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## Tutorial #6

# I.D. CLASS

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Back in the early 1970's, Bro. James T. Webb set up a class called the "I.D. Class", which was an abbreviated form that stood for "The Identity Class". This class was designed to teach the church who we are as a people, why we call ourselves Israel, Hebrew, Jews and what our purpose is on this earth. Our group came from the highways and the byway; meaning that we came with different views and beliefs (Matt 22:9).

We had just come out of a period of the sixties in which we were fed up and tired of the way in which the black man had been treated and we were all searching – searching for something that could make meaning out of our lives; that gave us a purpose and answered the one big question that we had grown impatient for ...."Why"?

Every Wednesday night "ID" began with these probing questions:

1. Why does the black man have such a hard life?
2. Why is the black man not desired?
3. Have you ever wondered why?
4. Why is the black man always the last hired, but the first to be fired?
5. Who are we as a race of people? And,
6. Where is the black land or the African-American land?

These questions were not to stir up racial hatred or divisions, but these questions were designed to:

- Strike a nerve for us to see that our suffering as a black man was not just happenstance,
- That Almighty God was perfectly aware of what the black man had been going through,
- That if we would open our hearts and our minds to what the spirit of the Lord was saying to us, He would answer and reveal unto us the questions that haunted the black man for generations, And,
- Where do we go from there? [Deut. 29:26-30]

I now direct you to turn your Bible to Deuteronomy 28<sup>th</sup> chapter. There was a nation of people that God was speaking to where He was telling them basically that if they listened and obeyed His instructions that He would make this nation of people a great and powerful nation. He begged them and stated that these people would be blessed, but they only had to obey God's words and take heed to His commandments. Of course, we find that this nation of people that God spoke to were a stubborn and hard headed nation. They (unfortunately) did not take heed to the words of God and the chapter talks of the curses that would befall them should they turn away from God's warnings.

**[Curse: Something harmful or misfortunate, that would come upon someone.]**

The important thing is to pay close attention to the fact that there was only one nation that God was speaking to at this time. This one nation was loved and chosen by God. God had given them the law of Ten Commandments and showed them many miraculous things while in the wilderness, but needless to say this nation being rebellious, (stiff-necked and stubborn people), time and again, refused to obey God's commands. Because of this, there was a flip side to God's blessings. This nation of people would be cursed. Deuteronomy 28:15-68 tells us of those things that would befall the people should they not obey. Again, I reiterate that God was speaking to one nation of people, and as you go through the scriptures, I would like you to go back throughout history and compare these curses with every nation of people on the earth. In order for a particular ethnic group to be identified as the group that was cursed by God – this group had to fit ***all*** of the curses. You can not fit just one of the curses to be that nation that God was talking to... you had to fit them all. We begin our review of the scriptures revealing the curses.

**Deut. 28:15-16** – Everywhere this group of people went whether it was in a city or a country they were looked at, they were despised, they were unwanted. They were stared at and made to feel out of place and unwelcomed.

**Deut. 28:17** – Everything that you tried to do as far as financial gain would be cursed. Again the phrase, “last hired, but first to be fired”. Sure these people today have made some financial gains but those people that have are the exceptions and not the norm. It is because of the mercies of God that He allowed for these burdens to be eased in order to set up the church during a time of religious peace.

**Deut. 28:18** – Fruit represents your off-spring, and all that they try to possess would be cursed.

**Deut. 28:23** – Their lives shall be grievous and burdensome. This nation of people seems to always find themselves in a bread line, a cheese line, a welfare line or an unemployment line. There are often debates on what government should do with this nation when it comes to jobs, employment, schools, and community.

**Deut. 28:25** – This nation of people would not have any strength and power against their enemy. Even as some fought back their oppressor would overpower them and in the end – this nation of people would be removed or forced out of their land into all countries in the world. Thus, came forth the institution of slavery.

**Deut. 28:26** – This nation of people would be hung and slaughtered, but no one would come to their aid or defense for fear that the same plight would happen to them. Their bodies would be left on the hangman's noose for the birds to eat their flesh, and the beast of the earth would devour their dead carcasses, and no one would raise a hand to bury these people out of fear.

