

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

A HEBREW SAGE MIGHT SAY. . .

A truth does not become greater through repetition. [-Maimonides]

IN SEASON & OUT

"Preach the WORD! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching." [2 Timothy 4. 2]

Paul's charge to Timothy was urgent as his martyrdom was near. The imperative message is to be aware that **"the time will come when they (people) will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."** [2 Timothy 4. 3 - 4]

This message is crucial for each of us today since persecution and rapidly increasing apostasy are being pushed at all levels of the community, schools, government and news media. The idea of the text is for each true believing CHRISTian to be responsible, available and ready with the right words from the WORD OF GOD — words of exhortation (motivate to do right, encouragement, appeal to stir up with sobering information), of doctrine, of reproof (scolding, rebuke) if needed, yet words given patiently, even when rebuffed (rejected, unwanted) by the hearer.

"For the grace of GOD that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great GOD and SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, WHO gave HIMSELF for us, that HE might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for HIMSELF HIS OWN special people, zealous for good works. Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority." [Titus 2. 11 - 15]

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning (best part) of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom, discipline and instruction." [Proverbs (Mishle) 1. 7 Tanakh, Kethuvim] **"The heart of the righteous man studies (rehearses) how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked blurts out evil things."** [Proverbs (Mishle) 15. 28 Tanakh, Kethuvim] These SCRIPTURES are insights for our discernment so we are able to prepare ourselves for the daily battles we face. **"We know that we are of GOD, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. And we know that the SON OF GOD has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know HIM WHO is true; and we are in HIM WHO is true, in HIS SON JESUS CHRIST. This is the TRUE GOD and eternal life."** [1 John 6. 19 - 20]

"But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." [2 Timothy 4. 5] Moreover, **"sanctify the LORD GOD in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in MESSIAH may be ashamed. For it is better, if it is the will of GOD, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil."** [1 Peter 3. 15 - 17]

Like the Apostle Paul who fought a good fight, finished his course, and kept the faith and was ready to die as he had always been to speak for the LORD, may each of us be found faithful in the holy calling in our lives.

**Sha'alu (Pray) for the Shalom (Peace) of JerUSAlem and all of Israel!
Redeem Israel, O ELOHIYM, out of all their troubles!**

Praised are YOU, O LORD GOD, for great is YOUR love for us and YOUR compassion boundless. Be gracious to us that we may understand and fulfill the teachings of YOUR REVERED WORD. Enlighten our eyes in YOUR Law that we may cling to YOUR commandments. Thank YOU for YOUR saving power, for from YOU comes our help. Draw us nearer to YOU to serve YOU in faithfulness. Joyfully, we lift our voices and proclaim YOUR PRECIOUS NAME.

Praying for the peace of Jerusalem, is praying for the return of our Messiah and Lord and for the Kingdom of God He is bringing when He comes. Then God's Will shall be done on earth as it is in Heaven and the world will experience true godly universal peace which is the fruit of Righteousness.

Email: delrifkah@gmail.com

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Also notice the section showing the disparity between the Holy Bible and the Muslim Koran (Quran).