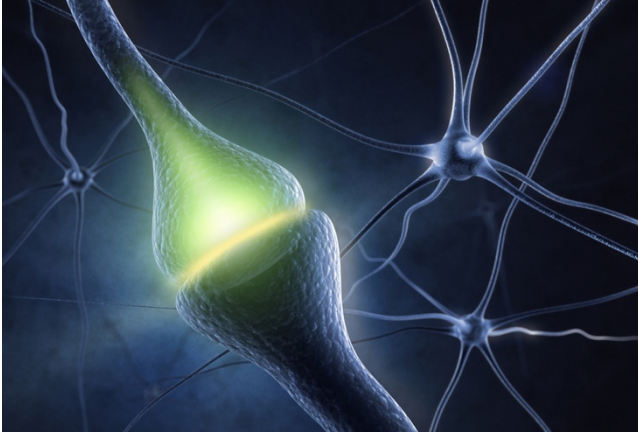


A *heart* of **STONE**



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One small electrical pulse moving at lightning speed through a web of neurons generates the miracle of thought. Then, a surge of dark emotions infiltrates those thoughts and ignites the hardening of the heart that is difficult to stop.

Every thought that is processed when self elevation, self glory, and self determination is the core of the motivation, the heart will harden eventually into a solid flint mass.

“Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, ‘Why do you entertain *evil thoughts* in *your hearts*?’” (Matthew 9:4).

“They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them *due to the hardening of their hearts*” (Ephesians 4:18).

“See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, *unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God*” (Hebrews 3:12).

“You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For *out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks*” (Matthew 12:34).

“But *the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart*, and these things defile a man. For *out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, and slander*” (Matthew 15:18-19).

The ancient house of Israel craved to be like the nations. “You say, ‘We want to be like the nations, like the peoples of the world, who serve wood and stone’ (Ezekiel 20:32). Yahuah replied, ‘As for you, *O house of Israel, go and serve your idols, every one of you!*’” (Ezekiel 20:39).

Having wealth, power and status appealed to the house of Israel. Worshiping and relying on their God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in humility was seen as weakness not strength. The gods ruling over the nations on earth were building the nations into superpowers. Their plan was to battle against Almighty God, the God of Israel and overthrow Him, then totally destroy the people He chose as His inheritance. The people of Israel were

clueless of this secret plot—a plot that will become very evident in the 21st century when the beast arrives on earth.

“They went off and worshiped other gods and bowed down to them, gods they did not know, **gods he had not given them**” (Deuteronomy 29:26).

“Then **the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals** [gods]” (Judges 2:11).

“O house of Israel, while you were sacrificing your firstborn children in the fire as gifts—I **would NOT let you inquire of me!** I let you become defiled through your gifts—the sacrifice of every firstborn—that I might fill you with horror...” (Ezekiel 20:26).

Their self reliance, self glory, and self determination hardened their heart. “I am sending you [Ezekiel] to the Israelites, to a **rebellious nation** that has rebelled against me; **they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day... obstinate and stubborn people... a nation of briars, thorns and scorpions... the WHOLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL IS HARDENED AND OBSTINATE**” (Ezekiel 2:3,4, 6, 3:7).

“The Lord GOD has sworn by himself, declares the LORD, the God of hosts: “**I abhor the pride of Jacob and hate his strongholds**, and I will deliver up the city and all that is in it” (Amos 6:8).

“The LORD has sworn by the **pride of Jacob**: “Surely I will never forget any of their deeds” (Amos 8:7).

“They **close up their callous hearts**, and their mouths speak with **arrogance**” (Psalm 17:10).

“From their **callous hearts comes iniquity; their evil imaginations have no limits**” (Psalm 73:7).

“**Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down** with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap” (Luke 21:34).

“He said, ‘Go and tell this people: **Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.**’ Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise, they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed” (Isaiah 6:9-10).

Christ said, “In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: ‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’” (Matthew 13:14-15).

21st Century Israel both houses: Judah and Jacob/Israel will be humbled in their time of trouble. Their strength will fade; they will be defeated and again taken into captivity. "In that

day the **GLORY OF JACOB WILL FADE; the fat of his body will waste away**" (Isaiah 17:4).

Yahuah said through Moses, "Behold, you will rest with your fathers; and this people will rise and play the harlot with the gods of the foreigners of the land, where they go to be among them, and **they will forsake Me and break My covenant**, which I have made with them. Then My anger shall be aroused against them **in that day**, and **I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them**, and **THEY SHALL BE DEVoured**. And **MANY EVILS AND TROUBLES SHALL BEFALL THEM**, so that they will say **in that day**, 'Have not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us?' And I will surely hide My face **in that day** because of all the evil which they have done, in that **they have turned to other gods**" (Deuteronomy 31:16-18).

