

HE SHALL CRUSH THY HEAD

Exposing Subtle Deceptions of the Enemy



DIANE COVHER

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Compiled by Diane Covher; June 2019

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Sacred Word Publishing

www.sacredwordpublishing.net

SacredWordPublishing@yahoo.com

1st Printing: 2019

978-0-359-68681-0



Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Important Notice to the reader

There are theological issues and ideas in this book that are very likely outside your belief box. It is human nature to read and evaluate information presented based upon current beliefs of what we think the truth is. This is especially true about scripture. We usually quickly skip over scripture because we think we already know what it says and means.

So, **please read the scriptures carefully** and ask God to reveal His truths about the parts you do not understand yet. If you think you understand **all** of scripture, then it's probably best that you don't waste your time reading any further.

If, however you are one who wants all you can learn from God, I would encourage you to let down the veil of pride set up by the enemy and let God speak to you.

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INTRODUCTION

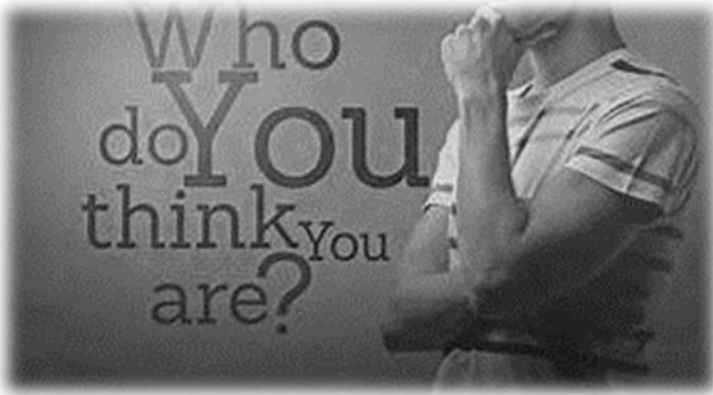
In our walk as Christians, we talk of, claim, stand on, and hope in the promise of God. Do we really know what that is? We say we know, but do we?

In this book I will do my best to explain what God's promise is, where it started and how it includes us. Then I would like to go into the deception of the enemy and how he has led many of us down a path that has hidden God's truth by covering it with a veil of obscurity which we will call 'doctrines of men'.

First, you need to know what the word 'promise' is in the Hebrew. The word used is – dabar. This simply means 'word' or thing. The Strong's concordance translates this word (dabar) 1446 times with about 90 different English words. In the most comprehensive form, it says 'word' of God. He cannot lie; **what he says He means**, or in a phrase some are familiar with in our time; **His word is His bond**. So even in the use of this word – promise – the New Testament is referring to that same status. **He gives His word**.

There will be times that I will explain the Hebrew word meaning in certain scriptures, because Hebrew is the original language the Bible was written in, and sometimes, to know the original meaning helps put clarity to the subject at hand. Let us plunge into the Word (dabar) of God and find our identity in Him through the promise (dabar) of Messiah Jesus.

CHAPTER 1



The Familiar Labels of a Christian

Through our Christian walk we have become familiar with certain phrases or buzz words that we have used to identify who we are in the Lord. I would like to examine a few of those phrases and then look to scripture to see where they might have come from.

Bride of Christ, Heirs to the promise, Children of Abraham, His sheep, Fullness of the Gentiles, Saved by Grace, He died for my sins, In the new covenant, the blood of Jesus, Children of God, Holy nation, Peculiar people. Kingdom of priests. That's a good list for now.

Let's look at some of these terms:

Bride of Christ - do we know how we became, or if we are His bride? Where did that term originate?

Heirs to the promise - how did or do we become heirs? What promise?

Father Abraham - how do we claim Abraham as our father? Are we his children?

His sheep – how do we become His sheep? Why do we identify with that title? Where did that title come from?

Children of GOD – how are we His children?

Holy nation, a peculiar people, Kingdom of priests – Where did this identity come from? What nation? Priests?

Fullness of the Gentiles - there's a good one. We claim to be this, but what does it mean?

Saved by Grace and He died for my sins: What is grace, why would He die for my sins or anybody's sins? What sins? What is sin?

In the new covenant and the blood of Jesus: What is the new covenant? What was the Old one? Can anybody tell me what a covenant is? Can anybody tell me why we claim the blood of Jesus? How about why it is so important?

In order to begin to understand how and why these familiar terms have become part of our identity, we must go back to where everything started; back to the beginning of our family tree, our ancestors Adam and Eve. We must first understand they are part of us, and we are part of them. They are the start of our life here on earth. All of mankind came from Adam and Eve.

CHAPTER 2



LET'S START AT THE VERY BEGINNING

Our Ancestral Tree Straight from Eden

To understand who we are, we need to start at the beginning of human life here on earth. We need to look at our family history and follow our family tree.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and on the sixth day He created Adam, the father of man, in His own image. What kind of relationship did they have? The information we have in the Bible is quite brief. Adam was created, he named the animals, was put to sleep, woman was made from his side and brought to him, the serpent deceived the woman, she ate the forbidden fruit and then Adam ate. God comes on the scene and tells them what will happen to them now that they opened "Pandora's box" and the serpent gets cursed. Then they are removed from the garden.

Somehow, I think we are not getting the total picture of what it was like to be there when things were fresh and clean; when no sin existed, when Adam walked unashamed with God in the cool of the day. He had nothing but good things to look forward to. He had no fear of anything bad happening. He had a beautiful wife with which to enjoy all the wonderful creation God had made. Nothing but the peace of the Father surrounded them. If we stop and allow our thoughts to dwell on this time, we could find a much different picture. Adam was given the intelligence to name EVERY animal that lived there. He was no Neanderthal. He had knowledge of things we can't even imagine. He most likely understood the life breath of earth, the growing of things, and mathematics in a realm beyond our understanding. He knew why the constellations were up in the heavens. He knew how the sun, moon and stars related to each other and why they do what they do, and how to read them! How long was it before he blew it? Why did he blow it? He walked with God!

The frailty of man in this world is somewhat displayed in this situation. God gave man a wonderful gift; to decide for himself the course of life. God wanted a willing being in following Him. He knew the evil one prowled around, still wanting back the domain he lost.

Eze 28:12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper,

Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. 14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. 16 "By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore, I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. 17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you.

God took the domain of the earth from Satan and gave it fresh and new to His new creation; man. In doing this, He gave man his own mind. God was and still is looking for the overcomer against the deception and persuasion of the enemy.

Isa 14:12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' 15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

With the very same wickedness of heart Satan tempted Adam and Eve.

*Gen 3:4 And the serpent said to the woman, you shall not surely die; 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it, your eyes shall be opened, **and you shall be like gods, knowing good and evil.***

We see that when they fell, everything came apart so to speak. All the purity and loveliness were now tainted, sullied, and corrupted. By believing one lie from the serpent, sin entered their lives and along with it came confusion as to what was right and what was wrong. A way needed to be opened to start the journey back and re-establish that close relationship with God. So, after

explaining what man and the earth would suffer under the bondage of sin, God gave them the hope to look for, **salvation** through the **Seed** of the woman. Here is the first mention of the promise.



Next, He gave the sign in which this salvation had to come. **He shed blood** and made coats of the skin to cover their shame brought on by disobedience. Spiritually, you might say, they were covered in the blood sacrifice. Last, He barred the way to the Tree of Life, so they wouldn't live eternally in their sin and sent them from the beautiful garden.

As we continue the history of our ancestors, we see corruption becoming the main facet of life. Sin established a stronger, surer foot in God's creation. With Satan gaining a foothold back into the world by Adam's folly, the door was opened for more intrusion from heavenly beings to satisfy their wicked desires on the inhabitants of earth.

There is a rather interesting story related in Genesis 6 that not many really notice.

*Gen 6:1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2 that **the sons of God saw the daughters of men**, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.*

What exactly was going on there? If you investigate other writings, like, Enoch, Jasher, Jubilees, Jude, Peter - to name a few, you will see a very sinister story unfold.

***Enoch chptr VI** And it came to pass when the children of men had multiplied that in those days were born unto them beautiful and comely daughters. 2. **And the angels, the children of the heaven, saw and lusted after them**, and said to one another: '**Come, let us choose us wives from among the children of men and beget us children.**' 3. And Semjâzâ, who was their leader, said unto them: 'I fear ye will not indeed agree to do this deed, and I alone shall have to pay the penalty of a great sin.' 4. And they all answered him and said: 'Let us all swear an oath, and all bind ourselves by mutual imprecations not to abandon this plan but to*

do this thing.' 5. Then sware they all together and bound themselves by mutual imprecations upon it. 6. And they were in all two hundred; who descended [in the days of Jared] on the summit of Mount Hermon, and they called it Mount Hermon, because they had sworn and bound themselves by mutual imprecations upon it.

***Jasher 4:18** And their judges and rulers went to the daughters of men and **took their wives** by force from their husbands according to their choice, and the sons of men in those days took from the cattle of the earth, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air, **and taught the mixture of animals of one species with the other**, in order therewith to provoke the Lord; and God saw the whole earth and it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted its ways upon earth, all men and all animals.*

Jasher is not the name of a person; it means 'the upright' in Hebrew. It was the writing of historical events that was handed down from one upright person to another through the years, from the days of Adam, up to the time of the Judges.

***Book of Jubilees- Fall of the angels - V.** And it came to pass when the children of men began to multiply on the face of the earth and daughters were born unto them, that **the angels of God** saw them on a certain year of this jubilee, that they were beautiful to look upon; **and they took themselves wives** of all whom they chose, **and they bare unto them sons and they were giants.** 2. And lawlessness increased on the earth and all flesh corrupted its way, alike men and cattle and beasts and birds and everything that walketh on the earth-all of them corrupted their ways and their orders, and they*

began to devour each other, and lawlessness increased on the earth and every imagination of the thoughts of all men (was) thus evil continually.

Jude 1:6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

2Pe 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

This is not something I remember hearing about in Sunday school! We are talking about angels, heavenly beings, deciding to go against the order of what was set up by God; to rebel and interfere with His creation. We are looking at half human, half angelic beings coming into existence on earth. The bible talks of giants living in the land. Giants of such a size they were tall like the cedar tree - (maybe up to 45 feet or even more). The first generation of giants were called the Titans. Sound familiar? There was also corruption with the animals. These things were not created by God. You see, Satan wanted to stop the judgement of God on him by corrupting the seed of man **to stop the Promised Seed** that was to crush his head. Judgement was administered by God against these fallen watchers and He sets into motion the cleansing of the earth by handpicking the purest in animals and man.

The flood served three main purposes: 1-To destroy the Nephilim giants, 2-To punish the angels who committed the illicit relations with women and make an example of them so that no other angels would ever attempt this again and, 3-To save humanity from certain destruction and **keep the blood line continuing** for the **promised reconciliation**. Adam had 930 years to hand down the knowledge taught to him by God and tell the story of what happened and what needed to be learned and **the promise of redemption that would come to his offspring**. Enoch also learned much to hand down and teach his son, Methuselah.

Through scripture we can follow the genealogy of Adam down to Noah and the impending flood. Adam died shortly after Lemech was born (the father of Noah). God looked on Noah and saw he was not corrupted by the depravity of the earth and Noah **found grace** in the eyes of the LORD for he was a just man. This word, 'just', in the Hebrew language means **lawful**. **He obeyed the ways of God that were taught to him from his fathers**. It also says he was perfect. This word 'perfect' in the Hebrew means **undefiled, without blemish**. In other words, **He had no angelic contamination in his blood**. To make this picture clearer, let us look at his 100 years before the flood. In that time **not one more human person** ended up on that ark! All were disobedient. All had turned away from God. **Only Noah listened to God and obeyed**. So, he and his sons are chosen to carry on the plan of God; **His promise of reconciliation**.

Here we have with Noah, the first familiar term: **saved by grace**. I would say that is just what happened with him. He was saved from the flood by the grace of God. Strong's concordance describes the Hebrew word for 'grace' as:

khane

From H2603; graciousness, that is, subjectively (kindness, favor) or objectively (beauty): -favour, grace (-ious), pleasant, precious, [well-]favoured.

Noah had three sons and only three sons; Shem, Ham, and Japheth. From these three came all of mankind to this day. **Only Shem** was chosen to continue the line to produce **the promised Seed**. Yes, there were giants after the flood which is testified in Exodus and at the time of David. Some speculate that the wives of Japheth and Ham had mixed blood, for giants are tracked down both lines, but not down Shem's. In order for the **promised Seed** to come, the line He came down had to be free of mixed blood.

Again, we see man and the earth ramp up in corruption in the same manner as Satan had in the beginning; this time making gods of other men, making legends of them and worshipping them. From Nimrod (the grandson of Ham) and his wife, Semiramis and her son, Tammuz, sprung all pagan gods of the nations, and when God confused the language and scattered the people, the gods were the same in each nation, just different names.

It is in this mess that God chooses Abraham and calls him out of Babylon (Ur). He was the ninth generation

from Shem. He also found grace in the eyes of God. **He listened to His voice and obeyed.** He left his home and followed God. **He believed God and it was counted unto him as righteousness.** This word **righteous** is the same as **'just'** in the Hebrew, so he, like Noah, was lawful.

Gen 26:5 because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."

It was here with Abraham that God took the next step and made a covenant to set up a people for Himself to be called His own; descendants of Abraham's which would be as many as the dust of the earth plus a land to call their own. It would be a people that **His promised Seed** would come through. The word **'covenant'** in Hebrew means **'a cutting'** or walking thru the pieces of a sacrificed animal as sealing an agreement with the blood of the animal.

Gen 13:15 For all the land which you see, to you will I give it, and to your descendants forever. 16 And I will make your descendants like the dust of the earth; so that if you can number the dust of the earth, then shall your descendants also be numbered. 17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it to you.

This covenant was a swearing by God Himself. Abraham had no part in it. He was asleep. **By God being the sole participant** in sealing (signing) this covenant, He made sure the continued path **to the promised reconciliation** that was spoken of with the

Seed of the woman, would never be broken; for He swore by Himself.

*Gen 15:5 and he brought him outside, and said to him, look now toward heaven and **number the stars, if you are able to number them**; and he said to him, so shall your descendants be. 6 **And Abram believed in the LORD; and it was counted to him for righteousness.** 7 And he said to him, **I am the LORD**, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it. 8 And Abram said, **O LORD God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?** 9 And he said to him; Take for yourself a heifer, three years old, a three-year-old ram, a three-year-old she-goat, a pigeon, and a young dove. 10 And he took to himself all these, **and cut them in two**, and laid each piece against another; but the birds he did not divide. 11 And when the birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away. 12 And when the sun was going down, **a deep sleep fell on Abram**; and, lo, fear and a great darkness fell upon him.*

*Gen 15:17 And it came to pass that when the sun had set and it was dark, behold there appeared a smoking furnace and a burning torch **that passed between those pieces.** 18 **On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, to your descendants have I given this land**, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates:*

As Christians we aren't really taught about covenants, how binding and serious they are. Oh, we bandy the word around as if we know what we are talking about, but do we understand the covenant God made with

the earth and mankind after the flood? Do we understand that when we see a rainbow that it is a sign of that covenant from ancient times and is **still in full force** today? He is God and **does not change**. Every word spoken by Him of **the promised reconciliation** of His chosen line (seed) **still stands** and will continue to the reappearing of the King of Israel. With God, new covenants don't dissolve previous ones; they always build on or add to.

It is a very important observation for us to take currently that these men – Enoch, Noah, Abraham – were following the commandments, statutes and laws of God. (*Wait a minute! Those things were in effect way back then?! They weren't just given to the Israelites at the mountain?*)

So, after making this covenant with Abraham, He promises a son (Isaac) from Sarah that will carry on the journey to producing the multitude of seed like the stars. Sarah was barren and, as it turned out, so was Rebekah, Isaac's wife, yet both conceived as God had promised **to produce the covenant line**. Isaac's son, Jacob, brought forth the 12 tribes of Israel. It is interesting that Rachel (Jacob's second wife and most loved) was also barren. God opened her womb and she bore Joseph, who played a very key role in the lives of all his brothers. He preserved the entire nation of Israel by having them all, including Jacob, come down to Egypt during the severe famine.

From the beginning of the creation of Adam, all mankind was to be God's. After the fall, God called out the physical line of Abraham to produce the **Seed**;

the One from whom reconciliation from sin would come. But, it is the seed by faith (illustrated by the miraculous birth of Isaac) that will become God's true family.

***Mar 16:16** He who believes and is baptized shall be saved; and he who does not believe shall be condemned.*

***Joh 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he even gave his only begotten Son, so that **whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.** 17 For God did not send his Son into the world, to condemn the world; but that the world should be saved by him. 18 **He who believes in him will not be condemned;** and he who does not believe has already been condemned, for not believing in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the judgment, that light has come into the world, and yet men have loved darkness more than light, because their works were evil. 20 For every one who does detested things hates the light, and he does not come to the light, because his works cannot be covered. 21 But he who does truthful things comes to the light, so that his works may be known, that they are done through God.*

***Act 11:17** Now, therefore, if God has equally given the gifts to the Gentiles who believe in our LORD Jesus Christ, just as he gave to us, who am I that I should dispute God?*

***Rom 4:7** Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are wiped away. 8 Blessed is the man whose sins God will not hold against him. 9 Now, therefore, is this blessedness on account of*

circumcision, or on account of uncircumcision? for we say that Abraham's faith was accounted to him for righteousness. 10 How then was it given to him? by means of circumcision, or in uncircumcision? It was not given in circumcision, but in uncircumcision. 11 For he received circumcision as a sign and a seal of the righteousness of his faith while he was uncircumcised: that he might become the father of all them who believe, though they be not circumcised, that righteousness might be given to them also; 12 So that the father of circumcision is not only to those who are of circumcision, but also to those who walk in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham while he was yet uncircumcised. 13 For the promise to Abraham and his seed that he should inherit the world was not made through the law, but through the righteousness of his faith.

1Co 1:21 Because all the wisdom which God had given was not sufficient for the world to know God, it pleased God to save those who believe by the simple gospel.

CHAPTER 3



THE SANDS OF TIME **The Next Step to the Promised Seed**

As the children of Jacob (also known as Israel) grew, there was an animosity festering among the brothers against Joseph. They saw he was favored above all of them. As a result, a plot was formulated to get rid of the 'brat'. It ends with Joseph being sold in Egypt as a slave and his memory is slowly put to rest at home.

