

GOD'S CODED LANGUAGE

Is All About

TRANSPARENCY



JANETTE C. ANDREJOWICH

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God's Coded Language Is All About Transparency
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PROLOGUE

Unlike secret societies and corrupt political and religious leaders, God Almighty is transparent. He has provided all of mankind with evidence of His existence and power. To His people, He has given them all what they need to know about His plan for them and the nations of the world. At the end of the age, God will judge all people; they will be without excuse.

“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse” (Romans 1:20).

The transparency of God is unveiled through His use of imagery, mirroring, parables, parallels, numbers, stories, and foreshadows, not to mention creation all around us on earth.

God is consistent in His use of His coded language. The imagery in the scriptures can be easily decoded when you understand how to use the key. Unlock the mysteries and enter into the world of Almighty God. You will find treasures never seen before and riveting prophecies lying on our near horizon.

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THE GARDEN

*“The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing”
(Isaiah 51:3).*

When Adam and Eve were created, they lived in the garden of Eden. “The Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed” (Genesis 2:8).

God planted His garden in the same direction as His temple. This garden, where mankind was planted, is God’s penmanship at work, painting a picture of beauty and peace. It is an immediate visual for every man, woman, and child on earth of God’s language describing His God family in the making. They are a reflection of cultivated parks, reserved forests, and natural wonders that triggers an awe-inspiring gasp.



God's is seeding and growing His family. They will become a holy, royal, ruling family both in heaven and on earth. Located in Eden, God reveals His family home. He is at work, molding many different people who, when He is finished, will exhibit exceptional qualities and skills. They will be people with great strength: resilient, compassionate, patient, creative, resourceful, law-keeping people. From out of darkness into glorious light, the members of God's family from earth will all be transformed into eternal bodies.

Creation on earth was not the first. Spirit beings were created and given an abode in heaven. These beings were created with essential knowledge when they were created. They can distinguish right from wrong. Unfortunately, not all has gone well in heaven. Many have turned against their Creator, the Great God. His family in heaven has been darkened and His heavenly court corrupted. Mankind, God's second creation, will fill all of the positions once held by the fallen angels and sons of God. God is going to rebuild His fallen holy, heavenly court with repentant, righteous people. Satan is working hard to keep these plans from mankind. King David caught a glimpse of something very big and asked God, "What is man that you are mindful of him?" (Psalm 8:4)

TROUBLE IN HEAVEN

A painful image is recorded by Ezekiel of the fall of the sons of God in His court in heaven. They were great leaders who once held critical positions that required an expert understanding of God's law. God uses the image of trees to describe them because on earth, trees are the tallest living creation. Man is small by comparison. God wants mankind to understand the spiritual growth of these once-great leaders. They had grown to great heights in understanding and knowledge of God's ways and His law, and yet, succumbed to Satan's wizardry; they turned against their Creator of whom, they once humbly loved and served.

The son of God holding the highest position in God's holy heavenly court was given rulership at the time of Babel, over Assyria on earth. God blessed this son with an outpouring of His Holy Spirit and he matured beyond the heights of the other members who could not rival it. "I made it beautiful with the multitude of its branches, and all the trees [leaders] of Eden [God's home], which were in the garden [family] of God, were jealous of it" (Ezekiel 31:9).

This son of God became proud of the height he reached and that pride festered into arrogance, corrupting his thinking. In grief, God held back His Holy Spirit and watched this once-great, heavenly leader become filled with rage and anger. "*It was proud of its height*, I [God] handed it over to the ruler of the nations, for him to deal with according to its wickedness. I cast it aside" (Ezekiel 31:10b). His fall triggered a series of battles by other fallen sons of God in heaven to rise and challenge his position. The Old Testament is a record of the fall of Babylon and Egypt, preserving the history of these rebel heavenly rulers, as they engaged with the kingdom of Israel.

One by one, the heavenly rulers over the nations failed to rule righteously. In God's deepest sorrow, He sentenced all of the fallen members of His holy court to the lowest and darkest prison, located inside the earth. God said, "*Then all the trees of Eden, the choicest and best of Lebanon, all the trees that were well-watered, were consoled in the earth below*" (Ezekiel 31:16). These leaders were all esteemed members of God's family serving in high positions. They were the best in Lebanon, the location of God's court in heaven. It is not by coincidence that there exists on earth a place called Lebanon where the finest cedar trees grow.

These fallen angels listened and acted on the wizardry of Satan, the highly decorated guardian angel who was once perfect and blameless. When Lucifer was created, he was placed in God's

family in Eden and awarded one of the highest positions in all creation. “You [Lucifer] were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created, they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones” (Ezekiel 28:13-14).

Lucifer became proud of his beauty and that pride grew into arrogance causing him to fall out of light, deep into darkness. These fallen spiritual beings can be destroyed. They may deceive themselves and think they are invincible, but they are wrong. God is very clear on the fate of wicked, spiritual beings.

“God presides in the great assembly; he gives judgement among the ‘gods.’ “I said, ‘You are gods; you are all sons of the Most High. But you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler’” (Psalm 82:1, 6).

Satan was once an angel of light who by choice, turned away from truth and adopted crafty thoughts that twisted and turned truth into confusion. He despises God’s second creation on earth. Though not briefed by God, he suspected that God would fill the positions once held by him and his followers with the second creation from earth. The angels are eager to know the details of God’s plan for mankind (1 Peter 1:12). Satan wasted no time. He knew that mankind was created by God to grow into spiritual knowledge, understanding, and wisdom, as a baby grows into an adult. Before Eve matured to know better, he needed to lure her into his direction before she could see through his trickery. His plan was to capture both of them: Adam and Eve. Adam was created first and was more knowledgeable. Satan would have to

formulate a clever narrative, one coated in the appearance of doing the right thing, while appealing to his ego.

He saw Adam and Eve in the garden that day and he approached Eve, while Adam stood by listening quietly. He presented a picture of the importance of having the knowledge of good and evil. This seems like a perfectly good statement and logical when deciding on options and the actions that follow.

The Apostle Paul understood God's processes of spiritual growth. Disappointed in the spiritual growth of some, he said, "Although by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to reteach you the basic principles of God's word. You need milk, not solid food! For everyone who lives on milk is still an infant, inexperienced in the message of righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained their senses to distinguish good from evil" (Hebrews 5:12-14).

Unfortunately, mankind is not spiritually mature enough to distinguish between good and evil. Eve was still an infant, still learning God's word. She was vulnerable and Satan knew it. She listened to Satan and acted on his instructions; Adam followed. He knew better, but Satan won his loyalty in the same way that he caused the heavenly angels to turn from God. Adam and Eve realized they sinned when immediately, they lost their shining covering. Their mistakes threw mankind into a six-thousand-year spiral into darkness.

The fate of God's second creation, who were to become members of God's holy, royal, ruling family, was the death sentence. Satan was delighted, thinking he had thwarted God's plan to extend His eternal family. Satan's delight and claim as a win for him, is a delusion. The fallen angels are excluded from the knowledge of God's plan for mankind; believers are not excluded. Believers have

been given the key to understanding God's plan precisely and clearly.

Satan reveled in the acquisition of his rulership over earth. The great flood was another win for him, he believed. Satan's confidence has ballooned as he roars, lurking in the shadows seeking who he can devour (I Peter 5:8).

God foresees events and choices eons into time. His plan was designed knowing the outcome, before creation began. The king ruling over ancient Assyria bragged to the king of Judah of his many conquests and the expected victory over the Jews. King Hezekiah prayed to God and He responded directly to the heavenly ruler over Assyria.

“Have you not heard? Long ago I ordained it; in days of old I planned it. Now I have brought it to pass, that you should crush fortified cities into piles of rubble. Therefore, their inhabitants, devoid of power, are dismayed and ashamed. They are like plants in the field, tender green shoots, grass on the rooftops, scorched before it is grown. But I know your sitting down, your going out and coming in, and your raging against Me. Because your rage and arrogance against Me have reached My ears, I will put My hook in your nose and My bit in your mouth; I will send you back the way you came” (II Kings 19:25-28).

While the heavenly ruler over Assyria trumpeted his victories and conquests over weaker nations ruled by other fallen heavenly rulers, the God of Israel said that He knew it would happen long ago. He used the aggression of the fallen ruler over Assyria to punish God's people and overthrow the weaker, rebel god-serving nations. The God of Israel has ultimate control. He turned the king of Assyria away from attacking Jerusalem and the heavenly ruler left without a fight.

The story of gods ruling over the nations is forgotten today; what remains is mythicized. God gave the members of His court in heaven an inheritance—rulership over the nations. He wanted them to teach the nations, His law, and His ways. God, himself, Himself, participated in this project and chose the descendants of Jacob as His subjects.

“When the Most High assigned lands to the nations, when he divided up the human race, he established the boundaries of the peoples according to the number in his heavenly court. But the LORD’s portion is His people, Jacob His allotted inheritance” (Deuteronomy 32:8-9).

The descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob became God’s inheritance; He became King over them. Ancient Israel rejected their God for a time. They could not see or value God’s plan for them. Instead, they wanted to be like the nations around them. They wanted superpower status and all the glory wrapped in having great power. God foreknew the journey His people would choose. “So, the last will be first, and the first will be last” (Matthew 20: 16).

A special group of the end-time Judeo-Christians will be first to receive eternal life in God’s holy, royal kingdom.

God foresaw the repentance of the children of ancient Israel and their eternal commitment to serving Him in the latter days—all the way into the 21st century. God described these repentant and faithful people of Israel in spiritual terms. They are cedars in Lebanon [God’s heavenly court] and olive trees—His righteous priests.

“I [God] will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like the lily, and he will take root like the cedars of Lebanon. His shoots will

sprout, and his beauty will be like the olive tree and his fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon” (Hosea 14:5-6).

God continued His imagery describing His children as plants in a cultivated garden. “How fair are your tents, O Jacob, Your dwellings, O Israel! ‘Like valleys that stretch out, like *gardens* beside the river, like *aloes* planted by the LORD, like *cedars* beside the waters” (Numbers 24:5-6).

He foresaw the repentance of mankind as well and their destiny to serve Him and fill the highest positions in His government. “The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree; he will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. *Planted in the house of the LORD*, they will flourish in the *courts of our God*. They will still yield fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and very green” (Psalm 92:12-15).

God is clear in His use of imagery. The cedar trees in Lebanon image the great heavenly members of God’s court in heaven. Their spiritual height is awesome. They are deeply rooted in God’s word; their strength is timeless. They are warriors and guardians of God’s law and preservers of peace. In addition to cedars, God described other trees of equal importance. He loves the oak, the plain, the palm, the olive, the fig, the flowering myrtle, the pine, the acacia, the fir, the cypress, and the poplar trees.

God’s plan for mankind is not a secret. It is written in the Bible for all to read, but understanding the depth and breadth of God’s engineering of mankind’s salvation plan requires the key and how to apply it. Journeying into the deep things of God will take you to where He hides His treasures: depth of meaning and understanding, spiritual truths and wonders, and the secrets saved only for the relentless explorers.

THE TREES, VINES and FLOWERS

*“Open your doors, O LEBANON, that the fire may devour your cedars!
Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has fallen, because the glorious trees
have been destroyed; Wail, O oaks of Bashan, for the impenetrable
forest has come down”
(Zechariah 11:2).*

What was at one time so glorious, so impenetrable and great is being destroyed. Where is the Lebanon referred to in Zechariah? Who are the cedars, the cypress, the oaks, and the glorious trees?



Scriptures reveal God’s use of imagery. The fallen cedar trees described in Zechariah 11 are the once-great and highly honoured heavenly rulers in God’s government and holy court. They have turned against Him; they are rebels. Many are already overthrown and imprisoned in Sheol. The remaining rebels will come to an end on the Day of God’s wrath. God has a plan for mankind. He will fill the positions once held by the “glorious trees” with new members—transformed righteous mortals.

Satan has his puppets busy at work: hiding truth, distorting history, and keeping mankind ignorant of their calling. The thoughts of carnal mankind demand sight before belief. God is asking for faith. The unseen world is closed to mankind at this time. Satan uses this barrier to keep people from questioning God's wonderful and miraculous creation all around them. Battles have been fought and tensions in heaven are on-going. Mankind is ignorant of the vast dominions controlled by fallen sons of God in heaven, yet to be overthrown. They cannot fathom the hatred these heavenly rebels have towards mortals on earth, especially those who will be awarded their most-high offices. Regardless, in time, it will all be revealed.

“See, the Lord, the LORD Almighty, will lop off the boughs with great power. The lofty trees will be felled; the tall ones will be brought low. He will cut down the forest thickets with an ax; *Lebanon will fall before the Mighty One*” (Isaiah 10:33-34).

God is assembling a new government of faithful and loyal children who are humble, God-fearing and God-serving. God sees into the future the birth of a different people—a transformed people who will eternally stand strong, loyal, and faithful.

“In a very short time, will not Lebanon be turned into a fertile field and the fertile field seem like a forest?” (Isaiah 29:17)

Indeed, very soon God's holy court will be comprised of new, eternally faithful and true leaders; there will be so many that a forest will appear overnight.

God's use of imagery was understood by the ancient Israelites. It is evident in the conversation between King Amaziah of Judah and King Jehoash of Israel. On a side point, this conversation is a reminder that God's people today comprise of two kingdoms: Judah—the Jews and Israel—the ten tribes, the West and Western Europe.

Amaziah, a young king of Judah defeated ten-thousand men of Edom in the Valley of Salt; he was proud of his conquest. In his pride, he sent a message to the king of Israel with an invitation. The king of Israel declined his offer and responded with a comparison of their rulership. The king of Israel viewed his own rulership as strong and accomplished compared to the young Jewish king who he considered to be rough-around-the-edges and inexperienced.

“So, King Jehoash of Israel sent this message to King Amaziah of Judah: ‘The thornbush in Lebanon sent this message to the cedar in Lebanon: “Give your daughter to my son in marriage.” But just then a wild beast from Lebanon wandered by and trampled down the thornbush. You have indeed defeated Edom and now you are arrogant. Glory in your victory, but stay at home. Why ask for trouble and cause your own downfall and that of Judah also?’” (II Kings 14:9-10)

Notice, both houses were considered by the king of Israel to be in Lebanon—in God’s government—His courts. The king of Israel declared himself to be a cedar, that is, a great well-seasoned leader and the king of Judah was described as a thornbush—a prickly, despised weed of a leader with no hope of achieving any fame or glory.

The use of trees imaged as different leaders was also described by Jotham, the youngest son of Gideon. It was in his declaration to the people of Shechem and Beth Millo before they were to declare Abimelech their king after the death of Gideon. This thornbush of a man killed all of his brothers except for Jotham who escaped, in order to be anointed king over these people. The towns people gathered beside the “great tree.” This was their practice as the “great tree” symbolized Almighty God.

Jotham declared, “Listen to me, citizens of Shechem, so that God may listen to you. One day the trees went out to anoint a king for themselves. They said to the olive tree, ‘Be our king.’ But the olive tree answered, ‘Should I give up my oil, by which both gods and humans are honored, to hold sway over the trees?’ Next, the trees said to the fig tree, ‘Come and be our king.’ But the fig tree replied, ‘Should I give up my fruit, so good and sweet, to hold sway over the trees?’ Then the trees said to the vine, ‘Come and be our king.’ But the vine answered, ‘Should I give up my wine, which cheers both gods and humans, to hold sway over the trees?’ Finally, all the trees said to the thornbush, ‘Come and be our king.’ The thornbush said to the trees, ‘If you really want to anoint me king over you, come and take refuge in my shade; but if not, then let fire come out of the thornbush and consume the cedars of Lebanon!’” (Judges 9:7b-15)

The people listening understood Jotham and the imagery he used. Understanding the imagery is critical to recognizing the importance of the roles each tree represents and the impact of choosing a thornbush-type of leader. The roles of the leaders who imaged the “olive trees,” “fig trees,” and “vines” were considered more honourable than national leadership.

THE CEDAR

Imagery of the great cedars bring an immediate rich visual of the most spectacular trees on earth. They have the unique qualities that mirror the great leaders in God’s headquarters and His holy court. These tall, grand trees are dimensionally stable with a built-in thermal insulator. With oils that act as natural preservatives, these trees are resistant to bacteria and fungus. To top it off, they release a fresh aroma that deters pests. God created sons in heaven with all of these eternal qualities and superior strength to lead His kingdom having expertise in God’s law and ordinances. God created a place on earth that grows the finest cedar trees to

mirror His headquarters in heaven—Lebanon, His centre filled with stately and regal leaders—His pride and joy.

THE OLIVE TREE

The fruit from the olive tree is well-known for the production of oil used in ancient times in lanterns to shed light, for cooking, and for its medicinal properties. Through a process of grinding and crushing, the olives were pressed into a paste and then crushed again through a woven bag, until the oil was extracted. This process mirrors the journey of a special group of people who are prepared by God to work in His ministry. They are crushed and tried, tested and separated, purified and perfected. God's special servants have all been persecuted, hated, and attacked by those serving Wickedness.

The oldest olive tree on earth is in Greece with an age of around two thousand years. These trees live a long time, producing fruit well into their old age. The wood from the tree is resistant to decay. All of these characteristics resemble the resilient ministry in God's family.

When Jotham was speaking to the people of Shechem using God's coded language, he knew that the theological leaders were imaged as olive trees who understandably replied, "Should I give up my oil, by which both gods and humans are honored, to hold sway over the trees?" The leadership of those specializing in God's word is of greater value than those ruling over people on a national or civic level.

Oil is used in the practice of anointing rulers and priests. These positions are held in high regard and separated from ordinary, leadership positions. The oil from the olive tree is reflective of that leader's ability to live righteously. They are a shining witness of the application of God's law of peace, living God's way of love.

God referred to His ministry in ancient times as an olive tree. The whole kingdom of Israel is destined to become a humble and holy kingdom of royal priests. Ancient Israel defiled themselves by worshipping Baal many times. Jeremiah recorded God's vengeance, "The LORD *once called you a flourishing olive tree, beautiful with well-formed fruit. But with a mighty roar He will set it on fire, and its branches will be consumed. The LORD of Hosts, who planted you, has decreed disaster against you on account of the evil that the house of Israel and the house of Judah have brought upon themselves, provoking Me to anger by burning incense to Baal*" (Jeremiah 11:16-17).

Revelation 14:10 describes two witnesses as two olive trees. These two priests will teach God's pure word to the world during the Great Tribulation. They will witness to all people in all of the nations. They will invite them to repent and accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and receive God's Holy Spirit, so that they can live. God will conquer Wickedness by offering grace to all of mankind and inviting them into His eternal, holy, royal, ruling God-family. God said that this battle will not be won through military strength but by His Holy Spirit.

Zechariah recorded this incredible revelation.

"What do you see?" asked the angel.

Zerubbabel responded, "I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lamps on it, with seven spouts to the lamps. There are also two olive trees beside it, one on the right side of the bowl and the other on its left. What are these, my lord?" I asked the angel who was speaking with me."

"Do you not know what they are?" replied the angel.

"No, my lord," I answered.

“So he said to me, ‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of Hosts. ‘What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain.’ Then he will bring forth the capstone accompanied by shouts of “Grace, grace to it!”” (Zechariah 4:2-7)

God’s coded language described the destruction of a great mountain—a world-ruling government that will be overthrown, flattened into a plain—dust under the feet of the saints.

During ancient times, when the sentenced time of the house of Judah’s captivity was complete, Zerubbabel was free to lead the rebuilding of the temple of God. His job remains unfinished. Zerubbabel will be resurrected to complete the building of God’s temple comprised of people filled with God’s Holy Spirit. “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” God said. This different temple will be built; the world’s governments will be overthrown and flattened into a plain.

In addition, Zerubbabel will bring forth the “capstone”—the final stone of the temple to be laid at the top. This capstone is Jesus Christ. Shouts of “Grace, grace to it” will be heard. It will be an exuberant time of ceremony and victory.

THE FIG TREE

The early fruit of a fig tree is the imagery God specifically uses to describe Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and their descendants. “When I found Israel, it was like finding grapes in the desert and *when I saw your fathers*, it was like seeing the *early fruit on the fig tree*” (Hosea 9:10). “Of all the families of the earth, only Israel have I chosen” (Amos 3:2).

