



THE COOLING OF DESIRE!

THE FALL OF MAINSTREAM CHRISTIANITY

(Pastor Joey Faust – 4-18-21)

TEXT: Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

2 While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened...

5 Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, **and desire shall fail:** because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:

2 Chronicles 24:15 But
Jehoiada waxed old, and was
full of days when he died; **an**
hundred and thirty years old
was he when he died.

2 Samuel 19:34 And Barzillai said unto the king, How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king unto Jerusalem?

35...can thy servant taste what I eat or what I drink? can I hear any more the voice of singing men and singing women? wherefore then should thy servant be yet a burden unto my lord the king?

"...the caper-berry shall fail" (*English Revised Version*, 1885)

"...the caperberry no longer inspires [s____] desire." (*New Living Translation*)

"the caper-berry is without effect" (*Darby Bible*; *Holman Christian Standard Bible*; *New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update*; etc.)

"Old men will not want to [____] anymore." (*New International Reader's Version*)

"Desire - literally, the caper-berry; which, eaten as a provocative to appetite, shall fail to take effect..." (Barnes)

"The incongruity of the juxtaposition, *almond, locust, desire*, must have struck many a reader of the Authorized Version. The context requires a concrete noun, the name of some natural object." (Prof. George F. Moore, *Journal of Biblical Literature*)

Ecclesiastes 12:5 Also when they shall
be afraid of that which is high, and
fears shall be in the way, and the
almond tree shall flourish, and the
grasshopper shall be a burden, and
desire shall fail...

Capers as usually the flower buds that are harvested from a bush called **Capparis spinosa**. It grows in Mediterranean areas, including Israel.





1 Kings 4:33 And he spake of trees,
from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon
even **unto the hyssop** that springeth
out of the wall: he spake **also** of beasts,
and of fowl, and of creeping things,
and of fishes.

"Hyssop. The lasaf or asaf, **the caper plant**, the bright green creeper which climbs out of the fissures of the rocks in the Sinaitic valleys...and thus explains whence came the green branches used, even in the desert, for sprinkling the water over the tents of the Israelites." (Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, in "Sinai and Palestine." 1864)

Psalms 51:7 Purge me
with **hyssop**, and I shall
be clean: wash me, and I
shall be whiter than snow.

"Hyssop. Between twenty and thirty different plants have been proposed, but no one of them comes so near the above requirements as **the caper plant (*Capparis spinosa*)**. It grows 'out of the wall;' its stalks supply both bunch and rod admirably fitted for the ends indicated; and it has ever been esteemed in the East as possessing cleansing properties." (John Duns, D.D., in "Biblica; Natural Science")

-J. Forbes Royle, "On the Hyssop of Scripture," *The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland*, 1846:

"...that the hyssop must have been large enough to be suitable for the purposes of sprinkling [Num. 19]; that it must have been procurable on the outskirts of Palestine...that it was employed by the Greeks and Romans as a condiment is evident from its mention by Apicius...is stated in...that of Dioscorides, that there are two kinds of hyssop, the one a garden, the other a mountain plant...the latter is found on the mountain of the Temple, that is, of Jerusalem..."

I was led to what appears to me its discovery, by a passage from Burckhardt's Travels in Syria, quoted by Mr. Kitto in his work entitled The Physical Geography and Natural History of the Holy Land...'...he describes it as a tree...It springs from the fissures in the rocks, and its crooked stem creeps up the mountain side...a characteristic description of the Common Caper Bush, which is indigenous in these regions...When at Aleppo, Rauwolf says (Travels, p. 49), 'There grew also in the road and on old walls such plenty of capers, that they are not at all esteemed; they take these flowers before they open, and pickle them, and eat them for sauce with their meat'...

We proceed now to show that capers were supposed to be possessed of cleansing properties...Thus Murray (*Apparatus Medicaminum*, ii. p. 381)...Diosc...[Pliny, Galen, etc.]...it is said, John xix. 29...'Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar, and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop (fixing it on a hyssop stalk of some) and put it to his mouth'...it is acknowledged on all hands that the common hyssop is too short and too slender to be used as a stick...Some also of the ancient statements refer evidently to a larger plant than the common hyssop. Thus Josephus...ranks it with trees...such any of the old caper bushes or trees, as they are sometimes called, growing in the congenial climate of Palestine, would be able to supply...