During his time in Egypt, Joseph had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, by his Egyptian wife. At this time, a severe famine grips the land as God had warned and food begins to disappear. Because of God's plan to use Joseph to save the line of Abraham, Pharaoh has put Joseph second in command and main overseer of the grain supply. It is now time for Joseph's brothers to again be reunited with their brother. We all know the story and how Jacob and all he possesses is brought to Egypt to be cared for by

the son he thought was lost to him forever. Joseph is at this time taking the role as first born; caring for the family in a spiritual sense. Jacob's final days were lived out in Egypt.

When Jacob was about to die, he called for Joseph and his two sons to a very important meeting.

Gen 48:3 And Jacob said to Joseph, God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, 4 And he said to me, Behold, I will bless you, and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of peoples; and I will give this land to your descendants after you for an everlasting possession. 5 And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you into the land of Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.

First, notice that Jacob (Israel) names the two boys in reverse order, the youngest first and then the oldest. This is significant, as it establishes who will be considered first in line **to receive the double portion of the blessing as the first born and the leadership over the family**. Next, notice what he does. Jacob claims the boys to be his own sons just as Reuben and Simeon. Reuben and Simeon were the first and second born. They are no longer Joseph's; they are Jacob's and will be **in the family** line to inherit the land just as the other sons of Jacob. He is now going to bless the boys.

Gen 48:13 Then Joseph took both of his sons, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and

Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near to him. 14 And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head; he changed the position of his hands wittingly, even though Manasseh was the first-born.

*Gen 48:18 And Joseph said to his father, **Not so, my father; for this is the first-born; put your right hand upon his head.** 19 But his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it; he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: **but his younger brother shall be greater than he,** and his descendants shall become a **multitude of peoples.** 20 And he blessed them that day, saying, By you shall Israel bless, and they shall say, May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh; and thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh.*

Here is where things begin to get interesting. The last phrase I have bolded above (multitude of peoples) is read differently in Hebrew. It says “melo ha goyeem”. In English it can also read “**the fullness of the Gentiles**”. Ah! One of the terms we are familiar with! Here the door is opened for us, “whosoever will”, to be a part of the family (Israel) of God and partakers of **the promised reconciliation**. Ephraim (or the house of Joseph) who was of a Gentile mother, for she was Egyptian, **is now a tribe of Israel** and the **representative** of the goyeem (Gentiles). Those who are ‘Gentiles’ (or outside the covenant of God), now have an opportunity to become part of His family and partakers of the covenant. Manasseh was also given this gift as second born – adopted. Try to keep this in mind as we continue.

Eph 2:11 Therefore remember that you, ***once Gentiles in the flesh--***who are called ***Uncircumcision*** by what is called the ***Circumcision made in the flesh by hands--***12 that at that time you were without Christ, ***being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise,*** having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

CHAPTER 4



A NEW GENERATION Forgotten Memories

We now move forward to the time when Joseph and all that generation is gone. The new Pharaoh liked his work force and used it vigorously.

God had a plan for His family, and it wasn't in Egypt. The covenant He made with Abraham was in that place where the bones of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Leah and Rachel rested. The promised homeland from God.

So, while God is preparing their new home, the Israelites are growing in strength of numbers; not to mention strength of body too. As the Egyptians forgot who Joseph was, they made the Hebrews their task force; doing all manual labor, which keeps the body fit and strong; preparing them for the journey to come. However, much cruelty came along with that and the

fear of them becoming a larger nation than Egypt, opened doors of ways to exterminate them by killing many of the babies born. It was then that their cry went up to heaven for deliverance. God heard their cry and raised up Moses to lead them out of bondage. The next step to **the promise** God gave to Abraham was taken. I would like you to see a spiritual law that God carried out against Pharaoh. The final plague visited upon the Egyptians was not a random attack by God. Pharaoh was reaping what he sowed by killing innocent babies for his purposes.

Gen 9:5 Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man.

*Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, **God is not mocked**; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

Let us move forward in time to the exodus at the foot of God's mountain. Many of us have viewed this story only as a history of the "Jews". However, much was again being set in place as to how **God's** people would be identified. God told Moses to have the people prepare themselves for three days before He would come down to meet with them. They all gathered at the foot of Mt. Sinai and God gave this message to Moses to give to the people:

*Exo 19:4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will **indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; 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 which you shall speak to the children of Israel."*

So, here we see familiar words to us again, **kingdom and priests and a holy people**. What is going on here? The Jewish Sages say that **this was a wedding betrothal**. God was setting up a wedding contract - a "ketubah" in Hebrew. Could this possibly be labeling Israel as **His bride**? A wedding contract is a covenant between the two parties involved. What were the terms of this covenant? It was the Ten Commandments; in Hebrew this was The Ten Words or Things; **Things that would show the bond between them**. God was reestablishing His laws from back at the beginning because the people had taken on the ways of the pagans (Egyptians).

Exo 20:1 AND God spoke all these words, saying,

Exo 20:2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.



Exo 20:3 You shall have no other gods except me. 4 You shall not make for yourself any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or that is in the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth; 5 You shall not worship them nor serve them; for I the LORD your God am a zealous God, visiting the offenses of the fathers upon their children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me; 6 And showing mercy to thousands of generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Exo 20:7 You shall not take a false oath in the name of the LORD your God; for the LORD will not declare him innocent who takes an oath in his name falsely.

Exo 20:8 Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy. 9 Six days shall you labor and do all your work; 10 But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor the sojourner who dwells in your towns; 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the seas, and all things that are in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and sanctified it.

Exo 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God gives you.

Exo 20:13 You shall not murder.

Exo 20:14 You shall not commit adultery.

Exo 20:15 You shall not steal.

Exo 20:16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Exo 20:17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house, you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is your neighbor's.

When the terms have been set then both parties sign it.

Exo 19:8 And all the people answered together and said, all that the LORD has spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people to the LORD.

With the above statement, the people (whole nation) have agreed to the terms and promises, and the covenant involving them is ready to be sealed.

Exo 24:5 And he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. 6 And Moses took half of the blood, and put it into basins; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. 7 And he took the book of the covenant and read it in the presence of the people; and they said, all that the LORD has said we will obey and do. 8 And Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people and said, This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you concerning all these words.

Why am I even bringing this situation up? I want you to understand the road God is going down to accomplish the **promised reconciliation** from the beginning.

The scene in the verses above is the cutting of the pieces or sealing of the covenant. In the covenant at the mountain, the people participated in the walking through the pieces with God. When a covenant is made between God and someone there is a sign.

Exo 31:16** Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep **the sabbath** to the LORD to observe the sabbath throughout all their generations for a perpetual covenant. **17 It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever;

Remember the sign with Noah and the earth:

***Gen 9:12** And God said to Noah, **This is the sign of the covenant** which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: **13 I set my bow in the clouds**, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between me and the earth.*

And the sign with Abraham:

***Gen 17:11** You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, **and it shall be a sign of the covenant** between me and you.*

What was the purpose for this meeting at the mountain of God? What was God trying to do with the people? If you recall, God promised Abraham he

would be the father of nations. Abraham believed and **had faith** in God that He would do it and **he obeyed the instructions** of God. ***It was this faith and obedience that would identify his descendants.***

However, as we have read in different places of the bible, they couldn't hold up their end of the deal. They continually broke the covenant and disobeyed His instructions.

*Jer 11:7 For I earnestly exhorted your fathers in the day I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, until this day, rising early and exhorting, saying, "Obey My voice." 8 **Yet they did not obey** or incline their ear, but everyone followed the dictates of his evil heart; therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, **but which they have not done.**'*

*Jer 11:10 They have turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers who **refused to hear My words**, and they have gone after other gods to serve them; the house of Israel and the house of Judah **have broken My covenant which I made with their fathers.**"*

*Hos 8:1 "Set the trumpet to your mouth! He shall come like an eagle against the house of the Lord, **because they have transgressed My covenant and rebelled against My law.***

So, what familiar titles do we have so far? We have Noah being **SAVED BY GRACE**. We have the spiritual use of the blood of an innocent animal to cover the shame of Adam and Eve and then they are

clothed in the skin as a **visible sign** of that sacrifice.
THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

Then we have the announcement of the younger son of Joseph taking the position of first born and the **FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES** coming forth from him.

We have God telling the Israelites in Exodus 19:5-6 they would be a **PECULIAR PEOPLE** and a **KINGDOM OF PRIESTS A HOLY PEOPLE**. The word 'special' in Hebrew is Strong's #5459 which is also translated 'peculiar'

We then have the nation of Israel becoming the **BRIDE**.

So far this is still God's **one whole family**. These terms of identification are not exclusive to Christians (or only one half of the family).

CHAPTER 5



ON TO THE PROMISED LAND **This Land is Ours**

Now we head to the land promised to Abraham's descendants. The children of God have crossed over the Jordan and have begun to possess the land.

*Jos 18:5 And they shall divide the land into seven parts; **Judah** shall remain in their territory **on the south**, and the **house of Joseph** shall remain in their territory **on the north**.*

This verse is a shadow of how the territory of the children of Israel would be viewed. The southern portion was known under the title of the House of Judah because that was the largest tribe and the northern portion was known under the title of Ephraim, which was its largest tribe, (it was also called the House of Joseph or the House of Israel).

God wanted to govern His people by them following the terms on their side of His covenant, but they couldn't keep their side. Eventually they forgot the Lord and mixed pagan god worship in their daily lives. God raised up judges to deliver them from their enemies and guide His people when they turned and cried out to Him. We can see by reading His Word and starting with the book of Judges, that the people could not seem to get Egypt or Canaan out of their system. They kept breaking their half of the covenant promise. Also, the northern portion - Ephraim - was quite the quarrelsome bunch. They seemed to be easily offended. The picture of one big happy family was quickly fading.

Jdg 8:1 THEN the men of Ephraim said to him (Gideon), Why have you done thus, that you never called us when you went to fight with the Midianites? And they quarreled with him violently.

Jdg 12:1 THEN the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and went northward, and said to Jephthah, Why did you cross over to fight against the children of Ammon, and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house over you with fire.

Soon the people were not satisfied with this arrangement of judges. They wanted a king like the nations around them. The first king set over the people by God was Saul; a man who stood head and shoulders above other men in stature. However, he did not follow the commandments of God, but instead was swayed by the will of the people (fear of man instead of fear of God). **He also did not have a**

humble repentant heart. God therefore rejected him and chose David, of the tribe of Judah to take his place. David was a man after God's own heart. This was also a fulfilling of the blessing spoken over Judah back in Egypt. This was also the chosen line in which the **promised Seed of reconciliation** would come.

Gen 49:8 Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. 9 Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you are gone up; he stooped down, he crouched as a lion, and as a young lion; who shall rouse him up? 10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until the coming of the One to whom the scepter belongs, to whom the Gentiles shall look forward.

This is the blessing that Jacob spoke over Judah in Egypt before he died. As you can see by the blessing, Judah was the chosen tribe from which **THE King and Lawgiver** (Jesus the Messiah **the promised Seed of reconciliation**) was to come. Even the foresight of the Gentiles coming in is in this blessing.

Again, we still see the friction between Judah and Ephraim (or the house of Israel and **the side of the family representing the Fullness of the Gentiles**) when David is brought to Jerusalem by the people after the defeat and death of Absalom (David's rebellious son).

*2Sa 19:41 And, behold, the men of Israel came to the king and said to him, **why have our brethren the men of Judah stolen you away and have brought you over***

*the Jordan and all your household and all men of Judah with you? 42 And all **the men of Judah answered** and said to the men of Israel, **Because the king is near of kin to us**; why then are you displeased over this matter? Have we eaten at all at the king's cost? Or has he given us any gifts? 43 And **the men of Israel answered** the men of Judah, and said, **we have ten parts in the king**, and we have also more right in David than you; why then did you go ahead of us? We should have been the first to bring back the king. And the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.*

You are probably wondering why I am dwelling so much on the antics of the northern part of the kingdom of Israel, but, as we will see, following the journey of Ephraim is important. It is also the journey of who he represented; **the fullness of the Gentiles**.

The final split between the South and North came after the death of King Solomon (David's son). Although he was blessed by God with great wisdom and understanding, he did not heed the words of God concerning wives and horses. Solomon had gone after foreign women and they turned his heart away from God. Because of this, God gave 10 parts of the family to a servant of Solomon named Jeroboam and the remaining two went to his son Reheboam. Judah was left with Reheboam **because of the promise to David** about him always having an heir on the throne. Jeroboam, however, did wickedly before God and made golden calves for the people to sacrifice to, which would keep them from going to Jerusalem for the feasts for he feared he might lose them to

Reheboam. He also changed God's Feast of Tabernacles in the seventh month to the eighth month **to make it easier to keep them separated**. He removed the Levite priests and made priests from among the people who were not of the sons of Levi. This was, of course, against what God had set up about who were to minister to Him before the alter.

Jer 23:1 "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the Lord.

*Jer 50:6 "My people have **been lost sheep**. **Their shepherds have led them astray**; They have turned them away on the mountains. They have gone from mountain to hill; They have forgotten their resting place.*

Throughout the years in churches across the world, we have been told we have replaced the Jews and have become the true church of God. Nowhere in scripture is this ever proclaimed. In fact, it is the path of Ephraim that we have walked. We follow changed feasts. We follow a 'priesthood' set up by man. Our leaders have kept us separate from the other half of the family, and we are proclaiming to be Gentiles which puts us outside the covenant of God.

*Eph 2:11 Therefore remember that **you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands-- 12 that at that time you were without Christ, **being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who*****

once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Eph 3:6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

*Eph 3:14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom **the whole family in heaven and earth is named,***

During the duration of the northern kingdom, any king who did wickedly was compared to Jeroboam, who had led Israel astray **to leave the true feasts of God and set up foreign gods with their own priestly system; breaking covenant with God.** Because of this continued wickedness, God sent prophets to proclaim the fate of Ephraim.

*Isa 7:5 Because Aram, **Ephraim,** and the son of Romaliah have taken evil counsel against you, saying, 6 **Let us go up against Judah** and destroy it, and let us make a breach in it and set a king in the midst of it, even the son of Tabeal; 7 **Thus says the LORD God: It shall not stand, neither shall it come to pass.** 8 For the head of Aram is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin; and after sixty-five years **Ephraim shall be broken, so that it will no longer be a people.***

*Isa 28:3 The crown of the proud and of the drunkards of **Ephraim shall be trodden under foot;***

*Hos 1:4 And the LORD said to him, call his name Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and **I will***

*cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel. 5 And it shall come to pass on that day, **I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.** 6 And she conceived again and bore a daughter. And the LORD said to him, call her name *La-ethrakhmath* (not beloved); for **I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel;** and I will utterly cause them to be carried away captive. 7 **But I will have mercy on the house of Judah,** and I will save them by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow nor by sword nor by battle nor by horses nor by horsemen. 8 Now when she had weaned *La-ethrakhmath*, she conceived again and bore a son. 9 Then the LORD said to me, call his name *La-ammi* (not my people); **for you are not my people and I will not be your God.** 10 **Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea,** which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass that in the place where it was said to them, *You are not my people;* there it shall be said to them, *You are the sons of the living God.**

Hos 4:17 *Ephraim is joined to idols; let him alone.*

Hos 5:3 *I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me; for now **Ephraim has committed whoredom,** and Israel is defiled.*

Hos 7:1 *When **I would have healed Israel,** then the iniquity of Ephraim was revealed and the wickedness of Samaria; for **they committed falsehood in my presence;** and the thief came in, and the robber robbed men in the streets.*

Hos 7:8 Ephraim has mixed himself with Gentiles; Ephraim has become as a loaf of bread which is eaten before it is baked.

Hos 7:11 Ephraim also is like a young dove **without understanding**; they have come to Egypt, they are gone to Assyria.

Hos 8:9 For they are gone up to Assyria, as **a wild ass alone by himself**; Ephraim has loved gifts.

Hos 8:11 Because Ephraim has made many altars to sin, **altars have become to him for a great sin.**

Hos 9:3 They shall not dwell in the LORD'S land; but **Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean things** in Assyria.

Eze 34:6 My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, My flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching for them."

Remember what I said earlier about Ephraim. **He represented the Gentile portion of God's family.** These last verses have a shadow view of those living outside of God. The final blow to Ephraim (The house of Israel) is found in Jeremiah:

Jer 3:6 The LORD said to me in the days of King Josiah, Have you seen the thing which she who dwells in Israel has done? She has gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there **has played the harlot.** 7 And I said after she had done all

*these things, Return to me, but she did not return. And her perverseness was seen by her sister Judah. 8 And she saw all Israel's evil-doings. And **because the inhabitants of Israel committed adultery, I had put her away and given a bill of divorce**; yet her perverse sister Judah did not fear but went and played the harlot also.*

There it is! The northern half, the 10 parts of the family headed by Ephraim, **lost their place in the covenant** (*being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise Eph 2:12*). They lost their position as part of His bride and lost their portion of the land. **God divorced them.** They were exiled into Egypt (the world) and mixed in with the nations to eat unclean things like any 'Ahab' and lose identity with Him.

All of this happened when the king of Assyria conquered the northern half and took them away. They became scattered (Jezreel) among the other nations and became mixed in, even to the **losing of their identity.**

So, God scattered them to all the nations, they were no longer a people, there was no longer mercy for them, and God divorced them as His betrothed. **They were no longer a participant in His covenant of promise.** Judah, the southern kingdom, on the other hand, still held a position, **because of God's promise** to David to have one of his descendants always on the throne. Even though they were just as treacherous and unfaithful, God never divorced them.

Even with this scattering of Ephraim, God gave a promise to them;

Jer 31:31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah--32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

What titles of identification do we see in this chapter?

'CHILDREN' - CHILDREN OF GOD ('sons' in Hebrew can also be translated children)

NEW COVENANT

HIS SHEEP

CHAPTER 6



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? The Connection in the New Testament

Now that we have gotten a good picture of the history of the children of Abraham, let us read from the New Testament.

First remember this statement: *Isa 7:8 Ephraim shall be broken, so that it will no longer be a people.*

Mat 15:24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Rom 9:25 As he says in Hosea, "Those who are not my people I will call my people, and the one who was not loved I will call my loved one. 26 In the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called children of the living God."

1Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; and to proclaim the wonderful deeds of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God.

Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (Hos. 1:4-10)

*Heb 8:7 For if the first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need to look for a second one. 8 But God found something wrong with his people when he said, "Look! The days are coming, declares the Lord, when **I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.** 9 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors at the time when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. **Because they did not remain loyal to my covenant,** I ignored them, declares the Lord. 10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: **I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.** (Jer. 31:31-40)*

*Rom 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, **until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.** 26 **And so all Israel shall be saved:** as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away wickedness from Jacob: 27 **For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.***

Here, in the New Testament, we have those familiar terms that were also in the Old Testament;

CHILDREN OF THE LIVING GOD

A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PECULIAR PEOPLE

SHEEP

NEW COVENANT

FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES

Do you think the disciples knew what was promised in the history of God's people? Do you think they understood who Jesus was and what he did? I would say their connection to scripture was proof they did have understanding.

After Jesus rose from the grave, he spent 40 days showing his disciples all the scriptures pertaining to him and his mission. Think about it, **40 days**. Most Hebrew children were taught the Old Testament from the age of three years old. They read through it every year. Still Jesus took 40 days to reveal **HIM** in it to His disciples. That begs the question ---- **how much do we know?** Do we comprehend what was written in the Old Testament that pertained to Jesus? Do we really **understand** what promise was given to Abraham? Do we really know what the covenant is? Do we really know what the **new** covenant is? Do we really know how we fit in? Or where we fit in; Or **if** we fit in?

What is **the promise** He gave in His word? Let's recap from the beginning:

*Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you (the serpent) and the woman, And between your **seed and***

her Seed; He shall crush your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Gen 12:7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Gen 13:15 for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. 16 And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.

Gen 15:5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your seed be." 6 And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

Gen 15:18 On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your seed I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—

Gen 17:19 Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

Act 3:25 You are the descendants of the prophets and the heirs of the covenant that God made with your ancestors when he said to Abraham, 'Through your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed.'

Act 7:5 And he gave him (Abraham) none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child.

Act 13:23 It was from this man's descendants that God, as he promised, brought to Israel a Savior, who is Jesus.

Rom 1:2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

Rom 4:13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

Rom 4:16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

There's another term – **Father Abraham**

Rom 4:18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many Gentiles, according to that which was spoken, so shall thy seed be.

Rom 9:6 Now it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all Israelites truly belong to Israel 7 and

not all of Abraham's descendants are his true descendants. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that descendants will be named for you." 8 That is, it is not the children of natural descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as descendants.

His promise from the very beginning is **THE Seed** (Jesus the Savior) to redeem all **who have faith in Him and believe in Him**, from the curse of death from disobedience (begun back in the garden) and receive the inheritance of the world. This promise is bound up in a covenant. This is a covenant that is strengthened with each generation from the garden to Abraham to Isaac to Jacob to the twelve tribes and the two sons of Joseph **who were adopted in**. So, we have the **One Seed and** the multiplied seed.

His promise has never changed. His covenant is an agreement between the parties involved in **the promise. It is sealed with the shedding of blood** called a "cutting of pieces". In fact, the Hebrew word for covenant means just that! God has never failed on His side. It is man's side that has caused all the problems.

Shall we examine the covenant He set up with His children?

God's side of covenant: (His side of wedding agreement) **His promised Seed of reconciliation**

He will send a redeemer through the women's seed, through Abraham's line.

Seal it alone by walking through the pieces – shedding of blood.

Multiply Abraham's seed (by faith) as stars and give his seed the land as inheritance forever.

Our side of covenant: (our side of wedding agreement) **Our promise to God**

Obey God's voice.

Uphold and do the 10 words (commandments).

Follow His Torah (law) which is His instructions and teachings for life. Enoch and Noah followed this and so did Abraham.

What God set up for His family was very simple. Without realizing it, we, the Gentile (Ephraim) side, turned our backs on them. He asks us to obey his voice. Our ears became dull. He wants complete loyalty. We went after other "husbands" (gods).

How did we turn our backs? We have lied, cheated, stolen, coveted, ignored **His** Days, didn't keep Him first in all things, murdered, fornicated, dishonored our parents; In other words, broke the terms.

How did we go after other "husbands" (gods)? We refused to honor **only** Him by placing other gods before His face; by not doing His feast celebrations that were set up for us and insisting on doing manmade traditional (pagan) celebrations; **by loving the world more than Him.** We have clung to the familiar things that make us feel comfortable and

warm inside. We have stayed with the crowd instead of searching for the truth. We have become stiff necked and rebellious against Him (just like Ephraim in scripture) and the ways He set down for us to follow.

*Lev 23:2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: **The feasts of the LORD**, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, **these are My feasts.***

*Luk 4:5 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, **showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.** 6 And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; **for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.** 7 Therefore, **if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.**"*

Stop here a moment. How was this authority delivered to Satan? It sure wasn't by God's hand. It was by Adam's disobedience.

*Deu 32:4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; **For all His ways are justice**, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He. 5 "They have corrupted themselves; They are not His children, Because of their blemish: A perverse and crooked generation.*

Pro 19:16 He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, but he who is careless of his ways will die.

As I said before, a covenant is a serious thing to God. When it rains, we can look up and see a rainbow. That covenant has not been replaced by the next

covenant from God. It is still in full force. This is true with **every** covenant by God. He does not change. He keeps His promises.

*Isa 46:8 "Remember this, and show yourselves men; Recall to mind, O you transgressors. 9 Remember the former things of old, **For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me,** 10 **Declaring the end from the beginning,** and from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, '**My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,**'*

*Eph 2:12 At that time you were without Christ, **excluded from citizenship in Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise.** You had no hope and were in the world without God.*

Let me ask you this: Is the law a covenant? No. The law (Torah) is the instruction and teaching or blueprint from God for our life. The covenant is the agreement between the two parties to carry out their side that they are responsible for.

*Gal 3:15 Brothers, let me use an example from everyday life. **Once a person's will has been ratified, no one can cancel it or add conditions to it.** 16 **Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed.** It doesn't say "seeds," referring to many, but "your seed," referring to one person, who is Christ. 17 This is what I mean: **The law that came 430 years later did not cancel the covenant previously ratified by God so as to nullify the promise.** 18 For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by the promise. But **it was by a promise that God so graciously gave it to***

*Abraham. 19 Why, then, was the law given? It was added because of transgressions until the seed came to whom the promise was given. It was put into effect through angels by means of an intermediary. 20 Now an intermediary involves more than one party, but **God has acted on his own.** 21 **So is the law in conflict with the promises of God? Of course not!** For if a law had been given that could give us life, then certainly righteousness would come through the law. 22 **But the Scripture has put everything under the power of sin, so that what was promised by the faithfulness of Christ might be given to those who believe.** 23 **Now before this faith came, we were held in custody and carefully guarded under the law in preparation for the faith that was to be revealed.** 24 **And so the law was our guardian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith.***

The written law is the ‘instructor’ of how to carry out the terms of the covenant. While we read these instructions, He writes them on our hearts by His Spirit **through our faith in Him.** They become a part of our character etched in our hearts, the same as Abraham by faith believed.

Gen 26:5 because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."

These instructions are still valid. When we sit under an instructor for our success and prosperity, we don’t abandon his teaching when we graduate. In fact, as we mature, his teachings become even more important to apply to and for our livelihood.

Lev 18:4 You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the LORD your God. 5 You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.

The word 'law' is a poor word to use. When we hear that word, we think of restrictions on living, we think of punishment, we think "club on the head!"

The proper word is Torah. This means **instructions and teachings** of God. Is there anyone who believes we can't learn from God how to walk in His ways? Because the law (Torah) is part of the terms to receive the promise, it cannot be the part that changes. What changes is the way the agreement is sealed/signed, and the material used to write on.

2Ti 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

This is 2Timothy! The only scriptures available in Paul's time was the Torah.

The covenant with Abraham; only God walked through the pieces of sacrificed animals to seal the promise. That way it was sure to never be broken. It would stand forever. Man was not involved.

The covenant with the people at Mt. Sinai; God involved the people in taking part in the cutting of the pieces or the sealing/signing, and then **wrote** the terms down **on stone** for them **which Abraham had always followed with his heart**. However, they didn't keep their promise.

Exo 19:8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

*Heb 8:7 For if the first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need to look for a second one. 8 But **God found something wrong with his people** when he said, "Look! The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. 9 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors at the time when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. **Because they did not remain loyal to my covenant, I ignored them, declares the Lord.***

I am sure some of you may be saying: "What about Hebrews 8:13? Okay, what about it?"

Heb 8:13 In speaking of a "new" covenant, he has made the first one obsolete, and what is obsolete, and aging will soon disappear.

If you read just that verse you can get the wrong picture. You must read it in the proper context. Let's go back to verse 8.

Heb 8:8 But God found something wrong with his people when he said, "Look! The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

In that context, what was becoming obsolete? Could it be the part that involved the people? The thing they couldn't keep **like their promise**? What was becoming null and void was **their signature!**

So, what is the new covenant?

CHAPTER 7



TO SEE CLEARLY **Wiping the Film from Our Eyes**

We may need to stop here and allow the light of God's Word to clarify what the new covenant really is. Has God's promise changed for us? He promised to send **THE Seed** (Messiah) to redeem His children from the curse started back in the garden. He also promised to cause the seed of faith to multiply even as the stars and the sand and the dust, and to inherit the land forever. All seems to still be in force. What about the terms? Obey My voice, carry out the 10 commandments, follow My instructions (Torah). This hasn't been removed either. So, what makes it new?

*Jer 31:31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when **I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the***

*land of Egypt, **my covenant that they broke**, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: **I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.***

The 'new' is writing His law (instructions) **on our hearts**. What does this mean? It means that the Spirit of His Torah (Word/law) **becomes truly alive within us to do His will**; not as mechanical dos and don'ts, **but because we love Him**. With eagerness we run to do His will; to love Him with all our heart, mind and soul and to love our neighbor as He loves us by obeying His commandments.

***Rom 7:14** For we know that **the law is spiritual**: but I am carnal, sold under sin.*

***Joh 14:15** If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

Exo 20:6** And showing mercy unto thousands **of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

1Jn 2:3** This is how we can be sure that we have come to know him: if we continually keep his commandments. 4 The person who says, "I have come to know him," **but does not continually keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.

***1Jn 5:2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his*

commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

Rev 14:12 Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

Let's examine this a little more. We have no problem standing upright in the last five commandments. If we were asked - is it right to murder? Is it right to commit adultery? Is it right to steal? Is it right to speak falsely about anyone? Is it right to covet someone else's possessions? We would say absolutely not! If we look at the many people of the world, there are a lot of 'good' people that agree with this, but, they do not obey the voice of God. **This is relying on doing the good deeds of the law for merit** ("I'm a good person!"), but this is not by faith. By dismissing the first five commandments they have not acquired a place in the covenant, but still stand under the curse. These **first five** 'hang' on the words: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, mind and soul." (*Deut. 6:5*) We must do these first five along with the **last five**: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (*Lev. 19:18*). Or as Jesus said - as I have loved you.

Here is where we ask ourselves: Do I do the first five? Do I obey His voice? Do I keep Him first? Do I place any other gods before His face? Do I use His name honorably? Do I keep HIS Sabbath? Do I give my parents respect? This is truly showing love to Him when we strive to do these with all our heart; when we set aside our will and do His will.

2Ti 3:15 and that from **childhood** you have known the **Holy Scriptures**, which are able to **MAKE YOU WISE** for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

Rom 3:31 Do we, then, abolish the law by this faith? Of course not! **Instead, we uphold the law.** (same Torah!)

Rom 8:3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the flesh, **God did** by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. **He condemned sin in the flesh** ⁴ so that the **righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us**, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the **Spirit.**

Rom 8:7 That is why the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile toward God. **For it refuses to submit to the authority of God's law** because it is powerless to do so.

Gal 3:13 The Messiah hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, **being made a curse for us:** for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

Heb 9:15 Therefore he (Jesus) is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

It was not the law that was taken away; **it was the curse of death** upon us started back in Eden **and our sin** for breaking the agreement (law/terms) that was removed.

*Jas 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when **he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed**. 15 Then, **when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death**. 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.*

Continuing with the covenants:

The promised 'new covenant': how was it sealed/signed? **Once again** Father took on the whole responsibility, so it would stand firm. He came in flesh and became the sacrifice; the cutting of the pieces for both sides (shedding of blood); **by Him only**.

*Isa 53:5 But **he was wounded** for our transgressions, **he was bruised** for our iniquities: **the chastisement** of our peace **was upon him**; and with his stripes we are healed.*

*Joh 19:28 After this, Jesus, **knowing that all was now finished**, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." 29 A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus had received the sour wine,*

he said, "**It is finished,**" and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Heb 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when **He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,**

What then does the New Covenant look like?

God's side of covenant: The promised Seed of reconciliation:

Send the Seed – Jesus **to redeem** man from his lawless state (curse). And the whole house of believing Israel **as the stars and dust** will be gathered to Him as His bride, sheep, children of the faith of Abraham and **inherit the land** and eternal life.

Our side of covenant: The terms for His people by faith

All who believe in Jesus and are **grafted into His only family, ISRAEL,** will **obey His voice** and will have His **Torah (word) written on their hearts** (the rules of His house)-His Kingdom.

Rom 11:16 For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. 17 And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being

*a wild olive tree, were **grafted in among them**, and **with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree**, 18 **do not boast against the branches**. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you. 19 You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in." 20 Well said. **Because of unbelief they were broken off**, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. 22 Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, **if you continue in His goodness**. Otherwise you also will be cut off. 23 And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. 24 For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?*

By comparing the two bridal contracts (the covenant at Mount Sinai and the covenant at the cross), we see that the promise and terms have not changed. Only the 'material' used for the Torah (law) is different (from hearts of stone to hearts of flesh). Instead of just the whole physical nation of Israel, now we as individuals (by faith as Abraham had) come under the terms and the seal/signing is again put back totally in the hands of God. Man has no 'finger' in the pot, so to speak.

Eze 36:26** And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And **I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

1Pe 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

We who have been mixed in with the world have a hard time seeing the clear way of His path. We say “it’s either this way or that! It can’t be both physical and spiritual!” But in His way, it can and **is** both! His seed is physical, and His seed is spiritual. His Word is spirit and came in the flesh. His promise was given to Abraham both in the physical and in the spirit (by faith). We, His seed, inherit the land and the land is His. Jesus is God in flesh. He is the Word (Torah). He is our King. He is our Redeemer. He is the Light, the Bread of Life, the Truth, and the Way. He is the descendent of David who was promised to rule forever over the Kingdom. He is the Good Shepherd. He is the Door. He is the True Vine. He is our Rock. This is a wondrous picture. How could one fulfill this multifaceted picture **except He be God!**

After seeing this beautiful tapestry of the family we belong to by adoption through faith, let’s examine some subtle deceptions Satan has placed in our path to keep us from truly understanding and becoming one sheep fold, one bride, one nation, one family in God that was given the name ISRAEL.

CHAPTER 8



BACK TO THE BEGINNING **Has God Really Said?**

Luk 11:17 But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls."

This concept of divide and conquer is well known to Satan. Let us look at some of those dividing tactics from his kingdom:

*Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "**Has God indeed said**?"*

It is obvious that in the very beginning there was a battle going on to capture and place in bondage God's precious and loved creation – man. If anyone understood how to get man to think his way, it was the evil one; place doubt in the heart, then divide and conquer.

He once ruled this land until sin was found in him and he was cast away from the position he once enjoyed in the presence of God. He became proud and wanted it all. All the glory, all the greatness, all the worship and adoration that God had from all He created.

*Eze 28:12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God: **"You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. 14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. 16 "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. 17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.***

Isa 14:12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I

*will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, **I will be like the Most High.***’

This is the adversary of our souls. The whisperer in our ears; convincing us it is our idea, our thought, our feeling, our belief.

We have been in a fight for our life ever since the garden and he wants to devour our very souls and separate us from God (YHWH), our loving Creator. He started by making us believe that **what** God said was not true. With one misleading question, he set a snare to our feet to destroy our relationship with our Father and the ability to hear the difference between Truth and deception.

From the very beginning, God has had a plan. A plan to rescue **His** children from the grasp of the evil one and teach us how to live free from his influence. A plan of how to discern Satan’s deception and not be led away from God’s true guidance. That plan was to set before us instructions (Torah) that would teach us to be holy as He is holy and then to make a personal appearance in the man called Jesus (Yeshua) to show us the **spiritual aspect** of those instructions (Torah). He then made the ultimate sacrifice to open the door for us to follow Him; the death of His one and only begotten son, Jesus, crucified (sacrificed) as the lamb offering for our atonement once and for all to truly become His again.

This has not stopped Satan from deceiving and capturing people with his wiles. **He still tries to cover God's instructions with confusion and misunderstanding.** However, there is a time coming when God will uncover the strategy of the enemy.

*Isa 25:7 And He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the **covering cast** over all people, And the **veil** that is **spread** over all nations.*

There are some very interesting words in this verse:

Covering – a veil

Cast – wrapped around

Veil - a *pouring* over, that is, *fusion* of metal

Spread – poured out

(A veil wrapped around all people, and a molten metal mask poured over all nations.)

It is my belief that this process of exposure has already been put into motion. Father wants us to truly understand His ways in all things He has given to us in His word.

Can we march forward in studying the word of God and uncover His truth?

If we really bother to look at the whole Bible, we will have to admit that the terms to describing God's true children have been used from the very beginning. They are not exclusive to the Christian (Gentile) nor

are they their own private titles. We have believed and swallowed the deceptive lies of the enemy of God and our enemy, to keep God's Kingdom and family divided.

There is no way for a Gentile to enter the Kingdom of God except they be adopted and grafted into the true Vine that has always existed. That Vine is Jesus (Yeshua), the one and only Messiah of God (YHWH) Almighty. He IS the Word (Debar) of God come in the flesh. By the Word, all things were created and by the Word, His branches (children) live. It has always been this way, nothing has changed. His vineyard has always been the fruit bearing plants; those who yield to His voice, His commandments (wedding vows), His instructions (Torah). The only "branches" that have been removed are the rebellious, unyielding ones – Jews or Gentiles. And if they turn from that rebellion and stubbornness, He will graft them back in.

He has but one family, one flock, one bride, one vineyard; which by faith are destined for His Kingdom everlasting. **The set of rules**, full of His blessings, are to be followed by all who are His, and **that is His voice, and His Word (Torah- instructions and commandments)**.

So, how have we been duped by the enemy to keep us from being one family? Let's review a few statements we have heard coming from ourselves, the pulpit and other Christians:

CHAPTER 9



LET ME MAKE A LIST **Some Subtle Deceptive Statements We** **Have Heard as Truth**

Statement 1

**TRIBULATION: IT'S FOR THE JEWS,
CHRISTIANS ARE GOING TO BE RAPTURED.**

Where did we ever get this idea? What scripture supports it? In the warning by Jesus in Mathew and Mark, **WHO** was He talking to?

*Mat 24:3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, **the** disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"*

Mat 24:8 All these are the beginning of sorrows. 9 Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 **But he who endures to the end shall be saved.**

Mat 24:21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but **for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.** 23 Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. 24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Mat 24:27 For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 28 For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. 29 **"Immediately after the tribulation** of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 **Then the sign of the Son of Man** will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 **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 13:2 Now **the beast which I saw** was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. **The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.** 3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. 4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" 5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. 6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. 7 **It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them.** And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Rev 13:10 He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. **Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.**

Rev 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. 13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

Saints? Who, pray tell, are these? And please don't tell me these are the ones who come to the LORD

during the tribulation only. There is no indication of that here in Revelations.

