

# ***“Purge and Prune”***

## **1 Kings 1-2**

May 27, 2012

**“What is pure is corrupted much more quickly than what is corrupt is purified.”**

**—JOHN CASSIAN(A.D. 360-435)**

**“What is pure is corrupted much more quickly than what is corrupt is purified.”**

**—JOHN CASSIAN(A.D. 360-435)**

### **Overview of “weekly reading” texts...**

#### **Overview of Psalm 119...**

- A. Longest psalm... longest “chapter” in the Bible...
- B. Acronym per the Hebrew alphabet...
  - Eight stanzas per letter..
  - Each 1<sup>st</sup> word of each stanza begins with that Hebrew letter
- C. Purpose of the psalm points to the majestic value of God’s Word

#### **1 Kings 3...**

- A. Solomon messes up... marries to create covenants... goes against God
- B. God comes to Solomon in a dream... “What do you want?”
- C. Solomon asks for “wisdom” – a God-honoring request!
- D. God promises to give Solomon wisdom and a lot more....
- E. Solomon becomes wisest man of all time (see Proverbs/Ecclesiastes)
  - NOTE: Like David... Solomon has deep valleys of sin...
  - Many debate whether or not Solomon was saved...
- F. Solomon demonstrates his wisdom:
  - 2 prostitutes fight over a baby
  - 1 mother is lying, 1 is truly the baby’s mother...
  - Solomon threatens to cut live baby in half, giving ½ to each...
  - 1 mother is okay with that... the other forfeits baby to other...
  - Solomon knows real love forfeits... gives baby to true mother

Parallel between the dynamics of **1 Kings 1 & 2** with our **“Memorial Day”**

\*\*\* Key Military & Memorial Day illustrations =

- **Benedict Arnold...**
- **Aaron Burr, 3<sup>rd</sup> V.P. of the United States...**
  - Shot & killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel...
  - Tried for TREASON...
    1. Failed coup to capture Louisiana...
    2. Sought to launch coup with Brits... TRAITOR
- **John Anthony Walker (1967- 1973)**

In 1967, Navy communications officer John Walker, Jr. snuck into the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C., and offered to sell secrets. He then handed over settings for the KL-47 cipher machine, which decoded sensitive US Navy messages. His motivations were purely financial, and he proved to be a screaming bargain: over the next 17 years, Walker gave the KGB the locations of all American nuclear submarines, as well as the procedures the US would follow to launch nuclear missiles at the Soviet Union in the event of war. The Soviets also learned the locations of underwater microphones tracking Soviet nuclear submarines. Moreover, KGB agents learned every American troop and air movement to Vietnam from 1971-1973, and they passed this on to their allies, including the planned sites and times for U.S. airstrikes against North Vietnam. According to Vitaly Yurchenko, a KGB defector, “It was the greatest case in KGB history. We deciphered millions of your messages. If there had been a war, we would have won it.”
- **Robert Hanssen is a former FBI agent** who spied for Soviet and Russian intelligence services against the United States for 22 years (1979 to 2001). During his espionage career Hanssen compromised scores of investigations and operations, including the surveillance of suspected mole Felix Bloch, and completed an eavesdropping tunnel directly under the Soviet Embassy decoding room. At one time, he even became responsible for apprehending himself, and he passed some of that off to Aldrich Ames (above). Worse, however, were his leaks to the USSR of every KGB agent contacting the FBI— conveniently identifying detected double-agents and prospective defectors alike. The FBI was so flummoxed at finding Hanssen, they had to buy the information to put him away (most of which they already had). Cash and Hanssen’s carelessness eventually led to his

capture, and in 2001 he pled guilty to 13 counts of espionage in the United States. He was then sentenced to life in prison, without the possibility of parole, and can be found in America's "Supermax" prison, where he remains in his cell, alone, 23 hours a day. Many have described his activities as "possibly the worst intelligence disaster in US history."

- **Aldrich Ames** began working for the CIA during high school, and did so until he was discovered to be a Soviet double agent in 1994. He specialized in selling the identities of CIA agents, placed within the KGB, to the KGB. In true cloak-and-dagger fashion, Ames would mark a blue postal drop box with a piece of chalk whenever he needed to contact his KGB handlers. The damage he caused US intelligence efforts can't really be known, but conservative estimates indicate that he exposed over 100 agents, and was directly responsible for at least 10 deaths. A thorough accounting of his finances revealed that he and his wife made over \$4.6 million over the course of their espionage career. Ames explained the full extent of his activities as part of a plea bargain to mitigate his wife's sentence (how gallant). As a result, Ames was sentenced to life in prison, while his wife received 63 months.

