

Discussion 13

The Strength of YHVH

(The Understanding of Your Heart)

Primary Content (From 1 Sefer Moses, the Book of Beginnings):

- Chapter 22 - The Offering and the Promise
- Chapter 23 - The Law and the Sacrifice

Additional Reading (Comparison Texts):

- Genesis 12 from the Inspired Version of the Bible

Objectives:

- To take a moment and challenge everything you think you know

Kabbalistic Concepts:

- Strength
- Understanding

Reading:

Chapter 22 - The Offering and the Promise			
1 Moses	Writings of JS Jr.	KJV	Discussion Ideas
<p>1. And it came to pass that in the land of Egypt those that had followed Nimrod but had escaped the tower did rule over the lands.</p> <p>2. And it came to pass that when they in the land of Chaldea did hear Abram speaking highly of YHVH these did fear, and they did cause that he should be taken;</p> <p>3. And these wicked priests of Pharaoh that were about in the land did grab all they that would not bow down before the elohim of Pharaoh.</p> <p>4. And the priests of</p>	<p><u><i>Abraham (from PofGP)</i></u> 1:15. ¶ And as they lifted up their hands upon me, that they might offer me up, and take away my life, behold, I lifted up my voice unto the Lord my God; and the Lord hearkened and heard, and he filled me with a vision of the Almighty, and the angel of his presence stood by me, and immediately unloosed my bands,</p>		<p>Is this story of Abraham on the altar found in any other place before it was introduced by Joseph Smith 200 years ago?</p>

<p>Pharaoh did cause that he, Abram, should be put to death;</p> <p>5. And these did lay him upon the altar of their elohim, for they did fear that their elohim did destroy the tower, and Terah did not prevent them.</p>			
<p>6. And there upon the altar The Voice of YHVH came down from the heavens as a stream of fire, calling out: Abram, Abram!</p> <p>7. And Abram said: Here am I!</p> <p>8. And The Voice said: Thou art searching for the Elohim of elohim, the Creator, the understanding of thy heart: behold! I am He.</p> <p>9. And the angel of YHVH did come and take him, calling him by name, saying: Hear O Abram, and behold the strength of YHVH!</p> <p>10. And I have heard thee, and have come down to deliver thee, and to take thee away from the house of thy father, and from all thy kinsfolk, into a strange land which thou knowest not of;</p>	<p>1:16. And his voice was unto me: Abram! Abram! behold, my name is JEHOVAH, and I have heard thee, and have come down to deliver thee, and to take thee away from thy fathers house, and from all thy kin-folks, into a strange land, which thou knowest not of,</p>		
<p>11. And this because these have turned their hearts away from me, to worship the elohim of their hands, and the elohim of Pharaoh;</p> <p>12. Therefore, I have come down to visit them, and to destroy these that hath lifted up their hand against thee to take away thy life.</p> <p>13. Behold, I will lead thee by my hand, and I will take</p>	<p>1:17. And this because they have turned their hearts away from me, to worship the God of Elkenah, and the God of Libnah, & the God of Mahmackrah, & the God of Korash, and the God of Pharaoh King of Egypt; therefore I have come down to visit them, and to destroy him who hath lifted up his hand against thee, Abram, my son, to take away thy life:</p>		

<p>thee in, and seal upon thee my name, even as I did thy fathers; and my power shall be over thee, and I shall be with thee;</p>	<p>1:18. Behold I will lead thee by my hand, and I will take thee, to put upon thee my name, even the priesthood of thy father: and my power shall be over thee;</p>		
<p>14. Therefore, Abram, get thee out of this land, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house unto a land that I will show thee;</p> <p>15. And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing;</p> <p>16. And I will bless them that bless thee and curse them that curse thee; and in thee shall the families of the earth be blessed.</p>	<p><u><i>Genesis - Inspired Version</i></u> 12:1 Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house unto a land that I will show thee;</p> <p>12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing; and I will bless them that bless thee and curse them that curse thee; and in thee shall the families of the earth be blessed.</p>	<p>12:1. Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:</p> <p>12:2. And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:</p> <p>12:3. And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.</p>	
<p>17. ¶ And it came to pass that YHVH did teardown the altars of the elohim of that land, utterly destroying them, and He did smite the priests that they died;</p> <p>18. And so it was that there was great mourning in Chaldea, and word was sent unto the court of Pharaoh, and these too did grieve, but they knew not of the hand of YHVH nor of Abram.</p> <p>19. And was so great the faith of Abram that upon that day he did rise to the seventy-fifth degree.</p>	<p><u><i>Abraham (From PofGP)</i></u> 1:20. ¶ Behold, Potiphar's Hill was in the land of Ur, of Chaldea; and the Lord broke down the altar of Elkenah, and of the Gods of the land, and utterly destroyed them, and smote the priest that he died; and there was great mourning in Chaldea, and also in the court of Pharaoh, which Pharaoh signifies King by royal blood.—</p>		
<p>20. ¶ And it came to pass that Abram and Sarai, his wife, and Lot, the son of Haran, his brother's son, and Advu, the wife of Lot, and went forth from Ur of the Chaldees to go into the land of Canaan; and Terah</p>	<p><u><i>Abraham (From PofGP)</i></u> 2:4. Therefore, I left the land of Ur, of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and I took Lot, my brother's son, and his wife, and Sarai, my wife, and also my father followed after</p>		

<p>tarried with them.</p> <p>21. And so it was that they did come unto Haran and they did dwelt there.</p> <p>22. ¶ And it came to pass that the famine debated, and that Terah did not find teshuvah, but continue to worship the elohim of his hands; or in other words, the elohim of his own creation.</p>	<p>me, unto the land which we denominated Haran.</p> <p>2:5. And the famine abated; and my father tarried in Haran and dwelt there, as there were many flocks in Haran; and my father turned again unto his idolatry, therefore he continued in Haran.</p>		
<p>23. ¶ And it came to pass that Abram, and Lot, his nephew, did pray unto YHVH, and the angel of YHVH did appear unto them,</p> <p>24. And the angel of YHVH said unto Abram: Arise, and take Lot with thee; for my own purposes do I take thee away out of Haran,</p> <p>25. And I shall make thee my Sharath and my Ro'eh to bear my name in a strange land which I will give unto thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession, when they shall hearken unto my Voice:</p> <p>26. For I am YHVH, thy Elohim; I dwell in the heavens; the earth is my footstool; my name is YHVH, and I know the end from the beginning; therefore, my hand shall be over thee.</p>	<p>2:6. ¶ But I, Abram, and Lot, my brother's son, prayed unto the Lord, and the Lord appeared unto me, and said unto me, arise, and take Lot with thee, for I have purposed to take thee away out of Haran, and to make of thee a minister, to bear my name in a strange land which I will give unto thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession, when they hearken to my voice,</p> <p>2:7. For I am the Lord thy God; I dwell in Heaven, the earth is my footstool; I stretch my hand over the sea, and it obeys my voice; I cause the wind and the fire to be my chariot; I say to the mountains depart hence, and behold they are taken away by a whirlwind, in an instant, suddenly.</p> <p>2:8. My name is Jehovah, and I know the end from the beginning, therefore, my hand shall be over thee,</p>		
<p>27. And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee above measure, and make thy name great among all nations,</p> <p>28. And thou shalt be a</p>	<p>2:9. And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee above measure, and make thy name great among all nations, and thou shalt be a blessing unto thy seed after thee, that in their</p>		

<p> blessing unto thy seed after thee, that by their hands shall my Voice be heard in all nations;</p> <p>29. And through thy name I shall bless them; for as many as receive the news of this message shall be called after thy name, and shall be accounted thy seed, and shall rise up and bless thee, as their father.</p> <p>30. And I shall give thee power to seal on earth unto heaven, and to bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee;</p> <p>31. And in thee and in thy seed I give unto thee a promise: that this right shall continue in thee, and in thy seed after thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed, even with the blessings of eternal life.</p>	<p> hands they shall bear this ministry and priesthood unto all nations;</p> <p>2:10. And I will bless them through thy name; for as many as receive this gospel shall be called after thy name, and shall be accounted thy seed, and shall rise up and bless thee, as unto their father,</p> <p>2:11. And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee, and in thee, (that is, in thy Priesthood) and in thy seed, (that is thy Priesthood,) for I give unto thee a promise that this right shall continue in thee, and in thy seed after thee (that is to say, the literal seed, or the seed of the body,) shall all the families of the earth be blessed, even with the blessings of the gospel, which are the blessings of salvation, even of life eternal.</p>		
<p>32. ¶ And it came to pass that Abram departed, as YHVH had spoken unto him; and Lot desired to attend him.</p> <p>33. And Abram took Sarai, his wife, and Lot, his brother's son, and Lot's wife, Advu, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had received in Haran;</p> <p>34. And they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.</p>	<p><u><i>Genesis - Inspired Version</i></u> 12:3 So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.</p> <p>12:4 And Abram took Sarai, his wife, and Lot, his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.</p>	<p>12:4. So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.</p> <p>12:5. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.</p>	<p>This little piece about Abram being 75 appears to have been moved up to v19 in the plates of brass account.</p>
<p>35. ¶ And it came to pass that Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem and the plain of</p>	<p>12:5 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem and the plain of Moreh. And the</p>	<p>12:6. And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the</p>	

