BOOK OF HEBREWS CHAPTER 9 Part II

Book of Hebrews Chapter 9 Part II 1-18-15

Heb 9:1-14

v. 3 (NKJV) and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, 4 which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; [Deut 10:1-5]

The golden censer is only mentioned twice in the New Testament and both are in a position of His presence and of His throne.

Rev 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

One of the analogies the Lords uses of His people in the New Testament is that we are “His holy temple” of the Lord, which is the Greek word “the naos”. The naos of the New Testament is the Holy of Holies of the Mosaic Tabernacle, the dwelling place of the presence of the Lord. We are not only to inner the presence of the Lord but to carry it with us.

v. 8 (NIVUS) The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still standing.

Heb 10:19-23

v. 19 (Amp) Therefore, brethren, since we have full freedom and confidence to enter into the <Holy of> Holies <by the power and virtue> in the blood of Jesus,

v. 22 (Wms) let us continue to draw near to God with sincere hearts and perfect faith; with our hearts cleansed from the sense of sin, and our bodies bathed in clean water;

Eph 2:21 in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple *[naos]* in the Lord,

John 4:23 (Amp) A time will come, however, indeed it is already here, when the true (genuine) worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth (reality); for the Father is seeking just such people as these as His worshipers. 24 God is a Spirit (a spiritual Being) and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth (reality).

Bro. Bill Johnson says, “The children of Israel camped, or gathered, around the presence of God, where the modern church seems to gather around a message or a preacher.”

Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not just a onetime experience. The Holy Spirit is our source of heavenly power. He is the heavenly realm resident within our life as we live and move in that power.

Rom 8:11 (NAS95) But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

*(Wms) “…through His Spirit that has His home within you.”*

John 20:21 (Amp) Then Jesus said to them again, Peace to you! <Just> as the Father has sent Me forth, so I am sending you. 22 And having said this, He breathed on them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit!

Matt 18:18 (NAS95) "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound *[TVM: Aorist, Active, Subjunctive]* in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

Act 1:8 (NKJV) "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.…”

I Cor 4:20 For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.

“Power forces a decision.” Am I going to look at a difficult situation through my own reasoning or allow the resident power and grace of the Lord to bring me not only through it but to victory?

Heb 5:14 [NAS95] But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

Matt 10:8 (NKJV) "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

Gal 1:15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by his grace,

Oswald Chambers wrote, “Keep your life so constantly in touch with God that His surprising power can break through at any point. Live in a constant state of expectancy, and leave room for God to come in as He decides.”

Act 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. 26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.

Too often we look at difficulties and say why me, Lord? Instead of Lord who are you going to allow me to touch for your glory though these events?

My Utmost 1-25, look at “suddently”

We are to “Practice His Presence.”

Eph 2:6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Eph 3:10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,

Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Bro. Bill Johnson says, “Honor is an expression of the excellence which is a manifestation of wisdom. Honor is valuing a person for who they are without stumbling over who they are not. We need to find the treasure in a person and celebrate it.”

“The Law requires but Grace enables.”

Heb 9:16-28?

Heb 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

v. 2 (Amp) For if it were otherwise, would <these sacrifices> not have stopped being offered? Since the worshipers had once for all been cleansed, they would no longer have any guilt *or* consciousness of sin.

v. 3 But in those *sacrifices there is* a remembrance again *made* of sins every year. 4 For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. [Read Heb 1:3 in Amp. *”riddance of guilt’*]

Heb 1:3 (Amp) He is the sole expression of the glory of God <the Light-being, the out-raying or radiance of the divine>, and He is the perfect imprint *and* very image of <God’s> nature, upholding *and* maintaining *and* guiding *and* propelling the universe by His mighty word of power. When He had *by offering Himself* accomplished *our* cleansing of sins *and* riddance of guilt, He sat down at the right hand of the divine Majesty on high,

Rom 8:3 (NKJV) For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Heb 7:11 [Phil] If it were possible to bring men to spiritual maturity through the Levitical priestly system (for that is the system under which the people were given the Law), why does the necessity arise for another priest to make his appearance after the order of Melchizedek, instead of following the normal priestly calling of Aaron?

v. 10 (Amp) For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will imprint My laws upon their minds, even upon their innermost thoughts *and* understanding, and engrave them upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

v. 12 (NLT) And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.”

Ps 103:10 [NAS 95] He has ﻿﻿not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high ﻿﻿as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who ﻿﻿fear [revere] Him. 12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He ﻿﻿removed our transgressions from us.

v. 13 (NLT) When God speaks of a “new” covenant, it means he has made the first one obsolete. It is now out of date and will soon disappear.

Isa 25:6-10a

You’re a new creation in Christ Jesus old things are passed away, behold all things are becoming new.

Prov 18:21 “Life and death are in the power of the tongue…”

Life and death are in the power of the tongue. The Lord said, “I came to give you life.” The Christ only speaks life.

Satan only speaks that which produces death and does not care whose tongue he uses.

Isa 53:1 Who has believed [to stand firm, to trust, to be certain] our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

*(NLT) Who has believed our message? To whom has the LORD revealed his powerful arm?*

Ga 3:19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator <3316>.

Ga 3:20 Now a mediator <3316> is not a mediator of one, but God is one.

BETTER PROMISES

SEALED

II Cor 1:22 Who hath also sealed *[mark with a seal, in order to prove, to confirm authenticate, place beyond doubt, fr. to fence in, to put to silence]* us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

Joh 6:27 Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

Rom 15:28 When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain.

Eph 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Eph 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

II Tim 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Re 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

Re 7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

Re 7:4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Re 7:5 Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.

Re 7:6 Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nepthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.

Re 7:7 Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand.

Re 7:8 Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

II Cor 6 & 7:1 Better Covenant or better promises?

better promises

Gal 6:7-10

v. 8 For he who sows the his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption….”

Do not let our liberty in the Spirit be turned into license to do the things of the flesh. Eph 5:18 (15-21) ?

Rom 8:12-23- 29?

v. 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

I Pet 2:11-12

v. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

v. 23 And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption *[placement as a son]*, *to wit*, the redemption *[deliverance, apo-together with, lutron-to liberate many from misery & the penalty of their sins]* of our body. *[Heb 2:14, 15]*

Melchisedec Priesthood: See A Royal Priesthood parts VII through XIII

A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD PART X

A Royal Priesthood Part X 6-28-09

Heb 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

v. 2 (Amplified) For if it were otherwise, would <these sacrifices> not have stopped being offered? Since the worshipers had once for all been cleansed, they would no longer have any guilt *or* consciousness of sin.

v. 3 But in those *sacrifices there is* a remembrance again *made* of sins every year. 4 For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. [Read Heb 1:3 in Amp. *”riddance of guilt’*]

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In the Book of Ruth, we have an example of what bitterness can do in one’s life.

Ruth 1:20 (Amp) And she said to them, Call me not Naomi <pleasant>; call me Mara <bitter>, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. 21 I went out full, but the Lord has brought me home again empty. Why call me Naomi, since the Lord has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?

Naomi’s bitterness kept her from entering into her rightful relationship with her kinsman redeemer, Boaz. By Levitical law Naomi could have married Boaz to bear seed for her husband’s heritage, but her bitterness blinded her to this possibility. It made Naomi non-productive. What she forfeited with Boaz, Ruth was able to claim. Ruth married Boaz and stepped into the linage of Jesus Christ.

What blessing, what purposing, what ministry or what grace are you forgoing because you are allowing bitterness to remain in your life?

Heb 9:23 *It was* therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

Heb 9: 25 [NAS 95] nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as ﻿﻿the high priest enters ﻿﻿the holy place ﻿year by year with blood that is not his own. 26 Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since ﻿﻿the foundation of the world; but now ﻿﻿once at the consummation of the ages He has been ﻿﻿manifested to put away sin ﻿﻿by the sacrifice of Himself.

Mark 10:45 (Amplified) For even the Son of Man came not to have service rendered to Him, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for (instead of) many.

Heb 2:9 (Philips) What we see is Jesus, after being made temporarily inferior to the angels and so subject to death, in order that he should, by God’s grace, taste death for every man, now crowned with glory and honor.

D. God is a Consuming Fire

SEE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD XI for Heb 10

Heb 10:19-23

v. 19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness *[freedom, or confidence]* to enter into the holiest by *[en]* the blood of Jesus,

I Pet 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar *[purchased possession]* people; that ye should shew forth the praises *[virtues, excellencies]* of him who hath called *[kaleo]* you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

Ex 19:6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

FROM: THE VEIL OF THE FLESH

The Tabernacle of Moses consisted of three rooms. There is the Outer Court which contains the Brazen Altar and the Laver which is the realm of *Jesus*, our Savior, where God deals with our committed sins and our sin nature. Lit by the sun, it is a place where we are lead by what is natural.

The next room is the Holy Place, which has three golden furnishings, the table of Showbread, the Golden Lamp stand and the Altar of Incents representing of the Word, the Light of the Spirit and praise and worship. It is the realm of the *Christ*, the anointed One, the Holy Spirit.

Though the second veil is the third room which is the Most Holy Place, where there is only one piece of furniture and that is the Ark of the Covenant which is crown with the Mercy Seat and is lit by the Shekinah Glory of His presence. This is the place of His *Lordship*.

Heb 10:19-23

v. 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil *[2665-* *a veil spread out, a curtain]*, that is to say, his flesh *[denotes mere human nature, the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence,]*; *[Heb 2:17, 18; 4:15, 16]*

Even though the old man, the sin nature, was put to death in water baptism in the Jesus name for the remission of sins, there is still a necessity to put on the “mind of Christ” and to rid ourselves of the old selfish thinking and come to a place in Him where “it is no longer I that live, but Christ.” This takes the rending of our flesh. Even as the high priest had to pull back the veil to enter the divine majesty of the Shekinah Glory of His presence in the Most Holy Place, we must pull back the veil of our humanity to partake of His Lordship.

A W. Tozer says of this veil, “It is the close-woven veil of the self-life which we have never truly acknowledged, of which we have been secretly ashamed, and which for these reasons we have never brought to judgment of the cross…To be specific, the self-sins are these: self-righteousness, self-pity, self confidence, self-sufficiency, self-admiration, self love, selfishness and a host of others like them. The grosser manifestations of these sins, egotism, exhibitionism, and self-promotion are strangely tolerated in Christian leaders even in circles of impeccable orthodoxy.”

This veil of “self” is keeping us from entering the realm where Jesus becomes all in all, our Lord.

John 15:12-19

v. 15 (BBE) No longer do I give you the name of servants; because a servant is without knowledge of what his master is doing: I give you the name of friends, because I have given you knowledge of all the things which my Father has said to me.

v. 16 (Amplified) You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed you <I have planted you>, that you might go and bear fruit *and* keep on bearing, and that your fruit may be lasting <that it may remain, abide>, so that whatever you ask the Father in My Name <as presenting all that I AM>, He may give it to you.

In the outer court, we are the Lord’s servants. We work *for* Jesus.

In the Holy Place, we are His friends, and we work *with* Jesus.

But in the Most Holy Place, we are made one with the Lord and work *as* Jesus.

Gal 5:16-26

v. 19 (NLT) When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Rev 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

”a royal priesthood” “a Kingly Priesthood”

PASSOVER-Outer Court-Jesus dealing with sin, natural light, still dealing with most things in a soulish way, working for Jesus, Master [John 15:15].

PENECOST-Holy Place-Christ- the Anointed One, the Word, The Light of the World. a place of praise, Still in duality, Jesus & me, working with Jesus, Friend [John 15:15, 16].

TABERNACLES- IT IS THE RELEASE OF HIS GLORY IN OUR LIVES. A place of worship WHERE HE IS LORD. Most Holy Place-Lord- [Ask, "What does it mean to be Lord?"] Only He who has the authority to bring judgment but gives mercy, working as Jesus, Father to son [Gal 4-"until the appointed time of the Father," Gal 2:20 "no longer I", Peter-Luke 22:31, Acts 3; 5:12-16].

Heb 10:34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

Heb 10:35-39

v. 35 (Amp) Do not, therefore, fling away your fearless confidence *[boldness, assurance]*, for it carries a great *and* glorious compensation of reward.

v. 37(Amp) For still a little while (a very little while), and the Coming One *[erchomai-to appear]* will come *[heko-have arrived, metph. to come upon one (unexpectedly]* and He will not delay *[to linger]*.

Hab 2:3 For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry [#4102-to linger, wait, delay], wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry [#309-to hesitate, to loiter, to procrastinate].

these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Heb 11:16 But now they desire a better *country*, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Phil 3: 20, 21 For our conversation is in heaven….who shall change our vile bodies

I Cor 15:42-54, Col 3:1-4

Before the throne: Rev 14:1-5;

Outside the city: Rev 21:2; 22:14, 15;

In the Throne: Rev 3:21, 2:26, 27, 3:5.

Heb 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

Heb 11:40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Heb 12:24-29

v. 4 (Philips) Note also that nobody chooses for himself the honor of being a High Priest, but he is called by God to the work, as was Aaron, the first High Priest in ancient times.

v. 23 we are come unto mount Zion Rev 14:1-5

Heb 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel.

v. 28 [NAS 95] Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; 29 for our God is a consuming fire. [“removing the things that can be shaken” the Old religious order, Heb 9:11-14, 10:1-4, 19-23]

Ezek 44:17-24, 28

v. 20 (NLT) “They must neither shave their heads nor let their hair grow too long. Instead, they must trim it regularly.

A shaved head was a sign of mourning and also many of the heathen priest were shaven.

v. 21 "No priest shall drink wine when he enters the inner court.

The thought is to have nothing artificial to contaminate the Spirit of the Lord.

Isa 28:7 But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble *in* judgment.

Lev 10:9-11

v. 9 (NLT) “You and your descendants must never drink wine or any other alcoholic drink before going into the Tabernacle. If you do, you will die. This is a permanent law for you, and it must be observed from generation to generation.

Ezel 44: 22 "They shall not take as wife a widow or a divorced woman, but take virgins of the descendants of the house of Israel, or widows of priests.