"If my people, which are called by my name, **shall humble themselves**, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (II Chronicles 7:14).

Moses wrote, "**When you are in distress** and all these things have come upon you, **in the latter days you will return to the Lord your God and listen to His voice**" (Deuteronomy 4:30).

"**They will loathe themselves for the evil they have done... And they will know that I am the Lord; I did not threaten in vain to bring this calamity on them**" (Ezekiel 6:9).

A humble spirit is the first step to transforming a hardened heart. Turning to the Almighty God on bent knee and sincerity in prayer will dissolve the callous heart and cultivate a heart of flesh. "Do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the wilderness" (Hebrews 3:8).

"The Lord Almighty has a day in store for all the proud and lofty, for **all that is exalted and they will be humbled... the arrogance of man will be brought low and the pride of men humbled**; the Lord alone will be exalted in that day, and the idols will totally disappear" (Isaiah 2:12, 17-19).

"Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, **to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart**, whether or not you would keep his commands" (Deuteronomy 8:2).

"In those days, at that time, the **people of Israel and the people of Judah together will go in tears to seek the Yahuah, their God**" (Jeremiah 50:4).

Christ's return from heaven will be seen by everyone. It will be a spectacular entry. Years of denying the existence of God—our Creator and Jesus Christ—our Savior will be a rude awakening for many people all over the world. Now, the existence of God will be undeniable. People will listen. Christ will come and re-gather the scattered remnant of the twelve tribes of Israel. Through suffering their heart will be softened from the pounding of their brutal captivity, the wonder of their rescue, and the revelation of who they are and who they are to

become. "I will give them a **heart to know Me**, for I am the LORD; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for **THEY WILL RETURN TO ME WITH THEIR WHOLE HEART**" (Jeremiah 24:7).

"Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,' says the LORD, 'nor be dismayed, O Israel; for behold, **I will save you from afar**, and your seed from the land of their captivity. **Jacob shall return**, have rest and be quiet, and no one shall make him afraid. For I am with you,' says the LORD, 'to save you; though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, and will **not let you go altogether unpunished**'" (Jeremiah 30:8-11).

"Therefore say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will gather you from the nations and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered, and **I will give you back the land of Israel AGAIN.**' (Ezekiel 11:17).

"Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life... I will say to the north, '**Give them up!**' and to the south, '**Do not hold them back**'" (Isaiah 43:4-6).

"The **people of Israel** are oppressed, and the **people of Judah** as well. **All their captors hold them fast, refusing to let them go.** Yet **the REDEEMER IS STRONG; YAHUAH ALMIGHTY IS HIS NAME.** He will vigorously defend their cause so that he may bring rest to their land, but unrest to those who live in Babylon" (Jeremiah 50:33-34).

"In that day **men will look to their Maker and turn their eyes to the Holy One of Israel**" (Isaiah 17:7).

"Yet the number of the sons of Israel will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered; and in the place where it is said to them, 'You are not My people,' It will be said to them, 'You are the **sons of the living God**'" (Hosea 1:10).

With God's Holy Spirit, their stony heart can be healed. "Moreover, I will give you **A NEW HEART AND PUT A NEW SPIRIT WITHIN YOU**; and **I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh**" (Ezekiel 36:26).

"And I will give them **one heart**, and put a **new spirit** within them and I will take **the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh**" (Ezekiel 11:19).

"When he arrived and saw what the **grace of God** had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to **remain true to the Lord with all their hearts**" (Acts 11:23).

Living the ways of God will clean a sick heart. God is love. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and **renew a steadfast spirit within me**" (Psalm 51:10).

“Brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—**think about such things**” (Philippians 4:8).

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is **not arrogant or rude**. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

“For **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also**” (Matthew 6:21).

“**BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART, for THEY WILL SEE GOD**” (Matthew 5:8).

Capture and discipline every thought **before** it enters your heart. Jealously protect it from the evil that comes from those fallen heavenly creatures who are set on destroying **all of us**.

Love your creator God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength! Love will keep your heart pure and clean. Pledge to serve your God with eternal humility and sincerity. Lean on Christ forever. Christ will never disappoint you. “See, I lay a stone in Zion, **a tested stone** [Yashuah/Jesus], a precious cornerstone for a **sure** foundation; **the one who trusts will never be dismayed**” (Isaiah 28:16).

See—a heart of flesh is a heart that recognizes the righteousness of God and our Beloved. It desires to be in harmony and at one: thinking, acting, walking, believing, doing, and understanding as they do—part of their body: one body, one spirit—Christ in the Father, and the Bride in Christ with God’s Holy Spirit flowing through them and filling them. Soon, God, Christ and his bride (a body of many members) will become one, a perfectly complete ruling body of three, harmonized as **ONE heart of flesh**.



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