### **1 Kings chapter 1:**

**1:4** = The Hebrew culture believed in the curative value of pairing a warm human body with an ill body... Thus, when David had Abishag brought to him, it sent the message that he was very sick... Such an announcement could have emboldened David's rivals (Adonijah).

**1:5-10** = Some of David's previously "loyal" followers, such as Joab & Abiathar joined up with Adonijah... Some have speculated that such shifts in support reflect the political shiftiness that is rooted in selfishness... When it appeared David was no longer able to command loyalty, they stopped giving their loyalty... (sad).

Clearly, a coup was underway... Adonijah was making his move to take the throne away from David and prevent Solomon from ever getting it. Moreover, some of David's closest and most influential "supporters" were actively aligning themselves with Adonijah in an offensive act of betrayal.

Bathsheba and Nathan, coupled with some of David's still-loyal warriors reacted shrewdly (see Matthew 10:16) & strategically...

- Bathsheba & Solomon were in danger as a result (1:12)
- Shrewd and "hands-on" planning/action saved more than Bath/Sol...

- Remember: 1 Chron. 28:5... David had already declared Sol would be king

**v.5** = “Adonijah kept exalting” or “exalted himself”... indicates that Adonijah had already been proclaiming his future kingship... He was already establishing his entourage for seizing the throne.

NOTE: Coup attempts are not birthed overnight!

- QUESTION: Might David have known what was going on here like he did with Absalom... only to make the same mistake again by being overly passive? We don't know for sure but one has to wonder...

**v.9** = Adonijah threw himself an impromptu coronation party, complete with all the honored guests that would be needed to “dignify” and socially validate the event.

**1:11-12** = Since Adonijah's coup was already in motion and it had (at least on the surface) all that a coup would need to be accepted by the people (he was “a” son of David AND some of the top trusted brass were supporting him)... SOMEONE with sufficient standing to be accepted by the people had to initiate a “COUNTER” movement for Solomon or the throne would be lost.

- Nathan the Prophet assumed this role...
- Nathan warned Bathsheba that inaction or passivity would not only cost Solomon the throne, but it would also likely cost him his life (along with her and any other loyalists to him).
- Losers in such “power struggles” were typically executed.

**1:15-21** = Bathsheba STIRS David to ACTION by reminding him of **3 key things**:

- A. David **PROMISED** the throne to Solomon
- B. Adonijah **PROCLAIMED** himself king w/out David's support
- C. Bathsheba & Sol would be **PUNISHED** as criminals...

**1:24-25** = Nathan under-girds and drives home Bathsheba's points with David...

**1:26-28** = Nathan turns the lights on to the fact that those closest to David were not invited to the “party.” Nathan is sending the message: “They are doing all this behind our back because they know we are loyal to you...” Moreover, the fact that they are doing everything behind closed doors and leaving the loyalists “out” only goes to prove that they are up to no good. Worst of all, this indicates that the loyalists will not be safe once the coup is complete...

**1:32** = David RESPONDS... giving orders that legitimize Solomon as his one and only successor.

**1:33-34** = Putting Solomon on the king's mule and launching David's authorized coronation for Solomon as the next king immediately countered Adonijah's coup attempt.... Yet another example of taking rightful & righteous action... it's biblical!

**1:41** = POWERFUL but OBSCURE point... the competing CORONATION PARTIES were only 500 yards apart... Imagine the uneasiness when Adonijah's group heard the noise of Solomon's coronation!

**1:41-49** = in the face of what proved to be the true will and plan of both God and David, notice how quickly Adonijah's support and supporter "ran away."

- Wrong-hearted supporters seldom have enough heart to truly support
- Shallow support seldom puts roots down deep enough to stick around

**Read 1:49-53... (See Solomon's GOOD HEART)**

**49** Then all the guests of Adonijah were terrified; and they arose and each went on his way. **50** And Adonijah was afraid of Solomon, and he arose, went and took hold of the horns of the altar. **51** Now it was told Solomon, saying, "Behold, Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon, for behold, he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, 'Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.'" **52** Solomon said, "If he is a worthy man, not one of his hairs will fall to the ground; but if wickedness is found in him, he will die." **53** So King Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and prostrated himself before King Solomon, and Solomon said to him, "Go to your house."