So many lessons are wrapped up in the growth of the fig tree. “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.

Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it [return of Christ] is near, right at the door” (Matthew 24:32).

The fig tree images the people of Israel—all twelve tribes who are today, twelve nations. A significant characteristic of the fig tree is the flower, which is hidden within a fleshly structure known as the syconium. The flower eventually develops into fruit. This is a spiritual image of humble people growing in God’s word and developing into righteous leaders who are not seeking self-glory. Inner beauty is what God is forming in His people.

Fig trees produce twice in a year. The first fruits appear in spring and are produced from the old branches, the Breba crop. The second growth of fruit appears in summer and is produced from the new growth, the Higos crop.

In Matthew 24, Jesus is describing the crop from the new growth—the tender twigs that will produce the Higos crop. This summer crop mirrors the repentance and spiritual growth of people who come into God’s word not having a background of the scriptures. Their learning is new and young.

People from the twelve nations of 21st century Israel will repent. They will acknowledge the God of Israel, desire to obey His commandments and strive to live His way. This move to obey God and live His way is the picture of the flower of the fig tree. The flower is the fruit inside. This is the beauty of repentant people. Their inner being blossoms into beautiful character.

The lesson from the fig tree in the book of Matthew and the sign just before the return of Christ is the humble repentance of God’s people. This will be an exceptional time when millions turn to God sincerely and completely during a time of intense distress.

The unrepentant people from the twelve tribes of Israel will be judged and destroyed by Jesus Christ. It is seen in the story of the cursed fig tree. “And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, Jesus went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs” (Matthew 11:13).

This tree symbolizes people covered in leaves, that is, opportunities and resources to mature into God's ways, but they do not bear the fruit of living righteously. The fig tree in Matthew 11, images the person who has gone *beyond* their fruit bearing season without any sign of fruit. That is why Jesus cursed the fig tree. He prophesied the fate of people who do not bear the fruit of righteousness when they were given all they need to repent and change.

Jotham reminded the people of the importance of bearing good works by living God's way. “But the fig tree replied, ‘Should I give up my fruit, so good and sweet, to hold sway over the trees?’”

Fruit, that is, good works, strong character, loving one another is the behaviour that is good and sweet and is valued higher than rulership over people. Most often rulers abuse their power and become thornbushes. Eternal life will be given to those who soften their hardened heart and live righteously.

Prophesied in Micah is the future where nations on earth are released from the oppressive control of Wickedness. Each family will be free to lead and reap the full benefits of their own labour. It is described as “sitting under your own vine, your own fig tree” (Micah 4:4).

Peace is coming. “Then He will judge between many peoples and arbitrate for strong nations far and wide. Then they will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will no longer take up the sword against nation, nor will they train anymore for war. Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken. Though each of the peoples may walk in the name of his god, yet we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever” (Micah 4:3-5).

The futuristic verse foretells of a time when all twelve tribes of Israel—all of God’s covenant people will be committed to living God’s way of love, forever and ever.

THE GRAPE VINE

From the grape vine, wine is made. The imagery in this low growing plant reveals a humble people willing to die for their faith and service to Almighty God. It also images a second group of people; a people who are unfit for God’s kingdom and destined to be destroyed.

Recorded in Revelation is a warning to the unrepentant of their destruction. “Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, ‘Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth’s vine, because its grapes are ripe’” (Revelation 14:18).

“Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full; the wine vats overflow because their wickedness is great” (Joel 3:13).

Two different groups of people are imaged in the grapes from a vine.

Determining who is good and bad is clear by their behaviour, which results in how they are harvested. The grapes that are trodden down by foot outside of the winepress are the wicked

who are destroyed. The juice from grapes crushed in the winepress are those who are prepared to die standing strong against Wickedness, remaining loyal to Almighty God.

Jesus Christ is imaged as a vine. It was the spilt blood of Jesus Christ that has given mankind an opportunity for eternal life. The Passover service of the eating of bread and drinking of wine is the eating of the God's word symbolized in bread and drinking the wine symbolized in accepting Christ's redemptive sacrifice in payment of sin. Jesus' great love for mankind was demonstrated in his death on the cross. "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

For centuries, the saints endured persecution, trials, and tribulation and in some cases death by those warring against God. These people triumphed over their persecutors by holding fast to their belief in their salvation through the blood of the Lamb and by living God's word. They did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death (Revelation 12:11).

Humble people are mirrored in a low growing vine, producing fruit that after being crushed and processed, ferments into wine—an image of their blood covenant with Almighty God.

The righteous angels rejoice when mankind repents. It gives the Great Potter joy to witness the work of His hands as the righteous rise up against Wickedness, fearing nothing because they fully trust in their Creator, God Almighty.

God's enemies are the ruthless, fallen angels who are powerful rulers, powers, and principalities (Ephesians 6:12). At the time of Babel, God gave the members of His court in heaven rulership over the nations (Deuteronomy 32:8), but not long after they received their inheritance, they turned against Him. The worship of these enemies is treason.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego understood the war in heaven. Certain Chaldeans noticed that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not bow down and worship the statue at the sound of the music. They told King Nebuchadnezzar.

“There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”

“Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar spoke and said unto them, ‘Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?’”

“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves on this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”

“Therefore, because the king’s commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flames of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.”

“Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spoke, and said unto his counsellors, ‘did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?’”

“They answered and said unto the king, ‘True, O king.’”

“He answered and said, ‘Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God’” (Daniel 3:12-18, 22-25).

During ancient times, the people on earth were engaging with the ruling gods over the nations. They were able to see them. King Nebuchadnezzar recognized the fourth individual in the furnace from the other three. He identified him as a heavenly being.

From the house of Judah: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, were imaged as fine grapes on that vine. “The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in” (Isaiah 5:7a). God delights in the faithful who trust Him.

Isaiah recorded God’s delight in His people sometime still in the future. “In that day: ‘Sing about a fruitful vineyard. I, the LORD, am its keeper; I water it continually. I guard it night and day so no one can disturb it’” (Isaiah 27:2-3).

The first miracle Jesus performed was to turn water into wine. “Jesus said to the servants, ‘Fill the jars with water’; so, they filled them to the brim... the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, ‘Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now’” (John 2:7, 9-10).

This first miracle pointed to believers in the latter days who are crushed and repentant. Their sincerity, loyalty, and faithfulness will rate higher than that of ancient Israel who were given the first opportunity into God’s eternal kingdom, but they rejected it.

THE PALM TREE

The Palm tree is a survivor in harsh environments storing water in its roots, trunk and fruit.

It is a picture of leaders who remain strong and upright living in godless places. God's Holy Spirit fills these leaders with His knowledge, which provides understanding that leads to wisdom. They remain spiritually alive living in a world that is lost and deep in trouble.

As ancient Israel began their journey in the wilderness, God was already teaching them about their spiritual journey during this difficult, evil age. Their spiritual story was preserved in all of the surroundings of every camp and the details of every event along the way.

“Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water” (Exodus 15:27).

The twelve springs are representative of the twelve tribes of Israel and the seventy palm trees are the umbrella of God's perfect council of seventy. God was expecting ancient Israel to respond to His instruction. It was a struggle with many ups and downs, with ebbs and flows. God's plan will not be thwarted. He will establish a kingdom of holy, royal priests.

THE MYRTLE TREE

The Myrtle tree is an evergreen, flowering shrub. Its aromatic branches are used in ancient times in celebrations and festivals. This tree has healing properties. The leaves contain essential oils used for antibacterial and antiseptic products.

Zechariah begins his writing with a man standing among the Myrtle trees in a ravine. The Myrtle tree is a beautiful ornamental

tree. The ravine is figurative, describing a time when God's people—all twelve tribes are in a low point, but beautiful and full of blossoms, imaging repentance and goodness.

Three times Zechariah records the man among the Myrtles trees. This is indicative of a significant marker in events by God. The man among the Myrtle trees received the reports from the riders on horses. God's people are described as beautiful Myrtle trees. The world is at peace, but God's people are in great distress. It is a time still in our future. They will be invaded and scattered. Jerusalem will be in great distress. Rebel rulers will scatter God's people: Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem. God will declare his anger towards the nations. He prophesied, "I am angry with the nations that feel secure. I was only a little angry but *they added to the calamity*" (Zechariah 1:15). The nations will feel the wrath of God because they will add to the suffering of His people.

Pictured as beautiful Myrtle trees with healing properties, is the warming image God uses when His people will humbly return to Him with priest-like healing properties. God's commandments and His word are the properties that heal people from spiritual decay. Many righteous leaders will rise up among God's people and cover them with truth, justice, and peace.

God foresees the beautiful changes to come. "Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree, and *instead of briers the myrtle will grow*" (Isaiah 55:13).

"And they found written in the Law, which the LORD had commanded through Moses, that the Israelites were to dwell in booths during the feast of the seventh month. So, they proclaimed and circulated a proclamation in all their cities and in Jerusalem, saying, 'Go out to the hills, and bring *olive branches and wild olive branches, myrtle branches, palm branches and branches of other leafy trees, to make booths, as it is written*'" (Nehemiah 8:15).

Nehemiah recorded the celebration of God's final Holy Day, the Feast of Tabernacles, picturing the millennial reign of Jesus Christ on earth. Tents are set up during this celebration that lasts seven days. In times past, the roofs of the temporary dwellings were leafy branches of the myrtle and palm trees. This is an image that declares their home to be a protected haven of spiritual healing, strength, and resilience.

THE POPLAR TREE

The Poplar tree is a fast-growing tall tree that quickly provides shade and a haven for undergrowth. Just one tree has a vast root system forming a web of underground roots.

These trees image the many people who will quickly mature spiritually into leadership roles providing immediate stable governance with resources and provisions for people to come to know God and learn to live His way. A vast network of resources will be developed and established through these leaders. Quickly, the health and strength of organizations will be established and vitalized.

The Millennium will be a time ripe for spiritual growth and a full display of righteous leadership styles.

THE CYPRESS TREE

The evergreen Cypress tree is a fast-growing tree that loves water and is often planted in wet areas.

The Cypress wood is weather-resistant and needs no treatment to protect it from the environment. The wood from the Cypress tree can be used in making musical instruments. Singing and praising God will be a talent admired and cherished in the millennial rule of Christ.

King David was blessed with musical talent. “Meanwhile, David and all the house of Israel were celebrating and dancing before the LORD with all kinds of instruments made of fir or cypress wood, with lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets, and cymbals” (II Samuel 6:5).

This tree images leaders receiving generous portions of God’s Holy Spirit, allowing them to grow rapidly, and mature to come into the full measure of Jesus Christ. This leader will be especially strong and devoted to God’s law and His ways. Temptations of any type that cause a return to living in a world of lying, deception, and corruption, will be instantly resisted. They will be tested leaders who will not deviate from God’s way.

Isaiah recorded God’s vision of the future. “I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs. I will put in the desert the *cedar* and the *acacia*, the *myrtle* and the *olive*. I will set pines in the wasteland, the *fir* and the *cypress* together, so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the LORD has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it” (Isaiah 41:19-20).

God will place each leader in an office and location where they shine the brightest.

THE ALMOND TREE

The Almond tree images a very special group of people. It was the almond branch that God used to settle a grievance among the twelve tribes of Israel over which tribe God had chosen to be the tribe dedicated as His priests.

“So, Moses spoke to the Israelites, and each of their leaders gave him a staff—one for each of the leaders of their tribes, twelve staffs in all. And Aaron’s staff was among them. Then Moses placed the staffs before the LORD in the Tent of the Testimony.

The next day Moses entered the tent and saw that Aaron's staff, which represented the tribe of Levi, had not only sprouted but had budded, blossomed and produced almonds" (Numbers 17:8).

The almond tree is the first of all fruit trees to showcase a beautiful display of gentle pink and white blossoms after the winter dormancy.

To add detail to God's coded language, Keil and Delitzsch offer their insight. The complete life cycle of an almond branch appears on Aaron's staff overnight, "is a symbol of the swift fulfilment of His word." Aaron's staff sprouted, budded, blossomed and produced almonds overnight confirming the absolute decision of God's choice that the tribe of Levi would work to lead His ministry on earth. They did exactly that: initiate the word of God, demonstrate it, and teach all of Israel God's law and ways so that God's people were equipped to live righteously.

We can see God's use of the almond branch in Jeremiah's commission made absolute by God. When God chooses people, miracles happen. He chose Jeremiah before he was conceived to do an important work for Him. He was appointed "over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant" (Jeremiah 1:10).

Jeremiah was young at the time this commission was given to him and he questioned his ability. God Almighty assured him and touched his mouth. The symbolism of God's touch is provided by Keil and Delitzsch.

"The hand is the instrument of making and doing; the touching of Jeremiah's mouth by the hand of God is consequently an emblematical token that God frames in his mouth what he is to speak."¹

¹ Keil and Delitzsch, *Comment. Biblehub*, Jeremiah 1:11, 2004-2025, <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/jeremiah/1-9.htm>. Accessed April 10, 2022.

God confirmed his action by giving Jeremiah a vision. He saw the branch of an almond tree. This was not be a mystery for Jeremiah. God confirmed what he likely already knew. He said, “You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled” (Jeremiah 1:12).

“Jeremiah sees in spirit a rod or twig of an almond tree. God calls his attention to this vision, and interprets it to him as a symbol of the swift fulfilment of His word. The choice of this symbol for the purpose given is suggested by the Hebrew name for the almond tree, *דקל*, the wakeful, the vigilant; because this tree begins to blossom and expand its leaves in January, when the other trees are still in their winter’s sleep and so of all trees awakes earliest to new life... The figure of the almond rod was meant only to afford to the prophet surety for the speedy and certain fulfilment of the word of God proclaimed by him,” adds Keil and Delitzsch to their interpretation.²

Jesus understood His Father’s plan; working with people takes time and He will succeed. “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man planted in his field. Although it is the smallest of all seeds, yet it grows into the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches” (Matthew 13:31-32). God’s kingdom will grow to cover the whole earth.

THE POMEGRANATE TREE

The fruit from the Pomegranate tree is large and filled with *juice-encapsulated* seeds. The image of the pomegranate on the hem of the robe of the ancient Israelite priest was an intentional design by God to remind His people that keeping His

² Keil and Delitzsch. Comment. *Biblehub*, Jeremiah 1:9, 2004-2025, <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/jeremiah/1-9.htm>. Accessed April 10, 2022.

commandments produces good behaviour (fruit) that is rich and bountiful like the many seeds inside the pomegranate.

It is also symbolic of virility. When national leaders keep God's commandments, they seed through the church, produce, that is, many righteous people maturing spiritually and fit for God's kingdom.

God said, "Multiply and replenish the earth" (Genesis 1:28). This is all about producing righteous God-fearing and God-serving people within a structure that promotes spiritual maturity and strength.

The juice from the pomegranate is known to reduce inflammation, improve memory and brain cognition because it is filled with powerful antioxidants. Magnesium in the juice relaxes muscles, protects them from stress, lowers cholesterol, and blood pressure classifying it as a potent cardiovascular protector. It is no surprise that Solomon's temple had two columns, one on each side of the entrance, with a huge bronze pomegranate on top. God designed and created the pomegranate before creation to be a fruit with a message.

THE FOREST OF THE CEDARS OF GOD

"The Cedars of God, located in the Kadisha Valley of Bsharre, Lebanon, are one of the last vestiges of the extensive forests of the Lebanon cedar that anciently thrived across Mount Lebanon. All early modern travelers' accounts of the wild cedars appear to refer to the ones in Bsharri; the Christian monks of the monasteries in the Kadisha Valley venerated the trees for centuries. The earliest documented references of the Cedars of God are found in Tablets 4-6 of the great Epic of Gilgamesh, six days walk from Uruk."³

³ Wikipedia. "The Cedars of God." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cedars_of_God. Accessed April 10, 2022.

King David recorded, “The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, *the cedars of Lebanon that he planted*” (Psalm 104:16).

The great trees today are few; the grandeur of this wonder in Lebanon is forgotten along with the spiritual connection that King David understood. The cedars of Lebanon, those great heavenly leaders that God planted, have fallen.

Cedar trees in ancient times were used for the most prestigious buildings. King Solomon understood their great value and he ordered the finest cedar timber from Lebanon to be used in the construction of God’s temple. This was understood by Solomon to be a mirror of the heavenly structure comprising of eternally strong leadership. Through King Hiram of Tyre, Solomon obtained the cedar from the location on earth that has the same name as the location of God’s courts in heaven, Lebanon.

King Hiram said, “I will do what you desire concerning the cedar and cypress timber. My servants will bring them down from Lebanon to the sea; and I will make them into rafts to go by sea to the place where you direct me, and I will have them broken up there, and you shall carry them away” (1 Kings 5:8-9).

God’s great cedars in His heavenly court in Lebanon are leaders holding the highest, most prestigious positions. They serve in God’s centre of law, providing instruction, and judgement.

Among the cedars, God declares a splendid cedar.

Few details of the battles in heaven are recorded. What is known is the fall of God’s heavenly court, and the leader that God, Himself, has chosen to end the race of contenders for kingship in His kingdom. God’s desire for a family kingdom was always for His Son. Deciding on who would hold the highest offices with the Son of God, involves stringent testing and perfecting. Only the Son of

God, who created through the power of the Father, was successful among the “cedar” trees who entered the race.

The book of Ezekiel records the judgements of all in heaven and on earth who are sentenced for destruction. God continues to use His imagery when addressing creation in heaven. He chose a splendid cedar and that leader will rule as King of kings and Lord of lords.

The most revered in God’s heavenly courts all entered the race for kingship in God’s kingdom, but they all failed. Enough God said, “I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from the topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the *mountain heights of Israel*, I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar” (Ezekiel 17:22).

God the Father has placed “a tender sprig from the topmost shoots” and planted it on “the mountain heights of Israel.” The “tender sprig” is Jesus Christ and the “mountain heights” is the highest government of Israel. The race is over. No more attempts, by the leading sons of God in heaven, will have the opportunity to rule with Christ because they fail.

God turned and spoke to His creation in heaven and said, “All the trees of the field will know that I the Lord bring down the tall tree [those leaders in the heavenly creation] and make the low tree [mortal man to be transformed into immortality] grow tall. I dry up the green tree [the eternal rebel leaders] and make the dry tree [transformed mortals] flourish” (Ezekiel 17:22-24).

God’s discussion of bringing down the tall tree and raising up the dry tree refers to the replacement of the rebel sons of God with the transformed/resurrected saints. Jesus Christ, the Son of God,

is the splendid tree among the dry trees who will be raised up and flourish as great leaders in God's new Lebanon in the making.

God chose His trusted Son through whom heaven and earth was created. That Son of God did not fail. He proved to be again and again the trusted and sure leader. "Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a *firm and tested stone*. It is a *precious cornerstone* that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken'" (Isaiah 28:16).

God's plan cannot be thwarted. What He says, will happen. He has not briefed creation in heaven with all the details of His plan. "None of the rulers of this age [the principalities and power in high places] understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory" (I Corinthians 2:8).

Christ is the shoot that God took from the very top of a cedar in His garden [family] and planted it; it became a splendid cedar. He does the will of his Father in heaven and he will restore all things to how they were before iniquity was found.

Christ is a humble servant, God's beloved Son and himself—a God. "Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!" (Philippians 2:6-8)

Christ does not speak his own words, but directs mankind to listen to the words of his Father. "I don't speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it" (John 12:49).

Christ is loved by God. “After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!’” (Matthew 3:16-17)

Christ is a *unique* Son of God. “For to which of the angels did God ever say: ‘You are my Son; today I have become Your Father’? Or again: ‘I will be His Father, and He will be My Son’? And again, when he brings His firstborn Son into the world, he says, ‘Let all God’s angels worship him’” (Hebrews 1:5-6).

Christ has been given all authority to overthrow Wickedness. Matthew recorded Jesus’ declaration of supremacy. “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me’” (Matthew 28:18).

The upcoming battle will be the cutting away of dark lies to release truth and freedom. The image of a sword—a double-edged sword, illustrates how the battle will be won. Jesus Christ will use God’s law to convict the lawless rebels. “And from His mouth proceeds a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and He will rule them with an iron scepter. He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God, the Almighty. On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords” (Revelation 19:15-16).

