending another 40 days in the land of the Jews ascended from

the land of the Jews into heaven. How can you miss the point that all of Christendom has a tie point relationship to the Jews? Everything written in God's Holy Word, that has anything to do with Israel, also has to do with you. You cannot get away from, or around, that point! PERIOD!

We were viewing a statement made by Paul to the Romans. There is another side to Paul's writings. Please look at verses 18-32. I know that is a lengthy passage, but there is a tremendous amount of truth revealed in these verses. Romans 1:18-32, <sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. (Paganism)

<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; <sup>27</sup> and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. (**LGBTQ**)

<sup>28</sup> And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. <sup>29</sup> They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder (abortions), strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil (transgender mutilation of children), disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup> Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. (ESV) Here is one quick question pertaining to verse 32 in this passage. Can you see the lying and deception in the statements made in the campaign rhetoric that is being spoken during this presidential election? Look at the statements pertaining to abortion rights and the LGBTQ community.

These verses from Romans are just one of many places where we can find God's answer to the original question: "Is there a point of no return, or a red line, that is not to be crossed"? If such is crossed is there an absolute punishment of God's wrath that will be administered? Does this wrath mean the same for individuals and for nations? We need to go back to the Old Testament to find information that provides an example of God's dealings with mankind's rebellion against Him! This would also be a reply to King Solomon's statement that there is nothing new under the sun.

Just to illustrate God's love, but at the same time show God's anger against wickedness, look at Genesis 6:1-8. <sup>1</sup> When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, <sup>2</sup> the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. <sup>3</sup> Then the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." <sup>4</sup> The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. <sup>6</sup> And the Lord was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. <sup>7</sup> So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created"

from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. (ESV) Noah, and his family became the first remnant of God. God took the population of the entire earth and reduced it down to only eight people. Doesn't that begin to illustrate for you that God will not put up with man's foolishness and wicked ways forever? But we must go further in our journey to see what else we can learn about God's love for His creation and, at the same time, God's detesting of disobedience and His wrath.

We are looking for answers and we have two sides to our question. Our number one, most important question is: "Does God have a point or no return, or a red line, that is not to be crossed? We then take our question down a step. Does God have a different set of rules for nations and individuals? As a watchman, I have taken God's input and written over 40 books or booklets and placed them on my website. I wrote a booklet concerning the 17 things that God wants you to understand. Those 17 items are the Ten Commandments and the seven annual feasts ordained by God. How many have even read that short booklet? I have no idea, but I will tell you this, Yeshua tells the rich young man to obey the Commandments. Mark 10:17-19. 17 And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.' " (ESV) He tells the Pharisees that they are the children of Satan (the devil) John 8:39-47. 39 They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, 40 but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. 41 You are doing the works your father did." They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God." 42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. 43 Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. 46 Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? 47 Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God." (ESV) He tells the people in the sermon on the mount the following in Mattrew 7:12-14. 12 "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. (ESV) In Luke 13:23-30 there is a person who comes to Yeshua and asked Him a simple question: "Lord, are there few who are saved?" Here is the question and Yeshua's reply. <sup>23</sup> Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?" And He said to them, <sup>24</sup> "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup> When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,' <sup>26</sup> then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' <sup>27</sup> But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' <sup>28</sup> There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. <sup>29</sup> They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup> And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last." (NKJV)

There truly appears to be a simple answer which would go along with Yeshua's statement in John 14:5-7. <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." (ESV) It is left up to man to decide where he will spend eternity. By mankind's own decision, they will either spend eternity in heaven or in hell.

I could go through a list of the books and booklets that God has assigned to me to write. There is one booklet that explains the folly of Easter and the pagan parts of Christmas. There is a book with the title, "We Are Marching to Hell by Our Own Choice". There is a booklet that reviews the "General Assembly and the Church of the First Born". Those two are mankind's church denominations and the church in the Kingdom of Heaven. I have attempted to provide honest teaching in the full capacity of God's Word. God instructed me a long time ago to always place the supporting text from the Bible to all of my statements that are directly related to the Bible. I do this in blue italicized font after all references because most people will not go and get their Bible from wherever they have placed it to see if I am correct or not on the statement made and if it follows the text of the Bible?

We are still on our journey to find an answer concerning a point of no return. We could, most likely, use the story of Sodom and Gomorrah as one illustration that there is a point of no return and God's wrath will fall upon a particular place or people. Genesis 19 provides the story of Sodom and Gomorrah. The book of Judges has an interesting story pertaining to the Tribe of Benjamin. We find this story in chapters 19-21 of Judges. We see, in Chapter 19, verse 22, an indication of what may have been the reason for God to allow the action between the Tribe of Benjamin and the other eleven tribes. Judges 19:22-30, <sup>22</sup> As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city, perverted men, surrounded the house and beat on the door. They spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, "Bring out the man who came to your house, that we may know him carnally!" 23 But the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my brethren! I beg you, do not act so wickedly! Seeing this man has come into my house, do not commit this outrage. 24 Look, here is my virgin daughter and the man's concubine; let me bring them out now. Humble them, and do with them as you please; but to this man do not do such a vile thing!" 25 But the men would not heed him. So the man took his concubine and brought her out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until morning; and when the day began to break, they let her go. <sup>26</sup> Then the woman came as the day was dawning, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her master was, till it was light.

