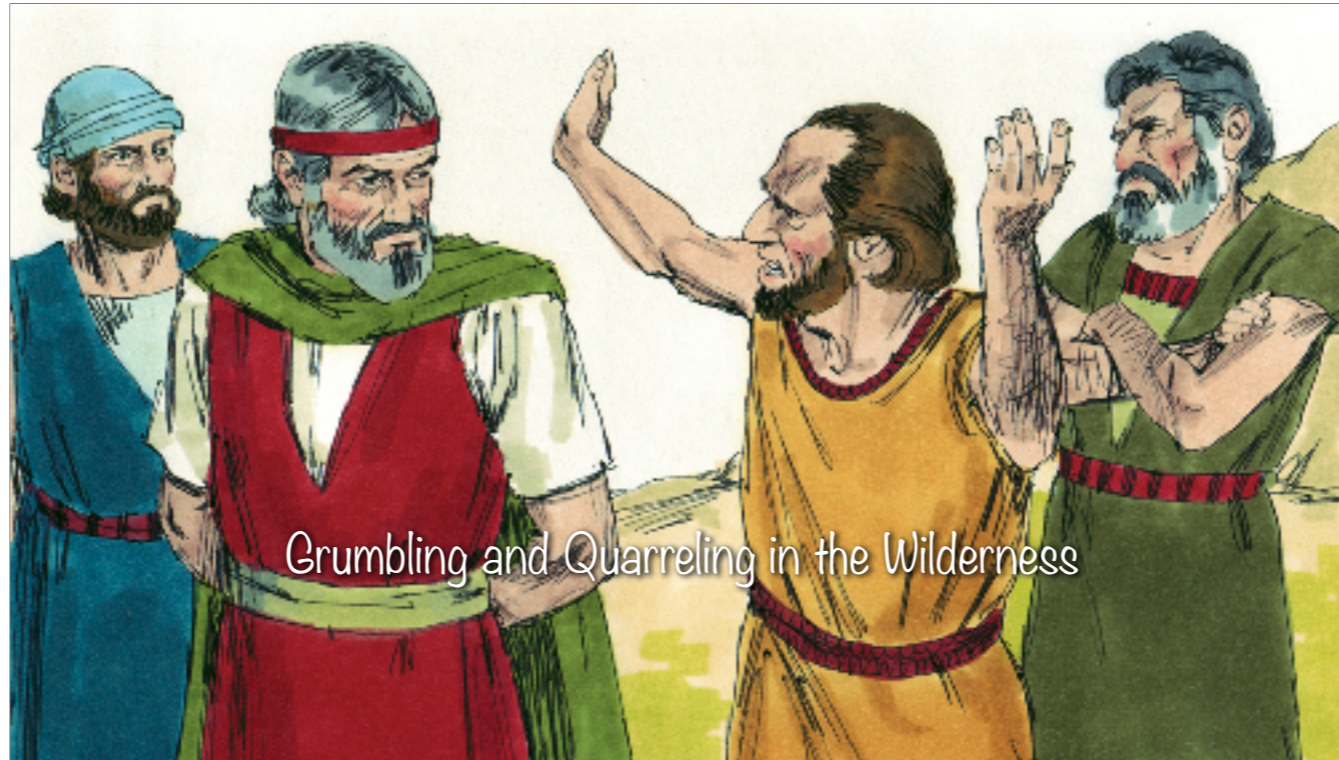


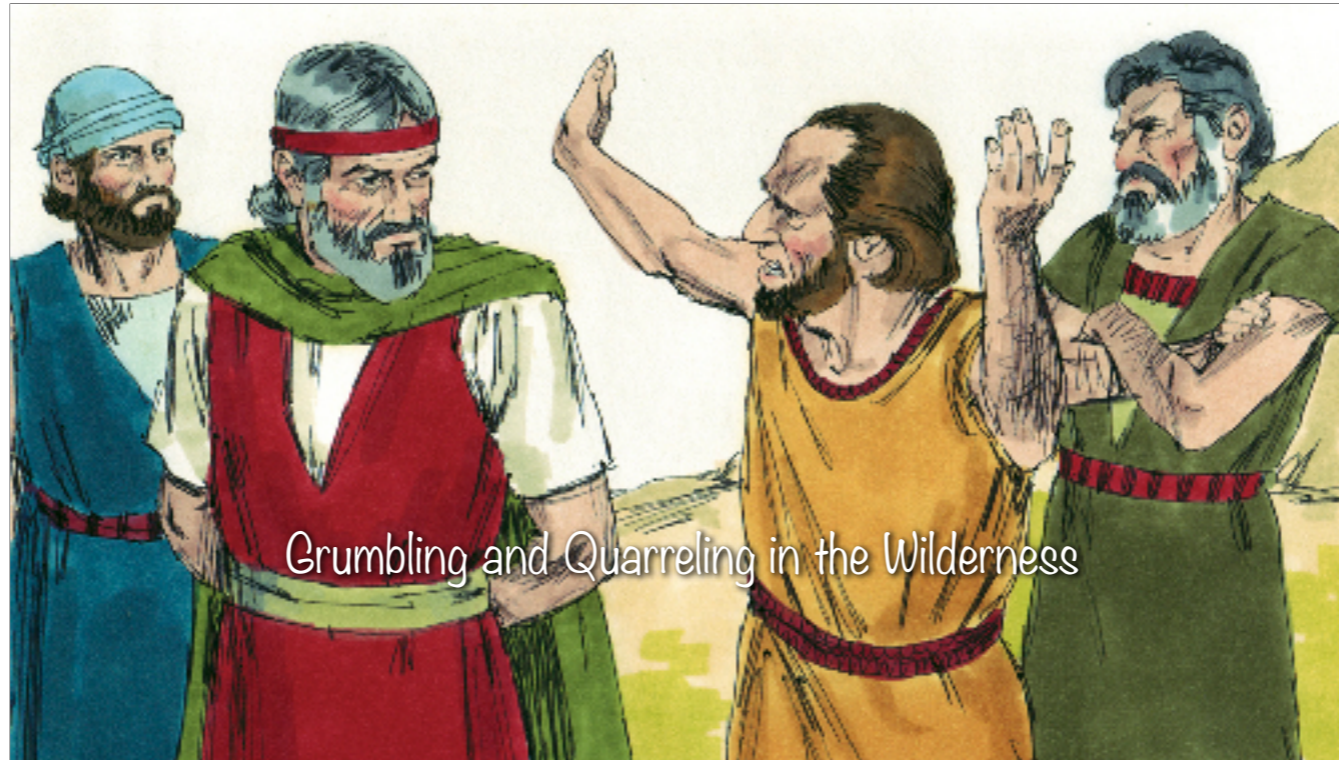
Just Weights

Proverbs 11:1

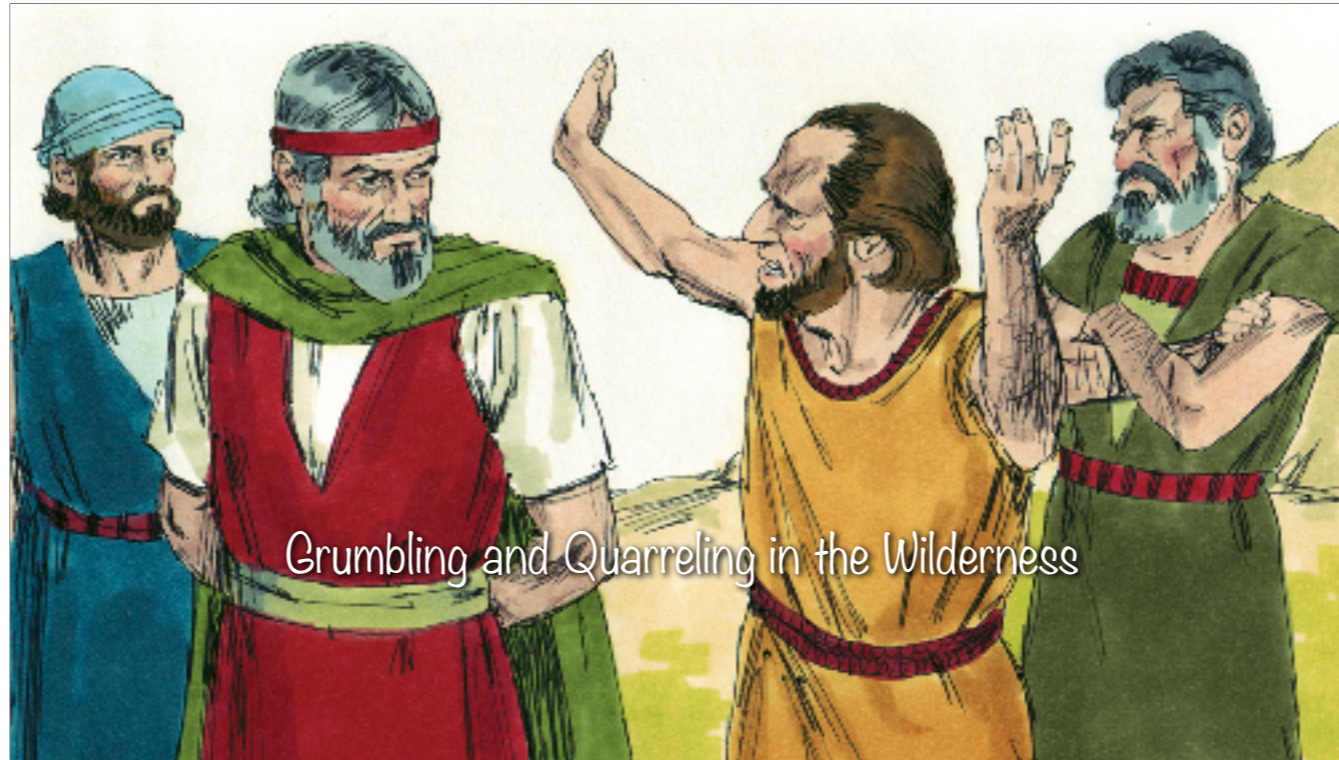




- As we study about people of Israel on their journey to the promised land we've repeatedly seen examples of them grumbling, murmuring, and quarreling with Moses and Jehovah about the trials they face.
 - And these were valid concerns
 - It seems to us as if they were always grumbling



- Is our perception skewed?
 - The history is “compressed”, only specific events are revealed.
 - How many times did they grumble? 6 times
 - in forty years
 - (How much did you complain, gripe, mumble, murmur, quarrel this week?)
 - Of course, those six times are probably not the only times they grumbled.



- But just consider for a moment that most of the Israelites, on a daily basis, leading ordinary, average lives
 - Just living ... not complaining, just living as best they can.
 - Day by day
 - How did God think about these “average” Israelites?
- Leviticus 19:2 (ESV) 2 “Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.
- So He gives them His law ...



- Exodus 20: Ten Commandments
- You shall have no other gods before me
