

11 November 1992, Wednesday Evening Londrina, Brasil

Winnowing

What is one thing you learned this morning?

Yael — Dan 12:10 — we can't be foolish and miss what our Master has for us when He comes back.

David Israel — to love correction.

David Derush — If we can truly understand that we are saved, we are going to be really really thankful. If we are faithful now in small things, we are going to receive a great reward. But if not, we are going to be disciplined and corrected in a strong way so that we can come into eternity worthy.

Deborah — The passage about building with wood, hay and straw or with precious stones is to people who have already had the foundation laid. Now we have to take care how we build upon this foundation that is YAHSHUA.

We must be *very* careful how we build. Our Master is coming with a great winnowing fork in His hand and He is going to clean out his barn of the dust and whatever else blows away. You have to clean wheat. Winnowing is the process. He takes the wheat and pitches it up in the air and the wheat falls to the ground and the rest blows away. We are going to be winnowed ourselves and if we are nothing but dross, chaff, we will be blown away with the wind. One day a spirit is going to come — crafty, cunning, deceiving, angelic powers are going to come to try to deceive us and those who are his elect will not be deceived — they will remain. But the dross will be taken away. Even the elect would be deceived in that day, but it is not possible because they are the elect, the chosen.

John the baptist preached the coming of our Master to the Israelites, saying that He was coming with a winnowing fork in His hand. Of all of the thousands and thousands and thousands of Israelites who lived in that day, only a few — just the wheat only — a remnant were saved.

There were several thousand in the first church. They heard God's voice because they had heard his voice in John the baptist's voice and received John's baptism and justified God and they were set apart (Lk 7:25-29).

In Acts 19, they knew about YAHSHUA, but had yet only received the baptism of John. So when YAHSHUA was preached to them, then the Holy Spirit came to them in baptism. The people who had believed John the baptist had a *heart* to receive Messiah.

Do we have a heart to receive Messiah when He returns? Are we looking forward eagerly awaiting that day? He is coming back only for those who are eagerly awaiting (Heb 9:29), who loved His appearing (2 Tim 4:8), who cried out day and night, who longed for His coming. Did you ever long for something? Wish for it, desire it? Like in the middle of a desert you *long* for a drink of water. Well, He is going to come back for us because we genuinely *want* Him to come; we long for Him, we wait with great anticipation to receive Him with confidence.

It is supported in Mt 24:24 that a great cunning deception strategem is coming. This is going to winnow us and those who endure to the end (2 Tim 2:8-12) are those who are being saved. And the people who are just chaff will not be able to resist the temptation to be deceived. But the true ones will not be deceived; they'll stick close to Him and nothing will be able to separate them from Him.