<p>Moreh; and the Canaanites were then in the land.</p> <p>36. And YHVH came unto Abram and said: Unto thy seed will I give this land.</p> <p>37. And there he did build an altar unto YHVH, who had appeared unto him.</p>	<p>Canaanites were then in the land.</p> <p>12:6 And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land. And there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him.</p>	<p>Canaanite was then in the land.</p> <p>12:7. And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him.</p>	
<p>38. ¶ And it came to pass that Abram removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, leaving Bethel on the West; and Hai was on the East;</p> <p>39. And there too he built an altar unto YHVH and called upon the name of YHVH; and Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.</p>	<p>12:7 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, leaving Bethel on the west; and Hai was on the east. And there he builded an altar unto the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.</p>	<p>12:8. And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord.</p> <p>12:9. And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.</p>	

Chapter 23 - The Law and the Sacrifice

1 Moses	Similar Passages	KJV	Discussion Ideas
<p>1. And it came to pass that there was a famine in the land; and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine had become most grievous in the land.</p> <p>2. And it came to pass that as Abram journeyed towards Egypt as they came near to enter into that land, YHVH came unto Abram saying: Behold, Sarai, thy wife, is a very fair woman to look upon;</p> <p>3. Therefore, it shall come to pass that when the Egyptians shall see her, they will say: She is his wife; and they will slay thee, that they might have her, yet these shall save her alive;</p>	<p><u><i>Genesis - Inspired Version</i></u> 12:8 And there was a famine in the land; and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine became grievous in the land.</p> <p><u><i>Book of Abraham (PofGP)</i></u> 2:21. ¶ And I, Abraham, journeyed, going on still towards the South; and there was a continuation of a famine in the Land, and I Abraham concluded to go down into Egypt, to sojourn there, for the famine became very grievous.</p> <p>2:22. And it came to pass when I was come near to enter into Egypt, the Lord said unto me: behold, Sarai,</p>	<p>12:10. And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.</p>	

<p>4. Therefore, see that ye do on this wise: Thou shall speak unto her, that she shall say unto the Egyptians that she is thy sister, and thy soul shall live; and this ye shall do for a wise purpose unto me.</p>	<p>thy wife, is a very fair woman to look upon;</p> <p>2:23. Therefore, it shall come to pass when the Egyptians shall see her, they will say she is his wife; and they will kill you, but they will save her alive; therefore see that ye do on this wise:</p> <p>2:24. Let her say unto the Egyptians, she is thy sister, and thy soul shall live.</p>		
<p>5. And YHVH Elohim showed unto him the urim and thummim, stretching out His divine hand, and shewed unto Abram many things; yea even many marvels;</p> <p>6. And Abram was shown the sun, the moon, the stars, and their places and their purpose in the heavens; for these do show unto man the stories of the past and are given for signs and seasons; for omens and wonders.</p> <p>7. And the angel of YHVH did say unto the man: the night that thou wast born the stars rained in the sky, and four stars took flight to one another to cause a great light, and this to know that mine servant was born into the world.</p> <p>8. And Abram did look into the urim and thummim and did behold many things that came to pass before the world was, and many things that should come, and he did marvel.</p>			<p>What do you make of this passage? It's really quite interesting, and isn't in any of the other accounts.</p> <p>If the 4 stars are allegorical, what could it possibly be talking about?</p> <p>What are the stories of the past that the sun moon and stars show us? If they are stories of antiquity, were the stars already telling the story before it happened? Are there remaining prophetic stories in the sky?</p>
<p>9. ¶ And it came to pass that Abram told Sarai all that YHVH had shown unto him.</p> <p>10. And after this he said unto her: Behold, now I know thee to be a fair woman to look upon;</p> <p>11. Therefore, it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say: This is his wife; and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive;</p> <p>12. Say then, I pray thee, unto them: I am his sister, that it may be well with me for thy sake, and my soul shall live because of thee;</p>	<p><i><u>Book of Abraham (PofGP)</u></i></p> <p>2:25. And it came to pass that I, Abraham, told Sarai, my wife, all that the Lord had said unto me; therefore say unto them, I pray thee, thou art my sister, that it may be well with me for thy sake, and my soul shall live because of thee.</p> <p><i><u>Genesis - Inspired Version</u></i></p> <p>12:9 And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai, his wife, Behold, now I know thee to be a fair woman to look upon; therefore, it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is</p>	<p>12:11. And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon:</p> <p>12:12. Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.</p> <p>12:13. Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.</p>	

<p>and this I ask for a wise purpose unto YHVH.</p>	<p>his wife. And they will kill me, but they will save thee alive. Say, I pray thee, unto them, I am his sister, that it may be well with me for thy sake, and my soul shall live because of thee.</p>		
<p>13. ¶ And it came to pass that when Abram and Sarai and their people did come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman, Sarai, that she was very fair.</p> <p>14. And the princes of the court of Pharaoh also saw her and commanded her to be brought before Pharaoh; and Sarai was taken into the house of Pharaoh.</p> <p>15. And Pharaoh did entreat Abram well for her sake; and he was given sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.</p>	<p>12:10 And it came to pass that when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman, that she was very fair.</p> <p>12:11 The princes also of Pharaoh saw her and commanded her to be brought before Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.</p> <p>12:12 And he entreated Abram well for her sake; and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.</p>	<p>12:14. And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair.</p> <p>12:15. The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.</p> <p>12:16. And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.</p>	
<p>16. And he did give Abram a place that he might have the ear of Pharaoh, and Abram did teach many things unto Pharaoh, for YHVH Elohim had instructed him so;</p> <p>17. And Abram did show unto Pharaoh the sky and its secrets, and he did teach Pharaoh of YHVH, and Pharaoh was pleased with what he was shown of Abram.</p>			
<p>18. ¶ And it came to pass that the elohim of that land did send plagues unto Pharaoh and his house from the day that Pharaoh knew Sarai, even great plagues because of Sarai, the wife of Abram and Pharaoh.</p> <p>19. And Pharaoh called Abram to stand before him, saying: What hast thou done unto me in this thing?</p> <p>20. And Abram did confess that which he had done, saying that this was a wise</p>	<p>12:13 And the Lord plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.</p> <p>12:14 And Pharaoh called Abram and said, What hast thou done unto me in this thing?</p>	<p>12:17. And the Lord plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife.</p> <p>12:18. And Pharaoh called Abram and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me?</p>	

<p>purpose unto YHVH Elohim.</p>			
<p>21. But Pharaoh feared his own elohim, and not YHVH Elohim, saying: Why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife? Why sayest thou: She is my sister?</p> <p>22. Yea, and didst thou do this that I might have taken her unto me to wife? And now she has lain with two men, and is taking hold of two men, as if I, Pharaoh, would be her concubine.</p> <p>23. And now the law has been made, but shall not be fulfilled, else our wives shall fall prey to ideas.</p> <p>24. Now therefore, behold, I say unto thee: Take thy wife and go thy way.</p>	<p>... Why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife? Why saidst thou, She is my sister? So I might have taken her unto me to wife. Now therefore, behold, I say unto thee, Take thy wife and go thy way.</p>	<p>... why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife?</p> <p>12:19. Why saidst thou, She is my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way.</p>	
<p>25. And Pharaoh commanded men concerning him; and they sent Abram away, and Sarai, and all that they had.</p> <p>26. And Abram and Sarai went up out of Egypt taking all that they had, and Lot and his wife with them, unto the South.</p>	<p>12:15 And Pharaoh commanded men concerning him; and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.</p> <p>13:1 And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, unto the south. ...</p>	<p>12:20. And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.</p> <p>13:1. And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.</p>	

Engage:

Engage the Concepts through Comparison

The narrative of the story of Sarah and Pharaoh is significantly different between what we have on the plates of brass, and what we had before we received them. The differences are very significant considering today's near universal judeo-christian absolute inflexible understanding of how marriage is supposed to work. Even in those abrahamic traditions that allow a man to have multiple wives, there is a universal unwillingness to allow a woman to have multiple husbands. But Abram, Sarai, and YHVH were all ok with this arrangement. And, in case you feel this might be possibly mistranslated, I invite you to look to 2 Moses 8:17-28, where Asenath, after being required by Pharaoh to marry Joseph was at first resentful that she would become the mother of slaves, but the angel of YHVH tells her in v27-28 "Behold, thy husband Joseph, he is a prince of Egypt. For his mother, Sarah, was wife to Pharaoh in her day." I invite you to compare and contrast the two narratives of what happened while Abraham and Sarah were in Pharaoh's court in Egypt, and take a moment to identify all of the details that have been added, and the repercussions of those details to the dogmas that define everything that society today believes about marriage, and the current social changes that are so divisive on our world, and where YHVH's opinion is on these issues.

As if challenging the definition of what sort of marriages are acceptable before YHVH isn't enough this passage takes things a step further and says that the elohim of Egypt were not merely the imaginary gods that mankind created as dead idols, but that Egypt's elohim had power enough in Egypt to plague the Pharaoh over his "sin" of tying himself to YHVH through marriage. The structure of the divine council of the Elohim as understood by the writers of the plates of brass appears to be polytheistic in much the same way that modern scholars claim ancient Canaanite peoples were. What do you make of that? In the last discussion, we saw the comparison of the God who Created Mankind vs the gods created by mankind (idols). But the elohim of Egypt appears to be neither of those. What is this thing? As you are pondering this, you might want to cheat and look forward a few chapters to the place where Abram, Sarai, and YHVH play out a similar narrative with King Abimelech who also has his own elohim who are not excited about the arrangement, and his elohim are "powerful" enough to see the problem and warn him in a dream not to consummate the marriage. And, before you say that Abimelech and Pharaoh's elohim are really just the devil ... this is plainly untrue. Both of them are decent god-fearing people who live lives of relative righteousness, they are definitely not painted like Cain or Nimrod who serve the darkness. Anyway, there is much to consider here about just how deeply this version of the story cuts into the dogma of our society's entire worldview.

Engage the Spirit through Contemplation

Chapter 22, Vs 6-10 give a very rich imagery at a powerful moment of salvation. This passage will be used later in the course as the clearest description of two kabbalistic concepts. Strength, and Understanding. Without diving too deep into the overall Kabbalistic journey and its goal (we do that toward the end of the course), as you ponder these verses, it might be useful to know that Understanding is the allegorical place where we want to be so that we can be a witness of God's Glory. In this image, Abram is on the altar and discovers Understanding, and is saved by the Strength of YHVH who arrives in a pillar of fire. I have no idea how literal this moment is, but I recommend spending some time to really place yourself into the perspective of Abram and ponder on this particular moment.

Engage the Group through Discussion

When you meet together as a group to discuss the content of these chapters, here are some ideas to help get the discussion going:

- Modern scholarship has “debunked” the papyrus that were used by Joseph when he was translating the Book of Abraham. They have looked at what’s left of the papyrus and declared them to be out of the standard Egyptian Book of the Dead, and have nothing at all that might imply a connection to Abraham. This chapter in the Plates of Brass seems to be a witness that regardless of the actual contents of the papyrus that Joseph used, the Book of Abraham was indeed the story of Abraham and agrees with the ancient records. This harkens to a concept taught in 2nd Nephi 12:38 RAV / 28:30 OPV. “For unto him that receiveth, I will give more; and from them that shall say: We have enough, shall be taken away even that which they have.” As more and more comes forth, and all of these different revelations are woven together in compelling ways, we will discover that we either have to accept more and more, or reject more and more. What are your thoughts on this phenomenon? And what are your thoughts on how this applies to the Book of Abraham?
- In the John 6:60–66, we have a discussion between Jesus and his disciples, AFTER he has declared himself to be the Manna from heaven, and that anyone who wants to live MUST partake of his flesh and blood. They have this exchange: “Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.” The title page of the plates of brass declare it to be the manna to feed Israel in the famine of the last days. Is what is being taught in these chapters too much? Is it “an hard saying”? Is this manna? Or is it something else?