The thought here is that could join themselves to just anything. They must be a covenant people.

Gen 16:15 So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael [God will hear]. 16 Abram *was* eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

Gen 17:1, 2, 9-12, 18-21, 23

v. 1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I *am* the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect [without blemish, upright, complete, having integrity]. v. 19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac [He will laugh]: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, *and* with his seed after him.

Gen 21:4 Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.

Abraham could not produce the “promised seed” until he had been circumcised i.e. until he bore the mark of circumcision himself.

Gen 22:2 Then He said, "Take now your son, your only *son* Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

The Lord only recognizes that which is produced under or by those of covenant relationship.

Rom 14:13-23

v. 16 *(Amplified) Do not therefore let what seems good to you be considered an evil thing <by someone else>. <In other words, do not give occasion for others to criticize that which is justifiable for you.>*

1Cor 10:23 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient *[lit-to bear or bring together, to be well or profitable]*: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify *[to build up, to strengthen someone]* not.

I Cor 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the *[inner]* temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy *[corrupt]*; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are.

\*We must be careful that we don’t let anything into our temple that would defile it whether natural or spiritual.

I Cor 8:11 And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? 12 But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.13 Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend *[stumble]*, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.

We are to be in the world but not of the world. We should never let our liberties in food, drink, or whatever causes a weaker brother to stumble or that the sinner would see no difference in the saints then ones in the world.

Rom 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Let your light shine and defeat the darkness.

Ps 138:8 The LORD will perfect *that which* concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, *endureth* for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

“Gps thought” “Do you want to avoid dirt (rough) roads?” But your destination maybe on the dirt road.

Exo 19:5 [NAS 95] ‘Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession [peculiar or special treasurer]among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; 6. and you shall

be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”

Heb 8:1-6

v. 6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

I Thes 4:13-18

v. 15 (NKJV) For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

I Thes 5:1-11

v. 1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

II Thes 1:3-12

v. 5 Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

II Thes 2:1-11

. 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

II Tim 3:1-7

v. 1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

(WNT) 1-5 This be constantly knowing, that in the last days difficult times will set in, for men shall be fond of themselves, fond of money, swaggerers, haughty, revilers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, lacking self-control, savage, haters of that which is good, betrayers, headstrong, besotted with pride, fond of pleasure rather than having an affection for God, having a mere outward semblance of piety toward God but denying the power of the same. And these be constantly shunning.

Matt 24:36-51

v. 37 (Philips) For just as life went on in the days of Noah so will it be at the coming of the Son of Man.

v. 39 (Amp) And they did not know *or* understand until the flood came and swept them all away—so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

There are two important points here. One is the people of that time ignored the warnings of Noah and were just continuing to living in their careless sinful ways. Secondly, in the time of Noah, who was taken and who was left?

v. 40 (Philips) Two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left behind.

v. 42 Watch *[1127-metaph. give strict attention to, be cautious, active]* therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come *[#2064-erchomia]*.

*[Wuest] Therefore, be constantly on the watch, because you do not know on what sort of a day your Lord is coming.*

v. 48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming *[#2064-erchomia]*;

*(Wms) But if the slave is bad and says to himself, ‘My master is going to be gone a long time,’*

II Pet 3:3 (Amp) To begin with, you must know *and* understand this, that scoffers (mockers) will come in the last days with scoffing, <people who> walk after their own fleshly desires 4 And say, Where is the promise of His coming? For since the forefathers fell asleep, all things have continued exactly as they did from the beginning of creation. 5 For they willfully overlook *and* forget this <fact>, that the heavens <came into> existence long ago by the word of God, and the earth also which was formed out of water and by means of water,

Matt 25:1-13

v. 1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet *[529-“The meeting & returning with, the official welcome of a newly arriving dignitary & accompanying back to his place of reigning.” Vines]* the bridegroom.

From chapter 24:45 with the “faithful and wise servant” to the “ten virgins” and finally “the talents” there is a common theme. Simply put, there are those who have relationship with the Lord and those who just say they have relationship.

“and all the holy messengers with him,”

Matt 26:64 Jesus said to him, "*It is as* you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see *[optanomai-to look at, behold, fr. horao-to see with the mind, to perceive]* the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming *[#2064-erchomia]* on the clouds of heaven." *[You must first see Him high and lifted up before you will see Him in His coming]*

Act 1:6-11

v. 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come *[#2064-erchomia]* in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Jude 1:14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes *[#2064-erchomia]* with *[en-in, among, through]* ten thousands of His saints,

Rev1:7 Behold, He is coming *[#2064-erchomia]* with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Joel 2:1 (NLT) Sound the alarm in Jerusalem! Raise the battle cry on my holy mountain! Let everyone tremble in fear because the day of the LORD is upon us. 2 It is a day of darkness and gloom, a day of thick clouds and deep blackness. Suddenly, like dawn spreading across the mountains, a great and mighty army appears. Nothing like it has been seen before or will ever be seen again.

“then he shall sit upon a throne of his glory;”

II Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Rom 14:10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written: "*As* I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." 12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

Rev 3:21 "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Dan 7:9 "I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment *was* white as snow, And the hair of His head *was* like pure wool. His throne *was* a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire;

v. 13 "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, *One* like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom *the one* Which shall not be destroyed.

Mark 8:38 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

Matt 13:36-43

v. 41 "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

?Rev 19:11-21

v. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. [Rev 14:1-5]

?Rev 20:1-6, 11-15

v. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book* of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

Judgment seat of Christ II Cor 5:10, Rom 14:10

Dan 7:9-14, 26, 27

v. 9 "I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment *was* white as snow, And the hair of His head *was* like pure wool. His throne *was* a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire;

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Mark 8:38 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

Rom 1:31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers *[#802]*, without natural affection, implacable *[#786-that cannot be persuaded to enter into a covenant*, *comp. wd-(a) neg. to be poured out, libatioin]*, unmerciful:

See definition for asunyetov 802

See definition for aspondov 786

These words are quite similar in their effects, but opposite in their conception. asunyetov, occurring only in #Ro 1:31, is *covenant-breaker*, one who interrupts a state of peace and brings on war by disregarding an agreement by which peace is maintained.

aspondov is *implacable*, one who refuses to agree to any terms or suggestions of peace. It implies a state of war, and a refusal of covenant or even of armistice to end it permanently or temporarily. In the N.T. use both words probably refer not to war in the strict sense so much as to discord and strife.

Look at 9-2 chambers for “poured out”

John 7:37-44

v. 38 (Wms) Whoever continues to believe in me will have, as the Scripture says, rivers of living water continuously flowing from within him."

Mark 14:3-9

v. 3 And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured *it* on His head.

Rom 5:1-8

v. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Phil 2:17 Yes, and if I am being poured out *as a drink offering* on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

II Tim 4:6-8

v. 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

Oswald Chambers said, “Our life cannot be measured by success as the world measures it, but only by what God pours through us—and we cannot measure that at all.”

“What or who has set the standard for your life? ‘You should do this or you need to look this way.’ If it were a person, were they a godly one? I didn’t say religious, I said godly. If not, why are you allowing them to rule your life instead of God’s love?” [CRS]

Matt 25:31-46

From chapter 24:45 with the “faithful and wise servant” to the “ten virgins” and finally “the talents” there is a common theme. Simply put, there are those who have relationship with the Lord and those who just say they have relationship.

Matt 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

\*Tit 2:13, I John 2:2, 3

John 4:36 And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

John 12:25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

John 5:22-29

v. 24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Joh 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

Joh 5:29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Jude 1:14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints,

Jude 1:15 "to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

Re 20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection.

Re 20:10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Re 20:11 ¶ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

Re 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book* of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

Re 20:13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

Re 20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Re 20:15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Re 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Heb 6:13-16

v. 16 For example, there was God’s promise to Abraham. Since there was no one greater to swear by, God took an oath in his own name, saying:

*(Philips) When God made his promise to Abraham he swore by himself, for there was no one greater by whom he could swear, and*

II Cor 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear *[dread]* of God.

If we cannot control what comes in and goes out of our bodies and minds whether physically, morally, or spiritually, we can forget setting with Him in His throne through “overcoming.” [Rev 3:21]

Use here and/or with Heb 11:16 “better country”

Before the throne: Rev 14:1-5;

Outside the city: Rev 21:2; 22:14, 15;

In the Throne: Rev 3:21, 2:26, 27, 3:5.

Phil 3: 20, 21 For our conversation is in heaven….who shall change our vile bodies

I Cor 15:42-54, Col 3:1-4 (See below, pg 12 & beyond,}

1Ti 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Heb 7:11 ¶ If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need *was there* that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

Heb 12:13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

Pr 4:18 But the path of the just *is* as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

1Co 13:10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

‘’of resurrection of the dead”

I Cor 15:12-22

v. 13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14 And if Christ be not risen, then *is* our preaching vain, and your faith *is* also vain.

v. 16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

v. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive *[from zoe-* *by spiritual power to arouse and invigorate]*.

1Co 15:17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith *is* vain; ye are yet in your sins.

1Co 15:18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

1Co 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

1Co 15:20 ¶ But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.

1Co 15:21 For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.

Phil 3:20 (NLT) But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. 21 He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

15:25, 26

Ps 149:5-9 overcoming authority

Eph 1:19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us–ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Eph 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,

2Co 4:14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you.

Php 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Php 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Php 3:21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

I Cor 14:1-6 speaking in tongues and prophesying vs 12-33

Heb 5:1-10

v. 10 (Philips) designated by God himself as High Priest "after the order of Melchizedek".

I Cor 6:9-12

v. 11 (BBE) And such were some of you; but you have been washed, you have been made holy, you have been given righteousness in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

v. 12 (Amp) Everything is permissible (allowable and lawful) for me; but not all things are helpful (good for me to do, expedient and profitable when considered with other things). Everything is lawful for me, but I will not become the slave of anything *or* be brought under its power.

ministry

II Cor 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, The Lord doesn’t count His saints He weighs them.

II Cor 5:17-21

v. 17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

v. 21 [Wuest] He who did not know sin in an experiential way, on behalf of us and instead of us, was made [the representative of] sin, in order that, as for us, we might become a righteousness of God in Him.

II Cor 10:3-6

v. 5 (Philips) Our battle is to break down every deceptive argument and every imposing defense that men erect against the true knowledge of God. We fight to capture every thought until it acknowledges the authority of Christ.

“Fill up the sufferings of Christ”-- Chambers 11-18

**9-22-02**

# Rev 21:1 And I saw a heaven new in quality and an earth new in quality, for the first heaven and the first earth passed away. And the sea does not exist any longer. Wuest

However, there seem to be three distinct areas that are projected to be on the “new earth.” **These are “outside the City,” "in the City," and "in the Throne. "**

OUTSIDE THE CITY, (Part 1)

Rev. 21:21-27

v. 27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life. NAS

Rev 22:15 and without *are* the dogs, and the sorcerers, and the whoremongers, and the murderers, and the idolaters, and every one who is loving and is doing a lie. YLT

*"Outside the city are those who have strayed away from God...." Tay.*

On the "new earth" that John is describing are no "sinners", because the "great white throne judgment has already transpired (Rev 20:11-14), therefore all that are left are those who are saved. All listed here may not have done these things, but these things are in their hearts. The Lord Jesus said that, “If you look upon a woman with lust in your heart you have committed adultery." The Lord looks at the intents of the heart not just the actions. If those attitudes are still in our hearts and have not been dealt with, there is still a potential of being put into to action. Those propensities to act and inappropriate attitudes are among those things that “defile” and, therefore, cannot enter the Holy City.

Gal 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20. idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies [factions],  21. envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23. gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest" If the old nature, the sin nature, has been dealt with through water baptism, these are the things, the works of the flesh, that we are really battling now not so much sin.

Why do the New Testament writers mention idolatry as a problem so often?

Idolatry--putting our own wants and ways above His will and ways for us. On a lower level, making people conform to our thinking. If they do not do things our way, we will push them away or just not go around them anymore. We can raise ourselves up as the final authority.

Have you ever said, "I could never attain the highest in God?" Are you setting your limits on God's calling, superimposing your assessment above His? Are we listening to the flesh instead of the Spirit?

Heb. 10:19-22

v. 19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20. by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,

Beyond the rent veil-; "enter into the Holiest by the Blood and through the veil even His flesh." The veil in the tabernacle separated man from the glory of His presence, but Jesus Christ forever rent that veil. His presence now through the Holy Spirit dwells in the saints. For His glory of His presence to manifest, shine out, our flesh must be rent. The veil was rent from the top to the bottom, which is from our head, our thinking, to our feet, our walk, so that He is all that is seen.

2 Cor 10:3-8 "...pulling down strongholds...."

v. 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

What is His glory? His glory, which is His nature, is our inheritance. "Christ in you [plural] the hope of glory." [Col 1:27]

Eph 1:15-18

v. 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

2 Cor 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

Outside the City (Part 2) 10-6-02

Rev 21:9-10 The New Jerusalem is the Lord's Bride. The City is really a People. When you come into Detroit you see all the physical buildings & etc, but these things are not the city. The people who inhabit it are what makes up the city.

[30 fold] [vs. 22:10-15, v. 12 "my reward is with me." ]

Rev. 22:15 But outside *are* dogs *[metaph. a man of impure mind ]* and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

*The unclean are shut out, and so are all who practice magic, all fornicators, all murderers, and those who worship idols, and every one who loves falsehood and tells lies. WEY*

Dogs-- *"Outside the city are those who have strayed away from God...." Tay.*

Phil 3:2 Beware of dogs *[, Judaizers, legalists, Amp],* beware of evil workers, beware of the false circumcision. RWEBSTR

v. 3. For we are the true circumcision—we who render to God a spiritual worship and make our boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in outward ceremonies: Wey.

*Steer clear of the barking dogs, those religious busybodies, all bark and no bite. All they’re interested in is appearances—knife-happy circumcisers, I call them. The real believers are the ones the Spirit of God leads to work away at this ministry, filling the air with Christ’s praise as we do it. We couldn’t carry this off by our own efforts, and we know it—even though we can list what many might think are impressive credentials. Msg.*

Sorcerers--Strong's says, "those who practice sorceries (magic arts)."