**Deut. 28:28** – This nation was MAD! Mad at their conditions, MAD, so mad that they walked, they rallied, they allowed dogs to nip at their heels and police to douse them with fire-hoses in hope of a brighter future for their children. These people were beat and placed in jail due to being mad. BLINDNESS! Romans 11:25-27 shows that this nation of people were unaware of who they were as a people of God. They did not know why their lives were so grievous, and why they were not liked by other nations. These people were puzzled, confused, filled with doubt. These people were so confused, they became angry and began raising their fists and demanding a change in the government policies against them. Dear friends, it was not that long ago that these people had to give up their bus seats to the dominant race. They were not allowed to sit in restaurants, neighborhoods were off limits to these people, they were unable to vote, their children were not allowed to attend certain schools, and their schools were substandard.

**Deut. 28:29** – To grope means to: reach about uncertainly; to feel one's way; to search blindly or uncertainly; grope for an answer. These people would live desperately in search of answers (for a better day, for the 'good life'). In the light of day they were not physically blind, but spiritually lost. It was also stated by God that they would not prosper. They would not reach the level of success that the dominant group reached so effortlessly. The last part of this scripture is crucial. Regardless of how many leaders, hero's activist sacrificed their lives for this nation of people. Regardless of how many rallies and protests were held no one man on earth would be able to remove these curses that God had placed on these people because of their unwillingness to obey God and keep his commandments. This nation cannot blame the dominant group for their downfall, but understand that they are in this predicament due to inherited disobedience.

**Deut. 28:30** – This nation of people would marry and their women would be forced into sexual servitude at the will and desires of the master. This is why this nation of people has so many different physical features. This nation worked on plantations, and built mansions that the dominant culture lived in.

**Deut. 28:32** – Families were separated and sold. Parents were not allowed to keep their children. And children were lost in a world only to be seen no more.

**Deut. 28:36** – This nation was grabbed, beat, and shackled. They were forced to dwell in a land that they were not familiar with. Due to their need to find closeness with God, they began to serve other gods, religious establishments that were already set-up before they came to that land.

**Deut. 28:37** – Astonishment: to feel with sudden wonder and amazement. This nation looked strange, peculiar, and different from any other. They acted differently, they thought differently. They questioned their existence and their lives. These men and women were stronger and bred for particular purposes. It was necessary to create a race that could endure servitude and hard labor. Working in fields and extreme conditions, this nation had to endure strenuous work. So the breeding process was similar to that of breeding horses. They were treated as cattle and property and it was said of their men that they were like 'studs.' This nation had no true identity like other ethnic groups. They often were called various names, depending on the time or period such as: colored, negro, nigger, black, African-American.

**[Proverb: a short, precise saying that expresses a basic truth or a practical precept. Byword: A proverb, an often used word or phrase; one that represents a type, class, or quality.]**

**Deut. 28:41** – Again, this is in reference to slavery and how these people would not be allowed to enjoy family.

**Deut. 28:43** – This nation is the minority and the dominant culture is considered the majority.

**Deut. 28:44** – This dominant culture will own banks and lend money in business and finance. This nation would have to always go to this culture for assistance with loans and credit.

**Deut. 28:45-50** –These verses are self explanatory. One important fact to notice is in verse 49, the word 'eagle.' This nation that these people was forced to go to were sent to a land that symbolically represents an eagle. The nation that stands for an eagle is the U.S.A.

After reading these curses, is there any doubt as to who is this nation of people? The amazing and wonderful thing that sets us apart from other groups that call themselves Israel is that because of God's love for His chosen, He made a way for our escape. You see, it is not enough to know who we are, but we must perform the duties of God's chosen to truly be called a child of God.

**Question:** What must we do now, now that we know who we are as a people?

**Answer:** Zephaniah 2:1-3.

If you agree that you are that nation that fits the curses of Deut. 28<sup>th</sup> chapter and that you are the nation that is not desire, then God is saying to us now, that it is time to seek the Lord.

### **The Ten Commandments**

Exodus 20:1-17 is our measuring tool (for one's self and for the churches). Again, I ask you to compare every law that was written by the finger of God to that of the churches in the world (Isaiah 8:20). There are an innumerable amount of churches in the world saying that they have the truth, all boasting that they have God. God is not looking for a particular denomination, or how much tithes you gave to the offering plate. God requires only the law of Ten Commandments as given to Moses on the mountain and the Holy Beatitudes as spoken by Jesus Christ, when he went up into a mountain in Matthew 5:1-12. Let us take notice of these commandments.