When it comes to God's children, He will not let one child suffer and the other sit and watch. What fleshly parent would do such a thing? If we wouldn't do that, why would God? The ones who suffer are the disobedient.

*Mar 13:3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, **Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately,** 4 "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?" 5 And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 6 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and will deceive many. 7 But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet. 8 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These are the beginnings of sorrows.*

*Mar 13:19 For in those days **there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation** which God created until this time, nor ever shall be. 20 And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; **but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.***

*Mar 13:23 But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand. 24 "**But in those days, after that tribulation,** the sun will be darkened, and the moon will*

*not give its light; 25 the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. 27 **And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.***

Jesus is talking **to His disciples**. He was speaking these warnings and signs to His own followers. Nowhere in the two gospels, do I see two different groups of **God's people** mentioned as going through different fates. Even in 1Thesalonians Paul talks only of the dead **in Christ** rising first and then those who remain will be caught up in the air to join them.

***1Th 4:16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

What few see in these verses is that **everyone** on the earth is going thru the tribulation. We (His children who follow His commandments and keep the testimony of Jesus) are not appointed for the **wrath** of God. That is for the lawless, rebellious and ungodly.

Statement 2

I AM A GENTILE, NOT A JEW

The only part that is correct in the above statement is the second half. A Jew is of the tribe of Judah. Yes, this title has taken hold of most of the Hebrews today as their identifying title, because the northern half of the kingdom, Ephraim, became so lost they forgot who they were, however, you will hear some today say they are an Israelite, not a Jew. As for the first statement above, this is not the right label. **If you see yourself as adopted** into God's family, then you are no longer a Gentile but an Israelite by faith, for **that is the name of His family.**

*1Co 12:2 You know that you **were** Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.*

Eph 2:11** Therefore remember that you, **once Gentiles in the flesh**--who are called **Uncircumcision** by what is called the **Circumcision made in the flesh by hands**-- **12** that at that **time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14** For He Himself is our peace, **who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

Eph 2:19** Now, therefore, **you are no longer** strangers and foreigners, **but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Eph 3:14** For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15** **from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

Rom 11:17 *And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree,*

What is a Gentile in Greek? Strong's definition is:

a race (as of the same habit), that is, a tribe; specifically, a foreign (non-Jewish) one (usually by implication pagan): - Gentile, heathen, nation, people.

To proclaim yourself a Gentile is to cling to the pagan roots of heathenism and not be allowed to partake in His promises by covenant. But, as a child of God, you are grafted into and a partaker of His root. You are no longer a pagan and separate from His covenant. By faith you are in covenant with Him and subject to all the rules of His family. Being adopted into a family we become a member of that family. We do not keep saying "but, I am adopted. I have different rules!" What parent gives different rules to follow between a flesh born child and one adopted into that family? All in that family follow the same instructions. We are all children of God and He gave His family the name of **Israel** (the whole house of Jacob). If you are still insisting you are a Gentile then read the next scriptures.

Isa 56:3 *Do not let the son of the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord speak, saying, "The Lord has utterly separated me from His people"; Nor let the eunuch say, "Here I am, a dry tree." 4 For thus says the Lord: "To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, And choose what pleases Me, And hold fast My covenant, 5*

Even to them I will give in My house And within My walls a place and a name Better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name That shall not be cut off. 6 "Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants-- Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and holds fast My covenant-- 7 Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." 8 The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, "Yet I will gather to him others besides those who are gathered to him."

Eze 47:21 "Thus you shall divide this land among yourselves according to the tribes of Israel. 22 It shall be that you will divide it by lot as an inheritance for yourselves, and for the strangers who dwell among you and who bear children among you. They shall be to you as native-born among the children of Israel; they shall have an inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel. 23 And it shall be that in whatever tribe the stranger dwells, there you shall give him his inheritance," says the Lord God.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. 12 Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on

them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

Hmmmm..... There doesn't seem to be a gate for Gentiles. If you are saying the reason for that is because we live in heaven and the Jews live on the new earth, then read on.

1Th 4:16 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Rev 21:2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

Rev 21:22 But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. 24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.

*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; 28 and I will give him the morning star. 29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." '

If you are saying you will be with Jesus for eternity, then where will He reign? On earth!

Statement 3

THE OLD TESTAMENT WAS FOR THE ANCIENT PEOPLE OF ABRAHAM. THE NEW TESTAMENT IS FOR US WHO ARE IN A NEW COVENANT WITH JESUS

First, if we believe this, why do we call Abraham our father? And if you say 'I don't call him my father; then why do we sing "Father Abraham had many sons. Many sons had father Abraham. I am one of them and so are you, so let's just praise the LORD!"

If we do not identify with Abraham, we cannot partake in the covenant of the **promised Seed of reconciliation** even spoken of in the garden. Abraham was chosen to bring that Seed forth through his descendants; and through the Seed bring forth Abrahams descendants of and by faith.

Remember what I said earlier. The new covenant was proclaimed in the book of Jerimiah.

Jer 31:31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—

It is also found in Ezekiel:

*Eze 11:15 "Son of man, your brethren, your relatives, your countrymen, and all the house of Israel in its entirety, are those about whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, 'Get far away from the Lord; this land has been given to us as a possession.' 16 Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Although I have cast them far off among the Gentiles, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet I shall be a little sanctuary for them in the countries where they have gone." ' 17 Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord God: "I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel." ' 18 And they will go there, and they will take away all its detestable things and all its abominations from there. 19 **Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, 20 that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.***

The new testament was written by men who had **only** the Old Testament as a guide to the ways of God. They still followed the instructions of God in the Torah (the first five books).

Statement 4

**THE LAW WAS DONE AWAY WITH; CHRIST
NAILED IT TO THE CROSS**

Let's look at the scripture verse that people use to make this claim.

*Col 2:13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, **having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.***

Here is the widely quoted scripture about the law being done away with. This scripture is very deceptive in meaning if you do not know the Old Testament well. Where is the understanding for this found? It is written back in Numbers 5. We think that all the 'crazy' laws written in the Old Testament have no meaning for us now. "They have been removed in Jesus". If we look intently into some of these seemingly antiquated commandments, we will **see** Jesus and what He truly came to do. Let's read portions from a very interesting law:

*Num 5:12 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'If any man's **wife goes astray and behaves unfaithfully toward him,.....** Num 5:15 then the man shall bring his wife to the priest. He shall bring the offering required for her, one-tenth of an ephah of barley meal; he shall pour no oil on it and put no frankincense on it, **because it is a grain offering of jealousy, an offering for remembering, for bringing iniquity to remembrance.** 6 'And the priest shall bring her near, and set her before the Lord. 17 The priest shall take holy water in an earthen vessel, and take*

some of the dust that is on the floor of the tabernacle and put it into the water. 18 Then the priest shall stand the woman before the Lord, uncover the woman's head, and put the offering for remembering in her hands, which is the grain offering of jealousy. And the priest shall have in his hand the bitter water that brings a curse.22 and may this water that causes the curse go into your stomach, and make your belly swell and your thigh rot." Then the woman shall say, "Amen, so be it." 23 Then the priest shall write these curses in a book, and he shall scrape them off into the bitter water. 24 And he shall make the woman drink the bitter water that brings a curse, and the water that brings the curse shall enter her to become bitter.

Who has been an unfaithful wife? Who has gone astray? Who was finally divorced? (does Ephraim come to mind?)

This scripture is talking about a curse. Remember the verse in Colossians 2:14 that says: *having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us,*

You can see that very shadow of Numbers 5:23 right there in Colossians!

There is another realization here that must be brought to light. Let us read another law set down that was also carried out by Jesus.

Deu 24:1 *"When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand,*

*and sends her out of his house, 2 when she has departed from his house, and goes and **becomes another man's wife**, 3 if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife, 4 then **her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled**; for that is an abomination before the Lord, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance.*

***Jer 3:8** Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away **and given her a certificate of divorce**;*

***Jer 3:20** Surely, as a wife treacherously departs from her husband, So have you dealt treacherously with Me, O house of Israel," says the Lord.*

So, we first see the law of jealousy set up in Numbers and then in Deuteronomy is brought in the law on divorce. Now in this law there is a problem for us. How do we get to be the bride again after being with another husband (god – idolatry)? How can God clear the way for this reconciliation?

***Isa 54:5** For your Maker is your husband, The Lord of hosts is His name; **And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.** 6 For the Lord has called you Like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, like a youthful wife when you were refused," Says your God. 7 "For a mere moment I have forsaken you, but with great mercies I will gather you. 8*

*With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment;
But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you,"
Says the Lord, your Redeemer.*

Right before this chapter (Isa 54) is the wonderful chapter of our Savior, Isaiah 53. If you haven't read this chapter, please do now for Isa 54 is a continuation.

Now Let's go into the New Testament.

***Rom 7:1** Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those **who know the law**), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? **2** For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband **as long as he lives**. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. **3** So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man. **4** Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, **that you may be married to another--to Him who was raised from the dead**, that we should bear fruit to God.*

Do you see how Paul is bringing in this law of divorce to explain our relationship with it in Christ?

Joh 10:15** As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and **I lay down My life for the sheep**. **16** And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. **17** Therefore **My

Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself.

*Mat 26:39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, **let this cup pass from Me**; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."42 Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, **if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it**, Your will be done."*

What cup is He talking about? Look at Numbers 5 again:

Num 5:23 'Then the priest shall write these curses in a book, and he shall scrape them off into the bitter water. 24 And he shall make the woman drink the bitter water that brings a curse, and the water that brings the curse shall enter her to become bitter.

This is the cup of jealousy. Why should that be something Jesus would deal with?

Exo 34:12 Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst. 13 But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images 14 (for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),

This warning in Exodus was made **shortly after** God's 'betrothal' to His people in Exodus 20. They are now His bride, His wife. The **law of jealousy** was put in

place not just as a physical law for man. It was the physical version of the **spiritual** meaning that He would use to take the place of His 'harlot' wife; by standing in her place and taking on the curse of unfaithfulness to her husband; God Himself. THAT was the cup Jesus struggled with in the garden, for it was a painful price to pay to free His bride from the bondage of sin of adultery. How did He take this curse on Him?

*Mat 26:62 And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" 63 But **Jesus kept silent.***

Here is still another law set in Deuteronomy 19 that Jesus again uses for the transfer of our sin of unfaithfulness unto Him.

*Deu 19:16 **If a false witness rises against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing, 17 then both men in the controversy shall stand before the Lord, before the priests and the judges who serve in those days. 18 And the judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother,***

There were two false witnesses that spoke against Jesus at His trial. As they accused, **He stayed silent.** This was very significant, for by Him being quiet and not defending Himself, **He became the guilty party;** thus, being able to truly bear our sins upon Him on the cross and becoming the sin sacrifice. This is also shadowed in the act of the High priest placing his hands on the head of the unblemished goat on the

Day of Atonement and transferring the sins of the people to it.

So, putting all this together; He took the cup of bitter water of jealousy for us; the unfaithful bride, took on our guilt of sin in innocence (the Lamb of God) and nailed all this to the tree – **the curse and our sin**. He also lays down His life to void the first bridal covenant to make it possible to remarry His bride He just redeemed with His blood. These laws in Numbers and Deuteronomy only show our trespasses and give the solution for remedy. Jesus became the remedy. The laws, in themselves, are not the curse. They reveal the trespass that causes the curse and then also shows the remedy to remove the curse. The law shows us our sinful ways.

Rom 7:7** What shall we say then? **Is the law sin?** **Certainly not!** On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." 12 **Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good**14 For we know **that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Let's take a moment here to examine another question that has arisen about this picture of what Jesus did in fulfilling the laws just spoken of. What about the people who had already died? How do they fit in with this whole thing?

Our Father is very thorough when it comes to His plan for His children. No detail is left undone.

***Eph 4:4** There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. 7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, **He led captivity captive**, and gave gifts to men." 9 (Now this, "He ascended"--**what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?** 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, **that He might fill all things.**)*

***1Pe 3:18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, 19 by whom also **He went and preached to the spirits in prison**, 20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.*

***1Pe 4:5** They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 **For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead**, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.*

There is no boundary for our Savior. He will reach all who are reachable.

Another place in the Bible that is misunderstood to claim the law was done away with is the book of Hebrews. This book is riddled with **face value**

statements of removing the law. Two seemingly blatant verses are:

*Heb 7:12 For the priesthood being changed, of necessity **there is also a change of the law.***

*Heb 8:13 In that He says, "A new covenant," He has **made the first obsolete.** Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.*

What is really being explained here? What law is he referring to? What covenant is in the balance?

The subject in Hebrews is twofold. The first part of the "old" covenant that was passing away had to do with the people and their breaking their part. The second part has to do with the "mediators" of the law.

Heb 9:1 Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary.

If you do not understand the Levitical priesthood, you will not understand the book of Hebrews, for **this is the main subject throughout the entire book of Hebrews.** The law here, is the prescriptive usage or regulations of the priesthood. Hebrews is not just talking about the total Levitical priesthood; it is zeroing in on the high priest's position. The order of Aaron's line. God's 'priesthood' was originally to be each head of a household. However, at Mount Sinai, on the day of God giving the Ten Commandments (words) as the outline to follow, the people became too afraid to even continue hearing the voice of God. So, God chose the tribe of Levi to represent the people in ministering to Him and judging them. And then He placed Aaron's

line in the high priest position to oversee the whole priesthood.

After this position was set up by God as part of the law to govern the people and guide them in His instructions, God **made a proclamation of a change** that would occur with the resurrection of Jesus.

Psa 110:4 The Lord has sworn and will not relent, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

This is the true subject matter of Hebrews. It is therefore with this position that Jesus our High Priest will enforce the new covenant spoken of in Jeremiah:

Jer 31:31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—

Eze 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

And as pertaining to Jesus:

Heb 9:11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13

*For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 **And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant**, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.*

The Law was not done away with. It was taken from tablets (and hearts) of stone and written on hearts of flesh. And Jesus is the mediator of this, for it was His blood shed that was sprinkled on the heavenly altar to seal the new covenant.

Heb 12:24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

So, when Jesus took over the high priest position, we who believe in Him become His ministering priests.

1Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Rev 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings

and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

*Rev 5:9 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, 10 **And have made us kings and priests to our God;** And we shall reign on the earth."*

*Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but **they shall be priests of God and of Christ**, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.*

I see no law of God being done away with in the New Testament, only the nullifying of the curse brought on by sin, the transferring of the high priesthood and the establishing of the new covenant.

Isa 33:22 (For the Lord is our Judge, The Lord is our Lawgiver, The Lord is our King; He will save us);

*Mat 5:17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 For assuredly, I say to you, **till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.***

As far as I can tell, we are still walking this earth and looking up to the heavens. They are still here.

*Jas 4:11 Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, **speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you***

judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12 There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

This is a statement by James, the brother of Jesus, AFTER Jesus' ascension.

Statement 5

THE DIETARY LAWS WERE FOR THE JEWS AND CHANGED FOR CHRISTIANS IN THE TIME OF JESUS

This is not a truth. The knowledge of clean and unclean was known by Noah.

Gen 7:1 Then the Lord said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation. 2 You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female; 3 also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth.

Gen 8:20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

If Noah knew of this, then Shem knew and if Shem knew, so did the line all the way down to Abraham. Noah and Shem were both still alive at the time Abraham was living. This was not just some new law given to the Israelites at Mt. Sinai. I believe God

needed to reestablish His standards with the people because they had lived in a land polluted with idols and pagan eating habits.

Mal 3:6 "For I am the Lord, I do not change; Therefore, you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Since Jesus is God come in the flesh and He was at the very beginning of all things created; then He too does not change. What was set up at the very beginning has not been changed. They were established by God. I stand on the truth that His law of what is proper food is still in force.

The following verses listed have only the key verses quoted. To get the full picture of the subject, you should read the total verses I have highlighted.

Mathew 15:1-11 key verses – Mat

15:2 "Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread." Mat 15:8 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

Mathew 15:15-20 key verse – Mat

15:20 These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

Mark 7:1-23**key verses – Mar**

*7:2 Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, **with unwashed hands**, they found fault.*

*Mar 7:5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, **but eat bread with unwashed hands?**"*

Luke 11:37-41**key verse – Luk**

*11:38 When the Pharisee saw it, he marveled that **He had not first washed before dinner.***

Acts 10:1-29**key verses – Act**

*10:28 Then he said to them, "**You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.***

*Act 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "**In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. 35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.***

Acts 11:1-17**key verses – Act**

*11:3 saying, "**You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!**"*

*Act 11:17 **If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?**"*

1 Corinthians 8**key verse – 1Co 8:4**

Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to

idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one.

1 Corinthians 10 key verses – 1Co

10:20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.

1Co 10:28 But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness."

Colossians 2:1-23 key verses – Col 2:6

As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ, 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

I see no mention of food change in these verses, only eating with unwashed hands, or offered to idols or eating with gentiles. In the Colossians letter, Paul was addressing **former pagan Gentiles**. He encouraged them to walk in Christ and not to take offence from those who could not understand their switching from

the pagan days and rituals to God's appointed times and daily living instructions, and to be careful not to be drawn back to them by persuasive philosophical arguments. Look again at verse 8 where it says: ***according to the basic principles of the world. The clean and unclean list was set up by God, not the world.***

Col 2:15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. 16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

This last statement is not a negative note, but a positive proclamation that eating what God claims is proper food, doing the festivals, new moons and sabbaths of God are showing the true substance of these things as pointing to Jesus. Food was in the same ranks here because it set His children apart from pagans who ate the unclean animals as well.

In Isaiah, these two verses are found:

Isa 65:1 "I was sought by those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here I am, here I am,' To a nation that was not called by My name. 2 I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk in a way that is not good, According to their own thoughts; 3 A people who provoke Me to anger continually to My face; Who sacrifice in gardens, And burn incense on altars of brick; 4 Who sit among the graves, And spend the night in the tombs; Who eat swine's flesh, And the broth of

abominable things is in their vessels; 5 Who say, 'Keep to yourself, Do not come near me, For I am holier than you!' These are smoke in My nostrils, A fire that burns all the day.

