Greetings, today our manna is Judges 8; Acts 12; Jeremiah 21; Mark 7.

July 25 - Melchizedek Devotional Perspective

[Note: For teaching purposes only, underlines, bold font, and highlight emphasis have been used in PDFs.] Scripture Source: e-Sword TS2009 unless otherwise noted: https://www.e-sword.net/

Judges 8

Gideon Defeats Zebah and Zalmunna

YHWH is truly blessing Gideon and the three hundred with victory. Sadly, they are met with ridicule and jealousy by the men of Ephrayim. It seems the hardest part of serving YHWH, is getting everyone on the same page and everyone's 'flesh' out of the way!

Jdg 8:1 And the men of Ephrayim said to him, "What is this you have done to us by not calling us when you went to fight with Midyan?" And they contended with him sharply, Jdg 8:2 and he said to them, "What have I done as compared with you? Are the gleanings of Ephrayim not better than the grape harvest of Abi'ezer?

Jdg 8:3 "Elohim has given into your hands the princes of Midyan, Oreb and Ze'eb. And what was I able to do as compared with you?" And when he had said that their rage toward him subsided.

Now Gideon is asking the men of Sukkoth for sustenance for him and his fighting men. Assistance is denied. Did they fear retribution from Zebah and Tsalmunna if they were to feed Gideon and his men? Possibly. Gideon makes it clear they will regret their decision.

Jdg 8:4 And Gig'on and the three hundred men who were with him <u>came to the Yarděn</u>, <u>passing over</u>, <u>weary yet pursuing</u>.

Jdg 8:5 And he said to the men of Sukkoth, "Please give loaves of bread to the people who follow me, for they are weary, and I am pursuing Zebah and Tsalmunna, sovereigns of Midyan."

Jdg 8:6 But the leaders of Sukkoth said, "Are the hands of Zebaḥ and Tsalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your army?"

Jdg 8:7 And Gid'on said, "Because of this, when יהוה has given Zeḇaḥ and Tsalmunna into my hand, I shall tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers!"

Gideon and his army continue and come to Penuel. There is a similar exchange made as there had been at Sukkoth. No sustenance of bread given.

Jdg 8:8 And he went up from there to Penu'el and spoke to them in the same way. And the men of Penu'el answered him as the men of Sukkoth had answered him.

Jdg 8:9 So he spoke also to the men of Penu'el, saying, "When I come back in peace I shall break down this tower!"

<u>Fifteen thousand</u> men of Zebah and Tsalmunna are camped at Qarqor. These were all that were left of the army of the East. <u>One-hundred and twenty thousand</u> men had already fallen by the hand of YHWH! Gideon strikes the camp while they were at ease. Once again YHWH gives victory.

Jdg 8:10 And Zebah and Tsalmunna were at Qarqor, and their armies with them, about fifteen thousand men, all who were left of all the army of the people of the East. Now those who had already fallen were one hundred and twenty thousand men who drew the sword.

Jdg 8:11 And Gigʻon went up by the way of those who dwell in tents on the east of Nobah and Yogbehah. And he struck the camp while the camp was at ease.

Jdg 8:12 And Zebah and Tsalmunna fled, and he pursued them, and captured the two sovereigns of Midyan, Zebah and Tsalmunna, and shuddered the entire army.

Gideon follows through on retribution to Sukkoth and Penuel. This may have been Gideon working in his flesh. There is no mention that YHWH was involved in this aspect.

Jdg 8:13 And Gid'on son of Yo'ash returned from battle, from the Ascent of Heres,

Jdg 8:14 and captured a youth of the men of Sukkoth and questioned him. So the youth wrote down for him the leaders of Sukkoth and its elders, seventy-seven men.

Jdg 8:15 And he came to the men of Sukkoth and said, "See: Zeḇaḥ and Tsalmunna, about whom you taunted me, saying, 'Are the hands of Zeḇaḥ and Tsalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your men who are weary?' "

Jdg 8:16 And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with them he taught the men of Sukkoth *a lesson*.

Jdg 8:17 And he broke down the tower of Penu'el and killed the men of the city.