Christ will reign until all enemies are destroyed. Living in sin will end; righteousness will reign, resulting in no more death. “For He [Christ] must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death” (1 Corinthians 15:26).

“He [Christ] will swallow up death for all time, and the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the

reproach of His people from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken” (Isaiah 25:8).

The final task for Christ will be to hand back supreme authority and become subject to his Father in heaven who will rule over all and through all. “When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all” (I Corinthians 15:25).

Christ, the splendid cedar tree [the greatest leader in God’s holy council] does not seek self-glory or crave power. He is the humble, tested stone, Son of the Mighty One of Jacob, the Rock of Israel, the servant angel of God, and loyal Co-creator of heaven and earth, and all things in them. He is King of kings and Lord of lords.

THE TWO TREES IN GOD’S GARDEN

The tree [leader] who specializes in the knowledge that brings eternal life is Jesus Christ; he is the Word—the tree of life. Jesus Christ is well tested. He has never failed—never sinned. What he says is the pure word of God. Listening and acting on what Jesus Christ has said is eating from the tree of life. Bread is food that symbolizes Christ’s body. Listening and acting of his teachings brings perfection into eternal life because Christ has a complete and full understanding of God’s word, hence his title of being the Word.

“While they were eating, He took some bread, and after a blessing He broke it, and gave it to them, and said, ‘Take it; this is My body’” (Mark 14:22).

Jesus said, “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day” (John 6:54).

God the Father wants to save everyone. “This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him” (1 John 4:9).

When Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, their eyes were opened to see the face of Wickedness. Eating from a tree is imagery for acting on what is heard. Listening to Satan and acting on what he says is eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan knew that creation on earth was engineered to grow in knowledge, like children growing into adulthood. Adam and Eve were not able to wisely differentiate between right and wrong. Both were still spiritual babes. He tricked them into believing that they were spiritually mature and able to distinguish between right and wrong. They acted on his advice and sinned. He led them onto a foggy path where they continued to struggle between right and wrong choices.

This spiritual teaching is all about taking in the knowledge of God’s truth—eating the bread and drinking his blood, which is the acceptance of the redemptive sacrifice of Jesus and the commitment of entering into a blood covenant with God. Reigning Wickedness in this evil age will persecute and test the commitment of believers.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil may seem like a logical choice, but the problem fully known to Satan, is that mankind grows in grace and knowledge. Only through continued growth and discipline can mankind learn to distinguish between good and evil. Satan always saw mankind as an easy target. Satan may have thought that he won the battle with the fall of man, but he is not included in all of God’s briefings. The fall of man is part of their spiritual training. God is showcasing His love in *grace* for His creation in heaven and on earth. Repentant mankind will reach

perfection. They are destined to fill every highly-valued position lost by Satan and his rebel coalition.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil is rapidly dying. People are waking up. The great witness will be completed by: the faithful saints, the two witnesses of Revelation, and the whole kingdom of Israel—all twelve nations into the 21st century, then this evil age will end. The people of the nations will come to understand that God Almighty is offering grace to everyone.

GOD IS CONSISTENT IN HIS USE OF IMAGERY

King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a tree. This is a clear example of God's coded language applying the use of a tree to represent a leader—a ruler—a king.

“Here is my dream; interpret it for me,” King Nebuchadnezzar said to Daniel (Daniel 4:9). “I looked, and there before me stood a tree in the middle of the land. Its height was enormous. The tree grew large and strong and its top touched the sky; it was visible to the ends of the earth... a holy one, coming down from heaven called in a loud voice: ‘Cut down the tree and trim off its branches. But let the stump and its roots, bound with iron and bronze, remain in the ground, in the grass of the field’” (Daniel 4:10-11,13b-14).

Daniel replied, “My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries! The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, with its top touching the sky, visible to the whole earth... you, O king, are that tree!” (Daniel 4:19b-20, 22a)

King Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom had grown to reach a world-ruling empire because the God of Israel had given it to him. Unfortunately, King Nebuchadnezzar forgot who blessed him and Almighty God had to humble him to remind him. In a single

moment, King Nebuchadnezzar was reduced to living in the wild as a beast, naked for seven years.

At the end of his sentence, King Nebuchadnezzar was reinstated as king because he gave glory to the One, true Great God praising the Most High and trumpeted, “His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: ‘What have you done?’” (Daniel 4:34-35)

Indeed, God does what He pleases. The fallen angels—rebel sons of God in heaven, will be brought down from their lofty thrones.

God’s heavenly court is falling and He will take it down completely. The members of God’s heavenly court were once the greatest and finest leaders ruling in heaven, but they all rebelled. God will judge and sentence them.

“Open your doors, O Lebanon, that the fire may devour your cedars! Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has fallen, because the glorious trees have been destroyed; Wail, O oaks of Bashan, for the impenetrable forest has come down” (Zechariah 11:2).

“See, the Lord, the LORD Almighty, will lop off the boughs with great power. The lofty trees will be felled; the tall ones will be brought low. He will cut down the forest thickets with an ax; *Lebanon will fall before the Mighty One*” (Isaiah 10:33-34).

God is replanting His garden—His family. “I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs. I will put in the desert the *cedar* and the *acacia*, the *myrtle* and the *olive*. I will set *pin*es in the wasteland, the *fir* and the *cypress* together, so that people may see and know, may consider and understand,

that the hand of the LORD has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it” (Isaiah 41:19-20).

God’s new government will be comprised of all the ancient prophets and prophetesses and the saints throughout all generations. Mortal mankind will be made immortal; they will fill the highest positions in God’s new government.

THE DELICATE, STUNNING, EYE-CATCHING FLOWERS

In contrast to robust trees, God has created delicate flowers to showcase something gentle and sweet that pleases Him. The variety of perfumes from the delicate flowers image all the different prayers offered up to God by people. Some are short, some long, some filled with sadness, and many longing for a better country—a heavenly one, whose architect and builder is God.

Walking through a garden, the perfume is like incense. “And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people” (Revelation 5:8).

Flowers are faces of dazzling colours. They image the exquisite splendour of individuals and their expressions of love, one for another. God sees the heart of each person. The righteous actions of goodness and kindness do not go unnoticed. He sees His repentant people like the regal blossom of the lily.

Hosea record God’s promise to His people. “I [God] will be like the dew to Israel; *he will blossom like the lily*, and he will take root like the cedars of Lebanon. His shoots will sprout, and his beauty will be like the olive tree and his fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon” (Hosea 14:5-6).

God is growing His garden—His family and when He is finished, it will be glorious! God's coded language is consistent and transparent. Trees are leaders. From the characteristics of the different trees, different roles are identified. Fruit-bearing and flowering trees describe the eye-catching qualities of repentant, righteous, loving people living God's way and keeping His commandments. The low-growing, gentle flowers image the humble prayers of the saints that release a fragrance that brings the eyes of our gracious LORD to look down and remember His special creation on earth.

FORCES OF NATURE

“They came to Jesus and woke Him up, saying, ‘Master, Master, we are perishing!’ And He got up and rebuked the wind and the surging waves, and they stopped, and it became calm. And He said to them, ‘Where is your faith?’ They were fearful and amazed, saying to one another, ‘Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him?’”

(Luke 8:24-25)

So many scriptures recorded in the Bible reveal the deeper picture that is so often missed. The disciples shook Jesus awakening him, terrified that they would die in the storm. Jesus rebuked the wind and the surging waves, silencing them. Then, he turned to his disciples and asked, “Where is your faith?”



What forces did the wind and surging waves mirror that would enable the disciples to silence them? The disciples responded to

each other now referring to the winds and water as “they,” entities who obey. Awestruck, they were amazed at the power Jesus wielded. If they only knew what Jesus knew, they would have known the forces attacking them that Jesus silenced with a single command.

The forces of nature on earth exist because God created them for a purpose and a mirror of the unseen forces in heaven.

THE RAIN

The great flood was necessary to cleanse the earth of wickedness that had become layers deep, far and wide. Water is God’s symbol for cleansing. His Holy Spirit is imaged as water which subdues the carnal spirit and fills them with a holy spirit—the special and unique essence of Almighty God. Water brings growth to life on earth; God’s Holy Spirit brings spiritual growth for mortals.

Packaged with sunshine, rain causes all plants on earth to grow, blossom, and produce fruit. God is the great provider of all things essential to mankind. The engineering of mankind was planned before creation. All things fundamental to their physical and spiritual life are provided by Him and used to teach mankind all about spiritual matters.

“Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy” (Acts 14:17).

God uses everyday life to mirror the process of growing in knowledge and righteousness. Morning showers cleanse the old night away and rejuvenate feelings of renewal and strength. This is the same experience of the faithful when God showers His righteousness on them.

The prophets recorded God's instructions for His people and these are peppered with imagery of farming the land. "Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you" (Hosea 10:12).

God is teaching mankind that they need His Holy Spirit to mature spiritually. Almighty God is the Great Teacher, Designer, Engineer and Architect of mankind's journey into spiritual maturity. He has the power to give life. Jesus Christ provided the mechanism for mankind to access the Father in heaven. He is energy: stable and sure. The apostles warned believers not to be tempted and fall, like ancient Israel, who craved the self-glory of greatness offered by the fallen rulers over the nations.

Jeremiah preached to ancient Israel beseeching them to put away the idols that were used to call on the fallen sons of God for help and favours. "Do any of the worthless idols of the nations bring rain? Do the skies themselves send down showers? No, it is you, LORD our God. Therefore, our hope is in you, for you are the one who does all this" (Jeremiah 14:22).

Though the rebel heavenly rulers, in ancient times, could cause severe weather changes, they were all powerless before the Almighty God, the God of Israel. God will provide for mankind on earth. God is mindful of them; they are a very special creation. He will not step back until His work is done.

"Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given you the autumn rains because he is faithful. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before" (Joel 2:23). These rains mirror seasonal spiritual cleansing that occurs in maturing believers.

THE WIND

God's Holy Spirit is imaged as water because it cleanses. It is also described as wind because it is a powerful force. Recorded in Acts, it has the sound like a violent, rushing wind.

On Pentecost, the day people received God's Holy Spirit, they experienced and witnessed a riveting act of God. "And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting" (Acts 2:2).

On that most memorable day, at the birth of a different type of church, all present were given God's Holy Spirit. They heard a loud and powerful noise of wind filling the room. God's Holy Spirit mirrors a great wind, something unseen and yet, felt with all its power and drive.

God Almighty is in charge. He calls; He chooses. Spiritual birth is a born-again phenomenon. When we receive God's Holy Spirit after baptism, God as the Great Potter, begins molding. He presses and pushes; He crushes and creates; He purifies and perfects.

Like the wind, He works. Mankind cannot see from where it came and where it will go. "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). Finally, those with God's Holy Spirit become pliable and God is free as the wind to complete His great work.

The wind remains an image of God's great power. His Holy Spirit is a unique Spirit and only Spirit that can open the mind of creation made in His image, into the world of Almighty God to learn and understand His deep things. His word is a revelation of His eternal plans for expansion, future creations and dominions. His glory will be replicated in every God-fearing and God-serving soul.

THE EAST WIND

The story of the east wind is an awe-filled picture of great power and supremacy. The east wind is well renown in the deserts of the Middle East.

Hosea recorded God's warning to arrogant and proud ancient Israel. "Though he flourishes among the reeds, an *east wind* will come, the wind of the Lord coming up from the wilderness" (Hosea 13:15).

The wind from the north, the south or the west cannot compare to the power of the east wind. Only the east wind can totally destroy because only it is imaged as the all-powerful hand of Almighty God, our Creator. God chose the east wind because His temple is in the east, pointing to the release of His power in righteousness judgement.

In Pharaoh's dream, he saw the east wind scorch seven heads of grain. "Then behold, seven ears, thin and scorched by the *east wind*, sprouted up after them" (Genesis 41:6, 23).

The seven thin and scorched heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. This is the action of Almighty God who gave Joseph the interpretation, "God has revealed to Pharaoh what He is about to do... the worthless heads of *grain scorched by the east wind*; they are seven years of famine" (Genesis 41:27b). It is the act and will of God Almighty who brought the severe seven-year famine. It was so bad that there was no trace of the seven years of abundance.

Grain is food that mirrors spiritual information and knowledge. God prophesied to Pharaoh that He will cause a severe food shortage. It will be unrelenting and people will eventually sell everything to survive. So much so, that all of the reserves the people housed, will be used up and they will buy from Joseph. The famine will not bring relief until everyone has sold everything to Joseph, even themselves.

This story lived by Joseph in his time will occur in the latter days, but not on a physical level rather as a spiritual awakening. Through the image of the east wind that caused the drought those thousands of years ago, that same force will completely absorb the succulence of traditional thought and knowledge that people hold onto so dearly and it will be replaced with God's word, His truth, and His law. The puffed up lies will be exposed. People who want to live will exchange falsehood with truth. They will sell everything for truth, pay their tithe, and become indentured slaves to Almighty God. The east wind is a powerful force throughout the Bible, used to teach and correct God's people.

The house of Judah in rebellion against Almighty God, the God of Israel, tried to escape God's punishment that brought them into a treaty of bondage with Babylon. They sought the help of the superpower kingdom of Egypt. Ezekiel recorded God's response to this rebellious action.

“Even if it [the house of Judah] is transplanted [relocated], will it thrive? Will it not wither completely when the east wind [God Almighty] strikes it—wither away in the plot where it grew?” (Ezekiel 17:10)



This verse is only a small portion of the allegory recorded in Ezekiel 17.

The use of allegories is a powerful tool for God to direct attention to beings and their actions in the heavens when they are intertwined with leaders and activities on earth. Explained by God Himself, He said, “Do you not know what these things mean?” (Ezekiel 17:12)

God then, explained the meaning of the two great eagles, the vine and the east wind. The King of Babylon is the first great eagle, Pharaoh of Egypt is the second great eagle, the vine is the house of Judah and finally, the east wind who will strike the rebellious house is Almighty God, Himself.

“He declared, ‘As surely as I live, I will bring down on his head my oath that he despised and my covenant that he broke. *I will spread my net for him, and he will be caught in my snare.* I will bring him to Babylon and execute judgement upon him there because he was unfaithful to me. All his fleeing troops will fall by the sword, and the survivors will be scattered to the winds. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken’” (Ezekiel 17:19-21).

It should be noted at this time that God is using Babylon to punish the rebel house of Judah and also Egypt later on. The heavenly ruler over Babylon was, at that time, loyal to God. Over time, to God's bitter disappointment, all of the heavenly rulers who inherited rulership over the nations fell away from ruling righteously and allied with Satan to battle against Him and force their rule over His kingdom.

God is using the king of Babylon to overthrow rebel kingdoms on earth. There may be mirrored activity in heaven, as well. God said, “*I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon and put my sword*

in hand, but I will break the arms of Pharaoh, and he will groan before him like a mortally wounded man” (Ezekiel 30:24).

God described the fall of Egypt against Babylon like a “mortally wounded man” emphasizing how weak the heavenly ruler over Egypt will be against the heavenly ruler over Babylon. This comparison illustrates the strength difference between mortals and spirit beings, as well as, spirit beings and Almighty God. This comparison also reveals that these kings are spirit beings and one will be wounded at the level likened to that of being mortal.

Often passed over is a preserved story of the king of Babylon being rewarded by Almighty God for his service of his work for God.

God also dealt with Tyre through the king of Babylon. “Therefore, this is what the Lord GOD says: I will give the land of Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, who will carry off its wealth, seize its spoil, and remove its plunder. This will be the wages for his army” (Ezekiel 29:19).

These wages were due because “Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon caused his army to labor strenuously against Tyre. Every head was made bald and every shoulder made raw. But he and his army received no wages from Tyre for the labor they expended on it” (Ezekiel 29:18).

Tyre was never destroyed, rather agreed to recognize Babylonian hegemony after a long and labouring thirteen-year siege. God said, “*I have given him the land of Egypt as the reward for his labor, because it was done for Me, declares the Lord GOD*” (Ezekiel 29:20).

The plagues of Egypt provide another example of God’s use of the east wind. By the power of Almighty God, locusts were

brought to torment Egypt prior to the exodus of the ancient Israelites. These locusts were carried by the east wind. “So, Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and *the LORD directed an east wind* on the land all that day and all that night; and when it was morning, *the east wind* brought the locusts” (Exodus 10:13).

These locusts consumed what little grain was left in Egypt. Grain was a staple food. The word of God is imaged as bread made from grain. The complete consumption of their staple food by the locusts was symbolic of destroying the last of Egypt’s core teachings, their beliefs, and their God-of-Israel-opposing theology. Through God’s power imaged as the east wind, opposition will be destroyed.

God is a relentless force driving His rebel people far from Him.

“*Like an east wind* I will scatter them before the enemy; I will show them My back and not My face in the day of their calamity” (Jeremiah 18:17).

God uses directions as a symbol. The home of righteousness is God’s temple located in the east. The ten tribes of Israel, did not repent after they were released from their 360-year captivity by the Assyrians. They lived in the area at the base of the Caucasus mountains. When God pushed His people away from Him, they moved westward. They are identified into the 21st century as Caucasians. They moved westward because God’s powerful hand from the east pushed them away from the home of righteousness to the place of unrighteousness. The place where He said, “You are not my people” (Hosea 1:9).

God Almighty corrects His people. “Though he [the ten tribes—house of Israel] flourishes among the reeds, an *east wind* will come. The wind of the Lord coming up from the wilderness; and

his fountain will become dry and his spring will be dried up; it [the powerful force of the east wind] will plunder his treasury of every precious article” (Hosea 13:15).

Under the leadership of Ephraim, the ancient ten tribes turned away from the God of Israel to serve the gods of the nations and all Godly knowledge was forgotten. They worshipped rebel angels—fallen sons of God. These ten tribes saw the great kingdoms built by the nations of the world ruled by rebellious heavenly rulers and they craved that power and the glory these nations wielded. The ten tribes were consumed with the drive for superpower status, moving west where immeasurable resources lay untapped.

“Ephraim feeds on wind, and *pursues the east wind* continually; he multiplies lies and violence. Moreover, he makes a covenant with Assyria, and oil is carried to Egypt” (Hosea 12:1).

In God’s allotted time, He will use His power through the east wind, to dry up their resources, their power and strength, again and humble them. They would be later overthrown and taken into captivity for their sins and corrupt behaviour.

The bad and rebellious behaviour of the ten tribes of Israel caused God to act and forcefully push them to the borders of the west, far from Him. After living with the curses of disobedience for hundreds of years, they did eventually awaken to their foolishness, like the prodigal son, they returned to their Father. God’s people were never rejected by God nor did He lose sight of them, despite their slow repentance. He sifted them through the nations but did not lose one of them.

“Remember these things, Jacob, for you, Israel, are my servant. I have made you, you are my servant; Israel, *I will not forget you*” (Isaiah 44:21) and “For I will give the command, and I will shake

the people of Israel among all the nations as grain is shaken in a sieve, and *not a pebble will reach the ground*” (Amos 9:9). Though they were sifted and scattered; they were never forgotten, never lost.

One of the most remembered stories among the Judeo-Christians is the story of the Exodus. The great hand of Almighty God dried up the bottom of the Red Sea with the power of the east wind, so that the ancient Israelites, all twelve tribes, would walk across a dry surface.

“Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord swept the sea back by *a strong east wind* all night and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided” (Exodus 14:21).

This display of immense superhuman strength could not be duplicated by the warring Egyptians. Their god could not do the same as the whole army of Pharaoh who pursued the ancient Israelites became engulfed in soft mud and drowned by the rushing return of the waters. All of the pursuing Egyptian army died; their god could not save even one of them.

The last verse written by the Apostle John in the book of John concluded, “Jesus did many things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written” (John 21:25).

This would indicate that the stories preserved in the Bible would be the most important ones to remember, since countless stories were not recorded. Doubly important, like a legal witness, would be a story recorded in both the Old Testament and the New Testament—both testaments. Such was the story of the saving of the people living in the ancient city of Nineveh.

Jonah was selected by God to complete a job but Jonah was reluctant. His task was to warn Nineveh of God's plan to destroy them for their wickedness. Jonah walked the full width and length of the city warning them; they listened, believed and repented. The king took off his royal clothes and humbled himself in sackcloth and sat in dust, proclaiming to all Nineveh by decree, "Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish" (Jonah 3:7-9).

The king called for both man [men and women] and beast to be covered with sackcloth. There could have existed at that time, a type of hybrid animal with a level of awareness to clothe themselves in sackcloth understanding the crucial moment of the time. The herds and flocks fasted along with men, women and beasts, but were not clothed in sackcloth. The king of Nineveh knew the God of Israel has supreme power over all gods in heaven and he repented to the only God who can forgive and save.

When Nineveh repented, God extended His grace and they were saved. Jonah was not happy with God's compassion. He demanded, "Now, O LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live" (Jonah 4:3).

Jonah knew the God of Israel would forgive Nineveh the moment they repent because he knew that his God is "a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger, abounding in loving devotion—One who relents from sending disaster" (Jonah 4:2).

Unlike humans, who want to see the wicked suffer and die before offering first an opportunity of repentance and a return to living righteously, God Almighty wants people to repent and live.

While Jonah was determined to sulk, God was determined to teach him about loving his enemies, spreading the gospel of repentance, and being joyful when the wicked hear and fall to their knees before Almighty God, the Great God of Israel.

While Jonah sat in a make-shift cover, hoping to see the destruction of a large number of people, God caused a vine to grow and cover him from the hot sun. Jonah liked the cooling cover of the vine. The next day, God caused the vine to wither and a *scorching east wind* and blazing sun beat down on Jonah and soon he became faint (Jonah 4:8). Always, it is the east wind God uses to blow to authenticate His great power.

Jonah fulfilled the job of warning a wayward people. They listened to him, though he did not care for them nor did he want them saved. Jesus, who loved the Jews and wanted them to respond to his correction cried, “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing” (Matthew 23:37).

With all of the miracles done in Judea, Jesus was rejected by many, unlike the people of Nineveh who believed an insignificant man and repented. “The people of Nineveh will stand up against this generation on judgement day and condemn it, for they repented of their sins at the preaching of Jonah. Now someone greater than Jonah is here—but you refuse to repent” (Matthew 12:41).

The crux of this story was recorded twice because a legal witness took place that will be used in God’s heavenly court on Judgement Day.

The east wind is imagery for an instrument of great power. It was characterized in ancient times by great dryness and heat, tempestuous and destructive. Almighty God used the imagery of

the east wind to reflect His relentless drive and great power in love, to correct and direct His people onto a journey back to Him.

FIRE

Perfection is not achieved without the purging by fire of everything worthless and wrong. God is at work; much of mankind is asleep, but not for long. Jacob's trouble is at the door. A time like no other nor ever to be again is knocking. The forces and powers behind it are supernatural and mankind will awaken in a fright. Foreseen long ago, God used the plans and actions of Wickedness to purge the dross off His precious people. Correction is coming; God has sent His people a message of warning and hope.

““And in all the land,’ declares the LORD, ‘two-thirds will be cut off and perish, but a third will be left in it. This third I will bring through the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, “They are My people,” and they will say, “The LORD is our God””” (Zechariah 13:8-9).

God's church is not a building, but a people purified and righteous. One-third of the angels in heaven have fallen away to join Satan's great rebellion. There is no saving plan for these spirit beings; they are destined for destruction. God loves His creation. The destruction of life is painful for God; He is doing all He can to save His creation.

God's second creation on earth, made mortal, is a mirror of life without God's Holy Spirit where a baby begins dying a birth. Though the child grows rapidly at first, a point is reached when the adult ages and deteriorates. God's creation was intended to grow in knowledge, understanding and wisdom. All believers will come into the fullness of God's word and live. Mortal mankind is the essence of grace and the essential companion of God's law

for leaders to live in love and peace. Grace is the adjective to the noun—grace-filled leadership. Overcoming is the burning journey mortals walk towards our LORD, which purges, purifies, and perfects. It is the only way; God knows best.

“As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless. He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him” (II Samuel 22:31).

God's second creation on earth is special. Their suffering on earth will forge an unrelenting desire for righteousness and an iron sceptre against Wickedness. God's family kingdom is still in the making. Rebellious sons of God in the first creation will be destroyed and righteous mortals from the second creation will be transformed into eternal children of God. God, our LORD, is the way.

“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48).

God will test with severity, the actions of mortals. Work done in righteousness will prevail, but work without a covering of righteousness will not prevail. “Their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work” (I Corinthians 3:13).

Governments pretending to care for their people will be uncovered; charities pretending to give to the needy will be revealed; news media pretending to give you the truth will be exposed; “experts” pretending to give the people an understanding of their specialties will be shamed; and Judeo-Christians pretending to serve God will fall away. Soon, everyone will be seen for who they are.

God Almighty is the Commander of change. Baptism by water is only the beginning. It will take the commitment of a blood covenant with our Father in heaven. Then, a transformation will come from severe testing, persecution, and standing up against Wickedness and its lies. Those who enter into a blood covenant with God cannot be drawn away. Attacks and persecution will only draw them closer to Him with a stronger will to serve love instead of hatred.

“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire’” (Luke 3:16).

God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29). In earthly terms, He is in a constant state of purity and purifying all that is around Him. While God is using Wickedness to test both creations during this evil age, He will burn and destroy Wickedness in heaven and on earth at the end.

“Therefore, the Lord God of Hosts will send a wasting disease among Assyria’s stout warriors, and under his pomp will be kindled a fire like a burning flame. The *Light of Israel [Jesus Christ] will become a fire, their Holy One [Almighty God] a flame*; in a single day it will burn and consume his thorns and his briers [the wicked] (Isaiah 10:16).

The “Assyrian,” who God allows His people to be tested by fire, is not a mortal man, but a fallen and very wicked being, “a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue” (Daniel 8:23). God has identified him with different names: the Antichrist, the Little Horn, and the Assyrian.

This wicked leader is doomed. “The splendor of his forests and fertile fields, it [the fire] will completely destroy, as when a sick

man wastes away. And the remaining trees [leaders] of his forests [governance] will be so few that a child could write them down” (Isaiah 10:17-19).

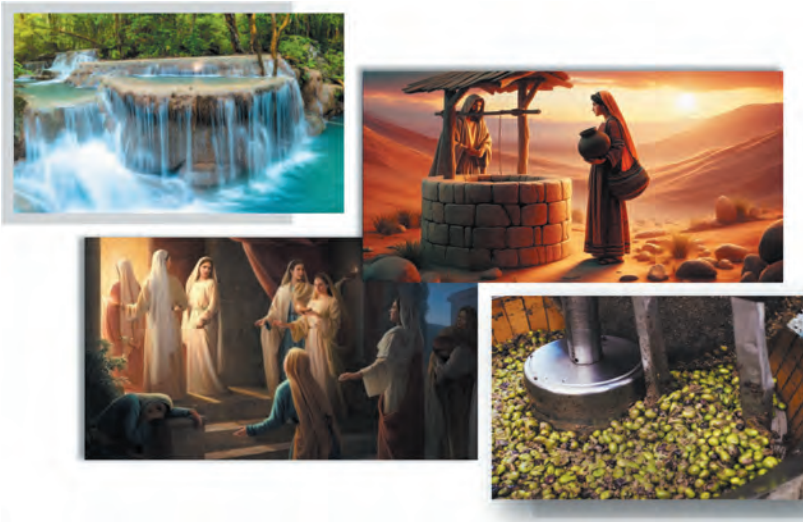
God is prophesying about the day of the destruction of the fallen heavenly angels. His once majestic heavenly rulers—angels—sons of God, who may think they are invincible, will be destroyed. In their place, He will ordain righteous people from the second creation on earth.

The righteous are molded through forces imaged as wind, the east wind, fire and rain that transforms mortals; they will be anointed into highly-esteemed positions in God’s eternal family.

WATER and OIL

*“A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; for the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks and fountains and springs that flow through the valleys and hills”
(Deuteronomy 8:7-9).*

God uses the physical elements and objects to illustrate the spiritual, unseen parts essential to our learning. Mankind needs eyes to see and ears to hear. They need to see into God’s mind and understand His thoughts, decisions, and plans. Mankind needs a transformation that forges an eternal relationship with Almighty God and our loving Saviour. The “water” and “oil” are the ingredients to achieve what cannot be accomplished as ordinary mortals.



Water is used to image God's Holy Spirit that works as a cleansing agent that flows and fills repentant believers with a superior level of thinking and knowledge acquisition.

WATER

“But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life” (John 4:14).

Baptism is the image of repentance and being washed clean through the inflowing of God's Holy Spirit.

God preserved, in the stories of the Bible, forgotten history. The story of the prodigal son is a companion to the story of Naaman, the gentile general.

It is a historical marvel that the house of Israel—the ten tribes, came to repentance, sometime during their wandering among the nations. They were a stubborn house, short tempered, proud and obstinate. Upon their release from captivity, a small voice reminded them to return to their God, for He is compassionate and forgiving. They recognized their sickly state but came before Almighty God with attitude. There was no repentance of their evil ways; they were indignant and demanding. God sentenced them with an additional seven times their original punishment, so they withdrew from God, angry, and resentful.

Their history is mirrored in Naaman, the gentile general who sought to be healed from leprosy, a chronic infectious disease. Naaman's name means “who prevails with God,” which is meaningful as his story comes to light that reflects the fallen ten tribes of the house of Israel.

Our Great Creator is infamous in His use of names and the importance He places on them. A little slave girl pointed Naaman

to Elisha, a prophet from the ten tribes of Israel. He went to Elisha and was directed to wash seven times in the Jordan River. He was insulted by the instructions, thinking the rivers in his homeland would suffice. He became angry and left. This is a mirror response of the ten tribes of Israel.

God was driving a point home. Healing comes only out of God's Holy Land. There is a distinction. Only the God of Israel can heal; the gods ruling over the nations cannot forgive sins. Gentiles cannot be healed spiritually in their lands, while ruled by rebel heavenly rulers.

During the days the ten tribes spent wandering and suffering searching for a home, they grew tired. With their heads down, this time, they approached the Almighty God for forgiveness. Their sinful behavior exhausted them. God told them to wash in the baptismal waters. This time, they obeyed His voice and to their amazement, they became a new man washed of sin and accepting of God's Holy Spirit. After Naaman was healed, he looked young and vibrant. It is an image of the ten tribes who humbly and with exuberant determination dedicated themselves to the service of God. Now, they could walk in the ways of God.

These rebellious and stubborn people became transformed into a God-fearing people—a wonder to the nations watching. The grace the ten tribes of Israel received then, still amazes their descendants today. With gratitude, they continue to give thanks to God singing, “Amazing Grace” and “Your Grace Still Amazes Me.”

The healing of Naaman, the Syrian general, was a physical re-enactment of the spiritual healing of the national leadership of the ten tribes of Israel. Jesus reminded the Jews in Nazareth of this story many years ago, which made them very angry. He said, ““And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman

the Syrian.’ All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way” (Luke 4:27-30).

Their reaction expressed disdain for the forgiveness and healing of gentiles.

Gehazi, Elisha’s assistant from the tribe of Judah, ran back to Naaman and took payment. His actions mirrored the Jews’ reaction to Jesus who was healing and bringing the lost ten tribes back into the covenant family. If the Gentiles—our fallen brothers, are to return, the Jews thought, then, they must pay. Grace, the forgiveness of sins, was for them an impossible notion because they only had the law.

The story of Naaman is rich with imagery. The healing of Naaman and the lost ten tribes of Israel are one of the same. Parallels are visible.

- Naaman, a gentile general, images Ephraim, the leading tribe of the ten tribes of Israel who were divorced from the covenant family by God and labelled as gentiles by the Jews.
- Naaman came with payment. Though the history of the repentance of the lost ten tribes is not recorded, stories in the Bible all point to their repentance and eventual reunion with their brothers from the house of Judah. The imagery of Naaman’s payment is a Hebraic practice for grace.
 - 6,000 shekels of gold followed the Hebraic sacrificial system of the guilt offering. This mirroring story records the repentance of the ten tribes who knew

the required amount. They offered a payment in gold, even though a guilt offering was made in silver. Gold keeps its shine eternally. They were determined to show God their eternal sincerity.

- The ten talents of silver mirrored each tribe with one talent showing the minimum God gives to His called people to increase and multiply. They acknowledge that they are called by Him.
- Ten sets of clothing imaged each of the ten tribes desire to change their behaviour into a new clothing—new behaviour.
- Naaman came for healing, like the ten tribes, they turned away angry when told to wash seven times in the Jordan River, failing to understand that not any river would do. This mindset reflected the carelessness of the ten tribes who habitually disregarded God's instructions.
- Naaman was encouraged to return, like the ten tribes. He humbled himself and followed the instructions carefully. He was healed; his aged body became youthful. This is a mirror of the appearance of those given God's Holy Spirit; they have a youthful spirit, energetic, and driven to learn God's word and keep His commandments.
- Speaking to the Jews, Jesus spoke of only one story where a gentile was healed from leprosy. He was mirroring the story of Naaman with the divorced brothers of the covenant family, the ten tribes labelled now as Gentiles. These gentile ten tribes of Israel were healed by Christ. The Jews rejected Jesus and became spiritually sick imaged in Gehazi's curse with leprosy for asking for payment. Jesus' priority was to save, heal, and redeem God's people.

He said to the woman, “I was sent only to help God’s lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Matthew 15:24).

Coming into the knowledge of God’s way, requires overcoming the ways of the world to willingly choose God’s way, repent, seek righteousness, and change. There should be no superficial apologies or self-righteous appearances. Change will demand a painful recognition of our sins and an agonizing tearing out of every part of the cancer that is toxic. A sincere believer will enter into the race described by Paul and run that Olympian-style competition: training daily by studying the word of God, applying the way of God, putting every effort to disciple themselves without exception.

That believer, filled with God’s Holy Spirit, will produce greatly like a well-watered tree. Not everyone will choose that level of discipline and commitment, unfortunately. The people given heavy responsibilities to do God’s work during this evil age, will suffer more than those following behind. But, shame to the person who hears the word of God and does nothing. That person remains in sin, void of any desire to love God, His ways or even their fellow man. People who remain in wickedness will be destroyed.

The prodigal son is another mirror of the repentant lost ten tribes. He returned and was welcomed back by the father, like the lost ten tribes. While they were still a distance away, Almighty God saw their return and rejoiced.

The Apostle Paul trumpeted, “All of Israel will be saved.” No longer only the two tribes, but now all twelve tribes of Israel will be saved through the grace of Almighty God. “For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them *all*” (Romans 11:32).

Washing healed Naaman. Washing through baptism, heals all people from spiritual uncleanness that leads to death.

God preserved the history of the repentance of the national leaders of the ten tribes through the story of Naaman. Traces of recorded history are found in Josephus and other historians but the healing of these national leaders is wonderfully preserved in the Bible.

The church of the ten tribes repented as well. Her story was also preserved in the Bible in the story of the woman at the well, recorded only by the Apostle John in the book of John, chapter four. This church came into repentance and accepted God's Holy Spirit when she learned about an eternal source of strength. The church of the ten tribes accepted Christ on the *same hour* (different day) as when the Jews rejected Christ.

Recorded after that fateful event, "It was about the *sixth hour*. He [Pilate] said to the Jews, 'Behold your King!'" (John 19:14) The Jews rejected Jesus as their Messiah around the sixth hour.

The woman brought Jesus to her town's people and he stayed with them two days. The number two points to a legal witness occurring, confirming Jesus as the Messiah and holding them now accountable for all he taught them during that time.

The baton was passed to the ten tribes of Israel to take the gospel to the world. Humbly and gratefully, they took it and Christianity grew into an international faith.

So many future events still lie ahead. God's people will repent and He will heal them and their land. "For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring and My blessing on your descendants" (Isaiah 44:3).

“I will also sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols” (Ezekiel 36:25).

The people of Israel, all twelve tribes, have fought against God often and yet, He will choose them again as His people, a special people. They will be eternally indebted to His kindness, His enduring patience, and His wonderful grace.

“But the LORD will have mercy on the descendants of Jacob. He will choose Israel as his special people *once again*. He will bring them back to settle once again in their own land. And people from many different nations will come and join them there and unite with the people of Israel” (Isaiah 14:1).

God has never forgotten this creation on earth. All of mankind will be offered His Holy Spirit.

“It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days” (Joel 2:28-29).

Now, on our near horizon after Jacob’s trouble, God’s words of prophecy will become a reality.

“And *foreigners* who bind themselves to the LORD to serve him, and love the name of the LORD, and to worship him, and all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called *a house of prayer for all nations*” (Isaiah 56:6-7).

Water is the physical cleansing agent for mankind and God's Holy Spirit is the life-giving force that opens the mind to understand God's spiritual world, His thoughts and His salvation plan for all of mankind.

Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:5).

God is offering all of mankind “living” water—His Holy Spirit that leads us to eternal life.

OIL

In the evil, dark world of this age, God is seeking people who are His lights to reveal the lies, misconceptions, and disinformation of Wickedness. He is molding people who light up the way to Almighty God, His truth, His laws of love, and His ways of righteousness.

High quality compressed oil burns a bright light. God is molding His people for that task—to show the world God's way of righteous living but at least half of them will not be ready to attend the wedding of their Messiah.

The parable of the ten virgins shed light on the importance of not only having oil from within but a storage also of oil. It images God's covenant people who, through the blood of Christ, have been redeemed from their sins. God had this parable recorded because it tells the story of a very large group of His people in the latter days.

THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS

In a parable, God addresses a problem with ten virgins. The use of the word “virgin” identifies a specific group of people. He is referring to a covenant, redeemed people. They were playing the

harlot, that is, binding with the theology of the nations who worship fallen gods. The people under the rulership of this rebels were trapped without any way out, except for someone who could pay the price for their sins. These rebels led the nations to aspire for power and superpower status. Their priests were taught magic arts and commanded to perform detestable rituals. God's people were attracted to the acquisition of power and glory that these nations, like Egypt, showcased.

Both houses of Israel were guilty of harlotry. "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; yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also" (Jeremiah 3:8).

All twelve tribes turned to worship the gods over the nations and became "harlots" in the eyes of the God of Israel. Through Christ's redemptive sacrifice, now God considers all twelve tribes to be spiritual "virgins." However, within this group, ten virgins have a problem.

Jesus told the parable to warn all twelve tribes of Israel, but as Jesus prophesied, only two heeded the warning and ten remain asleep to this very day. The parable filled with imagery describes ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take extra oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

"At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'" Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be

enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut" (Matthew 25:1-10).

The secrets of the kingdom of heaven are woven carefully into a story for all the read. However, keys are needed to unlock the meaning. In this parable, the significant identifiers are:

- The time period
- The kingdom of heaven
- The ten virgins
- The lamps
- The bridegroom
- The five wise virgins
- The five foolish virgins
- The oil
- The wedding banquet
- "I don't know you."

THE TIME PERIOD: "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom" (Matthew 25:1). "At that time" is the period of time prior to the return of Christ.

God begins many scriptures with "at that time" when referring to the very last days of this evil world. For example:

"At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time" (Daniel 12:1).

God prophesied to Moses about the state of His people "at that time." "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).

"At that time" is the final three and half years of this evil age referred to as Jacob's trouble, the Great Tribulation.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN: God is presently building His family kingdom. At the time of Jacob's trouble, this portion of His covenant family on earth will be like ten virgins. A virgin in God's spiritual world is a faithful and redeemed church.

The Apostle Paul had a clear understanding of God's plan and His building of a family kingdom that exists both in heaven and on earth. "For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom *His whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name*" (Ephesians 3:14-15).

God is molding and teaching His royal children. The Apostle Paul taught, "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away [from God] have been brought near [to God] through the blood of Christ... Through him [Christ] we both [those far and those close] have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple [people] in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit" (Ephesians 2:13, 18-22).

God's kingdom is a family kingdom of righteous beings in heaven and on earth. People on earth being prepared for God's kingdom,

will be transformed into eternal beings at the time of the resurrections. Presently, God's kingdom is in the process of being perfected and will comprise of only the righteous in heaven and on earth.

THE TEN VIRGINS: "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom" (Matthew 25:1).

The ten virgins mirror ten churches, one for each tribe. God uses the female gender to image a theological body of people. All of Israel will become a kingdom of priests, hence, God's continual use of the female gender to reference a church.

The Apostle Paul quoted Genesis 2:24 to reveal an important key to understanding God's coded language on this matter when he said, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. *This mystery is profound, but I am speaking about Christ and the church*" (Ephesians 5:31-32).