*Isa 66:15 For behold, the Lord will come with fire And with His chariots, like a whirlwind, to render His anger with fury, And His rebuke with flames of fire. 16 For by fire and by His sword The Lord will judge all flesh; And the slain of the Lord shall be many. 17 "Those who sanctify themselves and purify themselves, to go to the gardens After an idol in the midst, **eating swine's flesh and the abomination and the mouse**, shall be consumed together," says the Lord.*

It doesn't sound to me like God is very pleased for these people to be indulging in this stuff. As a matter of fact, He is very angry. The idol most likely involved here, would have to be Tammuz. He was the son/husband of Semiramis. On Easter a pig/boar was roasted and eaten in memory of Tammuz, for it was said he was killed by a boar. Easter ham sound familiar?

The world will never understand God's ways and lifestyle He wants His children to live. They will always scoff and ridicule anyone who leaves their ranks and joins God's.

If Jesus is the word and the word was from the beginning, and all things were created by Him and all commandments given by Him, (*Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through*

Him and for Him.) **why would He do away with the very rules He put in place at the beginning?**

Also, if Paul was ever talking about eating foods in general, he would have stated it so. Do you think Paul would tell one group certain eating freedoms and not the others? All Paul's letters are talking about the same things as he has to all the other churches. If we claim to be followers of God's word, which includes His commandments, shouldn't we also be following His proper diet instructions?

Statement 6

THE CHURCH STARTED IN ACTS

I guess we need to establish what is meant by "the church". If the meaning intended is the modern church in general, this is not true. The word used in Greek for 'church' is 'ekklesia'. This word is translated as church, churches, **assembly** in the New Testament. It is taken from the Hebrew word '**kaw-hawl**' which is translated in the Old Testament as congregation and **assembly** in the majority of scripture. It is used to identify God's people. The true gathering of the people of God began at Mt Sinai with the first meeting of God and His Kaw-hawl (assembly of people). The purpose of His true kaw-hawl (church) has always been the same. **Only those who believed God and followed His voice were the true church (the assembly of His people)**. Time and time again those who didn't believe found themselves 'cut off'. The ecclesia (assembly, church) was always there and still was made up of those who believed

God. The church was and still is the assembly, the kaw-hawl of God from the very beginning. This statement 6 also smacks of the inference that the Christian church took the place of Israel. All converts in the time of the apostles were associated with the Temple and synagogues. The word 'church' is the equivalent of kaw-hawl. I would suggest you look up these words in the Strong's concordance.

Deu 5:22 "These words the Lord spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.

*Jas 2:2 For if there should come into **your assembly** a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes,*

The word 'assembly' in the last verse of James, is **synagogue in the Greek.**

What transpired in the time of the church in Acts was establishing the spiritual aspect of the covenant spoken of in Jerimiah with the sealing by the blood of Jesus; not replacing the old group and starting a new church.

Jer 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Statement 7

THE DAY OF REST WAS CHANGED TO SUNDAY - THE LORD'S DAY

I have found no such proclamation anywhere in the New Testament. There is but one place this 'Lord's Day' identification is used and that is Revelations.

Rev 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

However, the 'Sabbath Day' is mentioned throughout Mathew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts. It was obviously the common knowledge that the seventh day was the LORD's.

Exo 16:29 See! For the Lord has given you the Sabbath

Exo 20:8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.

Mat 12:8 For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

Jesus is still claiming the Sabbath day as His. It was proclaimed that in the Old Testament and He still acknowledged it in the New Testament.

Mar 1:21 Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught.

Mar 6:2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands!

Luk 4:16 So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.

Joh 9:14 Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. 15 Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." 16 Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

And now here in Acts after Jesus is ascended:

Act 13:14 But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down.

Act 13:26 Men and brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the word of this salvation has been sent. 27 For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him.

Act 13:44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God.

*Act 15:21 For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read **in the synagogues every Sabbath.**"*

*Act 18:4 And he **reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath,** and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.*

*Act 22:19 So I said, 'Lord, they **know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You.***

*Act 24: 11 because you may ascertain that it is no more than twelve days since I went **up to Jerusalem to worship.** 12 And they neither found me in the temple disputing with anyone nor inciting the crowd, **either in the synagogues or in the city.***

*Act 2:46 So **continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house,** they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,*

The breaking of bread meant fellowshiping together, not signifying a certain day.

We can see that the main place of gathering was the synagogue. It was also always on the Sabbath or seventh day, not the first day. **The term The Lord's Day was given to the day Jesus arose from the grave which was the 16th of Nisan.** A day that was also remembered and celebrated by believers every year on First Fruits. It did not take the place of the regular Sabbath day. Nowhere in the New Testament

does it show a transition from the seventh day to the first day. This transition took place at the time of Constantine in 325 AD. He declared the Roman calendar day of the “day of the Sun” to be the first day of the week and a day of veneration to the Sun. **Up to that time Saturday was the first day of the Roman week** (What? So, when **was** God’s Sabbath day?). He also combined Christianity with the pagan beliefs to unite his kingdom. The following portion of an article comes from a paper called THE PECULIAR PEOPLE. It was written in the year 1894. It is a Jewish paper.

WHY THE JEWS HAVE NOT BEEN CHRISTIANIZED.

A partial solution of the question is found in the words of an eminent, broad-viewed Jew, a scholar known and honored on both sides of the Atlantic, to whom the writer lately said: “If Christianity had not been so rapidly paganized after the first century, would the Jews have accepted it? Would they now be Christianized?” He answered, “Yes; had Christianity continued to develop along the lines which Jesus taught, it would have carried the Hebrews with it.”
(see Appendix A)

You can see from the quote of the article, the awareness they had of the Roman influence on Christianity after the first century. Too much of the pagan influence rubbed off onto the church. The church pulled away from the Hebrew Sabbath and accepted Sunday as the new Sabbath for the Gentile church. In the fourth century, Constantine and the

Nicaean council completed the move of the Christians under the pagan holidays to unify the kingdom.

I would like to interject here another argument brought in by many Christians. They claim that according to scripture every day is a Sabbath to believers.

Where is this stated? I find no such declaration. If they are referring to Romans 14; nowhere does Paul state Sabbath as being the subject. If this were true, Sabbath means to cease from work or exertion. If you believe this, what day do you work if every day is the Sabbath? If you say no day needs to be set aside for Sabbath, because all days are alike, then you are saying what God told us in the Ten Commandments can be ignored; “Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8).

This is what happened to the people in Egypt. They had no day to rest. They were in bondage to working for the Egyptians. That’s why God gave it to them after pulling them out of the situation.

If you say Sabbath is a state of mind, have you eliminated all stress, hardship, discouragement, anger, fear, anxiety, or frustration out of your life?

This to me is just another deception of the enemy to turn people away from observing God’s true day of rest.

Statement 8

JESUS WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 25TH. JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!

The one thing I have noticed through the past several years in churches around the world, is that more pastors are introducing the study of the feasts talked about in the Bible. There have been several people admitting that Jesus was not born in December but somewhere in September or October. **So, what's the celebration in December for?** I have heard the adamant declaration from some saying, "we can't let the world have Christmas. We have got to keep Christ in Christmas! If you don't celebrate at this time of the season, then you are nothing but a scrooge." Yet these same people will agree Jesus was born in the Fall, and then proclaim, "but December is a time when the whole family gets together to have fun and it feels so wonderful."

There was a Christian documentary that came out some years ago called "The Bethlehem Star". In this movie, the man showed the wonderful revelation God had given him from the stars of the time of year Jesus was born. What he discovered was Jesus was born in September or October. Isn't that interesting? However, he didn't know what to do about the Christmas thing, so he explained that the wise men showed up in December to give their gifts to the child and that's why we celebrate His birthday on the 25th of December – because of the wise men. WHAT?? So, if you have a baby on the 10th of June and your rich relatives come in September and give your baby some

really expensive presents, you celebrate that child's birthday in September --**because of your rich relatives??**

I don't know how many reading this book remember who Charles Spurgeon was, but he was a very well-known and prominent preacher in the 1800's. Following is an excerpt from one of his sermons:

Joy Born at Bethlehem - Delivered, December 24th, 1871, by C. H. SPURGEON,

*Probably the fact is that **the holy days were arranged to fit in with heathen festivals**. We venture to assert, that **if there be any day in the year, of which we may be pretty sure that it was not the day on which the Saviour was born, it is the twenty-fifth of December**. (The rest of this quote is in Appendix A)*

The very old festival of Saturnalia in December was Christianized with the birth of the baby Jesus. The feast of Ishtar (pronounced Easter) became the resurrection of the Lord.

Stories and explanations to people don't take long to settle in and become the real reason for changes. Following is another quote on Christmas from Increase Mather:

Increase Mather, A Testimony against Several Profane and Superstitious Customs

Christianity imported the Saturnalia festival hoping to take the pagan masses in with it. Christian leaders

succeeded in converting to Christianity large numbers of pagans by promising them that they could continue to celebrate the Saturnalia as Christians. The problem was that there was nothing intrinsically Christian about Saturnalia. To remedy this, these Christian leaders named Saturnalia's concluding day, December 25th, to be Jesus' birthday. (Again, go to Appendix A for rest).

Jer 10:2 Thus says the Lord: "Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, For the Gentiles are dismayed at them. 3 For the customs of the peoples are futile; For one cuts a tree from the forest, The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. 4 They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers So that it will not topple.

Sounds kind of like a Christmas tree to me.

So, when was Jesus born? His birth was set back in the Old Testament (Torah). I will go into deeper detail further in the book.

Okay, so with just these eight statements, we can see the hand of Satan working hard to keep God's family split. How long will we allow him to lead us down a path away from the truth? **Do we believe God's word or not?** If we stick to the enemy's lies then we don't believe God and if we don't believe what He has said, why do we even bother reading His word or claiming we follow His voice?

Why don't we open up a little and check out the feasts of the bible to start closing the gap in the chasm between God's family members.

We need to first understand that the feasts written in the Bible are **not** Jewish feasts. **They are God's.** The word 'feast' in the Hebrew is 'Moedim', or in our language, appointed times.

*Lev 23:2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, **these are My feasts.***

God set up appointed times for His children to remember His goodness and look forward to the time of physical and spiritual fulfillment of these feasts. This is what Paul was referring to in Colossians.

Col 2:13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

Col 2:16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

Paul is saying that these appointed times set up by God are the shadow of the total fulfillment in recent and future events by **Christ who is the substance** of them so don't let others of the world ridicule you for doing them.

These 'shadows' are like you seeing a shadow of a train being cast in front of you. You can tell it is a train

that is coming, but when you turn around, you see the true substance of that train coming at you.

I would like to invite you to look at the Feasts of God. If we can look at them with some openness of mind maybe we can learn more from His word about the coming events of Christ's return.

CHAPTER 10

7 Feasts of YAH

Wait...

He died on **PASSOVER** (1), was buried on **UNLEAVENED BREAD** (2), rose from the grave on **FIRSTFRUITS** (3). He sent the comforter **7 WEEKS** (4) later. He will gather us at the blast of the **TRUMPETS** (5), separate those who have been **ATONED** (6) for from the goats of Azazel, and the one who will **TABERNACLE** (7) with us for a perpetual **SABBATH** of rest....



And I'm suppose to trade that in for a
Easter Bunny and Santa Claus?

TRUE FEASTS OF GOD According to His Calendar

**MONTH OF ABIB (NISAN) (Mar. – Apr.) 10th day
of the month – starts Lamb's journey to Passover**

Exo 12:1 Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 2 "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you.3 Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.....

This was a time to examine the Passover lamb for any defects during these 4 days: from the 10th to the 14th.

The lamb was kept with the family in the house for close watching.

What does that mean to us? It was on the 10th of Abib (Nisan) that Jesus (Yeshua) entered Jerusalem on the donkey and spent the days before Passover in His Father's house (the temple) for all to see His character; whether He be righteous or not. This timing is recorded in the volumes of the ante-Nicaean fathers. This was the beginning of the walk to the cross as the sinless Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Joh 12:12 The next day (10th of Abib) a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13 took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! The King of Israel!" 14 Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: 15 "Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey's colt."

*Luk 19:45 Then He went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in it, 46 saying to them, "It is written, 'My house is a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' " 47 **And He was teaching daily in the temple.** But the chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people sought to destroy Him, 48 and were unable to do anything; for all the people were very attentive to hear Him.*



NIGHT OF PASSOVER **14th day of Abib (Nisan)**

Exo 12:6 Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. 7 And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. 8 Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.....

Exo 12:10 You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire 11 And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. 13 Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the

*houses where you are. **And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you** when I strike the land of Egypt.*

The word Passover in the Hebrew means:

pâsach

*A primitive root; to hop, that is, (figuratively) **skip over (or spare)**;*

By the blood of the Passover Lamb we are **spared or skipped over** from the judgements of God.

***Exo 12:21** Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb. 22 And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. **And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.** 23 For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.*

***Exo 12:30** So **Pharaoh rose in the night**, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead. 31 Then he **called for Moses and Aaron by night**, and said, "Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the Lord as you have said. 32 Also take your*

flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also.”

*Lev 23:4 'These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. 5 On the **fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord's Passover.***

*Num 28:16 'On the **fourteenth day of the first month is the Passover of the Lord.***

*Deu 16:1 "Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover to the Lord your God, for in the month of Abib the **Lord your God brought you out of Egypt by night.** 2 Therefore you shall sacrifice the Passover to the Lord your God, from the flock and the herd, in the place where the Lord chooses to put His name. 3 **You shall eat no leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread** with it, that is, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), that you may remember the day in which you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life. 4 And no leaven shall be seen among you in all your territory for seven days, **nor shall any of the meat which you sacrifice the first day at twilight remain overnight until morning.** 5 You may not sacrifice the Passover within any of your gates which the Lord your God gives you; 6 but at the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide, there **you shall sacrifice the Passover at twilight, at the going down of the sun,** at the time you came out of Egypt 7 And you shall roast and eat it in the place which the Lord your God chooses, **and in the morning you shall turn and go to your tents.***

Passover was one night and marked the beginning of the liberation from bondage, for Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron by night, after the destruction by the death angel, and released them that night to leave.

Passover or Pesach was the 14th of Abib (Nisan) and the Passover lamb was killed at twilight and eaten that night.

***Joh 18:28** Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, **and it was early morning**. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, **lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover**.*

***Joh 19:14** Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, **and about the sixth hour**. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"*

***Mat 27:46** **And about the ninth hour** Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"⁴⁷ Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!"⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him." ⁵⁰ **And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit**.*

What does the night of Passover mean to us? This was the fulfillment of its true meaning. The protective covering blood of the Passover Lamb and deliverance from bondage of sin from Satan. The Passover lambs were to be killed at evening time. That time was between 3 pm and 6 pm. This was also the time that

the regular daily sin offering lamb was sacrificed at the temple. So, you have the Passover lamb (blood of protection) and the SIN offering being killed at the same time Jesus died; at the ninth hour OR 3pm. He became our covering of protection and also the lamb sacrifice for our sin at the same time. What timing! What a sign! What fulfillment! What a wonderful feast to celebrate every year as a reminder of our freedom from the curse of sin and death. And our being spared the judgement due us.

*1Co 5:7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed **Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.***



FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

15th day of Abib (Nisan)

Lev 23:6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; seven days you must eat unleavened bread.

Num 33:3 They departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the day after the Passover the children of Israel went out with boldness in the sight of all the Egyptians. 4 For the Egyptians were burying all their firstborn, whom the Lord had killed among them. Also on their gods the Lord had executed judgments.

This was the first day of freedom for the Israelites. They were now released from the slavery of constant work. They literally walked away from their bondage.

The day of unleavened bread started on the morning of the 15th of Abib. **What does this day hold for us?** This was the day Jesus was in the tomb. He was unleavened – sinless and He had just made a way for us to get rid of the leaven in our lives too. This was the Sabbath. It is a day for us to reflect on the **rest** He has given us from that bondage. As we believe on Him and what He did, we can enter into that rest and know the enemy no longer has a claim on our soul, as we work toward removing all leaven (sin) from our lives in Him. In 1 Peter we read:

1Pe 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, 19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

This was the day He was preaching to those who had died at the flood and before His first coming and were being given a chance to accept Him as savior.

FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS

16th day of Abib
(Nisan)



Lev 23:9 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 10 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. 11 He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.14 You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

The title alone for this day is one we should recognize. It is the third day after Jesus' death on the tree.

*1Co 15:20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: **Christ the firstfruits**, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.*

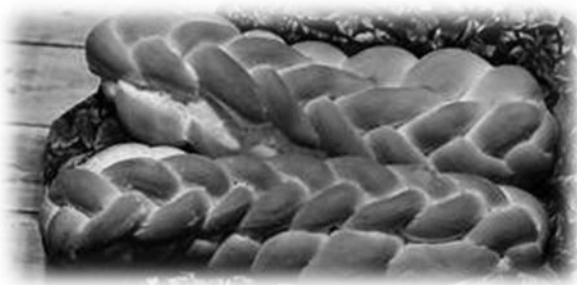
This is the day we rejoice in. **This is Resurrection Day!** It is **not** Easter. Easter is a pagan goddess' day and not a time we should connect to the Resurrection of our Savior. His day is written in the word of God.

That is our guideline for celebration; not the pagan day of rebirth symbolized with rabbits and chicks and eggs, but with the power of rising from the dead and conquering death and the grave and the bondage of sin. Combining pagan Easter traditions with the celebration of the Feasts of God is mixing, and God hates mixture with the world.

1Co 10:21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.

Origin of Easter - A Christian Commemoration

The origin of Easter, a holiday associated with the observance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, is actually based on an ancient pagan celebration. Christians recognize this day as commemorating the culminating event of their faith, but like so many other "Christian" holidays, Easter has become commercialized and mixed with non-christian traditions like the Easter Bunny, Easter parades and hunting for Easter eggs. How did this happen?



**FEAST OF
WEEKS
(SHAVUOT)**

Day after the 7th Sabbath

This feast is probably the most confusing as to how you arrive at the proper day of Pentecost. First we need to understand the proper name for the feast. It is SHAVUOT. This word in Hebrew means 'weeks'. This is something that always seems to be ignored. Counting 50 days in succession is not what this word implies.

*Lev 23:15 'And you shall count for yourselves **from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed.** 16 Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath.*

The word we are familiar with for this feast is 'Pentecost'. This Greek word means 'fiftieth'. It is really identifying the day after the count of the 7 weeks instructed by God. This feast is a teaching all by itself in understanding when it truly is, but what I want to focus on right now is what it means to us considering God's spiritual meaning.

At the time of the exodus, it is said that this was the day that the law (Torah) was given from the mountain of God (Mt Sinai). This is very intriguing in the fact that the law is the **written** instructions of how to live.

*Act 1:4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to **wait for the Promise of the Father**, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but **you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now."*

Act 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Act 2:1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The written law (Torah) has two components to it. The physical written part tells us what God wants us to do to live as His holiness requires. We, however, have a hard time doing this in the flesh for our hearts are tainted and hard (we are told not to do something, and we do it! Just like back in the garden). However, you add the **Spirit** to the mix and now we have the **power** to follow the instructions of God and discern the true Spirit of what He wants us to do. So, Pentecost was the **second half** of what happened at the mountain. We now have the power (Spirit) to do what Truth (Torah) demands.