<sup>27</sup> When her master arose in the morning, and opened the doors of the house and went out to go his way, there was his concubine, fallen at the door of the house with her hands on the threshold. <sup>28</sup> And he said to her, "Get up and let us be going." But there was no answer. So the man lifted her onto the donkey; and the man got up and went to his place.

who saw it said, "No such deed has been done or seen from the day that the children of Israel came up from the land of Egypt until this day. Consider it, confer, and speak up!" (NKJV) That presents the story and it is almost as bad as the story of Sodom and Gomorrah. However, the outcome is a little different. In the story of Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah, the cities of the plain are destroyed and only four people were allowed to leave the city: Lot, his wife and the two daughters. In this story in Judges we see the possible cause in Chapter 19. In Chapter 20, we find that 40,000 fighters from the tribes of Israel had fallen and 25,000 from the Tribe of Benjamin had fallen, leaving a remnant of only 600 males in the Tribe of Benjamin. Chapter 21 gives us the answer of how the Tribe of Benjamin is rebuilt and not cut off completely from the other tribes of Israel. There is a parallel statement from that time to today in Judges 21:25. <sup>25</sup> In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. (ESV)

We're going to trust the Bible to answer the question, "Is there a point of no return with God"? I'm going to write out a thought to attempt to make it a visual presentation. You are on a highway traveling to wherever the highway leads, and you've been traveling for an hour and have not seen an exit, an off-ramp or even one of those u-turn arounds for emergency vehicles. You have started to wonder: Is there a point where there are no more exits on the road that you are traveling upon? No more off-ramps, no way to get off of the road you're on. You can't turn around and get on the other half of the road going in the opposite direction. That's when you read the sign that says "Destruction Straight Ahead". That's when it hits you, there are no off-ramps. You've passed the last one!

Oh boy! That's a hard one to face! I said I would use the text of the Bible to support my statements. Okay, let's begin in the Old Testament, with the nation of Judah, around 600 years before the time of Christ. I'm going to start with Ezekiel 14:1-11. These verses deal with the individual who inquires of the Lord through the Lord's prophet. <sup>1</sup> Now some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me. <sup>2</sup> And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, <sup>3</sup> "Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity. Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them? <sup>4</sup> Therefore speak to them, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I the Lord will answer him who comes, according to the multitude of his idols, <sup>5</sup> that I may seize the house of Israel by their heart, because they are all estranged from Me by their idols."

<sup>6</sup> "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Repent, turn away from your idols, and turn your faces away from all your abominations. <sup>7</sup> For anyone of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who separates himself from Me and sets up his idols in his heart and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, then comes to a prophet to inquire of him concerning Me, I the Lord will answer him by Myself. 8 I will set My face against that man and make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of My people. Then you shall know that <u>I am the Lord.</u> <sup>9</sup> And if the prophet is induced to speak anything, I the Lord have induced that prophet, and I will stretch out My hand against him and destroy him from among My people Israel. <sup>10</sup> And they shall bear their iniquity; the punishment of the prophet shall be the same as the punishment of the one who inquired, 11 that the house of Israel may no longer stray from Me, nor be profaned anymore with all their transgressions, but that they may be My people and I may be their God," says the Lord God.'" (NKJV) That should give us one clue pertaining to an individual. But, what about a nation. Turn to verses 12-14. 12 The word of the Lord came again to me, saying: 13 "Son of man, when a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will cut off its supply of bread, send famine on it, and cut off man and beast from it. 14 Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness," says the Lord God. (NKJV) This passage should be rather straightforward. If a nation, the land in verse 12, crosses the line because of their sins, and God decides to punish that nation, all those living in that land will fall under the punishment except those in a state of righteousness, meaning particular individuals. This first level of wrath appears to be famine. It would also seem that the righteousness of Noah, Daniel and Job would only save themselves. We need to understand the word nation. A nation is just an assembly of people. In the case of the text presented here, it would indicate that this nation (land) has sinned against God so much that in this scene God has stretched out His hand to bring harm upon them. God's intent, at this point, is to harm them. God will bring harm to them, and not even Noah, Daniel or Job could cause God to change His mind at this point!

Notice that God reveals the power of intercessors in this passage. God brought it up to Ezekiel, that even if Noah, Daniel, and Job, three men who could normally ask of God, and God would listen. But in this case, even if Noah, Daniel, and Job were to ask, He would say NO! What if these three holy

men asked God to turn back His wrath at this point? God begins to answer the question, is there a point of no return in this scene? YES! Even with Noah there, even with Daniel there, even with Job there asking God to relent, "Please stay your judgment, stay your wrath," the answer to the question is obviously NO! There is a point of no return! Even with holy men interceding for the nation, there is a red line that must not be crossed!

Here's the third point that we need to understand from this passage. The holy men mentioned would be saved. These holy men are individuals who will be saved, but only them! There is a point of no return for the rest of that nation who had joined in the simple rebellion against God. Now, that was the first example that God gave the prophet Ezekiel about a future judgment that He was planning for Jerusalem. That judgment had a point of no return. In this example the first level of punishment was given. This was cutting off the food supply and bringing a famine upon the land, the nation, that would eventually destroy the people, including the animals.

But there are three more examples given to Ezekiel, and all three of these examples also have a point of no return even with holy men interceding. This is a step up in the punishment and of the same context. In fact, it's the very next two verses, verses 15-16. <sup>15</sup> "If I cause wild beasts to pass through the land, and they empty it, and make it so desolate that no man may pass through because of the beasts, <sup>16</sup> even though these three men were in it, as I live," says the Lord God, "they would deliver neither sons nor daughters; only they would be delivered, and the land would be desolate. (NKJV) Allow me to rewrite this in a slightly different manner: "Or suppose, I were to send wild animals." God's first statement to Ezekiel was, "I'm going to bring a famine." Now, it appears God has upped the punishment to another level. "Suppose I bring wild animals to invade the country, kill the people, and make the land too desolate and dangerous to pass through. As surely as I live, says the sovereign Lord, even if those three men," Noah, Daniel, and Job, "Even if those three men were there, they wouldn't be able to save their own sons and daughters. They alone would be saved, but the land would be made desolate." Once again, we see a point of no return. God is going to bring His wrath upon this land.