- You shall not: carved image, name of Jehovah in vain, murder, adultery, steal, false witness, covet
- Often think they are all negative
 - Hear God saying “this wrong, that is wrong, don’t do that”



- Encourages, demands, that we do right too
 - Remember the Sabbath day (I know, do no work... (pharisees))
 - Honor your Father and Mother
- God's laws are not just about "Don't do wrong".
- He also teaches us the right things to do, even in difficult situations.
- Holiness is not just about avoiding some behaviors. It's about having a right heart, like God's.



- “Kindness for Poor Brothers”
 - Heading in ESV text ... provided by the editors of the Bible ... caught my attention.



- Leviticus 25:35-38

- “If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you,
 - you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner,
 - and he shall live with you.
 - 36 Take no interest from him or profit,
 - but fear your God,
 - that your brother may live beside you.
 - 37 You shall not lend him your money at interest,
 - nor give him your food for profit.
 - 38 I am the LORD your God,
 - who brought you out of the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan,
 - and to be your God.



- Leviticus 19:9-10 (ESV) 9 “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. 10 And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.



- How close to the edge can I reap?
 - Jehovah doesn't specify.
 - He doesn't say you have to leave 5 cubits from the edge.
 - Jehovah is doing more than just making rules
 - Asking "how much do I have to leave" is missing the point of Jehovah's instruction here.



- He's encouraging his people to be generous ... like He is generous.
 - "I am Jehovah your God": 10; 12
 - "I am Jehovah": 14; 16; 18



- He's encouraging his people to be generous ... like He is generous.
 - He's wanting them to think not just about their own profits and gains.
 - Rather to consider how much help the poor and sojourners need.
 - Ruth and Naomi depended on this kindness.
- Luke 12:20-21 (ESV) 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."



- Leviticus 19:18 (ESV) 18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.
- Exodus 23:9 “You shall not oppress a sojourner. You know the heart of a sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.
- Matthew 7:12 (ESV) 12 “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.