Acts 8:9 Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; 10. and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, “This man is what is called the Great Power of God.” NAS 95

*Simon the sorcerer tried by his ''magic" and slight of hand to bewitch the people into thinking that he had the power of God. Falsely representing himself as something he wasn't through self promotion and manipulation.*

Sexually immoral--

Matt 5:28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. NAS 95

*“You know the next commandment pretty well, too: ‘Don’t go to bed with another’s spouse.’ But don’t think you’ve preserved your virtue simply by staying out of bed. Your heart can be corrupted by lust even quicker than your body. Those leering looks you think nobody notices—they also corrupt. Msg.*

Murderers--

1 John 3:14-15 As for us, we know absolutely that we have passed over permanently out of the death into the life, because we are habitually loving the brethren with a divine and self-sacrificial love. The one who is not habitually loving in this manner is abiding in the sphere of the death. Everyone who habitually is hating his brother [Christian] is a manslayer. And you know absolutely that no manslayer has life eternal abiding in him. Wuest

*The man who hates his brother is at heart a murderer, and you know that the eternal life of God cannot live in the heart of a murders.* PHIL

Idolatry--putting our own wants and ways above His will and ways for us. On a lower level, making people conform to our thinking. If they do not do things our way, we will push them away or just not go around them anymore. We can raise ourselves up as the final authority.

Have you ever said, "I could never attain the highest in God?" Are you setting your limits on God's calling, superimposing your assessment above His? Are we listening to the flesh instead of the Spirit?

Hosea 10:12 Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers righteousness on you. 13. But you have planted wickedness, you have reaped evil, you have eaten the fruit of deception. Because you have depended on your own strength and on your many warriors, NIV

Watchman Nee asked, "Why do some of God's children live victorious lives while others are in a state of constant defeat? The difference is not accounted for by the presence or absence of the Spirit (for He dwells with every child of God) but by this, that some know His indwelling and others do not, and that consequently some recognize the divine ownership of their lives while others are still their own masters."

Love Lies-- *"...for anyone who loves falsehood and lives in it." Knox*

1 John 2:4 Whoever says, I know Him [I perceive, recognize, understand, and am acquainted with Him] but fails to keep *and* obey His commandments (teachings) is a liar, and the Truth [of the Gospel] is not in him. Amp.

Isa 28:15-20

v. 15 You boast, “We have entered into a covenant with death, with the grave we have made an agreement.

When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by, it cannot touch us, for we have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place.” NIV

John 12:9-11 [The religious leaders wanted to kill Lazarus too because he was walking in resurrection life and was a threat to all their weak man made traditions and laws that could never bring anything to perfection.]

Oswald Chambers in a comment on 1 John 3:9 says, "...To be born of God means that I have His supernatural power to stop sinning. The Bible never asks, `Should a Christian sin?' The Bible emphatically states that a Christian must not sin. The work of the new birth is being effective in us when we do not commit sin. It is not merely that we have the power not to sin, but that we have actually stopped sinning. Yet 1 John 3:9 does not mean that we cannot sin--it simply means that if we will obey the life of God in us, that we do not have to sin."

What Else Can Keep You Outside the City? (Part 3) 11-17-02

Rev. 21:21-27

v. 27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life. NAS

Rev 22:10-15 [Read only.]

v.15 and without *are* the dogs, and the sorcerers, and the whoremongers, and the murderers, and the idolaters, and every one who is loving and is doing a lie. YLT

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We want to have the blessings of God, but still do our own thing. That is double mindedness.

Matt 8:5-13

v. 12 but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” NAS 95

They had every right to be in the city, His Kingdom, but because of unbelief, they entered not in.

2 Cor 10:3-6

v. 5 casting down arguments *[reasonings]* and every high thing that exalts itself *[2Thes 2:3, 4]* against the knowledge *[#1108-gnosis, knowledge acquired by effort, or experience]* of God, bringing every thought *[perception, purpose, device]* into captivity to the obedience *[compliance, submission, fr. to harken to a command]* of Christ, 6. and being ready to punish all disobedience *[to be unwilling to hear, to refuse to hear, pay no regard to, disobey]* when your obedience is fulfilled.

We can really think we are the final authority. Therefore, we pick and choose what we will believe.

Our covenant is with His life.

John 10:10b I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

I have come to bring them life in its fullness. Phil.

I alone came in order that they might be possessing life, and that they might be possessing it in superabundance. Wuest

I came that they may have *and* enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows). Amp.

Heb 3:14-4:6 tells us that some must enter in.

**All this is for another people and another time, unbelief.**

**In order to enter the New Jerusalem you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, but you can be baptized for remission and be outside the city because you have not allowed the circumcision of your heart and mind to continue.**

**Luke 18:18-24**

**v. 18 "...** “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” **Men like to do something so they feel empowered.**

v. 22 So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” 23. But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich [#4145]. 24. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!

**Rev 3:14-19 Laodicean church thought they were rich [#4145]** **yet they were greatly lacking.**

**We can have that faulty thinking that we have arrived. "I thank God I'm not like other men." Arrogance!**

**IN THE CITY, [60 fold] 12-1-02**

**Rev 21:1-7, 9-11, 22-26**

v. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, all arrayed like a bride beautified *and* adorned for her husband; Amp.

v. 9b “Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

The Development of the Bridegroom/Bride Imagery. Who or what is the Bride? There are a people who love their God, the Church, who continue to enter into intimate relationship with Him, the Bride, until He becomes all in all to them, and they become His habitation, the New Jerusalem.

First in the O.T.

Jeremiah depicts God as the bridegroom or husband of Israel.

Jer 3:11-17 [Read in NIV.]

v. 13 Only acknowledge your iniquity, That you have transgressed against the Lord your God, And have scattered your charms [ways] To alien deities under every green tree [The idol *Asherah-to be straight, erect, upright, also to prosper or be happy. Comp.*], And you have not obeyed My voice,’ says the Lord. 14. “Return, O back-sliding children,” says the Lord; “for I am married to you. I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion.

Isa 61:10 I will rejoice greatly in the Lord, My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, And as a garden causes the things sown in it to spring up, So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise To spring up before all the nations. NAS 95

Isa 62:1-7

v. 1 For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, And for Jerusalem’s sake I will not keep quiet, Until her righteousness goes forth like brightness, And her salvation like a torch that is burning. 2. The nations will see your righteousness, And all kings your glory; And you will be called by a new name Which the mouth of the Lord will designate. NAS 95

? Rev 21:23 The city has no need for the light of sun or moon, for the splendor of God fills it with light and its radiance is the Lamb. 24. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. PHIL Would Rev 12's the woman clothed with the sun be better here?

v. 4 It will no longer be said to you, “Forsaken,” Nor to your land will it any longer be said, “Desolate”; But you will be called, “My delight is in her,” And your land, “Married”; For the Lord delights in you, And *to Him* your land will be married. 5. For *as* a young man marries a virgin, *So* your sons will marry you; And *as* the bridegroom rejoices [Lit. exultation of the bridegroom] over the bride, *So* your God will rejoice over you. NAS 95

Then in the N. T.

John 3:29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.

Mk 2:18-20

v. 19 Jesus told them, "Can you expect wedding-guests to fast in the bridegroom’s presence? Fasting is out of the question as long as they have the bridegroom with them. 20. But the day will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them—that will be the time for them to fast." PHIL

2 Cor 11:2I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I promised you in marriage to one husband, to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. NRS

*vs 2-4 I promised your hand in marriage to Christ, presented you as a pure virgin to her husband. And now I’m afraid that exactly as the Snake seduced Eve with his smooth patter, you are being lured away from the simple purity of your love for Christ.*

*It seems that if someone shows up preaching quite another Jesus than we preached—different spirit, different message—you put up with him quite nicely. But if you put up with these big-shot “apostles,” why can’t you put up with simple me? I’m as good as they are. It’s true that I don’t have their voice, haven’t mastered that smooth eloquence that impresses you so much. But when I do open my mouth, I at least know what I’m talking about. We haven’t kept anything back. We let you in on everything. Msg.*

*Espousal* In 2 Corinthians 11:2, the Apostle Paul considers the Church 'betrothed' to Christ, even as a woman might pledge herself to marry a certain man. The yearning of the Apostle is that she, the Church, might remain a pure virgin, fit for her pure and holy Bridegroom. In this passage, it is significant to note that her defilement could come not only from the world, but from 'another gospel', 'another Jesus' or 'another spirit'. It is sad to note that, from our vantage point, a large portion of the church has already been defiled and has become disqualified to be the Bride of Christ. [From Bro. Valori's website.]

Eph 5:25-29

v. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26. so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27. that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. NAS 95

Gen. 2:24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. NAS 95

v. 27 The words. “not having spot or wrinkle,” are an explanation on the negative side of what is meant in the word “glorious.” The bride is to be without moral blemish.

“Holy” is *hagia* (aJgia), “separate from evil”; “without blemish,” *amoµmos* (ajmwmo"), “faultless, unblamable,” namely, free from faultiness, as a sacrificial animal without blemish.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Translation. *The husbands, be loving your wives in the manner in which Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself on behalf of it, in order that He might sanctify it, cleansing it by the bath of water in the sphere of the Word, in order that He might Himself present to Himself the Church glorious, not having spot nor wrinkle nor any of such things, but in order that it might be holy and unblamable.*[[2]](#footnote-2) *Wuest*

*Preparation.* As the Church becomes gripped by the profound implications of Her calling as the Bride of Christ, She must acknowledge that a salvation experience followed by careless living will disqualify Her. Instead of a 'saved and going to heaven' mentality, the Church must walk softly before Him and expect a process of preparation for the *'marriage supper of the Lamb'.* Revelation 19:7, 8 indeed indicates that *"his wife hath made herself ready."* Let us further consider the preparation process:

Ephesians 5:26 indicates that the Lord will *"sanctify and cleanse the church with the washing of water by the word."* This is an on-going process performed by the anointed ministry of the Word of God. Those who are serious about participating in the marriage of the Lamb will not follow the multitudes to be simply blessed or entertained. They will seek out a ministry characterized by a sanctifying and cleansing word.

I John 3:1 SEE WHAT [an incredible] quality of love the Father has given (shown, bestowed on) us, that we should [be permitted to] be named *and* called *and* counted the children of God! And so we are! The reason that the world does not know (recognize, acknowledge) us is that it does not know (recognize, acknowledge) Him. 2. Beloved, we are [even here and] now God’s children; it is not yet disclosed (made clear) what we shall be [hereafter], but we know that when He comes *and* is manifested, we shall [as God’s children] resemble *and* be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He [really] is. 3. And everyone who has this hope [resting] on Him cleanses (purifies) himself just as He is pure (chaste, undefiled, guiltless). Amp.

This passage indicates that when our Lord appears, there will be those who will be like Him at His appearing. Many conclude that this is an impossibility and dismiss it from their theology, but if we stay with what this text is saying, we see in verse 3 that there will be those who will hold to the hope of being like Him and will purify themselves. (We know we cannot do this in our own strength, but as God speaks and deals with us, those who yield and respond in obedience, will indeed experience transformation into Christ-likeness. Those who are conformed to His image have "overcome" are part of the "manchild" of Rev 12. (For other confirming texts see: 1 Peter 1:22; Titus 2:14; 2Corinthians 3:18; 2 Corinthians 7:1.)

Rev 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” 8. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Rev 12:1-6

v .5And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and *to* his throne. *"Manchild" has the same qualifications as the women, but are the "firstfruits" of Rev 14.*

Rev 2:26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— 27. *‘He* *shall rule them with a rod of iron;* They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’—as I also have received from My Father;

Heb 11:10 Both the words “city” and “foundations” are preceded by the definite article in the Greek text. Abraham looked for the city which had the foundations. It was a particular city with particular foundations. He was looking for the heavenly Jerusalem. The idea of the heavenly Jerusalem was familiar to the Jews. See Heb. 12:22, 13:14; Gal. 4:26. But we must not confuse this city, namely, the heavenly dwelling of the saved to which Abraham was looking forward, with the heavenly Jerusalem of Rev. 3:12, 21:2, which is the home of the Bride of Christ, the Church. The word “builder” is the translation of *technites* (tecnite"), “an artificer, a craftsman, architect.” The word “maker” is in the Greek text *demiourgos* (demiourgo"), which meant originally “a workman for the public (*demos* (demo")), generally, a framer, builder.”

Translation. *For he was constantly waiting for and expecting the city having the foundations, the architect and builder of which is God*.[[3]](#footnote-3)

In the Synoptists, of course, the wedding days are at first the days of Jesus’ earthly life, but in Revelation the consummation is the wedding (19:7ff.; 21:2, 9; 22:17) and the bride is the heavenly Jerusalem (cf. 21:2 and Is. 61:10). Final fulfillment is depicted here in what is said about the Lamb and his bride.[[4]](#footnote-4)

WHO AND WHAT IS IN THE CITY? 12-08-02

Rev 21:9-11, 14-18

v. 9b “Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

v. 10 And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. NRS

*"* *I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb*...*showed me the holy city Jerusalem"*

That He might present to himself this pure Church, this holy Bride, and this place of holy habitation.

Eph 5:27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot *[#4696-moral blemish, of base and gluttonous men, thinking & gathering only to & for themselves.]* or wrinkle *["which disfigures"-Barkley.]* or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless *[#299-faultless, neg. of #3470].* NAS 95

2 Pet 2:4, 9-22 [Read in NIV? Also, see note on v. 15 in NIV.]

v. 13 *and* will receive the wages of unrighteousness, *as* those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. *They are* spots *[#4696]* and blemishes *[#3470-of men who are a disgrace to society, shameless]*, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, NAS 95

A. Noun.

moµmos (mw``mo" , (3470)), akin to *moµmaomai* (see Blame, A), signifies (*a*) a blemish (Sept. only); (*b*) a shame, a moral disgrace, metaphorical of the licentious *[shameless]*, 2 Pet. 2:13.¶

B. Adjective.

amoµmos (a[[mwmo" , (299)), without blemish, is always so rendered in the R.V., Eph. 1:4; 5:27; Phil. 2:15; Col. 1:22; Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 1:19; Jude 24; Rev. 14:5. This meaning is to be preferred to the various A.V. renderings, “without blame,” Eph. 1:4, “unblameable,” Col. 1:22, “faultless,” Jude 24, “without fault,” Rev. 14:5. The most authentic mss. have *amoµmos,* “without blemish,” in Phil. 2:15, for *amoµmeµtos,* “without rebuke.”[[5]](#footnote-5)

*"coming down out of heaven from God."-*This shows the City's origin, from Heaven, and whose it is, God's"

Ezek 48:35 Tells us the name of this City is Jehovah Shammah-the Lord is There.

21:11 having the glory of God. Her light *was* like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

Matt 6:22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single *[clear, unmixed]*, thy whole body shall be full of light.

21:17 He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, by man’s measurement, which the angel was using. NIV

144=12x12, 12 denotes governmental perfection. It is the number of factor of all numbers connected with government. [From Companion Bible] We see a factor of this number in Rev 14, it is the number that represents the firstfruits.

Rev 14:1-5

v. 4 These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb. 5. No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless *[#299]*.

*v. 5 They have never been guilty of any falsehood; they are beyond reproach. Phil.*

21:22 I could see no Sanctuary in the city, for the Lord, the Almighty God, and the Lamb are themselves its Sanctuary. 23. The city has no need for the light of sun or moon, for the splendor of God fills it with light and its radiance is the Lamb. PHIL

**No temple. What did the temple represent? It was a place that represented and at times showed the presence of God. There is no temple needed in the New Jerusalem because you don't need a representation of His presence when you HAVE His presence.**

Rev 21:24 "kings" we are to be the kings and priest unto God and the Lamb. Check the word "earth"?

Isa 60:1-5

IN THE THRONE-THE RIVER OF LIFE 1-12-03

Rev 22:1-5 [Read all first.]

v. 5 Never again will there be any night. No one will need lamplight or sunlight. The shining of God, the Master, is all the light anyone needs. And they will rule with him age after age after age. Msg.

"a river of the water of life"

v. 1 Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, NAS 95

Ezek 47:1 Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house *stood toward* the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south *side* of the altar.

vs. 7-11 [Read in "The Message."]

v. 8-9 "This water flows east...then into the sea, the sea of stagnant waters. When it empties into those waters, the sea will become fresh. Wherever the river flows, life will flourish...because the river is turning the salt sea into fresh water. Where the river flows, life abounds." Msg.

*not be healed—Those not reached by the healing waters of the Gospel, through their sloth and earthly-mindedness, are given over (#Re 22:11) to their own bitterness and barrenness (as "saltness" is often employed to express, #De 29:23 Ps 107:34 Zep 2:9); and awful example to others in the punishment they suffer (#2Pe 2:6). [JFB]*

v. 11 "The swamps and marshes won't become fresh. They'll stay salty." Msg.

*["...the weeds sprang up and choked...."-cares of life.]*

Rev 22:11 Let the evil man go on in his evil: and let the unclean be still unclean: and let the upright go on in his righteousness: and let the holy be holy still. BBE [Read vs. 10-13.]

47:12 And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine. NKJ

*The main point in the picture is the rapid augmentation from a petty stream into a mighty river, not by the influx of side streams, but by its own self-supply from the sacred miraculous source in the temple [HENDERSON]. (Compare #Ps 36:8,9 46:4 Isa 11:9 Hab 2:14). [JFB]*

Ps 46:4 *There is* a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy *place* of the tabernacles of the most High.

Hab 2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge *[#3045-to know by experience]* of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. *{with…: or, by knowing the glory}* RWEBSTR

*Searching into the things of God, we find some easy to understand, as the water up to the ankles; others more difficult, which require a deeper search, as the waters up to the knees or loins; others beyond our reach, of which we can only adore the depth (#Ro 11:33). The healing of the waters of the Dead Sea here answers to "there shall be no more curse" (#Re 22:3; compare #Zec 14:11). [JFB]*

Rom 11:33-36

v. 33 O how deep is the wealth of the wisdom and knowledge of God! no one is able to make discovery of his decisions, and his ways may not be searched out. BBE

*Oh, how inexhaustible are God’s resources and God’s wisdom and God’s knowledge! How impossible it is to search into His decrees or trace His footsteps!* WEY

John 7:37-39

v. 37 "...If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink! 38. He who believes in Me [who cleaves to *and* trusts in *and* relies on Me] as the Scripture has said, From his innermost being shall flow [continuously] springs *and* rivers of living water." Amp.

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

"the tree of life" 1-26-03

Rev 22:2 in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve *kinds of* fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. NAS 95

Ezek 47:12 And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine. NKJ

Adam had access to this tree and forfeited it.

Gen 2:9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Gen 3:22-24

v. 22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

*Watchman Nee said on this verse, "It was not by committing murder that Adam let sin into the world. That came later. Adam let in sin by his free choice between two trees: the one whose name is Life, and the one that offered him the independent power to decide for himself on moral issues. By a deliberate act he turned to the latter, choosing to have his soul developed to a place where he could go on alone apart from God."*

Of which tree are you partaking?

"the tree of knowledge of good and evil" Eating of this tree makes you the supreme authority with the ultimate power of your choice. You are the "master of your fate." By a deliberate choice we can put ourselves about God. Whenever things come against us, we can retreat into ourselves and think how unfair this situation is, or we can take it to the cross of Jesus Christ and let our flesh be crucified. Knowing, in doing this, that Christ will be glorified in us. [Rom 6:8-14]

"the tree of life" Eating of this tree causes to bear a different kind of "fruit."

Prov 3:13 Happy *is* the man *who* finds wisdom, And the man *who* gains understanding;

v. 18 She *[wisdom]* *is* a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy *is every one* that retains her.

Prov 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who is wise wins souls. NAS 95

Prov 15:4 A soothing *[wholesome, healing]* tongue is a tree of life, But perversion *[distortion, viciousness]* in it crushes the spirit *[Lit. "is the crushing of the spirit."]*. NSA 95

*Kind words heal and help; cutting words wound and maim. Msg.*

A healed tongue *is* a tree of life, And perverseness in it—a breach in the spirit. YLT

Isa 61:1-3

v. 3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees *[#352-ram (as sacrifice), ram skin dyed red, for tabernacle), pillar, door post, jambs, pilaster, strong man, leader, chief, mighty tree.]* of righteous-ness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.” NKJ

Rev 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Rev 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city. NAS 95

*Watchman Nee continued, “When therefore God secures for His glory a race of men who will be the instrument to accomplish His purpose in the universe, they will be a people whose life--yea, whose very breath--is dependent upon Him. He will be the `tree of life' to them."*

"clear as crystal" 2-2-03

Rev 22:1 Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, NAS 95

In the Revelation of Jesus Christ, John's underlining theme is worship.

"John of Patmos, a pastor of the late first century, has worship on his mind, is preeminently concerned with worship. The vision, which is The Revelation, comes to him while he is at worship on a certain Sunday on the Mediterranean island of Patmos.

"Our times are not favorable for worship. The times never are. But, John is passionate in his desire to bring us into the presence of Jesus believing and adoring." Msg

Rev 4:1-11 {Read all first.]

v. 6 "And before the throne *there was* a sea of glass like unto crystal...."

On the sea of glass worshipping, they are beholding the Lamb of God. "Clear as crystal" is used as a description of radiance of God's glory.

Rev 21:11having the glory of God. Her *[the New Jerusalem's]* light *[#5458-radiance, light giving]* *was* like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. NKJ

*Clothed in God’s glory [in all its splendor and radiance]. The luster of it resembled a rare and most precious jewel, like jasper, shining clear as crystal. Amp.*

v. 8 And the four living creatures, individually having six wings, were full of eyes all over and within [underneath their wings]; and day and night they never stop saying, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty (Omnipotent), Who was and Who is and Who is to come. Amp. [Isa. 6:1–3].

v. 11 saying, "It is fitting, O our Lord and God, That we should ascribe unto Thee the glory and the honor and the power; For Thou didst create all things, And because it was Thy will they came into existence, and were created." WEY)

"full of eyes"

Matt 6:22, 23

v. 22 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great *is* that darkness!

In his book, The Way Everlasting, Jacob Luffy says, "Since we first come to the Lord for selfish reasons (such as being saved for hell to go to heaven), we often try to fit God into *self*. Much of our efforts under the guise of Christianity are to try to adapt God, whom the heaven of the heavens cannot contain, into our little world."

Prov 4:18The path *[#734-(fig.) way of living]* of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. 19. But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble. NIV

*The ways of right-living people glow with light; the longer they live, the brighter they shine. Msg.*

Matt 16:22 Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “God forbid *it,* Lord! This shall never happen to You.” NAS 95

"The word took means that Peter tired to conform the Lord to Peter’s natural way of thinking. He wanted Jesus to be the kind of savior that Peter wanted Him to be, and the last kind of savior Peter thought the Lord should be was a suffering and dying one. Such a savior did not fit into Peter's plans at all. He was thinking more of one that would meet all his natural needs, desires, and ambitions...At this time in Peter's life, he was living in the lesser light or outer darkness of his ignorance."

"Peter was relating to the Lord after the flesh and not after the Spirit. Any time we do that, we have an image of a false Christ, and not the true one. The Lord warned us false christs would arise. From where do they arise? They have their origin in hearts that relate to the true Christ on the carnal level. The true Christ can only be revealed by the Spirit. Only the Spirit can take the things of Jesus and show them unto us."

"Wash their robes" 2-9-03

Rev 22:6-15

v. 11 Let the wicked man continue in his wickedness and the filthy man in his filthiness; let the good man continue his good deeds, and the holy man continue in holiness." PHIL

Rev 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city. NAS 95

Tit 1:15 Everything is clean to those who have clean minds. But nothing is wholesome to those who are themselves corrupt and who have no faith in God—their very minds and consciences are diseased. 16.They profess to know God, but their behavior contradicts their profession. They are vile and disobedient and when it comes to doing any real good they are palpable [blatant] frauds. PHIL

What has defiled these garments?

Jude 14-25

v. 23 save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh. NAS 95

*some you must save by snatching them out of the fire. But there are others whom you must pity with the utmost caution, hating the very clothes which their deeds have soiled. PHIL*

Zech 3:3-5

v. 4 Then responded he and spake unto those who were standing before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from off him; and he said unto him, See! I have caused to pass from off thee, thine iniquity, And will cause thee to be clothed in robes of state. ROTHRHAM

Oswald Chambers defines sanctification "to be intensely focused on God's point of view. It means to secure and to keep all the strength of our body, soul and spirit for God's purpose alone, Sanctification means being made one with Jesus so that the nature that controlled Him will control us. Are we really prepared for what that will cost? It will cost absolutely everything in us which is not of God."

Jacob Luffy continues in his book, "Paul calls the practice of outward religious ceremony will-worship [Col. 2:20-23]. This will-worship comes out of the heart of man, and, therefore in false worship. It is the effort of the flesh and is not worship in spirit and in truth. Truth for man begins when he agrees with God's sayings. At that point, a man draws near unto God in his heart. True worship always begins and continues while one maintains a right heart before God."

"When God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach, the prophet was not at all in agreement with God. He fled, not just from the ministry, but from God Himself...."

"It takes Jonah three days before he prays for God to deliver him! Three days in hell before the prophet relents. Does he cry because he sees that his heart is not like God's? No, he cries `by reason of mine affliction!' Even after Jonah preaches and has a great revival in Nineveh, he still is not in agreement with God. When God spares Nineveh, Jonah is quite displeased. What would please Jonah? The death of the wicked! But God feels no pleasure in the death of the wicked and for us to do so is sin. So we see that *sin* *is our feeling contrary to God's feelings*. God tries to bring the prophet into agreement with Himself, but Jonah never relents...If we disagree with God's judgment and God's actions and attitudes, we are also ungodly, and we like Jonah make no further progress with God. The Book of Jonah ends abruptly, because Jonah did not justify God, he justified himself...How many more chapters would have been written in the Book of Jonah had the prophet yielded to God? How much more of God's glory would Jonah have seen and been able to relate to us?"

"launder their robes" (part 2) 2-23-03

Rev 22:14, 15

v. 14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may

enter by the gates into the city. NAS 95

**{Could this be done during this time of the new earth as well as prior?} Is outside the city forever?**

Hab 2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. *{with…: or, by knowing the glory}*

*Meanwhile the earth fills up with awareness of God's glory as the waters cover the sea. Msg.*

Rev 12:14-17 "remnant of her seed,"

v. 17 Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus. NIV

**Rev 13:12-17**

**v. 15** And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed. NAS 95

**"souls of the beheaded,"**

Rev 15:2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, *and* over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. [Rev 20:4-6]

Rev 20:4 Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. 6. Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years. NAS 95 [Dan 7:9, 10, 18, 22, 27.]

**"souls under the altar,"**

Rev 6:9 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; 10. and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” 11. And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also. NAS 95

Souls under the altar are given white robes crying for vengeance. Heb 12:24 "better blood than Abel’s." Wipe away their tears, cast into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth-something has to change for the tears to be wiped away.

Our ignorance of God is a part of the "outer darkness." We can be outside the "city" because of the ignorance of God, His call on our lives, and the expression of the fullness of self within us. [John 17:3 "this is eternal life that they may know thee.]

Rom 1:18-25-"...for the invisible things...are clearly seen...";

Acts 17:29-31-"...in times of ignorance God winked at...."

"washed their robes & made them white"

Rev 7: 13-17

v. 13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?” 14. I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. NAS 95

Rev 3:14-22

v. 17 ‘Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, 18. I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and *that* the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. NAS 95

As Jacob Luffy writes in his book, “If we desire to go on to perfection, we must come into agreement with God."

IN THE THRONE. [100 fold]. 3-9-03 Rev 3:21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

*"‘To him who overcomes I will give the privilege of sitting down with Me on My throne, as I also have overcome and have sat down with My Father on His throne. WEY*

The Glorious Body of Christ by Bill Britton

"For more than 30 years the Body of Christ was that robe of human flesh that came from the womb of Mary. From the infant in his mother’s arms, to the child in the Temple, on through the growing up years, finally to a full grown matured man, God lived in that body. And finally, through the mature life and ministry of Jesus, God revealed His true nature and character to the world of lost men and women. This then, was His purpose and plan... to manifest Himself in all His compassion and love, all His power and authority, all His wisdom and knowledge, through a body of flesh, through a man. And this He did in Jesus. For Jesus was all man as well as all God, but this was not the ultimate. For the purpose of Christ was to redeem all men, to make a way for all those who receive Him to become like Him, that they too might manifest the life of God in their mortal bodies. So until Calvary his body was the Body of Christ, the house that God lived in, but that body went to the Cross and died. He suffered as propitiation He then was a Pattern, a Sign. We are the fulfillment of that Sign, made in the image of that Pattern. He was the Seed, the Word; planted in death... we are the harvest, the precious fruit of the earth, bringing forth His life, perpetuating Him in this world. He is the "Everlasting Father" (Isaiah 9:6), and we are,

"the children whom the Lord hath given me" (Isaiah 8:18; Hebrews 2:13).

As we manifest Him and bear His life, "He shall see his seed, He shall prolong his days" (Isaiah 53:10).

Jesus says: "He that overcometh shall inherit all things, I will be his God and he shall be my Son" (Revelation 21:7)."

"The Glorious Body of Christ" cont. "Levels in the Body of Christ."

There are stations, or grades of membership in that Body. Yes, we are to be "one" in Him, there in "one" body, the harvest is one... but Jesus taught that there will be "thirty-fold, sixty-fold, and hundred-fold" in the harvest, according to their fruit-bearing..."

"From His side pierced there at Calvary with blood and water flowing out, from this came the Church, His Bride. Yet, from this Church, His Bride, there must be born a Man who is to rule the nations with a rod of Iron. Who is this Man? It is the Overcomer (Revelation 2:26, 27; 3:21)!"

"This man who is to come forth from the Church, the virgin Bride, is a body of people who walk this earth in great victory over sin, sickness, and Satan. Though he is right now a part of the Bride, being in her womb, yet he is always spoken in the male gender, never as a female. This has nothing at all to do with whether you are a man or woman in the natural. There will be men in the Bride group, and women in the Manchild or Son group. But in the Spirit, the Bride is always referred to as female, and the Manchild as male. It is "he" that overcometh, never she. The overcomer is that body of people who overcome and make up the Son." Also see Dad's God's Man on page 17. & Christ-Mass by Doug Fortune.

**The overcomer is that body of people who overcome and make up the Son**. **3-16-03**

**Eph 4:11-16 [Read all first then back to v. 13.]**

**v. 13** till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a **perfect man** *[teleios-that which has reached its end]*, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; **[Phil 3:12-17, v. 13 (vs. 8-11)]**

v. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; NAS 95

Our ignorance of God is a part of the "outer darkness." We can be outside the "city" because of our ignorance of God, His call on our lives, and the resulting expression of the fullness of self within us. [John 17:3 "this is eternal life that they may know thee...."]

v. 15 But we shall lovingly hold to the truth, and shall in all respects grow up into union with Him who is our Head, even Christ. WEY

**Rom 8:19-25**

v. 19 For all creation, gazing eagerly as if with outstretched neck, is waiting and longing to see the manifestation of the sons of God. WEY

**v. 23** And it is plain, too, that we who have a foretaste of the Spirit are in a state of painful tension, while we wait for that redemption of our bodies which will mean that we have realized our full sonship in him. PHIL **vs. 14-17**

Rom 13:11-14

v. 13 Let us live cleanly, as in the daylight, not in the delights of getting drunk or playing with sex, nor yet in quarrelling or jealousies. PHIL

Rom 6:15 What then? are we to go on in sin because we are not under law but under grace? Let it not be so. 16. Are you not conscious that you are the servants of him to whom you give yourselves to do his desire? if to sin, the end being death, or if to do the desire of God, the end being righteousness. BBE

Ezek 18:19-32

Heb 10:26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, NAS 95

"If we sin willfully"

In this time of church history in the "age of grace," we have forgotten the awfulness of sin. The awfulness of sin lay not in its breaking of the law but in its trampling of the love of Christ under foot. Sin is the failure to realize the sacredness of that sacrifice upon the Cross. Finally, sin is an insult to the Holy Spirit by the disregarding of His voice telling us what is right and wrong. This disregard of His voice is an insult and grieves the heart of God.

Luke 12:47 48 Now, that slave who knew the will of his master and did not make the necessary preparations or do his will, will be beaten with many stripes. But he that did not know, and did things worthy of blows, will be beaten with few stripes, for to everyone to whom much was given, much shall be required from him, and to whom much was entrusted, more they will ask. Wuest

**"The Maturing of the Son." 3-23-03/ 5-14-03 @ Apos. Harris'**

**Gal 3:26-4:1-7**

v. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are indeed true descendants of Abraham, and are heirs in fulfillment of the promise. WEY

v. 1 Now I say, as long as the heir is a child *[#3516]*, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, NAS 95

3516 nepios { nay’-pee-os} from an obsolete particle ne- (implying negation) and 2031;

AV - child 7, babe 6, childish 1; 14-*an infant, little child, metaph. childish, untaught, unskilled*

2031 epos { ep’-os} from 2036; n AV - say + 2036 1; 1-*a word*

2036 epo { ep’-o} a primary verb (used only in the definite past tense, the others being borrowed from 2046, 4483, and 5346);; v AV - say 859, speak 57, tell 41, command 8, bid 5, misc 6, vr say 1; 977*-to speak, say*

That which cannot be spoken yet, an immature word, not fully ripe.

v. 2 But he is under guardians and administrators *or* trustees until the date fixed by his father. Amp.

Example-Joseph

Gen 37:1-11

v. 5 Shares his dream with his half-brothers.

v. 11 Half-brothers envy, Jacob observes-difference in maturity.

vs. 23-28

v. 23 So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; NRS

First of three strippings, his half brothers stripped him of his robe, the sign of his inheritance-the seed. Joseph was stripped of who he was by birth- family pride, his hope of the future.

Gen 39:12-19

Potiphar’s wife stripped Joseph. Joseph's integrity was tested, and he proved himself faithful to his master. He was falsely accused and stripped of all his accomplishments-self confidence. This robe was the robe of his servant hood, which he had become a faithful servant, his self worth.

Gen 40:8, 14, 23, 41:1

v. 8 “Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me.” NRS

It was still God and I.

v. 23 His processing was not completed-disappointment.

Gen 41:14 His prison robe, the robe of humiliation, was stripped off by himself.

v. 16 "It is not in me...."

Gen 50:15-21

Joseph has his chance for revenge but gives mercy.

v. 18 Dream fulfilled.

v. 20, 21 God's purpose fulfilled.

4:6 It is because you really are his sons that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to cry "Father, dear Father". PHIL

"The Manchild" 3-30-03/ 4-27-03

I Pet 2:9 But you *are* a chosen generation *[#1085-race,* *nationality or descent from a particular people]*, a royal priesthood, a holy nation *[#1484 ethnos-race,]*, His own special people *[#2992 laos-* *all those who are of the same stock and language,]*, that you may proclaim the praises *[virtues, excellencies]* of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

*from a particular people, v. 10 Heb 8:10* "...I will put My laws into their minds, And I will write them on their hearts. And I will be their God, And they shall be My people." NAS 95

*race,1 Pet 1:23,* having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

*Heb 2:11* For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

*the same stock and language,1 Cor 1:10* Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

*But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted. Msg.*

Preston Eby's article 5-4-03

"The church is both a race and a nation because it is composed of people who have been BEGOTTEN and BORN OF GOD! God is thus the head of an entirely new ETHNIC GROUP that is HEAVENLY! Born of the Spirit! The offspring of GOD! And God has formed this new race of men into a NATION. It is God's nation. He is the king. And in the scriptures mountains are used to denote kingdoms or nations. So when we read in Dan. 2:45 of a stone CUT OUT OF A MOUNTAIN, it is a stone cut out of a kingdom out of a NATION! And that nation, or mountain, is GOD'S CHURCH! The stone is, therefore, Christ with all the elect Sons of God.

Dan 2:33-46

v. 45 “Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands *[no human instrumentality]* and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.” NAS 95

The very same analogy is drawn in John 's vision of a woman bringing forth a manchild. The woman is the church, the true church. The manchild, born out of the woman, is that company of God's overcoming Sons who are to "rule all nations with a rod of iron."

Rev 12:1-6

v. 5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and *to* his throne.

Isa 66:7 Before she travaileth, she hath brought forth,—Before her pains come to her, she hath given birth to a man-child! 8. Who hath heard the like of this? Who hath seen the like of these things? Can a land, be made to bring forth in one day? Or a nation, be born, at one time? As soon as she travaileth, Zion hath also given birth to her children. ROTHRHAM

v. 6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she \*had a place *[#5117-any portion or space marked off, as it were from surrounding space, an inhabited place, as a city, village, district.]* prepared by *[apo-of origin of a cause]* God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days. NAS 95

**A place prepared of God**

A place whose origin or source is God. Rehab's house on the wall ***[Jos 2, place of safety, deliverance]***, Moses-a place by me ***[Ex 33, an habitation]***, "I will keep him in perfect peace..." ***[Isa 26, a place of rest].***

Ps 37:29 The righteous shall inherit the land *[earth]*, And dwell in it forever. *[Matt 24:36-42]*

So the WOMAN of Revelation 12 and the MOUNTAIN from which the stone is cut in Dan. 2:45 ARE ONE AND THE SAME - the church. The MANCHILD out of the woman and the STONE out of the mountain are the very same thing -they are the 144,000 overcoming Sons of God who come to Mount Zion to reign, Rev 14!

The manchild, the stone, the 144,000 on Mount Zion are all the same as the OVERCOMERS out of the churches in Rev. chapters 2 and 3.

Rev. 2:26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—27 *‘He* *shall rule them with a rod of iron;* They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’—as I also have received from My Father;

Daniel says of the STONE:

Dan 2:44 "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. 45. For as much as thou sawest that the STONE was cut out the mountain without hands, and that IT brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter; and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure."

So the stone RULES and breaks in pieces all these kingdoms. The overcomers RULE and break the nations into shivers. The manchild RULES "all nations" with a rod of iron. The 144,000 are RULING from Mt. Zion that Mount of kingship and dominion. And each one of these "comes out" of something else out of a larger group of God's people! They are ALL fulfilling the same function smashing the kingdoms of this world and bringing the Kingdom of God to pass in the earth!

Dan. 7:9-27

v. 18 "But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even forever and ever.

v. 22. "...the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the SAINTS of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom."

v. 27. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, AND ALL DOMINIONS SHALL SERVE AND OBEY HIM"."

Rev 14:1-7 [Mount Zion-Isa 25:6-10a] 5-18-03

v. 1 Then I looked, and there was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion! And with him were one hundred forty-four thousand who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads. NRS

Rev 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called *[appointed]*, and chosen *[selected]*, and faithful *[trustworthy]*.

v. 4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from *among* men, *being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

"for they are virgins" 5-25-03

*"for they kept themselves pure." NIV*

These virgins have not been defiled as a harlot by submitting to rulership by man-made organizations, sectarian denominations and the traditions of men that make void the Word of God.

2 Cor 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ.

*"being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb"

Jam 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

*The ones that are lead by the Spirit of God are called the Sons of God.*

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. [vs.9, 12-23]

*These "sons" are in the process of overcoming the world and the things of the flesh in them.*

1 John 5:3-5 [See notes in Newberry.]

v. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. 4 For whatsoever is born *[to make again, man as God intended man to be, Isa 57:15, 16 in Amp.]* of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

The `whatsoever' (*1 John 5:4*) that which is being created and developed in the individual is that which overcomes the world...."

"...This is the gold and the white raiment and the eyesalve that we are urged to buy of Him (*Rev 3:18*)..."

Rev 3:18 If you are wise you will get from me gold tested by fire, so that you may have true wealth; and white robes to put on, so that your shame may not be seen; and oil for your eyes, so that you may see. 19. To all those who are dear to me, I give sharp words and punishment: then with all your heart have sorrow for your evil ways. 20. See, I am waiting at the door and giving the sign; if my voice comes to any man’s ears and he makes the door open, I will come in to him, and will take food with him and he with me. 21.To him who overcomes I will give a place with me on my high seat, even as I overcame, and am seated with my Father on his high seat. BBE

There "...has been a company like this in every generation, from the ascension and the Day of Pentecost unto the present day, that has been called `the Christ' (*1 Cor 12:12*)." [God's Man]

1 Cor 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

Rev 14:5 And in their mouth was found no guile *[#1388-* *craft, deceit: (no hidden agendas, "eye be single", unmixed vision, full of light, Mt 6, CRS)]*: for they are without fault *[#299-as a sacrifice without spot or blemish]* before the throne of God.

Bro. Jacob Luffy says, "As long as self is alive in us, that part of us is not in union with God. God is at work to bring self to nothing. Before He does that work, self says things, does things, loves things, rejoices over certain things, grieves over certain things, longs for things, hates things and feels things. However, when self has been brought to nothing--when it has been mortified by the Spirit--all behavior that was motivated by self-ceases".

Bro. Luffy continues, "True union with God results from Him bringing us into the same state of being in which He exists. That state is selflessness. The two then become one. Although there can be a joining together of parties due to self-centered interest, there is never really a true union in such a relationship. That relationship will last only as long as the self-centered interests in each party are being served. The commitment that is contained in God--namely, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee"--does not exist in self-centered individual. God totally commits Himself in His relationships; He holds nothing back."

"Faith is not the end--a pure heart full of the love of God is. One who loves God will seek His glory alone... How do most Christians measure the spirituality of other Christians? Is it by their *doing* or by their *being*?" "His glory comes at great cost. The greater the glory of God that one possesses, the great the price they have paid in terms of their earthly affections and their self-life."

**Rev 12 "woman cloth with the sun" & Rev 21 the New Jerusalem**. **.**

Rev 1:16 "...And his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength."

Isa 66:7 Before she travaileth, she hath brought forth,—Before her pains come to her, she hath given birth to a man-child! 8. Who hath heard the like of this? Who hath seen the like of these things? Can a land, be made to bring forth in one day? Or a nation, be born, at one time? As soon as she travaileth, Zion hath also given birth to her children. ROTHRHAM

Isa 65:17 “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered *(#2142--* *be brought to mind)* or come to mind.

Isa 66:22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.

*The overcomer is given a new name written upon a white stone, a stone of acquittal. Rev 2:17.*

**[Isa 62:5 see above pg 9, "thy sons shall marry thee"]**

**Gal 4:26**  but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

But the Jerusalem above (the Messianic kingdom of Christ) is free, and she is our mother. Amp.

Rick Vargas stated that "Each time the circumstances become right the prophetic word concerning that set of circumstances activates that prophetic word again."

The Son unveils the Father

Matt 11:27 “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. NIV

REFERENCE SECTION:

*amnoŒs, areµn, arnéŒon* [lamb]

*amnoŒs.* Attested from classical times and used in the LXX, this word occurs four times in the NT, always with reference to Jesus as the innocent lamb who suffers vicariously for others (Jn. 1:29, 36; Acts 8:32; 1 Pet. 1:19). Since Judaism does not call the Redeemer a lamb, two derivations have been sought: first, in the fact that the servant of the Lord in Is. 53:7 (cf. Acts 3:13; 4:27) is compared to a lamb (cf. Acts 8:32), and second, in that Jesus was crucified at the Passover and thus came to be seen as the paschal lamb (1 Cor. 5:7). The Aramaic might also offer a basis with its use of the same word for both “lamb” and “boy or servant.” Thus the Baptist in Jn. 1:29, 36 might have been describing Jesus as the servant of God who takes away the sin of the world in vicarious self-offering (Is. 53). But the writer, in Greek, perceives a reference to the paschal lamb (cf. Jn. 19:36) whose blood blots out sins (® *aéŒroµ*) by expiation. In any case the description of Jesus as *amnoŒs* expresses 1. his patience in suffering (Acts 8:32), 2. his sinlessness (1 Pet. 1:19), and 3. the efficacy of his vicarious death (Jn. 1:29; 1 Pet. 1:19), which like the Passover initiates a new age, brings redemption (from sin), and establishes the people of God (extended now to believers from all nations).

*areµn.* This word for “lamb” occurs only in Lk. 10:3, where, in antithesis to wolves, it expresses 1. the dangerous position of the defenseless disciples but also 2. the certainty of divine protection.

*arnéŒon.* Originally a diminutive of *areµs* (“little lamb”), and found four times in the LXX (e.g., Jer. 11:19), this word occurs in the NT once in Jn. 21:15 and 29 times in Revelation. “My lambs” of Jn. 21:15 are members of the community as the objects of Jesus’ loving care. In Revelation Christ himself is called *arnéŒon* 28 times, and antichrist as his antitype is called *arnéŒon* once. It is sometimes argued that “ram” is here the correct translation in view of the references to the seven horns (5:6) and his wrath (6:16-17) and warfare (17:14). Indeed, a connection is even made with the zodiac. But Dan. 8:3 suggests the seven horns, while there is little philological justification for “ram,” and the fact that the *arnéŒon* is “slain” offers a link to the idea of Jesus as the sacrificial lamb (*amnoŒs*). As Redeemer and Ruler, the lamb of Revelation a. vicariously shed his blood (5:9) and bears the marks of his slaughter (5:6); b. has defeated death (5:5-6) and is omnipotent and omniscient (5:6); c. takes over divine rule, opening the book (5:8ff.), receiving adoration (5:8ff.), establishing a reign of peace (7:9), overcoming demonic powers (17:14), and judging (6:16-17; 13:8); and d. is Lord of lords and King of kings (17:14), holding his marriage feast with the community (19:9) and sharing God’s throne in rule over his people (22:1, 3). [J. Jeremias, I, 338-41][[6]](#footnote-6)

lamb

1. areµn (ajrhvn , (704)), a noun the nominative case of which is found only in early times, occurs in Luke 10:3. In normal usage it was replaced by *arnion* (No. 2), of which it is the equivalent.¶

2. arnion (ajrnivon , (721)) is a diminutive in form, but the diminutive force is not to be pressed (see Note under No. 3). The general tendency in the vernacular was to use nouns in *Ðion* freely, apart from their diminutive significance. It is used only by the Apostle John, (*a*) in the plural, in the Lord’s command to Peter, John 21:15, with symbolic reference to young converts; (*b*) elsewhere, in the singular, in the Apocalypse, some 28 times, of Christ as the Lamb of God, the symbolism having reference to His character and His vicarious Sacrifice, as the basis both of redemption and of Divine vengeance. He is seen in the position of sovereign glory and honour, e.g., 7:17, which He shares equally with the Father, 22:1, 3, the centre of angelic beings and of the redeemed and the object of their veneration, e.g. 5:6, 8, 12, 13; 15:3, the Leader and Shepherd of His saints e.g., 7:17; 14:4, the Head of His spiritual Bride, e.g., 21:9, the luminary of the heavenly and eternal city 21:23, the One to whom all judgment is committed, e.g., 6:1, 16; 13:8, the Conqueror of the foes of God and His people, 17:14; the song that celebrates the triumph of those who ‘gain the victory over the Beast,’ is the song of Moses … and the song of the Lamb, 15:3. His sacrifice, the efficacy of which avails for those who accept the salvation thereby provided, forms the ground of the execution of Divine wrath for the rejector, and the defier of God, 14:10; (*c*) in the description of the second “Beast,” Rev. 13:11, seen in the vision “like a lamb” suggestive of his acting in the capacity of a false Messiah, a travesty of the true. For the use in the Sept. see Note under No. 3.

3. amnos (ajmnov" , (286)), a lamb, is used figuratively of Christ, in John 1:29, 36, with the article, pointing Him out as the expected One, the One to be well known as the Personal fulfilment and embodiment of all that had been indicated in the O.T., the One by whose sacrifice deliverance from Divine judgment was to be obtained; in Acts 8:32 (from the Sept. of Is. 53:7) and 1 Pet. 1:19, the absence of the article stresses the nature and character of His sacrifice as set forth in the symbolism. The reference in each case is to the lamb of God’s providing, Gen. 22:8, and the Paschal lamb of God’s appointment for sacrifice in Israel, e.g., Ex. 12:5, 14, 27 (cp. 1 Cor. 5:7).¶

*Note:* The contrast between *arnion* and *amnos* does not lie in the diminutive character of the former as compared with the latter. As has been pointed out under No. 2, *arnion* lost its diminutive force. The contrast lies in the manner in which Christ is presented in the two respects. The use of *amnos* points directly to the fact, the nature and character of His sacrifice; *arnion* (only in the Apocalypse) presents Him, on the ground, indeed, of His Sacrifice, but in His acquired majesty, dignity, honour, authority and power.

In the Sept. *arnion* is used in Ps. 114:4, 6; in Jer. 11:19, with the adjective *akakos,* innocent; in Jer. 27:45, “lambs.” There is nothing in these passages to suggest a contrast between a lamb in the general sense of the term and the diminutive; the contrast is between lambs and sheep. Elsewhere in the Sept. *amnos* is in general used some 100 times in connection with lambs for sacrifice.[[7]](#footnote-7)

The Glorious Body of Christ by Bill Britton

For more than 30 years the Body of Christ was that robe of human flesh that came from the womb of Mary. From the infant in his mother’s arms, to the child in the Temple, on through the growing up years, finally to a full grown matured man, God lived in that body. And finally, through the mature life and ministry of Jesus, God revealed His true nature and character to the world of lost men and women. This then, was His purpose and plan... to manifest Himself in all His compassion and love, all His power and authority, all His wisdom and knowledge, through a body of flesh. Through a man. And this He did in Jesus. For Jesus was all man as well as all God, but this was not the ultimate. For the purpose of Christ was to redeem all men, to make a way for all those who receive Him to become like Him, that they too might manifest the life of God in their mortal bodies. So until Calvary his body was the Body of Christ, the house that God lived in, but that body went to the Cross and died. He suffered as propitiation He then was a Pattern, a Sign. We are the fulfillment of that Sign, made in the image of that Pattern. He was the Seed, the Word; planted in death... we are the harvest, the precious fruit of the earth, bringing forth His life, perpetuating Him in this world. He is the "Everlasting Father" (Isaiah 9:6), and we are,

"the children whom the Lord hath given me" (Isaiah 8:18; Hebrews 2:13).

As we manifest Him and bear His life,

"He shall see his seed, He shall prolong his days" (Isaiah 53:10).

Jesus says: "To the overcomer I will be his God and he shall be my Son" (Revelation 21:7).

Yes, the Body of Christ, which was once, just one body, has become a great multitude of victorious overcomers.

But not all men, could receive this revelation, nor see Paul’s message. Even the dear Apostle Peter wrote that in the epistles of Paul there were "Some things hard to be understood" (2 Peter 3:16). For this is a, "mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints; to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:26-27).

"The Glorious Body of Christ" cont. "Levels in the Body of Christ."

There are stations, or grades of membership in that Body. Yes, we are to be "one" in Him, there in "one" body, the harvest is one... but Jesus taught that there will be "thirty-fold, sixty-fold, and hundred-fold" in the harvest, according to their fruit-bearing..."

From His side pierced there at Calvary with blood and water flowing out, from this came the Church, His Bride. Yet, from this Church, His Bride, there must be born a Man who is to rule the nations with a rod of Iron. Who is this Man? It is the Overcomer (Revelation 21:7)!

This man who is to come forth from the Church, the virgin Bride, is a body of people who walk this earth in great victory over sin, sickness, and Satan. Though he is right now a part of the Bride, being in her womb, yet he is always spoken in the male gender, never as a female. This has nothing at all to do with whether you are a man or woman in the natural. There will be men in the Bride group, and women in the Manchild or Son group. But in the Spirit, the Bride is always referred to as female, and the Manchild as male. It is "he" that overcometh, never she. The overcomer is that body of people who overcome and make up the Son.

In 1 Corinthians 11:3 we saw that the head of Christ is God, that Christ is the head of that body which makes up the Man, and that the Man is the head of the woman, the Church. This is a principle that God emphasizes all through the Bible, God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, Christ is in the saints (Colossians 1:27) the hope of glory, and, the manchild is in the Church, which is His body by His grace and through His divine promises, but she is no yet prepared for the marriage which shall make her "bone of his bones, and flesh of his flesh," thus part of His body. In eternity, where God lives this thing is already done... He sees her complete in Christ, perfect, glorious, without spot or wrinkle. But in time, where we earth dwellers are, we see her yet imperfect, being ministered unto by apostles, prophets, evangelists, etc. to bring her to perfection. That body Jesus used here on this earth was not left to decay in the tomb. It was, and is, glorified and in the presence of God. Don’t let anyone

Now, what about the Bride; the Church...the Virgin who makes herself ready for a wedding? Just as Mary’s wedding and union with her bridegroom Joseph came after the birth of her manchild (Jesus), plus a period of purifying (Leviticus 12:4) before she was fully cleansed and prepared to come into union with her bridegroom, just so shall the church go through a period of cleansing in a wilderness place prepared of God (Revelation 12:6) after having brought forth the Manchild during a time of great travail. There in the wilderness the Sons of God, the Manchild, the Overcomer, feed her and nourish her with the Word of God... imparting divine revelation unto the Church while hell rages about them. Why are they doing this? The Man-child group, as the Body of Christ with Jesus the Head continually with them, is her bridegroom, and as her bridegroom he is washing her:

"...People who have been in His Church, yet having been defiled as a harlot by submitting to rulership by man-made organizations and sectarian denominations, instead of true to the leadership of the Holy Ghost as a virgin bride of Christ, these shall hear the Word of God divinely anointed through the lips of clay, and by hearing and believing they shall be cleansed and prepared for the wedding of the Lamb. Many of you will see this with your own eyes.

This is not a tyranny, or dictatorship over God’s people. Just as Jesus, who is head of the Man, rules His body with love and tenderness... just so shall the Manchild lead and guide the Church with a love and compassion beyond our comprehension. For the Man is the head of the Woman, yet it is by love that he rules and she obeys as a good wife should because of his anointing and wisdom in the Word. Thus, through union with the bridegroom the bride becomes bone of his bones and flesh of his flesh, and now we see the complete and mature and perfect Body of Christ... Christ Jesus our Lord with the prints of the nails in His hands; with the Overcomer group who (being His Body) are set down with Him in His throne; and the glorious and beautiful Bride also ruling and reigning with her Bridegroom for time and eternity. Glory to God! What a picture! What a wonderful future for all of God’s people who are washed in His precious blood! For beloved, if you are hearing the voice of the Spirit today, it is because you are

From Dad's GOD'S MAN

Chapter 1, pg 2.

"The overcoming company in the seven churches, are those which are in the process of being born from above. Each church was challenged with a promise to the overcomer. The `whatsoever' (*1 John 5:3-5*) that is being created and developed in the individual is that which overcomes the world...."

*1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. 4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*

"...This is the gold and the white raiment and the eyesalve that we are urged to buy of Him (*Rev 3:18*)..."

*Rev 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.* *19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*

"...It has been a company like this in every generation, from the ascension and the Day of Pentecost unto the present day, that has been called `the Christ' (*1 Cor 12:12*)."

*1 Cor 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.*

"It becomes the responsibility of this company in `th e time of the end,' who are overcomers and keep His works unto the end, that the promise is given that He will give them power (authority) over the nations (*Rev. 2:26, 27*)..."

*Rev 2:26 (NAS) And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; 27 and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My Father;*

"...This company is identified as the `man-child' in (*Rev 12:5*) and is `caught up' to the throne in heaven, and at least a part of this company is called ``His Army' (*Rev 19:14, 19*)."

*Rev 12:5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*

*Rev 19:14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.*

*19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.*

THE OPERATION OF THE BODY OF CHRIST [God's Man chapter 1 pg. 2-4.]