Now, God ups His punishment to another level. Here comes number three and we find this recorded in verses 17-18. <sup>17</sup> "Or if I bring a sword on that land, and say, 'Sword, go through the land,' and I cut off man and beast from it, <sup>18</sup> even though these three men were in it, as I live," says the Lord God, "they would deliver neither sons nor daughters, but only they themselves would be delivered. (NKJV) Once again, please allow me to rewrite this passage just slightly, "Or suppose, I were to bring war." At first it was famine, then it was wild beast. "Suppose I were to bring war against the land, and I sent enemy armies to destroy both people and animals. As surely as I live, says the Sovereign Lord, even if those three men were there, they wouldn't be able to save their own sons or daughters. They alone would be saved.

I stated above that there would be three more examples shown to Ezekiel. We find this fourth example in verses 19-20. <sup>19</sup> "Or if I send a pestilence into that land and pour out My fury on it in blood, and cut off from it man and beast, <sup>20</sup> even though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live," says the Lord God, "they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness." (NKJV) My words for these two verses. "Or suppose, I were to pour out my fury by sending an epidemic." We can insert the word pandemic, it has more relativity today. "Suppose I were to pour out My fury by sending a pandemic," this is in addition to a famine or beast or war, "And the disease killed people and animals alike. As surely as I live, says the Sovereign Lord, even if Noah, Daniel, and Job were there, they wouldn't be able to save their own sons or daughters. They alone would be saved by their righteousness."

The conclusion is given to Ezekiel in verses 21-23. <sup>21</sup> For thus says the Lord God: "How much more it shall be when I send My four severe judgments on Jerusalem—the sword and famine and wild beasts and pestilence—to cut off man and beast from it? <sup>22</sup> Yet behold, there shall be left in it a remnant

who will be brought out, both sons and daughters; surely they will come out to you, and you will see their ways and their doings. Then you will be comforted concerning the disaster that I have brought upon Jerusalem, all that I have brought upon it. <sup>23</sup> And they will comfort you, when you see their ways and their doings; and you shall know that I have done nothing without cause that I have done in it," says the Lord God. (NKJV) Here are my thoughts on the conclusion that God gave to Ezekiel.

Now, this is what the Sovereign Lord says. He's still talking to Ezekiel. "How terrible it will be when I send all four of these dreadful punishments, when they fall upon Jerusalem." Even so, it appears, in verse 22, that there are those in Jerusalem who are righteousness enough to be a remnant that is to remain alive. But, Ezekiel is not the only prophet that God illustrated that He was fed up with mankind's foolishness and rebellion against Him. God even got to the point, with Jeremiah, that He told Jeremiah to stop praying for the nation of Judah. Can you imagine being Jeremiah, and God comes to you and says, "Stop praying for Judah!" STOP! "They have reached a point of no return." Allow me to take you further on our journey to find an answer to our question. "Is there a point of no return" that mankind has previously, and now, currently, is pushing God to that point of no return? Surely, I must show you the words of Jeremiah. But, I must provide to you the words of God to Jeremiah to show why He told Jeremiah not to pray for Jerusalem. Turn with me to Jeremiah, Chapter 7, verses 1-15. 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: 2 "Stand in the gate of the Lord's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the Lord, all you men of Judah who enter these gates to worship the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place. 4 Do not trust in these deceptive words: 'This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.'

<sup>5</sup> "For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another, <sup>6</sup> if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, <u>or shed innocent blood</u> in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm, <sup>7</sup> then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever.

<sup>8</sup> "Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail. <sup>9</sup> Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, 10 and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, 'We are delivered!' only to go on doing all these abominations? 11 Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the Lord. 12 Go now to my place that was in Shiloh, where I made my name dwell at first, and see what I did to it because of the evil of my people Israel. 13 And now, because you have done all these things, declares the Lord, and when I spoke to you persistently you did not listen, and when I called you, you did not answer, 14 therefore I will do to the house that is called by my name, and in which you trust, and to the place that I gave to you and to your fathers, as I did to Shiloh. 15 And I will cast you out of my sight, as I cast out all your kinsmen, all the offspring of Ephraim. (ESV) Oh, there is so much stated in these 15 verses which cause me to be as Jeremiah, called the weeping prophet, and become very emotional and cry for the descendants of ALL Israel. Consider what is said here. God is speaking to Jeremiah. Jeremiah is charged to go stand in the public square and proclaim the Word of God. Actually, Jeremiah was told to say these things at the gate of the temple complex. Our forefathers would have done this at the town square or town hall as a place of public gathering. Today, everything seems to be proclaimed over the media platforms available on the Internet. I'm too old for all that thumb pushing stuff as I watch people do day to day and almost minute by minute. This is my means of addressing the public square, and I can only pray that somehow these words get to the media platforms of the younger generation. These words illustrate why God reaches a point of no return and brings His wrath upon people and their nation. The prophet Jeremiah was alive approximately 2,650 years ago and living in Jerusalem. But, look at what these 15 verses record. Verse 3 says "Amend your ways . . . . " Isn't that the same as repenting of your sins and being

obedient to God's ways? Doesn't verse 4 tell us not to listen to deceptive words? Didn't Jesus tell His followers in Matthew 25, not to let anyone deceive us? Verse 5 reinforces repentance and to execute sound judgment in our actions. Verse 6 tells us not to shed innocent blood. Isn't that the same as an abortion? Doesn't this imply that God may well cast His wrath upon this nation because of the millions of children murdered through an abortion. While people stand by and shout, it is a woman's health issue, and a female's right, to have abortions performed under the law of the land. Verse 7 implies that if we continue to be disobedient, God will remove us from this land or cause the land to be destroyed. Verse 8 clearly says, we trust deceptive words. Don't we hear this daily as we head closer and closer toward this year's Presidential election? Verse 9 asks if we will continue to steal, murder, commit adultery, while actually this should state fornication and sexual perversions as a portion of the Commandment against adultery, and to lie and worship false idols. God expresses His displeasure in verses 10-12. In verse 13, God declares that we did not listen nor even answer to His call. Verse 14 clearly states that God is going to punish the House of Judah because they had reached the point of no return. Verse 15 indicates that God will cast the House of Judah out of His sight, as He did with the House of Israel, the offspring of Ephraim.