In Judges 8:18 it appears that Zebah and Tsalmunna had killed Gideon's brothers at Tabor. Gideon turns to his first-born and orders him to kill the two of them but since he was a youth, he was afraid. Zebah and Tsalmunna taunt Gideon and then Gideon obliges them by killing them both himself. Here, it seems Gideon would be acting as his family's 'avenger of blood.'

Jdg 8:18 And he said to Zeḇaḥ and Tsalmunna, "How were the men whom you killed at Taḇor?" So they answered, "They were like you, each one looked like the son of a sovereign."

Jdg 8:19 And he said, "They were my brothers, the sons of my mother. As יהוה lives, if you had let them live, I would not kill you."

Jdg 8:20 And he said to Yether his first-born, "Rise, kill them!" But the youth would not draw his sword, for he was afraid, because he was still a youth.

Jdg 8:21 Then Zeḇaḥ and Tsalmunna said, "Rise yourself, and fall on us. For as a man is, so is his might." So Gidʻon arose and killed Zeḇaḥ and Tsalmunna, and took the crescent ornaments which were on their camels' necks.

Gideon rightly points the men of Israel to YHWH as their ruler.

Jdg 8:22 So the men of Yisra'ěl said to Gid'on, "Rule over us, both you and your son, also your son's son, for you have saved us from the hand of Midyan."

Jdg 8:23 But Gigʻon said to them, <mark>"I do not rule over you, nor does my son rule over you." does rule over you."</mark>

Now it seems Gideon gets side-tracked when requesting the gold to make a shoulder garment or ephod. It appears it was set up like an idol of worship in his city of Ophrah in which all Israel whored and which became a snare to Gideon and his house.

We must always remember, Pro 16:18 Before destruction *comes* pride, And before a fall a haughty spirit!

Jdg 8:24 And Gidon said to them, "I have a request to make of you, that each of you give me the ring from his spoil." For they had rings of gold, because they were Yishma'elites.

Jdg 8:25 And they said, "We shall certainly give them." And they spread out a garment, and each man threw into it the ring from his spoil.

Jdg 8:26 And the weight of the gold rings that he requested was <u>one thousand seven</u> <u>hundred pieces of gold – besides the crescent ornaments, and the pendants, and purple robes which were on the sovereigns of Midyan, and besides the chains that were around their camels' necks.</u>

Jdg 8:27 And Gig'on made it into a shoulder garment and set it up in his city, Ophrah. And all Yisra'el went whoring after it there. And it became a snare to Gig'on and to his house.

Jdg 8:28 Thus Midyan was humbled before the children of Yisra'ěl, and they lifted their heads no more. **And the land had rest for forty years in the days of Gid'on.**

The Midyanites didn't bother Gideon / nor Israel the rest of his life as he served as one of Israel's judges for forty years.

The Death of Gideon

- Jdg 8:29 And Yerubba'al son of Yo'ash went and dwelt in his own house.
- Jdg 8:30 And Gid'on had seventy sons who were his own offspring, for he had many wives.
- Jdg 8:31 And his concubine who was in Shekem also bore him a son, and he gave him the name Abimelek.
- Jdg 8:32 And Gig'on son of Yo'ash died at a good old age, and was buried in the burial-site of Yo'ash his father, in Ophrah of the Abi'ezerites.

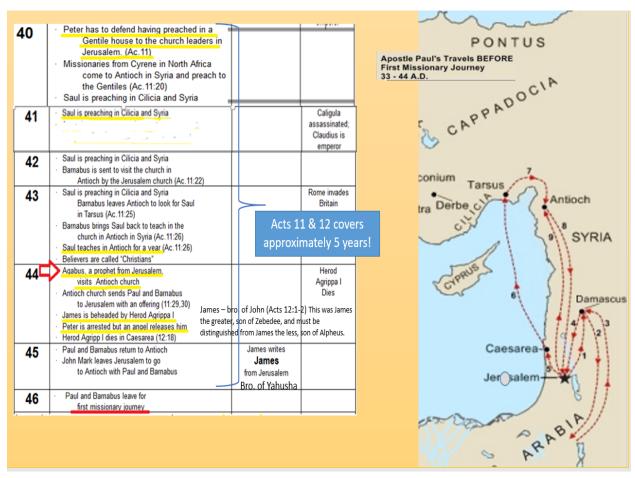
After Gideon's death, once again, the children of Israel whored after Baal and made <u>Baal</u> <u>Berith their mighty one</u>. They neither remembered YHWH their Elohim who had delivered them out of the hands of their enemies; nor did they show loving commitment to the house of Gideon.

