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FORMAL

The Jews were amazed that Jesus was able to read, in spite of the fact He had no formal education.

- **John 7:14-15:** "Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught. And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?"

SOBER, SOBERLY, SOBERNESS, SOBRIETY

Kings shouldn't do things that impairs their judgment. Since they have power over others, they have a responsibility to remain **sober** so they don't misuse their powers.

- **Proverbs 31:4-5:** "It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted."

When Festus told Paul that he was insane, Paul said that he spoke **soberly**.

- **Acts 26:24-25:** "And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad. But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness."

We must be **sober** and understand who we truly are in God's sight.

- **Romans 12:3:** "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

Christians must be **sober**, not drunk and disorderly.

- **Romans 13:13:** "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying."

Christians must watch for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lord *repeatedly* commanded us to be **sober**, to be awake, and to watch for Him, and we must do that.

- **2 Corinthians 6:5:** "In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;"
- **1 Thessalonians 5:6:** "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober."

Since we're watching for the Lord's return, we must be **sober**. We must pursue faith and love, and hold on to our salvation.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:8:** "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation."

Women must be **sober** and pursue good works.

- **1 Timothy 2:8-10:** "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."
- **1 Timothy 2:15:** "Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety."

Church leaders must be **sober**.

- **1 Timothy 3:2:** "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;"
- **Titus 1:7-8:** "For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;"

The wives of church leaders must be **sober**.

- **1 Timothy 3:11:** "Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things."

Elderly men must be **sober**.

- **Titus 2:2:** "That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience."

Older women need to teach young women to be **sober**.

- **Titus 2:4:** "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,"

Young men must be **sober** minded.

- **Titus 2:6:** "Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded."

Christians must live **sober** lives.

- **Titus 2:12:** "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;"

Christians must be **sober**.

- **1 Peter 1:13:** "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;"

Since the end of all things is at hand, we must be **sober**.

- **1 Peter 4:7:** "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer."

Because the devil is our adversary and is seeking to devour us, we must be **sober** and vigilant.

- **1 Peter 5:8:** "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

SOLEMN, SOLEMNITY, SOLEMNLY

Under the Mosaic Law, the day after the feast of tabernacles (the eighth day) was a day of **solemn** assembly.

- **Leviticus 23:36:** "Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein."
- **Numbers 29:35:** "On the eighth day ye shall have a solemn assembly: ye shall do no servile work therein:"

Under the Mosaic Law, the Israelites were to blow trumpets on **solemn** days (the feast days).

- **Numbers 10:10:** "Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God."

The feasts in the Mosaic Law were called **solemn** feasts.

- **Numbers 15:3:** "And will make an offering by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, or a sacrifice in performing a vow, or in a freewill offering, or in your solemn feasts, to make a sweet savour unto the LORD, of the herd or of the flock:"
- **Nahum 1:15:** "Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O

Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off."

Once the Israelites lived in Canaan, God expected them to still celebrate the **solemn** feasts of the Mosaic Law. (They didn't.)

- **Numbers 15:2-3:** "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land of your habitations, which I give unto you, And will make an offering by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, or a sacrifice in performing a vow, or in a freewill offering, or in your solemn feasts, to make a sweet savour unto the LORD, of the herd or of the flock:"

Under the Mosaic Law, the seventh day of the feast of unleavened bread was a **solemn** assembly to God.

- **Deuteronomy 16:8:** "Six days thou shalt eat unleavened bread: and on the seventh day shall be a solemn assembly to the LORD thy God: thou shalt do no work therein."

The feast of tabernacles was a time of rejoicing, and yet it was also **solemn** as well. (It's possible for a day to be both a time of rejoicing, and solemn as well.)

- **Deuteronomy 16:15:** "Seven days shalt thou keep a solemn feast unto the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD shall choose: because the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thine increase, and in all the works of thine hands, therefore thou shalt surely rejoice."

The year of release, which happened every seven years, was a **solemn** occasion. (This is when Hebrew servants were freed.)

- **Deuteronomy 31:10:** "And Moses commanded them, saying, At the end of every seven years, in the solemnity of the year of release, in the feast of tabernacles,"

God told Samuel that although he was to give the Israelites the king they asked for, he was to first **solemnly** protest.

- **1 Samuel 8:9:** "Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them."

At Jehu's command, a **solemn** assembly was proclaimed for Baal. (Jehu was gathering all the Baal worshipers so he could kill them.)

- **2 Kings 10:20:** "And Jehu said, Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal. And they proclaimed it."

Solomon told Hiram that the temple he was building would be used to offer burnt offerings on each of the **solemn** feasts of the Mosaic Law.

- **2 Chronicles 2:4:** "Behold, I build an house to the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to him, and to burn before him sweet incense, and for the continual shewbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts of the LORD our God. This is an ordinance for ever to Israel."

When the temple was dedicated, after the seven day feast was celebrated, on the eighth day there was a **solemn** assembly.

- **2 Chronicles 7:9:** "And in the eighth day they made a solemn assembly: for they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days."

Solomon offered burnt offerings to God on the temple altar on each of the **solemn** feasts.

- **2 Chronicles 8:13:** "Even after a certain rate every day, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts, three times in the year, even in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles."

On the eighth day (after the Israelites celebrated the feast of tabernacles during the days of Nehemiah) there was a **solemn** assembly.

- **Nehemiah 8:18:** "Also day by day, from the first day unto the last day, he read in the book of the law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly, according unto the manner."

Under the Mosaic Law, the Israelites blew a trumpet on the **solemn** feast days.