This last verse should cause some to stop and think about what I have already said concerning Ephraim and Manasseh. There is a duality between what happened in the days of Jeremiah and what is happening all around us today in the United States. Be forewarned, that we do not know where that red line of forbidden crossing is, or where that point of no return with God is that causes Him to bring on His wrath and punish us for disobedience. Think about what was said in the book of Jeremiah and what is written here.

We have reached verse 16 of Jeremiah chapter 7. This is the verse where God tells Jeremiah not to pray for Jerusalem. <sup>16</sup> "As for you, do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with me, for I will not hear you. (ESV) Could we say that the following says about the same thing? "Pray no more for these people, Jeremiah. Do not weep or pray for them and don't beg Me to help them, for I will not listen to you. Verses 17-29 inform us of the reason that God is saying this to Jeremiah. <sup>17</sup> Do you not see what they are doing in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? <sup>18</sup> The children gather wood, the fathers kindle fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven. And they pour out drink offerings to other gods, to provoke me to anger. <sup>19</sup> Is it I whom they provoke? declares the Lord. Is it not themselves, to their own shame? <sup>20</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord God: behold, my anger and my wrath will be poured out on this place, upon man and beast, upon the trees of the field and the fruit of the ground; it will burn and not be quenched."

<sup>21</sup> Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: "Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices, and eat the flesh. <sup>22</sup> For in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I did not speak to your fathers or command them concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. <sup>23</sup> But this command I gave them: 'Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.' <sup>24</sup> But they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and the stubbornness of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward. <sup>25</sup> From the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt to this day, I have persistently sent all my servants the prophets to them, day after day. <sup>26</sup> Yet they did not listen to me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers.

<sup>27</sup> "So you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not listen to you. You shall call to them, but they will not answer you. <sup>28</sup> And you shall say to them, 'This is the nation that did not obey the voice of the Lord their God, and did not accept discipline; truth has perished; it is cut off from their lips.

<sup>29</sup> "'Cut off your hair and cast it away; raise a lamentation on the bare heights, for the Lord has rejected and forsaken the generation of his wrath.' (ESV) Explained a little differently. Don't you

see what they're doing throughout the towns of Judah, in the streets of Jerusalem? No wonder," this is God speaking to Jeremiah. "No wonder I'm so angry! Watch how the children gather wood and the fathers build sacrificial fires. See how the women knead dough and make cakes to offer to the queen of heaven."

Many might not understand who the queen of heaven is. Jonathan Cahn refers to her as the seducer, Ishtar, Asherah. They're making sacrifices in the Jerusalem temple to the queen of heaven. "See how angry I am? And they pour out liquid offerings to their other idol gods! Am I the one they are hurting?" asks the Lord. "Most of all, they hurt themselves, to their own shame." There is a point of no return with God. Do not intercede with prayer. Do not weep for them anymore. It's recorded again in chapter 11, verses 14-17. "Therefore do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer on their behalf, for I will not listen when they call to me in the time of their trouble. "What right has my beloved in my house, when she has done many vile deeds? Can even sacrificial flesh avert your doom? Can you then exult? "The Lord once called you 'a green olive tree, beautiful with good fruit." But with the roar of a great tempest he will set fire to it, and its branches will be consumed. "The Lord of hosts, who planted you, HAS DECREED DISASTER AGAINST YOU, because of the evil that the house of Israel and the house of Judah have done, provoking me to anger by making offerings to Baal." (ESV)

So, let me ask you a question. Logically speaking, you know what we would think? What if the people fasted? The holy men, Noah, Daniel, and Job could not get God to change His mind. Jeremiah stopped praying because God told Jeremiah that He would not listen. But, what if the people fasted? Would that change God's point of no return? Turn to Jeremiah 14:11-12 for an answer to this proposal. 

11 The Lord said to me: "Do not pray for the welfare of this people. 12 Though they fast, I will not hear their cry, and though they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not accept them. But I will consume them by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence." (ESV):

Now, I would like for you to do something. I would like you to put yourself in the shoes of Ezekiel and Jeremiah, just reviewing what they both experienced in the presence of God. And I want to ask you a question. How would you respond? You see, Ezekiel and Jeremiah are real people, just like us, who have encountered the anger of God. He has reached a point of no return. How would you respond to this anger of God that has revealed the end of His patience, that the nation has reached a point of no return? How will Jeremiah respond? How would you respond? Stop and think about it for a moment.