Psa 119:142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth.

Joh 1:14 And **the Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and **truth**. **15** John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' " **16** And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. **17** **For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

Joh 4:23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father **in spirit and truth**; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. **24** **God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."**

Joh 14:6 Jesus said to him, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life**. No one comes to the Father except through Me.



**TISHRI (7th
MONTH)**

YOM TERUAH –

1st day of Tishri

Lev 23:23 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, **24** "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'In the seventh month, **on the first day of the month**, you shall have a

sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.

The first day of the seventh month of God's calendar is called Day of Trumpets (Yom Teruah). They call it 'trumpets', but the word means more than that. The definition from the Strong's concordance is:

ter-oo-aw' from H7321; **clamor, that is, acclamation of joy or a battle cry; especially clangor of trumpets, as an alarum: - alarm, blow (-ing) (of, the) (trumpets), joy, jubile, loud noise, rejoicing, shout (-ing), (high, joyful) sound (-ing).**

This feast of God is more obscure to us as to how it affects us. That is only because **it has been hidden through time**. Let's look at a familiar event in Luke:

*Luk 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 Now there were in the same **country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.** 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, **I bring you good tidings of great joy** which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." 13 **And suddenly** there was with the angel a multitude of the **heavenly host praising***

God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

The time of when our Savior was born has been discussed throughout the ages. No one can seem to come to an agreement. For years Christians have claimed December 25th as the day, some say Passover is when He was born and still others say Tabernacles. By looking at the verses in Luke we have some clues.

First, the flocks were kept out in the fields from early Spring to late Autumn. They were housed when the cold of winter arrived. That eliminates December; besides, December is not a month on God's calendar, nor is it mentioned for ANY feasts of God. This is where the controversy of either Passover month (Nisan, Abib) or Tabernacles month (Tishri) comes in. The argument used is that Joseph would not be able to go up to the temple as required at Tabernacles if Jesus was born then and God would not have His own law broken, so some say the first of Nisan (Abib) might be the correct time. The people only go up to Jerusalem for Passover week which starts on the 14th.

What some have not carefully considered is Day of Trumpets (or Yom Teruah). Here it is still the time that the flocks are out in the field and the second clue in Luke is also fulfilled. Look at verse 13. Here you have the broader meaning of Teruah; an, *acclamation of joy, jubile, loud noise, rejoicing, shout (-ing), (high, joyful) sound (-ing)*.

Luk 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest,

Yom Teruah is the first day of the seventh month. There is no requirement to go up to Jerusalem until the days of Tabernacles starting the 15th of the month.

I believe this is the day our Savior was born.



YOM KIPPURIM (DAY OF ATONEMENT) 10th day of Tishri

Lev 23:26 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 27 "Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the Lord. 28 And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the Lord your God.

Lev 23:32 It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath."

The connection to this appointed time (feast) is greater to us than you think. We have looked at this day as just a Jewish fast day, but it really is one for us to embrace, for God said it was one of His feast days. The word 'atonement' in the Strong's is this:

kaw-far' A primitive root; to cover (specifically with bitumen); figuratively to expiate or condone, to placate or cancel: - appease, make (an) atonement, **cleanse**, **disannul**, **forgive**, **be merciful**, pacify, pardon, to pitch, purge (away), put off, (make) **reconcile (-liation)**.

The Greek word used in the New Testament is:

hil-as-mos' **atonement**, that is, (concretely) an expiator: - propitiation

1Jn 2:2 *And He Himself is **the propitiation** for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*

1Jn 4:10 *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent **His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.***

After the Passover meal, Jesus went to the garden and began His agony of atoning for our sins. It began in the evening and went until His death on the cross; **from evening to evening**. He fulfilled that feast spiritually at Passover time. There will be another time for this at the time of the 10th of Tishri (7th month); at the end of time. The time of judgement to see if our names are written in the Book of Life. Whether our sins have been atoned for by our believing in Jesus as the Son of God and obeying the word of God.

This is a feast we should observe as with solemn thankfulness; denying our flesh for one day and remembering just what Jesus went through and did for us. Is it too much to ask, to take a day, to spend with Him totally on our mind, without interference of bodily cravings?

This is truly a day for the redeemed to rejoice and observe, just as God said to do.

FEAST OF TABERNACLES



15th day of Tishri

Lev 23:33 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 34 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the Lord

This is the second feast of God that is seven days long. It is spiritually connected to the week containing Passover and culminating with the seven Sabbath weeks to end at Pentecost. How does it connect? The spiritual picture is of Jesus cleansing us of our sins **to make it possible for Him to dwell with us in our hearts**, by the indwelling of the holy Spirit given at Pentecost. Tabernacle, dwell, encamp with us.

*2Co 6:15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And **what agreement has the temple of God with idols?** For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "**I will dwell in them** and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people."*

*Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, **I will come in to him and dine with him**, and he with Me.*

The first setting of Tabernacles (Sukkot) was to be an ordinance or appointment for the Hebrews to remember the provision of God for them on the way to the promised land.

*Lev 23:41 You shall keep it as a feast to the Lord for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month. 42 You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths, 43 that your generations may know that **I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.**' "*

This feast was a statute. A rule established by authority; **a permanent rule of action**. That is very interesting, for this is one feast mentioned that is continued after the establishment of Christ's 1000-year reign.

Zec 14:16 And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem

shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

We should be practicing this feast every year, for it continues right into His Kingdom reign.

If it is expected of all the nations that survived, shouldn't we try to understand how to celebrate and teach others at that time? This is the **physical** 'dwelling with us' established by God forever.

Lev 26:11 I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you. 12 I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.

This is the physical carrying out of the spiritual fulfillment set in place by Jesus the King.

*Eze 37:26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, **and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore.** 27 **My tabernacle also shall be with them;** indeed, I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

This feast of seven days is also the time length of the celebration of a marriage (the marriage of the Lamb). The eighth day added to the end of this feast by God is, in fact a Sabbath day. The title given for this day is "Simchat Torah" which means "joy in the Torah (or the word of God (that is Jesus))".

Gen 29:27 Fulfill her week, and we will give you this one also for the service which you will serve with me still another seven years."

Remember the Sabbath Day to Keep it Holy

SABBATH OF THE LORD 7th day of the week

I have left this appointed time to the last for it is one that man has truly listened to the enemy about and getting it all messed up in time placement on God's calendar. This day was to be done once after six workdays every seventh day of the month.

Gen 2:2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

It is quite plain in these verses that God is the one who set up which day was sanctified for rest from work. As His children, it is His pattern we are to follow, not man's.

Exo 20:8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made the

heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Not only are we to follow His pattern; we are to keep His Sabbath holy (or set apart from the world). There is NO place in scripture where His day is changed.

Sunday And the Catholic Church

*“Most Christians assume that Sunday is the biblically approved day of worship. The Catholic Church protests that it transferred Christian **worship from the biblical Sabbath (Saturday) to Sunday, and that to try to argue that the change was made in the Bible is both dishonest and a denial of Catholic authority.....”***

Rome’s Challenge

www.immaculateheart.com/maryonline Dec 2003

“Nowhere in the Bible is it stated that worship should be changed from Saturday to Sunday..... This same Church, by the same divine authority, taught the doctrine of Purgatory long before the Bible was made. Martin J. Scott, Things Catholics Are Asked About, 1927 edition, p. 136.

Not only has the “Christian” church messed with God’s Sabbath, but so have the Jews.

I want it understood here that I do not agree with Saturday being the true Sabbath either. God did not set His appointed times to the Roman calendar we use today with its pagan god names for each day and month. In fact, He said to come out from among her.

Rev 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.

While the Jewish believers were stationed in Jerusalem, the proper observances of God's feasts were being upheld. However, in 135 AD (2nd century) Hadrian laid siege on Jerusalem and changed the lives of the Jews drastically. He forbade the reading of the Torah and stopped the true Hebrew calendar according to the sun, moon and stars. He then banished all Jews from the city and surrounding area even to the point of not being able to gaze at it. With the Jewish believers removed, the Gentile believers stepped into the church leadership role in the Jerusalem area. Without Hebrew influence to stay on track according to the correct calendar (Hebrew luni\solar), followers of Jesus began to drift away from observing the proper appointed feasts. It was also at this time that much upheaval with the orthodox Jews and their calendar observances was taking place. Because of the persecution towards the Jews, there were compromises being performed by the leadership of especially the Babylonian Jews. They were willing to "adjust" their way of life and standards – **even to the changing of their Sabbaths** – to fit in more and relieve the pressure of persecution.

HERSCHEL SHANKS *Biblical Archaeology Society*

.....Eventually, however, the new calendar won out and the Persians, as well as the Jews of Babylonia, began to organize their sabbaths, according to the new solar calendar."

UNIVERSAL JEWISH ENCYCLOPEDIA, (1943)

"However, in the diaspora, the New Moon came to occupy a secondary position, in contrast to "a so-called Saturday sabbath"

Here we seem to have a conflict with both the 'Sunday' sabbath and the 'Saturday' sabbath. Both these days are the tampered versions of God's Sabbath day. When is His Sabbath? This is truly a bigger subject than I feel I should get into. The purpose of my opening of this information is to show the deception that the enemy of God has put in place to keep God's family in a fighting position with each other. There are the full quotes on Sabbath in APENDIX A at end of this book. If you are wanting to read more on this subject because you want to follow God's truth and shed the deceptions of Satan, then you can read my book called **"YHWH's Unique Timepiece Explained"**.

I think the strongest weapon Satan has against us, to keep us deceived, is our **own** problem with pride and unbelief that we could possibly be wrong about things. Our pride keeps us from admitting that there may be something we don't know or that we have been taught something that isn't in line with God's word. "We read the Bible! We pray! We go to church and are very active in it! We have read lots of books by other Christian writers and listened to many sermons! Don't you tell me I am ignorant about God!"

Pride can rule us so easily unless we understand our frailty and vulnerability to the wiles of the enemy. We

are babes when it comes to matching wits. He has thousands of years on us. If we do not humble ourselves and ask God for understanding, we will never learn what He truly has for us to live wholly in Him. We need to be able to recognize the enemy's tactics of keeping us off balance and stumbling in the dark about the things God has written down for us to know and follow.

Stubbornness is not a becoming attribute of God's people.

1Sa 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

CHAPTER 11



UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL How Are We Following His Instructions?

All this information was not how I was brought up. I grew up in a Christian family that truly loved God and wanted to walk in His ways. As far as I was concerned, I was living in His truth and totally separate from the heathen ways. I heard all the sermons on Sunday like everyone else was hearing in our denomination, which was like many other churches.

When God started tugging on my heart to pursue Him in a deeper way, I thought it was stuff that was only going to build on what I already knew; what I had been taught through my life. I remember praying “Father, teach me more about you. Take Babylon out of me.” Of course, I didn’t think I really had much (if any) of Babylon in me. I was a Christian!

It was around that time I received an e-mail from a friend of ours who lived in Florida. The title of that e-mail was “Should Christians celebrate Christmas?” I didn’t open it. I just skipped over it and left it there. I was very adamant about celebrating that holiday. If we Christians don’t, it will be lost to the heathens! We needed to keep Christ in Christmas! So, you can see I was NOT GOING TO OPEN THAT E-MAIL!

About once a year I would do a ‘clean up’ in my e-mails. As I was deleting old texts, I came to the unopened e-mail from my Christian friend. I started to delete it when the Spirit inside me said “don’t delete that.” I stared at it a little and then passed over it, still unopened! This happened for three years. On the third year, as I went to test the Spirit on this again by getting ready to delete it, this time He said, “Read it first then you can delete it if you want.” I thought, OKAY! I will read it THEN I will delete it!

As I began reading it (with a rather closed mind, I might add) my eyes were not believing what I read. I began to cry out “NO! this can’t be so!” By the time I finished the article, my heart was convicted, and I decided to research the subject deeper. My path has never been the same. That was only the beginning to a long waking up process to God’s truth in His word for His children.

My question to everyone saying they belong to God is: How soft is your heart to hearing what God has to say? Are you too stubborn to have what you want that you refuse to give up that idol in your life you thought was spiritually sound like I was?

I want to get into the 'nitty gritty' of what we believe is right worship to God and examine it with openness and willingness. We need to be able to handle the pain it will cause to get it right with our Father. What we do should be pleasing to Him and not grievous to Him. Too many times we believe the lies of Satan and refuse to look at God's truth.

Mat 5:19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Let us have the courage to go forward and look deeply into the deceptions Satan has fed the family of God for a long time.

CHAPTER 12



JEROBOAM'S FOLLY **A Decision That Started A Crooked Path**

*1Ki 12:26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom may return to the house of David: 27 If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah." 28 Therefore the king asked advice, **made two calves of gold, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!"** 29 And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. 30 Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan. 31 He made shrines on the high places, **and made priests from***

every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi. 32 Jeroboam ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the feast that was in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did at Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And at Bethel he installed the priests of the high places which he had made. 33 So he made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month which he had devised in his own heart. And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and offered sacrifices on the altar and burned incense.

I know you are probably asking “What does this have to do with anything?” I want you to see the **spiritual** implication happening here. It was the first devised plan to **move away from** the feasts set up by God on the days He said and make their own that mimicked the real one.

At the time of the Apostles, when the Gentiles were turning from pagan worship, they were being taught to abandon the false worship times they had observed, and to follow the true feasts set up by God. They were receiving instructions how to walk as Jesus walked and follow His commandments, which included observing the proper appointed times, which were the shadow of Jesus’ timing for appearances and judgments upon the earth.

This was being followed by all believing in Jesus (Yeshua) as long as the Christian Jewish leaders were in control in Jerusalem. They understood how to follow the feasts because they were raised doing them, and

now they had new insight about them because of Jesus.

Remember what I said earlier about Hadrian in 135 A.D.? Because of the radical zealot Jews causing constant wars, Hadrian closed off Jerusalem from all who were of Jewish heritage and wouldn't even let them get close enough to gaze upon it. This, unfortunately, included both the peace loving and Christian Jews. When this happened, the Gentile converts took over, but as more and more Gentiles came in, some deception started creeping in too. The real bad deception came in with the 'so called' story that Constantine had become a believer and in 325 A.D. with the Nicaean council, many pagan rites began to filter into the Christian churches. What Constantine wanted was a united empire. He brought Christianity to the forefront to keep all the Christian soldiers loyal. He then melded holiday traditions of the Romans with Christian ones. Saturnalia was the winter Holiday for Romans. It took place for 7 days from December 17th to the 23rd. Pagans were encouraged to become Christians by allowing them to still enjoy this festival and Christ's birthday was substituted in place of Mithra's birthday on December 25th.

Isn't it rather amazing that what Satan did at the time of Jeroboam by moving God's people away from the true feasts, he again did the same thing at the time of the apostles? A house divided against itself cannot stand.

Let's look at a couple excerpts from articles on the history of Christmas. The full writing of this is in Appendix A



Origin of Christmas - The Traditions and Controversies

For today's Christian, the origin of Christmas is, and should be, the birth of Jesus

*Christ as recorded in the Bible. Nothing more and nothing less. However, most of what we witness on December 25th each year has absolutely nothing to do with that blessed day, **which probably occurred in late summer or early fall** about 2,000 years ago. In fact, **most of the customs and traditions of Christmas actually pre-date the birth of Jesus, and many of them are downright deceptive in their meaning and origin.** Here are a few examples:*

The date of December 25th probably originated with the ancient "birthday" of the son-god, Mithra, a pagan deity whose religious influence became widespread in the Roman Empire during the first few centuries A.D.

We can see here, the substitution of the Christmas celebration, which is just the Roman Saturnalia festival, taking precedence **over God's Feast of Trumpets**. If you remember what I said earlier about this feast, it was the first day of the 7th month called Tishri, which is in September – October on the

modern calendar. This is the real time of the birth of our Savior. Look at the story in Luke again.

*Luk 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 Now there were in the same **country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.** 9 And behold, ^[7] an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, **I bring you good tidings of great joy** which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." 13 **And suddenly** there was with the angel a multitude of the **heavenly host praising God and saying:** 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"*

Remember what the word “teruah” means? (*trumpets*), **joy, jubile, loud noise, rejoicing, shout (-ing), (high, joyful) sound (-ing).**

Look closely at verse 13 above. The flocks were kept out in the fields from early spring to mid to late fall. So, you have the “Teruah” of the angels and it was still a time the flocks were in the fields at night.

It is amazing to me how tenaciously we cling to this false holiday of the enemy of our Almighty God; refusing to give it up because it has so many ‘warm fuzzies’ attached to it. Why do we listen to Satan

telling us we have to give those up if we leave Christmas? Can't we make memories as we celebrate God's feasts? Can't we have fun then? Why do we BELIEVE Satan? Why do we think that decorating and good fun food is only for the man-made/pagan holidays?

God's feasts don't leave you feeling let down when they are over; instead, you feel satisfied and ready to get back into routine.

We really have been robbed by the deception of the enemy. I will finish up on this one with this final word:

The serpent is still using a tree to offend God!

First the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and now the Christmas tree.

Bunnies,
Chicks and eggs!

*Origin of
Easter - A
Christian
commemoration*



The origin of Easter, a holiday associated with the observance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, is actually based on an ancient pagan celebration. Christians recognize this day as commemorating the culminating event of their faith, but like so many other "Christian" holidays, Easter has become commercialized and mixed with non-christian

traditions like the Easter Bunny, Easter parades and hunting for Easter eggs. How did this happen?

The problem with this holiday is the proximity to Passover. It was the purpose of the Nicaean council to try and put just enough gulf between the so called 'Jewish' Passover and the new Christian celebration of the death and resurrection of the Savior. By doing this, the resurrection of Jesus would eventually be confused with all the "new birth" symbols of the pagan Easter. This one deception is so close to what Jeroboam did by "moving" the feast of God to a different time to keep the people divided in the two halves of God's the family.

We now have Christians clinging to Easter as if it is the real holiday of God and shunning the true feast of Passover. The Passover week is all inclusive. You have the proving of the true Lamb of God starting the 10th day of Abib (Nisan) which falls around the spring equinox time of March – April. This was the day of Messiah's entering the city and the palm waving. This is what we have called "Palm Sunday" according to the modern calendar. Then you have Passover – the passion of our Messiah on the 14th of the month. The 15th of the month which according to Peter, Jesus was preaching to those held captive by the enemy and then taking the keys of death and hades from Satan. Finally, you have the resurrection of Jesus on the third day (16th of month) which was placed on Easter Sunday by the council of Nicaea. This is the true resurrection day according to God's calendar (16th of Nisan). It is called first fruits.

Again, it is so hard to let go of the traditions we grew up with. I just need to ask, is it pleasing to God to mix in the pagan rituals with His? We seem to think God's feasts are boring and plain or we really just don't know what to do. I don't think we should look at it that way. This time of year – Passover - belongs to us; God's children. It is a time we should fill with remembrance of what Jesus did on the cross and what is coming when He returns. I set a fantastic meal in order for the night of Passover. Let's not give Satan the limelight when it belongs to God.

The key players in the manmade holidays like Christmas and Easter (plus others) happen to be Nimrod, Semiramis, and Tammuz. In each culture with pagan gods, these three are throughout them. They just have different names that they go by.

This subject of our most beloved holidays is a veritable mine field. We get the picture that each American holiday we celebrate is unique in its nature and origin. This is so far from the truth. Each one is centered around the "gruesome three". Just to give you an idea of the deception surrounding these three 'persons' set up by Satan, I will give a list (although not total) of each one's varying names.

Nimrod: Baal, El, Belus, Ninus, Kronos, Zeus, Lupercus (*Valentines Day*), Jupiter, Ra, Vishnu, Odin, Pan-ku, Sikkuth, Apollo, Mithra (*Christmas*), Remphan, Dagon, Marduk (*Halloween*), Molech (*Santa Claus*).

Semiramis: Queen of heaven, Ashtoreth, Astarte, **Ishtar (pronounced *Easter*)**, Beltis, Aphrodite, Diana, Isis (*Halloween*), Freyda, Athena (*Valentines Day*), Rhea, Brigid (*Ground Hog Day*), Hera (*May Day*).

Tammuz: Bacchus (*May Day*), Hercules, Dionysius, Attis, Krishna, Yi, Balder, Cupid (*Valintines Day*), Horus, Osiris, Pan (*Halloween*), Chiun.

Many of the names for Nimrod and Tammuz are interchangeable because Tammuz is said to be the reincarnation of Nimrod.

If after reading this information, you realize the wrong path you are on, there is much taught about the holidays set up by Satan on the internet. Just type in America's Occult Holidays, or pagan holidays or origins of American holidays and see what comes up.

CHAPTER 13

Light

Darkness



COME OUT OF THE DARKNESS Let Us Wake Up!

I believe God wants us to wake up to the dark covering Satan has poured over our eyes. It has been **far too long** he has ruled our emotions and celebrations. Why do we allow Satan to make us feel his times are the only ones that are fun? He has done a thorough job on us, for when we think of God's things, we immediately become solemn in expression. But, when the words 'Christmas', 'Easter', 'Valentine's day', 'Ground Hog day', 'Halloween' or 'May Day' are mentioned near us, we light up!

Of course, this isn't much different than what went on with the children of Israel coming out of Egypt and settling in the land of promise. They seemed to find more "pleasure" in Satan's feasts; so much so they couldn't and wouldn't stop.

Jer 7:18 The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for

the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger.

*Jer 44:16 "As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the Lord, **we will not listen to you!** 17 But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to **burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes,** in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, were well-off, and saw no trouble.*

*Jer 32:33 And they have turned to Me the back, and not the face; though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not listened to receive instruction. 34 But they set their abominations in the house which is called by My name, to defile it. 35 And **they built the high places of Baal** which are in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, **to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech,** which I did not command them, nor did it come into My mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.'*

*Amo 5:26 You also carried Sikkuth your king And Chiun, your idols, **The star of your gods,** Which you made for yourselves.*

Has anybody ever had hot cross buns at Easter? There are your cakes to the queen of heaven (Semiramis). Also, Semiramis and her son Tammuz were the first 'mother – child' combination to be

worshiped. Does that sound like anything we know now?

We belong to God, if we believe He is God and listen to His voice. God is loving and merciful. He created ALL things for us, His children, to enjoy. That means to laugh, sing, dance, celebrate with food and drink.

Psa 16:11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psa 51:12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

Psa 132:16 I will also clothe her priests with salvation, And her saints shall shout aloud for joy.

Isa 55:12 "For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Luk 2:10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

Luk 24:52 And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, 53 and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

Rom 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Lev 23:40 And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days.

Psa 149:1 Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, And His praise in the assembly of saints. 2 Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. 3 Let them praise His name with the dance; Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp. 4 For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation. 5 Let the saints be joyful in glory; Let them sing aloud on their beds. 6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand,

Look at this Psalm 149. What an exhortation to celebrate our God!

Praise- H1984 –(haw-lal') to shine; hence to make a show; to boast; and thus to be (clamorously) foolish; to rave; causatively to celebrate;

Praise – H8416 – (teh-hil-law) laudation; specifically (concretely) a hymn: - praise.

Sing – H7891 – (sheer, shoor) through the idea of strolling minstrelsy); to sing:

New song – H2318 – (khaw-dawsh') new: - fresh, new thing.

Rejoice –H8055 - (*saw-makh'*) *be blithe or gleesome: - cheer up, be or make glad, joy (-ful), be or make merry, (cause to, make to) rejoice*

Be joyful – H1523 – (*gheel, gool*) *properly to spin around (under the influence of any violent emotion), that is, usually rejoice, or: - be glad, joy, be joyful, rejoice.*

Dance – H4234 – (*maw-khole'*) *To twist or twirl; a (round) dance: - dance (-cing).*

Sing praises – H2167 – (*zaw-mar'*) *through the idea of striking with the fingers; properly to touch the strings or parts of a musical instrument, that is, play upon it; to make music, accompanied by the voice; hence to celebrate in song and music: - give praise, sing forth praises, psalms.*

Be joyful – H5937 – (*aw-laz'*) *to jump for joy, that is, exult: - be joyful, rejoice, triumph.*

Sing aloud – H7442 – (*raw-nan'*) *to shout (usually for joy): - aloud for joy, cry out, be joyful, (greatly, make to) rejoice, (cause to) shout (for joy), (cause to) sing (aloud, for joy, out), triumph.*

High praises – H7318 – (*ro-mawm'*) *exaltation, that is, (figuratively and specifically) praise: - be extolled.*

Not one of these words I have bolded in this one psalm are the same word in Hebrew. Talk about trying to express the meaning of having joy and celebration before the LORD!

Let me say right here, I admit I didn't know what to do when I realized I was to stop the pagan frilled holidays and start observing God's feasts. I kind of went into a tailspin of despair and loss of what to do. I cried out to Father and asked, "what can I do to make Your feasts enjoyable?" I was so unfamiliar with God's times I didn't even think it possible to come up with any ideas. How's that for being trapped into Satan's "world of fun"?

However, He is ever faithful to His children who want to please Him. The Spirit reminded me that Autumn was my favorite time of the year so, decorate like there is no tomorrow! Cook the favorite things to make His Feast of Tabernacles shine better than Christmas! Find music that praises the living God for what He has done by promising to dwell with us. Camp in my 'sukka' (which is a camping trailer) with lights and fall decorations and candles and campfire. AND it's seven days long! Not one day of carnage as Christmas.

The very first time I celebrated Tabernacles with family and friends, we felt the pleasure of God fall on us like a blanket of joy. Each year I look forward to the time I can camp before and with My Father.

Passover and unleavened bread week have also become very special, adding my own touches to celebrate Jesus, not only by remembering what He has done, but also looking forward to His coming and setting up His kingdom here on earth. We read scripture of remembrance and of future events coming

and I set the table with all my silver and china. We then have a wonderful meal with barbeque!

I do not feel any loss leaving Christmas or Easter or any of the enticements of the enemy. The only loss I feel at that moment is for those who cannot see the deception of the enemy on their celebrations; and that divides us at those times.

*Mat 10:34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. **I did not come to bring peace but a sword.** 35 For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; 36 and '**a man's enemies will be those of his own household.**' 37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*

His sword is for cutting asunder the kingdom of the enemy. Satan does not want to give up one inch of the territory he has acquired; whether it be a nation, a land, a special day or holiday, or an individual person.

Jesus warns that this battle will put families in conflict with each other as decisions are made which side you will choose to be on; God's or Satan's. These choices we will be faced with are not simple or easy, for many will be choosing against their own flesh and blood.

*Mat 10:37 He who loves father or mother **more than Me** is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me **is not worthy of Me.***

Satan has so mixed his falseness in with the truth of God in churches today, we can't discern what is pure and what is tainted in the way we think and act.

*Mat 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, **for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.**"*

In this scripture, it seems Jesus is calling Peter, Satan. However, Jesus knew who the culprit was. Satan was using the sympathy being felt by Peter to use him to try and turn Jesus from His mission. He was speaking right to Satan, not Peter. He then continues to straighten out Peter's thinking; that his thoughts are not of God. Remember, we are to take all thoughts captive.

*2Co 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, **we do not war according to the flesh.** 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 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,***

We need to start digging deeper into God's word for ourselves instead of letting the pulpit preacher tell us how we should think. Only God can tell us that in His word. I am not saying there is nothing good coming out of the pulpit. That should be the time of challenge to follow God. I am saying we need to stay away from the opinion part of the lessons and read for ourselves after the challenge has been set down. Jesus said to eat His flesh.

*Joh 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." 52 The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?" 53 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.** 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.*

What is Jesus saying here? He is the word come in flesh.

*Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.** 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 **In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.***

He is telling us we must eat the word to have life. If He does not dwell in us as our life blood and sustenance, we will not be able to hear His instructions to show forth His glory every day of our lives.

God said several times in the Old Testament that the life was in the blood.

Lev 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.' 12 Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'No one among you shall eat blood, nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood.'

So, when Jesus said His blood was drink indeed, He was saying He is our life. He is our atonement.

Joh 6:55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

Satan knows this. If we eat God's word daily and His life blood is in us, we become more aware of Satan's deceptive ways and will leave his persuasive manipulation to rebel against the things of God. The more we pull away from the trappings of Satan, the more we can hear the voice of God and desire to please Him and do **His** things.

The one conclusion I have come to through all of this is, you can reveal truth to people, but it doesn't necessarily mean they will live in it. Man has an insatiable appetite to please himself. If this were not true, the enemy would not be able to persuade us to do the things we do. There would be no sin.

Jas 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil,

*nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 **But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.** 15 Then, when desire has conceived, **it gives birth to sin;** and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*

CHAPTER 14



THE SUM OF IT ALL In A 'Big' Nutshell

Let me try to somehow sum up all that I have presented in this book.

There is a dangerous adversary prowling around this earth whose main goal every day is to devour the children of God. From the very beginning he has wanted the worship of man and the status of a god over all creation. He has been sentenced to eternal fire at the end of God's timetable and he intends to take as many as he can down with him. He started back in the garden and gained control to enter the lives of men and lead them (and us) astray from the truth of God. He knew by the pronouncement of his defeat by the **Seed** of the woman (*he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*) that his life was

doomed. It was at this condemnation that he devised his plan to stop this “**Seed**” from ever being born. He worked his wiles through Cain by killing Able, but God came back with Seth, the son of Adam whose line eventually produced Noah who had Shem, Ham and Japheth. Then he worked through Ham, the father of Canaan, the father of Nimrod, the mighty hunter against God. He used the rebelliousness of Nimrod to bring other gods into play to cause man to stray by worshipping them instead of God Almighty. All this time, God has protected the line that He would use to bring forth the **Seed of promise**. Seth, the son of Adam continued the line for the **Seed** all the way to Noah. Noah’s son, Shem was the chosen one to produce Abraham who was born at the time of Nimrod. Again, Satan tried to foul the plan of God by having Nimrod try to kill Abraham (this is found in the book of Jasher). God called Abraham out of Babylon for He saw his heart, that he would follow God. With Abraham, He promised him descendants (which would bring forth the **Seed of promise**) too numerous to count. And Abraham believed God, which would be **the true mark** of Abraham’s seed; children of faith.

Gen 13:16 And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.

The physical line of Abraham had the responsibility and privilege of protecting God’s law (Torah) and producing the **Promised Seed of reconciliation**. Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, had twelve sons; making up the physical tribes of Israel.

Satan then tried to use Pharaoh in Egypt to kill off the male babies of Israel to again try to stop the appearance of the “**Seed**”. This also was thwarted by God, for His word cannot be changed. He protected Moses by having Pharaoh’s own daughter raise him, so he could lead the children of Israel to the promised land.

The twelve tribes were divided into two kingdoms of recognition. The southern kingdom was known as the house of Judah in which king David came out of, whose line would produce the **promised Seed**. The northern kingdom was known as the house of Ephraim or house of Israel. Together, they were known as the whole house of Israel or the house of Jacob.

At the time of Solomon, the son of David, or I should say his son, the kingdoms were split, and each had a king over them. Because of the disobedience of Solomon, God gave ten tribes to Solomon’s servant, Jeroboam, and Rehoboam, the son of Solomon maintained the other two. Under Jeroboam’s rule the Israelites were led into idolatry and led away from serving God in purity. Satan again attempted to stop the edict on him by the tactic of divide and conquer. Here began the demise of the ten northern tribes. God eventually divorced them and scattered them to the four winds so to speak, to the point of losing their identity with the family of Jacob.

The majority intermingled with the Gentile nations so completely they became as Gentiles. There is really no way for many to even know whether they are of Jacob or not. The way God has identified His true

family is by faith in Him and obedience to His voice and commandments. This is Abraham's seed by faith, not by flesh.

Rom 9:3** For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, 4 who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; 5 **of whom** are the fathers and **from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came**, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen. 6 But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. **For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, 7 nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called."** 8 That is, **those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.

There was a very definite purpose for the physical line (Rom 9:3-5 above). This physical line was preserved in the tribe of Judah, through the family of David. God chose David's line for the **promised Seed** to come through. Therefore, even though the southern kingdom was just as sinful as the northern, God promised David he would always have his seed on the throne. God never breaks a promise. The Lion of the tribe of Judah will reign forever.

All who believe in Jesus, the King of Judah and Lamb of God, and walk in God's commandments, are Abraham's children by faith.

Through all this, Satan has continued to set up roadblocks to deter us from walking upright before our God and listen to Him alone. We have become so convinced that his lies are the straight road of God.

Jesus has warnings He has set down, and they are written in His word, to beware of the deceptions of the enemy and flee from his kingdom of doom.

*Mat 5:17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy **but to fulfill**. 18 For assuredly, I say to you, **till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled**. 19 **Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.***

I see no end of heaven and earth yet. They are still here and so are we.

*Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, **but he who does the will of My Father in heaven**. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, '**I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!**'*

Do we really think that our decisions will not determine our final eternal outcome?

What kind of “lawlessness” is that referring to? Is it man’s set up laws of the land? Sometimes I marvel at the thought process of man. The law of needing a permit to build a house or not having a campfire except in designated pits, carries more weight than the instructions of God for life itself. The idea of ‘bending’ or even ignoring the commandments of God and His instructions for proper feasts to celebrate is okay, but you better not cross against the walk signal at the corner street!

What’s wrong with this picture? We have become a patsy for the enemy. We have come to treat the Almighty God as no more than a good luck charm we pull out of our pocket to rub when things get rough. We think we can claim all the blessings and walk away from repenting for sin of disobedience to His commandments. We have become blind to His mighty position as Creator and Judge of all that exists. We have succumbed to the ancient question of the enemy of our souls: “Hath God really said?”

It is time we reexamine our stand before God Almighty and drop to our knees and ask for forgiveness. Let us go deep into His word and see it from eyes as a true child for which it was written and determine to obey what He set down at the very beginning.

His law (Torah) is the only thing we will be judged by, for, you see, in it is proclaimed and revealed the King of kings and Lord of lords – throughout the WHOLE book.

We who have been mixed in with the world have a hard time seeing the clear way of His path. We say “it’s either this way or that! It can’t be both physical and spiritual!” But in His way it can and **is** both! His seed is physical, and His seed is spiritual. His Word is spirit and came in the flesh. His promise was given to Abraham both in the physical and in the spirit (by faith). We, His seed, inherit the land but the land is His.

Jesus IS the word in flesh. He is the bread of life. He is the way. He is the truth which IS the word. He is our Redeemer. He was in the very beginning; creating all things and setting up all rules to live by. He is the descendent of David who was promised to rule forever over the Kingdom. He is the Good Shepherd. He is the Door. He is the True Vine. He is our Rock. This is a wondrous picture. How could one fulfill this multifaceted picture **except He be God!**

The Bible is a masterpiece tapestry of who God is and who we are and our relationship to Him from the first word in Genesis to the last word in Revelations. Not one word written is without great meaning for our lives.

If we deny the rules by saying they have been done away with, we deny Jesus and the Father; for they are one. We cannot accept Jesus and reject the law (Word) for they are one and the same. We cannot diminish the role of the Father and lift up the Son for they are one. That which the Father has established, the Son upholds.

Jesus came to fill in all the holes in our understanding by giving His Holy Spirit to open all His Word to us if we only reach out with both hands wide open and a heart willing to learn.

*Luk 2:34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, "This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall or rise. **He will be a sign that will be disputed,** 35 so that **the inner thoughts of many people might be revealed.***

There is a declaration by Moses to our ancestors – and they are our ancestors if we claim to be children of Abraham in faith – that puts things in the true perspective of who we are.

*Deu 9:4 Do not think in your heart, after the Lord your God has cast them out before you, saying, '**Because of my righteousness the Lord has brought me in to possess this land**'; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is driving them out from before you. 5 **It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.***

Here is our whole relationship with God. He **gave Abraham a promise** and is blessing his descendants **because of that promise**. That has never changed. Who are Abrahams descendants?

Rom 4:9 Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised also? **For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness.** 10 How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised. 11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, **that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also,** 12 **and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised.** 13 For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, **but through the righteousness of faith.**

Heb 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6 **But without faith it is impossible to please Him,** for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

The time is coming when the final blow will be given to Satan.

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall crush your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

This will be the time all deceptions will cease and only the true light of God's truth will shine.

The promise of a people belonging to God began with Abraham and continued all the way to the appearance of Jesus, who was the **promised Seed** in the garden. His arrival was the beginning of the gathering in of all the seed of Abraham who walk according to Abraham's faith and obedience to God. There has always been only one family, one flock, one bride, ONE PROMISE.

I will conclude with this one statement:

Discernment is not just knowing the difference between right and wrong. It is knowing the difference between right and almost right and then doing what is right.

CHAPTER 15



MY FINAL THOUGHTS

If you look intently into all the information in this book, you should realize the main message from God to His children; that He loves us so much, He doesn't want any to perish.

So why worry about getting His feasts and Sabbath correct?