The prickly nature of the stem, moreover, would better fit it for the purpose of having the sponge affixed...This employment of capers is further interesting as explaining in some measure the presence of the vessel full of vinegar...I hope I have now succeeded in proving to the satisfaction of others, that **the Caper...is the Hyssop of Scripture..."**

"...even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall.' - 1 Kings iv. 33...the [Caper] shrub is fitted for all the purposes mentioned in the Scriptures..." (John Hutton Balfour, Plants of the Bible, 1857)

"Oxidative stress is one of the underlying causes of male infertility...we evaluated in vitro effects of **Capparis spinosa leaf extract**...The antioxidant effect of leaf extract was six times greater than fruit...Progressive and total motility of caper-treated groups (30 and 45 ppm) were **crucially higher** than the control group. Viability in all treatments was **significantly higher** than the control group..."

(Journal of Ethnopharmacology, Volume 269, 6 April 2021)

-It was used for centuries by women for infertility:

[Bailey, C. and A. Danin, 1981.
Bedouin plant utilization in Sinai
and the Negev. Econ. Bot., etc.]

"That [Capers were] so used [to stimulate desire] we have the explicit testimony of Arab writers on *materia medica*...In Delitzsch's *Koheleth*, Wetzstein quotes the medical dictionary *Malayesa* ('What a Physician must not be ignorant of'), 'An acetous tincture of its seeds stimulates flagging venereal desire, and restores it when it has ceased.' So, according to Wetzstein i.e., in another Arabic medical dictionary. In the Soudan, at the present day, the *Capparis sodada*, a species also found in Palestine (Post, *Plants of Syria*, p. 95 f.), is regarded as a specific against barrenness (Brown, in Denham and Clapperton, *Narrative, etc.* Boston, 1826. App. p. 76)."

(Prof. George F. Moore, *Journal of Biblical Literature*)

"Flavonoid compounds such as rutin and quercertin are detected in C. spinosa..."

(*Nutrients*, 2018; "Phytochemical and Pharmacological Properties of Capparis spinosa as a Medicinal Plant")

"*Going vegetarian can lower testosterone, damage libido in men*...Researchers from the University of Worcester add the male...hormone [T] also protects against heart disease, diabetes, and Alzheimer's. Results show vegetarian low-fat diets rank as the worst for men's [reproductive] health; decreasing testosterone by up to 26 percent..."

(StudyFinds.org, April 16, 2021)

**Garlic, ginseng, etc.; the scent of cinnamon,
myrrh...etc.**

**"...*Phoenix dactylifera* (date palm)...date palm pollen
(DPP) is used in the traditional medicine for male
infertility. In an experimental study by Bahmanpour
et al. investigated the effect of *P. dactylifera*,
pollen...[results affirmed...]"**
(Pharmacogn Rev. 2013 Jan-Jun)

Nehemiah 1:11 O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, **who desire to fear thy name...**

Psalm 145:19 He will fulfil **the desire** of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.

Proverbs 3:15 She is more precious than rubies: and **all the things thou canst desire** are not to be compared unto her.

Job 21:14 Therefore they say
unto God, Depart from us; for
we desire not the knowledge
of thy ways.

1 Chronicles 29:3 Moreover,
because I have set my affection to
the house of my God, I have of mine
own proper good, of gold and silver,
which I have given to the house of
my God...

Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Psalms 1:2 But **his delight** is in the law of the
LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day
and night.

3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the
rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit
in his season; his leaf also shall not wither;
and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalms 37:4 Delight thyself also in the
LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of
thine heart.

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What
things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe
that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Psalm 73:25 Whom have I
in heaven but thee? and
there is none upon earth
that I desire beside thee.

Proverbs 18:1 Through desire a man,
having separated himself, seeketh and
intermeddleth with all wisdom.

2 A fool hath no delight in
understanding, but that his heart may
discover itself.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes,
desire the sincere milk of the
word, that ye may grow thereby:

Acts 13:7 Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.

8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

9 Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, 10 And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season...

Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

Romans 11:28 As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.

Isaiah 26:9 With my soul **have I**
desired thee in the night; yea, with
my spirit within me will **I seek thee**
early: **for** when thy judgments are
in the earth, the inhabitants of the
world will learn righteousness.

2 Corinthians 7:11 For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, **what vehement desire**, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

[Vehement: Violent; forceful; fiery]

Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and **reaching forth** unto those things which are before,

14 **I press** toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus **minded...**

Deuteronomy 5:21 Neither shalt thou desire thy neighbour's wife, neither shalt thou covet thy neighbour's house...or any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Psalm 10:3 For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the Lord abhorreth.

"Pop star Demi Lovato explained during an appearance Tuesday on actor Drew Barrymore's talk show that she decided to **cut her hair short to break free of the 'gender and sexuality norms' imposed on her by Christian and southern culture...**'And when I cut my hair,' Lovato explained, '**I felt so liberated** because I wasn't subscribing to an ideal or a belief placed upon me to be something that I'm not'...During an appearance in March...the celebrity talked about coming out as a 'pansexual' who is attracted to 'anything, really...'..." (FAITHWIRE)