**1:50** = Oddly enough... the one who launched a coup against God's man, ran to God's house in hopes of gaining refuge by trusting that God's man would not take out God's enemy in God's house... Adonijah's initial attempt at a coup had now officially failed – evidenced by his cowardice pursuit of protection at the altar.

**1 Kings chapter 2:**

**2:1** = As David was dying... This "man after God's own heart" gave the following instructions to his son (and heir of God's people)...

\*\*\* We should study and embrace these instructions...

READ 2:1-4...

As David's **[a](A)**time to die drew near, he charged Solomon his son, saying, **2 "(B)**I am going the way of all the earth. **(C)**Be strong, therefore, and **[b]**show yourself a man. **3** Keep the charge of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His

commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, **(D)** according to what is written in the Law of Moses, that **(E)** you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn, **4** so that **(F)** the Lord may carry out His promise which He spoke concerning me, saying, **'(G)** If your sons are careful of their way, **(H)** to walk before Me in **[c]** truth with all their heart and with all their soul, **[d](I)** you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

2:2-4 = Listen to these instructions...

- A. **"Be strong... (and show yourself a man)"**
- B. **"Keep the charge of the Lord your God..."**
  - **"Walk in His ways" – 1 John 2:6**
  - **"Keep His statutes" – 2 Timothy 3:16-17**
  - **"Keep His commandments" – Matthew 28:18-20**
  - **"Keep His ordinances" – 1 John 3:18**
  - **"Keep His testimonies" – Acts 1:8**

\*\*\* "...in accordance to what is written in the Law of Moses..."

\*\*\* NOTE: God's instructions are 100% aligned with His Word

C. **"so that..."**

- **"...you may succeed in all that you do, wherever you turn"**
- **"...the Lord may carry out His promise which He spoke to me concerning, saying:**
- **'If your sons are careful of their way, to walk before Me in truth with ALL their heart and with ALL their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'" (v.4)**

\*\*\* NOTE: there is a "conditional clause" to this promise!

READ: Joshua 1:6-9... (amazing parallel!)

to  
**and**  
law  
**from it to**  
successful

**"Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore their forefathers to give them. 7 Be strong very courageous. Be careful to obey all the my servant Moses gave you; do not turn the right or to the left, that you may be wherever you go. 8 Do not let this Book of the**

Law  
**and**  
  
be  
commanded  
not be  
**for the Lord**

depart from your mouth; **meditate on it day  
night, so that you may be careful to do  
everything written in it.** Then you will  
prosperous and successful. **9 Have I not**  
you? **Be strong and courageous.** Do  
terrified; do not be discouraged,

**your God will be with you wherever you go.**

READ Matthew 28:18-20... (see the PARALLEL!)

## The Great Commission

**16** But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. **17** When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. **18** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

**2:5-6** = David tells Solomon that he needs to deal with Joab by putting him to death... Notice how David speaks to the issue of the heart... Joab had proven himself to be two things over time

- A. Outstanding warrior... to the extent that "winning" is the measure...
- B. Hard-hearted and vindictive... to a murderous level

David knows that Joab would not be trustworthy in the coming days... not necessarily because David knew that Joab was aligning with Solomon's adversaries (although David might have known), but rather, because Joab had shown himself to be treacherously untrustworthy thru his murder of others, including Absalom.

**2:7** = David instructs Solomon to give peace & blessings to Barzillai, one who was loyal to David during Absalom's rebellion...

\*\*\* Note: Loyalty begets loyalty... true covenant keepers don't break!

**2:8** = David instructs Solomon to take out Shimei (one who cursed David during Absalom's rebellion)... Here again, David is acknowledging the danger this influence can have over the establishment and well being of the kingdom under Solomon...

READ 2:10-18... **(David Dies... & Adonijah Connives!)**

**10** Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David. **11** The days that David reigned over Israel were forty years: seven years he reigned in Hebron and thirty-three years he reigned in Jerusalem. **12** And Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established.

**13** Now Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. And she said, "Do you come peacefully?" And he said, "Peacefully." **14** Then he said, "I have something to say to you." And she said, "Speak." **15** So he said, "You know that the kingdom was mine and that all Israel expected me to be king; however, the kingdom has turned about and become my brother's, for it was his from the Lord. **16** Now I am making one request of you; do not refuse me." And she said to him, "Speak." **17** Then he said, "Please speak to Solomon the king, for he will not refuse you, that he may give me Abishag the Shunammite as a wife." **18** Bathsheba said, "Very well; I will speak to the king for you."

**2:10-12** = David's death is documented with an emphatic clause: "**Solomon sat on the throne of David... and his kingdom was firmly established.**" (v.12)

KEY: The assessment of v.12 both condones and affirms the actions David instructed Solomon to take...

**2:13-18 = Adonijah's Persistent Treachery & Deceitful Corruptness**

- A. Manipulate through others... Adonijah goes to Bathsheba....
- B. Liars lie... "I come in peace"
- C. Peace is used as a deceptive weapon... "I come in peace" (don't worry)
- D. v.15 is pregnant with poison...
  - \* "You know the kingdom was mine..." – Lie!
  - \* "all Israel expected me to be king" – via maniacal manipulation
  - \* "however, the kingdom has turned about" – wrong... it stayed!
  - \* "and become my brother's..." – wrong – it always was his...
  - \* "for it was his from the LORD" – right! That says it all...

NOTE: Adonijah is using fake pleasantries, false humility, a disingenuous promise of peace, a deceitful posture of surrendered acceptance, and even a poisonous piety that pretends to

acknowledge  
PART OF A  
SOLOMON AND TAKE

Solomon as God's chosen king... ALL PRESENTED AS  
CALCULATED, EVIL PLOT TO OVERTHROW  
OVER THE KINGDOM!

**2:19** = This is a wonderful example of respect being given to a mother... Our day would be well served if more young men would treat their mothers with the type of reverence & respect that King Solomon demonstrated & gave to his mom!

### **2:19-25 = Adonijah Executed**

When Bathsheba comes to David and asks (as she promised Adonijah that she would), that Solomon give Abishag to Adonijah for his wife... Solomon immediately sees this request as a not-so-veiled attempt to re-posture another coup attempt... (New kings culturally took over the previous kings wives/women).

Solomon identifies the 3 major players from the original coup... (v.22) and sets out to deal with them again... but this time is to be the last time!

Benaiah is sent to kill Adonijah immediately...

NOTE: timely response!

NOTE: Solomon's God-given wisdom revealed in discernment!

NOTE: Wisdom revealed in corporate punishment.

**v.24 shows that the death of Adonijah is connected to the coup, not because it threatened Solomon the man, but Solomon, the representative of God and His promise!**

### **2:26-27 = Abiathar Banished (replaced by Zadok)**

Solomon takes all of Abiathar's priestly privileges away... Solomon tells him that "you deserve to die" (showing the significant and intentional role he played in the coup attempt(s))...

Solomon knew that Abiathar could sway people in the public forum of faith had he not been removed... Moreover, Solomon knew that Abiathar had already been actively subverting his authority....

**READ 1 Corinthians 5:9-13...**

**9** *I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; **10** I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. **11** But actually, I wrote to you not*

*to associate with any immoral person, or covetous, reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler— with such a one. 12 For what have I to do judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? 13 But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.*

**It is one thing to deal with a risk...  
it is another thing altogether to deal with a reality!**

Solomon lets him live because of his past connections with David...

**2:28-35 = Joab Executed (replaced by Benaiah)**

When Joab heard of what happened to Abiathar... he ran!

NOTE: Innocent & righteous people don't fear the truth coming out.

Joab ran to the "tent of the Lord" and tried to claim "sanctuary" at the alter (NOTE: such an offer was only available to those who had committed "unintentional man-slaughter")

take Joab thought that by "holding onto the horns of the alter" he would be especially safe.... This was a superstitious belief that had begun to root in their culture (compare with the wearing of, kissing, and hoping in "saints" jewelry by our Catholic friends).

Solomon has Benaiah call Joab out but when Joab refuses and says that he would prefer to die there by the alter, Solomon instructs Benaiah to take his life right there and then bury him in the wilderness near his house...

Joab dies for his unrepented sins & the threat he represents to the kingdom (a.k.a. God's promise & plan).

KEY: All 3 major players in the coup attempt tried to hide behind God...

## 2: 36-46 = Shimei Executed

v.36 = Keep your friends close... and your enemies closer!

Solomon commands Shimei to come live within the city of Jerusalem where Solomon can ensure that the gossiping and undermining that Shimei has done in the past can be minimized and monitored...

Shimei was basically placed under “house-arrest” in Jerusalem...