The ones that are lead by the Spirit of God are called the Sons of God.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

These "sons" are in the process of overcoming the world and the things of the flesh in them.

1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith. 5. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 6. This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.

Rev 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27. And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

These overcomers shall rule "the nations" with a rod of iron, which is also said of the "manchild" company in Rev 12:5.

Rev 12:5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and *to* his throne.

Revelation 4-20 brings about the reality of Jesus' statement, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done." (Mt. 6:10) We see a company of kings and priests before Him in Rev 5 and an army with Him in Rev 19.

Revelation chapters 5 through 19 deal with the program and transaction of how this accomplishment is brought about. Chapter 4-11 given us the program from the time that He stands "in the midst" of the throne until He leaves the throne and comes back under or at the last trumpet. He carries on this campaign of the execution of the tribution period through this group called the "manchild." Chapter 12-20 gives the program from the time the "manchild" is caught up unto the throne right through the millennial reign and the great throne judgment is finished.

Satan and his angels are cast out of heaven, Rev 12:7-12, and the dragon, Satan's man, is given his power and his seat of great authority on the earth, Rev 13:2. for 1290 days, Dan 12:11, at the end of which he is bound in the "bottomless pit" for a 1000 years.

Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, . 8. And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceived the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him 10. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. 12. Therefore rejoice, *ye* heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Rev 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. 3. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. 4. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? 5. And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty *and* two months.

Dan 12:11 And from the time *that* the daily *sacrifice* shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, *there shall be* a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Rev 12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days.

This is the time of "the great tribulation" which is for the purification of the woman (Rev 7:13-17). The last thirty days is the "day of His wrath" (Rev 6;17), which begins at the literal coming of the Lord Jesus. This literal coming is the "parousia" and is the second coming which is always the event referred to in the Gospel (see Mt 24:29, 30), or the Epistles (see 1 Thes 4:13-18).

Rev 7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? 14. And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. 16. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. 17.For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Rev 6:17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Matt 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: 30.And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

1 Thes 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17. Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18.Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

There is not a single reference by our Lord Jesus Christ or the Apostles to any secret coming before the tribulation period. There is instead the translation of the overcoming company who are ready at the time, but the Lord does not leave the throne for that translation. He stands in the midst of the throne and receives them to the Father, and then He will work through them for the 1260 days that proceed His Second Coming.

This is the program that we see in the Book of Revelation. At the "time of the end" (Dan 12:9), He will stand "in the midst of the throne" and translate the company seen before Him in heaven (Rev 5:6-10), called "kings and priests." It is the ministry of "the Christ" through this company that we want to examine in these studies.

Dan 12:9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

Rev 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. 7. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. 8. And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints. 9. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou was slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10. And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

John is given the revelation of the One Whom he came to know in the Gospels as the LION of the tribe of Judah, set forth in the Gospel of Matthew as the King of Righteousness. He was also see as the OX (Ezk 1:10), Who was both the sin-offering of Mark's Gospel and the burnt-offering of John's Gospel. He was the "SON of MAN" as seen in Luke to become the Mediator of the New Covenant. and to bring "immortality" (2 Tim 1:10) to light in the resurrection. Then the "EAGLE" speaks of the Heavenly One of which Ezekiel had a vision in chapter 1 through 10. In Ezek 1:10-12 he saw this fourfold combination in governmental action. John saw these same living ones "in the midst of the throne with this same fourfold manifestation (see Rev 4:6-8) brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Ezk 1:10 As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.

2 Tim 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Rev 4:6 And before the throne *there was* a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, *were* four beasts full of eyes before and behind. 7. And the first beast *was* like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast *was* like a flying eagle. 8. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about *him*; and *they were* full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

The program that he saw in Rev 6 right on through chapter 19, for the most part, is an expression of the "Christ" in this manner.

THE COMING WORLD GOVERNMENT [partial] by J. Preston Eby 3-5-01

"Peter, when writing to the CHURCH, says: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, AN HOLY NATION, a peculiar people'' (I Peter 2:9). He calls the church A NATION. He also calls them a RACE, for the word "generation" is from the Greek word "genea" which means "race." The Amplified Bible renders this: "But ye are a chosen race." Nations are generally built up after ethnic lines. The church is both a race and a nation because it is composed of people who have been BEGOTTEN and BORN OF GOD! God is thus the head of an entirely new ETHNIC GROUP which is HEAVENLY! Born of the Spirit! The off-spring of GOD! And God has formed this new race of men into a NATION. It is God's nation. He is the king. And in the scriptures mountains are used to denote kingdoms or nations. So when we read in Dan. 2:45 of a stone CUT OUT OF A MOUNTAIN, it is a stone cut out of a kingdom out of a NATION! And that nation, or mountain, is GOD'S CHURCH! The stone is, therefore, Christ with all the elect Sons of God.

The very same analogy is drawn in John 's vision of a woman bringing forth a manchild. The woman is the church. The true church. The manchild, born out of the woman, is that company of God's overcoming Sons who are to "rule all nations with a rod of iron" (Rev. 12:5). So the WOMAN of Revelation 12 and the MOUNTAIN from which the stone is cut in Dan. 2:45 ARE ONE AND THE SAME - the church. The MANCHILD out of the woman and the STONE out of the mountain are the very same thing -they are the 144,000 overcoming Sons of God who come to Mount Zion to reign! Immediately following the marvelous description of this 144,000 Sons of God in Rev.14:1-7, John saw an angel fly through heaven saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen." If you read the remainder of the chapter, you will see vividly the process of the destruction of this Babylonish system by the stone which was cut out of the mountain without hands. Furthermore, the manchild, the stone, the 144,000 on Mount Zion are all the same as the OVERCOMERS out of the churches in Rev. chapters 2 and 3. Of these OVERCOMERS it is written: ''And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers" (Rev. 2:26-27). Daniel says of the STONE: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. For as much as thou sawest that the STONE was cut out the mountain without hands, and that IT brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter; and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure."

So the stone RULES and breaks in pieces all these kingdoms. The overcomers RULE and break the nations into shivers. The manchild RULES "all nations" with a rod of iron. The 144,000 are RULING from Mt. Zion, that Mount of kingship and dominion. And each one of these "comes out" of something else-out of a larger group of God's people! They are ALL fulfilling the same function-smashing the kingdoms of this world and bringing the Kingdom of God to pass in the earth! This is God's GOVERNMENT. And THIS IS THE NEXT WORLD GOVERNMENT. After Rome, the NEXT WORLD EMPIRE IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD!"

"...Remember saints-millenniums ago Satan was promoting the same idea. "And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the earth" (Gen 11:4). But God had other plans! "And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad...and they left off the city" (Gen 11:5-8)."

"...The present nations of the earth, and most of the Christians of the world today, will be surprised... shocked... when God steps in again and derails the well laid and proud and boastful plans of the great men of the earth - and brings forth a company of unknown and unrecognized Sons of God - who shall become the instrument of God to establish in the earth HIS OWN WORLD GOVERNMENT.

"But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even forever and ever... the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the SAINTS of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom... and the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, AND ALL DOMINIONS SHALL SERVE AND OBEY HIM" (Dan. 7:18, 22, 27)."

One of God's purposes for man is that he become His dwelling place in the earth, His naos.

"The main purpose of God though out time and in making man is to prepare Him a habitation-to make Himself a 'dwelling place.' In man-indwelt by God, He created a theophany-a place where He can live and manifest in and through right here on this earth. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (1Co.3:16) We are the Temple of God. We are portable tabernacles. As the temple and the tabernacle was made up of three areas, so are we. The outer court represents the body or the physical person. The Holy Place (the inner court), represents the soul and the Holy of Holies symbolizes our spirits. We, as individuals, are spirits (that part that God breathed into man of Himself), we have souls and we live in a bodies. The outer court represents the first area of entry into God where the articles are brass. An area where sin is dwelt with and one is to get right with God. The brazen alter for offerings up sacrifices and the laver was in this place. People come into the kingdom of God, get baptized in water and learn some basic things about the Lord and living for Him in this part of the Tabernacle. There is the natural day light in this place, but when the night comes, they cannot see to work. We don't need to stay in this area-not in this day and time." [by Pastor Marion Lundy]

**CHRIST - MASS   By Doug Fortune** **12-24-01**

  Mass is generally thought of in reference to physical substance; size, weight, density of a body of substance... mass is something real with substance that manifests in this natural realm. The Holy Spirit, the Ruach of Elohim (Breath or Spirit of God) that we read of brooding over the deep in the book of Genesis is the ESSENCE of Who God is. Jesus was the bodily substance manifestation or the MASS (in this natural realm) of CHRIST which is the spiritual substance of God in a BODY... He was CHRIST-MASS. Christ is literally the ONENESS of God and man... in other words, the Ruach (Breath or Spirit) whose essence is SPIRITUAL, manifesting in a MASS, a PHYSICAL body. Christ is also the collision and marriage of the spiritual realm - the dwelling place of God, and this natural realm of MASS. Jesus walked in both realms simultaneously... we find some examples in John chapters 14 and 17. John 14:3 says, ‘I go and make ready a place for you... that where I AM (present tense) you may be also...’, well He was sitting right in their midst, yet He was in another realm also. John 17:11 says ‘And now I am no more IN the world, but these are in the world...’, once again, He was right there in their midst praying for the disciples, but in another realm also. Most Christians have no problem attributing these things to Jesus, however this same Jesus the Christ has some interesting things to say concerning US.

As we keep reading in John 17, verse 14 He says, ‘THEY are not OF the world, just as I am not OF the world.’ Again in verse 16 He says the exact same thing. Now back up to verse 15 and He says, ‘I do NOT ask that You take them OUT of the world...’ and in verse 18, ‘I also have sent them INTO the world’. So many in the church are looking for a rapture to take them OUT of the world, when in fact He wants to take the world OUT OF the church!... we are HERE in this world for a PURPOSE! Now if perhaps you think this was just for those disciples then, go on to verse 20, ‘Neither for these alone do I pray, but also for ALL those who will EVER come to believe in Me...’. And what exactly IS the PURPOSE?... the answer lies in verses 21 through 26: ‘that they all may be ONE, just as You Father are in Me and I in You, that they also may be ONE IN US... I have given to them the glory and honor (likeness) which You have given Me, that they may be ONE, EVEN AS WE ARE ONE: I in them and You in Me, in order that they may become ONE and perfectly united... I desire that they also may be with Me WHERE I AM (two realms at once) so that they My see My glory... I revealed Your character and Your very Self, and I will CONTINUE to make You known... that I Myself may be IN THEM...’ (Amplified Bible). THIS is our PURPOSE, to manifest Christ, to be a CHRIST-MASS in the earth!... to manifest the ONENESS of God and man that is provided through the cross. When Jesus went to the cross, He prepared a place where God and man can be ONE, and that place of dwelling in ONENESS is CHRIST. It is the place where you and I DIE and are resurrected, NOT to OUR life and this natural realm only; but resurrected as He lives HIS LIFE THROUGH US... Christ taking on MASS... a CHRIST-MASS manifesting to the world.

I believe that just as the ‘celebration of Christmas’ with its pagan origin seems to have taken over the world with all of its commercialized materialistic negative impact, the day is soon coming when the CHRIST-MASS will take over the world as the kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdom of the Lord and His Christ... These will be those who walk in the same ONENESS as Jesus the Christ; those who are walking in both the spiritual and the natural realm just as Jesus the Christ. I also believe that this many membered CHRIST-MASS is being birthed into the earth even now... Just as Jesus was formed in secret in the womb of a virgin, even so is this CHRIST-MASS being secretly formed in the womb of a ‘Virgin Church’ and is now pressing into the birth canal. Don’t look for spectacle though, for just as Jesus the Christ was born in humility and obscurity, so shall this CHRIST-MASS be born... no big names and glitzy ministry facades. If your life and ministry seem to be stuck in an obscure ‘barn’ off the beaten path while the ‘Churchianity Inn’ is running at full capacity, don’t worry about it, there is a purpose.

Don’t get me wrong... I’m NOT saying that this CHRIST-MASS I speak of is not manifesting at all now, or that we ought to ‘wait’ on something. It IS for the PRESENT, and we should walk in the measure that is revealed, but we are only seeing a measure now... the ‘fullness of the FULLNESS’ is yet to come. I am enjoying CHRIST-MASS now, and I am looking forward to the CHRIST-MASS to come.

May CHRIST-MASS be a reality in your life and may you have a blessed Christmas also.

**From The Simplicity of Christ by Doug Fortune** 11-1-01

Unfortunately most of our modern dispensationalists have taken the **marriage supper of the Lamb** in Rev.19 and pushed it off into some future time robbing us of the present fulfillment, when in reality that is what we just read about in ICor.12:12-13... ONE body, ONE spirit, being JOINED to the Lord! False religious arguments of the mind declare to us that there is NO WAY we can become ONE with Christ, at least not till we die and live in the sweet by and by! I declare to you that that religious stronghold of the mind is anti(instead-of)Christ and I cast it down now!... I speak a release of the abiding anointing within you to bring the REVELATION of the KNOWLEDGE of the glory of the Lord, His glory rising within YOU as the waters cover the sea!!! I declare to you that you have the MIND of Christ! I speak to the god of this world, the Adam nature that has brought blindness to the mind, and to the ‘rulers of darkness’, those spiritual entities that obscure the Light of TRUTH, and I command that power be LOOSED off the mind of the reader that Light of the gospel of the GLORY OF CHRIST shine forth for the KNOWLEDGE of the glory of God!

**THE KINGDOM- PRIESTS AND KINGS   By Paul Keith Davis 3-2-02**

Throughout the church one cry has uniformly echoed from the hearts of Gods people— Send us Your Power! Without controversy, it is much needed. We will not attain our high calling and prophetic destiny without His Empowering Presence. However, Isaiah 11:2 provides an enlightening clue to the release of the Spirit of Might and Power. It is the accompanying Spirit of Counsel from the heart of the Lord providing a message of preparation for this great release.   
  