- **Psalms 81:3-4:** "Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day. For this was a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob."

It's good for the music that we make to praise God to be **solemn**.

- **Psalm 92:3:** "Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery; upon the harp with a solemn sound."

The psalmist spoke of using a harp that made a **solemn** sound (to praise God).

- **Psalm 92:3:** "Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery; upon the harp with a solemn sound."

When the Jews held **solemn** assemblies, they were sinning against God. (Although the Mosaic Law required those assemblies to be held, since the Jews were wicked and idolatrous God rejected them. God hates the worship of the wicked and won't accept it.)

- **Isaiah 1:13-14:** "Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them."

In nights when a holy **solemnity** was kept, the people sang a song.

- **Isaiah 30:29:** "Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the LORD, to the mighty One of Israel."

Zion was a **solemn** city.

- **Isaiah 33:20:** "Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken."

After Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem, no one went there to celebrate the **solemn** feasts of the Lord anymore.

- **Lamentations 1:4:** "The ways of Zion do mourn, because none come to the solemn feasts: all her gates are desolate: her priests sigh, her virgins are afflicted, and she is in bitterness."

God caused the Jews to forget the **solemn** feasts of the Mosaic Law. (Once Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the temple, no one went there to celebrate them anymore.)

- **Lamentations 2:6:** "And he hath violently taken away his tabernacle, as if it were of a garden: he hath destroyed his places of the assembly: the LORD hath caused the solemn feasts and sabbaths to be forgotten in Zion, and hath despised in the indignation of his anger the king and the priest."

The enemies of God made noise in the temple, just as the Jews once did during their **solemn** feasts. (This is referring to the time when Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem and destroyed the temple.)

- **Lamentations 2:7:** "The LORD hath cast off his altar, he hath abhorred his sanctuary, he hath given up into the

hand of the enemy the walls of her palaces; they have made a noise in the house of the LORD, as in the day of a solemn feast."

God told Ezekiel that in the future, the Jews would once again celebrate the **solemn** feasts of the Mosaic Law.

- **Ezekiel 36:38:** "As the holy flock, as the flock of Jerusalem in her solemn feasts; so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of men: and they shall know that I am the LORD."

In the millennium, the Jews will observe **solemn** events in the temple.

- **Ezekiel 45:17:** "And it shall be the prince's part to give burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and drink offerings, in the feasts, and in the new moons, and in the sabbaths, in all solemnities of the house of Israel: he shall prepare the sin offering, and the meat offering, and the burnt offering, and the peace offerings, to make reconciliation for the house of Israel."

In the millennium, the prince will give offerings during the **solemn** events that will take place in the temple.

- **Ezekiel 45:17:** "And it shall be the prince's part to give burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and drink offerings, in the feasts, and in the new moons, and in the sabbaths, in all solemnities of the house of Israel: he shall prepare the sin offering, and the meat offering, and the burnt offering, and the peace offerings, to make reconciliation for the house of Israel."

In the millennium, the Jews will enter the temple complex to come before the Lord during the celebration of their **solemn** feast. (This means the feasts of the Mosaic Law will still be celebrated in the millennium.)

- **Ezekiel 46:9:** "But when the people of the land shall come before the LORD in the solemn feasts, he that entereth in by the way of the north gate to worship shall go out by the way of the south gate; and he that entereth by the way of the south gate shall go forth by the way of the north gate: he shall not return by the way of the gate whereby he came in, but shall go forth over against it."

In order to punish the Israelites for their wickedness, God was going to take away their **solemn** feasts.

- **Hosea 2:11:** "I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts."

The reason the Israelites couldn't celebrate the **solemn** feast of the Lord was because they were wicked and their offerings were polluted.

- **Hosea 9:1, 4-5:** "Rejoice not, O Israel, for joy, as other people: for thou hast gone a whoring from thy God, thou hast loved a reward upon every cornfloor. ... They shall not offer wine offerings to the Lord, neither shall they be pleasing unto him: their sacrifices shall be unto them as the bread of mourners; all that eat thereof shall be polluted: for their bread for their soul shall not come into the house of the Lord. What will ye do in the solemn day,

and in the day of the feast of the LORD?"

During one of the **solemn** feasts of Israel, the people lived in tents. (This is referring to the feast of tabernacles.)

- **Hosea 12:9:** "And I that am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt will yet make thee to dwell in tabernacles, as in the days of the solemn feast."

God told the Jews that when the Day of the Lord (the tribulation) comes upon them, they should call a **solemn** assembly.

- **Joel 1:14-15:** "Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD, Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come."
- **Joel 2:1, 15:** "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand; ... Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:"

God told the Israelites that He refused to have anything to do with their solemn **assemblies**. He hated their worship. (God hates the worship of the wicked and won't accept it.)

- **Amos 5:1, 21:** "Hear ye this word which I take up against you, even a lamentation, O house of Israel. ... I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies."

At the beginning of the millennium, when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to this world and is with His people, God will gather the sorrowful to a **solemn** assembly.

- **Zephaniah 3:15, 18:** "The Lord hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, even the Lord, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more. ... I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden."

Because the priests of Israel offered God polluted sacrifices, He considered their **solemn** feasts to be dung in His sight. He found their feasts to be disgusting and revolting.

- **Malachi 1:13:** "Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the Lord of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the Lord."
- **Malachi 2:3:** "Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of your solemn feasts; and one shall take you away with it."

Paul **solemnly** charged Timothy before God, Jesus, and the angels, that he not show partiality.

- **1 Timothy 5:21:** "I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality."