



Dan A. Rodriguez, Author

"God's original plan was to have a glorious family that would represent Him in every way, one created in His image and likeness. A terrible tragedy took place that changed the course of God's marvelous plan. God's enemy, the tempter, came to Adam and Eve with his evil suggestion to disobey the Creator. They disobeyed, sin was birthed in them, and the nature of God's enemy flooded their spirits. The spiritual connection Adam and Eve had with God was broken. It robbed them of their God-given authority and dominion and delivered all God had given them into the hands of the enemy. The entire creation was plunged into a cesspool of death, the curse and deep darkness under its new ruler- the 'god' of this world. The pattern was set. Mankind had no way to redeem or deliver itself from the devil or from the fate of an eternal separation from God. All seemed lost forever, but God was not about to abandon His family. God had a master plan to get back the human race, and defeat the devil and all of hell in the process! This far-reaching plan would affect all of Heaven, earth, and every region of the damned. Thus begins the story of our redemption, the greatest story ever told in the universe, one that has no equal..."



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THE STORY OF OUR GREAT REDEMPTION: BEYOND HUMAN IMAGINATION!

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DAN A. RODRIGUEZ

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The Story of Our Great Redemption:

Beyond Human Imagination!

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ISBN: 978-0-615-34919-0

Library of Congress Control Number: 2010909450

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Published by
The Awakening Church International, Inc.
Fort Worth, Texas
Orlando, Florida

First Printing July, 2010

Email: taci@danrodriguez.org
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Printed in the United States of America

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Thanksgiving, Dedication, and Acknowledgements

Thanksgiving

My wholehearted thanksgiving goes FIRST to my Lord and Savior Jesus. Without Him and what He did for us, I would never even know these truths and would have been on my way to hell. I thank God for His awesome and majestic gift - the Lord Jesus and the great sacrifice He accomplished for us!

Dedication

I dedicate this book to the memory of my mentor and earthly father Israel Rodriguez. He left a mighty legacy for our family. I was blessed and privileged to be around him when he ministered boldly with the powerful anointing of a true apostle of God. I was also a witness of his godly life. He was a living example to me and all that knew him of integrity, holiness, faith, relentless commitment to God and His Word, compassion, the anointing of the Holy Spirit and how to walk in it.

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful for all the contribution, help and support of some very special people; my sweetie wife and partner in life Christine, my dear mother Noemi, my sister Neysa, Lannie, and our prayer partners and precious friends; Iva, Ethan, Julie, Leah, and Richard. Thank you José Jorge (Joe), Migdalia, pastor Pedro and Martanén of La Familia de La Fe church, and others that have prayed with us, for us, spoken the Word of the Lord into our lives, and have been a support in many ways. I thank each of you for believing in the call on my life and supporting the vision the Lord gave me. A special acknowledgement goes to Eagle Mountain International Church (EMIC) and the senior pastors George and Terri. EMIC has been our church family for nearly six years. Thank you for teaching the Word without compromise! Thank you Hands in Motion Music and Media Productions, Brandon, FL. I am honored and blessed to have all of you in my life. I bless all of you in the Name of Jesus! All of you have a great part in the revelation and blessing this book will release throughout the Body of Christ.

Notes from the Author

Bible Translations

Public domain versions have been loosely utilized; the 1769 King James Version, Revised Standard Version, New Heart English Bible, Weymouth's New Testament, American Standard Bible. Sometimes I added a definition, and when necessary I revised, amplified or simplified the language of the text. Other times I quote my own translation based on the Greek or Hebrew text. Follow us in the more modern NKJV or the NASB.

The Name in the Old Testament Scriptures

"Yehovah" is used for the name of God. There is no "J" sound in Hebrew and the first letter of His Name is the letter "yod." As a Hebrew student, Yehovah or Yaveh are much better transliterations. I chose to use "Yehovah" because it is similar to the familiar sounding "Jehovah." "Yaweh" is a wrong transliteration because the third letter of the Hebrew name YHVH is "vav." Vav is never a "w" sound even when it does the job of a vowel.

Abbreviations

Generally, for books of the Bible I use the first three letters of their names. Four letters are used for Deuteronomy, Proverbs and Thessalonians; Deut., Prov., Thes. Two letters abbreviations for Psalms (Ps.), Isaiah (Is.), Exodus (Ex.) This habit carried over from my personal studies. A 'literal translation' is *lit.* 'For example' is: *ex.* The common *et cetera* ('and so on' or 'and so forth') is *etc.* 'Compare' is *cp.*

Numbered Notes

The notes at the bottom of most pages give additional supportive material and Scripture references for our comments. We decided to leave these out of the narrative and place them in a footnote for readability's sake.

Capitalizations

Though satan is a personal name for the devil, we avoid capitalizing it. The same goes for the words lucifer, hell, hades and sheol unless they are used at the beginning of a sentence or in a heading. No honor is given to these at all!

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Part I

The Great Plan of God and the Story of our Redemption

God's original plan was to have a family that would represent Him in every respect. That wonderful plan was thwarted by man's treason. God was not about to lose His family so a great plan to redeem mankind was implemented. It was the most far reaching plan ever devised in all of eternity. It would affect all of Heaven, earth, and every region of the damned.

Thus begins the story of our redemption, the greatest story ever told in the universe, one that has no equal.

Chapter 1

God's Original Plan and How Things Got Off Track

God created human beings because He wanted a family. Adam and Eve were created with the ability to have fellowship and communion with God on His level.

Genesis 1:26-28

And God (Elohim) said, “Man be in our image, after our likeness. And have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over all the creeping things that creep on the earth.” And God created man in His image; in the image of God He created him. He created them male and female, and God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, and multiply and fill the earth, and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the heavens, and all animals that move upon the earth.”

Note the underlined phrases above. Adam's authority and dominion was far reaching.¹ The first male and female were created to rule and have dominion over all the earth. Adam was not a farmer and Eve a homemaker! To think or say that is to belittle the creation of God and to misinterpret the Scripture. Adam and Eve were made by God for greatness, power, and divine glory. God gave them authority and control over all the earth and all the works of His hands.

Psalms 8:3-6 Lit.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you have made; what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of Adam, that you visit him? For you have made him a little lower

¹ Both the man and the woman were called Adam when God created them. After man's fall is when the female received the name Eve. See Genesis 5:2, 3:20. I use Eve's name repeatedly before the fall for the sake of uniformity.

than God, and have crowned him with glory and honor.
You made him rule over all the works of your hands; you
have put all things under his feet...

Adam and Eve were created in the very image and likeness of God. They were created to resemble God as closely as possible without actually being God. The phrase "you have made him a little lower than God" can literally be translated, "you caused him to lack little from being God." This means Adam and Eve were created as close to God in essence and nature as possible. Another literal rendering could be that man was created "a shade lower than God." It was a real Father and "sons" relationship; one never seen or expressed in any other creation. That is why the Psalmist marveled and said, "What is man!" Mankind was God's crowning achievement.

The desire of God was that Adam and Eve partake of the life of God, the Tree of Life, and have an intimate fellowship with Him as Father.² God gave the man and the woman the command to not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. That was the only prohibition. They had free access to the tree of life and every other tree in the Garden of Eden.³

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil represented a mixture that came into existence between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. Something catastrophic and chaotic happened that caused everything to become a wasteland and a void. Scriptures reveal that everything God creates is good and not without form and void.⁴ God is light and He did not cause darkness to be on the face of the deep.⁵

A cataclysmic event took place that was contrary to God's nature and essence. Many believe that it could have been the result of the fall of Lucifer and his expulsion from Heaven to the earth and to the pit of hell.⁶

² Genesis 2:9, 3:2, 8a.

³ Genesis 2:9, 16, 17

⁴ Genesis 1:31, Isaiah 45:18

⁵ 1 John 1:5. Darkness does not exist in God. He has none in Him.

⁶ See description of this event in Isaiah 14:12-15, Eze. 28:12-19, Rev. 12:7-9.

God created a separation between light and darkness in Genesis 1:3 and 4. He created a separation between good and evil, and He did not want the earth to go back to the chaotic mixture of Genesis 1:2. Evil and darkness are in direct opposition to God because God is a good God and He is light. God did not want his creation to be under bondage to that which opposes Him.⁷

Unfortunately, that's exactly what Adam and Eve did. They disobeyed God and ate the fruit from the forbidden tree. The fruit of that tree represented a mixture of good and bad, light and darkness.

The tempter came to them using the body of a snake. Many theories exist as to why the devil used a serpent in the temptation. One thing is certain; of all the animal kingdom, it was the snake that yielded itself to the enemy of God. Even animals have better sense than to yield to a foreign spiritual entity.⁸

Eve was deceived by the temptation of satan.⁹ She disobeyed God's command and ate the fruit of the forbidden tree. Adam was standing there the whole time and did nothing to stop the deception.¹⁰

Genesis 3:6

...She took of the fruit, and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

Contrary to Eve, Adam was not deceived. He knew exactly what was going on but he partook of the fruit anyway. Whatever reason he may have had for this infamous act, he did it willingly and with his eyes wide open.

⁷ 1 John 1:5, Psalms 119:68

⁸ See the example of demons attempting to enter swine and their response in Mark 5:12, 13

⁹ Though satan is a personal name for the devil, we avoid capitalizing it. The same goes for the words lucifer, hell, hades and sheol unless they are used at the beginning of a sentence or in a heading. No honor is given to these at all!

¹⁰ Genesis 3:1-7

1 Timothy 2:14

Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived in the transgression.

Eve disobeyed God's command through deception. Adam's disobedience was different. His sin was a betrayal and treason of the highest kind. Adam betrayed and was a traitor to God's eternal command.

Chapter 2

Adam and Eve's Betrayal of God

Right up until the point that Adam and Eve committed this act of treason and betrayal, they were enjoying fellowship with God. They walked in full authority and dominion over all the earth. Adam and Eve were spiritually connected to God before they disobeyed and betrayed Him. God had breathed His own life into them.¹¹ Something terrible took place that changed the course of God's original plan to have a powerful, glorious family, one that resembled Him in every way. The life and authority that Adam and Eve enjoyed previously had been flowing from their spiritual Father God. He was the Source of their life and being.

When Adam and his wife sinned, their spiritual connection to God was broken and they were separated from Him. That is spiritual death. Spiritual death is to live without a connection to God. That was a horrible thing but it was only the tip of the iceberg! The sin and betrayal of the first couple caused something to take place that was even more sinister than being disconnected from God.¹²

Adam subjected himself willingly to the devil's wishes to betray God. This put the devil over and above the man. It brought the man under the devil's rule and control. The devil was a being that was inferior to him. He had to use the body of a snake to even approach the man and woman. This was no superior being!

Satan was not created in the image and likeness of God. He was and is a fallen angel that attempted to become like God and usurp His throne. For Satan's pride and rebellion, he was cast out of Heaven.¹³ God has recorded in the Bible that Satan will be incarcerated in hell for a thousand years after Jesus sets up His millennial reign upon the earth, and then the devil will finally be removed from human contact forever in the lake of fire. Eternal

¹¹ Gen. 2:7

¹² Genesis 1:26-28, Psalms 8:3-6

¹³ Isaiah 14:12-17, Revelation 12:3, 4, 7-9

fire is his destiny. Satan's future does not look good!¹⁴ The devil's days are numbered and we are in the final countdown!

No angel in the service of God was made in the same category of the creation of Adam and Eve. Angels have never possessed the image and likeness of God and never will. They are in a category and class of their own. In this lay the crisis and the impasse.

The man and the woman subjected themselves, not only to an angelic being, but to a fallen angel when they obeyed satan. Since the devil was a permanent outcast, even the animals on earth had more clout than him. He had to use a willing animal that had the right to come near the woman. That was his only approach. Adam and Eve subjected themselves to the lowest and most despicable being in the universe, one lower than the bugs and the grubs. That's bad! It sunk the human family to depths of despair and helplessness beyond description. This banned and outcast angel became their lord and master.

A being that was lower than a worm became the illegitimate "father" of the human family.¹⁵ This was a completely illegitimate fatherhood and authority. Satan was the thief that had come into authority another way and not God's way.¹⁶ He got what he possessed illegitimately by coming in through a back door. His authority was never granted by God. It was a usurped authority and dominion that had become satan's legal possession. Why? God authorized man and woman and they relinquished their authority to the devil through deception and betrayal. Whatever power, dominion, and authority God had given His family was now subjected to the devil. Satan became to the earth and its inhabitants "the god of this world."¹⁷ Adam and Eve lost all their ruling and dominion rights. What a complete mess and what a dilemma!

Adam and Eve entered into a relationship with satan through

¹⁴ Revelation 20:1-3, 10

¹⁵ John 8:44

¹⁶ See the teaching of Jesus in John 10:1-10.

¹⁷ 2 Cor. 4:4

their act of defiance, disobedience and betrayal; a joining that God never intended nor desired. What did that mean for them, the human family, and the earth? It meant that they had subjected themselves to an unforgiving slave master, psychopathic liar, murderer, conniving thief and a destroyer.¹⁸ The entire earth came subject to the bondage of death and corruption with apparently no way out.¹⁹

Jesus never refuted the fact that all the kingdoms of the world and their glory legally belonged to the devil.

Luke 4:6

And the devil said to Him (Jesus), I will give you all this authority and their glory, because it has been handed over to me, and I will give it to whomever I want.

Satan knew it was an authority that had been handed over to him when Adam and Eve subjected themselves to him. In fact, Jesus called satan the ruler or prince of this world.²⁰ There was no arguing the point. It was a dark and gloomy fact, and there was no way around it. At least that was what the devil thought.

The first human family became slaves to sin, death and unrighteousness that were found in satan. Adam and Eve's disobedience proved disastrous. It affected them personally, corrupted all the earth and all future generations.²¹

God created the first couple to manifest His godly image and likeness in all the earth. Now they were manifesting a distorted and perverted nature of bondage, poverty, sickness, death, and destruction. A devastating curse of death and destruction was released into the earth because of Adam and Eve's disobedience. This was a curse with no relief or release in sight.²²

Every human being had come under the authority of

¹⁸ John 8:44, 10:10, Matthew 6:24

¹⁹ Romans 8:20, 22

²⁰ John 12:31, 14:30

²¹ Romans 6:16, 5:12-16

²² Gen. 3:17-19

darkness and death and now needed to be set free from them.²³
How was that ever going to be accomplished?

Adam's treason affected the entire human race because all received the spiritual and physical DNA of the first couple. The nature of God in them was transferable from the parents to their children. That was the way God created Adam, Eve and all the earth. God made everything on this planet to produce according to its own class or kind. God said "be fruitful and multiply" to all living creatures. Each was to be fruitful and multiply according to its own kind.²⁴ The life of God, the spiritual connection with the Father, and the sinless condition of the first couple was to reproduce in each successive generation born on the earth. That was the love plan God had for His family from the beginning. Blessing, glory, sinless perfection and abundance were to reign throughout the entire world, but the disobedience of the first couple stopped the Divine purpose of God. Adam and Eve connected in every way to an outlawed and outcast spiritual being. Now the first two human beings, as well as all future generations, were joined to the father of lies and were outcasts and outlaws just like him. That connected them to the curse, spiritual death, and it contaminated the entire planet.²⁵

Adam and Eve's treason demanded that all of humanity be subject to a death penalty. All mankind became guilty of sin and death. No one was righteous from their birth.²⁶ No one ever lived a sinless life.

What was the Father going to do to get His family back?

²³ Colossians 1:13, Hebrews 2:14, 15

²⁴ Genesis 1:21-30

²⁵ Romans 5:12

²⁶ Romans 3:10-18

Chapter 3

The Need for a Sinless Deliverer

God saw immediately that only a sinless one could pay the death penalty. The earth needed a righteous one. Humanity needed a sinless deliverer but no one on earth qualified. How could a sinless one come from a sinful human family? That was impossible, wasn't it? How was God going to get this accomplished? No one could stand up boldly to the devil and say, "I am perfect, sinless and completely innocent. I can deliver humanity." The devil would have laughed at the idea.

All people born from Adam and Eve's bloodline were contaminated with sin and separation from God, regardless of whether or not they sinned like them. The devil thought it was locked down. He had the keys of hell and death and he was not about to give them up. It certainly seemed like a hopeless case.

Romans 5:14

Death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is the type of Him (Jesus) who was to come...

Sin was lodged in the genes and DNA of all of humanity, both spiritually and physically. That is why the Scripture tells us that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.²⁷ All were under slavery to the penalty of sin of the first human family. That penalty was spiritual and physical death, and it included an eternal separation from God.²⁸

If natural conception through the union of a man and a woman is the culprit that perpetuates the sin of Adam and Eve, then the normal human birth process somehow needed to be bypassed. How could God get around the law of "everything is to produce after its own kind"? One had to arrive on the scene

²⁷ Romans 3:23

²⁸ Romans 5:12, Ezekiel 18:20. See also Genesis 2:17.

without a relation to the "god of this world" in order to redeem the world and "right the wrong" of the first man Adam. A second Adam had to come that was like the first one before the fall. Only a second Adam could fix the evil loosed by the first Adam.²⁹

God had no right to go back to the earth and create a second Adam from the dust of the ground because it was all under the rule and dominion of the curse of the devil. Anything made from the dust of the earth would be cursed.

So, who would buy back God's family? An angel of God could not accomplish this mission because they were of a different class than mankind who was created in the image and likeness of God. Who was left? Only one was left. Only one qualified.

God realized that the only sinless one left for the job was Him alone. If the ones created like God were now a tarnished reflection of the original image, then the One that was the image itself would have to get them back to their initial state as the image and likeness of God. Somehow He was going to have to be that second Adam. He was going to have to get an uncontaminated human body into the earth and inhabit this human being that needed to be in His image and likeness. He was going to have to send Himself to get His man back, and that is what He did through His Son. God manifested Himself in the flesh through His Son.³⁰ The Father sent Himself in His own Son Jesus, the full and complete image and likeness of God!³¹

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever would receive His sacrifice (that is "believe on Him"), as the payment for their sin and separation from God, would not perish with the same fate of hell and death (like the devil) but would once again have the everlasting life of God in them just like Adam and Eve had it in the Garden of Eden! (John 3:16) You will understand why we quote this famous verse like this as we continue with this study. Glory to God!

The birth of Jesus had to be independent of the common way

²⁹ 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45, 47

³⁰ 1 Tim. 3:16, John 1:14

³¹ Hebrews 1:2, 3, John 14:9, 10

a human being is conceived and born on this planet or He would have been subject to sin and the devil like everybody else on earth. The only possible way for this independence to come to pass was if the second Adam could be the seed of a woman without male participation in the conception. Only then could it be possible to bypass the law of natural descent and generation.³² The virgin birth of Jesus was therefore a necessity, not an option so we could have pretty Christmas cards and sing "Silent Night."³³ The virgin birth was the only possible way for this One to be legally born on this planet without having the defilement of sin or a connection to satan. What a marvelous idea and what imagination! Who else but God could come up with such a creative idea?

I can imagine the discussions in Heaven about this great event:

"A virgin woman is going to have to get pregnant but no man can have a part in it! That way the One born will NOT be connected to the sin nature of Adam and Eve or the law of natural descent and generation. The seed of the Word has already been released in the earth concerning the coming Messiah. Many promises have been made about the Redeemer. Since the Word can never return void, then it must come to pass. The young virgin woman is going to have to receive the Divine seed of the Word so that the Holy Spirit can act on it and the Redeemer can be conceived in her."³⁴

She did, He did, and it came to pass! Jesus was born sin free in the earth! What a plan!

Jesus came to restore to God the family that was stolen from Him. Jesus came to redeem mankind from the damage and terrible consequences imposed upon it by the first man Adam. The Bible calls Jesus the "last Adam," and "the second Man."³⁵ Only this pure Man born without any connection to sin and death

³² Genesis 3:15. Notice "her seed" and not "his or their seed."

³³ Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18-23, Luke 1:26-38

³⁴ Refer to note 33.

³⁵ 1 Cor. 15:22, 45, 47

(like the first man when God originally created him) could pay the price for the treason, disobedience and sin of the first man Adam. No one but Jesus could be sinless and be spiritually alive to God like the first man was before his betrayal and defiance. Only a Man born spiritually alive could do the necessary job of restoring human beings back to God. Only Jesus, the special Son that took upon Himself flesh, the One who came down from the Heaven, only He could come without having any attachment to sin or death.³⁶

His virgin birth was necessary so He could be born in the world apart from human defilement and with heavenly genes and DNA. The Innocent One had to come! Jesus is called the spotless Lamb of God, One that was innocent and without sin. It was the righteous (Jesus) paying the price for the unrighteous (us), the innocent (Jesus) for the guilty (humanity), the sinless One for the sinner. Jesus never knew sin until He bore our sins; therefore He could pay the price to redeem mankind from sin, death, and separation from God. What a marvelous plan God had to get mankind back from the clutches of the evil one!³⁷

³⁶ John 3:13, 6:38

³⁷ Gen. 2:17, Eze. 18:20, Rom. 6:23, 5:6, 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Pet. 1:18, 19, 1 Cor. 5:7, John 1:29

Chapter 4

The Suffering Messiah

The second Adam (Jesus)³⁸ went everywhere putting the creation of God back into its original state. In the Garden there did not exist any sicknesses, diseases or curses. So Jesus went about healing the sick, casting out demons, and ministering to the oppressed. The second Adam was demonstrating what Eden was like in great power and anointing! Anywhere people would receive His ministry He would reverse whatever part of the curse was in operation. In and through Jesus, Eden was back with a vengeance! Eden was being ministered through a sinless one just like God intended with the creation of the first Adam, and the devil could do nothing to stop it! Everywhere Jesus went He demonstrated dominion over the elements, over the fish of the sea, and converted lack into abundance.³⁹ Every miracle, sign, and wonder was a demonstration of what the first Adam could have done with the authority and dominion God had given him. Jesus went everywhere as God's second Adam in demonstration of what God intended for the earth in His original creation. Adam had the authority and anointing to rule and dominate the earth. Jesus, as the second Adam, went everywhere demonstrating what God had in mind with the creation of Adam and Eve and the entire planet. There are glorious truths revealed in these statements that we will be explored further in another chapter.

We are going to fast forward the story and leave off any more discussion of His extraordinary ministry. We are going to go right into His awesome sacrifice for us and the glorious provisions He bought and paid for. That is the central theme of this book.

Jesus suffered our sins and our sorrows through His death. He took the punishment that we should have suffered for our sins and separation from God. Jesus suffered in our place. He became subject to the consequences that you and I were

³⁸ 1 Cor. 15:22, 45, 47

³⁹ Cp. Gen. 1:26-28. See Luke 5:1-10, Mark 4:35-41, Mat. 14:14-33, 17:27.

supposed to experience. He was our great substitute. Here we quote most of the awesome 53rd chapter of Isaiah, the chapter of our redemption. We will be referring to it often.

Isaiah 53:3-12 Lit.

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with sickness; and we hid our faces from Him, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our sickness, and carried away our pains; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace (wholeness) was on Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep went astray; each turned to his own way; and Yehovah⁴⁰ has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and He was afflicted; yet He opened not His mouth. He was brought as a lamb to the slaughter; and as a sheep before the shearers is quiet, He did not open His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment; and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of my people He was stricken. And He was given up to the wicked in his grave, and with a rich man in His deaths; although He had done no violence, nor was any deception in His mouth; Yet it pleased Yehovah to crush Him; to make Him sick; that He should give up His soul as a sin offering. He will see His seed, He will prolong His days, and the will of Yehovah will prosper in His hand. He will see the fruit of the travail of His soul. He will be fully satisfied. By His knowledge my righteous servant will justify many; and He will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide Him with the great, and with the strong He will divide the spoil; because He has poured out His soul unto death; and He was counted among the transgressors; and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for transgressors.

⁴⁰ See my note at the beginning of this book that explains why I prefer this form of the Name instead of "Jehovah."

Peter quotes from this great chapter in 1 Peter 2:22-25. Jesus, Paul, Phillip and others quote it in the New Testament.

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son as a sacrificial gift to die in our place, so that we would not perish and go to hell because of our sin, but instead have God's life,⁴¹ eternal life now and in the future world to come a glorious existence throughout eternity with God!⁴²

On the cross, Jesus experienced the fullness of the curse that came to this planet with the betrayal and disobedience of Adam and Eve. This curse has been responsible for all human tragedy, and Jesus suffered every part of it so we could be delivered from it all. The curse came into the earth when Adam and Eve subjected themselves to the destroyer and the murderer, the devil. Thank God redemption has forever come in Christ Jesus!⁴³

Galatians 3:13

Christ (the one who came as the Anointed One to do this for us) **has redeemed** (or freed us) **from the curse of the law** (the curse because of disobedience against God law) **because** (when He took our place in death) **He was made a curse for us by His death on the cross.**

He literally was **made** a curse for us on the cross according to this verse. Jesus sunk to the lowest depths of human suffering and death in order to redeem us. One translation says that Jesus "became the curse for us". That is how big and how great the love of God is towards us. Even when we did not deserve it, and there was no human solution available, God gave His Son as a sacrifice to set us free from every curse in spirit, soul, and body. God Himself provided the solution to mankind's dilemma and utter hopelessness!⁴⁴

⁴¹ As in the "Tree of Life" in Genesis chapters 2 and 3.

⁴² This is my expanded reading of John 3:16, Romans 6:23.

⁴³ Genesis 3:17, 18, Galatians 3:13

⁴⁴ Romans 5:6-8

Chapter 5

God's Great Plan

God's great plan to redeem people and ultimately His entire creation, was a mystery hidden in God. It was a great strategic tactic never understood by the devil and his demons. They were not supposed to get it! It was all on a "need to know" basis and the devil did not need to know! It was a great secret.

1 Corinthians 2:7, 8

But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery which was hid in God, ordered beforehand for our glory, which none of the rulers of this world knew about. For if they would have known about it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

The innocent One was tortured and killed by the decision of His people (Israel) with the full support of the Roman government. The execution was carried out by Roman soldiers. Jews and Gentiles were both guilty of putting the Son of God to His death. They had no idea what they were doing. Some Jewish leaders thought they were getting rid of a powerful "religious" figure that had become a threat to their rule and traditions. Rome saw it as another opportunity to crush all Jewish "messianic" ideas of liberation from Roman occupation. The devil saw it as a chance to finally get rid of this God-man that went everywhere destroying his works by healing the sick, casting out demons, performing miracles, and setting the oppressed free!⁴⁵ God saw it as the culmination of a great plan to liberate His man!

Jesus had to suffer death in all its physical and spiritual expressions or the sacrifice would have been incomplete. Isaiah 53:9b literally says in the Hebrew text that Jesus made His grave with the wicked "**in His deaths.**" In Hebrew, it is the oddly spelled phrase pronounced *bemotav* (במתיו).⁴⁶ Let's explain

⁴⁵ Acts 10:38, Matthew 4:23-25

⁴⁶ The Hebrew letters: bet, mem, tav, yod, vav, are pronounced *bemotav*.

what is meant by "in His deaths" according to God's Word. This verse in Isaiah connects directly with Genesis 2:17. God said to Adam:

Genesis 2:17 Lit.

...But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you may not eat, for in the day that you eat of it, in dying you will die.

The last phrase of this verse in the old English version is, "**you will surely die.**" It has been wrongly translated in most versions. It is much more powerful in the Hebrew language. The phrase in Hebrew is *mut t'mut* and it literally means as translated above; "in dying you will die." That speaks of two kinds of death. It tells us that Adam and Eve would die first spiritually, and then they would die physically. Adam and Eve could only die physically after their inner nature was changed from life to death. Adam and Eve had bodies that would have lived eternally if the nature of God had stayed on the inside of them.

As I mentioned earlier, spiritual death is the death of the first family's connection to the Source of life who is God. When Adam committed treason through His disobedience, he was connected to a spirit being without the life of God and with no connection to God. That separation from the Source of life is spiritual death. This point is essential in order to understand the story of our redemption.

A spirit cannot die in the same way as a mortal body. Spirits are eternal beings. The spirit and the soul are what make up the eternal part of each human being. They were created as eternal as God is and cannot be destroyed in the same way as the physical body can be killed, decay, and become dust. Spirits (and their souls) can only be alienated from the life of God. That is exactly what happened with the death of trespass and sin that came upon all humanity through Adam's sin.⁴⁷

Each human being is first and foremost a spirit being like God

⁴⁷ Ephesians 4:17-19, 2:1-3

is a Spirit being. God is "The Father of spirits." Each spirit being possesses a soul composed of a will, mind, and emotions. If we can use the analogy of the temple building or the tent of witness in the wilderness, and I believe we can because we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, then the soul is the inner court, and the spirit is the holiest of all. Both the spirit and the soul are housed inside the physical body, the tent or building itself. The tent or exterior building can cease to exist for a time (until the resurrection) but the spirit and soul are the eternal parts of a human being that will never cease to exist. Just like the inner court of the temple contained within it the most Holy place, the human soul contains within it the eternal spirit. Just like the holy of holies in the earthly temple was the place where the presence of God was manifest, so is the human spirit the place where God dwells inside the believer or follower of Jesus. Since God is a Spirit, He dwells in us in the spirit.⁴⁸ I realize that many teach that the soul and spirit are one and the same, but Paul would never have divided the human being up into spirit, soul and body if that were true.⁴⁹

For now, the spirit and soul are the eternal parts of every human. The body dies and goes back to the dust, but that is a temporary state. Even the physical body will get resurrected. All human beings will get a resurrected body. The difference will be whether you get a death-doomed resurrected body, or a resurrected body like the glorious one Jesus has right now in Heaven. It will all depend on whether an individual has served the Lord or not. That will determine what kind of resurrection one will experience. Sinners and ungodly folks will get a body with the fullness of death in it. People without God and the Lord Jesus in their lives will be thrown spirit, soul, and with a never dying body into the Lake of Fire. That is the eternal garbage dump of the

⁴⁸ I based this paragraph on these verses: John 4:24, Hebrews 12:9, 1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19, 20, 2 Cor. 5:1-8, 1Thes. 5:23, Heb. 4:12, James 2:26, and others. Also 1 John 4:4, Colossians 1:27, Rom. 8:9-11.

⁴⁹ See 1 Thes. 5:23. In Hebrews 4:12, the soul and spirit can be divided by the Word of God. Soul and spirit cannot be the same. See also Luke 10:27.

universe.⁵⁰

Jesus suffered in our place all that was against us. He made it possible for all people to have a new relationship, contact, and connection with the Father God.

Jesus not only took our transgression, sins and iniquities on the cross, but the Bible says that He became sin with our sin. He took the sin of the whole world on and in Himself.⁵¹ The truth that Jesus was made to be sin with our sin, that He died spiritually and was separated from God for us, is an established doctrine in Scripture. Did you know that Martin Luther, John Calvin, Charles Spurgeon, Leon Morris, and a number of others, believed that Jesus experienced not only physical death but also spiritual death? It is not a new teaching! There are Bible teachers, pastors, evangelists, apostles, and prophets that believe and teach this today to one degree or another. It is not an isolated interpretation.

Now we will get into a much deeper study of this glorious subject and give you numerous Scripture references so that you can settle any questions once and for all!

⁵⁰ John 5:24-29, 1 John 3:1-3, Rev. 20:5-13, Mat. 10:28, 5:30. Another name for the lake of fire is Gr. word "gehenna" for "hell" fire in Mat. 5:22 etc. "Gehinnom" (Lit. Hebrew) or the "valley of Hinnom" - a place where garbage was burned; figuratively for eternal punishment or "second death" as later used in Rev. 20 and 21.

⁵¹ 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 John 2:2

Chapter 6

At the Cross

At the cross, Jesus suffered the same kind of separation from the Father that Adam and Eve suffered in Eden. The Father abandoned His own Son at the cross when He was made to be sin with our sin. This is why Jesus cried on the cross;

Psalms 22:1, Matthew 27:46

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Jesus was the bearer of sin, sickness, disease, death, and the entire curse.⁵²

Because Jesus suffered separation from the Father and death, Satan thought he had finally beaten Him. It was a trap, a divine setup, a strategic war plan, a mystery God had planned for ages to take out the devil for good. Had the devil known that by killing Jesus he was going to be severely defeated, he would never have crucified Jesus. After putting the Son to His death, the devil makes a mistake that cost him all he had obtained from the fall of mankind.⁵³

When Jesus cried out, "Into your hands I commend my spirit,"⁵⁴ and He said, "It is finished,"⁵⁵ hell thought it had won. Both statements from the lips of Jesus were statements of **"calling things that are not as though they were."**⁵⁶

Jesus was speaking like God speaks. He was doing what He did repeatedly throughout His ministry. Just like He spoke to the woman that was stooped over for 18 years, and Jesus said to her, "Woman you are loosed from your infirmity."⁵⁷ This was spoken to the woman before the visible manifestation. In the

⁵² Isaiah 53:4, 5, Galatians 3:13

⁵³ 1 Corinthians 2:7, 8

⁵⁴ Luke 23:46

⁵⁵ John 19:30

⁵⁶ Romans 4:17

⁵⁷ Luke 13:12, Mark 5:39, 11:14, John 11:11, Rom. 4:17

same manner, Jesus was here speaking by faith from the cross of things that are not as though they were. He was trusting in God for His deliverance and His resurrection even as He died and was getting ready to vacate His body.

Jesus actually spoke by faith about His death and resurrection in numerous places. He consistently referred to His being put to death and rising from the dead. He was "prophesying" His victory over hell and death. One such place was when He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead in John 11. He called Himself the resurrection and the life by faith before He was ever put to death or resurrected.⁵⁸ He even told Martha, "Your brother will rise again."⁵⁹ Could Jesus have been referring to Himself as "your brother" when He made that statement to Martha? We just assumed He was speaking of Lazarus, but Jesus often answered a question with a statement that no one expected as an answer. This may very well be one of those kinds of statements. Notice how Jesus hooks this statement in verse 23 to verse 25.⁶⁰

The statement, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me," was a quotation from Psalms 22. That Psalm is entirely Messianic in nature and scope. It foretold many things that happened around the cross like:

- The mocking crowd (vs. 7, 8).
- The Romans or the gentile participation in His crucifixion (v. 16) Romans were called "dogs" by the Jews, as was often the case of all others without a covenant with God.
- The fact that He knew God from His mother's womb (vs. 9, 10).
- His bones were ALL out of joint, and He could count ALL His bones (vs. 14, 17).

This last point makes every movie ever made of the crucifixion incomplete and misleading. When He became a curse and sin for us, *every bone* of His body came out of its joint. Have

⁵⁸ John 11:25

⁵⁹ John 11:23

⁶⁰ My wife first pointed this out to me.

you ever had just one bone that came out of its joint? The pain of merely one bone coming out of its joint can be excruciating. Now stop and think what it would be like for every bone to come out of its joint. Bones were protruding all over His body under His skin. No wonder that Isaiah said that He was so marred and disfigured that He no longer resembled a man.⁶¹ No movie has ever portrayed this truth!

Let me make a few comments in this regard about the Shroud of Turin, the supposed burial cloth of Jesus. The image on the Shroud of Turin shows no evidence of Jesus' bones all being out of joint! There is too much symmetry in the body of the image to justify in any way it being the Lord's Body. There was no evidence in the image of the Shroud that, "He was marred more than any human being." Therefore it could not be an accurate representation of Jesus. Our conclusion: the image on the Shroud must be of some other person and not Jesus.

It's humorous when you think about it and how many fights have raged for and against the Shroud's authenticity, when the answer to the question has always been in the Bible since the era of King David! So, why is it that some still insist on its authenticity while others try to debunk it, and why is it that they all continue to write ignorant books for it or against it? One reason is that it is a good money making subject for the authors and publishers, and because ignorant folk will continue to buy their books for \$25 bucks or more a pop! Too many Christians, and those that think they are Christians, don't know the text of Scripture well enough to come to the right conclusion. Actually to believe that the Shroud is genuine is to minimize the sacrifice of Jesus.

- They pierced His hands and feet (v.16).
- They cast lots for His clothes (v.18).
- Finally, Psalms 22:31 ends the chapter with the powerful declaration: "**He has done this.**" (And there is much more in that chapter.)

With that final statement, Jesus was saying something

⁶¹ Isaiah 52:14. See Amplified Bible and compare with other versions.

similar to what they say in the South; "It's a done deal!" This is equal to the words of Jesus on the cross when He said, "**It is finished.**" It was a statement of faith that God would finish what He started and that the victory would be won. This is the only possible way to interpret this statement because there were still three days and nights to go through and there was still pending the defeat of hell and death. The resurrection and the ascension were yet to come. These things still had to take place. Jesus was saying, "It is finished," as a declaration of what was done by faith before the actual fullness of the manifestation of the events took place.

The Lord said through David "**It is done**" in Psalms 22:31 long before Jesus ever hung on the cross. Another translation can be: "He has done this." This Psalm was penned approximately 1000 years before Jesus was crucified. The Son of God was calling things that are not as though they were just like His Father. He was prophesying His own victory and the glorious outcome of the divine plan of His Father.

David was a prophet of God and he saw in the spirit down the corridors of time into the distant future. He saw the Son of God hanging on the cross for us and suffering in our place centuries before it ever happened.⁶²

⁶² Acts 2:29, 30, 31

Part II

Beyond Human Imagination

What follows are some of the things no earthly or otherworldly being knew about. It was a mystery hidden in God. It was veiled from all heaven and earth because it was a trap for the enemies of God. It was a strategy of war against the forces of darkness that had invaded this planet. It was God's master stroke against evil.

Some of the things we will delve into now are far beyond human imagination, but they are in the Bible! Some will be shocking and others awe inspiring. Nothing can compare to what Jesus our Lord, the Champion of our Salvation, did for us. When you begin to see the depth of His sacrifice for us, you will begin to understand the glorious power of our deliverance and wholeness in Him.

So, get ready for a ride into eternity and the halls of God's righteous judgment that will transform your life!

Chapter 7

The Innocent One in the Place of the Guilty

Satan and his hordes thought God abandoned Jesus and that God was afflicting Him for some sin He had committed. Satan did not understand that the innocent One was taking the place of the guilty, and that the sins that Jesus was bearing were not His own but those of the whole earth!⁶³

When Jesus died physically, His spirit and soul left His physical body and all hell was moved from beneath to receive the sin and death ridden spirit and soul of Jesus, just like hell is moved to receive sinners and the wicked.⁶⁴ When spiritual death (*separation from God*) took a hold of Jesus' spirit as He suffered with our sins and wickedness, hell was moved to quickly receive Him.⁶⁵ Can we prove this from the Scriptures? Read on and see.

Jesus bore the wickedness of the world and His soul (and spirit) was taken to hell. (Psalms 9:17) This is an undeniable fact of Scripture as you will see. To believe differently is purely scriptural illiteracy on the subject. We will prove it from the Word of God beyond any shadow of a doubt.

Jesus suffered the pains of all kinds of death in this way. He suffered for us spiritually, physically, emotionally, and in every realm of human existence. Jesus suffered the deaths!

Acts 2:24

But God raised Him up, loosing the throes ("pains" or "birth pangs" in other translations) **of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it.**

Peter preached on the day of Pentecost exactly what we are teaching you in this study. Acts 2:24 says He suffered the birth pains of death. The pains this refers to is what He was tortured with when He went to the realm of the dead or hell after He left

⁶³ Isaiah 53:3-5

⁶⁴ Isaiah 14:9

⁶⁵ Psalms 55:15

His dead body on the cross. There's more to this than physical pain because all physical agony ceased when His body died on the cross. Yet, this verse says He was loosed from the throes or pains of death when God raised Him from the dead. God raised Him up loosening him from the pains of death! This tells us that He went into a severe anguish after physical death. He entered into pains, throes and pangs that were beyond human comprehension after His spirit and soul⁶⁶ left His body on the cross. His suffering continued for 3 days and 3 nights, and it was only when God raised Him up that He was loosed from these birth pains. It is again a reference to the deaths He suffered in our place.

Peter didn't just come up with Acts 2:24 out of the blue. He got the wording for his preaching from two different references in the book of Psalms. Here they are.

Psalms 18:4, 5

The sorrows of death shut me in, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. The sorrows of hell surrounded me; the snares of death stood against me.

This verse tells us that there are sorrows in death and hell. This is exactly what Peter was saying in Acts 2:24.

This is also a Messianic Psalm. It agrees with so many other scriptures concerning Jesus and His victory over hell and death, and it harmonizes with the Holy Spirit inspired writings of the apostle Paul, and even with God's own prophetic words, that one can only wonder how come it is not discussed and taught more often. We will come back to it later. The second portion of Scripture where Peter got his wording for Acts 2:24 is found in Psalms 116.

Psalms 116:3, 4

The sorrows of death hemmed me in, and the pains of hell took hold on me; I found trouble and sorrow. Then I called on the name of Yehovah; Oh Yehovah, I implore

⁶⁶ Acts 2:27, 31

you, deliver my soul.

Do you see it? This Scripture talks about the "sorrows of death" and the "pains of hell." In death and hell were pains and sorrows. There is no pain and sorrow in the physical grave. Pinch a dead man. He will never say, "Ouch"! These verses tell us about the torments of hell that Jesus went through for you and me after His physical death on the cross. Again let me state it: Jesus was loosed from the throes of death when God raised Him up out of the realm of death according to Peter's preaching on the day of Pentecost.

God raised Jesus up after He spent three days and nights in the **heart** of the earth.

Matthew 12:40

For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of man⁶⁷ be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

The "heart" of the earth was not the rock tomb or "6 feet under." The heart of the earth was the center of the earth where hell (as it is translated in the KJV and by others) or hades (the transliterated Greek word in the NKJV and other translations) was located. How do we know that this is true?

In his sermon, after the Holy Spirit fell on them at Pentecost, Peter quotes the 16th Psalm as referring to Jesus' death.⁶⁸

Acts 2:27 (and v.31)

Because you will not leave my soul in hades, nor will you let your Holy One to see corruption.

The soul of Jesus was not to be left in *hades* (or the hell of fire

⁶⁷ "Son of man" in the Hebrew tongue is literally "Son of Adam." (Ps. 8:4) The sinless One came operating with the dominion and authority of the first Adam in Eden before his fall. This phrase was reference to the most supernatural being ever to come on the scene since God's original creation. (Daniel 7:13)

⁶⁸ Psalms 16:10

and torment) because He had never sinned! For His soul not to be left in hades means that His soul was actually in hades. For God not to leave Jesus in hades means that Jesus first went there. This reference also tells us that His body was not to decay because God would raise it up as an immortal human body, unconquerable by physical death or frailty.

Some people reject these truths as though it is a strange doctrine that we are rehearsing or an “extreme” theological viewpoint taught by the “Word of Faith” proponents. The critics blame it on an early to mid 20th century writer named E.W. Kenyon as some bizarre doctrine he invented. Is that so? The book in your hands proves the gainsayers wrong. Hundreds of pastors and teachers believe this today but shun preaching much about it because of a lack of revelation in this area. Our book establishes Scriptural revelation from the Holy Spirit on this topic. It would be wisdom to study what is written in it. Satan hates this message because it is the trap he fell into and it resulted in his defeat and his eternal doom. The devil certainly does not want anyone to know this side of the story of redemption we are telling you because it shows how big he screwed up and how big was his defeat.

Some folks cannot imagine that a holy God sunk to such depths to save His family. It is the manifestation of love beyond any human ability to express it! It is inconceivable to the religious traditionalist that God would go to such extremes to get us back, but thank God that He did. Because Jesus went to hell as our substitute, human beings don't have to go there. The price has been paid in full and the blood of Jesus is the eternal witness in Heaven that the sacrifice of the Son of God was perfect and complete and that it is forever available to whosoever receives it! We will have much more to say about the blood of Jesus later on in this study.

Others have said, "Jesus only went to Abraham's Bosom or the upper regions of the underworld. He never went to the place of torment." People have baulked at this clearly taught Bible truth and said things like, "You are wrong brother Rodriguez. When Jesus left His body He went to paradise as He said to the thief on

the cross." That is the wrong conclusion on that verse as we will soon show you.

Would you believe Jesus' own interpretation of the word *hades* in His teaching? Jesus specifically told us about the place called "hades" in Acts 2:27 and 31. Peter was quoting Scripture from Psalms 16:10. He was not making this up and neither am I!

Have you ever heard the story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16? Some think that story was all allegory and that it is not to be interpreted too literally because it was *only* a parable. No, this was not a parable. It was an actual story that happened to some people living during the ministry of Jesus. **"And there was certain beggar named Lazarus"** is referring to an actual person named Lazarus and not some name Jesus made up on the spot to give good imagery to the story. This is the only story Jesus tells us where He uses the personal name of an individual. It was not a parable but a prophetic revelation of the unseen realm. Probably everybody hearing Jesus' story that day knew exactly who this beggar was. They had seen him begging for years at the wicked rich man's gate. This wicked rich man Jesus mentioned in the story was probably well known in the area. Both were real people that lived in some unnamed area on the road to Jerusalem.⁶⁹

Luke 16:19-24

And there was a certain rich man; and he was accustomed to wear a purple robe and fine linen, making merry in opulence day by day. And there was a certain poor man named Lazarus who was laid at his doorway, ulcerated, and desired to be filled from the crumbs that fell from the table of the rich man. But the dogs came and licked his sores. As it happened, the poor man died and was carried away by the angels into the bosom of Abraham. And the rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in *hades*, he lifted up his eyes, seeing Abraham afar off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out saying, Father Abraham, have pity on me

⁶⁹ See Luke 13:22. The context seems to indicate a locale close to Jerusalem.

and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am tormented in this flame.”

Regardless of whether you still think this was a parable, I have a question for you. Do you think Jesus made a mistake and that He was a proponent of erroneous teaching? Of course you don't believe that. Jesus knew exactly what He was talking about. He knew precisely what the word "hades" meant and what that terrible place was really like. I believe you can see now how ridiculous is the thinking of those that say that Jesus going into the torments of hades is some strange or bizarre doctrine. Luke 16 alone proves them wrong! They are in fact blinded to the truth of what happened to the soul of Jesus when He left His body on the cross.

The same exact Greek word "hades," that is used in Acts 2:27 and 31 that speaks about Jesus' soul not being left in hades, is exactly the same word used for the "hell" of flames and torments that the wicked rich man was taken to. That is where Jesus was suffering for three days and three nights for us until God the Father brought Him up out of there, and Jesus' soul was released from the torturous pains of the realm of the dead!

That wicked rich man in Jesus' story in Luke 16 was the same one prophesied about in Isaiah 53:9.

Isaiah 53:9 Lit.

And He was given up to the wicked in his grave, and with a rich man in His deaths; although he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

This rich man in Isaiah 53:9 was not Joseph of Arimathea. I thought that for a long time myself but it couldn't be Joseph of Arimathea. No way! That Joseph was a just rich man.⁷⁰ Notice that the prophet Isaiah is referring to a wicked rich man in the context of this verse, and not a just or righteous rich man. Isaiah is referring to the wicked rich man that was in hades in the story

⁷⁰ Luke 23:50, 51, Matthew 27:57

of Jesus in Luke 16. I told you it was a prophetic revelation from the lips of Jesus. I am convinced that is the very reason Jesus told this revelatory story. The rich man was the wicked person Jesus was to be near to in His death. This wicked rich man in hell was an eyewitness to Jesus' sufferings and to hell's defeat. Actually, all of hell's occupants were eyewitnesses to Satan's utter defeat. Talk about a front row seat none of us would ever want! I'll take the DVD, thank you! I'd rather see it from a very far away distance if you please!

The Word of God teaches us that in the mouth of two or three witnesses let every Word be established.⁷¹ Do we have more Scriptures to back this up? Yes, absolutely, and we are just getting warmed up! Would you believe that Jesus never uses the word *hades* to indicate the grave or "paradise?" The Greek word *hades* is used four times in the gospels only in the words of Jesus, and all four times it refers to the *hades* that is the place of Satan and demons. We already gave you the first reference in Luke 16:23 from the story of the wicked rich man and Lazarus. The other three references are found in Matthew 11:23, 16:18 and Luke 10:15. Look at Matthew 11:23:

Matthew 11:23

And you, Capernaum, who have been exalted to heaven, you will be cast down to *hades* (hell). For if the miraculous power (signs and wonders) that took place in you had taken place in Sodom, it would remain until today.

This was certainly not telling the city of Capernaum that it was going to go to the grave or to Abraham's place of refuge in the underworld (where Lazarus went after he died)! They were not going to some paradise! It was a stern rebuke by Jesus in the very same language God used when speaking about Lucifer being cast down from heaven and into hell!⁷²

"Oh, but in Psalms 16:10 it uses the Hebrew word *sheol* and

⁷¹ 2 Corinthians 13:1, Deuteronomy 19:15

⁷² Isaiah 14:12-15

that just meant "the grave," one highly confused scholar said to me, trying to state his opposition to the clear teaching of the Scripture. Sorry Mr. Scholar but your interpretation is in error! Sheol included the place of torment, and that is the place that Peter and Jesus were talking about when the word Hades was used in the Gospels and in Acts.

The word sheol included the hell of fire, and it was originally used in that context. Can we prove this? Note how sheol was used in this very early mention of the word in Deuteronomy 32:22, in the "good-bye" message of Moses to Israel.

Deuteronomy 32:22

For a fire has been inflamed in my anger, and it burns to the lowest sheol, and consumes the earth and its produce; and sets ablaze the foundations of the mountains.

There are other similar Scriptures.⁷³ The reference to the "lowest sheol," (or hades in the New Testament), reminds us of another verse where Paul mentions this fact again.

Ephesians 4:8, 9

He says, "Having gone up on high, He (Jesus) led captivity captive," and gave gifts to men. But that He went up, what does that mean but that He also first went down into the lower parts of the earth?

Jesus went down to the lower parts of the earth before He ascended. That was when He was in hades in torments. This was the "heart" of the earth that Jesus was speaking about in Matthew 12:40. Here is another verse where Paul clearly teaches on this subject of Jesus going to hell in our place.

Romans 10:7

...Or, "Who will go down into the abyss?" (That means to bring Christ up from the dead.)

⁷³ Ezekiel 26:20, 31:14, etc.

The word *abyss* is connected directly to bringing Christ up from the dead according to the apostle. This verse tells us that when Christ was brought up from the realm of death it was because He was down in the abyss. It is not speaking of his resurrection from the grave. Technically it could include it, because after He was released from the abyss He was resurrected physically, but the physical resurrection is not our emphasis in this chapter. Here, I want to point out the spiritual sufferings of our Messiah. Jesus was in that realm of the dead in the abyss. That the word "abyss" is not referring to the rock hewn grave should be obvious to any Bible student by what follows next. Brace up for it!

The abyss was a realm of the unrighteous dead as well as the place where hordes of demons and darkness exist. Can we prove it? Is it scriptural? Absolutely!

Revelation 9:1-3

And the fifth angel trumpeted. And I saw a star (angel) out of Heaven coming down to the earth. And the key to the pit of the abyss was given to it. And he opened the pit of the abyss. And smoke went up out of the pit, like smoke of a great furnace. And the sun was darkened, and the air, by the smoke of the pit. And out of the smoke locusts came forth to the earth.

Here is this word abyss again. Look at how it describes this horrid place: "smoke went up out of the pit, like smoke of a great furnace," and that the smoke of the pit darkened the sun. It says that when the angel (or star) opened up this abyss or bottomless pit that there came out of it beings like locusts with faces of men and they brought torment upon the earth. Read through verse eleven of this chapter so you see that these were demonic creatures that came out of that pit called the abyss. Can you see that Jesus was in this terrible place in the center of the earth?

The Scripture calls this ruler (king) of the abyss a destroyer.

Revelation 9:11

And they have a king over them, the angel of the abyss. In Hebrew his name was *abaddon*, and in Greek he has the name *apollyon*.

The Hebrew word *abaddon* means destroying angel. The Greek word *apollyon* means the same thing or simply destroyer. In Proverbs 15:11 it links *abaddon* to death. So the abyss is undoubtedly the domain of satan and all his demons because he is the one that had the authority of death and hell. (Heb. 2:14)

Revelation 20:1, 2

And I saw an angel coming down out of Heaven, having the key of the abyss, and a great chain on his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the old serpent, which is the devil, and satan, and bound him a thousand years.

Romans 10:7, and each reference we have seen thus far, used the Greek word *abusssos* which is translated abyss or *bottomless pit* by other translators. Strong's Concordance, in its Greek dictionary, adds to the definition "infernal abyss." None of these verses are speaking about the grave or being buried six feet under. Paul was saying in Romans 10:7 that Jesus was raised out of that infernal region of the damned.

Here is an interesting question: Where did those angels get the **keys** to open or shut that devilish bottomless pit that is also called the abyss? Did you notice one key was for opening and one was for shutting the abyss in Revelation 9:1, 2 and 20:1, 2? Where did they get these keys (plural)?

Revelation 1:18

And (I am) the living One; and I was dead; and look and see, I am alive forever and ever. Amen. And I have the keys to hell (hades) and of death.

The verse above calls these **keys** "the keys to hell (or hades) and of death." The word *hell* is the same Greek word *hades* we saw in Acts 2:27, 31, Luke 16:23 and Matthew 11:23 (same as Luke 10:15). Jesus took these keys away from the enemy when

he was raised from the dead. It should be clearer to you by now that the abyss, bottomless pit, and hades are all speaking about the same place of torture and punishment. That is where my Jesus went on our behalf and suffered the punishments we were supposed to suffer! He was tortured in the abyss, bottomless pit or hades for you and me in order to provide for us absolute victory in all realms of existence! We keep repeating this so that everyone reading this will understand that all Jesus suffered was to make us free. All He suffered was in our place and for our benefit. Jesus went to hell in our place because He suffered for us all that stood against us. Hell and eternal separation from God were the things that stood against all humanity. The Scripture teaches that:

1. Jesus became the curse.⁷⁴ He bore the entire brunt of the curse to the extent that He no longer even looked human as He hung on the cross. Literally it says that He was disfigured and no longer resembled a man.⁷⁵ Jesus became a "monster" on that cross for us! For years I have said that no movie ever made has even come close to portraying the horrors of what really happened to Jesus at the cross and in hell.

There is a billionaire somewhere that will take on this project and make a movie that will cause Superman, Spiderman, and the Fantastic Four look like a joke and the Lord will use it to bring revival around the world. Forget all the sensibilities of traditional Christendom that squirms at the truth. Let them squirm!

In 2008, some in the church tried to draw parallels between the Superman movie and Jesus. That is truly bizarre, though religion has done much worse over the years by making the image of the real Jesus look puny, 'sissified', and emasculated. Yuk! If you have to stoop to the level of comparing the King of kings to a fictional character like Superman, then it reveals volumes about your ignorance of what Jesus did for us. How could one ever compare the figment of the imagination of a story

⁷⁴ Galatians 3:13

⁷⁵ Isaiah 52:14. Look at this verse in different translations.

teller to the greatest story ever told?

The story of Jesus is the story of the greatest Hero the universe has ever known, and He is my big Brother! He-Man was a wimp next to the true Master of the Universe, the Lord Jesus! Conan (Sorry Arnold!) and Hercules were pussycats next to our great Lord and eternal Hero! I can only snicker in derision at the recent Heroes series on TV. There is no hero that men have invented that can even come close in exploits when compared to our Hero, the Lord Jesus. My God, can somebody please make a real movie about the real Hero of all heroes! So what if it is a "restricted" movie because of all the violence and graphic imagery in it. I would go see a restricted movie made in honor of my Champion any day if it was made in line with what really happened to Jesus on the cross and in hell! The movies presented on TV during Easter are pathetic! Even *The Passion of the Christ* fell short in this respect, (though a big improvement), just like every other movie before it! Make a real movie that does not pull any punches but is true to the greatest story ever told in the universe and in all of eternity!

2. Jesus became sin. He did not just carry the heavy load of the sin of the world. Religion and tradition can only see that far but God went much further. Jesus was *made to be sin* with our sin as the old King James Version translates it.⁷⁶ This further confirms that it was much more than only a carrying of the burden of sin.

Isaiah 53:6 (Lit.)

Yehovah made to encounter (meet together) in Him the iniquity of all of us.

Jesus not only bore mankind's sin on Him as a great burden, but received it IN Him. That is the clear teaching of the Word.

Here is some additional information to help you understand our instruction from the Word.

⁷⁶ 2 Corinthians 5:21

As we have seen, spiritual death is the separation of man's spirit and soul from God. The book of Ephesians talks about being **dead in our sins and trespasses**. Spiritual death is being alienated from the God kind of life. It is to be separated from God.⁷⁷

God put in Jesus the iniquity of us all according to Isaiah 53:6. He suffered our deaths according to Isaiah 53:9 because it says in Isaiah 53:10 that the soul of Jesus was made a "sin offering,"

Paul probably penned 2 Corinthians 5:21 as he pondered on Isaiah 53:10.

2 Corinthians 5:21

He (God) made him (Jesus) to be sin for us who knew no sin....

In Hebrew, Isaiah 53:10 says that Jesus' soul was the *asham* or the trespass offering. Our trespasses (also called *asham*), our death of sin and trespasses, had to be settled through sacrifice by our substitute (Jesus). It was done through His soul becoming our *asham*.⁷⁸ The Old Testament trespass sacrifice was very holy to God and it was an offering where the blood was shed and the fat and inside parts were burned by fire. Many don't know that burnt offerings were by far the most frequent sacrifices offered by Israel in the temple.⁷⁹ They were the type of what Jesus had to suffer for us. Those sacrifices were the type and Jesus was their complete and absolute fulfillment.

3. Jesus became the serpent on the pole. Just like Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, in the same way Jesus was to be lifted up.⁸⁰ Look closely at John 3:14. The serpent is the representation of satan. Remember it was the serpent in

⁷⁷ See Eph. 2:1-5 and 4:17-18.

⁷⁸ Study Lev. 5 and 6, particularly 6:17, 18, where we are told that the offering for sin and the trespass offering were part of the fire offerings to Yehovah.

⁷⁹ Chapter 14 of our book explains in more detail and gives references.

⁸⁰ John 3:14

Eden, and that it is the devil that is called the "old serpent."⁸¹

When Jesus' spirit was separated from the Father God, and He was made to be sin with our sin, He became as sin and death ridden as the serpent. The nature of the devil flooded His spirit, soul, and body. I didn't say that. Jesus Himself taught this right before the great John 3:16 Scripture. Everybody knows John 3:16. Few have paid much attention to John 3:14, except in reference to healing. This verse is just as real and true as the John 3:16 Scripture. Why did Jesus use a serpent on a pole as a type of His sacrifice? Why did He not rather use a lamb? Why did God command Moses to put the brazen serpent on the pole so that all that looked on it were healed from the plague?⁸²

It is when we see what He did and what He bore for us that we will walk out to freedom. Everything He suffered for us was to make us free. The deeper one gets into the message, the greater one's freedom from any part of the curse or death. Since He bore it all, I never have to bear any of it. That is what this message is all about!

In conclusion: Jesus was made a curse, made sin, and became the serpent on the pole. Let me quote to you what happens to the cursed; what Jesus became for us on the cross.

Matthew 25:41

Then He will also say to those on His left, "Depart from me, cursed ones, into the everlasting fire having been prepared for the devil and his angels."

The cursed ones are told to depart to the hell fire prepared for the devil and his angels. Paul declares that Jesus became the curse for us.⁸³ Because of this fact, hell received the spirit and soul of Jesus even though it was a dire mistake on hell's part. They did not understanding the sacrifice. God did not share with hell the meaning of this trap at all! Jesus went with all our curse of death, sickness, disease, destruction, pain, poverty, and

⁸¹ Revelation 12:9, 20:2

⁸² Numbers 21:9

⁸³ Galatians 3:13

spiritual death into hell to pay the price for our complete and total deliverance. That part was a mystery and hell was going to get eternally rebuked over it.

All this means that whatever part of the curse is hanging on to an individual, they can go free right now because Jesus paid it all for all eternity! Jesus went to the place of the unrighteous, the transgressors, the wicked dead, and the place of eternal torment for you and me, but there was a catch. Taking Jesus into hell was the biggest blunder ever committed in all eternity! Jesus had never committed sin nor was He ever connected to satan or the curse in any way.⁸⁴ Jesus was made to be sin, the serpent (a type of death, destruction, and a representation of what the devil is) on the pole, as a substitute in our place.⁸⁵ Jesus became what we were, so that we can become all that He is now!⁸⁶

Even though satan and all of hell thought they had Him, that they had finally defeated the Son of God, they were very, very wrong! God was not about to leave the soul of His innocent Son in hell!⁸⁷ Heaven's revenge was coming with all of the fury of God! Hell was about to have their worst day in all eternity!

Why all this emphasis on the **soul** of Jesus not being left in hades? The soul is where the will is located. In hell, one loses control over the ability to exercise the right to choose. To "lose your soul" is to lose the ability to choose to go to heaven.⁸⁸ In hell, all have lost the right to "will" themselves out of an eternal hell. Humans only have that choice while on this earth. Once the soul is separated from the body at death, the choices made on the earth are set for eternity. Judgment is set at the time of physical death.⁸⁹ One can never come back to this life after death as another human being. Reincarnation is a lie! Once a person dies, it's all over as far as choosing your eternal home. Physical resurrection alone proves this amply, as is taught in 1

⁸⁴ John 14:30, Hebrews 4:15

⁸⁵ John 3:14

⁸⁶ 1 John 4:17

⁸⁷ Acts 2:27

⁸⁸ Matthew 16:26

⁸⁹ Hebrews 9:27

Corinthians 15. The chapter addresses the question: "With what body are people raised with?" There is no chance of you coming back as a baby again. There is no coming back as a cow, dog, fly, or even a cockroach! There are no second chances. We all get one shot at life, and one shot only. Make it count for God!

Once a human being without God leaves their body, the soul and its right to use the will in the service of God, together with the right to choose Jesus, is lost forever. That choice can only be made before death. That choice is wrapped up in the word believe. To believe is to choose. To believe in Jesus is to commit to a life of obedience under His Lordship, and to trust in Him as Savior and Redeemer.⁹⁰ That is the choice available to every human being as long as they are still breathing. Obedience to the Lord and trust in Him is a choice.⁹¹ The person that loses their soul can no longer choose any of that. They are shut up in hell and can never come out by the use of their will. Again, the story of the wicked rich man in hell should have revealed that to us. In the story Jesus said that the man could not pass from hell to where Lazarus was at. Jesus' soul lost the ability to exercise His own will to get Him out of hell! Jesus lost His soul for us! He became obedient to death for you and me!⁹² Let that sink in. He had to depend on the power of God to get Him out even as he was being ushered into the "jaws" of the realm of death.

Here's another thought from Scripture. Jesus was "numbered with the transgressors" as it says in Isaiah 53:12. We always assumed this was talking about the fact that Jesus was crucified between two thieves. It may have included that fact (in a double reference) but it could not be referring to His physical death alone. Notice that right before Isaiah says this phrase he qualifies it with the sentence "because He poured out **His soul** unto death." In other words, because He poured out His soul unto death was the reason He was numbered among the transgressors. The pouring out of His soul unto death began

⁹⁰ John 3:16, Romans 10:9-13

⁹¹ Deut. 30:19, 20, Jos. 24:15, Ps. 25:12, 34:22, 84:10, Joel 3:14, Rom. 6:16

⁹² As to Jesus' soul see Phil. 2:8. Also look at Mat. 16:26 on "lose your soul."

when He died spiritually with our sins. That was when His soul became subject to death, and then and only then could His soul be poured out. He “lost” or “poured out” His soul when He descended into hades. *To pour out* means to be uncovered or naked, but even more important is the definition to make destitute. This agrees with the fact that God first abandoned His Son for us, as is written in Acts 2:27, 31 and in Psalms 16. His soul not being left or abandoned in hades means that He was first left and abandoned but God didn’t leave Him there. God did raise Him up out of hades! But first, Jesus was abandoned to death in the sense of the place of the dead or hades. When Jesus was abandoned to hades (or death) is certainly when He was numbered with the transgressors. Jesus was the only non-transgressor to ever go to hell! He went as our substitute!

We have another qualifier after the phrase in question in Isaiah 53:12. The reason He was numbered among the transgressors was because He poured out His soul unto death in hades and because He bore the sins of many. He received our sin and sin nature and then went to hell as the sin bearer.

If you are still wondering how I can say all this even though this verse in Isaiah 53:12 is quoted in the King James Version in Mark 15:28, where it is used as a reference to the fact that Jesus was crucified between two thieves, then let me bring some light to you. This will clear it all up so you don’t think we missed it.

Did you know that Mark 15:28 is not in the three oldest complete Greek manuscripts of the New Testament, all from the fourth or fifth centuries? It is missing in all the oldest manuscripts and papyrus. The New King James Bible and many other translations will point this out. The United Bible Societies Greek New Testament⁹³ does not even quote the verse. The footnote explains that the textual evidence does not support including it. Some scribe gave his own wrong interpretation of it!

Jesus quoted Isaiah 53:12 in Luke 22:37 but in a different setting. Look at it closely.

⁹³ Third Edition, 1975, p. 193, edited by Aland, Black, Martini and others.

Luke 22:37

"For I tell you that the words of Scripture must find their fulfillment in me: 'and he was reckoned among the lawless'; for indeed that saying about me has its accomplishment."

Lawless is the same Greek word (as a noun) used in Matthew 13:41, 42 (in the form of an adjective). It refers there to those that do lawlessness (or iniquity in some translations) as being cast into a furnace of fire where there is wailing and gnashing of teeth. Compare that to Matthew 7:23 where those that do what is lawless are told to depart from the Lord. Jesus tells us that this phrase from Isaiah 53:12 was to find its fulfillment *in Him*. God laid the iniquity of us all IN Jesus. (Isaiah 53:6) That was when Jesus died spiritually with our sin and our separation from God and went to hell in our place.

As a further testimony of what we are saying about the soul of Jesus being ushered into hades after His death on the cross, the following may be helpful. If you were raised Catholic you probably remember saying in the Latin catechism the phrase "descendit ad inferos." The official Catholic translation into English of this part of the catechism says:

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell (from the Latin "descendit ad inferos"). On the third day he rose again.

This declaration comes from what is commonly known as the Apostles' Creed. This is a clear reference to Paul's statement in Ephesians 4:9 of Christ's descent into the lower parts of the earth, and to Peter's declaration in Acts 2:27-31 of Christ going into hades. Jesus went down to the infernal regions. It is only many modern preachers, churches, and denominations that have refused to believe it yet this is the greatest message of salvation and deliverance ever recorded in human history!

This declaration was a part of the Apostles Creed before its

mention in 390 AD at the Council in Milan. At that Council, the churches were ordered: "Let them give credit to the Creed of the Apostles, which the Roman Church has always kept and preserved undefiled".

This was a doctrine preserved and taught in the churches from the very beginning! This is no new doctrine!⁹⁴ The Christian church has maintained this teaching even in its most ancient liturgical form. It has been preserved as a monument to the truth. Thank God for that! I believe in the Apostle's Creed wholeheartedly and so should every church!

Some people in Catholicism may have been saying the catechism without understanding what they were confessing, but that is the reason the Lord raises up men and women to declare the truths of God's Word for the present generation. I am endeavoring to do my part by teaching some of the same truths that others have received from the Lord in years gone by. We are adding some fresh revelation from the Scripture to the understanding they shared with us in past generations, all to produce further growth and strengthening of the Body of Christ, the church of the living God. The massive awakening that is at our door demands it!

I believe with all of my heart that we are in the end of the human generations, and the time has come to pull out all the stops, break down all the barriers, and release into the earth the fullness of God's revelation in Christ Jesus for the task at hand of wrapping things up and going on with eternity. The time is here and now for this revelation to come to the forefront. That is the reason for this book being in your hands. May this revelation come alive in you and change you forever as you read these marvelous truths.

⁹⁴ This phrase is quoted also in the prayer books of the Church of England, Presbyterian, Lutheran, the ecumenical version (ELLC) and others. Read the article "Apostles' Creed" at www.wikipedia.com for more information.

Chapter 8

Suffering the Torments of Hades

In the Messianic Psalms 88 we get a picture of Jesus suffering spiritual death on the cross and when He was ushered into hell on our behalf. This Psalm could not have been speaking of anyone else but the Son of God made sin with our sin. It agrees in many ways with what the prophet Isaiah said about the sufferings of our Messiah.

Psalms 88:3

For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near the grave.

The language here reminds us very much of Isaiah 53:9-11 and Acts 2:24. This is exactly what the prophet Isaiah said about the soul of Christ in chapter 53:11 when God the Father saw "the travail" of the soul of Jesus.

Psalms 88:4-6

I am counted with those who go down to the Pit; I am like a weak man; free among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, whom You remember no more; and by Your hand they are cut off. You have laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the deeps.

He was "counted with those that go down to the pit" reminds us of the fact that He was counted with the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:12) Notice it also says that they are "cut off." This is the same terminology used by Isaiah 53:8: "He was cut off from the land of the living." This "lowest pit" was hell or hades itself. He went to the lowest parts of it.⁹⁵ We saw in the book of Revelation that it tells us about this bottomless pit of smoke, demons, and darkness. There, it is also called the abyss.⁹⁶ That is where

⁹⁵ Ephesians 4:9, Matthew 12:40, Romans 10:7

⁹⁶ Revelation 9:1-3, 20:1-3

Jesus went for us. He actually suffered all hell had to offer for us so that we never have to go there. All anyone must do is accept, receive, and embrace His free gift of salvation.⁹⁷ That alone can keep one from that terrible fate of death and hell, and later the ominous lake of fire and brimstone, where there will be eternal wailing and gnashing of teeth, and where the worm never dies.⁹⁸ This pit or hades is also called the place of blackness and outer darkness forever.⁹⁹ Thank God Jesus suffered it all so we don't have to go there! That is good news for the human family!

Psalms 88:7

Your wrath lies hard on me, and you have afflicted me with all your waves.

The wrath of God we should have borne for our wickedness and the curse that was on us, Jesus took it all and suffered it all so we could be free from it all.¹⁰⁰ That's redemption! That is real freedom! That's the great love plan the Father had for us. Now we can get in on the victory and redemption provided by Jesus. Both verse 88:7 and 9 tell us of the affliction of the Son of God. Isaiah 53:7 mentions the same thing when it says, "He was afflicted." Here is another verse in Isaiah 53 that this Psalm reminds us of:

Isaiah 53:10

Yet it pleased Yehovah to crush Him; to make Him sick...

God crushed, bruised, and made sick His own Son so you and me never have to be crushed and bruised by the sin, sickness, disease, or curse on this planet! God did that to His own Son with our sicknesses, pains and spiritual death. He did that to Him with our transgressions and everything that stood against our prosperity, wholeness, and health. That is what it

⁹⁷ Romans 5:17

⁹⁸ Revelation 20:10-15, 21:8, Mark 9:43-48, Matthew 13:42, 50

⁹⁹ Matthew 25:30, 2 Peter 2:17

¹⁰⁰ Romans 5:9, 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9

means when it says that He also took “the chastisement of our peace” in Isaiah 53:5. That’s what my Jesus did for you and me!

Psalms 88:8

You have taken my friends away from me; you have made me an abomination to them. I am shut up, and I cannot come out.

When was He “made” an abomination? The answer should be obvious by now. When He was made to be sin with our sin, when He became the curse, and when He was made the serpent on the pole is when He became an abomination as He bore our iniquities.¹⁰¹

The Son of God was in hell and He could not come out on His own any more than the wicked rich man could come out of hell. He was all alone.¹⁰² He would have to depend on the Father to bring Him out. The glory of God, the Holy Spirit, and the power of God was going to have to bring Him out.¹⁰³

It’s tragic when you hear the ignorance of the heathen when they say things like “I want to go to hell because all my friends will be there.” Heathen, listen up: You will never see them again and you will die all alone and go into the blackness of eternity without God. Hell and the lake of fire are so utterly black, lonely, and oppressive that for eternity you will rarely ever even see your own tormented hand in front of your never dying worm ridden face! I know it’s graphic, but people need to know the truth about the horrors of hell according to the Scripture. Jesus went to hell to suffer in the place of every human being so that no one needs to ever go to that horrible place.

Psalms 88:9-12

My eye mourns because of affliction; O Yehovah, I have called daily on you; I have stretched out my hands to you. Will you do wonders to the dead? Will the dead rise

¹⁰¹ 2 Cor. 5:21, Galatians 3:13, John 3:14

¹⁰² Luke 16:26

¹⁰³ Romans 6:4, 8:11, 2 Corinthians 13:4

and praise you? Selah. Will your loving-kindness be declared in the grave or your faithfulness in ruin? Will your wonders be known in the dark, and your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?

The agony of it all is almost unbearable. In the very midst of hell Jesus was raising His hands towards God in full expectation that God was going to reveal His wonders, and that His righteousness was going to shine towards Him right into the very center of the earth. Darkness and death were going to get a Holy shockwave from Heaven that would leave them reeling for eternity.

Psalms 88:13-18

But to you I have cried, O Yehovah; and in the morning my prayer will go before you. O Yehovah, why do you cast off my soul? Why do you hide your face from me? I am afflicted and ready to die from my youth up; while I suffer your terrors, I waste away. Your fierce wrath goes over me; Your terrors have cut me off. They surrounded me like waters all day long; they have come together around me. You have taken my familiar friend far from me, and those who knew me into darkness.

That His soul was cast off, and that God hid His face from Him, should by now be unquestionable. (88:14)¹⁰⁴

From the time Jesus was a youth, He was keenly aware of His mission to die for us in our place. Jesus was born to die for you and me. That was what He came for. He came to suffer for us and in our place so we could go free and have Heaven as an eternal home! (88:15)

Jesus suffered every bit of God's wrath by taking in Himself all the curse, sin and death on the planet, all at one time. God's wrath was fully expressed against all sin and unrighteousness when God put our sin and all its consequences on Jesus. He suffered the full impact of the curse and death for us. That is why

¹⁰⁴ Acts 2:27, Psalms 22:1, Isaiah 53:10-12

this Psalm tells us twice that He was cut off (88:5, 16) as does Isaiah 53:8.

Here are some important verses from Psalms 18 about Jesus' torments in hell and when God brought Him out. Remember that Peter used the language of this Psalm when he preached on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:24. This is also an important Messianic Psalm.

Psalms 18:4-10

The pangs of death closed me in; yes, the floods of the ungodly overwhelmed me; the sorrows of sheol surrounded me; the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called on Yehovah and I cried to my God; He heard my voice out of His temple, and my cry went before Him, into His ears. Then the earth shook and quaked; and the foundations of the mountains quaked and were shaken, because it angered Him. A smoke went up out of His nostrils, and fire devoured out of His mouth; coals were lit by it. He bowed down the heavens and came down, and darkness was under His feet; and He rode on a cherub, and He flew; yes He soared on the wings of the wind...

Verses four and five tell us of His sufferings in hades, but then it tells us how God brought His soul from among the dead. Notice that Jesus cried out to Yehovah. God heard His Son from His temple because the prayer of the Son made sin went before Yehovah into His ears. This is very similar in numerous ways to what was said in Psalms 88 and what we will see in Jonah 2. Notice that when God heard His Son from hell that it angered God and all the earth shook violently. Did you know that a great (not a small) earthquake was reported when Jesus was raised from the dead?¹⁰⁵ God spoke from heaven and all the earth, and all of hell, shook and quaked. Why was God angry? He was angry because Jesus was in hell illegally! He was innocent of any wrongdoing! The voice of Yehovah cut through the flames of fire

¹⁰⁵ Matthew 28:2

in hades to get His Son back!¹⁰⁶ This is the picture of the loving-kindness of God and His eternal mercy manifesting in hades to get His innocent Son raised out of there.¹⁰⁷

Psalms 18:13, 14

Yehovah also thundered in the heavens; and the Highest gave forth His voice, hailstones and coals of fire.¹⁰⁸ Yes, He sent out His arrows and scattered them; and He shot out lightnings and confused them.

Light from the power and light company of Heaven shot into the darkness of hades and shone on the Son. The spotlight of Heaven was on the Son! Every demon of hades that has gathered to mock and further afflict the Son of God was suddenly scattered by the great light of God that flooded hades. They ran in confusion in every direction.

Psalms 18:15-17

Then the stream beds of waters were seen, and the foundations of the earth were made naked at your rebuke, O Yehovah, by the blast of air from your nostrils. He sent from on high, He took me; He took me out of many waters; He delivered me from my strong enemy and from the ones hating me; for they were stronger than I...

Jesus was delivered from the place and from the foe that He could not defeat without God's power and God's backing. Jesus was delivered from the strong man mentioned in Luke 11:21, 22. There Jesus speaks by faith about His strong enemy's defeat.

Psalms 18:21-24

And He brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me; Yehovah rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the

¹⁰⁶ Psalms 29:7

¹⁰⁷ Psalms 88:9-12

¹⁰⁸ Read in this context Psalms 29.

cleanness of my hands He has repaid me. For I have kept the ways of Yehovah, and have not departed from my God by wickedness. For all His judgments were in my face, and I did not turn away from His statutes. For I was loyal (upright) to Him and kept myself from guilt. And Yehovah has recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in His sight.

Jesus was the innocent Lamb that was slain so the Father could get His family back! He had never sinned or failed God's covenant in any way. He had walked in righteousness and purity all His life. Yet, at the cross He willfully subjected Himself to sin, death, satan, the curse and then went to hades (the place of torment in the underworld) in order to redeem us.¹⁰⁹

As you can see, we are building to a crescendo in all this and it is surely coming forth. Psalms 18 meshed with Psalms 88. We saw how these Psalms clearly tie in to the sacrifice of Jesus in Isaiah 53 and other Messianic Scriptures. Now watch how the following builds on all this and begins to complete the picture for us. Now we are going to study the great 2nd chapter of Jonah. Without question, this chapter is a prophetic utterance by the prophet Jonah of Jesus' sufferings and His deliverance from hades. Matthew 12:40 is more than enough proof of this declaration. I'll quote it to set up this great revelation:

Matthew 12:40

And just like "Jonah was in the belly of the big fish for three days and three nights," so shall the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights.

Jesus didn't stutter when He said this! Did Jesus ever speak elsewhere about a "three days" time frame? Yes He did! This is no isolated text.¹¹⁰ Even His enemies knew about this

¹⁰⁹ Philippians 2:7, 8, Hebrews 2:14, Galatians 3:13, John 3:14

¹¹⁰ Matthew 16:21, 17:23, 20:19, Mark 8:31, 9:31, 10:34, John 2:19, etc.

declaration of a three days time frame!¹¹¹

Jesus got the time frame for His sacrifice from the phrase “three days and nights” found in the prophet Jonah according to His own teaching! The prophetic book of Jonah was the source for His usage of “three days,” “third day,” and “three days and nights.”

Jesus’ experience in hades was similar to Jonah when He was three days and nights in the heart of the earth according to His declaration in Matthew 12:40. Jesus was conscious. He was in extreme suffering, torment, and agony even as He prayed from the heart of the earth to God just like Jonah did.

Jonah 1:17

And Yehovah arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Again, this prophetic book was Jesus’ source to refer to how long He was going to be in hades, and when He would be raised from the dead with a resurrected body according to Matthew 12:40! Jesus was three days and nights in the “belly” or heart of the earth. He went to the deepest hell hole for us! This means that regardless of how far a human being has sunk in this life into depravity or the curse, Jesus went even deeper. He did it all so we could now go free from bondage. That is what this is all about. Jesus suffered the worst of hell, so we could get the best of Heaven! Jesus was put into the deepest hell hole on earth, so that now, regardless of the hell a person could be living in this life, they can walk out to victory in Jesus’ Name!

Jonah 2:1

And Jonah prayed to Yehovah his God out of the belly of the fish.

Just like Jonah prayed from the belly of the great fish, so Jesus prayed to Yehovah His God from the heart or center of the

¹¹¹ Matthew 27:63

earth. Jesus prayed to God right from the midst of hell. Isn't that what Psalms 88 and 18 taught us?

Jonah 2:2-3

And he said, I cried out to Yehovah in my distress and He answered me. Out of the belly of sheol (the deepest underworld) I cried for help, and you heard my voice. For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the current surrounded me; all your waves and your rolling waters passed over me.

Notice the phrase "out of the belly of sheol." This tells us that Jonah understood "sheol" as a place of being conscious. He understood it as a place of suffering and torment, and he did not equate sheol with only the grave or a place of burial. This is important because it refutes the idea that sheol "just means the grave." I have heard scholars and some preachers attempt to say that as a rebuttal to our study. In Jesus' and Jonah's thinking, for them, sheol included a place of the consciousness of one's own existence after death, and a place of great suffering and torment as well.

The next phrase above, "you cast me into the deep into the **heart** of the seas" reminds us of Jesus' word in Matthew 12:40. As we have stated, the **heart** of the earth meant the center of the earth where hades is, and not six feet under. It also reminds us that Jesus went to the deepest part of hades for us, what Revelation calls the abyss or the bottomless pit. Paul's words in Ephesians 4:9 also come to the forefront, when he said that Jesus went first to "the lowest parts of the earth" for us.

Jonah 2:4

And I said, "I am cast off (sent away, dispossessed) from your eyes; but I will look again to your holy temple."

Jesus stresses in this prayer the fact that as the sin and curse bearer He had been cast out of God's presence. Here is an important point. One way of describing hades or sheol is that it is a place absolutely devoid of God's presence. Whatever blessing,

good, light, or life is in the presence of God, it is non-existent in hell. That is where Jesus went for you and me!

One more point here is the fact that Jesus was expressing His faith in God to deliver Him out of hades because He was innocent of all guilt. Jesus was suffering with our guilt, but He knew He was absolutely innocent. He declares by faith in this awesome prayer of deliverance from hades or sheol, "I will again look to your holy temple." Talk about faith! He trusted in God to get Him out from that terrible place and that He was going to be back in God's holy presence once again.

Jonah 2:5

Waters surrounded (were circling) **me to** (also means against, towards) **my soul; the depth** (can also mean an abysmal depth) **closed** (besetting or besieging) **around me; seaweed was clinging** (twisted like a turban) **to my head.**

Literally, Jonah had seaweed wrapped around him in the belly of the great fish. Where Jesus was concerned, He had the torments of darkness without God wrapped around him just like the seaweed. It was clinging to Him. He couldn't get it off of Him. Jesus soul and spirit were in torment and it had surrounded Him. This reminds me of Isaiah 53:10 and 11 that tells us that Jesus' soul was made an offering for sin, and that God saw the travail of His soul. Travail means: sorrow, misery, pain, and trouble. He was agonizing in hell in our place!

Jonah 2:6

I went down to the foundations (bases) **of the mountains; the earth with her walls** (bars) **was about me forever. But you brought up my life from the pit** (underworld), **O Yehovah my God.**

Jesus was in the lowest pit, the lowest hell, for you and me. The forever place of eternal separation from God is where Jesus went for us. Jesus speaks out by faith as Jonah did and declares, "You brought up my life from the pit (or destruction), O Yehovah my God." He was declaring His faith that God would bring Him

out. He was calling Yehovah His God. Even on the cross, when God departed from Him because of our sin and death that He was bearing, He still called God "My God." In hades He calls God His God regardless of the torment and the fainting of His soul as 2:7 states.

Jonah 2:7

When my soul fainted (grew weak, languished) **inside me, I remembered Yehovah; and my prayer came before you, to your holy temple.**

When the soul of Jesus was fainting and wanted to quit and give up, He would remember Yehovah His deliverer. Jesus would again assert His faith that His prayer was heard by His God. He knew His soul could not be left in hades.¹¹² He knew that God would get Him out because He had never sinned. He knew that the sacrifice would be completed. Jesus knew that God would raise Him up from among the dead in hades and from the grave. Jesus knew the victory of resurrection and exaltation was coming for Him.

Jonah 2:8, 9

Those who observe the emptiness of idolatry forsake (relinquish, fail) **their mercy** (or faithfulness); **but I will sacrifice to you with the voice of thanksgiving; I will fulfill that which I have promised. Salvation is of Yehovah!**

Right from the midst of hell, Jesus offered the sacrifice of praise. Right in the middle of all the oppression and pains of death,¹¹³ Jesus offers up to Yehovah the sacrifice of praise. Jesus quotes Psalms 8:2 in Matthew 21:16 and equates the word strength with the word praise. Read Psalms 8:2 with that in mind and you will see that it is telling us that praise will stop, (still, cause to lack or fail, put down and away) the enemy and the avenger. Jesus was speaking out the defeat of all of hell with His

¹¹² Psalms 16:10, Acts 2:27, 31

¹¹³ Acts 2:24

praise. If the sacrifice of praise can bring victory right in the middle of the worst that hades had to offer, what do you think will happen when you begin to offer the sacrifice of praise to God for the victory right in the middle of any work of hell that has come against you? Jesus did not "feel" like praising God. That is why it was a sacrifice. It went contrary to all He was suffering and feeling, yet He offered to God the sacrifice of praise for His victory and His deliverance and He got it! We are required to offer to God a sacrifice of praise to God whether we feel like it or not.¹¹⁴ God is pleased with that kind of sacrifice because it is loaded with faith!¹¹⁵

God responds quickly and powerfully, and the enemy and the avenger will be stopped! The story of Paul and Silas in prison, and how God got them out as they offered to Him the sacrifice of praise, is a vivid example.¹¹⁶ In the same way, we should offer a sacrifice of praise and expect God's power to open the "prison doors," and loose us from any "chains."

In hell, Jesus offers the sacrifice of praise and God opened the prison doors of hades for Him. God loosed Him from the pains or birth pangs of death and brought Him out!

Then Jesus yells out boldly as a blow to hell's intention of keeping Him locked up, "SALVATION (deliverance and complete freedom from bondage) IS OF YEHOVAH!"

When Jesus spoke those words just like Jonah did, God moved and acted on His behalf swiftly and powerfully.

Jonah 2:10

And Jehovah spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out on dry land.

Where Jonah was concerned, he was vomited out unto dry land. Where Jesus was concerned, He was raised from the realm of the dead and was resurrected physically. He was vomited out of hell back into the land of the living. Glory to God!

¹¹⁴ Hebrews 13:15

¹¹⁵ Hebrew 11:6

¹¹⁶ Acts 16:24-26

Jesus went into hell speaking and confessing the Word of God and He continued to do so for three days and three nights! When Jesus spoke out powerfully that final phrase, "Salvation is of Yehovah," God responded from heaven with "You are My Son, TODAY I have begotten you!" God said those words when He raised Jesus from the realm of the dead according to the apostle Paul!¹¹⁷ I can't help it. I have got to say, "Wow"! It's time to get up and shout the victory in His Name!

¹¹⁷ Acts 13:33,34

Chapter 9

The TODAY of Redemption

Let's debunk an objection to this message. God spoke from Heaven in response to Jesus' declaration of "Salvation (Yeshua) is of Yehovah!" He said, "You are my Son, **TODAY** I have begotten you" according to Acts 13:33 and 34! That was the "today" Jesus was talking about when He said to the thief on the cross:

Luke 23:42, 43

And he went on to say, "Jesus! Remember me, whenever you come into your kingdom." And He (*Jesus*) said unto him, "Amen (so be it) I tell you TODAY: You will be with me in Paradise (Heaven)."¹¹⁸

In the context of our scriptural study, this translation makes perfect sense. This should be the correct punctuation as even the context will prove. This was not a reference to His going to Heaven the very moment after He died on the cross. Jesus was saying "so be it" to that *today* that was to be inaugurated when He was birthed by God. That was something that had to be accomplished before He could ever go to Heaven. Jesus was saying "Amen" to that fact. He was saying "Amen" to that specific *today*. Nothing could be possible until Jesus was raised from the dead.

This is the TODAY Paul taught us about.

Acts 13:33

This God has fulfilled to us their children, raising Jesus (from the dead), as also it is written in the second Psalm,

¹¹⁸ The oldest Greek manuscripts were written with no punctuations, all capital letters, and no sentence or word divisions. All punctuations and all distinctions between capital and small case letters were added at the privilege of the translators. We have a right to move these punctuations because of context. Joseph Bryant Rotherham also gives us a similar punctuation for this verse in his Emphasized Bible published in 1902.

"You are My Son; TODAY I have begotten (birthed) you."

That was the specific TODAY of redemption! There was no way Jesus was going to Heaven or Paradise right after His physical death because of all the Scriptural evidence we have seen to the contrary. He had to go through three days and nights before he could present Himself to the Father in Heaven.

Jesus was emphasizing the prophesied today of His victory over hell, death, and the grave when His soul was delivered from hades. He was referring to the TODAY of His body being resurrected, His blood being taken to heaven as the eternal witness of our redemption and cleansing the heavenly utensils of worship, sealing the new provisions of the covenant in His blood, and being inaugurated into the highest office in the universe! He was speaking of the TODAY of when He was begotten or birthed from among the dead! Jesus was saying "Amen" to that TODAY! Again, He was speaking by faith in the covenant of God and trusting for God to get His soul out from hades! He was speaking His faith out even to that thief that was crucified next to Him!

2 Corinthians 6:2

For He says, "In an acceptable time I heard you, and in a day of salvation, I helped you;" Behold, now is the accepted time. Behold, now is the day of salvation.

The "day of salvation" that this refers to was the TODAY that salvation was brought forth. The "day of salvation" is also a reference to "the day the Lord has made" in Psalms 118:22-24. The *today* when He was made the chief Corner Stone was on that specific day! The "today" being referred to is the day of our victory over hell, death, and the grave because of what Jesus accomplished for us. That is the day of our salvation!

In 2 Corinthians 6:2 Paul quoted part of that prophetic utterance through Isaiah. It was a Messianic prophecy. Look at it closely.

Isaiah 49:8, 9

So says Yehovah, "In a favorable time I answered you, and in a day of salvation I came to your aid. And I will protect you, and give you as a covenant for the people; to establish the earth, to cause them to inherit the uninhabited legacy; to say to the prisoners, 'go out!' To those who are in darkness, 'unveil yourselves.'"

Who were these prisoners that are told to go out and disclose or unveil themselves? Remember what we read from Ephesians 4:8 and 9? It was a fact that when Jesus was raised from the dead "He led captivity captive." He led all the saints out of the protected place called Abraham's bosom that was actually the upper region of the underworld. All saints before Jesus' defeat of hell went to this place of protection until Messiah would come and lead them out in a triumphal parade. That is where Lazarus was in Luke 16:22, 25. Do we get any other indication in the Scripture of this truth? Yes we do. The Scripture even tells us, that when Jesus was raised from the dead, that many of the saints were raised with Jesus and showed themselves alive to people around Jerusalem.¹¹⁹

Until Jesus was raised out of hell, no one was able to go directly into Heaven.¹²⁰ Now all saints or people that serve the Lord, when they die, they are immediately ushered into Heaven.¹²¹

With this in mind, here is another truth against thinking Jesus was saying to that thief that on that very day He was going to be in *paradise*. The Greek word for *paradise* comes originally from the Hebrew language. (See Strong's concordance.) Study it for yourself and note that it refers to the place called Eden before the fall, and it is a synonym for the Heaven where God dwells.¹²² Jesus did not ascend to the Father in Heaven until after His resurrection. Again, this proves the translation and punctuation I provided is correct. Can I prove it further? Remember when Mary

¹¹⁹ Matthew 27:52, 53

¹²⁰ John 3:13

¹²¹ 2 Corinthians 5:6-8, Philippians 1:21-25

¹²² Revelation 2:7

saw Him after His resurrection? What did Jesus say to her?

John 20:17

Jesus said to her, “Do not touch me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father”.¹²³

It was between this moment and when He appeared to the eleven remaining apostles that He went into Heaven with His own blood. How do we know this? Here in John 20:17 He tells Mary not to touch Him because He had not yet presented Himself in Heaven (or Paradise) to the Father. Jesus appeared to the 11 behind closed doors. Thomas doubted the resurrection of Jesus and the Lord rebuked him for his unbelief by saying to him:

John 20:27

Bring your finger here and put it in my hands, and bring your hand here and put into my side, and do not be faithless, but believing.

He also said to the other disciples when He appeared to them:

Luke 24: 39

Touch me and see that a spirit has not flesh and bone like I do.

He had already gone into Heaven and presented His blood as the proof of His eternal sacrifice and our full redemption. Now they could touch Him, whereas they could not do so before because He was not yet ascended to the Father in Heaven or Paradise.

This means that it was impossible for that thief to go to Heaven until Jesus was raised from the dead and had ascended into Heaven and presented Himself to the Father. Again, this verifies that the punctuation we gave you of Luke 22:42 is

¹²³ The Father has His eternal residence in Heaven. (Luke 11:2)

absolutely accurate and the only possible interpretation. Any other interpretation would go contrary to many Scriptures. People that have objected to this message based on this Scriptural reference have no basis for it. It has almost universally been punctuated according to man's tradition based on a biased interpretation and not rooted and grounded in the revelation of God's Word.

Chapter 10

The Unexpected Surprise

Suddenly, and to all of hell's utter surprise and confusion, God breathes life by His Spirit into the spirit and soul of Jesus in hell! The courts of heavenly justice were satisfied that the price for man's sin and death in all realms was paid in full. Jesus was raised from all the realms of death spiritually and physically. God saw the travail of the soul of His Son and He was pleased that the job had been completed!¹²⁴

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, an innocent (*sinless*) one for the guilty, so that He could bring us to God. He was put to death in the flesh but was made alive in the spirit.

When God was satisfied that the price for our redemption was paid in full, God breathed His life back into the spirit of Jesus just like He originally did with Adam in the garden.¹²⁵ Now the last Adam (Jesus) has become a life giving spirit!¹²⁶ Now His life is breathed into our spirits when we make Him Lord of our lives.¹²⁷

God breathed life back into Jesus' spirit when He raised Him from the dead, and justified Him.¹²⁸ That means that God declared the Son as righteous when He raised Him from the dead! Both 1 Peter 3:18 and 1 Timothy 3:16 indicate that He was made alive and made righteous in the spirit. Why? Because He had been disconnected from the life of God and had been in an unrighteous state in hell as He suffered with our damnation. Thank God that He was brought out from the state of spiritual

¹²⁴ Isaiah 53:11

¹²⁵ Genesis 2:7

¹²⁶ 1 Cor. 15:22

¹²⁷ Ephesians 2:4

¹²⁸ 1 Timothy 3:16

death. When He becomes the Lord of our lives, we come out of spiritual death into life and from unrighteousness into the righteousness of God! We get hooked up with the image and nature of God, as though mankind had never fallen and as though we had never sinned!¹²⁹

That was something no demon in hell ever expected to see! Suddenly, the spirit of Jesus was justified or made righteous right in the middle of hell, while all of its occupants watched in terror but were completely helpless to stop it.

Jesus went into hell speaking and confessing the Word of God, as stated in Psalms 22, Psalms 18, Psalms 88, and Jonah 2! He powerfully declared before God, "Salvation is of Yehovah!" and God responded to Him from Heaven with, "You are my son! Today I have begotten you!" Paul makes it extremely clear that this response by God was referring to Jesus only when He was raised from the dead. Here is the reference.

Acts 13:33, 34

...This God has fulfilled to us their children, raising Jesus up, as also it is written in the second Psalms, "You are My Son, this day I have begotten (given you birth) You." And that He raised Him up from the dead...

In Acts 13:33, 34 it reveals that Jesus being begotten (birthed) was what happened when God raised Him from the dead. Both before and after Paul's quotation of Psalm 2:7, he reveals it was exclusively referring to the resurrection of Jesus. This never was a reference to the day He was born of Mary! When He was physically born, He took upon Himself flesh.¹³⁰ That was not His being begotten (birthed) of God from the dead as Paul preached.

Just like Jonah, Jesus said, "SALVATION IS OF YEHOVAH!" When He did, the earth trembled and shook as the voice of the Lord thundered through all realms of Heaven, earth and hades

¹²⁹ 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 3:21-26, 5:17, Ephesians 2:4, 5, John 10:10, 2 Peter 1:4, Ephesians 4:20-24, 2 Timothy 1:9, 10

¹³⁰ John 1:14, Hebrews 2:14, Philipians 2:7

and said, "YOU ARE MY SON TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU!! Study out Psalms 18:4-18 in this regard. Wow!

Do we find any other reference to this grand deliverance and birthing (being begotten) from all realms of death? Yes, in Hebrews chapter 1! Please also note how Hebrews chapter 1 fits perfectly with Paul's teaching in Acts 13, and the fact that Jesus being begotten of the Father referred only to His resurrection from the dead. Also note the fact that Peter preached in Acts 2:31 that the resurrection of Jesus was twofold. First the resurrection was spiritual, "that His soul was not left in hades," and secondly it was physical, "nor did His flesh see corruption."

The One suffering death in hell was begotten or given a new birth right in the very midst of hell! This had to happen first before Jesus could be physically raised from the dead to immortality. I know I am repeating myself and really harping on this, but this is "new territory" for many and I want to be real sure it is understood clearly.

Hebrews 1:3

...Who (Jesus) being the brightness (or shining splendor) of His glory and the expressed image of His being (or essence), and upholding all things by the Word of His power, having made purification of our sins through Himself, He sat down on the right of the majesty on high...¹³¹

Jesus made purification of our sins through the sacrifice of all of Himself, spirit, soul, body, blood and all. This is a very important point because many have wrongly thought that Jesus' sacrifice was only physical.

If the benefits of His sacrifice are spirit, soul, and body and in all realms of human existence, then the sacrifice had to be in all those spheres so provision could be made for us in every arena of life.

It is really that simple. It was a great exchange. He took my sin in His spirit so I can have eternal life and be made the

¹³¹ See Psalms 110:1

righteousness of God. He took my sickness and disease in His body so I could be healed and healthy. He took my poverty and shame so I could have life and that more abundantly. Until one sees Jesus die in their place as substitute, one can never really live. On the other hand if you see that Jesus bore it all for you, then you can go free!

Hebrews 1:4-5

...He became so much better than the angels and He has inherited a name more excellent than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say, "You are My Son; today I have begotten you"?¹³² And again, "I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son..."

We have emphasized that God spoke these words "You are my Son; today I have begotten (birthed) you" when he raised Jesus from hades. That was when He was begotten or given a new birth by the Father. God again calls Him "Son" and again is God His Father. I know this is almost incomprehensible, but Jesus in hell was fully separated from His sonship and from God as His Father for three days and three nights as He suffered with our sins, transgressions, and the curse in the bowels of the earth. His separation from God was complete and absolute for three days and nights. He was made sin. He became the curse, and He absorbed the very nature of death and satan into Himself for us!¹³³ It had to be a complete and total separation from the Father because that was the condition of lost humanity. Jesus gave His very life and sonship for three days and nights in order for the plan of redemption to be complete. The sinless One became just like the sinner in hell, without hope and without God, in order to redeem sinners. This was so until God was satisfied that the price was paid in full by the sacrifice of the soul of His Son in hell.¹³⁴ Now God speaks His Word into hell, and all hell trembles and shakes as the Messiah is reborn in hades and God

¹³² Ps. 2:7

¹³³ 2 Cor. 5:21, Gal. 3:13, John 3:14, Heb. 2:14, Phil. 2:7, 8

¹³⁴ Isaiah 53:10, 11

brings Him out.¹³⁵

Hebrews 1:6

...And when He again brings in the firstborn into the world, He says, "And let all the angels of God worship Him."

The "first" firstborn was Adam when God breathed the Spirit of life into his lifeless body and he became a living soul or being.¹³⁶ That first Adam lost all that relationship to God.¹³⁷ Now the second Adam gets the Spirit of God breathed into His death ridden spirit and soul in hades and He is justified.¹³⁸ Jesus has a new birth right in the middle of hell by the Word of the Father and by the Spirit of God!

Remember how Jesus told Nicodemus that one must be born again to enter into the kingdom of God?¹³⁹ Jesus also revealed that it takes the Spirit of God and the "water" for it to happen. The "water" is referring to the Word of God. Paul used "water" that way in Ephesians 5:26, when he says, "the washing of water by the Word." It takes the Word and the regeneration of God's Spirit for life and light to come forth in the new birth, just like it did at the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth.¹⁴⁰

The Word of God spoken from Heaven by the Father raised Jesus from the deaths He suffered on our behalf, both spiritually and physically. In Hebrews 1:3-6 we have clear evidence of what the Father spoke from Heaven when He raised His Son from hell! It also reveals what God said when Jesus was physically raised to immortality never to see corruption!¹⁴¹

Hebrews 1:7-13

And concerning the angels, He said, "Who makes His

¹³⁵ Psalms 18:4-24

¹³⁶ Genesis 2:7

¹³⁷ Genesis 2:17, 3:1-17

¹³⁸ Romans 8:11, 1 Peter 3:18, 1 Timothy 3:16

¹³⁹ John 3:1-8

¹⁴⁰ Genesis 1:1-3, 1 Peter 1:23, Titus 3:5

¹⁴¹ See Hebrews 1:10, 12

angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire;"¹⁴² but concerning the Son He says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom; you have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness (or iniquity); because of this, God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows."¹⁴³ And, "Lord, from the beginning you founded the earth, and the heavens are the works of your hands. They will disappear, but you will continue; and they will all become old like a garment, and you will fold them up like a blanket (covering), and they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will not fail."¹⁴⁴ But to which of the angels did He ever say, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool?"

God the Father raises His Son Jesus from hades and inaugurates Him into the highest office of all spiritual and physical realms. The Father calls Him God!

From the lowest hell, God raises His Son to sit on God's own throne as God! Talk about an exaltation beyond all dreams and expectations! This sent a shockwave through hell that hell has never been able to recover from! The forgotten and shamed One, the One that was separated from His Father and was "left for dead" in the lowest hell, now gets raised to the highest Heaven, and in the process He defeats all of hell single handedly, making a mockery of all of hades and all its deceiving power!¹⁴⁵ God was making His enemies His footstool!

Look closely at how the author of Hebrews ¹⁴⁶ blends masterfully many references from Psalms and applies them to the Messiah. It is not a foreign concept to use the Psalms and the prophets in the manner we have used them to teach on Jesus'

¹⁴² Psalms 104:4

¹⁴³ Psalms 45:6, 7

¹⁴⁴ Psalms 102:25-27

¹⁴⁵ Philippians 2:7-11 Colossians 2:15

¹⁴⁶ I believe the author was the apostle Paul though he used a very good Greek writer to record his teaching in this epistle. It was written in better Greek than Paul used in his other epistles.

sufferings in hell. Paul, Peter and Jesus did it, so it gives me the right to do it as well. Peter taught that David was a prophet and often spoke of the Christ and His sufferings and glorification.¹⁴⁷ I thought I would say that for those that may object to how I used the Psalms to establish this subject from the Word of God spoken through the prophet David and the prophet Jonah.

The book of Hebrews is a classic example of how much the Psalms and the prophets were considered Messianic in many places, many times in places not thought of as traditionally Messianic. There were many other Scriptures throughout the Biblical text that pointed to Christ in types and shadows concerning His life, deaths, sufferings, resurrection and exaltation. Jesus fulfilled Scriptures in many ways. It was all leading to Him. We all know that.¹⁴⁸ We are taught to consider the Scriptures in this manner in the New Testament.¹⁴⁹

To reinforce these truths, we will give you an additional verse that tells us that when Jesus was raised from the dead (or when He was glorified) was when He was begotten of the Father.

Hebrews 5:5

Christ did not glorify Himself to be made a high priest, but He (God) who said to Him, "You are My Son, today I have begotten you."

The Scriptures that refer to His glorification are speaking about when He was raised from all realms of death and was exalted to Heaven's highest office as God.¹⁵⁰

¹⁴⁷ Acts 2:29-31

¹⁴⁸ Matthew 1:22, 2:15, 17, 23, 5:18, 8:17, 12:17, 21:4, 26:54, 27:9, 35, etc.

¹⁴⁹ Colossians 2:17, Hebrews 10:1

¹⁵⁰ Look up the following Scriptures to verify further what I am telling you. John 7:39, 12:16, 23, 24, 13:31, 32, 17:1, 5, Acts 3:13-31, Romans 6:4 and others.

Chapter 11

The Firstborn

Jesus was the firstborn from the dead. He was the first person ever to be born from spiritual death into spiritual life.

Colossians 1:18

And He is the Head of the Body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that He may have preeminence in all things.

Jesus was the first man to ever be born from death into life. He was the pattern you and I follow in the new birth. He was the first one, but not the last one, thank God!

Notice that we are called the church of the firstborn.

Hebrews 12:23

To the assembly and church of the firstborn who are written in Heaven, and to God judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect...

He is the firstborn of all creation, and when we come to Jesus, we are made new creations in Him.¹⁵¹

He is the firstborn among many brethren so now we can be conformed to His very own image.

Romans 8:29

For whom He knew beforehand He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, the firstborn among many brethren.

That includes you and me as born or birthed ones of the Father in Christ! The old KJV used the word *begotten*. Here is a better translation for you of 1 John 5.

¹⁵¹ Colossians 1:15, 2 Corinthians 5:17

1 John 5:1, 4-5

Everyone that believes (trust and obeys) that Jesus is the Christ (Anointed One) is born of God, and everyone that loves Him that gave birth also loves him that is birthed of Him... For everyone that has been born of God overcomes the world and this is the victory that overcomes the world, that is our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Jesus was born again right in the midst of hell! We get in on His new birth when we come into Christ. We get in on the circumcision of Jesus' own spirit in hades. The new birth is referred to as a circumcision in the spirit by Paul.¹⁵² The circumcision of Jesus' spirit is an undeniable fact according to Paul's writings. Paul calls what Jesus experienced in the spirit when He was begotten or given a new birth by God the "**circumcision of Christ**".¹⁵³ The apostle Paul connects this to when Jesus was raised from the dead and defeated all of hell. A circumcision made without hands is what happens to every child of God when they are born again just like it happened to Jesus when He was raised from the deaths of being our sin bearer.¹⁵⁴ Jesus was made alive in the spirit and we were made alive spiritually with Him according to Ephesians 2:4! That is the truth of the gospel and that is our great redemption. We get what He got when God raised Him up from all realms of hell and death! We are identified with Him in His great and awesome deliverance and victory over hell, His deaths, and the grave. This is what our redemption is all about! He took our place in sin and death so we can now be delivered from the authority of darkness and translated into the kingdom (dominion) of His dear Son. He suffered spiritual death so I can have life eternal now and forevermore!¹⁵⁵ He went to the deepest hell for us so we could

¹⁵² Romans 2:29

¹⁵³ Colossians 2:11

¹⁵⁴ Col. 2:11-15

¹⁵⁵ Col. 1:13, Ephesians 2:4-6

be raised up and seated with Him! It was the great exchange, the greatest substitution ever devised or implemented!

Let me say it again: Because Jesus was innocent and without sin or death of His own, He did not deserve to die and go to hell like was the fate of all humans that did not serve God. That was the trap set for the devil! Satan took the bait of allowing a sinless man to be taken into the darkest regions of hell. Now the penalty of death for man's sin was paid for and God was obligated to get back His Son! God was obligated to raise His Son from death, hell, and the grave because His Son was innocent! In the process of this raising up, Jesus became the victor and conqueror over all by defeating satan, every demon, and all of hell. After three days, the risen Christ came out of His tomb with a resurrected body, a body that can never be killed again! Jesus being raised from the dead was both spiritual (from hades or hell) and physical (with a resurrected, glorified physical body).¹⁵⁶

¹⁵⁶ Acts 2:24-27, Col 2:15, Eph. 1:17-23, Heb. 2:9, 14, 15, 1 John 3:8, 1 Cor. 15:3, 4, 14, 17, 20, Mat. 28:1-8

Chapter 12

The Foundation of the Resurrection

The phrases and words used in the New Testament that tell us that God raised Jesus "from the dead" mean a total raising from all realms of death! He was raised spirit, soul, and body from the dead!¹⁵⁷

Acts 2:31 will forever settle the issue of what was included in the resurrection of Christ. It reveals, as I mentioned earlier, the two-fold nature of His resurrection. Here it is in black and white. The apostle Peter quotes the Scripture from Psalms 16:10 and unveils its meaning.

Acts 2:31

...Seeing before the fact, he spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, "that His soul was not left in hades, nor did His flesh see corruption."

According to Peter, without question, the resurrection of Christ was a two-fold operation of the Holy Spirit:

1. The soul of Christ was not left in hell (hades).
2. His flesh or physical body did not see corruption or decay!

Paul further added insight into the resurrection by teaching that it also included when God said, "You are my Son. Today I have begotten (birthed) you."¹⁵⁸ He also lets us know in Ephesians that all hell was defeated when God raised Jesus from the dead, and that this authority has been transferred to the church!¹⁵⁹ The glory of God and the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from

¹⁵⁷ Compare Eph. 1:20, Is. 14:9, Revelation 1:18, 20:13, 14

¹⁵⁸ Acts 13:33, 34

¹⁵⁹ Eph. 1:19-23

the dead.¹⁶⁰

I trust that this gives you insight into what Paul meant when he referred to knowing intimately "the power of His resurrection."¹⁶¹ That power includes all the abilities of God that made possible the resurrection of Jesus in all of its facets! It is the exceeding greatness of His power towards us that believe!¹⁶² It is the power that is to be at work in us!¹⁶³ Glory!!

Did you catch the fact that Peter was the one that got up and preached on the day of Pentecost? It wasn't James, John, Matthew, or anyone else. Remember the words of Jesus?

John 21:15-17

"Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me? Feed my sheep."

Do you remember what else the Lord said about Peter and the revelation he received from the Father in heaven that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God? What did Jesus tell him?

Matthew 16:18, 19

You are Peter (Lit. a stone) **and upon this rock** (Lit. massive foundation rock or bedrock) **I will build my church** (Lit. - witnessing assembly), **and the gates of hades will not prevail** (have victory) **against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom** (rule and dominion) **of heaven** (the realm of the supernatural operations of God)...

This is the **massive foundation rock** of the church laid down by Peter in the first message ever preached under a resurrection anointing, after the inauguration of the Assembly of God's people, on the day of Pentecost! God ministered these keys of authority through the very first message that Peter preached. The dominion of the kingdom is wrapped up in this

¹⁶⁰ Rom. 6:4, 8:11

¹⁶¹ Philippians 3:10

¹⁶² Eph. 1:19, 20

¹⁶³ Ephesians 3:20

understanding of the profound work of Christ in His deaths, and the complete defeat of satan when God snatched the soul of Jesus from hades and raised him up out of all realms of death! Yet, most churches are ignorant of this message, and most pastors are afraid of it because it is so controversial in their thinking. The only reason it is so controversial is because few have had revelation of this foundation principle laid down the first day of the church concerning the resurrection of Jesus!

One of the foundation principles of the church is "**the resurrection of the dead**" according to Hebrews 6:2. That foundation of the resurrection of the dead includes this message, and if it doesn't, then it is an incomplete message. I quoted above Acts 2:27, 31 and the fact that the resurrection from the dead of Christ is twofold. Many preach the physical resurrection without ever teaching the raising of the soul of Jesus from hades. The time to preach the whole truth of the resurrection has come! Peter laid out this teaching as a part of the foundation of the resurrection of the dead (as instructed in Hebrews 6:2) but few churches have given it any attention.

The church must get back to preaching and teaching this neglected dual resurrection truth in order to step into the dominion of miracles, signs and wonders that the early church walked in. The early church understood the utter defeat of hell when Jesus was raised from hades and the grave. Peter remembered well the teaching of Jesus that the gates of hades would not prevail against the church, and both he and the early church took it very seriously!¹⁶⁴ The early church gave witness with great power to this dual resurrection as Peter taught from the Scripture in Acts 2: 27, 31.¹⁶⁵ This was an early theme of the church. Anytime they spoke of the resurrection they had this dual resurrection truth in their minds and hearts. In their thinking they knew hell was defeated and the victory was passed on to them, and they used it powerfully! The early church preached it and got amazing results. It is time that the church in these last days

¹⁶⁴ Mat. 16:18, 19

¹⁶⁵ See Acts 4:33.

preaches these truths and steps into the supernatural power of the resurrected Lord, both from hell and from the grave!

Sadly, somewhere down the line the church lost sight of this dual resurrection truth. Those days are over forever! I prophesy to you in the Name of Jesus that just like in the early church this was a central theme of the Body of Christ to the world, so will it be again in this final great awakening that will hit this planet in full force before the coming of the Lord!

Chapter 13

The Defeat of Hell

When God raised Jesus up from hades, in that process, all of hell and death was defeated.

Revelation 1:17, 18

I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead; and, look and see, I am living forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of hell and death.

Keys represent authority and Jesus got them by conquest. He stripped the devil of all that he trusted in. Listen to how Jesus taught us about His victory over hell.

Matthew 12:29

How is anyone able to enter the house of a strong one (the devil) and plunder his goods, if he (Jesus) does not first bind up this strong one; and then he (Jesus) will plunder his (the devil's whole) house?

The defeat of the "strong one" was eminent. Satan had become strong through acquiring Adam's dominion. In this verse, before Jesus died and rose from the dead, He was prophesying by faith about what was going to happen to the devil.

John 12:31

Now is the judgment of this world; now is the ruler of this world to be cast out.

The ruler of this world was the devil, but he was about to be cast out of his realm of authority that he got illegitimately from Adam and Eve through deception. That victory over the devil and hell was to be turned over to the church! When God raised Jesus from hades, Jesus turned around, and with that power, He defeated all of hades and death and stripped them from all their

spoils.

Colossians 2:15

He stripped off the rulers and the authorities, and He made a public show of them triumphing over them in it.

If your translation has in the place of “triumphing over them in it” something like “triumphing over them in the cross” it is a wrong translation. In some translations “in the cross” is bracketed or placed in italics because it is by no means supported by the original Greek text. Some translations have stated it thinking that somehow this verse was fulfilled on the cross. It was not fulfilled on the cross! It could only be fulfilled after the circumcision of the spirit of Christ in hell when He was begotten and given a new birth in hell by the power of God!¹⁶⁶ There was no victory and no triumph at the cross.

Yes, the cross is an emblem of the great sacrifice of Jesus, and in fact represents it,¹⁶⁷ but in actuality it was the place of defeat and not conquest and triumph. The cross represents His death and the fact that now you and I can have eternal life because of what Jesus did for us. Because He died, I can live! The cross was where Jesus began His sufferings of all kinds of deaths on our behalf, but no victory was manifested when Jesus died on the Roman cross. That was the place of defeat, helplessness, abandonment, and shame. There was no public triumph around the cross. Jesus did not strip off from Himself the principalities and powers at the cross. That happened in hades when His soul was brought out of the pit. This was a victory that the natural world did not see until He was raised and physically resurrected, and that dominion over death and hell was transferred to the church.¹⁶⁸ The victory came when Jesus was raised from all the realms of the dead. Triumph was obtained when He defeated hell and death through His spiritual and physical resurrection. This conquest of hell and death is what

¹⁶⁶ Colossians 1:18, 2:11, Acts 13:33, 34, Hebrews 1:5, 6

¹⁶⁷ 1 Corinthians 1:18

¹⁶⁸ Matthew 16:16-18, Matthew 28:18, Mark 16:15-20

Paul is referring to in Colossians 2:15.

Look at this verse in my own translations based on the Greek text. It gives us insight into hell's ultimate defeat when God raised Jesus up from hades. This verse points out how Jesus defeated all of hell in a quick mortal combat. There were no long drawn out battles. One swift blow defeated all of hell in a moment. Hell and death dared not oppose the King of kings and Lord of lords!

And having disarmed principalities and powers, He mocked them in public, triumphing over all of them. (2:15)

Jesus beat them all and mocked them. It became the eternal shaming of hell. The Son of God made sin was now raised up and He whipped all of hell and forced them to surrender in a moment!

Christ defeated all the powers and forces against Him. He let the whole world see them being led away as prisoners when He celebrated His victorious triumph. (2:15)

The victory was absolute and complete! He led all of hell away as a procession of prisoners when He celebrated His victory!

Having stripped the principalities and the powers, He made a show (spectacle) of them openly (for all to see), triumphing over them in it. (2:15)

There was an open show and Jesus displayed them as defeated before all heaven, all the earth, and all of hell. He demonstrated that the victory was won and that satan was now a defeated enemy. All in heaven, earth, and under the earth bowed before Him as the Victor and Champion of our salvation!¹⁶⁹ They all had to confess that He was now in dominion over them.

¹⁶⁹ Philippians 2:9, 10

He disarmed the rulers and authorities. He made a public display of them. He triumphed over them through what He accomplished. (2:15)

Jesus made a “*public display*” of hell's defeat. It was a fact witnessed by every being in all realms of existence. His blood is forever now a witness in Heaven that all of hell was defeated, and that the prince of this world was cast out from his illegitimate place of authority.

He disarmed the rulers and authorities. He disgraced them publicly; He triumphed over them. (2:15)

Jesus disgraced all of hell with an utter defeat! He disarmed them from their trusted weaponry.

Another possible translation of Colossians 2:15 is that Jesus led “**a triumphal procession.**”

I can almost see it. Jesus defeated hell as the Champion of God over all realms. He then goes to the upper regions of the underworld where Abraham's bosom was located¹⁷⁰ and leads the righteous captives out in a victory parade like all of eternity had never witnessed!¹⁷¹ It was like the triumphal procession of ancient times, where the defeated soldiers and kings of a vanquished kingdom were led in chains in a victory parade. It was a triumphal procession where the victors would gloat over their enemies! This is what Jesus did to satan and all of hell! He paraded them before all eternity as the vanquished! Can you imagine the fit of joy all those saints in Abraham's bosom had on the day Jesus led them out of there forever! The Champion of Heaven and earth defeated all of hell and death and now was leading them up and out and into Heaven forever.

In the Garden of Eden God told the serpent what would happen in a nutshell. Of course, nobody got its meaning until hell's defeat and the resurrection.

¹⁷⁰ Luke 16:22-25

¹⁷¹ Ephesians 4:8

Genesis 3:15

And I will put (strong) opposition between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He (Jesus) will bruise your head, and you (the devil) will bruise His heel.

The enmity was going to be between satan's bunch and her seed. Her seed was a reference to Jesus, as we are taught in Galatians 3:16 and 19 and in other places.¹⁷² So Jesus was the seed that was to bruise (trample) the head of the serpent or the devil.¹⁷³ This was a reference to satan's defeat by Jesus and the fact that the devil was going to be thrown out of his realms of authority.¹⁷⁴

Satan was only going to bruise his heel. That is a reference to the crucifixion and the beatings Jesus suffered from the Romans. That meant that compared to what Jesus was going to do to the serpent, satan was going to accomplish very little against Him. Yes, the devil accomplished killing Jesus and even illegally ushering Him into hell, but that was temporary (three days and three nights) as Jesus paid for our deaths, sin and the curse. Satan's complete defeat was eternal. The provisions of our covenant sealed in the blood of Jesus are eternally available, and there is nothing the devil can do about any of it!

God said to Jesus when He raised Him up from all realms of death, "Sit on my right hand until I make all your enemies your footstool." All His enemies were defeated, and even though satan and his hordes are still loose on this planet, the victory had been won.

Hebrews 2:14

Since the children are partakers of flesh and blood, in the same way He also shared in the same, that through death

¹⁷² Genesis 21:12, 22:18, Rom. 9:6, Heb. 11:18. The fact that it was "her" seed and not "their" seed would also be a reference to the supernatural birth of Jesus through Mary.

¹⁷³ Rev. 12:9, 20:2. Look at the phrase about crushing or bruising the head of the serpent in Rom. 16:20.

¹⁷⁴ Rev. 12:9, John 12:31

He might strip the one having the power of death, that is, the devil...

Satan had the power of death and hades but he was stripped of it through the death that the Son of God suffered in every realm.

The Greek text of Hebrews 2:14 can be translated: "That through His death He rendered powerless him who had the authority over death, that is, the devil." Satan was rendered powerless of his long held authority of death and hades. That is a legal fact. This means that it is a reality, though it is one that must be enforced for it to work for our benefit. In other words; it is the established fact, but now someone is going to have to receive it and act upon it by faith. Though Jesus defeated hell and death for us, and gave the church the right to use the "keys" of authority, hell will not be actively defeated in any life unless a person takes a stand against the works of the devil.

Do you remember that Jesus said, "**...And I have the keys of hell and of death?**" (Revelation 1:17-18) Jesus yanked away the keys from the devil and gave the church full rights to use them.

Matthew 16:18, 19 (Lit.)

I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of hades will not overcome it.

I will give you the keys to the kingdom of Heaven.

Whatever you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in Heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in Heaven.

These words out of the mouth of Jesus correct many theological errors in the church. We will study this further in another chapter. I will quickly mention that all the "God permits bad stuff to come on you" teaching in the church is here refuted by Jesus. Jesus taught that whatever you permit or allow on the earth, heaven is also permitting or allowing it, and that whatever you forbid or prohibit on the earth, heaven will prohibit or forbid it as well. This tells us that the devil needs your permission to get

at you. Hades does not have a chance if you will prohibit its activities in your life.

Satan no longer has the "keys" and cannot hold them over any human being that comes to God through Christ. Once a human being is in Christ, whatever victory Jesus won over the devil and hell becomes their victory.

This is why Jesus said:

Matthew 28:18, 19

All authority is given to me in Heaven and in the earth.

Therefore go...

Jesus gained the authority over all the works of hell when He defeated it and gives us use of that dominion and authority in His Name. We go in that authority or in Name of Jesus.

Mark 16:17, 18

These signs (attesting miracles) **will accompany those who believe** (trust and obey): **In my name** (as meaning "authority, dominion, presence and power") **they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands;**¹⁷⁵ **even if they drink any deadly poison it will not hurt them; and they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.**

This dominion and authority over all the realms of death that Jesus defeated for us is now transferred into the hands of every believer and it is to be enforced in His Name. That is why no demon, no sickness or disease, and no other work of the devil should ever stand a chance before any true child of God, but it is not automatic. The authority must be enforced and operated in.

Ephesians 6:10-14

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

You put on the whole armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the devil's strategies. For our

¹⁷⁵ This refers to divine protection over creatures like Paul had on the island of Malta in Acts 28:1-5.

struggle is not against the *natural world or flesh and blood* but against rulers, against authorities, against the powers of darkness around us, and against evil spiritual forces in *the unseen realm* or the heavenlies. For this reason, *you take up the whole armor of God so that you may be able to take a stand in the evil day. And when you have done everything, stand firm. Stand firm, because of this...* (*Italics are words I added for clarification.*)

It is here revealed the kind of stand we must take against the enemy. Eight times in four verses we are told that you must take a stand against the forces of evil. God will not resist or whip the devil for us. Jesus already did that and the devil and all of hell are defeated foes. Now we must do something in His strength and power against all the works of hell. That is what it means to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. That was the might exerted when God raised Jesus from the dead. We must stand firm in that victory over hell, death and the devil, or nothing will happen. The opposite of this is that when we take a firm stand of opposition to the devil and all of hell's activities upon this earth, God will back it up. Heaven will back up our stand of faith against all the works of hell!

James 4:7

(You) **Submit yourself to God. (You) Resist the devil and he will run from you in terror.**

Look also at Ephesians 4:27 and notice that it is up to us whether we give the devil any place or whether we refuse to give him a foothold in our lives.

The next move is ours. So many are waiting for God to move, and He has been waiting on us to move! God already moved in the defeat of hades and death through the victory won by His Son. Now we must take our place in Christ in that victory for it to manifest.

Ephesians 1:19-23

And what is the surpassing greatness of His power

towards us, the ones believing according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ, raising Him from the dead, seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies far above all rule, and authority, and power, and dominion, and every name that has been named, not only in this world, but also in the coming world; and He put all things under His feet and gave Him as Head over all things for the Church,¹⁷⁶ which is His body: the fullness of Him filling all things in all.

Notice here the surpassing greatness of His power towards us and the working of His mighty power demonstrated when He raised Jesus from the dead. Again, that is the power we operate in to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might according to Ephesians 6:10-17. We put on this mighty armor of a conqueror and stand in the victory Christ provided for us over all the forces of darkness!

When the Father raised Jesus out of all realms of death, both spiritual and physical, He was put into a place far above all the forces of hell, and all the angels of Heaven. Now all things are subjected under His feet. He gave all that to the Church which is the Body of Christ in the earth. If all things were subjected under His feet, and we are the Body, then all things have been subjected to us in His Name because the feet are in the Body!

Do you remember from Jonah 2:9 what Jesus yelled out in hell as a final blow to hell's intention of keeping Him locked up? He said boldly, "SALVATION (deliverance and complete freedom from bondage) IS OF YEHOVAH!" The word for "salvation" is the Hebrew word "yeshuah" (ישועה). That should immediately make everyone that knows any Hebrew jump up and down with joy unspeakable and full of glory! Why? Because inside yeshuah is Yeshua (ישוע) and that is the Hebrew Name of Jesus! Yeshua is what the angel told Mary to name Him! You shall call His Name Yeshua! Jesus was saying to God, "Yeshua belongs to you (or is of) Yehovah!" He was telling the Father, "I

¹⁷⁶ Gr. ecclesia or assembly.

don't belong in hell! I belong to you! Hell cannot hold me back or keep me here. Inside your salvation is my own Name. **MY NAME** is deliverance and victory and I declare all of hell's defeat!"

When Jesus spoke those words just like Jonah did, God moved and acted on His behalf swiftly and powerfully.

Jonah 2:10

And Jehovah spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out on dry land.

As we said, where Jonah was concerned, he was vomited out unto dry land. Where Jesus was concerned, He was raised from the realm of the dead and was resurrected physically. He was vomited out of hell back into the land of the living. Hallelujah!

The Name of Jesus (Yeshua) on the lips of the prophet Jonah caused God to act on behalf of Jonah and he was delivered from the fish, and the Name of Jesus spoken out of the mouth of the owner of the Name delivered Jesus from hell itself and raised Him from the dead! Do you understand that we are told that the Name of Jesus is above every other name in Heaven, earth and under the earth? The dominion He obtained was above every other name that has ever been named! (Eph. 1:21-23) We are authorized to use the Name as our own and we are to cast out demons by it! It is faith in the Name of Jesus that will release healing and deliverance!¹⁷⁷ My God, I am shaking under this mighty revelation from the Lord as I write this! I was reading this verse from the original Hebrew text when I saw this and it has shaken me right down to my core.

Peter saw the dominion invested in that Name of Yeshua. He was obviously meditating on what we just told you about the Name and the defeat of hell. He was pondering how that Name delivered Jonah from the belly of that fish and delivered Jesus from the very realm of hades.

In Acts 3:6, after Peter and John commanded the lame man to walk in the Name of Jesus, Peter goes on to explain how the

¹⁷⁷ Philippians 2:9-11, Mark 16:17, Acts 3:16, 16:18

miracle was done.

Acts 3:16 Lit.

And faith in His name, the one whom you see and know, His name made firm, has given this man perfect soundness in the presence of you all through faith in Him.

I found two translations that had this phrase, “His name made firm.” I just assumed, as did many other translations, that it was only speaking about the healing of this man. So it has almost universally been translated in reference to the healing of the man. Peter’s teaching goes deeper into the dominion of the Name with this statement. The Name has been made firm forever through faith in Him, in what He accomplished for us! Hades was defeated by it and through it, dominion has been invested in it, and it is firmly in its place of authority and power! Hell and death would not dare resist that authority and dominion and must bow down before His Name in absolute surrender and complete submission! Every knee shall bow at the mention of that Name in faith! Hell knows that God backed it before and that He will back the Name again!

In Peter’s explanation of this marvelous miracle before the high priest and the council of elders, you can hear the wonderful truth about His Name that we just shared with you.

Acts 4:10, 12

Be it known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, in this name this man stands before you whole... And there is salvation (Yeshua) in no other One; for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved (delivered and healed).

Do you see what Peter was saying? Jesus was raised from the realms of the dead, both spiritually from hades and physically from the grave, and there is salvation in no other one and in no

other Name! I always wondered where Peter got this powerful revelation, and NOW we know. He saw it from the book of Jonah: **“Salvation (Yeshua!) is of Yehovah”!** He saw how that Name brought deliverance from the great fish for Jonah and from all of hell and death for Jesus. There was NO way that a crippling disease would dare say ‘no’ to that authority and dominion! Are you kidding me? Hades was not about to prevail in that situation, and the man’s crippled legs responded and were made whole! (Acts 3)

This is why the early church prayed that signs and wonders would be done by the Name of Jesus.¹⁷⁸ They believed that the miraculous had no choice but to show up when they functioned in that Name. Since that Name brought forth such a massive deliverance from hell and death, and the Father responded with the full and complete defeat of hell in honor to that Name, then there is nothing He won’t do to move Heaven and earth when that Name is mentioned in faith. The early church believed it and they lived it! One of the first miraculous powers released after their prayer that signs and wonders would be done in the Name, was the release of deliverance in a financial overflow like the early church had never experienced!¹⁷⁹

Here is another key to this dominion over all the works of hell in the Name of Jesus. In Hebrew, the word “yeshuah”¹⁸⁰ is an all-inclusive word of deliverance very similar to shalom (poorly translated as ‘peace’.) We will say more about shalom later. Yeshuah is #3444 in Strong’s Hebrew dictionary and it means: deliverance; aid (in the sense of coming to your aid and protecting you from harm), victory, prosperity, health, help (-ing), salvation, save, saving (health), welfare (faring well).

Peter caught the revelation that there is deliverance, victory,

¹⁷⁸ Acts 4:29, 30

¹⁷⁹ Acts 4:33. Here it mentions that great grace was upon them. What grace? The grace of ALL that Jesus did being enforced on the earth at the mention of that Name. The miraculous being released in response to the Name of Yeshua!

¹⁸⁰ As I stated, yeshuah includes the name of Jesus or Yeshua (#3442). They are both from the root word yasha (יָשָׁא) #3467 and have the same basic meanings.

prosperity, salvation, health and miraculous power at the mention of that Name in faith because all the works of hell were defeated by the use of His Name Yeshua! God responded with miraculous deliverance to it, and after Jesus was raised from all realms of death, He gave all believers the authorization to use the Name against sickness, disease and demons! So, it's not just saying the word "Jesus" that gets the job done, but faith in the fact that all of Heaven and hades responded to the dominion in the Name, a dominion exercised by Jesus in the very pit of hell! Jonah said the Name. Jesus said it. God backed it, and God never changes! He will back it up today with mighty deliverance! No wonder that the writer of Hebrews declared that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. That Name will work just as good today as it did when Jesus spoke it out in faith and God raised Jesus up from hell and the grave!

Jesus said that the powerful revelation Peter received of Him being the anointed One (Christ) was about keys to the dominion of the kingdom. Peter was going to receive the revelation, and hades would never prevail against it. (Mat. 16:18, 19) Boy, he certainly got the keys and he used them boldly!

Jesus further taught in Matthew 16 that whatever would be forbidden or permitted (bound or loosed) would be backed by Heaven. He was teaching us that all Heaven, earth and hell would move for the church. Peter got the keys of the operation of this kingdom dominion. Another definition of the word kingdom is dominion. The Lord showed him how it would be released. Upon the mention of the Name of Jesus with faith in what Yeshua accomplished, there would be a manifestation in great power of deliverance, healing, and redemption.

Here is another truth. The word "saved" (from yasha #3467) in Hebrew comes from this word salvation (yeshuah). There is no question that in Jerusalem, and with the chief priests and elders, Peter was speaking to them in Hebrew. They understood exactly what Peter was saying. There is no yasha (or yeshuah) except in Yeshua! (Acts 4:12) This is similar to what the angel said to Mary, "You will call His Name Yeshua because He will yoshia

(“save” from the root *yasha*) His people from their sin.”¹⁸¹ What a revelation!

Recently I heard the Holy Spirit in my spirit quote Mark 16:17 in an unexpected way. For years I have known that the phrase “in my Name” literally meant “in my authority” or “in my own presence and power.” The Lord spoke up in me and said, “In my *dominion* you will cast out demons... and heal the sick.” Wrapped up in the Name Yeshua is the dominion exercised when God raised Him up from the realm of death and defeated hades in one swift blow. That is the dominion we are to operate in.

As soon as the Holy Spirit spoke that revelation to my spirit, then came some more “eye-popping” instruction from Him that is truly marvelous.

For your information, the definition of the word dominion is; power to direct, control, use and dispose of at pleasure; right of possession, the power of governing and controlling with supreme authority, command, and dominance.

Dominion is a commanding dominance over hell and death because you demand obedience and compliance out of every work of darkness. Not only that but you have healing and all the provisions of the sacrifice revealed in the Name Yeshua at your beckoned command as we operate in His Name or in His Dominion. That is what Adam had before the fall, and that is what Jesus restored to us and commands us to do in Mark 16: 17 and 18.

Jesus said:

John 14:13 Lit.

Whatever you demand in my Name (that is “in my dominion” over hell and death and miraculous deliverance, salvation, health, protection, prosperity and wholeness wrapped up in my Name) **I will do it.”**

¹⁸¹ This is the phrase, וקראת את-שמו ישוע כי הוא ישוע את-עמו מחטאתיהם from the Hebrew translation of the Greek New Testament by Franz Delitzsch (19th century). See Matthew 1:21. I underlined Yeshua and yoshia for you.

The Lord Himself will back up the Name! This is personal with Him. He personally shows up when we agree in that majestic Name and dominion. (Mat. 18:20)

God gave Adam the fullness of the goodness of His creation, satan stole it and perverted it and Jesus as the last Adam got it back and restored it. Now we are supposed to release it in the earth!

The Lord said 5 things to me directly from His Throne Room for you today:

1. That Name (Dominion) of Yeshua has within it the reversal of ALL that came because of the fall of Adam!

This dominion carries within it the fullness of Eden as it was before the fall. That is why Yeshua means health, prosperity, salvation, completeness, fullness, protection, being well (all good like in the Garden), and deliverance! All these things existed in the Garden before the fall and they are to be released in the Name or Dominion of the Lord Jesus that we have been authorized to use.

2. That Name or Dominion is a reflection of Eden.

When we use His dominion in His Name, we are putting things back as they were in Eden before the fall. It is the reversal of evil and the release of the “good” (Gen 1:31) that God intended in the creation. That is why in our commission we are commanded to turn sickness into health, tragedy and calamity into divine protection (see also Luke 10:19), death into life, and bondage into deliverance.

I heard the Lord say something else about Mark 16:17, and 18 when it says to “take up serpents” (like Paul in Acts 28) and “if you drink any deadly thing it will not hurt you.” He quoted it to me as “every creature and every element that has been out of God’s original order, in this dominion, bring it back into order”!

3. That Name or Dominion is the establishment of Eden on the earth.

Eden is to be established and released wherever you are operating in that dominion. It is the will of God being done on the earth as it is in Heaven, Paradise, or the Eden of God. (Mat 6:10)

4. That Name or Dominion releases the Eden of God.

This means releasing Heaven on earth just like it is in Heaven. Yes, we can have days of heaven on the earth wherever we are. (Deut. 11:21) We are not supposed to be having days of hell on earth! We are in the world but not of it!

5. Staying within that Name or Dominion of Eden.

This can be compared to a person stepping over into the dominion or kingship over a nation, like a king would do in old times after he was anointed to be king over a kingdom. Jesus is the King of kings. We are those kings! We are born into this kingly inheritance in Christ and should always stay there! Love is the royal law of this kingdom. We are to rule and reign as kings. You have royalty rights and privileges because of who you are in Him. We are representatives and ambassadors of the great King of the universe and eternity, the Lord Jesus, and we operate daily in and on His Name and eternal dominion. Here's some homework. Find all the scriptures I used for this paragraph.

All these are keys to the kingdom! All Heaven is waiting for us to enforce upon the earth the victory He bought and paid for in His Name. God is making the enemies of Jesus His footstool right now through the church. Will you take the challenge of reigning, overcoming, having victory, triumph, and being more than a conqueror in this life in His Name?¹⁸² It has all been provided for you and me. It's up to us if we will ever walk in it. I am going to walk in it in the Name of Jesus! How about you?

¹⁸² Rom. 5:17, 1 John 5:4, 1 Cor. 15:57, 2 Cor. 2:14, Rom. 8:37

Chapter 14

The Blood of Jesus and its Place in His Great Sacrifice

"What about the blood of Jesus, Brother Dan! You left out the blood!" No, I did not, and I do not ever leave out the blood of Jesus. Many have not understood its meaning in the sacrifice.

The blood of Jesus represents all that He did for us before the throne of God in Heaven. It is the eternal witness in Heaven that the price for our redemption was paid in full!

Many have erroneously thought that the sacrifice was only the blood of Jesus because they have not properly understood the significance of the blood in the sacrifice. Others think that it was only the physical body of Jesus that was sacrificed because the book of Hebrews mentions that His body was the sacrifice.¹⁸³ I wonder sometimes if some people can actually read. In Isaiah 53, the great chapter of our redemption, it states on three different but very distinct occasions that the great sacrifice of Jesus included the sacrifice of His soul. It was not only His body and blood! It was His entire being; spirit, soul, body and blood! Here are the verses we have mentioned on several occasions in this study.

Isaiah 53:10, 11, 12

...When You make His soul an offering for sin...

...He shall see the travail of His soul and be satisfied...

...Because He has poured out His soul to death...

It was not I that said that His soul was an offering for sin. The prophet Isaiah said that well over 2500 years ago, and never forget it! God saw the suffering of the soul of Christ in hades, He saw how He emptied out His soul to all kinds of death, and after three days and nights He was satisfied (v.11) that it was enough!

¹⁸³ Hebrews 10:5-10

The courts of heavenly justice cried out: "It's enough!" That was when God spoke His Word and all hell shook, His Son was reborn, He defeated hell and death, and was raised from the dead!

The soul and spirit are a part of the offering of the body of the Lord. A body must have a spirit and soul for it to be alive.¹⁸⁴ Jesus went to the cross as a full human being (though sinless) with a spirit, soul, and a human body. The sacrifice of all of Himself was offered to God through His own faultless, blameless and eternal spirit. In that lies the eternal value of His blood. Read the following verse closely.

Hebrews 9:14

By how much more will the blood of Christ (who through His eternal spirit offered Himself without blemish to God), purify your conscience from dead works, to serve the living God!¹⁸⁵

The blood of animals could never be offered through an eternal spirit and soul because no animal is made in the likeness and image of God! No animal blood could therefore have eternal value as atonement. Only Jesus could offer His blood up through the blameless and eternal spirit resting inside His bosom. He was the image and likeness of God in all its perfection, and only He could offer up a perfect sacrifice as a spotless and flawless Lamb. His eternal spirit had the very nature of God, and in His giving up His life for us is the eternal value inside His blood. Innocent blood was shed through a sinless spirit and soul that was inside a spotless body!

Many have not understood that Jesus sacrificed Himself, all of Himself, spirit, and soul, and body, blood and in every realm of human existence. Look at the phrase "by the sacrifice of Himself" in Hebrews.

¹⁸⁴ Genesis 2:7, James 2:26

¹⁸⁵ The italicized "His" is understood from the text. Some translators provide this word. Unfortunately others do not, even though it should be included because of context.

Hebrews 1:3; 9:14, 26

...Having made purification of our sins through Himself...

...Who through His eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God...

...Putting away of sin through the sacrifice of Himself...

It was not by the sacrifice of “a part” of Himself but by the sacrifice of all of Himself! So where does the blood of Jesus come in?

His blood is what represents everything He did for us through the sacrifice of Himself before the throne of God.

Jesus first obtained our eternal redemption through the sacrifice of all of Himself, and then He entered with His blood into the holiest of all in heaven to settle our eternal redemption and to seal it forever.¹⁸⁶

Just like the blood of bulls and goats represented the death of an innocent victim, the blood of Christ represents the deaths of the innocent one in all realms. When the Father sees the blood He sees the fullness of all the sacrifice before Him!

Because of this eternal fact, His Divine blood is the most precious substance in the universe! His blood represents forever that the price in all realms was paid in full and the great exchange was complete! His blood contains within it the evidence of our redemption!¹⁸⁷ Redemption is in the blood because of His great and full sacrifice of Himself.¹⁸⁸ His blood is the eternal evidence! His blood speaks from Heaven about our eternal redemption!¹⁸⁹ Through this blood we can now enter the most holy place in God that exists.¹⁹⁰ Because of His blood, we can overcome every work of hell and death!¹⁹¹ The blood is our witness in Heaven

¹⁸⁶ Hebrews 9:12-14

¹⁸⁷ 1 Peter 1:18, 19, Romans 3:24, 25

¹⁸⁸ Colossians 1:14, Hebrews 9:12-14

¹⁸⁹ Hebrews 12:24

¹⁹⁰ Hebrews 10:5-22

¹⁹¹ Revelation 12:11

and upon the earth, just like the Word and the Spirit!¹⁹² The blood of Jesus is the eternal seal on the unbreakable and unchangeable covenant! The covenant is forever settled and guaranteed in His blood!¹⁹³ The blood of Jesus is the witness before heaven, earth, and hell of a better covenant established upon better promises.¹⁹⁴ His blood sanctifies and sets the people of God apart from the world, the flesh, and the devil.¹⁹⁵ Through this eternal blood, presented before the Father in Heaven, the church or assembly of the living God has been bought and paid for!¹⁹⁶

If we are doing anything in this study, we are exalting the power of the blood and certainly now taking anything away from it. His great sacrifice is the reason there is power in the blood! Everything He did for us in His great sacrifice, everything He is now at the Father's right hand, and everything He ever will be, is wrapped up inside the blood of Jesus.¹⁹⁷ Whatever life is in the glorified Son of God is in His blood in Heaven because the life is in the blood!¹⁹⁸

Under the covenant of blood sacrifice, the blood of an animal atoned for the souls of men, though it could never take away sins.¹⁹⁹ Animal blood was very limited blood with no eternal value. Only the blood of Christ that was offered through the sacrifice of His eternal spirit, soul, and the body of His perfect flesh could be of any eternal value.²⁰⁰

The blood of an animal was valueless until it was shed and

¹⁹² 1 John 5:6-8. "Water" is a way of saying "the Word" as it is also a way of saying that Jesus came in the flesh. See reference in Ephesians 5:26, John 1:14, 1:1-3.

¹⁹³ Luke 22:30, Hebrews 13:20

¹⁹⁴ Hebrews 8:6

¹⁹⁵ Hebrews 13:12

¹⁹⁶ Acts 20:28

¹⁹⁷ Hebrews 10:19-22, Hebrews 13:8

¹⁹⁸ Leviticus 17:11,14

¹⁹⁹ Hebrews 10:4

²⁰⁰ In spirit- Hebrews 9:12-14, soul- Isaiah 53:10, 11, 12, and body- Hebrews 10:10.

presented before the priests as evidence of the death of the innocent animal. One could cut a little hole into a goat and get some blood but, unless the animal was killed and the blood was shed, the blood was not able to do its job as atonement before the altar. It held no power to atone for men's souls unless it was brought to the priests after the death of the innocent animal.

The blood of the animal represented the death of the animal just like the blood of Jesus represents all He accomplished for us through His deaths!

Jesus' blood had to be taken into the Holiest of All in heaven and presented before the Father as the evidence of our full redemption. This He did and it was accepted, and it is forever the witness of our eternal redemption.²⁰¹

Here is another great truth: Unless the inner parts of the animal were burned with fire, the sacrifice was incomplete. Here are some of the references in Leviticus for your study: 1:2-17, 4:1-12, 35, 5:1-10, 7:30, 8:16, 17, 25-28. Need I go on? In case you think I do, here is some more info.

There was mentioned repeatedly the need to bring two animals for sacrifice; two turtledoves, two goats, a lamb and a young pigeon, etc. One was for a sin or trespass offering and the other was for a burnt offering, and they were both necessary for atonement. Read these verses in Leviticus: 12:6, 8, 14:4, 5,7,10, 12,13,19,20,49,50,53, 15:14, 15, 29, 30, 16:5, 21-27. Why was this necessary? If these sacrifices were the type of Jesus' own sacrifice for us, and they were, then it makes perfect sense. The human being has an inner man and an outer man.²⁰² These two animals represented just that, the inner and the outer man, the physical and the spiritual, the body (the physical) and the spirit and soul (the spiritual part) of Christ. The spirit and soul are the inner, and the outer is the body of flesh.

On the Day of Atonement two goats were sacrificed for Israel. One was killed and its blood was shed on the altar. That was like Jesus on the cross where He also shed His Blood. Then there

²⁰¹ Hebrews 9:12

²⁰² 2 Corinthians 4:16, 5:1, 6, Romans 2:28, 29

was a second goat. On that second goat the high priest would lay his hands on its head and confess on it the sins of Israel. It was to bear the sins of Israel out to an uninhabited place. It was a "live" goat up until then. After the goat had the sins of Israel confessed on it, it was considered unclean. The man that led the scapegoat into the desert had to wash his clothes and bathe his body before he would be received back into the camp. (Lev. 16:26) The scapegoat was taken out of the camp and into the wilderness to suffer and die all alone in the desert. (All found in Leviticus 16.) This is a type of Jesus going into hell in our place and bearing the sins of the world. Jesus' sacrifice was the fulfillment of these atonement sacrifices. He was alive unto God until He took our sins and iniquities. Then, our sins caused a separation from the Father and spiritual death in Him. When Jesus went to hades for us, He was abandoned by His Father and died the deaths of a sinner (though He personally never sinned) in hell with our sins. He became sin, the curse, and the serpent on the pole as we have studied. (2 Cor. 5:21, Gal. 3:13, John 3:14) He became unclean for us. He bore the full brunt of the punishment that should have been ours. My God in heaven! This should make us fall in love with our Redeemer all over again. It is a love beyond all love that He demonstrated for us with His great sacrifice!

How anyone can read these verses in Leviticus and not see that Jesus had to also make a sacrifice of Himself, the sacrifice of His soul and spirit by fire before God in order to redeem us, is incomprehensible. As we told you, burnt offerings were by far the most frequent sacrifices in the temple and of Israel. Read again all the Scriptures I gave you above from the book of Leviticus, and convince yourself.

Jesus was our Passover Lamb sacrificed for us.²⁰³ The Passover sacrifice was carried out in a very specific manner. On the same day the Passover lamb was killed, whatever was left of it was to be burned with fire before the next morning.²⁰⁴ Do I have to tell you that this is a type of Jesus in hell after all the

²⁰³ 1 Corinthians 5:7

²⁰⁴ Exodus 12:9, 10

study we have done? All these animal sacrifices were a type of the perfect sacrifice to be offered by the one eternal sacrifice of the sinless and perfect Lamb of God. This is what chapters 7, 8, 9, and 10 of the book of Hebrews are all about!

The blood of Jesus received its superior value and eternal power when His innocent life was offered spirit, soul and body as a sacrifice for us. His accomplishments over hell and death and His great victory are forever witnessed in that blood. The blood is full of power because of what Jesus did for us. Get that into your spirit! That is the eternal value before God of the blood of the One that offered Himself as the spotless Lamb! When God sees the blood, He is reminded of all Jesus did and provided for us! Hell trembles at the mention of that blood by someone who has some understanding about it.

That is what we are to remember every time we take communion. The cup that represents His blood should remind us of what He did and accomplished for us in His death (spirit, soul, and body), and the newer and better provisions, responsibilities, and privileges of our covenant sealed in that blood.²⁰⁵

His blood speaks of our remission of sins and cleanses us from all of them when we make Jesus the Lord over our lives, because our redemption is forever witnessed by the blood. Glory to God! Under our newer covenant provisions, His blood wipes away and obliterates our sins as though they had never existed.²⁰⁶ That's the power of the blood of Jesus! As I said, because of that blood we have better covenant provisions established upon better promises!²⁰⁷

God has provided the way back to His holy presence through Christ Jesus. Adam and Eve were driven from the presence of God after they sinned.²⁰⁸ Through Jesus, the Father made a new way into His presence, His way, truth and life, a life that goes on forever!²⁰⁹ This is the abundant life Jesus said He came to

²⁰⁵ 1 Cor. 11:25-30, 10:16, Mat. 26:27, 28, Heb. 8:6, 7:22

²⁰⁶ 1 John 1:7,9

²⁰⁷ Hebrews 7:22-8:13

²⁰⁸ Genesis 3:24

²⁰⁹ John 14:6; 8:12; 3:14-18

provide for us!²¹⁰

Kenneth Copeland has two books that will open your eyes to understand our covenant in the blood of Jesus: "Covenant made by Blood" and "Covenant of Blood." He also has some CD's on the same subject that will absolutely rock your world! The blood of Jesus was the eternal seal and evidence of an unbreakable bond or covenant, one we get into through Jesus and His eternal sacrifice for us. It has been settled in eternal blood! Get these resources through Brother Copeland's ministry website: <https://my.kcm.org/category/catalog/books>.

²¹⁰ John 10:10

PART III

How to get in on What Jesus did for us

All this wonderful teaching we are presenting to you will work for you as you begin to learn how to apply these truths to your own life.

First there is instruction that must be accepted. Then there is wrong thinking and believing that must be corrected. There is no way around these truths by anyone that wants to receive from the Lord what He has graciously provided for us through His great sacrifice. That is the purpose of the studies we now present to you in the rest of this book. Many truths are revealed in the rest of the book that will have everything to do with your receiving from God. Be diligent with these truths and watch how they will change your life. We begin with the initial steps to get in on the blessings of God, and those are the new birth and the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Then we wipe out some religious ideas, lay a solid foundation in the Word, and finally we move you in receiving your great rights and privileges in Christ.

Chapter 15

First Stage of Receiving: The New Birth

Here's the good news: Everything Jesus did was for you and me! He wants us to have all He did for us.

When we accept what Jesus did for us, God sees us as though we died, went to hell, and then got raised and were seated with Jesus! That is substitution, and now we are identified with Jesus when we receive His great sacrifice for us! That is the story of our redemption!²¹¹

Jesus told one person, "You have to be born from above" or "born again." (John 3:3) There is no other choice. Jesus experienced a new birth in hell and we can experience it right in the midst of a hell of spiritual death, bondage and destruction that exists in this world. All human beings must come to God in the same way, by a new birth. It is just as if you could return to your mother's womb and be reborn in innocence without ever tasting sin or death. Nicodemus thought that was impossible. It is impossible in the physical realm. Nobody can be born physically again.²¹²

Spiritually, it is essential to return to the "Eden" of God, and to be able to stand before God as if sin never existed.

Is that possible? This is one of the meanings of the word justified or to be made the "righteousness" of God.²¹³ It means that by virtue of what Jesus did through His Blood and the eternal sacrifice of Himself, we can come before God as if sin had never existed.²¹⁴ That is an awesome fact! The hard, difficult, and impossible part was done by God.

The salvation purchased for us through the sacrifice of Jesus and settled forever in His blood before God, in all its aspects, is

²¹¹ Romans 6:1-6, Ephesians 2:4-8

²¹² John 3:1-10

²¹³ 2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹⁴ Romans 3:21-26

the free gift of God and cannot be won by any human efforts.²¹⁵

It is impossible for a human being to earn or win their own salvation because the person is a "good man or woman" or because "he or she has a good heart." Human effort may be good for the world in general but it is worthless, as far as getting in on what Jesus provided for us is concerned. Some think that because they have never done anything bad to anyone, then that is a valid reason for them to "deserve" salvation. Sorry but nobody "deserves" their salvation. It is the free gift of God made available to everyone on the earth. It is free but it must be received and appropriated.

It is necessary to receive what God did for us through Jesus.²¹⁶ It is not automatic, nor is it received by going to church, shaking the hand of the pastor, being baptized as a child or adult, taking communion, or because you went to confession with a priest. It is not received because you are a good person, concerned about the environment, or help the poor. Not at all! The only possible way to get God's free gift is to receive it, embrace it, believe it, and accept it. It's when you accept and believe what Jesus did for you that you receive the salvation that He provided. The free gift of salvation brings with it victory and blessing here in this life and for the life that goes on forever throughout eternity. It is available and it is free of charge to you but there is a part you must play in it.

Having faith or trust in what Jesus did for us is what it means to make a commitment to Jesus as Lord and Savior. From the heart you must decide to commit your life to Jesus.²¹⁷ To make Him your Lord means that you are saying to Him, "Jesus I surrender my life to you. You are now my new Lord. You rule and reign in my life from this day forward. I will follow you from now on. I am yours!"

To make Jesus the Lord of your life means that you acknowledge the fact that God raised Jesus from the dead. You

²¹⁵ Ephesians 2:8-9

²¹⁶ Romans 5:17

²¹⁷ Romans 10:9, 10

receive, accept and confess a supernatural fact, one that God performed on His Christ when He raised Him from all realms of the dead. When you do this, it becomes a spiritual transaction that God the Holy Spirit will act upon.²¹⁸ A new life will be birthed in you and you will be born again, and made a new creature in Christ.²¹⁹ Actually this "new creature" in Christ means that a new creation has taken place. In this way God puts you in a place that is as though He created it all again, without sin and in perfect fellowship with Him. This means that we go to a new place in God that was only possible before sin and death ever entered this planet. It means we can participate in the tree of life, the very essence and life of God!²²⁰

On a separate note, this kind of rebirth and faith in what Jesus did for us is what gives us the right to take part in the first resurrection when Christ returns for His Body of believers.²²¹

Here are scriptural instructions to follow so that you can begin a life in relationship with God and His Son Jesus. Here you will see how to activate the seed of the Word of God so that you will be born again.²²²

You will be made a new creature (literally "creation") in Christ where the old things of death and sin are passed. You will be made new when you follow the instructions that we give you. God will become your Heavenly Father and this will grant you Divine access into all that was purchased for us through the great sacrifice of Christ.²²³ Again, God did through Christ Jesus the impossible and the difficult part. Now it's your turn to make a decision to accept what God has done through Christ. That is where it all starts.

Romans 10:8-13

The word is close to you in your mouth and in your heart.

²¹⁸ Titus 3:5

²¹⁹ 2 Corinthians 5:17, 1 Peter 1:23-25

²²⁰ 2 Peter 1:3, 4

²²¹ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

²²² 1 Peter 1:23-25

²²³ Romans 5:2, Ephesians 3:12, Hebrews 4:16

This is the word of faith we are preaching to you: that if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is (your) Lord, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him up from among the dead, you will receive salvation. For with the heart one believes (trusts, commits to obey faithfully), to righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation... Whoever believes in Him will not be ashamed... For whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."

As we have stated, every human being is separated from God because all have sinned and there is not one right before Him.²²⁴ Even if a person does not commit a sin in the likeness of Adam's sin, the first man's sin and disobedience brought the entire human family under satanic rule.²²⁵

Human beings, before they receive God's free gift, are not God's "children." Have you ever heard people say "We are all the children of God"? That is a lie. We can only become the children of God when we receive Jesus-- period.²²⁶

People without the Lord Jesus in their lives are actually the children of the devil regardless of what splendid or charitable human beings they may be.²²⁷ Ultimately, the devil and his angels will be cast into hell. People who reject God's offer will of necessity be imprisoned in hell with him who is their spiritual father, the devil.²²⁸ God did not create hell for people. Hell was created for the devil and his demons.²²⁹

The problem is that although God does not want any human being to perish in the punishment or eternal separation in hell, and then the lake of fire, that is precisely the fate of those who have the devil as their father. God has already judged that the devil and his demons are to be incarcerated for all eternity away from all contact with any other spiritual beings. They are to be

²²⁴ Romans 3:23, 10

²²⁵ Romans 5:14, 1 John 3:8

²²⁶ John 1:12, 1 John 5:1-4

²²⁷ Eph. 2:1-3, John 8:44, 3:10.

²²⁸ John 8:44

²²⁹ Matthew 25:41

eternally separated from God in hell and then the lake of fire. Humans automatically enter that terrible fate by rejecting or remaining without the sacrifice of Jesus on their lives. Every human being is doomed to eternal separation, without God and without hope unless they accept what Jesus did for them. There is nothing anyone can do to change these truths on their own. There is no remedy to this eternal dilemma by your own philosophy or your efforts.²³⁰

The solution to this eternal dilemma is what is called the gospel or good news. It truly is good news that you can change "lords" and make Christ the Lord of your life. Make the decision right now that you want a new life that has promise for the here and now. Make the right decision that will give you assurance that Heaven is to be the place where you will spend eternity with God. Pray this prayer out loud right now and receive your salvation in the Name of Jesus:

Heavenly Father, I come to you in the mighty Name of Jesus. I repent of my sin and come to you. I believe in my heart that you raised Jesus from the dead for my salvation and for my deliverance. I accept and embrace with all my heart the great sacrifice of your Son Jesus, the one that shed His blood for me. He died in my place. He went to hell in my place. He defeated the devil for me. He rose from the dead for me. All this is what Jesus did for me and I recognize it and accept it NOW. I receive all my past wiped away. I confess with my mouth that I have a new Lord right now. I confess that Jesus is the Lord of my life. Jesus is

²³⁰ 1 Tim. 2:3, 4, Mat. 25:46, Rev. 20:10, 21:7, 8. I believe little babies go to Heaven if they happen to die before they know the difference between good and evil. Death is the result of sin according to Romans 5:12. Little innocent babies cannot possibly sin. Though all humans are legally connected to satan because of Adam's sin, they are innocent until they do sin and therefore cannot be judged as a fully conscious and an aware human being. It is when a human being consciously and in awareness commits sin that then the wages of sin becomes death to them and that soul that sins dies. (Rom. 6:23, Eze. 18:20) Strong arguments can be made against this position, but I am convinced by the Scriptures about this.

now my Lord and Savior. I give my life to Jesus Christ. I give myself wholeheartedly to God forever in the name of Jesus my new Lord. AMEN

If you prayed this prayer from the heart, a miracle has taken place in you. A new creation has been accomplished in you. You'll never be the same. Now Christ is your Lord and Savior. The eternal life of God has now been placed in your spirit. Now you can know that you have eternal life.²³¹ Your sins and the old spiritual nature that separated you from God are erased and wiped out from your heart. You are born again. Eternity with God begins now!! Welcome to the Family of God!

What Should I do now?

"I accepted Christ as Lord, but what do I do now?" Begin to study the New Testament diligently. Pray to God daily. Get baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues! We will deal with that in the next chapter. Look for a church that believes the same thing you read and hear through our website. Don't settle for less! Until you learn how to interpret the Word of God correctly you are very vulnerable to error and misinterpretation. Be a good student of the Word. Carefully begin to establish yourself in the teachings and instructions of the Lord Jesus that we present to you on our website. We pray that God richly bless your life for His kingdom and Glory! More information is available on our website. Stay with the Word! Go to our website for powerful links to ministries and churches that we know are preaching the Word without compromise. Go to the Links page from our Home page at: www.danrodriguez.org.

²³¹ 1 John 5:1-4, 13

Chapter 16

Second Stage of Receiving: The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

You may have already received Jesus as Lord of your life and have been born again. Praise the Lord! We praise God with you. The Lord has more than that for you. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the next step in your spiritual walk with God.

The new birth brings the Holy Spirit in you as a well of water springing up into eternal life.²³² The Spirit of God that Jesus promised all believers comes to dwell inside you the moment Jesus is declared, confessed, and received as Lord over your life. To have Christ in your life is to have the Holy Spirit sent by Him dwelling on the inside of you. That spiritual transaction is what made you a new creature in Christ, and made you the righteousness of God in Him.²³³ The Word of God was the incorruptible seed that germinated in your heart by the power of the Holy Spirit and caused the new birth in you.²³⁴ We were washed, renewed, and regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit at the moment of the new birth. The life of God has come on the inside of you and you were born of God. Now you can know that you have eternal life in you.²³⁵ Thank God for the new birth!

If you are satisfied with the new birth and think that is all God has for you, then you are a very limited individual. God is the eternal God, and He is unlimited. There is much more that He has for you and desires for you. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit, with the manifestation of speaking in other tongues, is what opens the door to infinite possibilities with God. We will show you what the Bible says about it, and then it will be up to you to receive or reject it.

Acts 2: 3, 4

²³² John 4:14, 3:5, Romans 8:9-11

²³³ 2 Corinthians 5:17, 21

²³⁴ 1 Peter 1:23, Titus 3:5

²³⁵ 1 John 5:1, 11-13

And suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them tongues as of fire splitting off (into individual fires); and these sat upon each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The apostles and all the people that gathered (120 individuals) had already received the Holy Spirit into their lives and hearts, and had already been born again before Acts 2:4. When Jesus was raised from the dead, the new birth was available immediately. Can we prove this?

John 20:19-22

The doors were shut where the disciples were gathered... Jesus came and stood in the middle of them, and said to them, "Peace (shalom) to you!" And after He said that, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw it was the Lord! Then Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you. As My Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.

Notice that they received the Holy Spirit at this time. This was before Jesus ascended visibly into heaven. They received the Spirit of Christ as it says in Romans 8:9-11, and the Holy Spirit came inside them, and they were born of the Spirit. Yet, Jesus explained to them that something else was needed from the Holy Spirit to empower them and propel them into the supernatural things of God. Right before His ascension into heaven He said:

Luke 24:49

I send the promise of My father on you. But stay in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high.

The underlined phrases are essential for your understanding.

Jesus was saying that receiving the Holy Spirit inside of them (the new birth) was not all that there was to the promise of the Father. God had more in mind for His people.

The second thing here is the fact that it would be like being clothed with power. So it was power from on high that would be like wearing a cloak or a set of clothes on the outside. God wanted more for them than only an internal and personal experience with God, though that is the beginning. He wanted a mantle of power, a glorious bringing to the outside where you wear power like a coat or a suit of clothes!

Remember we told you that the new birth was like a well of water in you springing up to eternal life. That is not all that the Lord wants the Holy Spirit to do in your life! There is more, so much more!

John 7:38, 39

The one believing in me as the Scripture said, out of his belly will flow rivers of living water. But He said this concerning the Spirit that those that believe in Him were about to receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The new birth is like a well of water in the believer. These verses speak of another experience with the Holy Spirit. One where from your belly flow rivers of living water! There is a difference between a well and rivers of water. The rivers of water speak of this mighty baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said this of the mighty experience with the Holy Spirit they were to receive. Notice that when He breathed on them they were born again, but nothing happened externally in their lives. There was no real show of God's power until Acts 2 and beyond. They were good "Christians" but with no evidence to demonstrate to the world about the reality, not just the words, of their God.

Acts 1:8

...But you will receive (miraculous) power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be witnesses of me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to

the end of the earth.

Do you see the reference here to the Holy Spirit coming upon you? This is saying the same thing as Luke 24:49. It is a being clothed upon with the power of the Holy Spirit. What is the purpose of this empowering? The purpose was so we would be witnesses to the world. The word "witness" means one that comes with clear evidence of what they are saying. A witness is one with evidence that cannot be denied! Jesus told us what we would be doing with this power, and this is exactly what we see the apostles and disciples doing after the Acts 2:4 experience of receiving this power upon their lives.

Mark 16:15-18

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to everybody. The ones believing, and those being immersed will be saved (delivered or made whole). And the ones that do not believe will be condemned (damned). And these signs (miraculous works of power) will accompany those believing: In My Name (dominion, authority, power) they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."²³⁶

For those of you that fuss over this portion of Scripture because it is not found in two of the most ancient complete manuscripts (the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus), I have three words for you, "Get over it"! It is found in all other ancient New Testament manuscripts (hundreds), and it is clearly proven as a Bible truth in the book of Acts, 1 Corinthians chapters 12 through 14, and by numerous references in the New Testament! So, get over lame excuses for not being baptized in the Holy Spirit with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues. That is one of

²³⁶ See Acts 28:3-5 for an example. The serpents and drinking deadly things part is supernatural protection from harm like in the life of Paul and others.

satan's methods to keep you out of this glorious experience with God. Traditional ignorance, and a theological debate based in unbelief of anything supernatural, has kept many denominational church-goers from getting in on these glorious truths.

God wants to clothe us with power to do signs and wonders in the Name of Jesus. He wants us to have not just words but power in demonstration in our lives.²³⁷ He is not only interested in the presentation of the Gospel to the world with words but with miraculous signs that no one can deny! He wants you to exercise dominion over demons in His Name, speak with new tongues, have supernatural protection that can only be attributed to God, and bring healing power from God to the people! Notice that these signs are to follow all believers. It starts with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:11

I indeed baptize you with water to repentance. But He who comes after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He (Jesus) shall baptize (to immerse into) you with the Holy Spirit and with fire...

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is to come with "fire." That is that power that we have been talking about that comes upon those that receive this gift of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. As the resurrected Lord of Glory, Jesus Christ is the One that personally baptizes you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He does that for all those that will receive this precious and very necessary gift. Did you connect fire here with the "fire" that showed up on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:3?

Even Jesus did not begin His earthly ministry without the Holy Spirit empowering Him to do the miraculous.²³⁸ No miracles, healings, signs, or wonders were done until after He was empowered by the Holy Spirit for His ministry. Notice how He returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit after being

²³⁷ 1 Cor. 2:4

²³⁸ Matthew 3:16

clothed with this power from on High.²³⁹ Then, and only then, did the miracles begin to happen. It was the Holy Spirit in demonstration in power that released the miraculous in His life. Even though Jesus came as God manifested in the flesh,²⁴⁰ without this special empowerment, He did not do even one miracle, and did not do one healing. If Jesus needed the power of the Holy Ghost in His life how much more do you and I need it!

Acts 10:38

...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, because God was with Him.

It was God that anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power at the Jordan River. That was when the Holy Spirit came upon Him like a dove, and that was when His ministry began. No one should even think about beginning a ministry without the power of the Holy Spirit upon their lives! That is another subject.

Why all the Emphasis on Speaking in other Tongues?

The first evidence that was manifest when the Holy Spirit and fire came on the 120 in the house where they were seated was speaking in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:4) If this was the only place this happened, then maybe we would have to say that it was something special for them that day, but it was not unique to Acts 2:4. Look at Acts 10.

Acts 10:44-46

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on all those hearing the word. And those of the circumcision, who believed (as many as came with Peter), were astonished because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on the (non-Jewish or Gentile) nations also. For they

²³⁹ Luke 4:14

²⁴⁰ John 1:1, 14

heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

This Baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire is here called a gift. In Luke 24:49 it was called the promise of the Father. It is the desire of the Father to grant this promise and gift to you right now. Luke 11:13 says:

Luke 11:13

Much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those that ask Him...

It is a promise and a gift that is yours for the asking and the receiving. The Father will never turn down any born again believer from receiving. It is His perfect will that you receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with this initial evidence of speaking in other tongues.

Why do I say that speaking in tongues is the initial evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit? I just gave you the second scriptural proof of this great truth in Acts 10:44-46. The people that came with Peter knew these people had received the same gift as they had in Acts 2:4 when they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God!

Here's the third proof of this.

Acts 19:2-6

He (Paul) said to them, "Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?" And they said to him, "We have not heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "Then to what were you baptized?" And they said, "To John's baptism." And Paul said, "John truly baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in Him that was coming after him, on Jesus Christ. And hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. And as Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

This portion of Scripture makes some correction to traditional theology. Notice please that Paul's question was pointed. "Have you received the Holy Spirit *since* you believed?" He did not ask if they got the Holy Spirit *when* they believed, but *since* they believed. This clearly tells us that Paul believed that there was another Holy Spirit experience beyond the believing in Jesus, being born again and receiving the Holy Spirit in the salvation experience. If you have doubts that they were born again, notice that when Paul told them about Jesus they heard the Word, they believed on Him, and were baptized in water. They were born again before Paul laid his hands on them! The Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke with tongues! In this case they even prophesied! There you have three places that clearly show that tongues were the initial evidence that the Holy Spirit had baptized or immersed them in His power and fire.

Some have thought that not everybody needs to speak in tongues when they get Spirit baptized because they think that Paul didn't speak in tongues. Wrong! Paul makes this statement:

1 Corinthians 14:18

I thank God I speak in tongues more than you all.

He also said:

1 Corinthians 14:39

Do not forbid speaking in tongues.

Paul spoke in tongues frequently and consistently.

7 Reasons that Tongues Should be a Central Part of the Prayer Language of every Christian before God

1. You speak divine secrets before God in tongues.²⁴¹ Satan has no way of knowing what is happening or what is being said!

²⁴¹ 1 Corinthians 14:2, 13:1

You are speaking Divine secrets or "Divine code" that he cannot decipher. It is speaking to God and not to man. God understands them, though you and no one else around you may understand them. Speaking in tongues can be speaking supernaturally the tongues of men or angels, but spoken in a way that only the Lord understands.

2. Tongues open the door into the spirit, into the supernatural. Tongues come from the spirit man on the inside and not the mind or intellect. It bypasses intellect completely.²⁴² We are supposed to pray in the spirit (tongues) and also in the understanding. Praying in the understanding is limited to what you know which is very limited. Praying in the spirit is unlimited because one gets over in Divine secrets when one is praying.

3. When I do not know what to pray for as I should, I can depend on the Holy Spirit to give me words of the spirit that will pray out the perfect will of God for the saints, which are the children of God or the church.²⁴³ That is what I do when I pray in tongues.

4. Speaking in tongues edifies or builds up the inner man.²⁴⁴ We build up ourselves on our most holy faith by praying in the Holy Spirit or in tongues. We make progress as we pray in tongues and rise higher and higher like a building, according to the meaning on the word "build" in Jude 1:20.

5. We access wisdom mysteries by praying in tongues.²⁴⁵ Look at 1 Corinthians 2:13:

1 Corinthians 2:13

Which things also we speak in words which man's wisdom does not teach, but which the (Holy) Spirit teaches; combining spiritual things with spiritual words.

Human language is limited to the mind. Spirit language that comes out of your spirit by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is the

²⁴² 1 Cor. 14:14, 15

²⁴³ Romans 8:26, 27

²⁴⁴ 1 Cor. 14:2

²⁴⁵ 1 Corinthians 2:7-13

combination of spiritual things with spiritual words.²⁴⁶ This is only possible in other tongues.

6. God is a Spirit being.²⁴⁷ Tongues are your human spirit contacting God who is the Father of Spirits in a way that is pleasing to Him.²⁴⁸ It is spiritual communication.

7. Since tongues bypasses your mind, this means that you can pray without error, ignorance, or unbelief when you pray in the Spirit.²⁴⁹ Thank God! In Acts 2:4, they spoke in tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance. It is the human spirit receiving unction to speak in an unknown language to the speaker. One Greek commentary says that they spoke as they were infused by the Holy Spirit to speak.

Some of these do overlap, but you can see that the Word of God has quite a bit to say about tongues, and this was only a superficial explanation.

Take a look at some words that will help you understand that this is all talking about this glorious experience.

In Acts 2:4, it was the fire of the Holy Spirit sitting **upon** them. In Acts 1:8, it is the Holy Spirit coming **upon** them. In Acts 10:44-46 it was the Holy Spirit **poured out** on them. In Luke 24:49 it was them being **clothed** with power. In Acts 10:38, it was being **anointed** with the Holy Spirit. To "anoint" means to rub on (externally) or pour on.

In Matthew 3:11 it is called the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire. "Baptism" means "immersion" into something else. For example "water baptism" means to be immersed in water. Sorry all you "sprinkling" folk but you are mistaken.

When you first came to Jesus you drank from the fountain of life and life got in you. Now you are being immersed in power, fire, and anointing, to carry out the great commission in Mark 16:15-20. The anointing, the fire, the Holy Spirit upon us is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the initial evidence of speaking in

²⁴⁶ 1 Cor. 2:13, 14:2

²⁴⁷ John 4:24

²⁴⁸ Hebrews 12:9, 1 Cor. 14:2

²⁴⁹ 1 Cor. 14:14

tongues.

If you are not in a church that lays hands on people to receive this gift, then you need to go somewhere else!

They should at least pray for you so that the Holy Spirit comes on you just like He did in Acts 2, 10, and 19. Get ready to speak in a language that you do not know with your mind the moment they lay hands on you in faith, or pray for you that you receive this gift. The Holy Spirit will come on you and give you words to speak, *but you must speak them out of your own mouth*. The Spirit gave them the words but they had to do the speaking! Tongues are not the Holy Spirit speaking. The Holy Spirit does not nor ever will speak in tongues! No! He gives you the words so you can speak in tongues!

Notice these phrases in Acts:

Acts 2:4

They... began to speak in other tongues...

Acts 10:46

They heard them speak with tongues...

Acts 19:6

They spoke with tongues...

So the Holy Spirit will not force you to speak with tongues. He will not overpower your tongue and make you speak. No, He will give you the ability to speak in tongues, but you must speak them out by faith.

They may sound silly, ridiculous, and dumb. Remember that tongues do not make any sense to your mind and they will not be necessarily intelligent sounding. Get over that hump! According to 1 Cor. 14: 2 and verse 14 it will not make sense to you at all unless God gives you interpretation to them.

From personal experience I can tell you that many times you will not know what you are saying or for what you are praying. Don't get hung up here.

When you begin to speak in other tongues, at first, there may

not be many words. Some people do receive what sounds like an entire language with many different words and variations. Others receive a sentence or two. Some may get a few words. It will greatly depend upon you and your receptiveness. If you have a strong yearning in you for this powerful experience with God, then most likely you will get more tongues than others will at first. Then, please don't stop praying in the tongues the Holy Spirit gives you. Once you receive, you can turn tongues on and off anytime you want to. There is no need to wait on some special anointing to pray in tongues.

1 Cor. 14:15 says:

1Corinthians 14:15

"I will pray in the spirit, (tongues²⁵⁰), and I will pray in the understanding."

Once you are baptized in the Holy Spirit, tongues can be exercised at will just like praying in your own language. Just like you can pray in English, you can also pray in tongues. Don't forget that.

After you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit and begin to speak in tongues, here is Satan's #1 strategy to get you to stop. The devil may tell you that you made them up. Just rebuke his lies in Jesus' Name and begin to speak in tongues right in his face. He will absolutely hate every moment of it and get out in one piece while he can!

Once you receive, pray in tongues as often as you can every single day of your life. The Amplified Bible in Jude 1:20 says that we make progress as we pray in Holy Spirit! That is exciting to know that the more I pray in tongues the more progress in the Lord and in life I can make! No wonder Paul said he prayed in tongues more than all the Corinthians!²⁵¹

Now, I am going to pray for you receive this wonderful gift of the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the initial evidence of speaking

²⁵⁰ 1 Cor. 14:14

²⁵¹ 1 Cor. 14:18

in other tongues. The Father wants to give you this gift, and Jesus wants to baptize you right now in the Holy Spirit and fire! Are you ready to receive right now? Over the years, we have seen many thousands of people receive the Holy Spirit after they followed these simple instructions. You are no exception. When I finish praying, the Holy Spirit of God will come on you, and He will give you words in your mouth, and out of your innermost being will come a flow of unknown words to you. Speak them out by faith and enjoy it!

Now say this out loud:

“Father you said, “How much more will you give the Holy Spirit to them that ask you.” I ask you for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I receive this free gift from you. Jesus said that these signs will follow the believers. He said that in His Name I would speak in tongues. I am a believer and I receive this mighty gift with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. The moment brother Dan prays for me, I will receive from the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit who is the Lord Jesus this power from on high with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.”

Now hush the English or any other known language! No more words in any known language for now and let me pray over you.

“I pray for you now in the mighty Name of Jesus. Receive the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon you. Receive the Holy Spirit in Jesus Name! Now begin to worship God in other tongues in Jesus Name!”

As soon as you read these words, throw your hands in the air in a receiving mode, open your mouth and speak whatever words the Holy Spirit is giving you right now. That's it. Begin to speak out those words by faith in Jesus' Name. Keep doing it. Relax in Him and in the tongues and let them flow out of you!

All who read these words and follow these instructions will receive without exception and without delay in Jesus Name!

Chapter 17

Knowing the Truth about the Author of Sickness, Disease, Death, and the Curse

Many would respond a resounding, “No way!” if they thought someone was suggesting that God was somehow behind evil. I would respond “No way” myself. I have no question in my mind on this subject. Yet there are some Scriptures in the Old Testament that, with a superficial reading, would leave you with the wrong impression. It is not enough to know what you believe. Many know this much. It is of greater importance to know WHY you believe it, and know the Scriptures well enough to take a stand and not be swayed by every “wind of doctrine” that comes across your path.²⁵² We should be able to “defend the Gospel” if need be, and “always have an answer to give everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that is in you.”²⁵³ It is our purpose here to give you a solid Scriptural foundation on which you can confidently stand. This is a controversial subject among some people, and a wrong understanding in this area has held many people in bondage for years. Follow us closely and read the Scripture references we give you. Do not be offended by the Word if it goes contrary to your thinking and/or upbringing. Let us all do as instructed in James 1:21, “humbly accept the Word planted in you, which can save (deliver and make whole) you.” We must correct our thinking and believing before we can actually move into receiving the blessings provided by the sacrifice of Jesus beyond the new birth and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. That is the purpose of this chapter.

The Confusion

Deuteronomy 28:20

And the Lord will send upon you curses...

²⁵² Ephesians 4:14, 15

²⁵³ Phil. 1:7, 1 Peter 3:15

Verse 15 of the same chapter makes it clear that the curses coming on people were the result of disobedience.

Deuteronomy 28:15

If you will not obey...all these curses will come upon you and overtake you.

Disobedience is one major reason for the impact of the curse on people. Even though it says, “the Lord will send,” it is actually produced by and through disobedience to God’s Word.

One Hebrew translation²⁵⁴ of Deuteronomy 28:20 says this: **“the Lord will let loose against you evil circumstances, panic, and frustration...”** The same goes for Deuteronomy 28:48 in most translations, “therefore you shall serve your enemies that the Lord will send against you.” Another translation of the same verse says, **“...the enemies that the Lord will allow to be loosed upon you.”** So, what is going on here? On the one hand, the most common translations say, “the Lord will send” and in others, at least in these verses, it says, “the Lord will allow to let loose.” There is a huge difference between the Lord sending and the Lord allowing it to be loosed. Why the discrepancy?

The same difference of interpretation exists in our churches all over the world. Some believe that God will send a sickness or disease on you and some don’t. The Hebrew text is not ambiguous here, but you have to read the context to get the right emphasis of these verses, and you must understand the concept of covenant. Which is the right understanding or interpretation?

Correct Bible Interpretation

The only possible way to interpret the Bible is by context and through other considerations. To understand all of this, and get a definitive answer, here are two essential points we will explore:

²⁵⁴ I slightly changed this translation but it says the same thing.

1. **We must interpret Scriptures in the light of other Scriptures.**
2. **We must proceed to interpret it afresh with the teachings of the New Covenant (New Testament) to get the most “up-to-date” focus and understanding.**

Years ago, I heard one man of God say it like this: **“The Bible is progressive revelation.”**

There is much more to these points as you will see. The first teachings of God were not even written down until the time of Moses. Books were not available for every home until after the invention of the printing press, about three thousand years after Moses. The books of the Bible were written mainly on parchment or vellum sheets. These could be sewn together to make them into scrolls. Later, they began to put the individual sheets into a crude book form or a “codex”. They were all written by hand in a painstaking, lengthy, process. The scrolls and codices were rare and very expensive. What a blessing to be able to have as many copies of the Bible as you want in your house! Today, there is no excuse for ignorance of the Scriptures.

The Cause of the Curse

Proverbs 26:2

The curse without a cause will not come.

The curse always comes because of an underlying cause. I know there may be many objections to this truth in Scripture. I didn't write the above Scripture. It's no use getting mad at me for referring to it. My job is to tell it and that is what I am doing here.

As we have seen, disobedience is **one** cause of the curse of destruction on people. Disobedience is sin, transgression, or iniquity. So, we can say that sin will bring the curse.

Here is another reason for the curse or destruction in the lives of some people. This is important because it will bear out the fact that there are more reasons for the curse coming upon a

human being than sin.

Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

Lack of knowledge of God's Word is another great cause of the curse in the lives of people. Ignorance is not bliss! I have seen people that truly love God but know nothing about the rights and privileges that were bought and paid for by Jesus through His great sacrifice.

This verse in Hosea goes on to say, "because you have rejected knowledge...since you have forgotten my law."²⁵⁵ "Lack of knowledge" can also be rejecting or forgetting the knowledge of the teachings of God in His Word. The reason some have the curse of destruction in their lives is because either they don't know enough of God's Word to take a stand of faith, they reject the knowledge of God's Word when they are presented with it, or they have let the knowledge of God's Word slip or get away from them.²⁵⁶ All of these areas of 'lack of knowledge' are referred to in Hosea 4:6. We will expound on these later.

Why did the children of Israel roam around the desert for forty years under a curse? Why were they hindered from entering the promised land of God and taking possession of their inheritance? Why did all of Israel have to wait until the generation that refused to enter the land died off?²⁵⁷ The answer is unbelief. Read Hebrews 3:14 through 4:3 and you will see that a refusal to believe God's Word (3:12, 19), a refusal to hear the good news (the gospel) and mix faith with it (4:2), is what caused them not to enter into the rest of their promised land.

Here you have one of the great reasons people stay sick, poor, broken, frustrated, cursed, fearful, depressed, etc. They hear the good news that Jesus came and bore our sickness and pains,²⁵⁸ he redeemed us from the curse by becoming a curse

²⁵⁵ "Law" is the Hebrew word *torah* = "the teachings of God."

²⁵⁶ Cp. Hebrews 2:1-3

²⁵⁷ Numbers 13 & 14

²⁵⁸ Isaiah 53:4, 5

for us,²⁵⁹ he became poor on the cross that we might be made rich,²⁶⁰ He came to give us life and that more abundantly,²⁶¹ He came to deliver the suffering masses of humanity,²⁶² and that He still wants to do it today,²⁶³ and they refuse to believe it.

Even Jesus had very little success ministering to the sick when the crowd refused to believe His Word or were in unbelief.²⁶⁴ It is no wonder that of the nineteen cases of individual healings recorded in the four Gospels, twelve of those times the individual's faith is mentioned.²⁶⁵ Faith is a main ingredient to healing and any other provision in Christ! Read the Gospel accounts and see how many times Jesus said, "Be it unto you according to your faith," "your faith made you whole," or something similar. Even at the tomb of Lazarus Jesus instructed Martha, "If you will believe, you will see the glory of God."²⁶⁶ Do not expect to see a manifestation of God's power or glory in your life if you refuse to believe His Word.

Another reason people suffer with the curse needlessly is traditional teachings that are contrary to the revelation of God's Word. Jesus said that the Pharisees were invalidating the Word of God by some of the traditions they were following from their elders.²⁶⁷ They set aside the commandments of God because they held the tradition of their elders in higher esteem than the Word of God. All the Pharisees were not guilty of that, but some were according to Jesus.

We see the same thing today. Many believe just like 'granny', or like their denomination has believed for centuries, even though the Scriptures say something different. It is dangerous to

²⁵⁹ Galatians 3:13

²⁶⁰ 2 Corinthians 8:9

²⁶¹ John 10:10

²⁶² Luke 4:18

²⁶³ Heb. 13:8

²⁶⁴ Mat. 13:58, Mark 6:5, 6

²⁶⁵ Many healings were done among the multitudes, the raising of the dead, and delivering the demonized. These are in addition to the 19 individual cases of healing mentioned in the Gospels.

²⁶⁶ John 11:40

²⁶⁷ Mark 7:3, 7-9, 13

live by the traditions of men and not the written Word of God in its proper context. Many have died before their time by a refusal to listen to and obey the Word of God because of long held traditions. I have seen it happen repeatedly. I have also seen the opposite repeatedly. When people decide to listen and obey the Scriptures, their lives are redeemed from destruction and the blessing of God overtakes them!²⁶⁸

Covenant Speech and Covenant Agreement

Getting back to our original thought: Why is there such a division between those churches that believe bad things (like sickness, disease, poverty, or the curse in general) also come from God, and those that believe that the devil brings bad things and God is the giver of every good and perfect gift?²⁶⁹ Who is right?

Many subjects in the Bible only come into clear view when you see them in the New Covenant Scriptures. Some subjects were only revealed in part in the Old Covenant. Some things were rarely discussed in the Old Covenant Scriptures, or little light was shed on some subjects.

This entire study is far removed from traditional thought and ecclesiastical theology, but many of the things we will write about from this point on are violently opposed to traditional old "woe is us" church teaching, and unscriptural "cemetery" seminary training.

Deuteronomy 29:1, 9, 12-13, 18-21

These are the words of the covenant... so keep the words of the covenant to do them, that you may prosper in all that you do... that you may enter into this covenant with the Lord your God... as he swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob...it shall be that when he hears the words of this curse...and every curse that is written in the book of this law will rest on him (the disobedient)... according to all the

²⁶⁸ Deuteronomy 28:1-14

²⁶⁹ James 1:17

curse which are written in the book of this law.

I have taken the time to write these verses from Deuteronomy 29 so you understand that this curse was stated in relation to the covenant God made with Israel. It was expressed in easy-to-understand covenant speech, common to the ear of the people of that day. This was the way a covenant was always written down in ancient times. Israel stood before God and blessings were pronounced on the obedient to that covenant, and curses were spoken against those that disobeyed the covenant. In the same manner, covenants have been recorded for millennia, even among those written down by heathens or pagans. This is not the place for us to explore these ancient covenants, but a simple perusal of some of the ones on record between families, nations, and kings, will bear this out.²⁷⁰

When God presented His covenant to Israel, so Moses could write it down, it was written in the language of the day that expressed both, blessings for those that kept the covenant and the curses upon those that violated it. That was the proper formula for establishing a covenant, and that is what is expressed in Deuteronomy chapters 28-30. A covenant was an oath or agreement, sworn by and/or through blood, that was established between two parties. It was unalterable and was permanent. The violation of the covenant demanded death spiritually, mentally, physically, financially, and socially. It was recognized as the most powerful form of agreement that existed. The penalty for breaking the covenant was always the same, it was death!

God, in His great mercy and compassion, established a sacrificial system where the violator of His covenant could offer an animal up as his substitute. That way the violator would not have to suffer the full brunt of the curse of death. An animal was killed and its blood spilled to satisfy the requirement of death for the violator of God's covenant. This kind of blood offering, in the

²⁷⁰ You will find immediate parallels in the scholarly, "Ancient Near Eastern Texts: Relating to the Old Testament", (James B. Pritchard, Princeton).

place of a guilty covenant person, was being offered up continuously. When you understand this, it makes the entire blood sacrifice system easy to understand. It was a system of substitution- the animal for the man or woman. It was a very limited and incomplete system at best. It was meant to save Israel from total destruction through the curse that was required to come on the disobedient.

Now, in Christ Jesus that entire sacrificial system, priesthood, and temple, has been removed because His sacrifice was once for all. His sacrifice never has to be repeated again.²⁷¹ This old sacrificial system of substitution was the part of God's covenant with Israel that became obsolete, grew old, and was to fade away. The second temple was not destroyed until 70 AD, and it was at that time that the daily blood sacrifice and burnt offerings to atone for Israel's sin were discontinued. Evidently, the temple was still standing when Hebrews 8:13 was written, but they were expecting Jesus' prophecy concerning the destruction of the temple to be fulfilled at any time.²⁷² Of course, it was fulfilled in 70 AD and the entire sacrificial system became obsolete.

Hebrews 8:13

When said, "A 'new', he has made the first obsolete. But whatever is obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

The context of Hebrews 8:1-12 clearly speaks of the sacrificial system and the laws associated with it as being what was made obsolete.

Even though some Scriptures apparently emphasize God's role in afflicting human beings, again, it is a covenantal formula of declaring the disaster that will come upon those that violate the covenant in a way that was easy for Israel to understand.

Deuteronomy 28:61

²⁷¹ Hebrews chapters 5-10 go into great detail.

²⁷² Example: Luke 21: 5, 6

Also every sickness and every plague which are not written in this book of this law, the Lord will bring upon you until you are destroyed.

Galatians 3:13

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us...

Thank God, we are redeemed from the curse of the law, as recorded in this 28th chapter of Deuteronomy verses 15-68! We are redeemed from every sickness, disease, calamity, fear, poverty, bondage, and death that is known to man! We should boldly declare our redemption from this curse because of what Jesus accomplished for us.²⁷³

It is Man's Choice

All of these Scriptures, in context, emphasize that the curse was the result of disobedience, sin, transgression, iniquity, rejecting God's Word, unbelief, holding fast to the traditions of men, or lack of knowledge. Man's choice in all of this is a central issue. It is his choice whether he will live in the blessing or the curse, life or death. It is not God's choice but man's that will determine the state in which he will live. Do not take my word for it. Read the following verses.

Deuteronomy 30:19, 20

I YHVH (Yaveh or Yehovah) have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you and your descendants may live...for this is your life and the length of your days...

Read closely the following paragraph:

God is not the one that chooses that people live under a curse, be bound by sickness, be oppressed by poverty, be in chains of bondage or suffer premature death. He also does not

²⁷³ Ps. 107:20

make the choice for you to live in His blessing. These are your choices according to Deuteronomy 30: 19 and 20. The choices and the final decisions are yours. It will depend on what you decide! Choose to follow God's way and get the blessing. Choose to follow your own way and get the curse. It is your choice according to God's Word and not God's choice. He has made the provision in Christ but He will not shove the blessing or the curse down your throat. You are free to choose. God hopes that we choose the right thing. That is why the Scripture above commands us to choose life and blessing. Please study that entire 30th chapter of Deuteronomy because this truth is repeated there in a number of ways.

Traditional theology is the one that believes that God wants you sick, broken, and maybe to suffer premature death. People blame God for these things often. The Word of God teaches differently. The choice is yours if you live out the fullness of your days, live in blessing, and in health. It is up to you and not up to God! This is not my theology but it is the clear cut teaching of God's Word in Deuteronomy 30:19, 20 and in many other places in Scripture.²⁷⁴

God commands us to choose life and blessing in Deuteronomy 30:19, 20. Notice the clear cut difference between life and death, blessing and the curse. They are impossible to confuse after reading the blessings in Deuteronomy 28:1-14, and then reading the curses in Deuteronomy 28:15-68. Yet, many traditional Christian ministers and their followers do it often. They think that some of the curses like poverty, sickness, or premature death, can be "a blessing in disguise." Obviously, they have never read Deuteronomy chapters 28-30. The distinction between the blessing and the curse is impossible to mix up after reading these chapters. Fear, bondage, every sickness and plague known to man, poverty, depression, disease, premature death, family calamities, destruction of crops and cattle, famine,

²⁷⁴ For example, look at Psalms 103:1-5, Proverbs 4:20-24, John 8:31, 32, Philippians 4:19, 2 Corinthians 8:9, 1 Timothy 6:17-19, 3 John 2 and many more!

defeat in war, national disasters or tragedies, etc. are never called a blessing in these chapters nor anywhere else in the entire Bible! All these things are listed under the curse of the law in Deuteronomy 28:15-68, and we are redeemed from the curse of the law according to Galatians 3:13!

The fact that we are redeemed from the curse of the law should immediately tell you that the curse cannot be the work of God. If the curse is something God does, then here's the question. Did Jesus come to redeem or deliver us from something God does? I don't think so! God is not at war with Himself. Let me state it a little differently. Did Jesus come to save us from evil that God is sending into your life? That makes no sense at all! Again, if Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the law as recorded in Deuteronomy 28:15-68, then how could the curse possibly be the work of God?

Where did the Curse Originate?

Though we have seen these truths to a certain extent in other parts of this book, we need to explore them further. Our purpose in this is to obliterate all doubt and build up faith in what Jesus did for us.

1 John 3:8

The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

Here is one verse that gives an answer. No, Jesus did not come to destroy the work of God. He appeared in flesh to destroy the works of the devil.

So the curse cannot be of God or the work of God, because Jesus redeemed us from the curse.

Therefore, when the translation says, "God will send sickness and disease upon the disobedient" we must conclude that breaking God's covenant Word will "send" or bring the curse. In other words, it is disobedience to the covenant that will *cause* the curse to come. God said that the curse will come upon those

that violate His principles and His Word must come to pass. His Word coming to pass is how we can interpret “God sending.” The *cause* of the curse is, specifically, disobedience or unbelief. A refusal to hear God and His unalterable Word will *cause* the curse.²⁷⁵ A refusal to choose life and blessing will bring the curse and death. A refusal to serve God with joy and gladness “for the abundance of all things” will bring the curse.²⁷⁶

The direct cause is not God! It was God that gave His unalterable, everlasting Word, and since His Word is spiritual law, it is the violation of this Divine law that will bring a person into contact with the curse.

Isaiah 55:10-13

For as the rain comes down, and the snow from the heavens, and does not return there, but waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, and gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so will My Word be that goes forth out of My mouth; it will not return to Me void (empty or without results), but it will accomplish what I please, and it will do what I sent it to do... Instead of the thorn, the fir tree will come up; and instead of the brier, the myrtle tree will come up; and it will be to Yehovah for a name, for an everlasting sign which will not be cut off.

The intent of the Father was always that His Word bring blessing on the human family. He never intended for human beings to suffer the results of the violation of His Word. Yet, His Word will come to pass for blessing or for the curse.

Zechariah 5:2, 3

And he said to me, “What do you see?” And I answered, “I see a flying scroll...” This is the curse that goes out over the face of the entire earth...

This was the scroll that contained the words about the curse in the earth. The Word of God was in that scroll and a violation of

²⁷⁵ Deut. 28:15

²⁷⁶ Deut. 28:47

its content opened the door to the curse. (vs. 3, 4) Again, it was the violation of God's Word that gave access to the curse. God spoke His Word and stated the grave consequences of disobedience and His Word will not return to Him void. It will come to pass!²⁷⁷

Isaiah 61:11

For as the earth brings forth its bud, and as the garden causes that which is sown in it to grow; so the Lord Yehovah will cause righteousness and praise to grow before all the nations.

This is exactly what Isaiah also said concerning the Word of God chapter 55:10 and 11. The earth buds and brings forth what is sown in it.

Sow in the earth the seed of disobedience to God's Word, and it will produce the curse. Sow in it the seed of obedience to God's Word, and it will produce the blessing. That is exactly what we are taught in Deuteronomy 28. Obey and you get the blessing, disobey and you get the curse. It all depends on the seed of God's Word that is sown. Obedience and disobedience are the seeds. Which one will you sow? Your harvest depends on what kind of seed you sowed. Choose wisely!

Notice the phrase I underlined in Isaiah 61:11. Just like a garden produces whatever seed is sown in it is why we are told, "*so the Lord will cause.*" The Lord "causing" is based on this eternal principal of sowing and reaping. It is a law! You will reap what you sow whether to death or to life accordingly!

Galatians 6:7, 8

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked. For whatever a man (or woman) sows, that he (or she) also will reap. For he (or she) that sows to his (her) flesh will reap corruption from the flesh. But he (or she) sowing to the spirit will reap life everlasting from the Spirit.

²⁷⁷ Isaiah 55:11, Hosea 6:5. The violation of God's Word will produce death in all realms just like God told Adam and Eve in Gen. 2:17.

It is all based on the operation of the seed. God has spoken and His Word cannot be non-productive. It's impossible for God to lie.²⁷⁸ It will fulfill the thing for which it was sent, and it will produce according to the blessing or the curse. Good seed will produce a good harvest. Bad seed will produce "thorns and briars."²⁷⁹ The harvest of good or evil will depend on what kind of seed was sown. God has said exactly what will lead to life and what will lead to death. It all begins with a seed.

Even though we have a number of Old Covenant Scriptures that present the curse as God's doing, we want to challenge you to think of the curse as the result of disobedience in general, and specifically as the work of the devil. The devil always acts on bad seed.²⁸⁰ He is consistently looking at the kind of seed sown by human beings. The kind of seed you sow will authorize either the blessing or the curse to function in your life. It will bring God on the scene or the enemy. The choice is yours!²⁸¹ I trust you are beginning to see this. The only way to "kill" bad seed is through repentance, receiving the cleansing provided in the blood of Jesus, and the sowing of the Word as good seed to correct it.²⁸²

Satan as the direct author of the curse, sickness, disease, calamity, and premature death, is taught in the Old Covenant in the book of Job.²⁸³ Fear, pride, and self-righteousness, broke down the hedge of protection that God had built around Job. After his repentance and obedience, the blessing exploded all around him again.²⁸⁴ Satan was the one that killed all of Job's children, destroyed his houses, all his cattle, and put sickness and disease on him. God had nothing to do with any of it. Satan tried to get God to do it but He refused. Here is a good example

²⁷⁸ Hebrews 6:18

²⁷⁹ Hebrews 6:7, 8

²⁸⁰ Matthew 13:25, 28, 39

²⁸¹ Deut. 30:15-20

²⁸² 1 John 1:7-9, 2 Cor. 7:10, Heb. 6:1, 2 Pet. 3:9, Ps. 119:9, Mark 4:20

²⁸³ See Job chapters 1 - 2.

²⁸⁴ See these portions of the book of Job upon which I base my comments- Job 2:7, 3:23-26, 33:9-12, 17, 34:5, 35:2, 12-14, 38:1-4, 42:1-17.

of what satan did:

Job 2:7

Then satan went out from the presence of the Lord and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

As a side note, satan was able to go into the presence of God because he stole that right from Adam and Eve. The devil no longer has that right because the accuser of the brethren has been cast out through what Jesus accomplished.²⁸⁵

Some scholars say that Job is the oldest book of the Bible. If this is true, then the revelation of who is the one that kills, steals, and destroys, was clearly taught in the oldest book of the Bible.

Unfortunately, some preachers 'chime in' with an erroneous statement made by Job, repeating the same thing at funerals of children or young adults, and when other bad things happen that they cannot explain. They say in error, "God gives and God takes away." Even though it is true that Job said that, his statement was not *the* truth, because the first two chapters of Job reveal that satan is the one that took it all away. A more accurate statement would be, "God gave and Satan came to steal, kill, and destroy." That is *the* truth! Job only had it half right.

Jesus said it best in this statement:

John 10:10

The thief (satan and his demons) comes only to steal, kill, and destroy, but I (Jesus) have come that you may have life, and have it more abundantly.

This is one of the foundational Scriptures that will establish in you a clear distinction between the works of God and the works of hell, between what Jesus does and what the devil does. There are many others we will give you as we continue in this study. If it is stealing, killing, or destroying, God did not do it nor commission it according to Jesus Himself.

²⁸⁵ Revelation 12:10

God originally created the former “light bearer,” or as it has been Latinized, “lucifer.” This former angel was the anointed cherub, but he corrupted himself through pride, iniquity, and darkness. He took the wisdom God had put in him and corrupted it.²⁸⁶ He became “satan,” the adversary of God and man, the devil, and that old serpent.²⁸⁷

In Revelation 9:11, it names satan as the “angel” of the abyss. There we are told that in Hebrew he is called “abaddon,” and in Greek, “apollyon.” These words mean ‘destruction’ and ‘destroyer.’ Those words sum up the nature of lucifer after his fall and expulsion from Heaven. Jesus fully expressed satan’s nature in John 10:10 and 8:44. He is a thief, killer, destroyer, liar, murderer, and no truth is in him.

Even though God created him, the destruction satan does in the earth realm is not God’s doing, nor is it even the result of God “allowing” it to happen for some obscure reason. God says:

Isaiah 54:14-17

You will be far from oppression... and from terror... if anyone fiercely attacks you it will not be from me... I created the smith... (that) brings out a weapon for his work... I created the destroyer to destroy (him)...

That last phrase means that the devil's hide is fried! As I said before, his future does not look good! The devil and all his cronies are on their way to a final and eternal destruction in the lake of fire!²⁸⁸ Their future is bleak, dark, and desolate forever.

God created the devil before he was a devil according to the verses in note 286. Now that he is the adversary, God says that whatever the devil brings against you, will not be from Him. Satan does it all by himself without any permission from God. He is not “God’s unwilling servant,” as I have heard some say foolishly. They say this implying that somehow God tells the devil

²⁸⁶ See Is. 14:12-16, Luke 10:18, Rev. 12:3, 4, 9, Eze. 28:13-19 as a foundation for these statements about satan.

²⁸⁷ Revelation 12:9

²⁸⁸ Revelation 20:10

whom to afflict and punish in the earth. Sorry, but the devil does not need any prodding to do that because it is in his nature to murder, steal, and to destroy. He does not serve God and only obeys God when God's Word is enforced. He obeys when he is forced to bow his knee to the Word of God when commanded in the earth by a believer to do so.

When Jesus was tempted by the devil in the desert, His defense against the devil was the pure Word of God. Jesus spoke the Word of God to him and the devil took off!²⁸⁹ Demons would obey Jesus' word of command, not because they are "unwilling servants of Yehovah," but because they were forced to obey the word of Jesus. Today, every sickness, disease, and curse, must bow its knee to the Name of Jesus when spoken in faith by a believer.²⁹⁰

Lucifer's corruption of God's wisdom and anointing was the beginning of the curse. God created him as the anointed cherub, but he used that anointing on him to create something foreign to God's nature. It was the opposite of the blessing. It was in opposition to the anointing that destroys burdens and removes yokes.²⁹¹ That perverted use of God's anointing power to deliver and make whole created the curse and darkness. These statements answer many questions about the origin of evil and the curse. It also answers the question of how the curse came into the earth. We will talk more about this.

What is the Reason for so Much Suffering?

I feel sorry for people that say they do not believe in an Almighty God. They ask questions like, "If God is real, how could He let little babies suffer hunger, and how could He allow so many bad things to happen to good people? Why are there so many calamities, oppressions and tragedies in the earth?" The answer is simple. There is a murderer loose on this planet that is

²⁸⁹ Matthew 4:1-11

²⁹⁰ Mark 16:17, Phil. 2:9-11, Acts 3:6, 16, 16:18.

²⁹¹ Isaiah 10:17, Luke 4:18

only interested in stealing, murdering and destroying, and his name is satan.

God is not allowing bad things to happen because He has some unknown or obscure purpose for human tragedy and suffering. He does not permit evil because He may want us to suffer bad things or because it may be His will. He allows bad things to happen in the earth because He originally gave all the authority and dominion over this planet to Adam. Adam turned around and, through his disobedience, gave this authority over into the hands of this psychopathic killer named satan.²⁹²

Satan will steal, kill, or destroy, wherever people let him do it. It is all a question of legality, or who has the legal right in the earth to do this or that. Satan got his legal, though illegitimate, right to operate in the earth realm when God's authorized man turned the dominion God gave him over into the hands of God's arch enemy. Adam's legal dominion over the planet was relinquished to satan. That is when satan received a free hand to do as he pleased on the planet.

There was one very important limitation to this illegitimately received authority in satan's possession. Adam's authority in this world was to be manifested through human beings. Humans possess physical bodies. Mankind possesses vocal cords to express that authority in the earth through words, just like God did in the creation because they were created in His image.

The devil and demons do not possess human bodies or vocal cords. Satan had to possess a serpent and use it to communicate his lies to the woman and then to the man. He desperately needs a human body and voice today to get his evil work done in the earth. He needs someone in the earth that will speak contrary to God to get his desires done in the earth. He needs human permission to operate in the earth realm! This is a thorny subject for many religious minds because they have misunderstood man's creation, authority, and the authority of words. They don't understand the legalities involved in the

²⁹² Genesis 3, Romans 5:12-18

creation of man and with this planet.²⁹³

“Do not give the devil a place” means that if the devil found a place in your life, then you gave him that place or foothold. The understood subject of this verse in Ephesians 4:27 is *you*. God did not give the place or allow it. The devil could not take a place without your permission.

It is a waste of time and effort to blame God or even to ask Him to take away “the messenger of satan.”²⁹⁴ Paul tried that three times, and all three times he got the same answer from God. God said, “**My grace is sufficient** (more than enough) **for you.**” What grace was God speaking about? Forget all the unbelieving theology you ever heard about Paul’s ‘thorn’ in the flesh and listen to what God was actually referring to as *grace*:

Romans 5:17

...Much more those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the one Jesus Christ.

In essence, God was saying to Paul, “What I did through Jesus is more than enough for you to reign over this messenger of satan.” The victory of Jesus over hell and death is this abundance of grace! God was telling Paul that what He had done in the work of grace through Jesus Christ and His great sacrifice was more than enough to defeat that “messenger of satan.” Now it was up to Paul to receive for himself. It was up to him to use what was provided. God provided it, now Paul was going to have to use it!

That is why we are told that we must submit to God, resist the devil and he will then flee.²⁹⁵ The devil will not flee unless we do

²⁹³ Gen. 1:26-28, Luke 4:5, 6, 2 Cor. 4:4, John 8:44, Hebrews 2:14, 15. Mat. 12:34-37, James 3:1-18, Mark 11:22-25, Luke 17:5 reveal God’s method of creation. Gen. 1:1-31 teaches us that it was all accomplished through words. Man was created to function like God. He was created in the image and likeness of God. Man lost it to a great extent through the fall but Jesus restored it through the new creation! See Eph. 4:24, 2 Cor. 5:17, Col. 2:9, 10, etc.

²⁹⁴ 2 Cor. 12:7-9

²⁹⁵ James 4:7

the resisting. God will not resist the devil for you! His power will not go into operation until we begin the resistance. God will not put His armor on you. We must put on the whole armor of God and resist the schemes of the devil.²⁹⁶

Again, because of the high treason committed by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and because they bowed their knee to a fallen angel that was operating in the earth with the dominion God had originally given to them, things got out of the hands of God. God had given full dominion and lordship over this planet to Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve gave it away by allowing an outlaw spirit to become his “god.” For this reason satan is called the “prince of this world” and the “god” of this world. Adam and his wife were the original “princes and gods of this world” under the great God YHVH or Yehovah. Adam and Eve gave that over to the devil by submitting to him.²⁹⁷

God Himself is limited in the things He can do in the earth unless He has the cooperation of a human being. Israel limited their God through unbelief, and so people can do the same thing today.²⁹⁸ It depends largely on the access that a human being will allow God to have in his or her life. The way God governs and rules in the earth is by getting His Word into the earth through the agency of human beings. Once His Word is in the earth, it can never be changed. It must come to pass. That is how He originally got Jesus into the earth with a flesh body. The Word of God spoken through the prophets finally took upon itself flesh and dwelt among us in Jesus.²⁹⁹ His Word has been spoken and regardless of satan’s attempts to thwart it, it will eventually come to pass. When we take the Word of God, believe it, and act upon it, it must come to pass. His Word always accomplishes what He sent it to do.³⁰⁰ In that sense, God IS in control. Things will turn out as He has said. Read the end of the book of Revelation and see for yourself. Generally speaking that is true.

²⁹⁶ Ephesians 6:10-18

²⁹⁷ John 12:31, 14:30, 2 Cor. 4:4

²⁹⁸ Psalms 78:41

²⁹⁹ John 1:14

³⁰⁰ Isaiah 55:11

Though that is true, God is not in control of everything that happens on this planet to steal, kill or destroy. God is not in control where wickedness or evil has sway. He is not in control when women are being raped, children are sold into slavery, or people die of starvation or plagues. God is not in control when governments oppress their citizens and slaughter the innocent in abortion clinics. God is not in control when people are stealing, murdering or destroying just like their father the devil.³⁰¹ God is not in control of natural disasters or devastating tragedies that destroy multiplied thousands of people. Get your theology straight here. God only destroyed the earth by flood once and He swore to never do it again. See Genesis chapters 6 through 8.

God is not in the killing, stealing, destroying business! The destruction business is the activity of foreign spirits (satan and his demons) and not the Spirit of God! Jesus rebuked His disciples when they wanted to call down fire on a Samaritan city to destroy it. They were operating under a wrong spirit. Jesus said he didn't come to destroy people's lives but to deliver and make them whole.³⁰²

Many don't know that the earth itself responds negatively to sin and death and it convulses violently as sin reaches a peak in certain areas of the planet. The earth itself will bring on storms, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and natural disasters as a rejection of evil and as an attempt to rid itself of the corruption it has been subjected to. We know the scientific reasons for natural disasters but they all have spiritual roots according to the Scriptures. This planet was designed for blessing. God created this planet to function under His life, blessing and goodness. The earth was not made to be oppressed by death and to function under a curse.³⁰³

³⁰¹ John 8:40, 44, 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10

³⁰² Luke 9:51-56

³⁰³ Romans 8:21, 22. Many Scriptures, especially in the prophets, speak about the destruction that comes upon the earth as a result of wickedness. Whenever you see verses about God judging the earth or that He brings disaster upon it, it is a direct result of the law of sowing and reaping He built into creation, and the harvest of evil that is required to come because of the people sowing iniquity.

That is why to say the blanket statement "God is in control" is error of the highest kind if by that statement you mean that He is in control of everything that happens on the earth or even everything that happens in your life.

God was not in full control of your life if you left a doorway open for the enemy of God to come in to steal, kill, or destroy. God was not in full control of your life if you allowed the curse to come upon you through sin, disobedience, unforgiveness, unbelief, doubt, tradition or error.

Life and death, blessing and cursing, are in the power of men's tongues.³⁰⁴ We decide if God or the devil will rule or dominate in our lives. God will not make that decision for us.³⁰⁵

If God could, He would get everybody on the earth born-again and Spirit-baptized right now. He wants everybody to be saved and delivered.³⁰⁶ That is His perfect will for every single human being. Why then is not everybody saved? Why are some going to hell and the lake of fire in the future?

The same can be said about sickness and disease. Why are not all healed? We know that God wants everybody healed because Jesus bore our sicknesses and carried our diseases, and by His stripes we were healed. Just like He bore our sins, He also bore our sickness.³⁰⁷ Why are people not living in the blessing of God, and suffer from the curse in one realm or another? It is through man's purposeful choice, or because of ignorance or deception, that man grants permission to hell, sin, and death. That is the only way the curse can rule over him. If you believe, you will be saved or made whole, but if you do not believe, then you will be condemned or damned.³⁰⁸ If you bind it on earth, then Heaven will back it. If you loosed it on earth, then Heaven will stand behind it. The literal Greek of Matthew 16:19 and 18:18 tells us:

³⁰⁴ Proverbs 18:20, 21, Matthew 12:34-37, James 3:2-18

³⁰⁵ Deut. 30:19, 20

³⁰⁶ 1 Timothy 2:4

³⁰⁷ Isaiah 53:4, 5, Matthew 8:17, 1 Peter 2:24

³⁰⁸ Mark 16:16, Romans 10:9-15

Matthew 16:19 and 18:18

Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden by Heaven. Whatever you permit (or allow) on earth will be permitted (allowed) by Heaven.

This is exactly what we have been telling you. The choice is in your hands!

If you resist the devil he will flee. If you don't then God will not do anything about it.³⁰⁹ If you give the devil place, God will do nothing to take back that position you forfeited through ignorance, deception, or disobedience. Why? He has already done all He plans to do about the devil and the curse through the great sacrifice of Jesus! He already put our curse, sin, sickness, and death on Jesus, so we could be free.³¹⁰ Jesus was raised from the dead with all authority and dominion over all the works of hell. He transferred that dominion to the church.³¹¹ Now it is our move! Jesus was raised from the dead and ascended to Heaven. Now we are the only body He possesses in the earth. We are the Body of Christ! That dominion, victory, and power is to be expressed through the Church which is the Body of Christ in the earth.³¹² We are to be the glorious church, the glory filled church.³¹³

The Mixture of Light and Darkness and its Effect on the Minds of Men

God originally blessed man.³¹⁴ *Ish* and *Ishah*, the Hebrew words for *man* and *woman*, only knew the blessing. There existed no form of the curse on this planet when God first created them. It was all created very good.³¹⁵ No evil or darkness of any

³⁰⁹ James 4:7

³¹⁰ Isaiah 53:4-11, Gal. 3:13, Col. 1:12, 13, 1 Pet. 2:24, Rev. 1:18, Mat. 28:18

³¹¹ Matthew 16:17-19, Eph. 1:17-21

³¹² 1 Cor. 12:27

³¹³ Eph. 5:27

³¹⁴ Genesis 1:26-28

³¹⁵ Genesis 1:31

kind was present on earth at that time. The curse only came into the earth with Adam's sin of disobedience.³¹⁶ As we have taught from the Word, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, satan obtained access into the earth realm. Satan's access into the earth caused the earth to come under his authority, and thereby the authority of the curse and death. Jesus came to deliver us from the authority of death.³¹⁷ That curse came into the earth through the disobedience of the one man Adam. Death reigned upon all men because of it.

God told Adam, "**Cursed is the ground** (the entire planet we call "earth" that included the soil and the man) **because of you.**"³¹⁸ Notice that it was not God's fault that the curse had come upon the planet. It was Adam's fault according to God. God said the curse came, "because of you." How much plainer could it be? Adam was the one that opened the door to the curse. It was his disobedience that allowed it to enter this realm. One man's disobedience opened the door to sin and death.³¹⁹ God did not allow it or commission for it to happen. It was Adam that allowed it. God told him what to do, but His disobedience allowed the curse entrance. Do you see it? God did not bring or send the curse. He instructed the man and the woman:

Genesis 2:16, 17

You can eat freely from all the trees but the one in the middle of the garden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, from that one you will not eat, because the day that you eat of it, in dying you will die.

It was the violation of God's command that allowed the curse of death to enter into the world. It was not God's doing.

Read the following paragraphs closely and look up the Scriptures we give you.

Adam's disobedience produced a mixture in men's minds

³¹⁶ Romans 5:12

³¹⁷ Hebrews 2:14, 15, Rom. 5:12-17

³¹⁸ Lit. rendering of Gen. 3:17. This is a better translation than "for your sake."

³¹⁹ Romans 5:12-17

and in their thinking that was never the will of God. Did you notice that the tree they partook of was the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil? It was the mixture of the two. From the beginning God separated light from darkness.³²⁰ It was never his will that the earth be a place of both good and evil. God wanted the planet and His family to experience only the good. That is the way He created it all from the start.³²¹ There was no curse, no poverty, sickness, disease, or calamity in the earth realm. Through Adam's sin, a mixture took place, a battle between good and evil in the hearts of men, in their thinking, and on this planet. True knowledge was darkened in the minds of men by the new 'god' of this world.³²² They could no longer distinguish the vast difference between good and evil.³²³ Everything got mixed up with the introduction of the devil into this planet.

A few centuries later, Lamech would come along and say something completely contrary to God's original declaration that put the blame on Adam for the curse.³²⁴ With Lamech, we see how mixed up men's minds had already become as to what was the cause, and who was responsible for the curse in the earth. Lamech said that it was, "the ground that the Lord has cursed."³²⁵

The truth of God's statement in Genesis 3:17 was quickly distorted with the error that God cursed the earth.

Frankly, God did little to correct the idea until the coming of Jesus, though He hinted at it repeatedly. Lamech said and taught the same lie that has been believed by multiplied millions of people over the centuries. They have believed that somehow God is responsible for the curse, either by permission or commission. They have believed that God is the author of sickness and disease. They also believe that hurricanes and

³²⁰ Genesis 1:4, 6

³²¹ Gen. 1:31

³²² 2 Cor. 4:4. The gospel brings people out of darkness. See Acts 26:18.

³²³ We are supposed to grow up in the Word so we can distinguish between good and evil or truth and error. (Heb. 5:12-14, 1 John 4:6)

³²⁴ Gen. 3:17

³²⁵ Gen. 5:29

tornadoes are the work of God.³²⁶ It was actually satan that caused a great storm that almost sank Jesus' boat. Jesus rebuked the storm. Do you think Jesus was rebuking God? Of course not!³²⁷ He was rebuking the adversary, and not God. So much for the ignorant "acts of God" clause in insurance policies!

All Sickness and Disease is Satanic Oppression

If you hear it taught that God is the author of sickness and disease, either by permission or commission, then read the correction of that false idea that the apostle Peter gives in his teaching:

Acts 10:38

God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power and He went everywhere healing all that were oppressed of the devil for God was with Him.

According to this verse, all the sick healed by Jesus were oppressed of the devil and not by God. Satan was the oppressor, and the anointing power of the Spirit was the deliverer. Again, a clear line is drawn between what is good and evil, and what is sickness and healing. Also a clear line is drawn between what God does and what the devil does. Thank God for the revelation of the book of Acts, the Gospels, and the rest of the New Testament!

Do we ever hear Jesus saying, "It's God's will for you to be sick," "God has a purpose in your disease," "you just never know if it's the will of God for you to be sick," "it is really a blessing in disguise," or "God is using it to teach you something"? Never, never, and never! We do not even find one verse in the New Testament that alludes to this kind of traditional, ignorant, mixed-up thinking!

How did Jesus treat premature death? Did Jesus say things

³²⁶ Go back to the book of Job and notice that it was Satan that caused "a great wind" (possibly a tornado) to blow that killed his children. Job 2:12, 18.

³²⁷ Mark 4:35-41

like are heard through the mouths of the religiously brainwashed, “the reason your child died is because God needed another angel in His choir,” or “in God’s great wisdom, He saw that this child would deny Him later in life and therefore took the child early.” Did Jesus ever say these things? Never! Jesus raised the prematurely dead from physical death. He did it for Jairus’ daughter, Lazarus, and the one carried from the town of Nain in a funeral procession.³²⁸

Jesus rebuked fevers, cast out evil spirits or demons, ministered life and sustenance to all around Him, gave to the poor, and even forgave sins. All this was the perfect will of God demonstrated through Him. He was the light, the truth, and the way.³²⁹ He came and separated the truth from the lie of satan.³³⁰ He separated light from darkness, life from death, and the curse from the blessing. He came to draw a clear distinction forever. He came to reveal God’s true nature. He came to only do the will of God. He expressed it with love, healing, miracles, provision, and divine protection. Repeatedly, this is seen in the Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. There we have a revelation of what are the works of God! There we see what really pleases God!

Jesus was the exact image of God, the best representation of what God’s nature is really like, and what is His real work, a work of absolute goodness and blessing.

Please study these verses: John 5:19,30, 4:34, 8:28,29, John 14:9,10,24, Hebrews 1:1-3, Colossians 1:15 to see that Jesus was the exact and perfect representation of God’s nature in human flesh! To believe anything else is to deny the Gospels and the entire New Testament Scriptures. Who was Jesus anyway? He was God manifested in human flesh!³³¹ If God puts disease, poverty, or any part of the curse on people, why is it that Jesus never put sickness, disease, poverty, death, or any part of the

³²⁸ Mark 5:38-43, John 11:39-44, Luke 7:11-17

³²⁹ John 8:12, 14:6

³³⁰ John 8:44, 45

³³¹ John 1:1-3, 14, 1 Tim. 3:16

curse on anyone? He was God in the flesh, yet God in the flesh went everywhere relieving people from the curse. He never put the curse on anyone.

The Bible is a Progressive Revelation

What I presented in the previous paragraphs is why we must understand that the entire Bible is a progressive revelation that only comes into full view in the Gospels and the rest of the New Testament Scriptures. Much was not revealed under the Old Testament Scriptures. Satan and his works remained a mystery for the most part. God got blamed for many things that He was actually not involved in.

Some things were left as a secret, or a mystery, and others were never explained.³³² Even the prophets under the Old Covenant were not privileged to understand many things that they prophesied about.³³³ Not even the apostles were able to get a deeper understanding of God's Word as long as Jesus was still on the earth. It was not until Jesus was raised from the dead, and the Holy Spirit had come, that many mysteries were answered. Why? It was going to take a revelation of God's Holy Spirit to make these things known.³³⁴ He is the Spirit of truth, and without Him there is no possibility of determining or distinguishing the difference between the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of error.³³⁵ The truth is the Word of God according to Jesus.³³⁶ The Holy Spirit and the Word are now on the earth working together in the hearts of His people. It is the Holy Spirit of God that will help us to "rightly divide the Word of truth (KJV)", or "accurately handle the Word of truth."³³⁷ This means that there is a wrong way, or an inaccurate way of handling the Word of God. God knows that we have seen a lot of that in our traditional churches and from

³³² See 1 Corinthians 2:6-10, Col. 1:26, 2:17

³³³ Matthew 13:17

³³⁴ John 16:12, 13

³³⁵ John 14:16, 17, 1 John 4:6

³³⁶ John 17:17. The truth is in Jesus according to Paul in Eph. 4:21.

³³⁷ 2 Tim. 2:15

misguided preachers. We trust this study is bringing you light from God's Word.

Jesus Brought Correct Interpretation of the Scriptures

Jesus did not come to destroy or abolish the law (Heb. 'Torah' or the teachings of God) or the prophets, but to fulfill them. Is that all that Jesus meant by this statement in Mathew 5:17? Actually, among the rabbi's of Jesus' day, to "destroy the law and the prophets" was to wrongly interpret the Scriptures. To "establish or fulfill the law and the prophets" was to correctly interpret the Scriptures. These were expressions used by the rabbis when disagreeing over the interpretation of a Biblical text. If the interpretation was wrong in one rabbi's opinion, he would refer to the interpretation as destroying the law and the prophets. If it was a good interpretation given by a colleague, then he was extolled as establishing the law and the prophets.

Jesus came with the purpose of "correctly interpreting the law and the prophets" of the Old Testament. His listeners would have understood this rabbinical phrase. What a revelation! If we will just watch, listen, and learn from Jesus in the Gospels, then our theology will be straightened out! He came to straighten out our theology, our thinking about God. He is still trying to do that! Some have heeded Him, and some have not.

Some have refused to accept His example in the Gospels and have gone about to create a "God" in the image of their tradition. I trust you will think a lot about this previous statement.

Jesus said that the woman that was stooped over for 18 years was actually bound by a spirit that came from satan. God had nothing to do with her being bound by a sickness for 18 years.³³⁸ Jesus said she had a right to be loosed because she was a daughter of Abraham.³³⁹ We also have every right to be healed, loosed and made whole for the same reason, because we are the children of Abraham through faith in Jesus! Glory to

³³⁸ See Luke 13:11-16.

³³⁹ Luke 13:16

God!³⁴⁰

Satan is NOT God's Emissary or His Messenger

The word 'angel' means 'messenger.' Satan was cast out of the messenger service of God forever.³⁴¹ God has a myriad of holy angels that do His bidding. God does not use unholy 'angels,' and satan and his demons are unholy 'angels'.³⁴² God does not need nor does He use the devil. The name of this now unemployed former cherub is satan. In Hebrew this word means: adversary, assailant, enemy, opponent, and the arch enemy of good. We could say it like this, "satan is the epitome, (essence, personification, or embodiment), of all that can be thought of as evil." Now, if we could see and understand that God is the absolute opposite of that, it would correct many misconceptions and erroneous teachings about Him.

James 1:17

Every good thing and every perfect gift comes from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variableness or shadow of changing.

Only good stuff comes from God. Bad stuff comes from the devil. God only has goodness in Him. It is impossible to tempt Him with evil and it is wrong to say that He tempts, tests, or tries anyone with evil. We are commanded:

James 1:13

Let no man say when he is tempted (in Greek it also means 'tested or tried'), **that he is tempted, tested or tried from God, because God cannot be tempted, tested, or tried of evil things, nor does he tempt, test, or try anyone** (with evil things).

³⁴⁰ Galatians 3:7, 9, 14, 29 & also Romans 4:9-16

³⁴¹ Isaiah 14:12-15, Revelation 12:2, 3, 7-9, Luke 10:18

³⁴² Rev. 14:10, Psalms 103:20, 21

Jesus taught that it is satan that brings affliction, persecution, worries of this world, deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things,³⁴³ in order to attempt to rob a person of the Word of God that was sown in their heart.³⁴⁴ For the purpose of clarification, it is not riches that satan brings to steal the Word. It is handling wealth or riches wrongly, or in deceit. The problem is the love of money,³⁴⁵ not knowing who your Source is,³⁴⁶ refusing to be generous,³⁴⁷ and forgetting to give God His tithe out of their income. Some people with no money have been guilty of that!³⁴⁸

None of the names of God in the Bible are “Yehovah- the one that brings on you the curse, sickness, calamity, evil, darkness, poverty, depression, or premature death.” No, a thousand times no! He is YHVH (Yaveh or Yehovah) the one that heals and restores to health - YHVH Rophe. He is YHVH Nissi - the miracle worker! He is YHVH Yir-eh - the provider. He is YHVH Shammah - the ever-present One. He is El Shaddai - the source of life!

The Dividing Line is Clear

Romans 8:2 Lit.

The law of Spirit of life in the anointed Jesus has made you free from the law of sin and death.

The blessing, life, health, abundance, righteousness, etc. is all under the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. The curse, death, sickness, lack, unrighteousness, etc. is under the law of sin and death.³⁴⁹ The dividing line is clear.

³⁴³ Or things that pressure you to respond contrary to God’s Word.

³⁴⁴ See Mark 4:14-19, Matthew 13:18-19.

³⁴⁵ 1 Tim. 6:10

³⁴⁶ Phil. 4:19

³⁴⁷ 1 Tim. 6:17, 18, 2 Cor. 9:6-10

³⁴⁸ Proverbs 3:9, 10, Malachi 3:10, Matt. 23:23 - where Jesus orders us to tithe without forgetting justice, mercy and faithfulness; Hebrews 7:8 - where we are told that we tithe to a new High Priest that lives forever, the Lord Jesus. See the rest of chapter 7 and chapter 3:1.

³⁴⁹ See also Romans 5:12-18.

To make our case even stronger, let us look at what the book of Revelation teaches. I once heard an evangelist say something like this: "If you get what happened at creation, the fall of man, the sacrifice of Jesus, and in Revelation, you will get your theology straightened out." I paraphrased a little for clarity but he was even more succinct by stating: "Get Genesis, Calvary, and Revelation straight and it will straighten out your doctrine." Since we have already written about Genesis and Calvary, we will "clench the nail on the back of the board" with the book of Revelation.

Once satan is removed from human contact, and incarcerated for ever in the lake of fire,³⁵⁰ Revelation 21:4 & 22:3 tells us:

Revelation 21:4, 22:3

There will no longer be anymore death; there will no longer be any sorrow, or crying, or pain...there will no longer be any curse...

Ending Thoughts about this Chapter

I have not dealt with another aspect of the curse. I am speaking about the role it plays when someone is "turned over to satan for the destruction of the flesh" because of continuous rebellion to God and His Word.³⁵¹ These Scriptures are disturbing, to say the least. They are Scriptures of maturity and are not to be trifled with. Those that play with this for some insane reason will get the same judgment they are attempting to bring on someone else. This is not to be used for revenge or because you dislike someone. I would venture to say you may never have to deal with this issue unless you are a pastor or in some other ministerial position of authority. I will not take the time or space to discuss it at length here. My recommendation to all believers is to stay away from any application of what you probably don't understand and are not called upon by God to

³⁵⁰ Revelation 20:10-14

³⁵¹ 1 Cor. 5:1-13

implement.³⁵²

Note one thing: the church has the authority to hand someone in open sin over to satan. They were so aware of their authority that it took the church's permission for satan to have access to this person. Satan had virtually no access to this person in open incest until the church turned him over. Again, we see the truths revealed in Matthew 18:18 and 16:19. The church at Corinth had to allow or permit access to the devil so he could attack this man that was having sexual intercourse with his father's wife. This will certainly shake up traditional church teaching!

Another "no-picnic" truth is that God will turn a person over to the tormentors if they insist on practicing unforgiveness.³⁵³ If you read the analogy Jesus gave there, you will see that a judgment was passed on the man practicing wrongdoing, and that gave access to the tormentors. You will find Scriptures that speak of Israel being once and again turned over to their enemies because of their rebellion.³⁵⁴

The good news is that if we judge ourselves, and do it quickly, we will not be judged, and thus be opening a door to the enemy.³⁵⁵ We should be quick to repent.³⁵⁶ See also Ephesians 5:5-8, where we are commanded to walk as children of light and stay out of the sins of the sons of disobedience, because they are destined for wrath. We are not destined for wrath, and we certainly do not want to be doing things done by the sons of disobedience and thereby get judged as being in that category!³⁵⁷ Like Paul said, "We are persuaded or convinced of better things concerning you."³⁵⁸ Amen to that!

One final point is that there is a real wrath of God, where God is legally bound to release judgment into the earth because His

³⁵² See also 1 Tim. 1:20.

³⁵³ Matthew 18:21-35

³⁵⁴ See ex. in Judges 2:14, 15, 20-23, Ps. 78:61 and others.

³⁵⁵ See 1 Corinthians 11:29-32.

³⁵⁶ Revelation 2:26, 3:3, 1 John 1:9

³⁵⁷ 1Thes. 5:9

³⁵⁸ Heb. 6:9

Word has been given and it must come to pass. Sodom and Gomorrah, the flood in the day of Noah, and at other times, are glaring examples. The book of Revelation is very clear on the subject, and His wrath will be poured out upon the ungodly during a final seven year period called the “great tribulation.” You do not want to be near His wrath in any way! That is one good reason to live our lives free from practicing those things that bring wrath upon the children of disobedience.³⁵⁹ Instead, we must be children of obedience practicing righteousness!³⁶⁰

³⁵⁹ Colossians 3:5-9

³⁶⁰ Romans 6:15-22

Chapter 18

Third Stage: Believing and Receiving

Now that we have straightened out our thinking and believing, we are ready to proceed into a study on what to do to receive. In the process of this study, we will also be debunking other traditional ideas that need to be removed and replaced with God's Word.

Isaiah 53:1, 3-5

Who has believed our report? And to who is the arm of Yehovah unveiled (revealed)... And we hid our faces from Him, He was despised, and we did not value (esteem, honor) Him. Surely He has borne our sicknesses, and He carried our pains; YET we esteemed Him plagued, smitten by God, and afflicted. BUT He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace (wholeness) was upon Him; and by His wounds we are healed.

We already know that this is a reference to Jesus and His great sacrifice for us.³⁶¹ Thank God for what He provided for us through His own death and resurrection. We are delivered from the nature of sin, we have perfect peace (wholeness, prosperity, completeness, etc.), and by the bruises inflicted on Him we have His healing power available to us. He was made sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.³⁶² He suffered our poverty that we might be made rich in provision.³⁶³ By His victory over hell and death we have freedom from the fear of death.³⁶⁴ We now can reign as kings in this life.³⁶⁵ We are delivered from the authority of darkness and translated into the

³⁶¹ Matt. 8:17, 1 Peter 2:24, Romans 10:16 and others

³⁶² 2 Cor. 5:21

³⁶³ 2 Cor. 8:9

³⁶⁴ Heb. 2:14, 15

³⁶⁵ Romans 5:17, Rev. 1: 5, 6

kingdom of His dear Son.³⁶⁶ We are made partakers of the Divine nature.³⁶⁷ We are now blessed with the fullness of the blessing of Abraham, and we are redeemed from all curses!³⁶⁸ There are many more!

If you will meditate on the Scriptures above, and spend some time with them rolling around in your heart, and speaking them out loud, they will begin to transform your life. The presence of the Lord will show up and “show out” at your house. The Holy Spirit will have something to work with in your life, and you will rise up out of defeat into victory, and from all the “woe is us” of the world and dead churches into the joy and power of the Lord.

Notice what we underlined in our opening Scripture reference. The Lord spoke to me about these phrases and how they affect our receiving from Him. If you will study this diligently, it will take your receiving from His Word, His promises, and even through anointed ministers and pastors, to a whole new and more powerful level.

First, it says, “He was despised and we did not value Him.” When you despise someone you do not value them. Despising someone is usually the result of being offended at them, or when you have been offended by them. Keep this in mind as we proceed in our study because it will make even more sense later.

The second underlined portion says, “Yet we esteemed Him plagued, smitten by God, and afflicted.” This is talking about esteeming the wrong thing. Pay close attention to how this portion is connected to the following verse in our Scripture reference.

...Yet we esteemed Him plagued, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace (Heb. "shalom"- as meaning complete and total salvation, deliverance, health and much more) was upon Him; and by His wounds we are healed.

³⁶⁶ Col. 1:13

³⁶⁷ 2 Pet. 1:4

³⁶⁸ Galatians 3:13, 14, 29

Everyone around the cross thought and esteemed that Jesus was plagued, smitten and afflicted by God. They thought God did all that bad stuff to Him as a punishment for saying He was the Son of God, among other things, BUT... that was not it at all according to verse five! There was substitution being implemented. What He did, He did for us, and not because God was afflicting, smiting, or plaguing Him. The word "BUT" is crucial for our understanding. This means that what they were thinking about God putting all that smiting, plaguing, and affliction on Jesus for punishment or for some other reason was entirely wrong. Did you get that? As long as they thought that it was God's affliction, smiting, and plaguing, they could receive nothing from Him! They left out the BUT!

Here's the revelation God gave us for you: As long as you think that it is God smiting, plaguing, and afflicting you, you will never receive what comes after the BUT! Here you have the reason for sick, diseased, poor, defeated, depressed, bound, "woe is us" Christians. They forgot to esteem and value the right thing; that which comes after the BUT! It is only if we esteem properly what comes after the BUT, that we will rise up out of defeat into victory. If you still esteem and value the "woe is us," defeat-minded preaching and teaching of religious churches and ministers you cannot get the benefit of verse 5. If you esteem the message that it is God doing the afflicting, plaguing and smiting of His people, then you will never receive what Jesus did for you in verse 5! If you esteem and value that God is smiting you to teach you something, then you can never be healed or delivered. If you put value to the thinking that this thing plaguing you is a "blessing in disguise," then you can never walk in shalom³⁶⁹ in your life.

It takes believing the report of verse five to receive what Jesus did for you and me.³⁷⁰ It takes having the proper value and

³⁶⁹ This Hebrew word is correctly interpreted by some as "nothing missing and nothing broken."

³⁷⁰ Isaiah 53:1

esteem for His sacrifice in order to receive from it what is provided for us.

Esteem the sacrifice wrong, and you will never walk in it. Value something else above His substitution for us, and you will not get the benefit of His sacrifice. Esteem sickness, poverty, shame, affliction, sin, plagues, and smiting in any way, and you can't have the blessings provided for us. If you think that in any way an evil thing that has come against you is for God's glory, then you will not be able to receive from Him your deliverance. You left out the BUT! As long as a person thinks that their problem or lack is from God, then they will be defeated. Can we say it any clearer?

Is this some isolated text we have taken and used as we saw fit, or is this the precise instructions of the Word of God? Let's explore it some more. Notice how verse 4 of Isaiah 53 is written:

Isaiah 53:4

Surely He has borne our sicknesses, and He carried (away) our pains; YET we esteemed Him plagued, smitten by God, and afflicted.

Surely He did this for us! It is assured, an established fact, that He has borne our sicknesses, and He carried our pain. This means that all my sicknesses and all my pains were suffered by Him. This was His substitution for us! He bore our sickness so that by His stripes or wounds we would be healed! He took my pains so that I no longer have to suffer with them! This is what He did for us, but the people did not esteem or value it, and got nothing from it! He has borne our sicknesses, and He carried our pains, YET many have esteemed the wrong thing. We value the wrong thing by thinking that God was afflicting Him, plaguing Him, and smiting Him.

Once again, esteem that it is God smiting, afflicting and plaguing you, and you cannot get what He did for you as a provision or benefit in your life.

I saw by the Spirit in this verse that the YET has to be

substituted with the BUT!

Listen closely here. You can believe in healing or prosperity, YET if you do not esteem properly what He did for you then you left the BUT out! I have seen Christians that believed in healing and prosperity as a part of Jesus' sacrifice as a matter of belief on the one hand, but maybe thought that their bad situation was permitted or allowed by God to teach them something, and they could not enter into the benefits of the sacrifice. This means that on the one hand you believe His promises because your church believes in them, but on the other hand you doubt that it is for you now. A Christian cannot enter into any of the benefits of the promises of God with this double-mindedness.

James 1:6-8 Lit.

But let him ask in faith, doubting nothing. For the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, being driven by the wind and tossed; for do not let that man think that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded (of two souls) man, not dependable in all his ways.

One can get nothing from God in doubt. Doubt is a lack of trust and obedience to God and His Word. Doubt is a lack of acceptance and reliance. It means your reliance is not on God. In the same way, you can get nothing from the provisions of the sacrifice of Jesus if you are still hanging on to doubt. An individual with two souls is the double-minded person, as it is translated in the KJV. This tells us that there is the possibility to believe the Word in one sense, and to have doubt at the same time. This is a person of "two minds." Believing that Jesus was the Lamb of God sacrificed for us, yet believing that somehow God is behind your affliction, either by commission or permission, is to doubt that Jesus bore all that evil trash for you to make you free. So, what is the result? The result is nothing because that person is not in a position to receive from the Lord. They are in doubt and unbelief, and may not even know it.

That is what happened to many in Israel during Paul's

generation. They refused to believe the sacrifice of Jesus and they got nothing from it. This is why preaching and teaching of the Word of God is essential in churches and through all other ministries. Teaching and preaching the Word causes faith to come and drives out doubt and unbelief. The Word feeds your faith and starves your doubts! I heard one preacher say this many years ago and it is the truth. Get out of any church, meeting or convention that feeds your doubts and starves your faith! Even Christian TV programs that don't feed your faith should be turned off!

Romans 10:14-17

How will they call on one they have not believed? And how will they believe in one they have not heard? And how will they hear without preaching? And how will they preach if they are not sent? Just as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those preaching the gospel of peace, of those preaching the gospel of good things.³⁷¹ But not all obeyed the gospel, for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?"³⁷² Then faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the Word of God.

To believe the report that Jesus died in our place and suffered to set us free is the gospel of peace and preaching good things. Here is another revelation for you: The real gospel or good news must include all that Jesus died for as our substitute and the great provisions of His sacrifice. If the preaching does not ever include these wonderful truths, then it is only a partial Gospel! If all you preach and teach is salvation from sin in the blood, then you are preaching and teaching only a part of the Gospel! We thank God for our salvation from sin through the great sacrifice of Jesus and the new birth, but that is only a part of the Gospel message according to Isaiah 52 and 53! This is precisely what Paul is pointing out in Romans 10. There is more to salvation than "when you die you miss hell and go to Heaven"!

³⁷¹ Is. 52:7: The good things God created for mankind in Eden. (Gen 1:31)

³⁷² Is. 53:1

What about the “hell” working down here on earth? Can we get out of that hell? Yes we can, thank God!

That is the good news of peace that we are to preach and teach. Sadly, many churches do not believe nor preach peace. I'll prove it. The Hebrew word for “peace” is shalom in Isaiah 52 and 53, and it is the word Paul refers to when he uses the word “peace” in all his writings. Here is a definition from the authoritative, respected, and easy to find, Brown, Driver, Briggs Hebrew-English Lexicon.³⁷³

שָׁלוֹם / שָׁלוֹם shalom

- 1) completeness, soundness, welfare, peace
- 1a) completeness (in number)
- 1b) safety, soundness (in body)
- 1c) welfare, health, prosperity
- 1d) peace, quiet, tranquility, contentment
- 1e) peace, friendship
- 1e1) of human relationships
- 1e2) with God especially in covenant relationship
- 1f) peace (from war)
- 1g) peace (as adjective)

“Welfare” is not speaking of the government social program. It means to fare well. It means that it is all good with you. Notice the sum of the provisions for us under this mighty word. We have completeness, wholeness, soundness, peace, safety (Divine protection), soundness (in body), health, prosperity (in finance), and faring well (doing well in all things)! That is the good news of shalom (peace) we are to preach to the world. If you are not doing that then you are not preaching the good news. You are only preaching a part of it! The word “shalom” is used in direct reference to the Gospel. It was written by Isaiah as he was moved upon and inspired by the Holy Ghost.³⁷⁴ The Holy Spirit

³⁷³ The word is in Hebrew #7965 in any dictionary coded to Strong's numbering system. Also, study the root word of *shalom* under the entry 7999 - *shalem*.

³⁷⁴ 2 Peter 1:20, 21

said this through the prophet Isaiah and it is the truth of what must be included in Gospel preaching and teaching!

Churches that reject any part of the SHALOM Gospel should be shunned, that is if you want to get more out of the Gospel than just going to Heaven when you die. If all you want out of life is to die and go to Heaven, then go ahead and stay in a weak, powerless and gutless church. The truth is you will probably go to Heaven before the rest of us that believe and receive healing, divine health and divine protection! Yes, going to Heaven is glorious beyond description, but God has more than the "sweet bye and bye" on His mind for us! He wants us blessed now! If you want to operate in dominion and authority over the works of hell on this planet, you have to get out of dead and unbelieving churches. Why? Just like faith in what Jesus did for us comes by hearing the truths of the Gospel presented in fullness, so doubt and unbelief comes by hearing the lies of the devil in dead churches that refuse the full Gospel! We saw in James 1 that without a solid faith one can get nothing from the Lord. One can only receive the full provisions of the Gospel of shalom where the Gospel is taught in fullness!

Again, this is why so many Christians are weak, sick, and die prematurely. They have not valued and esteemed properly all of what Jesus did for them through His sacrifice.

When Paul was teaching on the Lord's Supper, or the communion table, he was instructing this same thing. As you should know, the communion table is to remind us of the reason Jesus died and shed His blood. It is a powerful reminder of our blood covenant with God and our Divine God-given provisions.

1 Corinthians 11:23-30

For I received from the Lord what I also ministered to you, that the Lord Jesus took bread on the night that he was betrayed; And giving thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body, which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way He took the cup after supper saying, "This cup is the New Covenant in my blood; as often as you drink it, do this in

remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show (proclaim) the Lord's death until He comes. Whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily, will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let him (or her) examine himself, and in that way let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. For he who eats and drinks unworthily eats and drinks condemnation (disapproval, censure) to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many among you are weak and sickly, and many sleep (an early death).

Did you notice that the reason for the celebration is to remind us of His death for us? In other words, we are to be reminded of all that He provided for us through His great sacrifice according to Isaiah 52 and 53! Every time we partake of the table, we should remember all He did for us to save us, deliver us, heal us, prosper us, and make us whole and complete. Not doing that is to partake of the elements of the bread and the cup unworthily. If one participates of the communion table esteeming the sacrifice of Jesus wrongly, one is guilty of the body and blood of the Lord!

Look at the word "unworthily." What does this word mean? What does it mean to partake of the Lord's Supper unworthily? I am going to get a little technical. Bear with me please and you will see why I am emphasizing a Greek study on this word.

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament simply gives the definition of "unworthily," from the Greek word *anaxiōs*, as meaning; "in an unworthy manner." That doesn't really help our understanding much does it? It can also be spelled in transliteration as *anaxios*, without the little squiggly line on top of the "o." These two forms represent the letters omega (ω) and omikron (ο). In Greek both letters have the "o" sound. This last word only adds to our definition; "unfit for a thing."

You are probably wondering, why all this attention to detail? It will teach you how we study these lexicons and get more out of them. I feel sorry for people (and some preachers) that don't see the value of delving into the original languages for study. They miss out of a lot of powerful revelation and understanding.

Sometimes, it can mean the difference between truth and error, so don't underestimate its value.

This Greek word *anaxios* comes from the negative participle "a," and the word *axios*. This is where it all ties together with our teaching from the Word in Isaiah 53. The Greek word *axios* (Strong's #G 514) means: 1) weighing, having weight, having the weight of another thing of like value, worth as much 2) befitting, it is meet, congruous, corresponding, to a thing, it is worth the while, 3) of one who has merited anything worthy.

In Strong's: #G 515 is *axioō* also from this word and it adds to our definition: 1) to think meet, fit, right 2) to judge worthy, deem deserving.

One more and that is #G 516, *axiōs*, and it adds: 1) suitably, worthily, in a manner worthy of.

Notice the words value, worth, befitting, fit, to think "meet," suitable, and judge worthy. There it is. The communion table is a place where we are supposed to value and think of the worth of what Jesus did for us. We are to judge ourselves according to what He did for us! Paul said that people are weak, sickly, and sleep³⁷⁵ (or die prematurely³⁷⁶) because of not doing this. "Sleep" in this context must be referring to dying before you reach a good old age, since every human being will have to die physically at some point in time if Jesus delays His return.³⁷⁷ The reference is to dying before you fulfill a long life. It refers to dying before you finish your labor and fulfill the will of God for your life. This should be an eye opener, but it should also be a warning to us. Let us be of those that properly esteem and value what Jesus did for us through His sacrifice so we do not go to the grave early, or suffer sickness and disease, and live a weak and powerless Christian life. The opposite of this is the truth. If we will value and esteem, judge, and discern properly what Jesus did and provided for us, then we can live protected, long and satisfied

³⁷⁵ 1 Cor. 11:29, 30

³⁷⁶ See 1Thes. 4 and other references.

³⁷⁷ Heb. 9:27

lives,³⁷⁸ live in health and prosperity,³⁷⁹ and live powerful and victorious lives in Christ!³⁸⁰

Receiving what Jesus did for us through His Promises

Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being a priest to me. Since you have forgotten the Law of your God, I will also forget your sons...

Many times we quote the first part of this verse, but there is additional instruction for us in the rest of the verse. We realize that this verse is spoken in the negative, but there is much to learn here on a positive note.

Our goal is to be receivers of the promises of God, and to do the Word so we get demonstrations of God in our lives.³⁸¹ We believe in the power of the gospel, not just the words of it!³⁸² We are those that trust Him in His Word to us, and desire demonstrations of it. We do not have a form of godliness (religious tradition) and deny the power of it!³⁸³ NO! We truly believe that signs (attesting or confirming miracles) are to accompany all true believers.³⁸⁴

Destruction can be avoided or reversed, if we read this verse right. Notice the three things that led to destruction:

1. Lack of knowledge
2. Rejection of knowledge
3. Forgetting knowledge.

1. Lack of Knowledge

³⁷⁸ Psalms 91:10, 16. The entire Psalm teaches us Divine protection.

³⁷⁹ 3 John 2

³⁸⁰ Eph. 3:20, 1 John 5:4, Rom. 5:17, 1 Cor. 15:57, 2 Cor. 2:14, 5:21, 8:9

³⁸¹ 1 Corinthians 2:4, 5, 1 Thessalonians 1:5

³⁸² Romans 1:16

³⁸³ 2 Timothy 3:5

³⁸⁴ Mark 16:17, 18

Ignorance is not bliss, and it can actually kill an individual. Don't attempt to fly a plane or drive an 18 wheeler without some knowledge and practice! This is similar to the plight of being ignorant of the Word.

Ignorance of God's promises, the sacrifice of Jesus, and how to lay hold of our blood sealed rights, can lead to a world of hurt.

One facet of the cure is revelation knowledge from God's Word ministered to your heart by the Holy Spirit, God's revealer of truth.³⁸⁵ We should trust the Lord for "daily bread" from His Word. There is no substitute for spending your own time with the Lord, in the Word, and in prayer. Let the Holy Spirit lead and guide you into all truth today as you approach His Holy Word. Ask the Father in Jesus' Name to breathe on the Word that He leads you to by the power of the Holy Spirit, so that Word can go deep into your heart and begin to produce demonstration in your life. When the Holy Spirit moves on the Word is when miracles happen, just like He did at creation.³⁸⁶

The Holy Spirit is in you if you belong to Christ.³⁸⁷ He is waiting on the Word to take it, breathe on it, and produce the power necessary to bring it to pass in your life!

Remember these words:

Ephesians 3:20

God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all you can ask or think, according to the power that is at work in you.

Will you cooperate with the Holy Spirit? Will you invite Him to bring life to the Word of God you study today?³⁸⁸

Hosea 4:6 reveals why some people live in destruction. We know that the thief is the devil, and he comes to steal, kill, and

³⁸⁵ 1 Cor. 2:7-11, John 16:13

³⁸⁶ Genesis 1:2, 3

³⁸⁷ Romans 8:9

³⁸⁸ John 6:63

destroy.³⁸⁹ Jesus came that we might have life and that more abundantly so we can live above the stealing, killing, and destroying of the enemy! Jesus defeated the enemy through His sacrifice and resurrection.³⁹⁰ That glorious victory has been passed on to us through Him and through His Name!³⁹¹

So why is it that so many are living without these powerful realities in their lives, though they have been provided for through Jesus? A lack of revealed knowledge from the Word as to their inheritance and victory in Christ will cause believers to live way below their rights and privileges, and it could be an open door for destruction on one level or another.³⁹²

Notice the second reason for destruction having a place in people's lives:

2. Rejected Knowledge

Hosea 4:6

...Because you have rejected knowledge...

This is even worse than a lack of knowledge. The first is just ignorance of our rights and privileges in Christ. This one is about hearing the Word, refusing to believe it, and rebelling against the Word. If the first is ignorance then this second one is stupidity! It is being so entrenched in tradition that, even though one hears the Scripture, one refuses the Word because it violates their tradition, upbringing, or thinking on the subject. Sometimes the Word may even violate what you have believed and heard all your life at a local church!

Here's the danger of unbelief and tradition.

Hebrews 3:12, 19

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God....So

³⁸⁹ John 10:10

³⁹⁰ 1 John 3:8, Hebrews 2:14, 15

³⁹¹ Romans 5:17, Philipians 2:9,10, Mark 16:17, 18

³⁹² Colossians 1:12, 13, 1 Corinthians 15:57

we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Please read and study Hebrews chapter 3 and 4. The children of Israel had the promise of entering the rest of the promised land with all its many blessings. Only those that believed the promise of God, and refused to accept the bad report of the majority, were the ones that entered into the promised land.³⁹³

No one can enter into any promise of God as long as they reject it. In other words, rejecting the knowledge of God (His Word or divine promises) will keep one out of God's promises.

We can for sure apply this today with all the bad news floating around! What is the cure for rejecting God's knowledge? The cure is repentance, the acceptance of His Word in humility, and receiving and trusting in Him according to His promises.

For some people, the tradition of men is their number one problem. They hold their traditional ideas closely to their hearts and minds and refuse to believe the Word though they hear it, and sometimes, though they see a demonstration of it right before their eyes!

I personally witnessed a miracle that happened right in front of one traditionally brainwashed individual. He refused to believe that miracles are for us today, so he rejected it. The miracle that was done on his own body was that his withered leg grew out about four inches! At least a dozen people saw it, including yours truly. Do you know what happened? He was shocked at the miracle, rejected it verbally saying he did not believe in miracles, and his leg returned to its previous state. We all saw it when the miracle was withdrawn! Do you know what happened to him? He walked in on crutches and then walked out with them, even though many there received God's miracle and healing power! He refused to believe and rejected God's anointing and power.

Not even Jesus had success ministering healing where His ministry was not accepted, or where they refused to believe the Word.

³⁹³ Numbers 13 & 14

Mark 6:5, 6

And He could do no work of power there, except that He laid His hands on a few sickly folks (Gr. "those with minor ailments"), **and healed them. And He marveled because of their unbelief. And He went around the villages teaching.**

It did not say that He "wouldn't" do works of power there. It said that He "could do no" work of power there, except on those people with "minor ailments." No blind eyes or deaf ears were healed that day. Why? The implication is He wanted to do great miracles, but the unbelief was thick and heavy, and it stopped them from receiving the flow of God's healing power! Look also at the same incident.

Matthew 13:58.

And He did not do many works of power there because of their unbelief.

The cure here is to never reject His willingness, His power or His Word. Open up your heart, mind and hands! Receive in Jesus' Name!

Mark 7:13

...Making the Word of God of no effect through the tradition which you have delivered. And you do many things like these.

Tradition of men is a very real danger to Christians. If one holds tradition as law instead of accepting God's Word as the truth, it will make the Word of zero value in the life of that person. The Word that is not honored and received will have no effect in the life of that person. The opposite is true. The Word that you do accept, embrace, and honor in your life, will have a powerful effect on your life.

The word "effect" in Mark 7:13 above, means: "to render void,

deprive of force and authority."³⁹⁴ Do you realize what this is saying? The traditions of churches, people, ministers, and pastors that violate God's Word and promises are depriving and making void God's Word so that it has no force or authority in people's lives. God and His Word are one according to John 1:1-3. Here is a shocking but true statement: The traditions of men deprive God of using His power to bring deliverance.

Traditions that rejects the clear teachings of God's Word concerning healing, prosperity, wealth, deliverance, the anointing, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and tongues, the miracles, signs, and wonders of God, divine protection, and so many of God's other promises, are depriving God of using His power and authority in people's lives. Talk about the height of arrogance and pride! That is certainly it! Tradition that rejects the Word is the same kind of pride and arrogance that lucifer demonstrated ages ago, and we know where and what that got him. It got him cast out of God's presence and it got him hell. That is not good company! We don't want to identify with that loser in any way.

We pray that today you are delivered from all the traditions of men, women, ministers, and churches that reject the truths of God's Word. We believe that today a new day has dawned in your heart and life to trust and obey the Lord and reject the traditional ways of the dead churches or even those churches with a little life in them.

Jesus came for us to have life, and that more abundantly.³⁹⁵ He has abundance of life on His mind for us, and not just a little "dab" of it! Thank God for His Word and all His divine promises that make us free from the corruption, or destruction, that is operating in this world!³⁹⁶

Lack of knowledge of our rights and privileges in Christ can be devastating, but rejection of the Word of God and His promises is even worse, as we have seen. It is outright rebellion

³⁹⁴ Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament.

³⁹⁵ John 10:10

³⁹⁶ 2 Peter 1:2-4

and unbelief. Now comes one more revelation from this verse.

3. Forgotten knowledge

Hosea 4:6

...Since you have forgotten the Law of your God, I will also forget your sons, even I.

Forgotten knowledge can be ever so subtle, and yet be just as dangerous as the previous two areas we have discussed.

Hebrews 2:1; 2 Peter 3:1, 2

Therefore we should give the more earnest attention to the things which we have heard, so that at no time we let them slip... I now write to you... by reminder I stir up your sincere mind to remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets, and by the command of our Lord and Savior...

Forgotten knowledge is whatever revelation from the Word you have received, but time has passed, and you have let it slip or you quit acting on it. This can also lead to destruction.

The subtlety here is that you drift away from the promises of God back into unbelief, and don't even realize it! We need to go back periodically and refresh ourselves on the truths of God's Word that we already know and have lived upon before today.

Have you ever received a revelation from the Word that delivered you from a bad situation in the past? When was the last time, after that victory, that you went back and meditated on the Word in that particular area? Have you let that area falter and slip? If you have, today is a good day to get back to it again.

Now don't get anxious in this area. That is not going to help you, but the Helper (or Comforter) can and will help you in this if you will look to Him.³⁹⁷ The Holy Spirit will bring back to your memory those things you need to refresh yourself with in the

³⁹⁷ John 14:26, 15:16 and see the seven fold definition of the word "Comforter" in the Amplified Bible. One definition is "Helper."

Word. Trust Him to do it. He knows what area of the Word you need to be studying and meditating upon today. Allow Him to show you, and He will! Trust Him today to lead and to guide you into all truth, and He will!³⁹⁸

Honor for the Word and Anointed Ministry

When the people of Nazareth refused to receive the Word Jesus was preaching, and rejected His anointed ministry, the following was part of His response. Notice closely the underlined words.

Mark 6:4-6

But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, but in his own home town, and among his own family, and in his own house.” And He could do no work of power there, except that He laid His hands on a few sickly folks, and healed them. And He marveled because of their unbelief, and He went around the villages teaching.

A lack of honor for anointed ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word that is ministered by an anointed one will severely limit the power of God that is able to minister to the people.

Look at what follows no honor; no work of power, and unbelief. One minister said it like this; "Go where you are celebrated, and not just tolerated." Why? If people do not honor the message or the messenger then very little can be accomplished. As it was with Jesus, so it will be with any anointed minister today. They may have a powerful anointing on their lives and a glorious message for the people from God, but if it is rejected, it will have very little effect, if any, among the people.

We were invited some time ago to one church that had made an idol of their pastor and thought he was the greatest thing since sliced bread! Little results happened at that church. Why? There

³⁹⁸ John 16:13

was no honor there for the anointing and the ministry of God on another individual other than their "idolized" pastor. That congregation was not receptive to anyone but to their own pastor. The pastor didn't realize the atmosphere he had created by not bringing correction to the congregation when they put him on a pedestal. Some people actually stayed home because they only had ears to hear their pastor preach. A congregation that fouled up in their thinking is the fault of the pastor and his lack of teaching his people to honor the anointing and the Word on other ministers. They got nothing or very little from the anointing and the Word that God had for them when we were there. In other places during that same year where honor was present for the anointing of the Spirit and the message, great results took place. Honor has everything to do with it!

Even Jesus could not do much where His ministry was not received with honor, so why should we think it will be different with us? It all depends on the honor and the faith of the people being ministered to as to what results they get.

Have you ever tried to minister to someone that really didn't appreciate you? Your words to them probably felt like gravel in your mouth. There was no anointing and no "connection." You have the answer from the Lord for them, but they reject it.

There is only one cure for unbelief in these areas, and that is the teaching of God's word. This is precisely what Jesus did after seeing all the dishonor and unbelief towards the Word, His anointing and His ministry... "He went about all their villages teaching." He got more of the Word out!

Isaiah 53:3-5

He is despised and abandoned of men, a man of pains, and acquainted with sickness. And we hid our faces from Him, He was despised, and we did not value Him. Surely He has borne our sicknesses, and He carried away our pains; yet we esteemed Him plagued, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His wounds we are healed.

Remember that we told you that this phrase “we did not value Him” is very significant. It goes right in line with what we are studying on honor. They did not honor Jesus' anointed ministry, and because of it, got no miracles and only some minor healings?³⁹⁹ The same incident in Matthew 13:58 said that Jesus marveled at their unbelief. It was unbelief that caused them not to receive any mighty miracles. They refused to accept His ministry and anointing and got very little! This correlates to what we saw about letting tradition and a refusal to believe stop people from receiving. We want to do the opposite. We want to learn to receive!

Healing at the “Right” Time

Let's go ahead and kick over some more “sacred cows”!

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2

To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heavens: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot what is planted...

These verses were immortalized by Solomon, and by the song of the Mama's and the Papa's in the 60's. Many try to apply this to the Christian life. This verse is giving us the world's perspective and the heathen point of view. I'll show you what I mean. This was Solomon telling us how the world thinks, and not how God thinks. He actually calls it empty headed thinking or “vanity” in 3:20. Solomon was not referring to a standard we should live by or a doctrine that Christians should espouse!

This same portion of Scripture we quoted above continues by saying, “A time to kill, and a time to heal...a time to love, and a time to hate.” It has to be speaking in general terms according to the world's criteria. If this was meant for Christians then get ready to kill somebody because there is “a time to kill.” Not only that but

³⁹⁹ Mark 6:5-6

you are going to have to "hate" some people too. That goes against everything taught in New Testament, especially in 1 John about love! This is the world's criteria and perspective and not God's!

We have another problem with this verse, because healing is a provision of the covenant in our redemption. It is available 24/7, 365 days a year. Healing is a settled fact.⁴⁰⁰ There is not a "time" to get healing according to the New Testament.

The woman with the issue of blood came in the multitude behind Jesus and touched the hem of His garment, for she said, "If I can touch the hem of His garment I will be made whole." She did it, and was instantly healed. She never asked Jesus for permission or for "the right time" to get healed. As she believed, spoke, and then acted by faith, it was done to her. Jesus even said that it was her faith that caused healing power to be released in her. Let me say it outright: **She set the time for her healing with her faith.**⁴⁰¹

The same could be said of the man let down through the roof. They didn't wait to get some special time for healing. They did not wait until it was the right time to get healed. They went for it and got it by faith!⁴⁰² There are many other examples in the New Testament of this same truth.

Here is one that will set you free from any unscriptural ideas along these lines. Do you remember the wedding feast at Cana? They ran out of wine. Mary, Jesus' mother, came to Him and informed him that they had no more wine.

John 2:4

**Jesus said to her, Woman, what do I have to do with you?
My hour has not yet come.**

Jesus at first was reluctant to do anything because "my hour has not yet come." It was not yet time for Jesus to move fully into His divine mission in ministry.

⁴⁰⁰ On our Articles page, read *God's will to Heal*.

⁴⁰¹ Mark 5:25-34

⁴⁰² Luke 5:17-26

"See brother, sometimes we have to wait for the right time. It may not be in God's time for you to have your healing or deliverance." That is what tradition and unbelief believes and preaches, but what does the Bible say about all this?

Jesus' mother had a completely different attitude in the matter. She did not respond to him, "I understand. Let's pray and see if it's the will of God for us to wait until in His great wisdom He decides when it is the right time for a miracle or for a healing." No! She never skipped a beat, and she never backed down from her faith. She completely ignored the "it's not my time" statement!

John 2:5

His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

It is obvious that she believed that all things are possible with God right now! She believed that if she got the Word on the matter, then the impossible could be made possible. Not only was Jesus the Word made flesh standing in front of her, but Mary had believed the Word while still a virgin girl and she got a supernatural birth from God!⁴⁰³ She totally disregarded Jesus' statement about His time not yet coming. This is an important revelation for us today. We need more faith actions in the church that totally disregard normal time and its limitations, and get over into God's supernatural realm of where time is no time.

Here's the problem in a nutshell, in Mary's own words in John 2:5. People are not doing whatever He tells them to do. **Doing whatever He tells you to do is the key to a supernatural manifestation, and there is abundant proof of this in these verses.**

You may know the story. Jesus immediately turns to the servants and tells them what to do. They obeyed without question, and voila, there was the miracle of the water turned into wine! Now don't rationalize it when Jesus tells you what to do, because it may seem like the craziest thing you have done in all

⁴⁰³ John 1:14, Luke 1:37, 38

your life. That day was a good example of doing something completely out of the box in simple obedience to the Lord! You just have to do it, not rationalize it, and trust God for the miracle!

Filling water pots with water, and then taking it to the head master of the wedding feast, and serving him from those water pots, seemed plenty "estupido." It was an impossible situation where God's unlimited and supernatural power manifested and the impossible became possible.

Here's the powerful revelation in these verses that applies beautifully to our subject:

It may not have been the time for Jesus to do a miracle yet, but by Mary putting her trust in God, and their total obedience without question to His command, the future time was changed into the now!

May I give you one more example? It's our study as we are led by the Holy Spirit, and He gave us one more, so we are going to give it to you anyway, so get ready for it!

John 5:1-7

Now there is a pool at the Sheep Gate at Jerusalem, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, withered, all waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and troubled the water. Then whoever first stepped in after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. And a certain man was there, who had a sickness for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying, and knowing that he had spent much time, He said to him, Do you desire to be made whole? The sick man answered Him, Sir, when the water is troubled; I have no one to put me into the pool. But while I am coming, another steps down in front of me.

Notice please the portions we underlined. For 38 years this man was waiting to be healed. Are you still waiting for your deliverance?

This paralyzed man was waiting for a "certain time" to get

healed. As long as the paralyzed man was waiting for the special time of healing, where the waters were stirred up by an angel, he got nothing! Jesus had a completely different attitude. He knew how much time the man had "spent" sitting there. Jesus knew that what he was waiting for was a waste of time!

How much time have you been wasting, waiting to get something from God instead of by faith receiving it by obeying whatever instructions He gives you to act on?

Here is something else. After 38 years of waiting around, sick and paralyzed, Jesus asks the man what seemingly is a very insensitive question. He asks the paralyzed man, **"Do you desire to be made whole?"**

Here's the way traditional mindsets think and would have responded to this scenario:

"What did you say to this poor sick man Jesus? Why would you ask such a "harsh" thing from a man that has been to multiplied hundreds of healing meetings, and God did not see fit to heal him?" Why not "comfort" him and tell him, "It is OK my child. I understand that it may not always be the will of God for us to get healing. We may never get it. Sometimes God has a purpose in our crippling disease. You just never know what God will do. It's a mystery. We sometimes just have to wait and see if it's God's will for us."

First of all, that nonsense in the above paragraph is not the comfort of the Holy Spirit. His anointing and power is for healing and deliverance. That is His real comfort!⁴⁰⁴ That other idea of "comfort" we quoted above was a lying and false "comfort." It was satan's lies masquerading as "comfort." It wasn't even Scriptural pity or compassion. Jesus' compassion moved Him to heal the sick and perform miracles, not apply "traditional salve" to their pains by lying to them about the truth as recorded in the Word!⁴⁰⁵

Secondly, it was not OK for the man to stay sick in Jesus' thinking. Jesus knew that God was a healing and delivering God

⁴⁰⁴ Luke 4:18, Acts 10:38

⁴⁰⁵ Matthew 14:14, 15:30-38 and many more.

from the Scripture. Here is a good example.

Exodus 23:25

And you will serve Yehovah your God, and He will bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from the midst of you.

Not only that, Jesus intimately knew the Father, and was the Father's perfect representation on the earth!⁴⁰⁶ If you saw Jesus in action, you were seeing what the Father would do in the same situation.

Why would Jesus ask such a thing like, "Do you desire to be made whole?" Why would you ask this of a man that had been waiting for 38 years to be healed? Shouldn't it be obvious the man wanted healing? After all, he was going to the healing meetings every day for 38 years. He was in a place where healing was being offered every single one of those 38 years, yet he got nothing! Oh-Oh! Healing meetings and all, the man was still sick. Something was not right with the man's faith and desire to receive. Something was way off even after waiting around to get healed for 38 years. This man had a spiritual connection problem. The man was in a waiting mode instead of a receiving mode. Did you get that? Let me state it again: He was in a waiting mode instead of a receiving mode for 38 years. That is one prominent reason many do not receive.

Jesus got this man's attention with the question, and the man answers that he doesn't have anyone to help him get into the healing waters. Again, Jesus totally disregards his waiting mode response and gives him a faith command by the power of the Holy Spirit that was on Him.

John 5:8, 9

Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed and walk"! And immediately the man was healed and took up his bed and walked.

⁴⁰⁶ John 14:9

The man obeyed without question. Jesus' words were given, and the healing miracle took place when the man obeyed the Lord. Time wasting was over right then, the man got his legs back, and a new life with it!

Chapter 19

Elements and Realities of the Life of Faith to Help you Receive

Mark 11:24 Lit.

Whatever things you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted to you.

The translation above captures faith truths with the phrase from the Greek, "believe that you have received them." According to Jesus, the prayer of faith believes that you have received. What does that mean? It means we trust in God that it is a "done deal" before you can see it or even feel it. You rest in the fact that you have your answer before seeing the manifestation of it. Jesus used these words as part of the explanation of what it means to "have faith in God."⁴⁰⁷ So, if this is the "prayer of faith" then the Word and promises of God must be involved.⁴⁰⁸ Faith comes by the hearing and hearing the Word of God.⁴⁰⁹ It is impossible to separate faith from the Word. The prayer of faith is always based on the Word or the promises of God. This is one big reason people pray and get nothing; they pray without the foundation of answered prayer which is the Word.

If there is a prayer of faith, then there is the opposite as well: "the prayer of unbelief." That is the wrong kind of prayer based on ignorance and tradition. It is the prayer that is contrary to "believe that you have received" when you pray. Unbelieving prayer is praying without God and His Word. It is depending on the natural as your proof as to whether your prayer was heard or not. That is the kind of prayer that will not receive anything from the Lord. It is not a prayer that is heard by God. God does not hear unbelieving praying. God only hears prayers with faith in them, regardless of what kind of prayers they are. It is impossible

⁴⁰⁷ Mark 11:22

⁴⁰⁸ Also note the phrase the prayer of faith in James 5:14, 15.

⁴⁰⁹ Romans 10:17

to please God without faith. One must believe that He is faithful and that He will reward those that diligently seek Him.⁴¹⁰ Does the Bible actually teach that God does not hear doubting prayers, or is this some “extreme” doctrinal viewpoint? Are we just being uncompassionate, unkind, difficult and “hard” by saying this, or does the Bible teach this in clear language? Let’s read it.

James 1:6.7

But let him ask in faith, doubting nothing. For he who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven by the wind and tossed. Do not let that man think that he will receive anything from the Lord...

This is the reason many pray and receive nothing. They pray but their prayer is amiss or off target.⁴¹¹ If you expect your prayer to come boldly before God then you must pray with faith and not doubt. That is how you have confidence before God that he hears your prayer.⁴¹² Prayers of doubt, fear, desperation or exasperation are ignored by God because they have no faith in them. He is not listening to that mess and we should never pray like that! We must pray in faith and not doubt if we expect results.

Doubt is dispelled when we know what God says in His Word and receive it as a personal word from God to us. Doubt is eradicated as we meditate on His Word day and night.⁴¹³

Again, the opposite of a prayer that receives nothing from the Lord is that you will receive a manifestation of whatever you ask for when you believe (trust and obey) and do not doubt! We must lay hold of, embrace, and take what the Word tells us is our right and inheritance in Christ.

We want to give you more to go on for your study than the "short version" statements above. We want to give you a working understanding of some of the elements and realities of the faith

⁴¹⁰ Hebrews 11:6, Romans 14:23

⁴¹¹ James 4:3

⁴¹² Heb. 4:16 and 1 John 5:14, 15. Prayer according to the will of God is to pray according to His Word and His promises to us.

⁴¹³ Psalms 1:1-3, Joshua 1:8

life. Though you may think you are familiar with this kind of praying, note the following important truths concerning faith that will develop you in Christ along the lines of prayer, commanding, acting, and trusting.

The Greek word for "receive" is "lambano" in Mark 11:24. It is an awesome word. In it are revealed facets of faith that every believer should master. This Greek word is so anti-tradition that it makes even brain-dead religions have a fit!

Here is the Greek lexicon's meaning of this massive word:

To take, lay hold of anything in order to use it, to make one's own, to claim, of that which when taken is not let go, to seize, to lay hold of, apprehend, to take to one's self, take possession of, i.e. to appropriate to one's self, to obtain, to admit, to receive what is offered, not to refuse or reject, to take, to choose, select, to receive (what is given), to gain, get, to get back.

All these definitions are meaningful. Can you see how this word has within it many truths regarding faith? There is a part that you must do, a real faith that only you can activate in order to receive, lay hold of, obtain, possess, choose, appropriate, seize, and lay claim to that blessing, that provision, that promise, that Word from God, or you will get nothing. Your involvement is required, as far as your choice is concerned. Your involvement is your choice to receive or reject, to obey or rebel, to accept or refuse, to welcome or slam the door on it, to invite or to prohibit entrance to, acknowledge or resist, to permit or forbid, to take hold of or to let go, to lay claim of or to let it pass on by you. Your choice is at the heart of this. Right choice is your obedience to Him. It is your faithful loyalty to Him, on a consistent basis, that opens the way into a life of blessing. Go back and really meditate on these truths.

Colossians 3:24

...Knowing that from the Lord you will RECEIVE the

reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Anointed One.

Romans 5:17

...they who RECEIVE abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by One, Jesus the Anointed One.

1 Corinthians 4:7

...What do you have that you did not RECEIVE?

Galatians 3:14

...That we might RECEIVE the promise of the (Holy) Spirit through faith.

No part of our bought and paid for inheritance will automatically come into your life without receiving it. Though it has been bought and paid for, it must be embraced and received! You have to lay hold of, claim it and possess it. Those that make fun of and deride “claiming” the promises of God by faith are ignorant of what faith is, and what it means to receive by faith. I certainly believe in the “name it and claim it” that is according to the Word of God. It is Scriptural as long as what I am naming and claiming is not the property of another believer. No, you can’t get over into covetousness and name and claim a car that belongs to someone else, but you can sure trust God for your own! Those that deny these truths simply don’t know their Bibles.

Faith is an integral part of receiving. Nothing in God functions apart from it. It is impossible to please God without faith.⁴¹⁴ Everything you receive from God will only come by faith. The thought, “according to your faith it will be done for you,” is repeated often, in one way or another, in Jesus’ own words.⁴¹⁵

Trust and being fully persuaded of what God says is first. Then follows refusing to be moved based on what your natural eyes see, and only looking to God and His Word. Faith comes

⁴¹⁴ Heb. 11:6

⁴¹⁵ Mat. 8:13, 9:22, 29, 14:31, 15:28, 17:19, 20, Luke 7:50, 8:50, 17:19, Mark. 4:40, 5:34 and numerous references in John’s Gospel to “believe.”

from hearing and hearing from the Word of God.⁴¹⁶ Trust is birthed from the Word we receive into our spirits. Our confidence and full persuasion is based on what God says. Our refusal to be swayed from the Word of His promise, and our consistent and enduring stand, will open up a doorway in the realm of the spirit that will bring a manifestation from the Holy Spirit into the natural realm. That is real faith. Faith takes possession of what is our inheritance in Christ in the unseen realm and causes it to come into the realm of physical reality. These are all realities as well as elements of the true nature of faith, a part of the spirit of faith.⁴¹⁷

Faith is also the refusal to accept any evidence contrary to the Word and the promises of God, and it is the rejection of that which is contrary to God and His Word. Refusal and rejection according to faith based on the Word are not denial.

Denial is a natural human response to tragedy or loss, or even a big problem, where the physical brain goes "tilt" because it cannot handle the crisis. We are not speaking about denial at all. In faith there is an inherent refusal and rejection of sensory evidence contrary to what God says, but that is not denying reality. We are not denying reality but by faith we are superseding it! That is a big difference. Faith is doing something about natural reality with spiritual power. Denial can do nothing about its circumstance, and the circumstance is in control of the one in denial. The faith person has available spiritual realities that can overpower and change any circumstance. Faith can and will do something if we allow it to do its job.⁴¹⁸

Spiritual refusal and rejection are a stand in the Spirit where you refuse natural fact any permanent place because of the higher spiritual truth. It is the application of spiritual principals to natural facts, until the natural lines up with the truth. What are we saying? When we hold spiritual truth up against natural fact, the spiritual truth will change the natural fact. The truth is always,

⁴¹⁶ Romans 10:17

⁴¹⁷ 2 Cor. 4:13

⁴¹⁸ Study 1 John 5:4 and Heb. 11 to see the possibilities of faith. Jesus said that to the believing one, all things are possible to him that believes. (Mark 9:23)

"Thus saith the Lord." The truth is always what God has said in His Word!⁴¹⁹ That truth supersedes all natural fact. It is when it is believed and acted upon that God's power will come on the scene and change the natural fact to line up with the supernatural truth!

Natural fact may say you have a certain sickness or disease, but God's eternal and supernatural truth is that Jesus took your sicknesses and that by His stripes you are healed.⁴²⁰ Believe the Word and trust God in that truth and no sickness or disease will be able to stick to you!

In years gone by, some foolishly believed that faith for healing meant that you should first quit taking any medicine ordered by the doctor. NO! Faith for healing means I establish the superior truth of God's Word that will remove any sickness and then, and only then, I will have no more need for the medicine because the healing has removed the need my body had for it. Stopping to take diabetes medicine will never heal you. No! God's healing power at work in your body will first drive out the disease from your body and then and only then will you have no more need for the medicine. Between the time you pray the prayer of faith and the time you know in your body that you are healed and no longer need the medicine to survive, if there is any gap of time, we refuse to let go of our faith in the Word and trust God that we are healed before we see it and before we feel it. Then the results or manifestation will show up physically, and then we no longer need the medicine. If there is a time gap, stick to getting your mind renewed by the Word on healing and keep your mouth, heart and your thoughts straight and refuse all doubt.

I hope that helps you and never deters you from believing for a now miracle. I certainly focus on instant miracles and expect them every time I minister. We do want to explain this other side so some people don't get crazy thinking we are saying to throw away your heart medicine (or some other vital medicine) in order

⁴¹⁹ John 17:17

⁴²⁰ Isaiah 53:4, 5, Matthew 8:16, 17, 1 Peter 2:24

to get healed. We have never preached or taught anything like that and never will. People that have been taking medicine for a long time sometimes need a change on the inside from trusting in the medicine to trusting in God's Word. That may not happen overnight. It may take some time to change what you see and believe about yourself on the inside through the Word and the Spirit. Don't fret or be dismayed. Your victory is at hand if you will only trust and obey!

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Faith gives substance to expectation (meaning of hope), and faith is the evidence of the unseen realm. Faith is never in the "was" or the "will be" realm of time. Notice the "now" aspect of faith. It has two present tense words surrounding it. *Now* and *is* are on both sides of the word faith in Hebrews 11:1. They are the support of faith in the realm of timelessness, the realm of the spirit, the realm of the supernatural. This is a necessary ingredient to the faith of God - the realm of I AM where this kind of faith operates. It is not in the "I was" or in the "I will be" someday realms, but it is in the realm of the "I AM" now. God is the Great "I AM" and He only functions in that realm alone.⁴²¹ This faith we are speaking about is the supernatural faith that was deposited in your heart when Jesus became the Lord of your life.⁴²² It is from God and therefore can only function in His realm. That is why Jesus said that we are to "believe that we have received it when we pray."

It is a believing now as a present reality before you can see it or feel it. It is trusting that it is done at the moment of the prayer of faith that is based on His Word. Instead of looking at the circumstance you look at what God says in His Word as your solution, your truth, your spiritual reality.

⁴²¹ Exodus 3:14

⁴²² Romans 12:3, Ephesians 2:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.⁴²³ This means that He never changes. He is forever the same, in the now, in the "right now." This faith operates in the now just like Jesus is always and forever in the now, the same. Why does this kind of faith that created the universe only function in the realm of now?⁴²⁴ It goes beyond the past and the future. It brings into the present world what is in the realm of the eternal. Faith bridges the eternal with this realm of the natural. It takes "now" trusting, "now seeing the unseen as a seen reality," before the unseen can overtake the seen, and bring forth a manifestation.

I know that sounded difficult, but simply stated, faith refuses to trust in the seen if it is contrary to what the Word says, and it will reject natural circumstance that opposes God's promises. Faith trusts in the Lord, and in His Word as the truth of the matter instead of what natural circumstances may dictate. The unseen of God is the truth according to His Word. The seen is the changeable fact that responds to the authority and power of this kind of now trust in God's unchangeable Word.⁴²⁵

Romans 4:17

(As it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") before God, whom he believed (trusted and obeyed), who makes the dead alive, and calls the things that do not exist as though they do exist.

Calling things that do not exist as though they do exist is at the heart of getting a manifestation of the supernatural promises of God in your own life. This is a central truth of "believing you have received" when you pray.

Watch how Jesus used this great truth repeatedly in His ministry. Let me give you a few examples:

Woman you are loosed from your infirmity...⁴²⁶

⁴²³ Hebrews 13:8

⁴²⁴ Hebrews 11:3

⁴²⁵ 2 Corinthians 4:18

⁴²⁶ Luke 13:11-13

Jesus said this before the woman was straightened up and before He ever laid hands on the woman for healing.

The child is not dead but is asleep...⁴²⁷

He said this after the child was dead for hours. Was Jesus lying? No way! He was speaking or calling the things that do not exist as though they did exist so that they can exist in the realm of the natural world.

Go show yourselves to the priests...⁴²⁸

He said that to ten lepers before they were healed. No lepers could present themselves to the priesthood until they were healed.⁴²⁹

Before Abraham had a child, and before there was ever any physical evidence of any kind, God said, "**I have made you** a father of many nations." God did not say, "I will make you someday..." He said, "I have made you..." Remember, "Now faith is!"

Now notice that he believed what God said to him, "as it is written." You can always trust in the "now" truth of the written Word and believe it just like it is written. He believed what God said because it had not been written yet. (Rom. 4:18) You can believe a spoken Word from God just like you can a written Word.

The word *before* in the phrase "before God whom he believed" means "in the face of" God. (Rom. 4:17) Thank God that He makes the dead live and He calls things that do not exist as though they did exist! We can do the same as imitators of God!⁴³⁰

⁴²⁷ Mark 5:35-42

⁴²⁸ Luke 17:12-14

⁴²⁹ See Leviticus 14.

⁴³⁰ Ephesians 5:1

Romans 4:18

Against hope he believed in hope, in order to become a father of many nations, according to what was said, "So will your seed be."⁴³¹

Against all natural hope, he put His trust in the expectation (the real meaning of Bible hope) that God would do what He said He would do.

Romans 4:19

And being about a hundred years old, not bring weak in faith; he did not consider his body as being already dead, nor the deadness of Sarah's womb.

Sarah was a 90 year old woman when she gave birth to her son Isaac. It came to pass as Abraham refused to consider his old body or the body of his 90 year old wife! He trusted and stood firm on God's promise until it showed up at his house.

Romans 4:20

And did not stagger through unbelief at the promise of God, but was empowered by faith, giving God the glory.

He gave God glory for it all along before he could see his son. He was convinced by God's Word to him. He knew his God was a faithful God. He refused to stagger at God's promise regardless of his age and the age of his wife. He refused to accept defeat, and he made up his mind and heart that God would bring to pass in his life what he had promised him.

Romans 4:21

And being fully persuaded that what He has promised, He is able to do it.

His Word has to be a settled issue in your spirit, and then you can stand on it in faith and obedience. That is what Abraham did

⁴³¹ This last phrase was Paul quoting from Gen. 15:5.

and he got his miracle. There is no way to be loyal and faithful to the Lord until His Word becomes settled in your spirit. Abraham's faith was a determined and unswerving trust. It was a "sold out" attitude. As far as Abraham was concerned it was an accomplished fact. The promise of God must become settled in you by your reception and submission to it. It becomes a settled issue when you go beyond acceptance and actually honor and respect His Word in your heart, thoughts, mouth and actions. That is what Abraham did and that is what we must do as well in order to receive.

Here it is again: "believe that you have received it when you pray." You have the Word and His promises. Now lock your faith into trusting that it is done now in your life. Be fully persuaded that it is done unto you according to His Word. Lay hold of the fact that what is promised to you in the Word is your right in Christ and your inheritance. Stake your claim, and stand on that promised Word as a present reality, until it overwhelms the natural circumstance. Embrace the truths about His great sacrifice for you. You are a redeemed of the Lord so now it is time to fill your mouth with His mighty and all-inclusive deliverance on your behalf.⁴³² God is no respecter of persons, and if He ever did it for one, He will do it for you!⁴³³ So lay hold of His Word to you now by taking it, receiving it, appropriating it, taking possession of it, seizing it, confessing it, obeying it, and acting on it.

I pray for you in the Name of Jesus that great miracles be done in your life today!

⁴³² Psalms 107:2

⁴³³ Acts 10:34

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