- Jdg 8:33 And it came to be, when Gid'on was dead, that the children of Yisra'el again went whoring after the Ba'als, and made Ba'al-Berith their mighty one.
- Jdg 8:34 Thus the children of Yisra'ěl did not remember יהוה their Elohim, who had delivered them from the hands of all their enemies round about,
- Jdg 8:35 nor did they show loving-commitment to the house of Yerubba'al, Gig'on, according to all the good which he did for Yisra'ěl.

Acts 12

James Killed and Peter Imprisoned

- Act 12:1 And about that time Herodes the sovereign put forth his hands to do evil to some from the assembly.
- Act 12:2 And he killed Ya'aqob the brother of Yohanan with the sword.
- Act 12:3 And seeing that it was pleasing to the Yehudim, he proceeded further to arrest Kěpha as well and they were the Days of Unleavened Bread.
- Act 12:4 So when he had seized him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to **four squads of soldiers to watch over him**, intending to bring him before the people after Pěsah.
- Act 12:5 So Kěpha was indeed kept in prison, but prayer was earnestly made to Elohim on his behalf by the assembly.



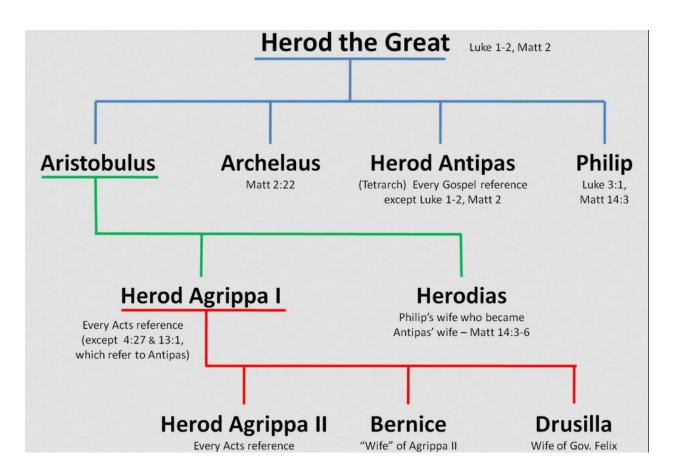
Herod desired to do evil to the assembly and therefore beheads James, the brother of John; one of the sons of Zebedee. Seeing this pleased the 'Yehudim', he arrests Peter and puts him under <u>four squads of soldiers</u> while he waited for either Passover to be completed or some translations state Easter. It is amazing how we always see <u>extra</u> <u>measures</u> put in place whenever men of YHWH are persecuted; jailed; or thrown in the fiery furnace. Here we see Peter placed under <u>four squads of soldiers</u>.

Four quaternions of soldiers - That is, sixteen, or four companies of four men each, who had the care of the prison, each company taking in turn one of the four watches of the night.

Whether there was a possibility that there was also an observance of 'Ishtar' or 'Easter' among the pagans at approximately this same time of year; one cannot tell. This is all taking place about 10-12 years since the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Yahusha.

This Herod is Herod Agrippa I a descendant of Herod the Great, an Idumean or Edomite. [Matthew 2:1]

Herod Agrippa I
Died 44 AD
Acts 12:1-24
Ruled All Palestine;
Decapitated James;
Died in Caesarea;
Descendent of
Maccabees by
Mariamne I



Peter Is Rescued

Act 12:6 And when Herodes was about to bring him out, that night Kěpha was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers. And the guards before the door were keeping the prison.

Act 12:7 And see, a messenger of יהוה stood by, and a light shone in the building. And smiting the side of Kěpha he raised him up, saying, "Get up quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands.

Act 12:8 And the messenger said to him, "Gird yourself and bind on your sandals," and he did so. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me."

Act 12:9 And coming out he followed him, and knew not that what was done by the messenger was true, but **thought he was seeing a vision**.

Act 12:10 And when they had passed the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them by itself. And they went out and went down one street, and the messenger instantly withdrew from him.

Act 12:11 And when Kěpha had come to himself, he said, "Now I truly know that has sent His messenger, and delivered me from the hand of Herodes and from all the Yehudi people were anticipating."

Adam Clarke's commentary records:

The first and - second ward - It is supposed that ancient Jerusalem was surrounded by three walls: if so, then passing through the gates of these three walls successively is possibly what is meant by the expression in the text. The prison in which he was confined might have been that which was at the outer wall.

Iron gate - This was in the innermost wall of the three, and was strongly plated over with iron, for the greater security. In the east, the gates are often thus secured to the present day. Pitts says so of the gates of Algiers; and Pocock, of some near Antioch. Perhaps this is all that is meant by the iron gate. One of the quaternions of soldiers was placed at each gate.

Which opened - of his own accord - Influenced by the unseen power of the angel.

- Act 12:12 And having realised this, <u>he went to the house of Miryam, the mother of Yohanan who was also called Margos, where many had gathered to pray.</u>
- Act 12:13 And when Kěpha knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhode came to answer.
- Act 12:14 And when she recognised Kěpha's voice, she did not open the gate because of her joy, but ran in and reported that Kěpha stood before the gate.
- Act 12:15 And they said to her, "You are mad!" But she kept insisting that it was so, and they said, "It is his messenger."
- Act 12:16 And Kěpha continued knocking, and having opened they saw him and were amazed.
- Act 12:17 And motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he told them how the Master brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Report this to Ya'aqob and to the brothers." And he left and went to another place.

James, the brother of Yahusha, was the head over the Jerusalem Council. This is probably who Peter is referring to.

- Act 12:18 Now when day came, there was no small stir among the soldiers about what had become of Kěpha.
- Act 12:19 And when Herodes had searched for him and did not find him, **he examined the guards and ordered them to be led away**. And he went down from Yehudah to Caesarea, and stayed there.

More than likely, this meant the guards were led away to be killed.

The Death of Herod

Act 12:20 Now Herodes had been highly displeased with the people of Tsor and Tsidon, but with one mind they came to him, and having made Blastos the sovereign's eunuch their friend, they were asking for peace, because their country was supplied with food by the sovereign's *country*.

Act 12:21 And on an appointed day Herodes, having put on his royal clothes, sat on his throne and gave an address to them.

Act 12:22 And the people kept shouting, "The voice of a mighty one and not of a man!"

Act 12:23 And instantly a messenger of יהוה smote him, because he did not give the esteem to Elohim. And becoming worm-eaten, he died.

Act 12:24 And the word of Elohim went on growing and spreading.

Barnabas and Paul prepare to start their 1st Missionary journey.

Act 12:25 And Barnaba and Sha'ul returned from Yerushalayim, having completed the service, and having taken with them Yoḥanan who was also called Marqos.

To understand the 'back story' to this event, we turn to the historian Josephus:

"Herod, having reigned three years over All Judea, (he had reigned over the tetrarchy of his brother Philip four years before this), went down to Caesarea, and there exhibited shows and games in honor of Claudius, and made vows for his health. On the second day of these shows, he put on a garment made wholly of silver, and of a contexture most truly wonderful, and came into the theater early in the morning; at which time the silver of his garment, being illuminated by the first reflection of the sun's rays, shone out after a surprising manner, and was so resplendent as to spread a horror over those who looked intently upon him; and presently his flatterers cried out, one from one place, and another from another, 'He is a god:' and they added, 'Be thou merciful to us, for although we have hitherto reverenced thee only as a man, yet shall we henceforth own thee as superior to mortal nature.' Nor did the king rebuke them, nor reject their impious flattery. But, looking up, he saw an owl on a certain rope over his head, and immediately conceived that this bird was to him a messenger of ill tidings; and he fell into the deepest sorrow; a severe pain also arose in his bowels, and he died after five days' severe illness." This is the sum of the account given by Josephus, Ant. lib. xix. cap. 8, sect. 2. (See Whiston's edition.)

