

PostExilicProphets 21-11-03b

So we're going to pick up our study in Zachariah via Genesis and Amos and Isaiah and Peter and Romans and so many places we went to in the first session. But we're looking here in our passage in Zachariah chapter 10 at the problem of people stepping in to be shepherds and getting in the way of God's word and God's guidance, God's oversight of his people. And there are so many who are ready and willing and able to be our guides and decide what we should hear and what we should see and what we should know and what we should do instead of looking to some of the principles that this nation was founded on, which is freedom to be fully convinced in our own minds.

And unless we are doing actual harm to someone, not potential harm, not imaginary harm, not prospective, well, it could happen harm. But unless there is actual damage being done to others, leave us free to live our lives by our own lights. I'm going to stray from my usual practice here to mention a couple of things that are by way of illustration in current events.

It is difficult to get information. It's difficult to get varying perspectives and. Be free to make up our own minds and do our own evaluations of things that are being said and heard, I'm going to mention something to you here that I think would be useful for the American public to know, but it has been so thoroughly squashed that I didn't know about it until yesterday or today, I think.

And I ran across this by accident. I was researching something else, but. There was a study.

That was done by the Salk Institute, that's S-A-L-K as in Jonas Salk. There is no more prestigious set of researchers than the Salk Institute. There was a study done and published by the Salk Institute last April and it was published.

You can find it online in AHAjournals.org. And this is the name of it. SARS-CoV-2. I'm reading from the AHAjournals.org. This is not some fly-by-night, right-wing, conservative, flag-waving, excessively bent source.

This is where stuff gets published by science. SARS-CoV-2 spike protein impairs endothelial function via downregulation of ACE2. Now, just for some background, let me read you what the CDC says about vaccines.

Let me preface this by saying I am not anti-vaccine. I am anti-darkness. I'm anti-forcing us to make decisions when we don't have all the facts.

Give me all the facts. Let me and others make whatever decision we want. I know people very close to me that have gotten vaccinated.

I know others that have not. I've got friends. I've got associates.

I've got colleagues. Some have been vaccinated. Some have not.

I have no dog in that fight except my own. I'll decide. I have decided whether or not I should get the shot.

I'm not going to tell you what I decided. Let each one be fully convinced in his own mind. But we need to be convinced with full access to the facts.

This is a fact, and it has been out for more than six months. Now, the CDC has published a paper on their website from which I am now reading. It's called Understanding mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines.

Here's how they work. There are five points. CDC says what you need to know, and they give you five points.

The first point, messenger RNA, mRNA vaccines teach our cells how to make a protein that will trigger an immune response inside our bodies. Like all vaccines, mRNA vaccines benefit people who get vaccinated by giving them protection against diseases like COVID-19 without risking the potentially serious consequences of getting sick with the actual disease. mRNA vaccines are newly available to the public.

However, researchers have been studying and working with mRNA vaccines for decades. This type of thing they've been working with for decades. Well, okay, fine.

They've been working with this one for decades. They've been working with others that operate on the same principles. Point four, the same COVID-19 mRNA vaccine product should be used for both doses of a two-dose primary series and for an additional primary dose if needed.

However, any COVID-19 vaccine can be used for a booster dose. The booster dose product does not need to match the product used for the primary series. Okay, fine.

Then the fifth point is learn more about it. They've got a link where you can get it, how you can sign up. It's free, etc.

Then they've got a longer discussion of how mRNA vaccines work. I will summarize it by saying the mRNA vaccine gets into your cell. It does not affect your DNA.

It gets at least not your nuclear cellular DNA. It gets into the, it gets into the, what am I trying to say? The little organelles, the mitochondria. Now there is some code in the mitochondria.

Mitochondrial DNA is a whole field of research in genome studies and in ancestry and all of the rest of it. They'll analyze your mitochondria. There is DNA in there.

And they try to say, oh, the vaccine doesn't get into your DNA. Well, yes, it does. It gets into the mitochondrial side of things.

What does it do? The COVID-19 mRNA vaccine is given in the upper arm muscle. It enters the muscle cells and instructs the cell's machinery to produce a harmless piece of what is called the

spike protein. Well, it's not just a harmless piece.