God created marriage, which began with Adam and Eve, to provide a living model of the special relationship Christ will have with his church. They will operate as one, totally unified in every jot and tittle of God's word. Christ, the last Adam will marry a single body of faithful and loyal men and women. The profound mystery is often God's use of imagery to teach mortals about spiritual realities.

God identifies these people as virgins because Christ died and paid the penalty of sin for God's covenant people and all of mankind. These virgins have not returned to paganism and worshipping gods. They all go to meet the bridegroom because they know they are redeemed and expecting the second coming of Christ.

While God's covenant people have a history of serving the gods of the nations and falling into paganism, but in that day, still in our future, they will sincerely call out to Him and He will hear them. It will be clear for them that the invading gods thrown out of heaven are their enemies and they are totally powerless to combat them. What ancient Israel could not see, 21st century nations of Israel—their descendants, will clearly see. They will awaken to who they are and they will burn with humble passion, a reverence and pride for their God, the Almighty.

“The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: ‘I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have drawn you with loving devotion. Again, I will build you, and you will be rebuilt, O Virgin Israel. Again, you will take up your tambourines and go out in joyful dancing’ (Jeremiah 31:3-4).

The ten virgins are ten groupings within God's covenant people. In addition, ten is often a number God uses to indicate peaceful order, a condition that results when His ten commandments are kept. The ten virgins likely mirror groupings of people who are keeping God's ten commandments, including the Sabbath. These ten groupings also appear to be pointing to Revelation 12:17, “Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.”

Revelation 12:17 indicates two different groups of churches:

1. The woman—a faithful church attacked by Satan, escapes into the wilderness for three and a half years.
2. Her offspring—churches keeping God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus do not escape, but are the target of Satan's rage for three and a half years. These

are the ten “virgins,” but only half will be ready to be invited into Christ’s wedding with his bride.

God’s covenant people, all twelve nations of Israel into the 21st century, are considered by God as a church kingdom—a kingdom of priests. “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9).

Two groups within the twelve nations of Israel appear to fall into the group identified as the offspring of the woman in Revelation who escapes into the wilderness. Her offspring become the target of Satan’s rage for three and a half years. They keep God’s commands and hold to the testimony of Jesus. This group are the ten virgins in the parable imaged as ten sleeping virgins. They will enter into the three and a half years of distress because they were not ready.

The five “wise virgins” are not the bride because Christ invites them as guests to his wedding. Jesus’ closing words in the parable are, “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour” (Matthew 25:13).

The woman in Revelation who escapes into the wilderness from Satan’s rage, is protected for three and a half years. She is a special group of faithful men and women, who do not deny Christ and endure patiently. Persecution is coming to all of God’s people. Those who follow Christ will be hated. Many will fall away from their faith during times of great distress.

The Great Harlot will open her doors for business and the whole world will begin exchanging truth for lies, faith in God for technology, belief in the healing power of Almighty God for alien medical science, devotion to the supreme God for service to

raging, rebel sons of God. After “the woman” escapes to a place of safety, the two witnesses will follow with great power, preaching the pure word of God.

The ten virgins are ten different groups within God’s covenant people who eventually return to keeping God’s ten commands and holding to the testimony of Jesus. They will not be ready to escape the great tribulation. Only half of the ten groups will be ready to enter into the wedding banquet.

THE LAMPS: “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom” (Matthew 25:1). The lamp is a key that images the mechanism to acquiring access to God and His word. Jesus Christ is that mechanism. All of these ten groupings of people, accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour; they have the lamp with them.

God uses imagery to point to specific meaning. He refers to Jesus as the Lamb in Revelation 21, because Jesus sacrificed his life for mankind. He became the Lamp—the conduit because he purchased mankind with his blood. Through him, access to Almighty God is now possible. The lamp is the mechanism where oil is placed and burned producing bright light. Righteous living is learned through Jesus Christ; he is the Word. In the New Jerusalem, “the city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp” (Revelations 21:22-23).

Christians who accept Christ and follow him have “the lamp” and as they live the word of God, they produce a radiant light. They are all producing light because they are living God’s way in varying degrees. But, as the story shows, all of them became drowsy because the bridegroom took a long time to come. They all stopped watching; they fell asleep to return to being consumed by the cares of this world.

In Revelation, Jesus urged his seven churches to overcome. He speaks well of two churches, but the light of five of them is flickering. Jesus identifies their weaknesses that is causing the light to fade:

- **The church of Ephesus—a falling church:** “Remember the height from which you have fallen. Repent and do the things you did at first” (Revelation 2:5).

This group was once devoted totally to taking the gospel to the whole world but today, they have fallen completely out of view.

- **The church of Smyrna—a persecuted church:** “You are rich... Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer... for 10 days. Be faithful, even to the point of death” (Revelation 2:9b, 10).

This group is promised a crown of their own; they need to remain strong during extreme distress and they will be well rewarded.

- **The church of Pergamum—a compromising church:** “You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam... you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans” (Revelation 2:14b, 15).

This group of people are located where Satan has his throne, which into the 21st century may be among those who preach his theology: science without God, medicine without God, technology without God, all knowledge without God. This centre of learning without God are all of the schools, universities, research centres, and learning facilities that have rejected God in their studies and teachings.

There are Christians who spend their whole life studying God's word. They research ancient writings, study languages, translations, and supporting writings from endless sources. They pass judgement on scriptural meaning and publish their work but their publications have inaccuracies. That is why Christ appears with the double-edged sword. He stands before them to pierce through the layers into their inner soul to discern their deep thoughts and intentions.

These people tolerate the teaching of Balaam who taught Balak how to get the ancient Israelites to sin against God. Balak taught ancient Israel to compromise the word of God and accept false teachings as if they have merit. Some of the people of this group may compromise, while others may not, still the compromise is allowed and Christianized, to show a stamp of approval.

- **The church of Thyatira—an infiltrated church:** “You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants...I will cast her on a bed of suffering” (Revelation 2:20, 22).

The people of this group receive a warm introduction from Jesus; they are doing more than what they had done previously. Doing more than what they have done previously, points to the national leaders, specifically of the ten tribes of ancient Israel, who have struggled to do the right thing most of the time. They are not known to keep God's commandments or establish law and order. They have a dark history of barbarous living fighting for superpower status. However, a time came somewhere in their forgotten history when they repented like the prodigal son. They asked for healing and their repentance was accepted.

Their history was scanty until they repented, then the light shone again and they were found changing their behavior, a grace-filled people learning to love and obey God. The house of Joseph is a significant leader into the 21st century. “In God we trust” is their motto. While wicked leadership often prevails, it can be expected that those seeking the right things in national leadership positions in every level will overthrow the deep state and Joseph—the righteous father of Ephraim and Manasseh—will rise up to lead the world in righteous living.

- **The church of Sardis—a dying church:** Jesus trumped, “Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God” (Revelation 3:2).

These are a people who are truly in trouble. Their work is incomplete and they are about to die, that is, become totally wicked. These people, like the people in Ephesus, do a global work within Christianity. This is evident where Jesus is described receiving briefings from the seven angels of the seven churches. Their work professes to be noble and pure, which it may have been initially but it has deteriorated to such an extent that Jesus consults the seven spirits of God.

The Sardis group may have had a focus to genuinely care for the needy, homeless, widows, and fatherless. Organizations, foundations and charities were formed to do their work. However, today, scandals of how donations are being used is coming to light. If these organizations are pocketing most of the donations or abusing the use of funds, they indeed would be in trouble with God, for they claim to serve the poor and needy, which God considers to

be pure religion (James 1:27). Instead, they use them for their own profit.

- **The church of Philadelphia—a loved church:** Jesus said, “Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it” (Revelation 3:12).

Jesus introduced himself to this church from the view of his role as high priest; he is holy and true. He tells this group of people that he has the key of David. He can lock and unlock doors and nobody can hinder him. Before these people, he places an opened door: opportunities, power, authority to complete his work. They will be part of a great witness.

Despite their vulnerability, they will not deny Christ's name and they will keep his word, during a time of great distress when everyone who follows Christ is hated (Matthew 10:22). They will understand their spiritual enemy and they will be fully dressed in the armour of God ready for battle. They will boldly stand strong against the enemy and work to save their brothers and sisters. They will keep Jesus' command to endure patiently. They understand that God wants to save everyone and more time is needed to awaken their brothers and sisters. Their suffering is lengthened but they will endure because they too, want to see everyone repent and be saved.

- **The church of Laodicea—an unrighteous church:** Jesus said, “you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked” (Revelation 3:17b).

These people are part of many churches under different names. They believe that they are worshipping God fully. They lift up their arms and sing, but they are not careful to

obey God's commandments, His ordinances, His Sabbath, His Holy Days. They know that Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever and kept them. The Apostle Paul warned Christians "not to be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings..." (Hebrews 13:9), yet, many are confused and have wandered away and they do not know it. Into the 21st century, there are hundreds of different and opposing doctrines all claiming to be Christian and Biblical.

Jesus said that he is the only Teacher. "And don't let anyone call you 'Teacher,' for you have only one teacher, the Messiah" (Matthew 23:10).

What Jesus meant was that he is the only one who understands God's word perfectly. Many of the Judeo-Christian teachers do not understand the scriptures perfectly and remain full of spots, wrinkles and blemishes. Open dialogue on meaning should be heard with a humble spirit to reduce factions and bring God's people back into the unity of one Almighty God with one theology.

An awakening moment will startle the Laodicean people from their blindness and they will remember and see. Those who overcome, will successfully lead God's people in a time of extreme distress.

THE BRIDEGROOM: Jesus Christ is the bridegroom. "And Jesus said to them, 'The attendants of the bridegroom cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast'" (Matthew 9:15).

THE FIVE WISE VIRGINS: The five wise virgins awaken and realize that they were asleep. Fortunately, their relationship with God immediately ignites and they overcome by drawing on what they know already—the extra oil with them. They will humble

themselves and follow Christ who will lead them back onto the narrow path of righteousness. The five wise will meet the standard required to enter the wedding banquet. These people are not the bride of Christ, rather those who qualify to be present at the wedding of the bride and the bridegroom.

ALL OF THEM GO AND MEET THE BRIDEGROOM: All of the redeemed go out to meet Christ, though he has not yet arrived. This brings to mind Isaiah 14:1. “The LORD will have *compassion on Jacob; once again he will choose Israel* and will settle them in their own land. Foreigners will join them and unite with the descendants of Jacob.”

God makes a distinction between “Jacob” and “Israel.” He will have compassion of the group of slow-repenting people and choose “Israel”, the wise virgins, again. The wise virgins are invited to the wedding as guests. He will settle both groups, “them,” in the land of their forefather, Jacob.

THE PARALLEL OF OIL PROCESSING AND THE MAKING OF A PRIEST: Olive oil, common in ancient times, was made from crushing the olives. Judeo-Christians who endure instruction and correction, learn and grow, and shine brightly. This principle is the same for the ten virgins. Five are seasoned, trained, disciplined, and faithful people, while five are weak, uncertain, emotional and likely unaware of their disloyalty to God.

The foolish virgins do not know the word of God very well because they have limited amounts of God’s Holy Spirit. They will likely become confused during deceitful times or too lazy, hoping to hold onto the coattails of the wise virgins, without searching and proving the truth for themselves.

OIL IMAGES THE CHARACTER OF WARRIORS: Oil is the key that images an enduring, faithful follower of Christ during times of

extreme distress. It brings change in behaviour and binding love for God's ways. It forges an intimate and unbreakable relationship with God because it is formed by loving God and His ways.

THE WEDDING BANQUET: Falling asleep, while waiting for Christ's return, is a careless mistake. Returning to follow the crowd will cause a fall into the snares of this physical world that will cost Judeo-Christians the honour of becoming Christ's wife, the New Jerusalem. The bride is seen in Revelation wearing a crown of twelve stars and she is radiant. She is a great and wonderful sign in heaven clothed in the sun, moon at her feet with that glorious crown of twelve stars (Revelation 12:1). She represents the theological body that birthed Jesus; she is the faithful church who didn't fall asleep.

"Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb... coming down from heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal" (Revelation 21:9, 11).

This structure is a body of men and women purified and perfected. They image a cube mirroring layers upon layers of righteous people who overcame.

When the cry was made, the five foolish virgins returned with the wise. They try to partner with the wise because they have a limited amount of God's word. They try to enter into the banquet through the merit of the wise. The wise tell them to buy oil from the "buyers" who are the teachers, to help them see where they need to overcome and grow. But, their devotion to God remains superficial.

They "buy" a little extra. Confident of their spiritual progress, they run back to find the door is closed. They cry, "Sir! Sir! Open the door for us!"

“I DO NOT KNOW YOU”: Jesus opens the door and says, “I tell you the truth, I don’t know you” (Matthew 25:12).

Jesus does not recognize them as his sheep—his followers, because they were only doing what it takes to get what they want when they are in trouble. They had not yet matured to come to know Christ, their Saviour and love him.

GOD’S WARNING TO 21ST CENTURY JUDEO-CHRISTIANS:

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.” God is warning Judeo-Christians not to behave like the ancient Israelites who have a long history of sin and a fleeting relationship with God, who call out only when they are in trouble.

“What can I do with you, *Ephraim*? What can I do with you, *Judah*? Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears” (Hosea 6:4).

Both houses of Israel are guilty of the same problem. “Ephraim” was the leading tribe of the house of Israel and God often refers to this house under the name of their leader. “Judah” are the Jews today who are the house of Judah.

God is perfecting His people; they are overcoming and building a lasting and enduring relationship with Him.

Luke recorded, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62).

The delay of the Bridegroom could be intentional, so that God can sift out the pretenders from those who are truly committed to obeying God and living in harmony with Him.

In the last days, scoffers will come, following their own evil desires. They will say, “‘Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the

beginning of creation.’ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and with water... By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgement and destruction of ungodly men” (II Peter 3:3-7).

The Apostle Peter reminds 21st century Judeo-Christians, “Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God” (I Peter 1:22-23).

The Apostle Peter understood the precious gift Almighty God will give to those who overcome. He said, “make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him... Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (II Peter 3:4b, 18a).

The Apostle James reminds the wise virgins, “Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near” (James 5:7-8).

Again, he said, “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that *God has promised to those who love him*” (James 1:12).

In summary, the keys that unlock the parable of the ten virgins and their meaning are:

- **The time period:** During a time just prior to Christ’s return.
- **The Kingdom:** God’s everlasting kingdom.

- **Ten virgins:** A redeemed people, addressed to ten of the twelve tribes of Israel.
- **Lamps:** Image the mechanism by which access to God and His word is made. Christ is the lamp and these Judeo-Christians have all accepted Christ's sacrifice. While many of the Jews today do not accept Jesus as the Messiah, their awakening is still in the future. God will lift the veil of stupor and they will see and weep bitterly.
- **The Wise:** Redeemed people who awaken in a fright realizing, that for a time, they had slipped away.
- **The Foolish:** Redeemed people who awaken without a full understanding of God's law and His ways. They awaken with the wise and realize they don't have a relationship with God or Christ. They think a quick sale can take place where spiritual maturity can occur over night. They race to return and Jesus responds by turning them away.
- **The Oil:** Overcomers who have oil within and a backup supply have a substantial knowledge of God's word and shine; they are not distracted with the cares of this world.
- **The wedding banquet:** The overcomers are present at the wedding supper of Christ and his bride.

This secret of the kingdom of heaven reveals an unfortunate statistic. Fifty percentage of redeemed people of a large group will not be ready when Christ returns. The warning—be vigilant, waste no time drawing close to God. He loves all of us so much that He gave His beloved Son, Jesus Christ to die for us. He is molding a redeemed people into a humble and teachable holy nation of royal priests whose loyalty and love is eternal.

THE TWO OLIVE TREES

A fascinating mystery is recorded by Zechariah of two olive trees. He was engaged in a conversation with an angel that unveiled a story, still in the future, revealing a battle against Wickedness, God's military plan, His weaponry and His guaranteed success.

“What do you see?” he [the angel] asked.

“I see a solid gold lampstand,” Zechariah replied, “with a bowl at the top and seven lamps on it, with seven spouts to the lamps. There are also two olive trees beside it, one on the right side of the bowl and the other on its left. ‘What are these, my lord?’ he asked the angel who was speaking with him.”

“This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD of Hosts” (Zechariah 4:2-5, 6).

God just revealed *who* will undertake this battle and use His weaponry. A resurrection will take place where many of the ancient prophets will work together with Jesus Christ and his seven churches to bring down the old guard and raise up God's eternal structures. The battle will be won by the power of God's Holy Spirit, not military might.

These two olive trees are the two witnesses of Revelation 11. The olive tree is symbolic of a religious leader—the rabbis, the ministry. They will preach the truth. The battle is an information war.

The Apostle John confirmed it. “These witnesses are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth” (Revelation 11:4).

God has commissioned two priests to give His wayward people and the world the final legal warning against their sins. The

number two is symbolic for a legal witness. Judgement will be made after the world knows the truth. This battle will not be a military fight, it will be the power of God's Holy Spirit to open the minds of people to see truth.

Through truth and the righteous application of His law, God will bring down the towering corrupt government [mountain] entrapping the people. Zerubbabel was the governor of Judah during Zechariah's time. He will be resurrected at the return of Christ, and finish the job given to him. He will walk on a plain. God uses that imagery to describe the collapse of all the insurmountable obstacles that were present then and remain present today under Satan's rule.

“What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain. Then he will bring forth the capstone accompanied by shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’” (Zechariah 4:7)

The great mountain—world-ruling government will be overthrown and made flat.

“The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will complete it. Then you will know that the LORD of Hosts has sent me to you” (Zechariah 4:9). Zerubbabel will finish the task given to him thousands of years ago.

The two olive trees are also described as lampstands—mechanisms holding an abundant supply of oil—two spiritually strong religious leaders who will burn brightly—radiant beings of righteousness. They will be present in God's heavenly courts against the unrepentant. “The two anointed ones who are standing beside the Lord of all the earth” (Zechariah 4:14).

The books will be opened and the legal witness of the evil actions of the world will be judged and held accountable. Justice will be

served. Repentance will be encouraged. Like corrupt Nineveh who heeded Jonah's warning and deeply repented for their sins, so God in His great compassion will extend grace to the humble and He will forget their sins. The unrepentant will be destroyed.

The nations of the world will be conquered not through military might but through the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit. Their eyes will open to the truth and they will feel the shame of their actions. They will willingly seek to worship the God of the Hebrews, as they see the peace God's people will enjoy under the rule of Jesus Christ.

"In that day there will be an altar to God in the heart of Egypt, and a monument to God at its border... the Lord will make himself known to the Egyptians, and in that day, they will acknowledge Him... The Egyptians and Assyrians will worship together. In that day Israel will be the third, along with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing on the earth. The God Almighty will bless them, saying 'Blessed by Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork, and Israel my inheritance'" (Isaiah 19:19-25).

"And many peoples will come and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us His ways so that we may walk in His paths.' For the law will go forth from Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2:3).

"He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4).

A new world is coming.

BREAD and YEAST

*“Watch out!” Jesus told them.
“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees”
(Matthew 16:6).*

Jesus warned his disciples about the effects of yeast, leaven that rises and causes dough to puff up, and yet, he described the kingdom of heaven to have the same effect. Through a parable, he told the story of a woman who mixed in thoroughly a little leaven in sixty pounds of flour and it permeated every part of the dough (Matthew 13:33).

What is this ingredient that leaves nothing untouched?



Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with the old bread, leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Corinthians 5:8).

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst" (John 6:35).

BREAD

The staple food of ancient Israel was bread. It is the imagery God uses for the fundamental knowledge of His word.

As central as bread is to the diet of Judeo-Christians, so is Jesus Christ; he is the bread of life.

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh” (John 6:51).

The imagery is clear. Follow, lean on, and learn from Jesus Christ. He is perfect in God's law and ways that God Himself identifies him as the Word.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made” (John 1:1-3).

God uses imagery to teach mankind heavenly things. “And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me’” (Luke 22:19).

Jesus too, uses God's imagery. His body is the Word; perfect and flawless. Jesus is not teaching his disciples to be cannibals, rather the image that Jesus is fundamental to their spiritual growth, development, and very existence. He wants them to remember that and not drift away to follow someone else. One-third of the angels fell and departed from truth—God's knowledge, understanding and wisdom. Jesus wants all of mankind to lean on and follow him; he will not disappoint them or jeopardize their spiritual safety.