**Ex. 20:3** --The first commandment exalts man to reverence God and to put Him first in our lives. We are to make nothing or no one our God. We are to go to God for all of our needs because it is truly by His will that we live. He asks of us to trust Him and to believe that He will provide all of our needs. No man has the right to be honored and revered above God. If a denomination encourages their congregation to reverence their leaders as God, this religion is false. God knows our needs, Matt. 6:8-last part. He knows what is best for His children. Lean on Him and trust. Let us fall into His loving arms and He will give us direction.

**Ex. 20:4-6** --Tells us that since no man have ever seen God, how can we draw pictures or make statues depicting what God and the angels look like. This is wrong and if there are denominations that have such graven images in their place of worship, this religion is false. The so-called drawing depicting the last supper with the hippie in the center is not Christ (Rev.1:14-18).

**Ex.20:7** -- God's name is precious and is to be respected and is not to be used in words of blaspheming or curses. His name is not to be used in the material of a joke to be laughed at or ridiculed, but to be feared. Psalms 111:9-10--He refers to God the Father, Redemption is Jesus Christ, what does it say about our redeemer, and what is the Redeemer's name? He is Holy and Reverend. Only God can walk in those shoes. Matt3:11, can a man made of dust and ash do this, Mat: 23:7, 8, 9. It is written that at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, Phillipians 2:9-11.

**Ex.20:8-11** -- The Sabbath day is on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the week. Man changed the day without the authority by God to do so. We count the Sabbath day according to the way in which God directed us to number the days in Gen. 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, and 31. The devil tried to confuse time by teaching us that the start of a new day is after midnight. But I ask you, if you look at the sky at a minute before 12 o'clock, what is different in the sky at a minute after 12 o'clock? Nothing! But if you look at the sky at sundown, there is a significant difference in the sky at sunrise. This is why the Lord starts a new day at sundown.

**Ex.20:12** -- This is the only commandment with a promise. God ask of us to respect and to honor our earthly parents, if we cannot give reverence to those that brought us into the world, it would be impossible to show God respect.

**Ex.20:13** -- This scripture is self explanatory. Murder, abortions, birth control, is all considered to come under this law.

**Ex.20:14** -- Adultery is when you cheat on your spouse and have an affair. For those that are not married, the act of fornication comes under this commandment. This occurs if you are single and you engage in pre-marital sexual relations (I Corinthians 7:1-9).

**Ex.20:15** -- This is simple; if it doesn't belong to you, don't take it.

**Ex.20:16**-- Speaking falsehood or lying is forbidden. There is no such thing as a little white lie.

**Ex.20:17** -- Coveting are when you wish or desire for something or someone that is rightfully someone else's. This is what got the devil in trouble.

Now many may think that the commandments have become obsolete and no longer relevant for the new millennium. They feel that the 'law' was nailed to the cross, but the law that was nailed to the cross was the laws of ordinances (Col 2:14, Rev. 12:17, and Isaiah 8:20). In Matthew 19:16-24, I want to continue to make this point; God only requires the law of **Ten Commandments** and the **Holy Testimonies of Jesus**. We have learned that the commandments are important; however, they are earthbound. More importantly, the testimonies are crucial for salvation (Rev. 22:14). These instructions by our Lord Jesus Christ have to be on display. They **can not** just be mouth service, but in our hearts and in our minds. They are so vital to our lives that the forces of evil went on an all out attack to try to remove those seven spirits from our hearts.

Brothers and sister's, we have come down a long road in which many tears have been shed. You have suffered and were subjected to many afflictions. Now the Lord wants us to reflect on the law and the testimonies (Ephesians 5: 16-17); we have the hope of salvation.

God's words are infallible (meaning, incapable of erring, incapable of failing, certain). There is no way that God would ever turn away from His people without there being a plan of escape. His word has been preserved and passed down for generations by way of the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

Let me take you back to something Brother Webb, the prophet of God, always said to the church—he gave us his guarantee, that if we keep the laws of God and testimonies of Jesus Christ we have a guarantee of salvation, of eternal life. This is as simple as it can come; God does not want us to be confused as to what He requires (I Cor. 14:33). Trust in the Lord (Psalms 40:4; Psalms 37:1-7).