It is the spike protein. It's either the protein or it's not. It's the protein.

It's the spike protein. So the belief has been and is up to this point among all of the purveyors of this information that the virus is the problem that's down in the body. You know, the viral stuff is what's bad.

The spike protein is just what gets a hold of you and gets the thing absorbed. So if you can train antibodies to recognize and attack the spike protein, this gives you some immune response in advance to the virus. So far, so good.

But here's where the CDC guidance has not been updated. Although for six months, they have known about this study at the Salk Institute, which says the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein impairs endothelial function. The spike protein itself is part of the illness.

The spike protein damages endothelial cells. What are endothelial cells? They line all of your arteries. This study took a non-virus model.

They made an empty virus. It looks like the virus. It's got the corona spike proteins all over it, but there's nothing inside.

And then they used it in different ways to test. They got these little hamsters that were a certain age and have a very similar construction in their endothelial function to humans. And so they put these pseudoviruses in there that had nothing but the spike protein.

Guess what happened? Their endothelial response went down. And you can read this study, just find it. You can text me and I'll send you the link.

But they had a significant damage done to their endothelial cells by the spike protein all by itself. Vascular endothelium can be infected by SARS-CoV-2, which triggers mitochondrial reactive oxygen species production and glycolytic shift. So in the current study, we show that S protein, spike protein alone can damage vascular endothelial cells by downregulating ACE2 and consequently inhibiting mitochondrial function.

The mitochondria is what is being used to produce spike protein. Spike protein inhibits mitochondrial function in endothelial cells. It's a fascinating study to read.

It's not so far in the scientific stratosphere that you can't read it and understand it. And so here's the deal. Normally you would say, let's find a completely innocuous part of the virus and let's train the immune system to respond to that.

We're going to create this spike protein in the body. The spike protein itself is harmful. So why do people feel so bad? Why do so many people feel so bad after they get the vaccine? Because it's not there.

They said, well, if you feel bad, that's just letting you know the shot is working. Well, yeah, because you're creating part of the viral structure that attacks your endothelial tissue and reduces its function and creates inhibition. And they said, you know, SARS-CoV, the whole idea is SARS is severe acute respiratory syndrome.

Why is this a respiratory virus? It's really not respiratory alone. It is an attack on the vascular system in the lungs, which produces respiratory distress, but it doesn't begin by attacking the respiratory system. It begins by attacking the circulatory system.

Well, the spike protein, this study documents, they did it two or three different ways. And so at the conclusion, they said, you know, paradoxically, the conclusion suggests that vaccination generated antibody and or exogenous antibody against spike protein, not only protects the host from SARS-CoV-2 infectivity, but also inhibits spike protein imposed endothelial injury, which they're trying to end on a happy note. Well, isn't this great? Because the vaccine by giving you an immune response against spike protein will help reduce spike protein induced injury.

What they don't say is the way that it does this is by creating spike protein populations that do damage. And until your antibody response can kick in and you go to the CDC website, because it's not in this study, the mRNA induced things that it's co-opting of the mitochondria breaks down in something measured in hours. But the spike proteins that are induced are created by that system.

That is how the vaccine supposedly works. Those spike proteins endure in your system for something measured in weeks, weeks. So the spike protein, which has been demonstrated and proven to damage endothelial function persists in your system for a couple of weeks.

And this is why people get the vaccine and they feel real bad initially. And sometimes they keep on feeling bad afterward. This is not necessarily an argument against getting the vaccine, but it would be nice to know if you've got other complications or other comorbidities or things that are already messing with your circulatory system, maybe this isn't the best course for you personally.

If you understand that you've got other conditions related to your circulatory or respiratory system, then aggravating your endothelial function with the shot might not be your best bet. And telling your body to create something that is going to itself damage your system might not be the best thing. And knowing that these things are going to hang around in your system for a couple of weeks.

Well, did you hear about this study anywhere? Even watching Fox news, even watching any of the other, you know, conservative outlets. I found this on a site that is banned on three continents. They've been canceled by Facebook, Twitter, and Google.

And they do have some light your hair on fire stories that I would take with a grain of salt. But they also have quite a few other stories that are at least interesting in terms of how do you

parse data? You know, we talked about this last time that science is the drawing of conclusions from data. Well, how do you draw those conclusions? Is your conclusion drawing mechanism sound? So, for example, there are stories on this site that talk about test swabs.

Did anybody think about the Q-tip that they use and why some people who have been subjected to repeated testing are starting to have respiratory issues? And so there is a published study. There is someone who went and found that the swabs that are being used are full of things like fiberglass, silver, metallic shards, and things that can actually aggravate your system. And by scraping with it, damage the mucous membrane that is supposed to keep things out and allow things in because they are not cotton.

Some of these are coated with a hard plastic, a nylon coating. And, you know, who thought to look at the swabs to make sure these dang things are safe? I know people that have been swabbed more than 15 times with these things. And over time, you keep damaging the same spot in the back of your sinuses.

And then you tell somebody to wear a mask where they accumulate germs. And now they're going to be sucked into these damaged areas. Or these little foreign objects get embedded in your mucosa and start forming cysts because there's no way to eject them.

They've been implanted into your mucous membrane by these jabs. Did you hear about that anywhere? Has anybody talked about the testing mechanism? And is it safe? And maybe we ought to take a closer look at these swabs. No, you didn't.

Well, I would like to make my decisions about how often to get tested and whether or not to get the shot by having all of the facts that are available from science. This is science. This is a scientific published study with pictures of electron microscope shots of the end of these swabs.

There are any number of different brands of swabs that are made out of different materials. What swab are you guys using? Have you got a different one? Can I not have this one that's got the fiberglass? Can I not? These things are worse than asbestos to your mucous membrane, and they've done the comparison. Did you hear about that anywhere? No.

Why? Well, good question to ask. It is useful to be informed. By the way, if you want to know where this site is, just be sure you've got your VPN on and that they don't kill your internet connection for looking at it.

Let me see if I can get there. It's called The Expose, T-H-E-E-X-P-O-S-E.U-K. It's overseas. The Expose.U-K. They subsist on donations.

Nobody will advertise with them. Nobody will allow them to post anything anywhere except on their own website. But listen, use your analytical thinking skills.

Don't take everything you see. Follow the links to the studies. That's what I did.

I did not quote to you the article that was on The Expose.U-K about the spike protein. I went to the AHA journal and read that for myself. Follow the links.

Be sure that what they say matches the facts and then let each one be fully convinced in his own mind. The shot isn't fatal. It can and probably does do some good in some cases, just like getting a disease naturally and having naturally conferred immunity can be a good thing, even though you wouldn't say, hey, let me run over to somebody I know that's got COVID and infect myself.

But surviving it gives you 27 times the immunity that the shot does. You don't hear that very often either. But various sources, you know, I read bad commentaries.

You know, I turn on CNN and listen to what they are saying about almost everything. I want to hear all sides. I don't want to be led by the nose.

I don't want a goat stepping up and trying to be a shepherd for me. And you shouldn't either, spiritually or in any other way. Be informed.

Analyze the sources. Weigh things prayerfully. Each of us has a unique situation.

What's right for one of us is not right for another one of us. We are shepherded by God Himself. He gave us individually the Holy Spirit.

Did you notice you don't have to come to a group to have the ministry of the Spirit? It's not a group thing. It's individual. The individual grains that we saw in our first session, that's God's level of detail.

Don't do what you do because somebody else did it. Do what you do as under the Lord and not under men. Paul says, let each be fully convinced.

If you want to observe days and times and seasons and years, do so. If you want to abstain from foods, do so. If you don't want to, do so.

The reasons for which you do what you do are way more important than the things themselves. God is looking for faith, righteousness by faith. It's not by works.

There's not a work you can do that makes you righteous. It is the faith in which we do everything that makes us righteous. We have access to information.

Access the information in the same way that we look everywhere in Scripture to glean as much truth as we can so that we can arrive at a solid interpretation, a solid understanding, a solid interpretation and application. The same should be true in our daily lives. These spiritual skills apply everywhere.