Mat 5:17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law **till all is fulfilled.** 19 **Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.**

*Mat 6:19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

*Mat 16:27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then **He will reward each according to his works.***

*Luk 12:42 And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? 43 **Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.** 44 Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. 45 But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, 46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. 47 **And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.** 48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much*

will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

1Co 3:11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ***12*** Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ***13*** each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. ***14*** If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. ***15*** ***If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.***

Rev 22:11 He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still." ***12*** "And behold, I am coming quickly, ***and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.*** ***13*** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." ***14*** ***Blessed are those who do His commandments,*** that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

Here, in these verses, is my reason for keeping them. It may not be a salvation issue; however, I want to strive for as much of the rewards as I can. I want to please Him with my determination to gain the prize for a race well run; to obey His instructions.

I don't want to be called least in His kingdom and I don't want to escape as through fire. I want the treasure I build up to have more gold and silver rather than wood, hay and stubble.

It says that blessed are those who do His commandments. Now if you say doing the feasts and proper Sabbath is not part of the commandments, just what is a commandment of God?

God said that those feasts were His and instructs the people to do them on specific days. The word for commandment in the Revelation 22:14 verse is:

en-tol-ay'

*injunction, that is, an **authoritative prescription**: -
commandment, precept.*

Sounds like that is what He is doing in Leviticus 23 to me. Whether you see it that way or not, it makes no difference to me. I will try to carry out the instructions of God in His word to attain the crown of righteousness and hear the loveliest words a child could hear – “Well done”.

APPENDIX A

Full Reference Quotes Used in This Book

WHY THE JEWS HAVE NOT BEEN CHRISTIANIZED.

*The attitude of Judaism and Christianity toward each other has always engaged the careful consideration of truly thoughtful men. With a common basis of ethics, and a history from which neither can be eliminated, **with so much that is common to both, and identical in purpose**, the causes of the real or apparent antagonism between the two systems seem as much a mystery as it is truly a misfortune to one. A partial solution of the question is found in the words of an eminent, broad-viewed Jew, a scholar known and honored on both sides of the Atlantic, to whom the writer lately said: “**If Christianity had not been so rapidly paganized after the first century**, would the Jews have accepted it? Would they now be Christianized?” He answered, “**Yes; had Christianity continued to develop along the lines which Jesus taught, it would have carried the Hebrews with it.**” Something along the same line was said by Dr. Solis-Cohen, of Philadelphia, in an address before the Young Men’s Hebrew Association of New York, some months ago. We subjoin a part of Dr. Cohen’s suggestive and weighty words:*

*“**Olympus and Asgard** have revolted against Sinai, and **they but assume the mask of Calvary**. The heathen spirit of Slav and of Gaul, of Tartan and of Teuton, rages against the Jewish morality, which has been forced upon it in the name of Christ, against the restraints placed upon its savagery and its licentiousness by the mild and holy*

teachings of that broad-minded, pure-souled Hebrew, Jesus of Nazareth, and in its stupid, blundering wrath, it strikes at the people from whom Jesus came.

*Christian and Jew may differ in their philosophy, but they are not, they never have been, foes. If in the darkness of the torture chamber, if in the lurid glare of burning home our tear-blinded eyes have failed to penetrate the disguise, and we have deemed that our tormentors and our murderers were indeed faithful exponents of the religion whose mask they had assumed, surely true Christians may forgive us that error, even as we acquit them of all responsibility for the crimes past and present of those heathen fiends. And Christians and Jews recognizing the common origin of the truths that both possess, the common origin of the hopes and aspirations that incite both to noble emulation in good deeds, **recognizing that what is eternal in both religions came from the same divine source**, and that what is transient in both arose in the imperfections and misapprehensions of the same fallible humanity, may agree to let the progress of human knowledge, as “the thoughts of men are widened with the process of the suns,” free both from human errors **while they still stand shoulder to shoulder in defense of their common inheritance**, in defense of the Bible and of the idea of God, against that flippant skepticism and that shallow philosophy that would make the infinite universe a soulless machine without maker and without purpose.”*

*Any man might take pride in being the author of words which are at once so accurate, and so filled with the spirit of Jesus. **Everyone familiar with the history of the early church knows that the leading influence which severed the New Testament Church from the church of the fourth***

century (325 AD) was pagan hatred toward the Jews. The restraints of the Decalogue, and the spiritual requirements of the Sermon on the Mount were too much for philosophizing and self-indulgent paganism. It was pagan-born lawlessness which refused to submit to the just restraints of the Old Testament. It was pagan hatred to the ethics of the Old Testament which formulated the false theories of Christian liberty, which opened the way to endless corruption. This lawlessness made anti-Judaism its watch-word. It was hatred of restraint more than the fear of Jewish formalism which created an anti-New Testament Christianity the full development of which was Roman Catholicism.

The struggle between Pauline Christianity and the ultra-conservative Jewish Christianity would have culminated in the true "middle way," toward which every word and act of Jesus pointed. The prevailing Christianity of the fourth, and subsequent centuries, was not Pauline, but pagan. It was the semi-philosophic deductions of Justin, Clement, and Tertullian, and not the true fruitage of Paul's interpretation of Christ's words which made Christianity and Judaism permanent foes rather than friends. That antagonism which is unscriptural, unchristlike, and pre-eminently unjust, has continued, fostered by centuries of Roman Catholic rule, and inherited by Protestantism. In it more than in all other causes is found the answer to the question which stands at the head of this article. It is indeed true that Christ's Christianity would have carried the Hebrew nation with it. That Christianity even now would break down the barriers between Jew and Christian, if Protestants would full adopt it. But Graeco-Roman Christianity, with its false liberalism, has never touched the

Jewish heart, and it never will. (Evangel and Sabbath Outlook, Nov, 1 1894)

Sunday And the Catholic Church

*“Most Christians assume that Sunday is the biblically approved day of worship. The Catholic Church protests that it transferred Christian worship from the **biblical Sabbath (Saturday) to Sunday**, and that to try to argue that the **change was made in the Bible is both dishonest and a denial of Catholic authority**. If Protestantism wants to base its teachings only on the Bible, it should worship on Saturday.” Rome’s Challenge*
www.immaculateheart.com/maryonline Dec 2003

“Question: How prove you that the church had power to command feasts and holydays?”

*“Answer: **By the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday**, which Protestants allow of and therefore they fondly contradict themselves by keeping Sunday strictly, and breaking most other feasts commanded by the same church.*

“Question: Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept?”

*“Answer: Had she not such power, she could not a done that in which all modern religionists agree with her; -she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day of the week, **a change for which there is no Scriptural authority**.” Stephen Keenan, *A Doctrinal Catechism On the Obedience Due to the Church*, 3rd*

edition, Chapter 2, p. 174 (Imprimatur, John Cardinal McCloskey, Archbishop of New York).

*“Perhaps the boldest thing, the most revolutionary change the Church ever did, happened in the first century. The holy day, the Sabbath, was changed from Saturday to Sunday. ‘The day of the Lord’ was chosen, **not from any direction noted in the Scriptures**, but from the (Catholic) Church’s sense of its own power...People who think that the Scriptures should be the sole authority, should logically become 7th Day Adventists, and keep Saturday holy.” St. Catherine Church Sentinel, Algonac, Michigan, May 21, 1995.*

*“**Nowhere in the Bible is it stated that worship should be changed from Saturday to Sunday...Now the Church...instituted, by God’s authority, Sunday as the day of worship. This same Church, by the same divine authority, taught the doctrine of Purgatory long before the Bible was made. We have, therefore, the same authority for Purgatory as we have for Sunday.**” 4*

HERSCHEL SHANKS
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*"There were very marked differences, in the attitude toward government and the preservation of Jewish religion and life, between the Palestinian and Babylonian Jews. The Palestinian Jews jealously guarded their religion and way of life, while the Babylonian Jews were clearly, willing to accommodate the government of their area **and compromise certain principles they held. This included the Sabbath day.** During this time, a major revival of the Zoroastrian religion, took place in (226 A.D.), when the*

first Sassanian king, Ardeshir, came to the Persian throne. He made reforms to the old lunar-based calendar, which had a far-reaching effect on his people, (especially the Jews), who initially rejected his new calendar, since it affected their religious observances. This resulted, for a while, in two calendars, one decreed by the king and the other, older one, followed by the majority of the people in the kingdom. Eventually, however, the new calendar won out and the Persians, as well as the Jews of Babylonia, began to organize their sabbaths, according to the new solar calendar."

HISTORY OF THE TALMUD

*But as our present reformers are descendants of the Pharisees, and the Sadducees being no more in existence, therefore they also have in many things adopted a new form, and recognize the teachings of the Pharisees (as for instance the observance of the sixth day of Sivan as Pentecost) as indisputable laws. But we can by no means accuse the reformers in not believing in tradition generally, as we cannot well accuse of that the former Sadducees. (Even those reformers who have changed the Sabbath, for even this can be explained in accordance with the general rule of the Talmud which sanctifies the seventh day, but not the Sabbath itself, and for this reason **the Talmud decreed that in case one forgets which day is the Sabbath, he shall count six days and observe the seventh as Sabbath, see our article in the Deborah, 1894.)***

(If the Jews had always observed the Sabbath on Saturday, how could they forget which day it was?)

Joy Born at Bethlehem

Delivered, December 24th, 1871, by
C. H. SPURGEON,

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."—Luke 2:10-12.

WE HAVE NO superstitious regard for times and seasons. Certainly we do not believe in the present ecclesiastical arrangement called Christmas: first, because we do not believe in the mass at all, but abhor it, whether it be said or sung in Latin or in English; and, secondly, because we find no Scriptural warrant whatever for observing any day as the birthday of the Saviour; and, consequently, its observance is a superstition, because not of divine authority. Superstition has fixed most positively the day of our Saviour's birth, although there is no possibility of discovering when it occurred. Fabricius gives a catalogue of 136 different learned opinions upon the matter; and various divines invent weighty arguments for advocating a date in every month in the year. It was not till the middle of the third century that any part of the church celebrated the nativity of our Lord; and it was not till very long after the Western church had set the example, that the Eastern adopted it. Because the day is not known, therefore superstition has fixed it; while, since the day of the death of our Saviour might be determined with much certainty, therefore ***superstition shifts the date of its observance every year.** Where is the method in the madness of the superstitious? Probably the fact is that **the holy days were**

*arranged to fit in with heathen festivals. We venture to assert, that if there be any day in the year, of which we may be pretty sure that it was not the day on which the Saviour was born, it is the twenty-fifth of December. Nevertheless since, the current of men's thoughts is led this way just now, and I see no evil in the current itself, I shall launch the bark of our discourse upon that stream, and make use of the fact, which I shall neither justify nor condemn, by endeavoring to lead your thoughts in the same direction. Since it is lawful, and even laudable, to meditate upon the incarnation of the Lord upon any day in the year, it cannot be in the power of other men's superstitions to render such a meditation improper for to-day. **Regarding not the day**, let us, nevertheless, give God thanks for the gift of his dear son.*

Origin of Christmas - The Traditions and Controversies

*For today's Christian, the origin of Christmas is, and should be, the birth of Jesus Christ as recorded in the Bible. Nothing more and nothing less. However, most of what we witness on December 25th each year has absolutely nothing to do with that blessed day, which probably occurred in late summer or early fall about 2,000 years ago. In fact, **most of the customs and traditions of Christmas actually pre-date the birth of Jesus, and many of them are downright deceptive in their meaning and origin.** Here are a few examples:*

The date of December 25th probably originated with the ancient "birthday" of the son-god, Mithra, a pagan deity whose religious influence became widespread in the Roman Empire during the first few centuries A.D.

*Mithra was related to the Semitic sun-god, Shamash, and his worship spread throughout Asia to Europe where he was called Deus Sol Invictus Mithras. Rome was well-known for absorbing the pagan religions and rituals of its widespread empire. As such, Rome converted this pagan legacy to a celebration of the god, Saturn, and the rebirth of the sun god during the winter solstice period. The winter holiday became known as Saturnalia and began the week prior to December 25th. The festival was characterized by gift-giving, feasting, singing and downright debauchery, as the **priests of Saturn carried wreaths of evergreen boughs** in procession throughout the Roman temples.*

*Variations of this pagan holiday flourished throughout the first few centuries after Jesus Christ, but it probably wasn't until 336 AD that **Emperor Constantine officially converted this pagan tradition into the "Christian" holiday of Christmas.***

Origin of Christmas - What Really Matters?

*The true origin of Christmas is filled with controversy and compromise. A quick study will reveal a number of disturbing roots that we haven't been able to cover in this brief article. In short, **the Christmas holiday we celebrate today is indicative of Christianity's willingness to absorb the world's customs and traditions, and forget its simple roots in the historical reality of Jesus Christ.***

AllAboutJesusChrist.org,

IS CHRISTMAS A PAGAN HOLIDAY?

Thanks to the Roman Empire's conquests in Britain and the rest of Europe from the second century B.C. to the

*fourth century A.D.—and their suppression of older seasonal rites practiced by the Celts and other groups—today’s **Western cultures derive many of their traditional celebrations of midwinter from Saturnalia.***

*The Christian holiday of Christmas, **especially, owes many of its traditions to the ancient Roman festival, including the time of year Christmas is celebrated. The Bible does not give a date for Jesus’ birth;** in fact, some theologians have concluded he was probably born in spring, as suggested by references to shepherds and sheep in the Nativity story.*

*But by the fourth century A.D., Western Christian churches settled on celebrating Christmas on December 25, **which allowed them to incorporate the holiday with Saturnalia and other popular pagan midwinter traditions.***

Pagans and Christians co-existed (not always happily) during this period, and this likely represented an effort to convince the remaining pagan Romans to accept Christianity as Rome’s official religion.

Before the end of the fourth century, many of the traditions of Saturnalia—including giving gifts, singing, lighting candles, feasting and merrymaking—had become absorbed by the traditions of Christmas as many of us know them today.

Sources

*John Matthews, **The Winter Solstice: The Sacred Traditions of Christmas** (Godsfield Press, 1998).
Saturnalia, Ancient History Encyclopedia.
Did the Romans invent Christmas? BBC News.*

In the 4th century CE,

*Christianity imported the Saturnalia festival hoping to take the pagan masses in with it. Christian leaders succeeded in converting to Christianity large numbers of **pagans by promising them that they could continue to celebrate the Saturnalia as Christians.** The problem was **that there was nothing intrinsically Christian about Saturnalia.** To remedy this, these Christian leaders named Saturnalia's concluding day, December 25th, to be Jesus' birthday. (The first mention of a Nativity feast appears in the Philocalian calendar, a Roman document from 354 CE, which lists December 25th as the day of Jesus' birth.)*

*The Reverend Increase Mather of Boston observed in 1687 that “the early **Christians who first observed the Nativity on December 25 did not do so thinking that Christ was born in that Month,** but because the Heathens' Saturnalia was at that time kept in Rome, and **they were willing** to have those Pagan Holidays metamorphosed into Christian ones.” **Because of its known pagan origin,** Christmas was banned by the Puritans and its observance was illegal in Massachusetts between 1659 and 1681. However, Christmas was and still is celebrated by most Christians. --
--from –*

***Increase Mather**, *A Testimony against Several Profane and Superstitious Customs, Now Practiced by Some in New England* (London, 1687), p. 35.*

***Stephen Nissenbaum**, *The Battle for Christmas: A Cultural History of America's Most Cherished Holiday*, New York: Vintage Books, 1997, p. 4. Nissenbaum, p. 3.*

Origin of Easter - A Christian commemoration

*The origin of Easter, a holiday associated with the observance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, is actually **based on an ancient pagan celebration**. Christians recognize this day as commemorating the culminating event of their faith, but like so many other "Christian" holidays, **Easter has become commercialized and mixed with non-Christian traditions like the Easter Bunny, Easter parades and hunting for Easter eggs**. How did this happen?*

Origin of Easter - Its Pagan Roots

*The origin of Easter **dates back to ancient times**, not long after the global Flood recorded in Genesis 6-9 of the Bible. Nimrod, a grandson of Noah, had turned from following his grandfather's God and had become a tyrannical ruler. According to the biblical record, as king, Nimrod created Babel, Ninevah, Asshur, Calla and other cities, all known for lifestyles that promoted unspeakable evil and perversion. When Nimrod died, his wife, Queen Semiramis, deified him as the Sun-god, or Life Giver. Later he would become known as Baal, and those who followed the religion Semiramis created in his name would be called Baal worshippers. They became associated with idolatry, demon worship, human sacrifice and other practices regarded as evil.*

*The origin of **Easter involves the birth of Semiramis' illegitimate son, Tammuz**. Somehow, Semiramis convinced the people that Tammuz was actually Nimrod reborn. Since people had been looking for the promised savior since the beginning of mankind (see Genesis 3:15), they were persuaded by Semiramis to believe that Tammuz was that*

savior, even that he had been supernaturally conceived. Before long, in addition to worshiping Tammuz (or Nimrod reborn), the people also worshiped, **Semiramis herself as the goddess of fertility. In other cultures, she has been called Ishtar Ashtur and yes, Easter.**

The origin of Easter goes back to the springtime ritual instituted by Semiramis following the death of Tammuz, who, according to tradition, **was killed by a wild boar.** Legend has it that through the power of his mother's tears, Tammuz was "resurrected" in the form of the new vegetation that appeared on the earth.

According to the Bible, it was in the city of Babel that the people created a tower in order to defy God. Up until that time, all the people on the earth spoke one language. The building of the tower led God, as recorded in Genesis 11:7, to confuse their tongues to keep them from being further unified in their false beliefs. As the people moved into other lands, many of them took their pagan practices with them.

Contemporary traditions such as the Easter Bunny and the Easter egg can also be traced back to the practices established by Semiramis. Because of their prolific nature, rabbits have long been associated with fertility and its goddess, Ishtar. Ancient Babylonians believed in a fable about an egg that fell into the Euphrates River from heaven and from which Queen Astarte (another name for Ishtar or Semiramis) was "hatched."

Origin of Easter - Resurrection Day for Christians

For Christians, the origin of Easter is simply the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ about 2,000

years ago. According to the Gospel accounts, Jesus Christ, the true Messiah promised in the Old Testament, was crucified and resurrected **at the time of the Jewish Passover**. Since that awesome event took place, those who believe Christ is their Messiah **have honored that day and often celebrated it with the traditional Passover**. As the Gospel of Christ spread throughout non-Jewish nations, among people who did not have a history of celebrating the Passover, **the pagan rites of Easter gradually became assimilated into** what the Christian church called "Resurrection Day." **Compromising the commandments of God with the comfort of the world** is as old as the nation of Israel itself. Actually, **American history teaches us that Easter was dismissed as a pagan holiday by the nation's founding Puritans and did not begin to be widely observed until just after the Civil War.** (allaboutjesuschrist.org)