Solomon showed stern mercy.... “you will be okay so long as you obey” but if and when you disobey (for ANY reason – no excuses...), you will surely die (note parallel to the Garden of Eden).

Shimei tested Solomon... bad idea! Shimei appears to have thought one of two things:

- A. Solomon wouldn't uphold his own standard...
- B. Solomon would grow lax over time...

NOTE: God never “lowers the bar” to make room for sin!

Key lesson... RECOGNIZE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PURGING & PRUNING...

John 15:

## John 15

New International Version 1984 (NIV1984)

### The Vine and the Branches

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. **2** He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. **3** You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. **4** Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*

***5** "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. **6** If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and*

burned. **7** *If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.* **8** *This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

**9** *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10** If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. **11** I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **12** My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. **17** This is my command: Love each other.*

### **The World Hates the Disciples**

**18** *"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. **19** If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. **20** Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. **21** They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me. **22** If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin. **23** He who hates me hates my Father as well. **24** If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. **25** But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'*

**26** *"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. **27** And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.*

- A. **Purging eliminates the bad...**
  - 1. Garden of Eden

2. Great Flood
  3. Sodom & Gomorrah
  4. Pharaoh & Egyptians
  5. KORAH's REBELLION...
  6. Enemies of God in the Promised Land
  7. Absalom & Adonijah (...Joab & Shimei)
  8. Judas...
  9. Anninias & Sappira (Acts 5)
  10. HELL: Satan, demons, ALL who die w/out Christ!
- B. **Pruning cultivates the good!**
- C. **BOTH are a part of God's PLAN.**

Memorial Day.... Abraham Lincoln infamous speech follows:

## **Lincoln's House Divided Speech**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The "House Divided" speech is one of [Abraham Lincoln](#)'s best-known speeches. The **House Divided Speech** was an address given by [Abraham Lincoln](#) (who would later become [President of the United States](#)) on June 16, 1858, in [Springfield, Illinois](#), upon accepting the Illinois [Republican Party](#)'s nomination as that state's United States senator. The speech became the launching point for his unsuccessful campaign for the [Senate](#) seat against [Stephen A. Douglas](#), which included the [Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858](#). The speech created a lasting image of the danger of disunion because of [slavery](#), and it rallied Republicans across the [North](#). Along with the [Gettysburg Address](#) and his [second inaugural address](#), this became one of the best-known speeches of his career.

**The best-known passage** of the speech is: *A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently, half slave & half free. I do not expect the [Union](#) to be dissolved — I do not expect the house to fall — but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or its advocates will push it forward, till it shall become alike lawful in all the States, old as well as new — North as well as South.*

Lincoln's goal with this speech was to differentiate himself from Douglas. Douglas advocated [popular sovereignty](#), under which the settlers in each new territory decided their own status as a slave or free state; he asserted that that rule would end slavery-induced conflict and allow northern and southern states to coexist peacefully. Lincoln, however, said that the United States would inevitably become either all slave or all free. As long as the North and South held such distinct opinions, and as long as this issue permeated every political question, the Union could not function.

**NOTE:** Don't miss the powerful parallels between what Lincoln captured and applied to our country... and that which our Lord commanded and applied to His Church!

Read John 17:21... the unity of the "body of Christ" cannot be over-valued or over-stated when one understands and accepts the biblical mandate that the Messiah marshaled His people to embrace.

**JOHN 17:21 = "that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me."**

**Mark 3:25 = "a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand"**

**The Twelve Are Chosen:** **13** And He \*went up on the mountain and \*summoned those whom **He Himself wanted**, and they came to Him. **14** And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach, **15** and to have authority to cast out the demons. **16 And He appointed the twelve:** Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter), **17** and James, the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, "Sons of Thunder"); **18** and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot; **19** and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him.

**20** And He \*came home, and the crowd \*gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal. **21** When His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, "He has lost His senses." **22** The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons." **23** And He called them to Himself and began speaking to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? **24** If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. **25** If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. **26** If Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but he is finished! **27** But no one can enter the strong man's house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house.

## **Mark 3:25-26 says it all...**

**24** *If a kingdom is divided against itself,  
that kingdom cannot stand.*

**25** *If a house is divided against itself,  
that house will not be able to stand.*

God's Word is clear...

**Solomon's kingdom...Our churches...Our homes...Our hearts.**

***God Purges for Peace & Prunes for Produce!***