Use them. Don't be led by the nose. Don't be handed an opinion by anybody.

Not me, not conservatives, not liberals, not pundits. The guy that was right yesterday can be dead wrong today. It is up to us to be thinking believers.

The Lord Jesus fought his way through his entire life. The Apostle Paul fought his way through his entire life. He didn't always take information that was given to him.

We talked about it many times. The trip to Jerusalem was a mistake. It was against the will of God.

Paul did not listen to good information that was given to him by believers who were gifted and prompted and informed by the Holy Spirit. Paul did not listen. It's in there for our edification, for our instruction.

Go to God. If we ask Him for bread, He's not going to let us walk away trying to chew on a rock or a snake or a scorpion. But how fervently do we look to Him for guidance? How fervently do we look to Him for answers, for light? No one who goes to God asking in genuine faith with a desire to genuinely glorify God, whatever the path is, wherever it leads, whatever it takes, no one who prays that prayer is going to come away without an answer.

Do you think there are very many people even praying that prayer? The ones that do, God is going to pay close and special attention. That's what's being spoken of in our Zechariah 10 passage. So returning there now, from God, from the Lord of hosts, who visits His flock, who tends His flock, who looks over His flock, who is individually aware of each member of His flock, from Him comes the cornerstone, from Him the tent peg, and then the third one, we've already looked at the cornerstone and the tent peg in the first session, from Him the battle bow.

Every ruler together, and every ruler together is the summary. Some rulers are cornerstones, some are tent pegs, some are battle bows. Permanent infrastructure is the specialty of some parts of the rulership.

Transient things, tents are transient. You pitch a tent because you're going to be there a little while, but you might need to shift your ground. You might need to move to a different part of the country, a different part of the pasture.

You might need to take your flocks in a different place. Cornerstones, this is permanent dwelling places, right? Tents, these are temporary dwelling places. We are transitory.

We are mobile. We are flexible. We go where there's good grass.

We go where the water is. We go where the conditions are best. There is leadership that specializes in building permanent infrastructure.

There is leadership that specializes in knowing where to pound in tent pegs and establish a domicile at the moment for the present, but it could change. And then there is leadership that is the battle bow. There is a time for leadership to make the best defense a good offense and to

deal with threats at a distance.

This is not the battle sword. This is not the spear. This is not the dagger.

This is the battle bow. Leadership that sees what's on the horizon, prepares for it and attacks it while it's at a distance, not on our land and on our shores and in our cities and in our villages and in our homes. The battle bow, battle at a distance, keeping the civilians safe within the walls, shooting from the walls at the enemies.

Well, turn back again to Genesis chapter 49. This is where we were in the first session, the blessing of Jacob on his sons. And when you get to the blessing of Joseph in particular, beginning in verse 23, Genesis 49, 22, Joseph is a fruitful bow by a well, double portion, fruitful bow mentioned twice by a well.

This is renewed resources. The well brings water, fresh water on a regular basis. His branches run over the wall.

His prosperity cannot be contained. The wall doesn't slow down the growth or the fruitfulness, those fruitful bows. And the fruit goes over the wall to people that are on the other side.

Joseph's fruit extends beyond Israel to the nations on the other side of the wall. Verse 23, the archers have bitterly grieved him, shot at him and hated him. They've started launching attacks from a distance, but his bow remained in strength and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty one of Jacob.

So you picture Joseph with this battle bow in his hands and he's being shot at. He's getting hate, hateful attacks, spiteful attacks, but it doesn't make him drop. It doesn't make him drop his bow.

It doesn't make him drop his arrows. Why? His hands are stabilized. You get the idea that God himself surrounds Joseph and puts his hands on Joseph's hands on this bow so that he won't drop it.

So that his faith will not fail. Like prayer for Peter, Satan desires to sift you, but I've prayed for you that your faith will not fail. It's a beautiful picture.

Joseph's bow remains in strength and the arms of his hands are made strong by the hands of the mighty one of Jacob. God is not there. It's the mighty one of Jacob.