“For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world” (John 6:33). Only Jesus Christ was able to save the world, paying the price for their sins. He only is the key to our spiritual growth and eternal life.

- His beaten body heals mankind.
- His death paid the price of sin.
- Mankind is indentured to Christ.
- Eternal life is again offered to mankind through the redemptive sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

The body is imaged as the temple of God, a perfect structure flowing with God's Holy Spirit.

“Don't you know that your body is the temple of the LORD” (I Corinthians 6:19).

God's Holy Spirit is a unique essence that is comprised of three groupings of two precious qualities. God grouped them intentionally to show that His Holy Spirit is a legal witness of righteousness, and the three groupings confirm His seal placed over them. Isaiah recorded the Spirit of the LORD and how it is grouped.

- The Spirit of **wisdom** and **understanding**
 - **Wisdom:** God's highest form—a comprehension of the deep things of God
 - **Understanding:** sagacity, which discerns the right thing to do and the right word to say
- The Spirit of **counsel** and **power**
 - **Counsel:** the processes that bring right resolutions
 - **Power:** unwavering strength to carry out the processes
- The Spirit of **knowledge** and the **fear of the LORD**
 - **Knowledge:** complete awareness of Almighty God—His character, His ideals, His plans, His ways, His desires and His love
 - **Fear of the LORD:** reverence for Almighty God bound with unbreakable loyalty.

The spirit is an essence that for mankind, awakens them to be self-aware, to think, choose, and act. God's Holy Spirit is superior to all spirits. It is comprised of six precious qualities that bring all thoughts and actions into perfect righteousness. The spirit of man was created by God and given to enrich them with intelligent awareness and an ability to make free-will choices that lead to actions. It is limited and designed by God to be just that. God is molding mankind into a humble creation of righteous priests. They will remain incomplete in many ways, until they humble themselves and allow God to finish His work in them through His Holy Spirit.

All of the precious qualities of God were awarded to Jesus Christ (Isaiah 11:2). Indeed, he is spiritually perfect in righteousness.

In the beginning of the creation of God's family, God, the Father began in heaven, creating through the Son, spirit beings who were created with God's Holy Spirit and the fundamental knowledge to choose righteously, preventing any accidental fall into sin.

God has always allowed free will. Along the way, Lucifer was the first to rethink his options and deviate from righteousness. His pride, due to his beauty, twisted his logic draining God's Holy Spirit where he began losing truth, understanding, and wisdom. A transformation and discolouring took place to reveal a dark spirit, void of God's glory, which grew to consume him and throw him deep into iniquity.

The human mind accesses information from all sources. It is important that information is tested before accepted as truth. Jesus Christ is the perfect leader for all of mankind to lean on and, in him, put their trust.

The story recorded in the gospels of the feeding of the multitudes were important events that Jesus did not want forgotten. He directly taught both the Jews and the ten tribes of Israel—the Gentiles, as part of his ministry on earth.

JESUS TAUGHT THE JEWS FIRST IMAGED IN THE FEEDING OF 5,000 PEOPLE BREAD AND FISH

Every story recorded in the Bible is filled with meaning that goes well below the surface. The disciples recorded Jesus feeding five thousand Jews and four thousand gentiles from the ten tribes of Israel. The record of these two events is filled with symbolism. He taught them that he has authority from God to teach them. In addition, his disciples would continue to teach the Jews as well as the ten tribes, after he returns to our Father in heaven.

The Apostle John was one who recorded the teaching of the Jews. It began with Jesus going up on the hillside. He selected that site to show that he has authority to teach, a place of elevation. The Jews kept the Hebrew Passover, so he planned to teach them at that time, to point to his upcoming sacrifice and their spiritual saving.

Jesus saw the people and he had compassion on them immediately because they were like sheep without a shepherd. They were law-keepers and faithful to God. He began teaching them about the Kingdom of God and healing the sick. This healing was coupled with the forgiveness of sins that he was qualified to do.

Mark recorded the push back by the priests. “And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’”

“But some of the scribes were sitting there and thinking in their hearts, ‘Why does this man speak like this? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?’”

“At once Jesus knew in His spirit that they were thinking this way within themselves. ‘Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?’ He asked. ‘Which is easier: to say to a paralytic, “Your sins are forgiven,” or to say, “Get up, pick up your mat, and walk?”’”

Jesus continued, “But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...” He said to the paralytic, ‘I tell you, get up, pick up your mat, and go home’” (Mark 2:5-11).

Both the Jews and the Gentiles of the ten tribes of Israel anticipated a Saviour but the Jews could not understand the role of Jesus and did not make the connection of Jesus with the angel of the LORD in the Old Testament. Moses recorded God’s warning to them. “Behold, I am sending an angel before you to protect you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. Pay attention to him and listen to his voice; do not defy him, for *he will not forgive rebellion, since My name is in him*” (Exodus 23:20-21).

Jesus’ name in Hebrew is Yashuah whose name is in God’s name Yahuah. The common translation “YHWH” has been adopted by the Christians. The vowels are not written in Hebrew.

God added, “But if you will listen carefully to his voice and do everything I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and a foe to your foes” (Exodus 23:21).

The angel of the LORD in the Old Testament and Jesus, Yashuah, are one of the same.

As Jesus taught the Jews on that day, it became late. The disciples told Jesus to send the people away, so that they can buy food for themselves. Jesus had other plans—a miracle that would reflect his teaching to the house of Judah. The Jews gathered in a remote

location. It imaged a place away from the teachings of the Jewish religious leaders.

“Jesus said to Philip, ‘Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?’ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.”

“Philip replied, ‘It would take eight months of earnings and still, it would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!’”

Spiritual food, the word of God is priceless. No money can buy the word of God and it is a free gift to those who repent.

“Jesus replied, ‘How many loaves do you have? Go and see.’”

“Andrew said, ‘Here is a boy with five small loaves of barley and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?’”

The boy from within this group could point to Jesus, the young man providing the food, spiritual word of God.

Jesus directed the disciples to have the people sit on the green grass in groups of hundreds and fifties. The green grass imaged a place where the word of God was rich and plentiful. The Jews were the keepers of the oracles of God and this is imaged in the green grass.

Jesus intentionally organized the people in groups of hundreds and fifties to keep with the practice of organizational order that is established and maintained in the keeping of God’s ten commandments. As the keepers of the Law and oracles of God, the Jews were grouped accordingly.

Jesus then gave thanks to God and broke the bread and gave the food to the disciples who gave it to the people. They all ate and were satisfied. The breaking of the bread was an image of opening

up the word of truth to understanding. The food was then given and eaten, imaging the obtaining of knowledge and understanding.

Jesus multiplied five barley loaves to feed five thousand people, leaving twelve baskets left over. He is even greater than Elijah who multiplied flour and oil to save a widow and her son from starvation and greater than Elisha who multiplied twenty barley loaves to feed one hundred with some left over.

Moses predicted that God would raise up a prophet like himself. "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him" (Deuteronomy 18:18).

Starting with five barley loaves, Jesus transformed the Mosaic Law into something much bigger, greater and more nourishing. The number five thousand points to people throughout eternity (one thousand) having God's Holy Spirit (five) and learning from the King of kings and Lord of lords.

The disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of the barley bread that were left over, nothing was wasted. The number twelve is used specifically to teach us about the composition of a perfect government. The twelve disciples imaged in the twelve baskets form the foundation of God's perfect government.

After the people saw the miracle done by Jesus, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." Jesus told the disciples to get into the boat and go ahead, knowing that the people intended to come and make him king by force, then he withdrew again into the hills by himself.

Jesus left the people. He knew their heart; they wanted to make him king so they could overthrow Roman rule. Jesus' first coming

was not about overthrowing the present rulership, but saving everyone through his death on the cross.

Still young in their spiritual growth, the Jewish people sought saving from the Romans, not spiritual saving. Their religious leaders rejected Jesus because they didn't want to upset the status quo that gave them privilege. Many Jews were confused about the validity of Jesus, he urged them, "If I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father" (John 10:38).

Jesus turned away from the people and prayed in private. It could be surmised that his private prayer would be a request to his Father for help, to turn these people's hearts of stone into a willing heart of flesh, so that they could hear and understand God's grand plan for all of mankind. The Jewish leaders rejected him and caused confusion for the people. Hence, they will have to wait two thousand years before they come to realize their Saviour.

"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be great, like the weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo" (Zechariah 12:10-11).

Soon afterward, another group of people were fed by Jesus. They were four thousand from the repentant Gentiles of the ten tribes of Israel.

Prior to the story of the feeding of the four thousand people, Mark recorded Jesus defining that which is "clean" and that which

is “unclean.” This was intentional by God so that it was understood by the Jews prior to the teaching of these Gentiles. Cleanliness was all about what lies within the heart. “For from within out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man ‘unclean’” (Mark 7:21-23).

After that teaching, Jesus healed a Greek girl possessed with a demon and a deaf and dumb man. Jesus was showing that he was now turning to a different group of people and healing them. In a time after Jesus had clarified what it meant to be “clean,” four thousand men besides women and children were taught. These people were not from the house of Judah. They were considered “unclean,” until Jesus clarified to the Jews what it means to be “clean” and “unclean.”

God recorded through Ezekiel, His plan to give His people a heart of flesh and what that means.

“O house of Israel... For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness” (Ezekiel 36:22, 24-29).

Jesus was stating that the ten tribes of Israel, the divorced house, are no longer unclean. His death will be the wiping clean of their sins and their re-entry into the covenant family. He fed them

personally the word of God in their territory close to the borders of the Decapolis region.

Mark recorded the details of the teaching of four thousand people in chapter eight. Again, Jesus went up into the hills showing his authority to teach and heal these people. They sat down on desolate ground after traveling three days. This desolate place is symbolic of a spiritually dead place filled with paganism. They were “cut off” for hundreds of years and lived as Gentiles adopting many of the pagan beliefs and customs. Having been at one time close, these people were now “far away.” They came prepared filled with a willing spirit to learn, but their trip home would cause them to eventually fall away from the truth, if a structure for sustaining God’s word could not be established. Hence, the establishment of the church.

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us” (Ephesians 2:13-14).

The wall of hostility the Apostle Paul addressed was the tension between the two houses of the kingdom of Israel. Great crowds came bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the dumb, and many others. They laid them by Jesus’ feet and he healed them. The people were amazed and praised the God of Israel because they were very grateful that Jesus would heal them, sinners of sinners, the divorced covenant people—the cast-out dogs of the family. With all their heart, they were grateful and the grace they received, they held dear to their heart.

The crowds were healed from their physical ailments; this healing amazed them and they believed Jesus immediately. When they praised the God of Israel for their healing, they acknowledged

that God gave Jesus authority to forgive their sins, healing them, both physically and spiritually. That was the amazement they experienced. A second God who could forgive sins. Amazing!

Jesus taught them and they listened eagerly. They began to see, hear, and walk in understanding of spiritual truth. They were grateful for their healing. Where the Jews stumbled, the ten tribes of Israel walked in ease and without hesitation.

Jesus felt compassion for both groups of people, but at different times. With the crowd of five thousand, Jesus had compassion for the people at the moment he saw them. With the crowd of four thousand, Jesus had compassion for them after they responded with amazement of their healing and praised the God of Israel. This was the repentance Jesus needed to witness before he felt compassion for them.

These people were from the ten tribes of Israel who had a long history of rebellion against the God of Israel and perpetual promises of returning but only when it suited them. Jesus accepted their repentance and he was ready to save them. Well into the 21st century, the Christians sing about grace with their hearts poured out to God.

This group of people were thrilled and deeply grateful that they were healed. They had already been brought to their knees begging to return to the covenant family. Journeying a long way from many areas in the far north of Judea, they came to see Jesus, the Son of God.

These people had come with resources and had been with Jesus for three days; now nothing left to eat. Jesus said that if he sends them away, they will collapse on the way. From a spiritual perspective, it can be said that these people were far from God spiritually. They wanted grace because they were the divorced

house who sincerely regretted the choices made by their forefathers. Their humble heart and willing spirit sustained them, until Jesus witnessed and accepted their repentance. They had to wait symbolically three days indicating God's seal on the event and their repentance verified by God, Himself. Though these people were divorced from God, through the blood of Christ, they could return to the covenant family and draw near to God.

An interesting scripture is found in Ephesians 2. "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the *dividing wall of hostility*, by abolishing the law of commandments *expressed in ordinances*, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace" (Ephesians 2:13-15).

The dividing wall of hostility was specifically between the house of Judah and the house of Israel (the ten tribes). The priesthood was determined to enforce their own ordinances, such as:

- Jews cannot associate with Gentiles
- Judgement was passed on disputable matters:
 - Meats offered to idols
 - Days of fasting
 - Foods determined "common"
- Enforce the added ordinances of the elders, opinions, and decrees by the priesthood.

The houses of Judah and Israel have a long history of conflict. Jesus came to bring the "lost sheep of Israel"—the ten tribes, back into the covenant family and remove the barrier of man-made laws, ordinances, and judgements that are not of God, so to heal and reunite the two houses that will in the future, be bound together as one kingdom, as it was in ancient times.

Like the multitude of five thousand, this group was in a remote place but in a desolate location. This image describes the areas where they live—places that are spiritually dead where paganism is practiced. The disciples asked how these people could be fed. Jesus asked, “How many loaves do you have?” They replied, “Seven.”

The loaves of bread and fish came from what the disciples had brought. Now the disciples were beginning to grow spiritually and provide the basis of the food—the teaching, that they would provide in the future after Jesus returns to heaven.

This second feeding—teaching, was to the scattered house of Israel (the lost sheep of Israel), which would be accomplished through the teaching of the disciples, imaged in them having the bread that Jesus multiplied to feed this multitude. These gentile ten tribes accepted the teachings, humbled themselves and begged to learn more. The baton would be passed to them to take the gospel to the world.

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).

The Apostle Paul said, “Therefore I want you to know that God’s salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!” (Acts 28:28)

These followers of Christ became known as Christians. “Then Agrippa said to Paul, ‘Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?’” (Acts 27:28)

Christ was successful at teaching and converting many from all twelve tribes of Israel after feeding the multitudes. The Apostle Paul acknowledged that all twelve tribes hoped for God’s promise

of eternal life and said, “This is the promise our twelve tribes are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God, day and night... the hope of what God promised to our fathers” (Acts 26:7, 6).

This statement confirms the reinstitution of the ten tribes with God’s covenant people. Jesus was successful at bringing back into the covenant family, the lost sheep of Israel. He told this crowd of Gentiles to sit on the ground. In contrast with the five thousand, these people are identified as unstructured, hence without the law of God. They were “cut off” for hundreds of years and lived as Gentiles adopting many strange pagan beliefs and customs.

Jesus gave thanks, broke the bread and gave the food to his disciples who gave it to the people. The action of “breaking bread” truly is the continual teaching that would take place.

Over the past two thousand years, the word of God has been a continual learning period as Judeo-Christians grow in grace and knowledge.

They had a few fish as well and he gave thanks for them. The people ate and were satisfied. Afterwards the disciples collected seven very large baskets full of leftovers. The seven baskets image the seven churches of Revelation who feed God’s people until Christ returns. After having sent them away, he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Magadan.

While Jesus was on earth, he taught the Jews and the gentile ten tribes, God’s law and His ways. Remembering this history was critical; Jesus urged his disciples not to forget the teaching and the miracles that took place.

He warned the disciples about the pride and arrogance of those in religious and national leadership positions. The disciples

“discussed this with one another and said, ‘It is because we have no bread.’”

Jesus saw that they were confused and said, “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don’t you remember? When I broke the five loaves for 5,000, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?” (Mark 8:16-19)

“Twelve,” they replied. Jesus was reminding them that they will be the ones to take the testimony of Jesus to the Jews, the five thousand. They are the twelve baskets of leftover bread.

Jesus' ministry taught all twelve tribes of Israel



- Lean on Jesus Christ
- All of the twelve tribes of Israel were taught by Jesus Christ, on earth over 2,000 years ago.

- 5,000 from the house of Judah
- 4,000 from the ten tribes, the house of Israel

And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?” They answered, “Seven.” He said to them, “Do you still not understand?”

The understanding of both the Jews and the Gentiles being taught by Jesus was preserved in the Gospels.

YEAST

God uses the action of yeast to illustrate the complete infiltration of corruption when people obtain power and become proud and arrogant.

Jesus warned his disciples, “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod” (Mark 8:15).

Jesus was referring to those people in the national, civil and religious leadership positions. They had become puffed up, vain, proud and arrogant. Money and power are the root of all evil.

Jesus taught his disciples to be humble servants. “The greatest among you must be a servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted” (Matthew 23:11-12).

The innocence and humility of little children is the quality God is molding in His people through Christ. God is mankind’s heavenly Father who knows best.

Jesus added, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3-4).

Humility is one of the greatest character qualities, along with compassion, but most valuable of all, is love for Almighty God and one another.

Matthew recorded a parable of a woman who took yeast and mixed it into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough and it rose flowing over the bowl (Matthew 13:33).

A clear image is visible of the effective action of yeast to completely infiltrate dough through kneading. That is the imagery God is showing His people. The gospel will go out to all creation on earth; nobody will be left untouched or unaware.

The yeast is the teaching of the word of God that spreads from little into the whole. Five plus seven loaves of bread totals twelve loaves that were broken by Jesus. The twelve disciples and the seven churches were commissioned to continue until it is kneaded into the whole world.

The gospel will go to the whole world. It will be “preached as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).

The teaching of the gospel to the world has already started, but the Great Tribulation will bring many into repentance. “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands” (Revelation 7:9).

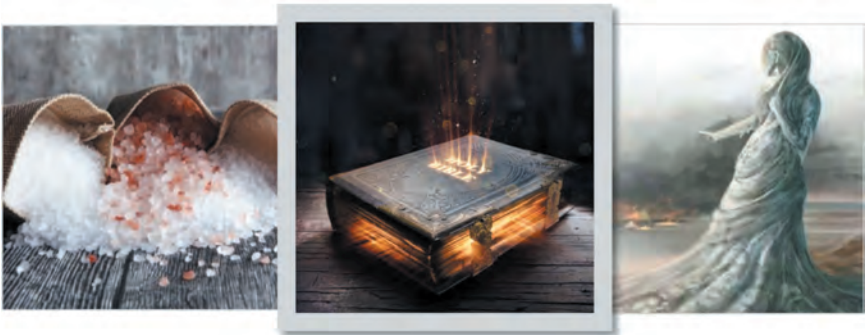
God will pour out his Holy Spirit in the last days. “I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams” (Acts 2:17, Joel 2:28).

The yeast images the complete work that will be done of the teaching of the word of God and it will overflow to cover the whole world. The burdens of the world will become light when they all begin to hear the word and live the way of God.

SALT

*“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt,
so that you may know how you ought to answer each person”
(Colossians 4:6).*

Salt is an essential mineral that when applied to food, brings out the flavours that would otherwise remain hidden. God created salt with that special quality. It was His intention from the beginning to use it as a teaching metaphor that is easily understood by mankind who apply salt in their daily lives for multiple purposes.



Speech seasoned with salt is a conversation where the meaning is brought out from the muddled language of deceivers. God wants believers to be forgiving and kind in their conversations with each other, while at the same time, using clear and easy-to-understand language so that the truth is brought out from misinformation and disinformation.

God describes the righteous as the salt of the earth. This is a description of people who are preserving and saving the people on earth when they teach them God’s law and His ways of loving one another and loving Him, the Great Creator. It also reflects the

spiritual healing that takes place as people overcome and turn away from carnal behaviour that hurts and destroys to humble responses that care and protect one another.

Jesus said, “*You are the salt of the earth*, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet” (Matthew 5:13).

The image of people losing their saltiness is the return to living carelessly, polluting honesty with lies and falling back into deception. There is no saving plan for people who return to the old ways of darkness. They will be destroyed—trampled under the feet of the righteous.

In ancient times, the offerings given to God were always seasoned with salt, “*You shall season all your grain offerings with salt*. You shall not let the salt of the covenant with your God be missing from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt” (Leviticus 2:13).