Jeremiah 21

Jerusalem Will Fall to Nebuchadnezzar

Jer 21:1 The word that came to Yirmeyahu from יהוה when Sovereign Tsidqiyahu sent to him Pashhur son of Malkiyah, and Tsephanyah the son of Ma'asĕyah, the priest, saying,

Jer 21:2 "Please inquire of יהוה on our behalf, for Nebukadretstsar sovereign of Babel has *started* fighting against us. It might be that יהוה deals with us according to all His wondrous works, so that he withdraws from us."

Jer 21:3 But Yirmeyahu said to them, "Say this to Tsidqiyahu,

Jer 21:4 Thus said יהוה Elohim of Yisra'ěl,

- "See, I am turning back the weapons of battle that are in your hands, with which
 you fight against the sovereign of Babel and the Kasdim who besiege you
 outside the wall. And I shall gather them inside this city.
- Jer 21:5 "And I Myself shall fight against you with an outstretched hand, and with a strong arm, even in displeasure and rage and great wrath.
- Jer 21:6 "And I shall strike the inhabitants of this city, both man and beast let them die of a great pestilence.
- Jer 21:7 "And afterward," declares יהוה, "I give Tsidqiyahu sovereign of Yehudah, his servants and the people, and such as are left in this city from the pestilence and the sword and the scarcity of food, into the hand of Nebukadretstsar sovereign of Babel, into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those who seek their life. And he shall strike them with the edge of the sword. He shall not pardon them, nor spare nor have compassion."

YHWH sets before them the way of life and the way of death.

Jer 21:8 "You shall also say to this people, 'Thus said יהוה, "See, I set before you the way of life and the way of death.

The way of life

Jer 21:9 "Whoever stays in this city dies by the sword, by scarcity of food, and by pestilence.

The way of death

But whoever goes out and shall go over to the Kasdim who besiege you, is going to live, and his life shall be as a prize to him.

These were the only two choices!

Jer 21:10 "For I have set My face against this city for evil and not for good," declares יהוה. "It is given into the hand of the sovereign of Babel, and he shall burn it with fire."

Message to the House of David

Jer 21:11 "And to the house of the sovereign of Yehudah, say, 'Hear the word of יהוה,

Jer 21:12 O house of Dawid! Thus said יהוה, "Render right-ruling in the morning, and deliver him who has been robbed out of the hand of the oppressor, lest My wrath go out like fire and burn, with no one to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds.

Jer 21:13 "See, I am against you, O inhabitant of the valley, rock of the plain," declares

יהוה, "who are saying, 'Who would come down against us? And who would come into our dwellings?'

Jer 21:14 "And I shall punish you according to the fruit of your deeds," declares יהוה.
"And I shall kindle a fire in its forest, and it shall consume all that is around her." '

Mark 7

Traditions and Commandments

Mar 7:1 And the <u>Pharisees and some of the scribes</u> assembled to Him, having come from Yerushalayim.

Mar 7:2 And seeing some of His taught ones eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault.

Mar 7:3 For the Pharisees, and all the Yehudim, do not eat unless they wash their hands thoroughly, holding fast the tradition of the elders,

Mar 7:4 and *coming* from the market-place, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other *traditions* which they have received and hold fast – the washing of cups and utensils and copper vessels and couches.

Mar 7:5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your taught ones not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?"

Yahusha gives the Pharisees, the scribes, and all those that were listening a very thorough answer.

Mar 7:6 And He answering, said to them, "Well did Yeshayahu prophesy concerning you hypocrites, as it has been written, 'This people respect Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.

Mar 7:7 And in vain do they worship Me, teaching as teachings the commands of men.'a <u>Isa 29:13</u>. Footnote: ^aAlso see <u>2Ki 17:19</u> and <u>Mat 15:3-9</u>.

Mar 7:8 "Forsaking the command of Elohim, you hold fast the tradition of men."

Mar 7:9 And He said to them, "Well do <u>you set aside the command of Elohim, in order to guard your tradition.</u>

Mar 7:10 "For Mosheh said, 'Respect your father and your mother,' Exo_20:12, Deu_5:16 and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' Exo_21:17, Lev_20:9.

Mar 7:11 "But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me, is Qorban (that is, a gift)," '

Mar 7:12 you no longer let him do any matter at all for his father or his mother,

Mar 7:13 nullifying the Word of Elohim through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such *traditions* you do."

What Defiles a Person

Mar 7:14 And calling the crowd to Him, He said to them, "Hear Me, everyone, and understand:

Mar 7:15 "There is no matter that enters a man from outside which is able to defile him, but it is what comes out of him that defiles the man.

Mar 7:16 "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Mar 7:17 And when He went from the crowd into a house, His taught ones asked Him concerning the parable.

Mar 7:18 And He said to them, "Are you also without understanding? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside is unable to defile him,

Mar 7:19 <u>because it does not enter his heart but his stomach</u>, and is eliminated, thus purging all the foods?" Footnote: bSee footnote Mat 15:20.

Mar 7:20 And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man.

Mar 7:21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed

- evil reasonings,
- adulteries,
- whorings,
- murders,
- Mar 7:22 thefts,
- greedy desires,
- wickednesses.
- deceit.
- indecency,
- an evil eye,
- blasphemy,
- pride,
- foolishness.

Mar 7:23 "All these wicked matters come from within and defile a man."

The Syrophoenician Woman's Faith

Mar 7:24 And rising up from there He went to the borders of Tsor and Tsidon. And entering into a house He wished no one to know it, but it was impossible to be hidden.

Mar 7:25 For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet.

Mar 7:26 Now the woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

Mar 7:27 And יהושע said to her, "Let the children be satisfied first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." Footnote: CAlso see Mat_15:27.

Mar 7:28 But she answering, said to Him, "Yes, Master, for even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs."

Mar 7:29 And He said to her, "Because of this word go, the demon has gone out of your daughter."

Mar 7:30 And having come into her house, she found the demon gone out, and her daughter lying on the bed.

This woman exhibited faith and wisdom. She believed if she asked, she would receive. She had heard about Him and she kept asking until He answered. She also shows her belief by calling Him Master.

Yahusha Heals a Deaf Man

Mar 7:31 And again, going out from the borders of Tsor and Tsidon, He came to the Sea of Galil, through the midst of the borders of Dekapolis.

Mar 7:32 And they brought to Him one who was deaf and spoke with difficulty, and they begged Him to lay His hand upon him.

Mar 7:33 And taking him away from the crowd, He put His fingers in his ears, and having spit, He touched his tongue.

Mar 7:34 And looking up to the heaven, He sighed, and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."

Mar 7:35 And immediately his ears were opened, and the binding of his tongue was loosed, and he was speaking plainly.

Mar 7:36 And He ordered them, that they should say it to no one, but the more He ordered them, the more they published it.

Mar 7:37 And they were immeasurably astonished, saying, "He has done all well. He makes even the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak."

We have read about numerous accounts of healings with various actions taken. We <u>can</u> <u>only speculate</u> as to why some healings are done differently. The main thing to know and see, is that healing and life come from Yahusha, YHWH in Son, by FAITH.

TSK's commentary stated:

This was clearly a symbolical action; for these remedies evidently could not, by their natural efficacy, avail to produce so wonderful an effect. As the ears of the deaf appear closed, he applies his fingers to intimate that he would open them; and as the tongue of the dumb seems to be tied, or to cleave to the palate, he touches it, to intimate he would give loose and free motion to it. He accommodated himself to the weakness of those who might not indeed doubt his power, but fancy some external sign was requisite to healing. It was also thus made manifest, that this salutiferous power came from Himself, and that He who by one word, $\epsilon \phi \alpha \theta \alpha$ [G2188], had healed the man, must be Divine.

~ Shalom ~ Libby

Devotional Reading Plan Link: http://www.mcheyne.info/calendar.pdf