This is God himself reaching around and stabilizing Joseph's arms and his hands so that he can keep that bow functional, that he can continue to pull that string and launch the arrows to keep this enemy at a distance, the battle bow. So you've got the cornerstone right here at the end of this verse. From there is the shepherd, the rock of Israel, the stone of Israel.

What is he talking about in Zechariah 10? The shepherd, the stone, the bow. And then in Amos chapter nine, we saw the tent, the tent peg. All of these components are fresh in the minds of people to whom Zechariah is preaching, is prophesying.

And one of the great things about the teaching and the preaching and the presentation of the word of God is it should activate and call to our minds things that we have learned before, bring them to bear, make them pertinent and applicable. And if you're not getting that from Bible class, find a Bible class that you get it because that's what it's supposed to do, is call to mind. Like Jesus says, a good teacher should bring out of the storehouse things new and old.

New things should tie in and create a tapestry with old things, things new and old. So when Zechariah is delivering this prophecy and he talks about the cornerstone and he talks about the bow and he talks about the tent, Old Testament scripture should be flooding into the minds of whom? The faithful, those grains that are never going to be lost, are never going to be forsaken, are never going to be forgotten. Though they be scattered throughout the earth, scattered among the Gentiles, God knows where every single one of them is.

He knows where every single one of us is. He knows our exact situation. He knows exactly the pressure we face and how strong that pressure is.

He knows exactly what resources we have so that we will never be tested above what we are able to bear. But there is, with every test, the way to cope, the way to succeed, the way to pass, the way to be dokimadzo, tested for the purpose of approval, not peradzo, tested to be afflicted. This is dokimadzo, tested for the purpose of approval.

How can you show what you are able to do unless the pressure is on? Anybody can do well when there's no pressure. Anybody that's ever played an instrument or sung or done a thing when nobody's looking and you're doing it for yourself and wow, I really nailed that. But then you get in front of a crowd and you get butterflies and nerves and there is pressure and suddenly it's not so easy to concentrate.

It's not so easy to focus. It's not so easy to do the very best that you can do. You can study.

You can take quizzes. You can do practice exams and everything is going great. But in the heat of the moment when the result is on the line, you've paid your \$100 testing fee and you really need this score to be good so that you can get into your graduate program or whatever, people clutch, people choke, you vapor lock.

Why? Pressure shows whether you really know, whether you've really mastered the material or you've got more of a shallow tenuous grasp that does fine in the sunshiny day, but a little bit of heat and it withers and perishes and there's nothing left. All of us have had this experience. The testing of our faith is to demonstrate its durability, to demonstrate its quality, to show mainly the angels and possibly also observant humans that this is the real deal.

The strength of God is a real thing. The spirit of God and the word of God are real. They actually strengthen.

They actually transform. They actually make whole. It's not a theory.

It's not a philosophy. It's not a vague psychological crutch. When we show what we're made of in adversity, the durability of your faith, the trial, the testing, the perseverance that we exhibit reflects the glory of God, the power of God, the actualness, the material difference that his word and his spirit make in us that nothing else in this world can make.

Nobody lasts. Nobody endures. Nobody is joyful in the face of adversity like believers who are genuinely powered by God.

Nobody. There is no power like God's. There are no people like God's when they're doing what they're supposed to do.

Well, that's us. That's these people here and God says, I am going to find those people and that's what I'm going to build my permanent kingdom out of. The Lord Jesus is going to be the cornerstone of solid stones that make up that entire wall.

And if I find a faulty stone, a cracked stone at a house I'd like to never sold because it was made out of Mexican brick that was sandstone and it dissolved in the rain and it cracked under pressure and they didn't know when they built my house that it was going to be so far out of code that it was banned. Try selling a house made out of banned bricks where every extra brick laying around says Mexico and big letters on the underside. So we're trying to turn all the bricks over so that that doesn't show when the inspector comes.

Is this Mexican brick? Oh, well, you know, you've got to redo the entire facade of your house all the way around because these bricks are faulty. Don't build out of faulty materials and you don't have near the trouble. So that's what is at issue.

That is what is at stake. So back here in Zechariah chapter 10, as we conclude our study tonight, look at what God says to his people. This is a message of hope from him comes verse four, the cornerstone from him, the tent peg from him, the battle bow from God comes every type of leadership we need.

