

Exodus 20:22

John 20:22

Proverbs 20:22

Today we will investigate several passages of Scripture that match up to 2022. I find it very interesting to see what they have to say and how they might give us ways to pray as we enter the new year.

19So when it was evening on that day, the first *day* of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and *said to them, "**Peace be with you.**" 20And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21So Jesus said to them again, "**Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**" 22And when He had said this, He breathed on them and *said to them, "**Receive the Holy Spirit.** **John 20:19-22 NASB**

- The breath of God; the Holy Spirit brings new life to everything that He touches. Pray for a fresh touch of God, a vibrant in filling of the Spirit in your life, breathe on us breath of God.

22Then the LORD said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'You yourselves have seen that I have spoken to you from heaven. 23You shall not make *other gods* besides Me; gods of silver or gods of gold, you shall not make for yourselves. 24You shall make an altar of earth for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen; in every place where I cause My name to be remembered, I will come to you and bless you. **Exodus 20:22-24 NASB**

- The Lord has spoken; He has given us His word. His word tells us to 'sell out' to Him, to be mindful of Him and to worship Him. When we do this, He will 'come to us to bless us'. Out surrender to Him free Him to bless us with His presence and power.

22Do not say, "I will repay evil"; wait for the LORD, and He will save you. **Proverbs 20:22 NASB**

- Revenge and taking matters into your own hands are not the 'way of the Lord.' We should submit our responses to the Lord and permit Him to save us in our vexing situations...we are to wait for the outworking of His redemptive touch.

Enemies Destroy Themselves

20They rose early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa; and when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, O Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, put your trust in the LORD your God and you will be established. Put your trust in His prophets and succeed." 21When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who sang to the LORD and those who praised *Him* in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, "Give thanks to the LORD, for His lovingkindness is everlasting." 22When they began singing and praising, the LORD set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they were routed. 23For the sons of Ammon and Moab rose up against

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the inhabitants of Mount Seir destroying *them* completely; and when they had finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another. ²⁴When Judah came to the lookout of the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude, and behold, they *were* corpses lying on the ground, and no one had escaped. ²⁵When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoil, they found much among them, *including* goods, garments and valuable things which they took for themselves, more than they could carry. And they were three days taking the spoil because there was so much.

- We need to recognize 'worship as a weapon' and 'give ourselves to Him' in worship as He directs us and see the 'ambushes' the Lord will create to plunder our enemies and use situations to grant us victory and blessing.

¹Now a worthless fellow happened to be there whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite; and he blew the trumpet and said, "We have no portion in David, nor do we have inheritance in the son of Jesse; Every man to his tents, O Israel!" ²So all the men of Israel withdrew from following David *and* followed Sheba the son of Bichri; but the men of Judah remained steadfast to their king, from the Jordan even to Jerusalem. **2 Samuel 20:1-2 NASB**

⁶Then a wise woman called from the city, "Hear, hear! Please tell Joab, 'Come here that I may speak with you.'" ¹⁷So he approached her, and the woman said, "Are you Joab?" And he answered, "I am." Then she said to him, "Listen to the words of your maidservant." And he answered, "I am listening." ¹⁸Then she spoke, saying, "Formerly they used to say, 'They will surely ask *advice* at Abel,' and thus they ended *the dispute*." ¹⁹I am of those who are peaceable *and* faithful in Israel. You are seeking to destroy a city, even a mother in Israel. Why would you swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?" ²⁰Joab replied, "Far be it, far be it from me that I should swallow up or destroy! ²¹Such is not the case. But a man from the hill country of Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, has lifted up his hand against King David. Only hand him over, and I will depart from the city." And the woman said to Joab, "Behold, his head will be thrown to you over the wall." ²²Then the woman wisely came to all the people. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri and threw it to Joab. So, he blew the trumpet, and they were dispersed from the city, each to his tent. Joab also returned to the king at Jerusalem. **2 Samuel 20:16-22 NASB**

I think the Lord would like to make this a season when He delivers people from both 'symptom and cause' of their difficulties. We should cry out to Him to empower us to strike the 'axe to the root' of chronic, crippling, and cyclical problems, habits, sin patterns, and addictions. We must 'identify' the cause of these situations (wisdom is required) and find the way to 'cut of the head of the enemy.'