God wanted the Israelites to live righteously and their offerings to Him to be genuine, humble acts of repentance and deep sorrow for the harmful effects of living in sin. Salt added to the offering acknowledged the importance of the preservation and healing that comes from living God’s laws and His way. It is symbolic of an everlasting agreement with the focus on the relationship between two or more parties—maintained by an added element—a distinctive quality typified in one of enduring character.

The old expression “worth your salt” goes back in time when salt was attached to money. It carries the message that those who are good at the work they do, are respected and recommended. It is the lingering memory of God’s warning to hold onto your saltiness—good character, quality work in all you do.

Salt is also associated to the keeping of promises. Honest people will keep their word.

“Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes of the people of Israel, saying, ‘This is what the LORD has commanded. If a man vows a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth’” (Numbers 30:1-2).

God taught the ancient Israelites the importance of honesty and integrity. These qualities are woven into covenants with Him and are referred to as a covenant of salt. God is honest and true. The covenants He makes, He keeps and will never break. God promised David that he will be king over Israel forever.

“Ought you not to know that the Lord God of Israel gave the kingship over Israel forever to David and his sons by a covenant of salt?” (II Chronicles 13:5)

The fall and scattering of the twelve tribes of Israel has temporarily suspended David’s family rule. During the Millennial reign of Christ, God will fulfill His covenant of salt with David and he will rule over the twelve tribes of Israel again and forever. The kingdom of Israel will reunite as one and the people will choose David as their king.

“My servant David will be king over them, and there will be one shepherd for all of them. They will follow My ordinances and keep and observe My statutes. They will live in the land that I gave to My servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They will live there forever with their children and grandchildren, and My servant *David will be their prince forever*” (Ezekiel 37:24-25).

When the twelve tribes of Israel entered into the promised land, they all received land—their own territorial homes, except for the

Levites who were their priests. God promised to care and provide for the Levites by giving them portions of the sacrifices and tithes from the people. This was a covenant of salt made by God.

“All the holy contributions that the people of Israel present to the Lord I give to you, and to your sons and daughters with you, as a perpetual due. It is a *covenant of salt forever* before the Lord for you and for your offspring with you” (Numbers 18:19).

Salt is that essential mineral that is used to savour and preserve food, as well as a medicinal benefit. Too much salt has the opposite effect. Plant life cannot be sustained in salt pits. Too much irrigation of farmland without sufficient drainage will cause the land to become unproductive and eventually a wasteland because it carries salt.

God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah using brimstone and salt to completely destroy those cities, along with their allied cities of Admah and Zeboiim. The people in these cities were involved in the same strange and forbidden practices with fallen angels. The perversion involved a breeding formula between fallen angels and humans.

“‘All its land is brimstone and salt, a burning waste, unsown and unproductive, and no grass grows in it, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which the Lord overthrew in His anger and in His wrath.’ All the nations will say, ‘Why has the Lord done thus to this land? Why this great outburst of anger?’ Then men will say, ‘Because they forsook the covenant of the Lord, the God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt’” (Deuteronomy 29:23).

God used fire—brimstone—to destroy the evil within the cities and heavy amounts of salt to clean but not restore. An example

was made as a lesson for many generations to come. Abraham's nephew fled Sodom before God destroyed the city. Lot's wife looked back with longing; she believed in what they were doing as if it was good. God turned her into a pillar of salt; she became a memorial of God's intolerance to such perversion.

“And the angels who did not stay within their own domain but abandoned their proper dwelling—these He has kept in eternal chains under darkness, bound for judgement on that great day. In like manner, Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, who indulged in sexual immorality and pursued strange flesh, are on display as an example of those who sustain the punishment of eternal fire” (Jude 1:6-7).

A seasoning of salt brings out the deeper and richer flavours within the food, so the teachings of the righteous who enlighten with precision and clarity, God's truth and His way of life.

In contrast, death by salt saturation is God's sentence of catastrophic sterility—an abrupt final ending and complete cleansing of detestable perversions.

God gives His creation free will to choose; He wants His creation to choose life.

“I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you today that I have set before you, life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore, choose life, so that you and your descendants may live, and that you may love the LORD your God, obey Him, and hold fast to Him. For He is your life, and He will prolong your life in the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob” (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).

Choose life.

BARLEY, WHEAT and GRAPES

“THREE TIMES A YEAR you are to celebrate a feast to Me” (Exodus 23:14).

“The THREE ANNUAL APPOINTED FEASTS—the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles” (11 Chronicles 8:13).

God’s seal is on His three celebrations. These holy days, God’s celebrations, were taught to His people as part of revealing His timeline of His salvation plan for His people and all of mankind. God does not hide His grand plan from mankind. On the contrary, He is doing all He can to teach His people every detail of it. The three annual appointed feasts celebrate three harvests, which image three resurrections into life eternal.



Barley is the first grain to ripen in spring and this harvest images the first resurrection of men and women at the time of Christ’s return. The wheat harvest takes place in summer; it is an image of the second resurrection. The harvest of the grapes is the last resurrection that brings judgement and death on the unrepentant. It then will bring life eternal for the remaining people, though

slow to come into repentance, humbly seek God at the end of the Great Tribulation. Each harvest has its own story.

BARLEY

Barley is produced from the land and is one the first of grains to be harvested in the Middle East. The spiritual story of barley is the announcement of the first resurrection of the righteous on earth.

God's Holy Days provide the timeline for God's plan for mankind beginning with His people. The resurrections to come are mirrored in the grain harvests. Barley ripens around Passover in the Middle East, the home of ancient Israel. The death angel passed over the firstborn before ancient Israel began their exit out of Egypt. This was the great joyous message God was teaching His people. Christ's sacrifice was foreknown to be accepted, hence the blood of the sacrificed lamb brushed on the door post. This annual celebration teaches God's people about the first resurrection of men and women imaged as the first to be born into eternity from creation on earth. The death of the firstborn sons of the Egyptians prior to the exodus of ancient Israel, was a direct message to Pharoah, the heavenly king over Egypt, that there will not be a first resurrection of his people into eternity. His people will have to wait for the second resurrection. Jesus Christ is the first of the firstborn. He was resurrected at the time of the barley harvest.

The wave-sheaf offering took place on the day after Passover. Barley was offered to God. This celebration takes place during the month of Abib, which means "green ears." It is a direct reference to the ripening of barley in that month. In ancient times, the determination of when the Passover would be kept, was done by the priests. They inspected the ears of barley, which is a mirror of God inspecting the people who will be in the first resurrection and determining whether they are ready.

Dr. Stephen E. Jones of God's Kingdom Ministries provides valuable insight into the imagery of barley and the harvest.

“Jesus presented Himself before His Father in the heavenly Temple at the time the priest waved the barley sheaf in the earthly temple. The waving motion, up and down, signified resurrection. Though Jesus had actually been raised from the dead “very early in the morning” (Luke 24:1), He did not allow Mary to touch Him prior to the wave-sheaf offering (John 20:17). Not until the wave-sheaf offering was Jesus declared legally alive in the court of heaven.

When God was dealing with Pharaoh to allow Israel to leave, He sent ten plagues upon Egypt. The seventh plague was that of hail, which destroyed the barley and flax, but not the wheat and spelt. (This occurred just prior to the Passover, which took place with the tenth plague, the death of the firstborn.) We read:

“Now the flax and the barley were ruined, for the barley was in the ear, and the flax was in bud. 32 But the wheat and the spelt were not ruined; for they ripen late” (Exodus 32:31-32).

The barley was ripe and eared out just prior to that first Passover. But the wheat was not yet ripe.”⁴

⁴ Dr. Jones, Stephen E.. “Chapter 2: The Barley Harvest.” *God's Kingdom Ministries*, <https://godskingdom.org/studies/books/the-barley-overcomers/chapter-2-the-barley-harvest/>. Accessed June 4, 2022.

A SIDE NOTE

The seventh plague of hail and thunder was a warning to Pharaoh that if he and his people did not repent of their sins, their firstborn will die. Pharaoh, ruler on earth, understood the spiritual message and knew very well that the heavenly gods he worshipped could not match the God of Israel. And, he knew that he and his people were sinning against the Supreme God.

“Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron, ‘This time I have sinned,’ he said to them. ‘The LORD is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong. Pray to the LORD, for we have had enough thunder and hail. I will let you go; you don’t have to stay longer’” (Exodus 9:27-28).

“When Pharaoh saw that the rain and hail and thunder had stopped, he sinned again: He and his officials hardened their hearts” (Exodus 9:34).

Pharaoh knew full well, that the Egyptian leadership had led their whole kingdom into sin. After the plague of locusts, Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses again, crying, “I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. Now forgive my sin once more and pray to the LORD your God to take this deadly plague away from me” (Exodus 10:16).

The God of Israel was teaching the Egyptians about His supremacy over all of the heavenly rulers over the nations. The heavenly ruler over Egypt had turned against the Almighty God and in his rebellion, he claimed to be a creator of the great Nile River. God considered the fallen heavenly ruler a monster living in sin and dragging everyone down with him.

“Son of man, set your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt and prophesy against him and against all Egypt. Speak to him and tell him that this is what the Lord GOD says: ‘Behold, I am against you,

O Pharaoh king of Egypt, O great monster who lies among his rivers, who says, “The Nile is mine; I made it myself.” But I will put hooks in your jaws and cause the fish of your streams to cling to your scales. I will haul you up out of your rivers, and all the fish of your streams will cling to your scales” (Ezekiel 29:2-4).

The heavenly rulers over the nations understood God’s plan to resurrect repentant mankind. They appeared to be competing to qualify their people for the first resurrection. Each heavenly ruler eventually sinned and turned against God. His message to Pharaoh was clear: the Egyptians would not be part of the first resurrection.

Pharaoh admitted that he and his people were sinners. God hardened the heart of Pharaoh to multiply the impact of the miracles done through Moses and Aaron. He was teaching the people of Egypt that the gods they worshipped were powerless before the God of Israel and He is the Supreme God over all gods.

This has been the battle all throughout ancient times and will occur again during the Great Tribulation, and again, at the end of the Millennium when Satan is released and God calls Gog of Magog to war. Gog and those with him are the last remaining rebel rulers in heaven. God has saved their overthrow and destruction for last. The nations will learn that the God of Israel is Supreme, All Powerful and their Great Creator.

“I will execute judgement upon him [Gog] with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him. And so, I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 38:22-23).

Dr. Stephen Jones understands the pattern and imagery God uses to bring transparency into the great spiritual story of the salvation of mankind.

“We see another example of this forty years later, when Israel was ready to cross the Jordan. Joshua sent two spies to Jericho. It was the time of Passover (Joshua 5:10), and Rahab hid the spies under stalks of flax (Joshua 2:6). Flax ripened at the same time as barley, as we saw from Exodus 9:31. Linen comes from flax. It was used to make priestly garments, and in Revelation 19:8 we see that “*fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*”

The week after Passover is also called the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The people were required to remove all leaven from their houses for a full seven days. Leaven is symbolic of sin; thus, removing the leavened bread depicts the removal of all sin from one's house (body). This is the same symbolism as we find in flax, for to be clothed in flax (linen) is to depict putting on the righteousness of Christ. So all of these things work together, woven into a complete picture of the plan of God for Christ and the overcoming body. The body of Christ (the overcomers) who are identified with their Head will soon follow Him in the first resurrection.”⁵

Rightly so, he concluded that the overcomers are imaged as barley. It is the produce grown on land that is significant because the land is imaged as the place of the living. God doesn't refer to plants that are grown in the sea, like seaweed or plankton, as an

⁵ Dr. Jones, Stephen E.. “Chapter 3: Barley Stories.” *God's Kingdom Ministries*, <https://godskingdom.org/studies/books/the-barley-overcomers/chapter-3-barley-stories/>. Accessed June 4, 2022.

image for a harvest that represents a resurrection. This is because the sea is not the place God uses to image those who are growing in grace and knowledge, and living in righteousness filled with God's Holy Spirit. The sea is the image of those dying spiritually. When the new earth and new heaven are created, there will be no sea—no haven for Wickedness. It is on the land where God seeds and harvests. Barley images a special type of believer.

Dr. Jones unveils stories that support God's imagery of the barley harvest, which point to people who will be in the first resurrection, and in the case of Gideon, he and his remnant overthrow the enemy.

Gideon: The Cake of Barley

“Gideon is an interesting Bible character, because his ministry reveals not only the character of the barley company, but also shows it in relation to the wheat and the grapes. Israel had been forced to pay tribute to the Midianites for seven years (Judges 6:1). When Israel finally repented and cried out to God for deliverance, God sent them a prophet to give them a history lesson (Judges 6:8-10). This was to show them why God had brought this captivity upon them. As Paul wrote many years later, these history lessons were written for our learning. They are examples of how God deals with men and nations.

When the people repented at the word of the prophet, then God sent an angel to commission Gideon as a judge, or deliverer, to save Israel. The angel found Gideon threshing wheat in a winepress (Judges 6:11). Since it was wheat harvest time, we know that this call came in early summer at the

time of Pentecost, for that is the time wheat ripened.

Gideon's threshing wheat in the winepress depicts the calling to remove the chaff (carnal nature) from the wheat (the Church). The winepress signifies judgement that is normally reserved for unbelievers and yet somehow applied to the Church. Gideon's actions here are striking, because one does not normally thresh wheat in a winepress, but on a hilltop where the wind can blow the chaff away. This seeming incongruity is matched only by the statement in Revelation 14:18, which says:

“And another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe.”

One does not harvest grapes with a sickle, any more than one threshes wheat in a winepress! These are highly symbolic things, but the main thing for our purpose is to show that the wheat company (non-overcoming Church) will undergo trial by fire to see if their works are made of wood, hay, and stubble (I Corinthians 3:12).⁶

Gideon was called by God to lead the overthrow of the Midianites. Ancient Israel was ready to be rescued by Him. God chose only three hundred to fight with Gideon against 120,000 Midianites

⁶ Dr. Jones, Stephen E.. “Chapter 3: Barley Stories.” *God's Kingdom Ministries*, <https://godskingdom.org/studies/books/the-barley-overcomers/chapter-3-barley-stories/>. Accessed June 4, 2022.

and their allies. This was to showcase the strength of Almighty God. Gideon was reluctant to take on the Midianites. God assured him and said, “I will be with you, and you will strike down the Midianites, as if they were but one man” (Judges 6:16).

Gideon asked for a sign of proof that it was Almighty God speaking and gave Him an offering. Ancient Israel was deep into the practices of the pagan people around them. Gideon cut down the Asherah pole and destroyed the altar of Baal. The people of his town were very angry when they saw what he did. Opposition among your own people will always be present. Gideon asked God for another sign that He would save His people. He said, “I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said” (Judges 6:36).

He woke up early the next morning and the fleece was soaking wet and the ground dry. Still, hesitant he asked God again to prove Himself. This time, he asked for the ground to be wet and the fleece dry. God did as he asked and Gideon was convinced.

Three hundred men with Gideon camped on the hill. The vast army in the valley was a terrifying sight. God told Gideon to go down and spy out the camp of the Midianites and he will hear something that will encourage him. So, Gideon and his servant went and he heard a Midianite sharing his dream, “I had a dream. A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed.”

His friend responded, “This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands” (Judges 7:13-14).

God's imagery is providing details on a spiritual level. Even the number three hundred has meaning. Three indicates God's seal on an event and one hundred (10 x 10) is a multiplied legal witness of judgement against the Midianites and their allies by God.

The round barley bread is an image of Gideon with his three hundred men. They represent the people in the first resurrection who will overthrow the vast army at Armageddon. Gideon's battle is a mirror of the overthrow of armies of the nations against Almighty God in the future.

Dr. Steven Jones provides an interesting interpretation of how Gideon and his three hundred men will succeed.

“The manner in which Gideon's army defeated the enemy tells us HOW the overcomers of today will receive the promise.

Each of the men in Gideon's army was given a trumpet and a torch inside an earthen jar, or pitcher. With little oxygen in the jar, the torches could only glow. At the signal, they blew their trumpets and broke the jars, holding up the torches in the air, causing them to burst into flames.

The trumpet signifies the Feast of Trumpets, which prophesies of the first resurrection when the trumpet sounds. The Feast of Trumpets occurs on the first day of the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar. Since they blew the trumpet on the first day of each month to mark the calendar, the Feast of Trumpets is the seventh trumpet. It is the final trumpet in the series of feast days laid down in the law. Of this event, Paul speaks in I Corinthians 15:52, saying,

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.”

When Gideon’s army blew the trumpets, they prophesied of the resurrection of the dead, and this was the first event by which the enemy was conquered. Likewise, it is the first prophetic event that will occur in the events leading up to the second coming of Christ.

The second event deals more with those believers who are living at the time of the second coming of Christ. The torches within the pitchers signify the hidden presence of God in our bodies—the earthen vessels. Nine days after blowing the trumpet for the first resurrection comes the Day of Atonement and the Jubilee. These bodies of death will be broken. The debt that Adam incurred will be cancelled.”⁷

Dr. Stephen E. Jones interprets the bright light bursting out of the earthen vessels as a resurrection into immortality. God chose the 300 men who drank directly from the river, leaving those who cupped the water in their hands to wait behind. This points to God selecting those receiving a direct flow of God’s Holy Spirit.

Certainly, the timing of the seventh trumpet corresponds to the Feast of Trumpets—the return of Christ—the resurrection of the saints. The bright light that bursts out from the breaking of the earthen vessels can also image the power and force of God’s truth

⁷ Dr. Jones, Stephen E.. “Chapter 3: Barley Stories.” *God’s Kingdom Ministries*, <https://godskingdom.org/studies/books/the-barley-overcomers/chapter-3-barley-stories/>. Accessed June 4, 2022.

trumpeted by the saints. Battles at that time will be won not by military might and power but by God's Holy Spirit, when truth will flood across this planet, unveiling the lies and deceit during Satan's rulership on earth.

God's coded language is all about transparency. A quick review of Gideon's story shows:

- Three hundred men are few, by comparison to the enemy of 120,000. God is all powerful and He showcases His strength with only a small group.
- Those who have the strength to stand against the enemy need to be filled with God's Holy Spirit, hence, God's choice to select those who drank directly from the river.
- Sounding the trumpets are the markers along God's timeline for the salvation of all of mankind.
- The explosion of light by the breaking of the earthen vessels is a beautiful image of the radiant bodies of the resurrected simultaneously showcasing the power of God's word bursting out.
- The battles in the future will not be won by military power but by God's Holy Spirit. God wants to save everyone. Through truth and grace, God's holy church will nurture the nations into coming to God on their own free will.

God's penmanship is rich in detailed imagery, foreshadows, mirroring, and reflections that are layers deep. He moves out of time into limitlessness with a stroke of a pen.

WHEAT

In the Middle East, wheat ripens around Pentecost, it points to the church as it was formed on Pentecost. This story is rich in imagery:

- 50 days after the Passover
- The 50th year is the Jubilee
- Jubilee is symbolic of the millennial reign of Christ.

While the believers imaged as barley and wheat exist throughout time, the barley group are different because they have bound themselves to a blood covenant with God bringing them into a full commitment with Him, while the people imaged as wheat mature later. Their spiritual growth develops fully during a time of great distress imaged in God's use of threshing to successfully harvest the grain.

The differences between barley and wheat have a spiritual significance.

Barley	Wheat
Harvested in Spring	Harvested in Summer
Longer beard	Shorter beard
Barley spikes bend	Wheat spikes are straight
Barley is ready for harvest when yellow-white in colour	Wheat is ready for harvest when golden brown
Barley is winnowed; chaff easily blows away	Wheat is threshed; chaff difficult to release

There are only a few differences between the barley and the harvest group. God differentiates between those who mature spiritually without His heavy hand and those who need an awakening before they mature into the fullness of Christ. Barley is winnowed to remove the chaff; a gentle wind is enough for the

chaff to fall. Wheat is threshed. It is beaten because the chaff is difficult to release.

Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after the Passover. The number fifty symbolizes a new beginning. It is the year of Jubilee when all debts are forgiven. It is also a symbol of the future outpouring of God's Holy Spirit, filling the people of God. Traditionally, it was the season when ancient Israel harvested their wheat.