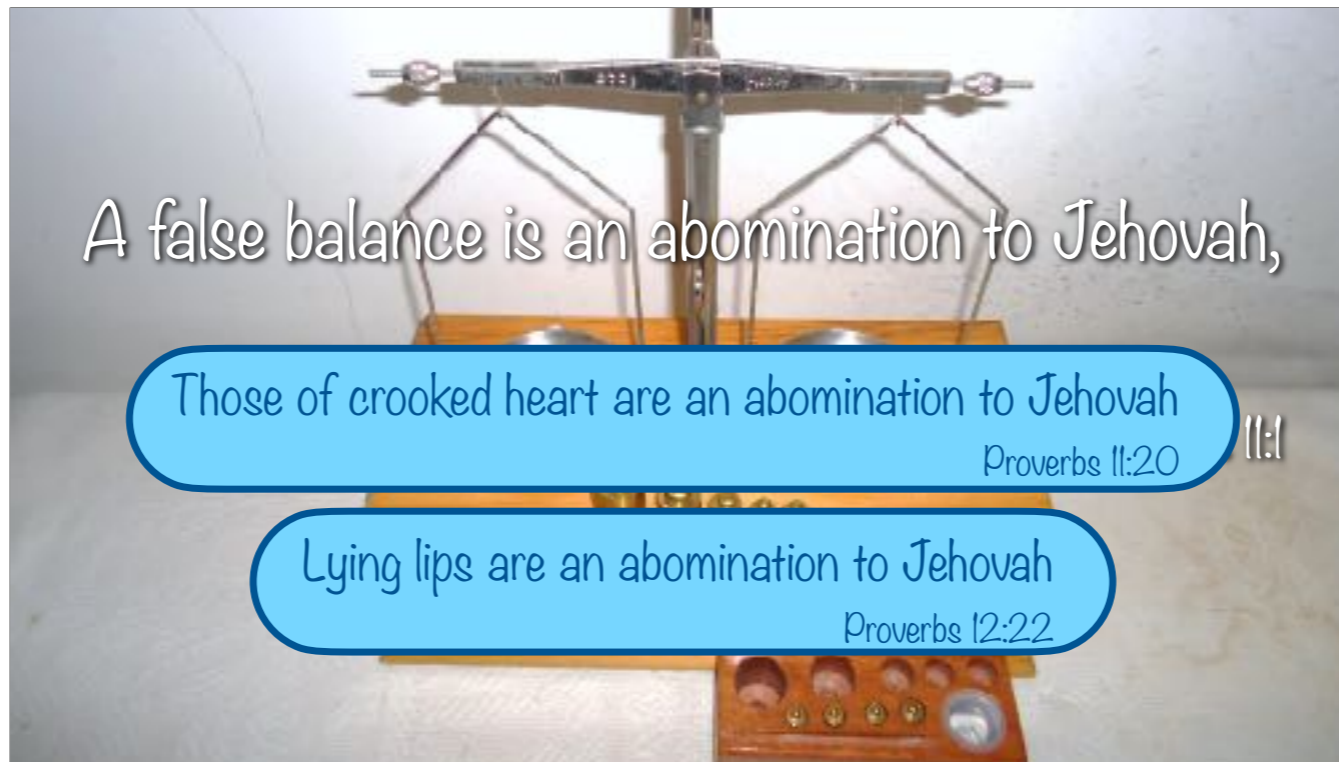
- Deuteronomy 25:13-16 (ESV) 13 “You shall not have in your bag two kinds of weights, a large and a small. 14 You shall not have in your house two kinds of measures, a large and a small. 15 A full and fair weight you shall have, a full and fair measure you shall have, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. 16 For all who do such things, **all who act dishonestly**, are an abomination to the LORD your God.



- Why have two weights?
 - Only possible purpose is to cheat, take advantage.
- Why is this an abomination?
 - abomination: detestable, repulsive, loathsome
 - God is revealing just how bad he thinks this is
 - But why?
 - It shows that one's heart is focused one's self
 - It demonstrates that one doesn't care about the one who is taken advantage of at all.



- Proverbs 11:1 A false balance is an abomination to the LORD,
- It shouldn't surprise us that this is repeated in God's word.
- We need reminders that this is how Jehovah thinks of being dishonest
- Obviously serious about not cheating our brethren ... even in a way that would be easy to get away with.