If we need stability and security, he provides the cornerstone ultimately for us. That's Jesus Christ who is the chief cornerstone. From him comes the tent peg.

We are sojourners and pilgrims in this land. We have temporary dwellings, but we do temporarily dwell and we pitch a tent. God's tabernacle stayed in place and then it would move, be in a new place.

It would stay and then it would move. Good leadership, good guidance to know when to stay and when to move. That's the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire.

And God's tent was pitched when the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire said stay, they stayed. When it said move, they moved. There is leadership that does the same thing.

We stick and we stay on this ground for now. Maybe we need to shift it later. There are people

who have the gift of knowing that this is a hill to die on, or this is a hill that we're going to leave and make a strategic withdrawal to a better, more secure location.

There are people that have that gift, good leadership. God can give us that insight through the Lord Jesus, through his spirit. From him, the battle bow.

There is a time to go on the offense and attack. It's not every time. Every battle is not a bow and arrow battle, but some of them are.

From him, every ruler together, every different kind of leadership. In the Old Testament, these were physical rulers on the throne and in the cabinet and generals in the armies and so on. David's mighty men had different skill sets.

For us, all of these things are ours through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the presence and power of God's word. All of these are ours. God provides it to us.

How could we miss it? How could we ignore it? How could we run off on our own and not consult what God has provided by way of wonderful leadership in our soul? They shall be like mighty men who tread down the mire of the streets in the battle. Anything in our way just becomes underfoot. What is the promise? The Lord said to my Lord, what? Sit thou at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.

Enemies under your feet. Here, the suggested understanding here is treading down enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle. They shall fight because the Lord is with them.

And riders on horses shall be put to shame because God is astride his mighty war horse. And all other riders and all other horses go back to the song of Miriam, the horse and his rider have been cast into the sea. When God's fighting the battle, why should I fear what man can do unto me? It goes on to say in verse six, I will strengthen the house of Judah and I will save the house of Joseph.

In case you missed the allusion to Genesis 49 in the preceding verses, why doesn't he say the house of Ephraim? Who's Ephraim's daddy? Ephraim and Manasseh. Who's their father? Joseph. But he doesn't say the house of Judah and the house of Ephraim.

He doesn't say the house of Judah and the house of Israel. What does he say? In case, hello, did you miss Genesis 49 and my threefold allusion to it up there? If you did, let me talk about the house of Joseph, the double portion house, the strengthened house with the mighty bow and the stone of Israel and the shepherd of Israel on his side. You've got the rock, you've got the shepherd and you've got the bow.

What more do you need? Go to Amos 9 and you can get that tent. I will strengthen the house of Judah. What did he say about Joseph's arms as he holds the battle bow? I, the Lord, hold his arms and strengthen him.

What a wonderful image. What time I am afraid I will trust in thee. You just think about that image of God reaching around and grabbing Joseph's arms so that he never drops that bow and he knows exactly where to point it and exactly how to fire it.

He's got his deflection and elevation exactly right for every arrow because God is the one supplying the power and the direction. That's what these stones and pegs and bows and shepherding is all about. I will bring them back because I have mercy on them.

They shall be as though I had not cast them aside for I am the Lord, their God, and I will hear them. It's got to be something to hear, right? God can't hear if you're not crying out, if you're not praying, if you're not talking, if you're not making appeal. This is the purpose and the power of our prayer life.

What a wonderful picture for us. Well, we'll pick up here in Zechariah 10 next time, but we'll close for now in a word of prayer. Father, thank you for the truth of your word.

Thank you for the strength and the encouragement and the comfort that it provides to us. We pray that in the hands of your Holy Spirit, we will be motivated, we will be encouraged, and we can be not only founded on the rock, but be that wall of which the Lord Jesus is the chief cornerstone. That we can be those who hold the battle bow, guided and encouraged by your strength, and that we can be those who know when to stick and when to move, that having you as our shepherd, having the Lord Jesus as the chief shepherd, we can live our lives in the time that remains to us in a way that pleases you and glorifies him, our Lord Jesus Christ.

We pray it in his name. Amen.