In His admonition to this generation, the Lord gives divine counsel. His advise to us is to buy of Him gold refined by fire that we may become rich and white garments that the shame of our nakedness would not be revealed. He further instructs us to receive His eye salve that our eyes would be illumined to see the unseen.   
  
By meticulously following the Spirit of Counsel...the Spirit of Power and Might is dispersed to equip us as "over-comers" and qualify us to sit with Him on His throne as He overcame and sat with His Father on His throne. It is in this place that the Bride of Christ will emerge as Priests and Kings to appropriate the Lord’s victory in the heavens and on earth.   
  
**Rev 3:18-21**— I advise you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and {that} the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eyesalve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.   
  
**PRIESTS AND KINGS**   
  
**Rev 5:9-10**— And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."   
  
The administration of the Priestly ministry equips and enables us to relate and affect the heavenly realm through worship, intimacy and relationship with the Lord. This divine office allows us to enter His sanctuary and draw near to His table and minister to Him by offering the sacrifices of praise, worship, intercession and mutual exchange. (Ezekiel 44:14-16)   
  
The administration of the Kingly ministry provides spiritual authority that allows us to relate to and influence the earthly realm as overcomer's and delegate His victory and dominion achieved in His death and resurrection. Each of these Ministries or divine offices has a specific function and related sphere of authority.   
  
**SPIRIT OF COUNSEL AND MIGHT**   
  
There is presently a message of preparation through the Spirit of Counsel for those whom the Lord is grooming to function in a governmental role releasing the Spirit of Might and Power to bring judgment and Dominion in the earth through His delegated authority. This will be the establishing of His Kingdom. We must seek first the Kingdom of Heaven, which is both Word and Power expressed through— living stones, [who] are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Pet 2:5)   
  
This is in contrast to the prevailing thought of some that we are strictly going to be "caught up" and experience the kingdom only in heaven. The present work of grooming and training will precede "the catching away" and relates to our being empowered to rule in the earth delegating the Lord's victory on the earth before leaving the earthly realm. We shall taste "the good Word of God and the Power of the age to come" on this side of heaven as the Lord’s enemies are subdued and put under His feet. Then the Lord can come for His bride without spot or wrinkle and the restoration of all things is accomplished. (Acts 3:21)   
  
**REIGNING ON EARTH**   
  
Revelations 5:10 points out that we shall reign on the earth. Naturally, this points to the Millennial Kingdom. However, to be ready for this great purpose, there is a present "ruling" or overcoming in our lives being appropriated and manifested before we enter into the fullness of the Millennial Kingdom.   
  
For this function to be fulfilled, we must become the habitation of God and His dwelling place— not merely moving through us, but RESTING IN US. This presents us in our Priestly ministry. Then, as we begin to appropriate spiritual dominion and rule throughout the nation's, we operate in our kingly ministry.   
  
**THE GIANTS OF THE LAND**   
  
The enemies that inhabit this "promised land" are the strongholds and dominions that exist in our soul that must be overcome through the appropriation of the blood of Christ and His victory. These enemies are too great for us in our own strength, just as the inhabitants of the promised land were too great for Israel to defeat without the Lord's supernatural intervention.   
  
Although 10 of the spies returned with evil reports, it remained the decision of the people to choose which report they believed. They could have chosen to believe the faithful report of Joshua and Caleb. In so doing, they would have experienced the great power of "Captain of the Lord's Host" and enjoyed the fullness of their promise. So is it with us today. Although the strongholds and worldliness in us seems insurmountable, the Lord has pledged in His word that we have the precious and magnificent promises by which we can become partakers of the divine nature and escape the corruption of this world and it's lusts. (2 Peter 1:4) Our part is in yielding to the Holy Spirit and allowing this work to be realized.   
  
**THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM**   
  
For us to be ambassadors for Christ and His representation on the earth, we must be trustworthy stewards of the power and authority that accompanies the "keys of the Kingdom". This can be achieved only as we share in the Lord's nature and character, overcoming the corruption that presently exists in our soul. As we allow the Holy Spirit to reveal and extract the seeds of corruption, it will produce the necessary character and divine attributes that will make us candidates to be, not only called, but also chosen and sent. That is the message His voice is proclaiming as he stands at the door of our hearts and knocks, searching for those who will open to Him and dine.   
  
**TOKENS OF THIS REALITY**   
  
The Lord has given to us "tokens" of this reality through individuals who have crossed over as spies and returned with the fruit of this land and shared it with the body of Christ. These individuals have been "prototypes" of an entire company of people who are to function in this governmental role equipped with the "keys of the Kingdom" tasting the good word of God and the power of the age to come. Some have already lived their life of victory and entered their reward, such as John G. Lake. (We have other articles addressing the life and example bro. Lake) Others are presently emerging having tasted of this reality.   
  
Even while we were in a prophetic conference in Kelowna Canada, a precious sister who is a missionary to Mozambique, participated in the conference with us. As she shared her heart with us and the experiences she has had with the Lord in recent days as he pruned and prepared her, the Holy Spirit spoke to me and revealed that she was likened to one of the spies who ventured over into the promise and returned with portions of the fruit of the land. As she shared her report, it remained up to the people to choose to believe or reject the report.   
  
Her message was likewise one of preparation as she disclosed how the Lord "glued" her to the floor for seven days and seven nights, moving upon and through her with waves of His Spirit revealing areas and issues that were contrary to His nature. Much took place during this season, but the end result was the death to self and selfish motives and agendas and the embracing of His Spirit as a dwelling place allowing total Dominion in her Spirit, soul, and body according   
  
**1 Thessalonians 5:23**. Tremendous miracles, signs and wonders began to emerge in her ministry with countless reports of healings and even creative miracles as sight was restored, lame limbs given strength and cancers healed.   
  
**CROSSING OVER TO THE PROMISE**   
  
This is our promise and this is our destiny as the dawning of a new day continues to ascend to the spiritual heights from which the Priests and Kings will become apparent. From this sacred place these anointed vessels will begin to function in their governmental role and appropriate the Lord’s great victory. Let us give ear to the Spirit of Counsel preceding the release of the Spirit of Might and Power.   
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The Bride [from Bro. Valori's website]

The concept of the Bride is the fourth major picture of the Church given in scripture. If we are awakened to and truly serious about this concept, it will require a depth of commitment previously unknown. The picture of the Bride calls for intimacy of relationship with Jesus, the Bridegroom, and preparation for participation with Him in both the end of this age and the coming Kingdom. The popular and shallow teaching of a rapture followed by some type of 'honeymoon' in heaven falls far short of God's intended purpose for His Church.

Let us note some very profound and important aspects of the Church as the Bride of Christ:

*Espousal* In 2 Corinthians 11:2, the Apostle Paul considers the Church 'betrothed' to Christ, even as a woman might pledge herself to marry a certain man. The yearning of the Apostle is that she, the Church, might remain a pure virgin, fit for her pure and holy Bridegroom. In this passage, it is significant to note that her defilement could come not only from the world, but from 'another gospel', 'another Jesus' or 'another spirit'. It is sad to note that, from our vantage point, a large portion of the church has already been defiled and has become disqualified to be the Bride of Christ. ( For further comment or discussion on this topic, the reader is encouraged to contact our e-mail address appearing on our facing page.)

*Preparation.* If we become gripped by the profound implications of our calling as the Bride of Christ, we shall acknowledge that a salvation experience followed by careless living will disqualify us. Instead of a 'saved and going to heaven' mentality, we shall walk softly before Him and expect a process of preparation for the *'marriage supper of the Lamb'.* Revelation 19:7 indeed indicates that *"his wife hath made herself ready."* Let us further consider the preparation process:

Ephesians 5:26 indicates that the Lord will *"sanctify and cleanse the church with the washing of water by the word."* This is an on-going process performed by the anointed ministry of the Word of God. Those who are serious about participating in the marriage of the Lamb will not follow the multitudes to be simply blessed or entertained. They will seek out a ministry characterized by a sanctifying and cleansing word.

I John 3:1-3 indicates that when our Lord appears, there will be those who will be like Him at His appearing. Many conclude that this is an impossibility and dismiss it from their theology, but if we stay with what this text is saying, we see in verse 3 that there will be those who will hold to the hope of being like Him and will purify themselves. (We know we cannot do this in our own strength, but as God speaks and deals with us, those who yield and respond in obedience, will indeed experience transformation into Christ-likeness. (For other confirming texts see: 1 Peter 1:22; Titus 2:14; 2Corinthians 3:18; 2 Corinthians 7:1.)

*Presentation.* Several times, the Apostle Paul alludes to the picture of the Church being presented to Christ as a proper Bride. Whereas the majority in Christendom simply think 'rapture' without regard to their condition, the Bible clearly indicates that the Bride will be a company of people who will be *"holy and without blemish".* (See Ephesians 5:27; Colossians 1:22; 1Thessalonians 5:23; Jude 24) Again we refer to Revelation 19:7 to show that the Bride is composed of saints who are diligent in preparing themselves for a marriage with Christ the Bridegroom.

*Participation.* Whereas shallow Christianity establishes a mentality of going to heaven to enjoy eternity, the scriptures do not confirm such theology. The complete song of the redeemed is given in Revelation 5:9,10: *"...Thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof, for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred , and tongue and people and nation; and has made us unto our God kings and priests, and we shall reign on the earth."* Thus, the Bride will be co-regent with Christ in His literal kingdom on the earth.

Another passage which points to the Bride's participation with Christ in His coming Kingdom is found in Revelation 19:11-21. A careful study of this passage, which follows the marriage supper of the Lamb, shows that the Bride is the army which follows the Lamb and which shares in the smiting of the nations and ruling them with a rod of iron. (Supportive scripture: Rev.2:26,27)

In conclusion, we appeal for open minds and honesty. Like the Bereans of the early church, may we become diligent to search the scriptures to see if these things be so.

From another portion of Bro. Valori's website

(4) The Pre-Tribulation Rapture Theory. We cannot bear witness to the popular 'pre-tribulation rapture' teaching which seems to pervade much of Christendom. Yes, we do believe in the personal return of our Lord Jesus and a 'catching up' to Him. We acknowledge that the Bible teaches there will be a climactic end to this present world order. What then do we feel is wrong with the 'rapture' teaching?

(a.) We believe God's people will go through the tribulation as a means of purification and preparation for the marriage supper of the Lamb. (See Daniel 11:35; 12:9,10; Matthew 24:21,22,29-31; Revelation 7:14)

(b.) Today's popular rapture teaching makes the believer a candidate for the Bride and for the Kingdom without any further preparation. The implication is that once you are saved, you are ready for everything. The scriptures, when honestly read, do not establish this conclusion, but challenge the believer to righteous living (1 John 3:7-10), purification (Titus 2:14; 1 John 3:2,3), holiness (2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 12:10), preparation for the Bride (Revelation 19:7; Ephesians 5:26,27; 2 Corinthians 11:2,3) and qualifying for the literal coming Kingdom (Matthew 7:21; 20:21,22; Acts 14:22; 1 Corinthians 6:9; Revelation 2:26,27; 3:21)

May we not blindly follow religious leaders and gullibly accept the doctrines of denominations.

(c.) We cannot accept that the glorious church (Ephesians 5), the overcomers (Revelation 2 & 3) and the sons of God (Romans 8:19) -a remnant who have been undergoing intense dealings and preparation - will be raptured and be in heaven while the Jews are here on earth to do God's work during the tribulation. No, it will be the church, moving in the fullness of Christ's anointing, which will manifest His glory and authority in the midst of gross darkness. (Isaiah 60) All creation is waiting, not for the rapture of the church, but for the 'manifestation of the sons of God'. (Please read the entire passage of Romans 8:18-25.)

(d) In the passage 1 Thessalonians 4:17, the phrase *'to meet the Lord in the air'* (from the Greek texts) actually has the meaning of *'meeting someone and continuing with them to their destination'.* We believe the destination is the earth, where our Lord Jesus Christ will begin to set up His literal kingdom. The 'catching up' will be for the purpose of taking on a glorified body, a necessity for the days of the kingdom. The following passages of scripture further support this scenario: (Jude 14; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Philippians 3:20,21; Colossians 3:4; Revelation 19:7-21 {read entire context})

NOWHERE IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION, THE BOOK OF END-TIME EVENTS, DO WE FIND ANY REFERENCE TO TWO COMINGS OF THE LORD, AS IS COMMONLY TAUGHT.

(5) Zion, His Habitation, in the days of David and Solomon, was the place of government, the location of the temple and the center of worship for the people of Israel. It was the place God had chosen for His dwelling place, and became an expression of the fullness of God in the earth. (Psalm 132) Literal Zion foreshadows spiritual Zion, the true church, which is also called to become an expression of God's fullness. (Ephesians 1:23; Hebrews 12:22-29)

In the practical outworking of this truth, the proper building of the local church comes into view. Among the requirements of a 'local body' are deep commitments to God and to each other, relationships based on 'agape' love, frequent gatherings and fellowship and a spiritual functioning of all the members. Crowds gathering to be blessed or to watch a performance do not constitute a proper 'local church'. Also, it is difficult for gatherings of hundreds and thousands to properly function as a church.

The purified worship and ministry of the church as a whole will (1) Delight the heart of God, (2) Impact principalities and powers, (3) Meet the needs of God's people, and (4) Become a genuine testimony to the world.

(6) The Spiritual Climate or Tone. What is the true nature of this hour? What type of season is upon us? Many are in a mode of celebration, supposedly over so-called spiritual visitations, supernatural manifestations such as 'holy laughter', 'gold dust', etc…while others are caught up in the blessings realms. Though we sense there are some valid moves of the Spirit in the earth today, we are basically living in A TIME OF APOSTASY. The overall conditions of the church represent grave departure and deviation from Biblical standards of righteousness and holiness.

What is the Lord saying?

*"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet and shew my people their transgression and the house of Jacob their sins."* (Isaiah 58:1)

*"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion and sound an alarm in my holy mountain; let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord cometh…turn ye even to me, with all your heart and with fasting, and with weeping and with mourning…let the priests, the ministers of the Lord weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O, Lord."* (Joel 2:1,12,17)

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