

Exodus 20:1-17 The Ten Commandments

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

Psalm 19:1-4 says; The heavens **declare** the glory of God; and the firmament **shows** His handiwork. Day unto day **utter** speech, and night unto night **reveals** knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line **has gone out** through all the earth, and their words **to the end of the world**.

The Psalmist goes on to reveal the purpose of the sun next.

Then he speaks of the purpose of the law of the LORD, His statutes, His commandments, the fear of the LORD, and His judgements.

Then in verse 10 he tells us, more to be desired are they than gold, Yea, then much fine gold, Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Verse 11 Moreover by them your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward. The Psalmist had a revelation of God and His Holiness. And the verses that follow are his prayer for forgiveness and guidance.

In John we see the zeal of Christ for the House of God. The temple was divided into courts, the Innermost Court included the Sanctuary, and the Stone Altar. This area was also called "The Camp of the Divine Presence." It was divided into three sections: The Court of Israel, The Court of Kohanim, and the Area between the Hall and the Mizbeach. The Women's Court was situated to the east. [from The Temple Institute].

The cleansing of the Temple took place in the Outermost Court, the Court of the Gentiles. It was the only part of the temple where non-Jews were allowed. It was accessible to Gentiles, foreigners, and those considered impure. It was the area of the temple that non-Jews could roam freely to worship, discuss, and teach. A place where Gentile believers could worship YAHWEH. It was where Paul taught and in Acts:27-32 it's where he was dragged from. It wasn't uncommon for the selling of sacrificial animals and money changers to gather there as well.

So, what was it that drove Jesus to do what He did that day? I can see Him walking and looking, (we don't know how long He was there before He acted).

He is the discerner of hearts. Jesus could SEE what was happening. The greed, the misuse, the victims. He could SEE beyond all that He was looking at and **I believe, the zeal for GOD and a love for HIS creation was the driving force.**

A Righteous anger!

A stampede was caused, and money was spilled out (not blood).

No one was injured and no animal hurt or there would be record, I'm sure.

Jesus speaks twice, ***"Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise up."***

Was this prophetic, a warning, a revelation? I see all three.

The Disciples recall it after Jesus's death and resurrection. The temple does eventually get destroyed. And sad to say, in many places, the House of God has become a house of merchandise today. Massive church buildings sell all kinds of artifacts and such. And numerous videos, books and conferences are being offered at high prices to teach, and reveal to us 'How to,' while our Bibles sit on the shelf gathering dust.

All four gospels record the Cleansing of the Temple but only John records, 'house of merchandise.' In Matthew 21, Mark 11, and Luke 19. Jesus says, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a House of prayer,' (Mark adds 'for all nations'.) but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

We started with the Ten Commandments, and everything hangs on the first.

"Thou shalt have no other gods before Me."

Jesus reminded us of this in Matthew 22:37 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

Heavenly Father, I pray that you give us a zeal for the things of God that will not cause injury but bring healing to Your house (the household of faith). That we would once again treat Your house as a 'house of prayer for the nations,' stepping out of the way and allowing Your Holy Spirit to move in and through us.

In Jesus' name I ask and pray, Amen!