Can you negotiate? Here's Jeremiah's response and God's reply in verses 13-16. 13 Then I said: "Ah, Lord God, behold, the prophets say to them, 'You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place." "14 And the Lord said to me: "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds. <sup>15</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the prophets who prophesy in my name although I did not send them, and who say, 'Sword and famine shall not come upon this land': By sword and famine those prophets shall be consumed. <sup>16</sup> And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem, victims of famine and sword, with none to bury them—them, their wives, their sons, and their daughters. For I will pour out their evil upon them. (ESV) Would it be possible to read those verses in a different way? "O sovereign Lord, their prophets," and let me insert a word for us to have understanding, their preachers. "O sovereign Lord," their preachers, "Their prophets are telling us all is well. No war, no famine will come. The Lord will surely send you peace." And then the Lord said, "These prophets are telling lies in my name. I did not send them or tell them to speak. I did not give them any messages. They prophesy of visions and revelations they have never seen or heard. They speak foolishness made up in their own lying hearts." Here's a question for every American to answer. Does it have to be preachers who are doing the lying? Couldn't it be politicians who are desperately attempting to win the upcoming Presidential election that are doing a lot of lying just to get our vote?

So, I want you to stop in our journey for a moment and ask the question, because it's at this stage in the story that everybody asked the question, where's the mercy of God? Where's the love and mercy of God for His chosen people? This is Judah, this is Jerusalem. We find that answer in the next verse, verse 17. But, before I bring that verse into our journey I want to make this point. We must do something. We must put the mercy of God alongside the absolute holiness of God, for He is both.

Everyone loves the idea of the mercy of God. Yes, of course we do. But He is also absolute holiness and we must put both side by side. Here the mercy of God is revealed in verses 17-18. This is God talking to Jeremiah. Read these words and stop to think. 17 "You shall say to them this word: 'Let my eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease, for the virgin daughter of my people is shattered with a great wound, with a very grievous blow. 18 If I go out into the field, behold, those pierced by the sword! And if I enter the city, behold, the diseases of famine! For both prophet and priest ply their trade through the land and have no knowledge.'" (ESV) Here is the rewritten version. "Night and day, my eyes overflow with tears." This is how God sees the scene. "Night and day, my eyes overflow with tears. I cannot stop weeping." God says this? "I cannot stop weeping for my virgin daughter, my precious people."

We see Jeremiah's response to God in the verses from 19-22. <sup>19</sup> Have you utterly rejected Judah? Does your soul loathe Zion? Why have you struck us down so that there is no healing for us? We looked for peace, but no good came; for a time of healing, but behold, terror. <sup>20</sup> We acknowledge our wickedness, O Lord, and the iniquity of our fathers, for we have sinned against you. <sup>21</sup> Do not spurn us, for your name's sake; do not dishonor your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us. <sup>22</sup> Are there any among the false gods of the nations that can bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are you not he, O Lord our God? We set our hope on you, for you do all these things. (ESV)

God doesn't want them to die! He doesn't want them to perish! "The prophets and priests continue with their work, but they don't know what they're doing." They have religion without reality. Doesn't that sound familiar? In that statement, we see the heart of God. I don't know about you, but I'm going to tell you, I am moved. When God would say to Jeremiah or God would say to us today, "Night and day, my eyes overflow with tears. I cannot stop weeping for my virgin daughter." He doesn't want them to perish, nor does He want America to perish.

Is God not the God of mercy? Is God not the God of justice, righteousness, and absolute holiness? Is God not the God that forgives? Is God not the God who restores? But on the other side, is God not the God that brings judgment for those who rebel against Him? But what about the covenant? You know, Jeremiah's going to eventually ask, "But what about the covenant God made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? Is everything lost?"

Now, listen up. Here's the turning point in the story. It's at this point in the story that many of you will think, if you haven't studied this text, that God will relent and reveal that He really didn't have a point of no return at all. When Jeremiah brings up the covenant and when Jeremiah cries out to God, you're going to think, "Okay, God's going to say, 'One more chance. One more chance!'" And you'd be wrong. If you think He's running a big bluff, you'd be wrong.

God is not a man. He doesn't think or reason like men do. His ways are not our ways, His thoughts are not our thoughts. And if you think He's running a big bluff with idle threats against Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the nation of Judah, you'd be dead wrong. And to all who read these words, let me say the same thing. God does not bluff. This is how God responded to Jeremiah's humble and desperate plea.

What moved me is when Jeremiah says to God, "Remember the covenant you made. Remember the promise." Jeremiah doesn't have anything else left, and he says, "Just remember the covenant, and for the sake of Your own reputation, please relent from the wrath you have announced upon Judah."

Here is God's response. Chapter 15, verse one, <sup>1</sup> Then the Lord said to me, "Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my heart would not turn toward this people. Send them out of my sight, and let them go! (ESV) God is introducing two more names, two more holy men. "Even if Moses and Samuel stood before me, pleading for these people, I wouldn't help them. Away with them! Get them out of my sight!" If Jeremiah, Moses and Samuel, all three, cannot get God to relent and change His mind, surely, you can see that God is not bluffing. God's reply to Jeremiah can be found in verses 2-9 of Chapter 15. <sup>2</sup> And when they ask you, 'Where shall we go?' you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord: "Those who are for pestilence, to pestilence, and those who are for the sword, to the sword; those who are for famine, to famine, and those who are for captivity, to captivity.' 3 I will appoint over them four kinds of destroyers, declares the Lord: the sword to kill, the dogs to tear, and the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth to devour and destroy. 4 And I will make them a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth because of what Manasseh the son of Hezekiah, king of Judah, did in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> "Who will have pity on you, O Jerusalem, or who will grieve for you? Who will turn aside to ask about your welfare? 6 You have rejected me, declares the Lord; you keep going backward, so I have stretched out my hand against you and destroyed you—I am weary of relenting. 7 I have winnowed them with a winnowing fork in the gates of the land; I have bereaved them; I have destroyed my people; they did not turn from their ways. 8 I have made their widows more in number than the sand of the seas; I have brought against the mothers of young men a destroyer at noonday; I have made anguish and terror fall upon them suddenly. She who bore seven has grown feeble; she has fainted away; her sun went down while it was yet day; she has been shamed and disgraced. And the rest of them I will give to the sword before their enemies, declares the Lord." (ESV) As I type these words, I want you to see a road that has no exits. It has no more off-ramps, no place to go down at the end of the ramp and turn around and get on the other road going the other way. "Those who are destined for death, to death, those who are destined for war, to war, those who are destined for famine, to famine, those who are destined for captivity, to captivity. I will send four kinds of destroyers against them," says the Lord. "I will send the sword to kill, the dogs to drag away, the vultures to devour, and the wild animals to finish up what is left. Because of the wickedness," listen carefully, America. "Because of the wicked things Manasseh, son of Hezekiah, the king of Judah, did in Jerusalem, I will make my people," Judah, "An object of horror to all the kingdoms of the earth."

America is following the example, going down the same path, traveling along the same road that Judah traveled. We have the Law, the Prophets, the entire Word of God to tell us, to illustrate to us, to teach us God's righteous ways and what do we do with it? We rebel against the Word, turn away from the free gift that God gave to mankind and reject any type of relationship with God Himself. To those who do not understand the free gift that God gave to all mankind, it's the sending of His Son Yeshua (Jesus) who gave His sinless life's blood that all could be saved from the punishment of hell! He paid the price for our sins, that is how much God loves His creation. But, God does not bluff! In His love of His creation, He gave His Son for the entire world in all ages, past, present and future that they may have an eternal relationship with Him, and His Son, in Heaven for all eternity. All God asks of you is to repent of your sinful ways, be obedient to God's Holy Word and honor those 17 things that He wants you to honor. I didn't write it before in this work, but I am going to tell you a little more about the 4th Commandment: Honor the Sabbath day and keep it Holy. The Catholic bible has removed this from their teaching and it is not even stated. God gave this to Moses as the 4th Commandment (Exodus Chapter 20), But, God went one step further, and made a second covenant statement to reinforce the first covenant concerning the Sabbath. Turn eleven chapters later, in Exodus to Chapter 31, verses 12-17, and read the second covenant. 12 And the Lord said to Moses, 13 "You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, 'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you. 14 You shall keep the Sabbath,

because it is holy for you. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death. Whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. <sup>15</sup> Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the Lord. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death. <sup>16</sup> Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever. <sup>17</sup> It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.' "(ESV)

If, and I do mean **IF**, God provided a proverbial off-ramp or exit from this road to destruction, it is in these 5 verses. Doesn't God say clearly that this is a sign between Him and all of humanity in all their generations? Doesn't He give warning that those who do not honor the Sabbath or destined for death? Doesn't that mean a spiritual death, or an eternal abandonment in hell? God gave mankind an answer and a way off the road leading to destruction! But, you are the driver for your own destiny. Do you drive into destruction, or do you accept God's free gift of a "get out of jail" card and an exit ramp? You have to make the decision! Which do you want, heaven or hell? It is up to you!

Now, let's return to our journey and the people of Judah. They were trapped! Judah lies trapped on a road with no exits, no off-ramps, no place to go and turn around. Those destined for death were going to experience death. Those destined for war were going to have war. Those destined for famine, to famine, those destined for captivity, to captivity. Those destined, the word destined is, your destination has now been determined. At this point, I ask several questions.

This is so important for us in America today. What was the sin that brought the nation of Judah to the point of no return with God? Does it matter? What was it? What did Manasseh do? God brings up King Manasseh to Jeremiah in the midst of this horrible scene. What did Manasseh do and what did he lead others to do, that brought the nation of Judah to the point of no return with God? What could King Manasseh have done that brought God to tell Jeremiah, "Get them out of my sight! Away with them!"

This is Judah, this is Jerusalem, the chosen people of the covenant! King Manasseh built pagan altars inside the temple of the Lord and he sacrificed his son to a false god. Idolatry and the shedding of innocent blood. Listen carefully. Do you think we serve a different God? Idolatry and the shedding of innocent blood. America, does it sound familiar today? Idolatry. When America started pushing God out of the public square, out of school, out of government, out of academia, out, out, out, it wasn't the idea that it would be empty. It would just make room for false gods to fill the vacuum of the one true God. It's called idolatry, when something, someone, takes the place of the one true God.

And what about the shedding of innocent blood? Abortions plague our land today. King Manasseh sacrificed his own son on the altar. Child sacrifice, it's an abortion. The God of Israel, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, in this scene, let there be no doubt, it is not open for debate, had reached the point of no return. "Don't pray for them anymore, Jeremiah. Even if Noah, Job, and Daniel prayed, it wouldn't stop it. Even if Moses and Samuel stood before Me, pleading for these people, I wouldn't help them. Away with them! Get them out of my sight!" This is God speaking.

And at the time of His divine choosing, God did everything He said He would do to Judah and to Jerusalem. Idolatry and the shedding of innocent blood, which is child sacrifice, brought the nation of Judah to a total abandonment and destruction. Now, here's the point I want to make clear, here. Not only did King Manasseh do it in his own family, he promoted it as the government to the people. The government was promoting idolatry and the shedding of innocent blood. The king is the government in this system of Judah and the government was promoting idolatry and the shedding of innocent blood from the top down to the people, and it brought the nation to a point of no return.

I'm going to insert the entire written record of King Manasseh and tell you that, for the stories of the kings of Israel and Judah, there are normally two records. There will be one record in the book of Kings and one record in Chronicles. With that said here is the record from 2nd Kings, Chapter 21.

<sup>1</sup> Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hephzibah. <sup>2</sup> And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel. <sup>3</sup> For he rebuilt the high places that Hezekiah his father had destroyed, and he erected altars for Baal and made an Asherah, as Ahab king of Israel had done, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. <sup>4</sup> And he built altars in the house of the Lord, of which the Lord had said, "In Jerusalem will I put my name." <sup>5</sup> And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord. <sup>6</sup> And he burned his son as an offering and used fortune-telling and omens and dealt with mediums and with necromancers. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger.

<sup>7</sup> And the carved image of Asherah that he had made he set in the (temple) house of which the Lord said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my name forever. <sup>8</sup> And I will not cause the feet of Israel to wander anymore out of the land that I gave to their fathers, if only they will be careful to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the Law that my servant Moses commanded them." <sup>9</sup> But they did not listen, and Manasseh led them astray to do more evil than the nations had done whom the Lord destroyed before the people of Israel.

<sup>10</sup> And the Lord said by his servants the prophets, <sup>11</sup> "Because Manasseh king of Judah has committed these abominations and has done things more evil than all that the Amorites did, who were before him, and has made Judah also to sin with his idols, <sup>12</sup> therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing upon Jerusalem and Judah such disaster that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle. <sup>13</sup> And I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria, and the plumb line of the house of Ahab, and I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down. <sup>14</sup> And I will forsake the remnant of my heritage and give them into the hand of their enemies, and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies, <sup>15</sup> because they have done what is evil in my sight and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came out of Egypt, even to this day."

<sup>16</sup> Moreover, Manasseh shed very much innocent blood, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another, besides the sin that he made Judah to sin so that they did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh and all that he did, and the sin that he committed, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? <sup>18</sup> And Manasseh slept with his fathers and was buried in the garden of his house, in the garden of Uzza, and Amon his son reigned in his place.

<sup>19</sup> Amon was twenty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Meshullemeth the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah. <sup>20</sup> And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, as Manasseh his father had done. <sup>21</sup> He walked in all the way in which his father walked and served the idols that his father served and worshiped them. <sup>22</sup> He abandoned the Lord, the God of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the Lord. <sup>23</sup> And the servants of Amon conspired against him and put the king to death in his house. <sup>24</sup> But the people of the land struck down all those who had conspired against King Amon, and the people of the land made Josiah his son king in his place. <sup>25</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Amon that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? <sup>26</sup> And he was buried in his tomb in the garden of Uzza, and Josiah his son reigned in his place. (ESV)

The companion story of King Manasseh and his son Amon are in 2nd Chronicles, Chapter 33.

<sup>1</sup> Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel. <sup>3</sup> For he rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had broken down, and he erected altars to the Baals, and made Asherahs, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. <sup>4</sup> And he built altars in the house of the Lord, of which the Lord had said, "In Jerusalem shall my name be forever." <sup>5</sup> And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord. <sup>6</sup> And he burned his sons as an offering in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and used fortune-telling and omens and sorcery, and dealt with mediums and with necromancers. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger. <sup>7</sup> And the carved image of the idol that he had made he set in the house of God, of which God said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my name forever, <sup>8</sup> and I will no more remove the foot of Israel from the land that I appointed for your fathers, if only they will be careful to do all that I have commanded them, all the law, the statutes, and the rules given through Moses." <sup>9</sup> Manasseh led Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem astray, to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord destroyed before the people of Israel.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord spoke to Manasseh and to his people, but they paid no attention. <sup>11</sup> Therefore the Lord brought upon them the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria, who captured Manasseh with hooks and bound him with chains of bronze and brought him to Babylon. <sup>12</sup> And when he was in distress, he entreated the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. <sup>13</sup> He prayed to him, and God was moved by his entreaty and heard his plea and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God.

<sup>14</sup> Afterward he built an outer wall for the city of David west of Gihon, in the valley, and for the entrance into the Fish Gate, and carried it around Ophel, and raised it to a very great height. He also put commanders of the army in all the fortified cities in Judah. <sup>15</sup> And he took away the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the Lord, and all the altars that he had built on the mountain of the house of the Lord and in Jerusalem, and he threw them outside of the city. <sup>16</sup> He also restored the altar of the Lord and offered on it sacrifices of peace offerings and of thanksgiving, and he commanded Judah to serve the Lord, the God of Israel. <sup>17</sup> Nevertheless, the people still sacrificed at the high places, but only to the Lord their God.

<sup>18</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, and his prayer to his God, and the words of the seers who spoke to him in the name of the Lord, the God of Israel, behold, they are in the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel. <sup>19</sup> And his prayer, and how God was moved by his entreaty, and all his sin and his faithlessness, and the sites on which he built high places and set up the Asherim and the images, before he humbled himself, behold, they are written in the Chronicles of the Seers. <sup>20</sup> So Manasseh slept with his fathers, and they buried him in his house, and Amon his son reigned in his place.

<sup>21</sup> Amon was twenty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem.
<sup>22</sup> And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, as Manasseh his father had done. Amon sacrificed to all the images that Manasseh his father had made, and served them. <sup>23</sup> And he did not humble himself before the Lord, as Manasseh his father had humbled himself, but this Amon incurred guilt more and more. <sup>24</sup> And his servants conspired against him and put him to death in his house. <sup>25</sup> But the people of the land struck down all those who had conspired against King Amon. And the people of the land made Josiah his son king in his place. (ESV) After reviewing what these two entries state, I would have to say that, at some point, King Manasseh must have repented of a large portion of his evil ways, however, I don't thing he gave them all up, and at the same time, he instilled the same practices in his son who took over as king when he died. There is one more interesting statement made about King Manasseh in the introduction to the book of Zephaniah in the ESV Bible. Here is that introduction.