We were and always will be a church of love. God had taken strangers and turned them into a loving family. We shared our joys, our sorrows, and our hopes. We celebrated the union of two people joining as one and serving God together and we rejoiced in the birth of a new addition – either as a newborn baby or a newly anointed member of the church. We helped one another and enjoyed gatherings and picnics.

We shared in the spirit of poorness. We gave in sincerity and gladness. We prayed for one another and mourned with those that experienced loss. At times, as families often will, we had disputes, but we went in prayer and learned how to turn the other cheek in humility and meekness. We broke bread together not only on feast days, but we also hungered for the word of God. If someone slipped and stumbled we were quick to show mercy because we wanted the same in return. In pureness we strived to serve our God and greeted one another in the spirit of peace.

Brother James T. Webb established the church on the foundation of the commandments of God and the Testimonies of Jesus Christ. We were taught to worship God and to give glory to Him. On the Sabbath day ‘**All**’ were encouraged to praise God. The church was set up to worship and praise God... **NOT MAN!**

Dear friends, God requires only the law and testimonies for salvation. Nothing else! We were made to believe that the church was required by God to keep His statutes and ordinances. This is a Lie!

Ladies were told:

1. We had to cover our entire head when we worshipped God.
2. Ladies were not allowed to cut or clip our hair.
3. Ladies could not wear pants unless we wore a very long top over them.
4. Ladies could not wear certain ‘un-kosher colors’ (such as no yellow, orange, brown, etc.) to church.
5. Ladies’ dresses had to be a particular length to be Wisdom’s daughter.
6. Ladies could not go out after dark unless escorted by a male.
7. Ladies could not wear make-up.
8. Ladies could not dye their hair.
9. Ladies were to count how many bracelets, chains, and necklaces they could wear.

Ladies, Brother Webb would always say that **salvation** is an individual thing. I trust that as being virtuous women of the Wisdom of God, you will allow Mother Wisdom to clothe us in modesty according to Her will. Mother Wisdom is here to guide us and dispel the lies that in order to be virtuous our dresses had to fall down to our shoes. Mother Wisdom does not want us to look like whores, but she also does not want her daughters to stand out or be made to look ridiculous. [Such as: when we wore pajama tops over jeans when we engaged in activities.] I know a lot of this may come as a surprise or may even be difficult to get used to, but if a lady is worshipping or praying, your head does not have to be fully covered, and there is no law that says that you have to wear a mantilla. As long as you cover your head according to your convictions, you have not sinned. If you come together at your home and you talk of God, you don’t have to wear dresses. How can I say this? Answer: Because, in order for it to be a sin, you must transgress the law. I John 3:4 quote that “*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*” [Transgression means: to act in **violation** of a law or commandment.] Let Mother Wisdom guide you in all **modesty**. The key word is **modesty**: not extremes, free from ostentation, moderate. [Ostentation: pretentious display, show off, extravagantly showy.] Or in other words, ostentation means something that would draw attention to you. [Note: It was suggested by Mrs. Ethel Webb when the church was together that the ladies would wear ‘tunic tops’ to cover their backsides.] I Tim. 2:9. We are all individuals; allow the spirit to guide our actions. Allow Christ to control our homes, our marriages, our children, and our lives. Let the peace of God and the word of the Lord clear up any doubt and confusion. (Please read the letter on the testimonies entitled, **Testimonies #4**).

**[Note: The testimonies are broken down further in Mathew 5<sup>th</sup> chapter, 6<sup>th</sup> chapter, and the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.]**

Let all accept Christ into our hearts and into our lives and He will give us:

1. **Peace.** (St. John 14: 27 quotes: *“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”*)
2. And **Comfort** as in 2 Corinthians 1:3-7, which reads:
  - **2 Cor. 1:3**  
“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus, Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort:”
  - **2 Cor. 1:4**  
Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.
  - **2 Cor. 1:5**  
For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.
  - **2 Cor. 1:6**  
And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.
  - **2 Cor. 1:7**  
And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation.

Let’s give all praises to the Full Throne of God, and a special salutation to the Wisdom of God, for all the treasures revealed by Her in the hour of God’s executive judgment.

Your sister in Christ Jesus,

*Billie Chatman*  
HOZ – 6/3/10