A false balance is an abomination to Jehovah,

Those of crooked heart are an abomination to Jehovah

Proverbs 11:20

11:1

Lying lips are an abomination to Jehovah

Proverbs 12:22

- Further passages tell us why ...
- Proverbs 11:20 Those of **crooked heart** are an abomination to the LORD,
- Proverbs 12:22 **Lying lips** are an abomination to the LORD,



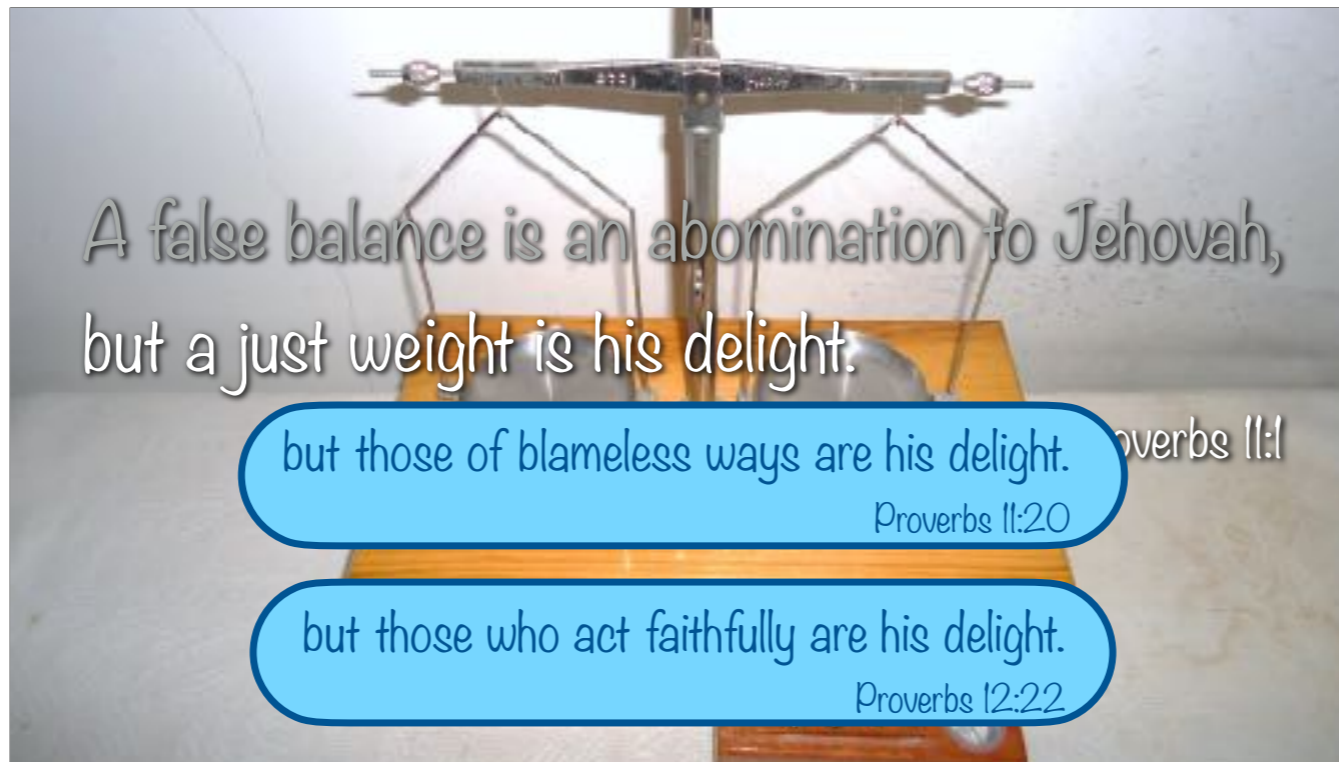
- Proverbs 11:1 A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is his delight.
- There's something special about a person you can trust no matter who you are.
- When a friend comes to you asking about someone who can help them: auto repair, butcher,
 - It's great to be able to recommend someone who will always treat them right ... or even well.
 - Someone who cares about doing what is right no matter who someone is.
 - No bias or favoritism
 - No bad attitudes
 - Joyful, approachable, helpful, honest



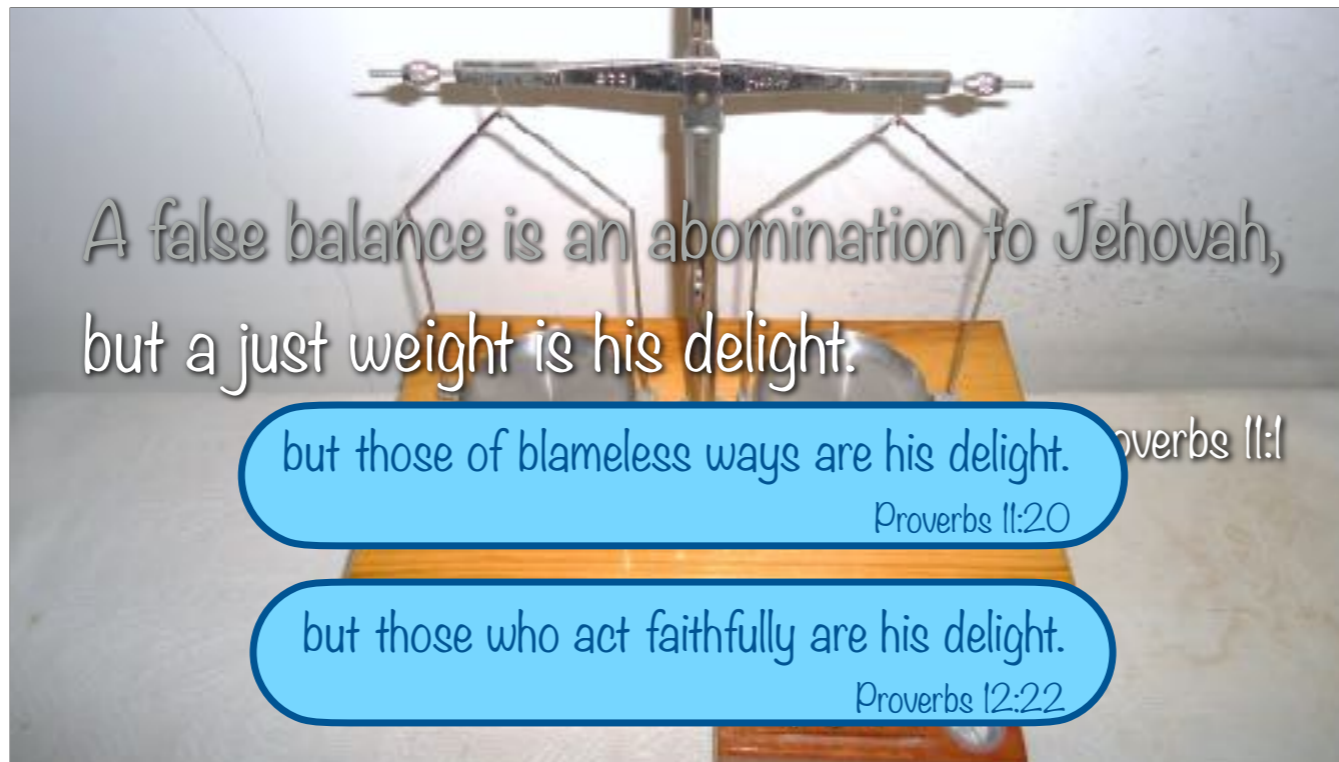
A false balance is an abomination to Jehovah,
but a just weight is his delight.

Proverbs 11:1

- You delight in this person.
- Would you delight in being able to recommend this person?
- As much as you delight ... Jehovah delights in them even more!
 - He doesn't delight in what is dishonest and unkind.
 - He is easily delighted when he sees generosity, kindness, compassion.



- Proverbs 11:20 but those of blameless ways are his delight.
- Proverbs 12:22 but those who act faithfully are his delight.



- This isn't always the message we hear. (Jim McGuiggan)
 - Some give the impression that life has to be a prolonged martyrdom to get God's attention.
 - Others seem to say that ceaseless meditation and prayer is the only way to truly get close to God.
 - It's true that when it's needed he can raise up someone to do extraordinary things—things that take our breath away with the drama and sacrificial nature of them.
 - At times he'll point us to some prayer warrior who'll drive us to our knees.
 - In the meantime, we need to take note that the everyday things of life, well done, set him smiling and make his day.



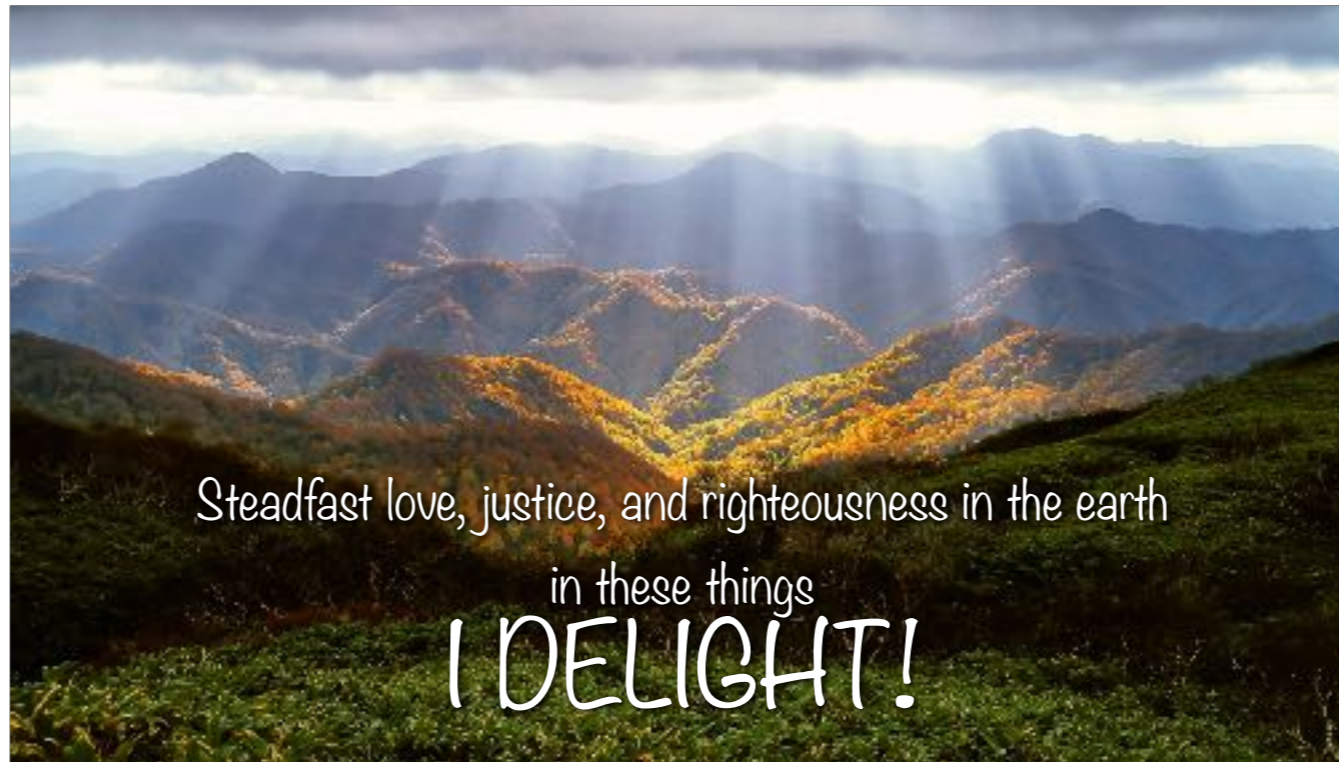
- How important is this concept of being kind to the poor?
 - In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul is dealing with the essence of the gospel: death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - Through his resurrection we have victory over death.
- Without transition he moves from that deep theological point directly to the collection being made for the needy saints in Judea.
 - Paul doesn't indicate that he's moving on to a less important topic, or just something that needs to be said.
 - It's that important!
- 1 Corinthians 15:54 - 16:4 (ESV) 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.
- 1 Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. 2 On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. 3 And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. 4 If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.



- Same thing in Paul's message to the elders in Ephesus
 - Pay careful attention to yourselves, the flock, and wolves
 - Stay alert
- Ends with a reminder of Jesus' words!
 - Acts 20:35 (ESV) 35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

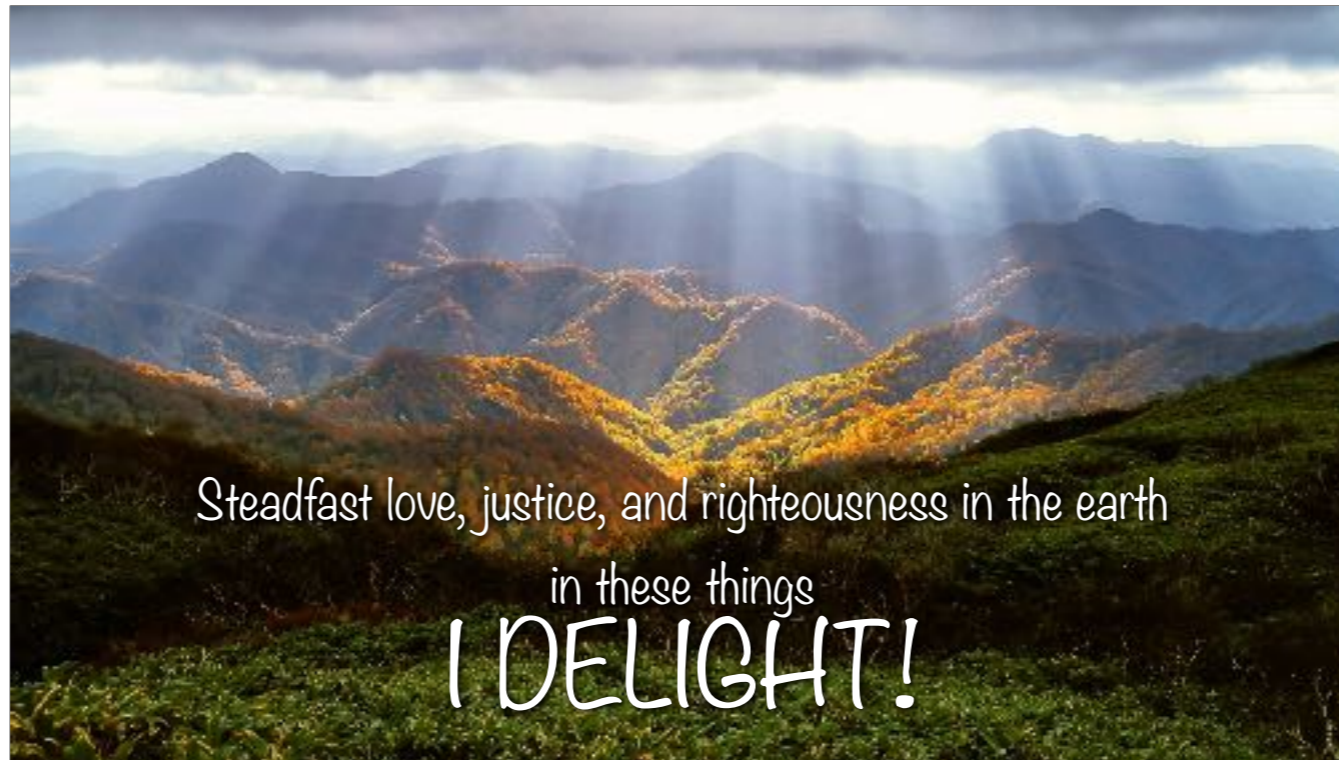


- Jehovah, your father, delights in you when you are doing ordinary average things well.
 - Maybe something heroic one day
 - But for now, know that he delights in you today!
 -



Steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth
in these things
I DELIGHT!

- Jeremiah 9:23-24 (ESV) 23 Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”



Steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth
in these things
I DELIGHT!

- People boast about a lot of things in this life:
 - Wealth, possessions, degrees, status
- Jehovah is reminding us that none of these are what he delights in.
 - We don't have to be heroes (Gideon, David, Abraham and Moses)
 - He delights in you and I doing our jobs, loving our families, helping those in need generously
 - He blessed the widow who fed Elisha when she had almost nothing
 - As you go about your day, a shining light in a world of darkness,
 - Remember that Jehovah your God is delighting in you, smiling at you as you shine.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Just Weights

Proverbs 11:1

Synopsis: Jehovah delights in just weights. It seems ordinary, yet this indicates a level of honesty, generosity, and kindness that emulates the heart of God.

Borrowed from Jim McGuigan: Celebrating the Wrath of God: The Agony and Ecstasy of His Relentless Love, Chapter 7: Lizzie Eaton's Scales.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”