Zephaniah prophesied during the reforms of King Josiah (640–609 BC) who brought spiritual revival to Judah after the long and disastrous reign of Manasseh. Zephaniah pronounced God's judgment on corruption and wickedness, but also his plan to restore Judah. He spoke of the coming "day of the Lord," when sin would be punished, justice would prevail, and a "remnant" of the faithful would be saved. The term "day of the Lord" occurs throughout the Bible referring both to impending historical judgments from God, and to his final judgment at the end of time. Though Zephaniah does not give details about this day, he speaks of its fearsome consequences (1:18) and calls people to seek the Lord (2:3). (ESV)

I'm going to repeat God's intent to Jeremiah 15:3-4: "I will send four kinds of destroyers against them," says the Lord. "And I will send the sword to kill, the dogs to drag away, the vultures to devour, and the wild animals to finish up what's left. Because," why, why? "Because of the wicked things Manasseh, son of Hezekiah, king of Judah, did In Jerusalem, I will make my people," did you hear the word, "My people?" He acknowledges these are the chosen seed of Abraham. "I will make my people an object of horror to all the kingdoms of the earth."

So, let's go back to the original question. Does God have a point of no return? Yes, He does! Yes, there is a point of no return! I want to say something very clearly. We don't know where that red line is. I must also state that the point of no return can be different for a nation than it is for a person. Let me make it clear. Jeremiah survived the siege of Jerusalem. So the individual, Jeremiah, survived. The nation of Judah fell. So, there was a point of no return for the nation of Judah, including Jerusalem. They fell, Jeremiah lived. You see, it's not for us to determine that line for individuals or for nations. In other words, we can't look at someone and say, "They've crossed the line, the line of the point of no return." We can't look at any individual and say that. Only God can make that determination. We do not determine where that line is or where the place of no return is. We leave that determination and judgment to God and God alone, and that's for individuals and nations. As for this nation, right now, America, we're a nation in limbo.

There are those who have stated that Donald J. Trump was a type of Cyrus during his term as President. Since that time, we have seen one attempt after another to take this man down and keep him away from the chance to be reelected to a second term in office as President. The group who said that Trump was a type of Cyrus is now predicting that he will be reelected as a type of King Jeroboam II, and the statement they are using is found in 2nd Kings 14:27. <sup>27</sup> But the Lord had not said that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, so he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash. (ESV)

My present concern is not over this verse from 2 Kings, instead it is over the statement that God made to Ezekiel in Chapter 14, verse 22, <sup>22</sup> Yet behold, there shall be left in it a remnant who will be brought out, both sons and daughters; surely they will come out to you, and you will see their ways and their doings. Then you will be comforted concerning the disaster that I have brought upon Jerusalem, all that I have brought upon it. (NKJV) While this is spoken to Ezekiel, the answer rests with Jeremiah. We should know that the last king to sit on the throne of Judah is King Zedekiah. Those who read and study the Old Testament will recall that King Zedekiah's sons were killed by the Babylonian army. The king was taken to Babylon after his eyes were plucked out. At about the same time, Jeremiah was released from prison and basically given a free pass to go where he wanted to go. Now here is where it gets interesting. Jeremiah and his faithful scribe, Baruch, are free to roam and there are a few of the lowest of Judah still in the land. Part of this remnant is the king's daughters. This is not stated just once, but twice. The first reference is Jeremiah 41:10. <sup>10</sup> Then Ishmael took captive all the rest of the people who were in Mizpah, the king's daughters and all the people who were left at Mizpah, whom Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, had committed to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam. Ishmael the son of Nethaniah took them captive and set out to cross over to the Ammonites. (ESV) The second reference

is found in Jeremiah 43:6. 6 men, women, children, the king's daughters, and every person whom Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had left with Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch the son of Neriah. (NKJV) Through these two verses, and other entries, showing this group going to Egypt, and all who went to Egypt would die there, except those who escape. Jeremiah 44:27-29, <sup>27</sup> Behold, I am watching over them for disaster and not for good. All the men of Judah who are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by famine, until there is an end of them. <sup>28</sup> And those who escape the sword shall return from the land of Egypt to the land of Judah, few in number; and all the remnant of Judah, who came to the land of Egypt to live, shall know whose word will stand, mine or theirs. 29 This shall be the sign to you, declares the Lord, that I will punish you in this place, in order that you may know that my words will surely stand against you for harm: (ESV) The mystery of Jeremiah is not revealed in the Bible, however, through other sources, it can be stated that there was a beginning party of eight people who made up this remnant with Jeremiah. Funny, it was only eight people who were on the ark with Noah. Those eight people managed to survive the flood. On the other hand, not all of these eight people survived. The eight were made up of Jeremiah, Baruch, three daughters of the king and three handmaidens. They begin to die while in Egypt, and only three survived to arrive in Ireland, the place for the planting and building that Jeremiah had to complete prior to his death. God's Word is truth.

People in America, please hear me out. This is a very important election that we are about ready to begin casting our votes. God's hand will play a part in this election one way or another. We do not know the outcome. However, I can give you these examples as recorded in this booklet. God's Word is truth! So is God's wrath for the disobedience of individuals and nations! Stop, think, and weigh the outcome of your vote after serious prayer with your Creator. He loves you as His creation, He desires that all will come to repentance and return to obedience under His rules. Think about the sinful nature of those who want to practice sexual perversion, the shedding of innocent blood by abortions and the mutilation of children who question their identity. Look even further to our elected leaders who also desire these three sins to be the law of the land. Is that really what you want as an individual? Remember, the point of no return can be for either an individual or for a nation. We the people will help decide what will happen on November 5th, 2024. Pray and make it a good choice!

#### Maranatha