On Pentecost, the high priest of ancient Israel presented two loaves. The two loaves image the two houses of Israel: the house of Judah and the house of Israel in a sinful state because the loaves are leavened. The kingdom of Israel is God's church; it is a church kingdom.

This church kingdom was reborn on Pentecost 33 A.D.. This body will not be limited to God's covenant people, but it will eventually include people from nations all over the world. However, God works in an orderly manner. Ancient Israel initiated the first step on the day Almighty God spoke the law at Mount Sinai from heaven. His voice echoed like a great boom of thunder causing flashes of lightning. Trumpets were sounded and the people saw smoke covering the mountain. The people were immediately afraid. They all kept their distance and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die" (Exodus 20:19).

These few verses describe a people without God's Holy Spirit, without a relationship with God, and without an understanding of the devotion and dedication necessary to overcome the wiles of this evil age and stand firmly against evil. John the Baptist baptized with water, but Jesus' redemptive sacrifice opened the door again for life eternal, which comes with the baptism of the Holy Spirit and of fire. Ancient Israel withdrew from overcoming;

it was simply not possible for them because the Holy Spirit could not be offered to them until the redemptive sacrifice of Christ.

The Mount Sinai event was the lesson for 21st century Judeo-Christians because they will enter the fire of the Great Tribulation and it will either purify or destroy them. Those who accept the challenge will be filled with God's Holy Spirit allowing them to mature into the fullness of Christ.

“And in Him, having heard and believed the word of truth—the gospel of your salvation—you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the pledge of our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession, to the praise of His glory” (Ephesians 1:12-13).

The church kingdom is still in its infancy. The promised Holy Spirit is trickling into the body of Christ. The Great Tribulation, Jacob's trouble, will create the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit so that God's church kingdom can mature and be the example God had planned long ago.

“And afterward, I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on My menservants and maidservants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days” (Joel 2:28-29).

The parable in Matthew of the weeds provides a briefing of the outcome of the wheat harvest. It will be done at the end of this evil age and the harvesters will be the angels (Matthew 13:39b). The wheat is mixed with weeds because the enemy of God sowed his weeds among the recently sowed wheat. The plants grow up together. While the young growth may appear to be the same, as each plant forms heads, the distinction becomes clear. The wheat images the people maturing in God's grace and knowledge, while

the weeds image people bent on living in corruption and theft, lies and deception, murder and all forms of evil.

God wants to save everyone, but His church kingdom will not include people who refuse to submit and obey Him. God's people will be the centre of the upcoming fiery testing. Not all of God's people will enter into the millennial reign of Christ. "And in all the land, declares the LORD, two-thirds will be cut off and perish, but a third will be left in it. *This third I will bring through the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are My people,' and they will say, 'The lord is our God'*" (Zechariah 13:8-9).

The people in the churches who wake up from their stagnating spiritual growth, during the time of great distress, and overcome by igniting their passion for God and following Christ wherever he goes, will be saved. Those who remain weak and choose to slide into an unsavable rebellious state will be destroyed.

John the Baptist understood the forces of fire that will purify and strengthen or expose and destroy. He said, "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering the wheat into his barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire" (Matthew 3:11-12).

The wheat harvest is the image of the second resurrection of people transformed into their eternal, glorious bodies. This harvest will include many people. The final harvest will decide the fate of the remaining few who will have to prove their sincerity by their blood.

GRAPES

The story of the harvest of grapes is comprised of two choices. One will bring a great celebration and the other a crushing blow.

The death angel of Revelation is called to work. “Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, ‘Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth’s vine, because its grapes are ripe’” (Revelation 14:18).

“Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full; the wine vats overflow because their wickedness is great” (Joel 3:13).

The people imaged as overripe, rotting grapes are people determined to live wickedly. They are unrepentant and sold completely and fully into sin. These will be trodden under the feet of the righteous.

“Then you will trample on the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act,” says the LORD Almighty” (Malachi 4:3).

The destruction will likely occur through the application of the law, judgement, and sentencing. God’s people will clean up their institutions and appoint righteous judges and law-enforcing officials at every level. Rebels will be judged, sentenced, and destroyed.

From the same fruit, one dies and another lives. A crushed people will repent and choose life eternal. God will see these late fruit-bearing people and offer them grace. Their suffering will forge an eternal relationship with God.

Christ's rule during the Millennium will be a one-thousand-year rule of peace and righteousness. It is imaged in the annual celebration of the Feast of Booths also known as the Feast of Tabernacles/Sukkot. The final harvest of grapes will have taken place and the wine vat will be full.

The Fall Holy Days foretell of great celebrations that rest on our near horizon. "You shall celebrate the Feast of after Booths seven days you have gathered in from your threshing floor and your wine vat; and you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter and your male and female servants and the Levite and the stranger and the orphan and the widow who are in your towns. Seven days you shall celebrate a feast to the Lord your God in the place which the Lord chooses, because the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful" (Deuteronomy 16:13-15).

Barley and wheat are grains used to make bread, imaged in the word of God. Harvesting grapes that make wine, requires crushing to break the skin and release the juice. God's supper table is comprised of both bread and wine. Christ's body imaged as bread, God's word and his blood imaged in the wine together represent the two core components of righteous character: living perfectly by God's word and binding to a blood covenant of eternal trust, faith and loyalty to Almighty God.

An interesting time will draw the nations of the world to wonder and watch. Resurrections will take place in God's Holy Land on earth. Ancient Israel will live among the nations of 21st century Israel.

God's people will be re-established in the land given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; they will live and love God's ways. They will be richly blessed and nations will come and ask to learn God's way of life.

God's timeline is expressed in His Holy Days beginning with the Passover, the prophecy of the redemptive sacrifice. The Feast of First fruits celebrate Christ's resurrection and the first mortals to be resurrected before the many in the second resurrection. Pentecost established the reborn church filled with God's Holy Spirit. The Fall Feast of Trumpets sounds the return of Jesus Christ. The Day of Atonement brings God's people to their knees and a total cleansing of sin. The Feast of Tabernacles celebrates Christ's Millennial rule and finally, the Last Great Day is Judgement Day putting an end to all the unrepentant mortals and rebel spirit beings.

God uses imagery, symbols, stories and Holy Days to teach His people His saving plan. God's coded language is all about transparency.

PRECIOUS STONES

“The foundations of the city walls were adorned with every kind of precious stone: The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, with each gate consisting of a single pearl. The main street of the city was pure gold, as clear as glass”
(Revelation 21:19-21).

The imagery God uses is not flippanant, but precisely exact. Stones and objects on earth that are designated precious are carefully categorized that way because they are exceptionally rare, beautiful, and hold qualities that surpass the ordinary. They are lasting, robust, and enduring. This is the message God is trumpeting when He uses precious stones and objects in His language. He is mirroring rare people who endure extreme hardship to remain faithful and loyal. These people are precious to God.



God’s eternal kingdom is being engineered to be robust. His royal, ruling family members are being polished and perfected. This kingdom is hidden and few find it in this evil age, but those who recognize it, will sell everything to own the property upon which

it is found, so that all contents on that property are indisputably theirs.

The evil rulers during this evil age cannot see God's kingdom in the making. They strut in pride and arrogance thinking earth belongs to them, but cloaked by God, His kingdom of wonder and magnificence is forming.

HIDDEN TREASURE

The treasures of God's kingdom can be found, but it will take searching and exploring. Jesus revealed the price that few are willing to pay.

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up.

Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field” (Matthew 13:44).

Giving up everything made it financially possible for him to own the field with the treasure.

God uses the word “land” as the place where He and the righteous reside. It is the safest place for creation on earth to live and is the place that mirrors growth and fruit development bringing in abundant harvests.

The imagery of hidden treasure is a story of an explorer, a scholar or a researcher combing the world for information, searching for answers to mysteries, and marvelling at the wonders found. Then one day, a scholar finds something that is immediately recognized as extremely valuable. It is hidden truth—God's word. The scholar gives up everything to buy the field, the place among the living—spiritual living. The scholar recognizes the value of the find and is

determined to fully explore it. He gives up studying everything else to devote his full attention to understanding God's word.

There is an exchange attached to obtaining the word of God. Christ said to the Laodicea church, "I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see" (Revelation 3:18).

The exchange does not involve money. Isaiah recorded God's plea to His people. "Come, all of you who thirst, come to the waters; and you without money, come, buy, and eat! Come, buy wine and milk, without money and without cost!" (Isaiah 55:1)

Christ urges believers to exchange falsehood with truth. The price is your complete devotion to learning God's word and living it. Trading insignificant information associated with the cares of this world with God's priceless knowledge is the find of great value. Acquisition of God's word leads to the transformation like the insignificant grain of sand that irritates the oyster and through layers of the nacre substance, a lustrous rare pearl is formed.

PEARLS

Jesus said, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls. When he found one very precious pearl, he went away and sold all he had and bought it" (Matthew 13:45-46).

Pearls are classed as gemstones because they are rare. In particular, their soft, luster is especially aesthetic.

God is transforming His people who are living in an evil world of corruption, hatred, cruelty, theft, and lies imaged as the environment of the sea—the haven for Wickedness. Yet, despite the harsh conditions, through irritations of the trials and testings, something miraculous occurs—a love for God's way replaces bad

behaviour and a new, glossy covering forms. This transformation is the process of overcoming and building an intimate relationship with God made possible, through Jesus Christ—our Saviour.

The merchant in the parable of Matthew 13 is in the business of exchange. This merchant was a counsellor like a priest or minister who values precious knowledge, hence the search for pearls. The merchant finds God's Holy Spirit, which raises his level of thought and reason. He increases in spiritual knowledge that leads to the acquisition of a deeper understanding, then suddenly his eyes see the wisdom of God. The merchant transforms into a priceless servant of God.

A rare pearl is the imagery of the few on earth who overcome, endure the trials and persecution to stand before God unmoved, strong and eternally loyal. So, few find the path.

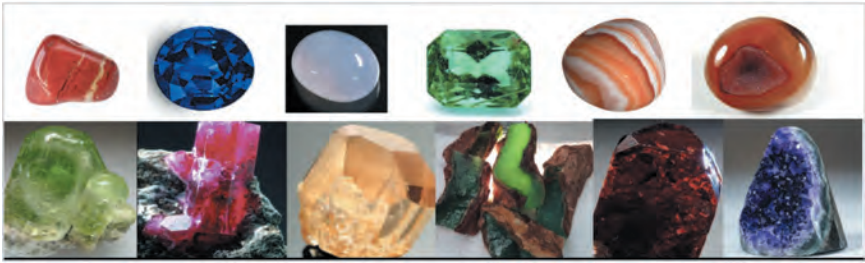
“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the way that leads to life, and only a few find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

The New Jerusalem coming down from heaven has twelve gates, each gate is comprised of a rare and priceless pearl. “The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl” (Revelation 21:21).

God uses again His coded language to identify the members who are imaged as twelve pearl gates. The New Jerusalem is a construct of exceptional leaders. The tabernacle in the wilderness in ancient times was a mirror of the New Jerusalem. Every piece of the construction mirrors the future, glorious New Jerusalem.

The garments of the high priest are a prophecy of the character of the leaders in God's eternal kingdom. The ephod worn by the high priest is comprised of twelve precious stones, each representing the twelve tribes of Israel.

TWELVE STONES



These gemstones mirror the twelve tribes who will establish and fortify God's kingdom of holy, royal priests, still in the making. He foresees the work of His hands and He is pleased.

“There are to be 12 stones, one for each of the names of the sons of Israel, each engraved like a seal with the name of one of the 12 tribes... Whenever Aaron enters the Holy Place, he will bear the names of the sons of Israel over his heart on the breast-piece of decision as a continuing memorial before the LORD” (Exodus 28:29).

God foreknows the repentance of His people, both houses: Judah and Israel, at the same time—together, will return to Him, fully and sincerely.

“In those days and in that time, declares the LORD, *the people of Israel and the people of Judah shall come together, weeping as they come, and they shall seek the LORD their God*” (Jeremiah 50:4).

A reunited kingdom of Israel will seed God's word and His way across the planet and indeed, the gospel about God's royal, holy kingdom will go out to all the world and they will look to the God of Israel and turn to Him understanding that He is their Creator and their eternal Father.

GOD'S NEW JERUSALEM—precious stones, metals and wonders

The description of God's New Jerusalem foretells the countless great, rare and yet, humble leaders that will mature into the fullness of Christ, at the hand of the Great Potter.

“The wall was made of jasper, and the city itself of pure gold, as pure as glass. The foundations of the city walls were adorned with every kind of precious stone: The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, with each gate consisting of a single pearl. The main street of the city was pure gold, as clear as glass” (Revelation 21:18-21).

The Great Creator of mankind is King and the holy High Priest—our LORD. He is long-suffering and eagerly desires the repentance of mankind so that he extend them grace. A group of people will come before His judgement seat. Those who repent, He will give them a white stone.

THE WHITE STONE

During the time of Jesus on earth, a white stone was given to an accused. The judge would hear the case and award a white stone to those proven to be innocent or awarded grace. A black stone signified guilt with no room for grace. To have been handed a white stone, the accused could walk away free of condemnation.

There is an image of a group of people recorded in Revelation 2 who “live—where Satan has his throne.” Biblical scholars scour the planet trying to identify that location, but it is illusive because it is simply not one geographical location, but rather places

peppered over the planet—places where falsehood, deception, and lies are birthed and published.

Common places of thought, research, studies and teaching all take place in today's universities and colleges as well as specialized institutions. From there, information is generated, beliefs are published, and theological changes are debated and canonized. Through this core body, information is dispersed and great libraries are founded.

In Revelation, Jesus spoke to a group of people characteristic of the city of Pergamum. He warned them about the dangers of massaging truth for gain or carelessly accepting unproven information. Joshua Mark from Worldhistory.org provides insight into the development of the great city of Pergamum.

“The Attalid Dynasty (281-133 BCE) of Pergamon (in Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey) came from humble origins and, to establish themselves as rulers of note, patronized the arts and letters. Eumenes II, especially, held literature and learning in high regard and built the library as an annex to his Temple of Athena on the acropolis of Pergamon. At its height, the library is said to have held 200,000 books, mostly written on parchment. The demand by visiting scholars for writing material encouraged parchment production in the city and Pergamon became the leading supplier of the material during the Roman Period, so much so that the English word *parchment* comes from the Latin *pergamenum* referencing Pergamon.”⁸

⁸ Mark, Joshua J.. “[Library of Pergamon](https://www.worldhistory.org/Library_of_Pergamon/).” *World History Encyclopedia*. World History Encyclopedia, 14 Sep 2022. https://www.worldhistory.org/Library_of_Pergamon/. Accessed April 10, 2022.

Ancient-origins.net adds more background to this significant city.

“Pergamum’s library was the center for all things cultural. It came to be known as one of the most important libraries in the ancient world and was second only to the Library of Alexandria. According to the ancient chronicler Pliny the Elder, the Library of Pergamum became so famous that it was considered to be in “keen competition” with the Library of Alexandria. Both attempted to amass the most complete collection of texts, and they developed rival schools of thought and criticism. In fact, legend has it that Egypt’s Ptolemaic dynasty halted shipments of papyrus to Pergamum in hope of slowing the library’s growth.”⁹

A love for learning is a prized gift, but when studies, by leading researchers, draw students away from God, then, they become instruments of deception working for Wickedness. The theology of Evolution is an example as well as the Christianization of pagan holidays. All of the Christian bishops who participated in the Council of Nicaea and the Council of Laodicea to formalize changes different to the practices of Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today and forever, will be brought into judgement and will have to account for their actions.

Jesus said to this group of people in his time on earth that when he returns, he will stand before them with a sharp, double-edged sword. He will confront them on their teachings by judging their word against the word of God. The sword is consistently imaged in the Bible as God’s word. The sword that Jesus will hold before

⁹ Parkes, Veronica. “The Library of Pergamum: A Contender for the Greatest Library of the Ancient World.” *Ancient Origins*. Ancient Origins, Updated 24 Feb 2017. <https://www.ancient-origins.net/ancient-places-asia/library-pergamum-contender-greatest-library-ancient-world-007601>. Accessed 10, 2022.

them will be sharp, uncompromised double-edged truth. He will address every view and every angle strictly from the lens of Almighty God.

Jesus said, “You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and committing sexual immorality” (Revelation 2:14).

The teaching of Balaam is an expanded view of creation to include the worship of the gods of the nations, as if these gods were entitled. Eating their food is symbolic of believing and behaving like the unholy nations. This is an act of rebellion against Almighty God, the God of Israel.

The Pergamum-like people love digging deep to find information; that is their strength. They are relentless. As in ancient times and into the present, this group of people don't always find the pure word, rather only portions of it. Often, they rely too much on their own intellect. Leaning on Christ for clarity is critical to finding accuracy. Christ is coming to purge falsehood, misconceptions, misunderstandings, and disinformation from everywhere on earth.

Jesus added, “You also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans” (Revelation 2:15).

The teaching of the Nicolaitans is the belief and establishment of a hierarchical structure within an organization. Matthew recorded, “Don't let anyone call you ‘Rabbi,’ for you have only one Teacher, and all of you are equal as brothers and sisters” (Matthew 23:8).

The Apostle Paul taught that all members are valued equally. “God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be

no division in the body, but that its parts should have *equal* concern for each other” (I Corinthians 12:25).

God’s construction is not a pyramid, but a cube with layers and layers of strength placed one above the other forming an unbreakable unit. Each layer is valued equally and critical to the overall strength of the structure.

Into the 21st century, Pergamum-like groups exist in every country worldwide. They are known as experts and highly respected sources of information. Many do not advocate for creation or direct the people to worship God. Many have devised their own formula for the salvation of mankind, which excludes the sacrifice of Jesus. Jesus urges these people to overcome and for those who awaken, repent and stand up for God’s word, His truth, and His grace. God will take away their shame by giving them a new name—a name that reflects their win against lies, misinformation, and disinformation. That new name will be written on a white stone, which they will hold up high with eternal gratitude for God’s grace of their acquittal.

Stones are symbols of long-lasting and robust objects. These people will be rewarded with “hidden manna.” God knows their passion for discovery and He will reward them with knowledge that is rare, often unseen—deep things that cannot be discovered without God’s direct guidance. They will venture into eternal wonders and the energy from discovery will draw them intimately close to Him. They will marvel at God’s intellect, complexity, and composition. They will wonder and never be satisfied for they will discover His never-ending greatness.

For those who overcome within the Pergamum-like group of people, they have a riveting future of exploration, discovery, and wonder that they will share with all creation for all eternity.

All overcomers will be transformed and glorified. “Having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal” (Revelation 21:11). All overcomers will image the strength and hardness of stones. They will not waver in God’s truth and His law. They will be living examples of righteousness. Their loyalty to God will not break; their faithfulness will not wane.

“Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to Him, the living stone, rejected by men but chosen and precious in God’s sight, you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: ‘See, I lay in Zion a stone, a chosen and precious cornerstone; and the one who believes in Him will never be put to shame’” (1 Peter 2:1-6).

The qualities God is molding in believers is a glorious package of love, which is patient and kind.

“It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

The living stones of God will remain for all eternity the foundation and great pillars of God’s holy, royal, ruling God-family kingdom. These gems will bind into a single, radiant body, reflecting God’s image.

THE CONCEPT OF ONE

*“But for us, there is one God, the Father, by whom all things were created, and for whom we live. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created, and through whom we live”
(1 Corinthians 8:6).*

God the Father and His Son are both Gods of the God family, of which the Father is the head.

Their relationship is established by their placement in the God family. They work in total unity; they move as one and live in complete peace, unbroken or divided—perfect unity.



The Apostle Paul taught Christians to “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is *one body* and *one spirit*—just as you were called to *one hope* when you were called—*one Lord [Jesus Christ]*, *one faith*, *one baptism*; *one God and Father of all*, who is over all and through all and in all” (Ephesians 4:16).

Creating this level of unity is the work of God’s hands. Bringing mankind into repentance and submission with a willing spirit and a heart of flesh that comes from God’s Holy Spirit flowing out from God, the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ. God’s hands go to work like a potter forming a magnificent and glorious piece of art. God’s work will be done when the fullness of creation on earth is in total harmony with God’s laws and His way of love. Then, billions upon billions from creation in both heaven and on earth will be one body under one government embracing one theology; all living as one, but are many—countless individuals.

God the Father has a purpose for everyone. “And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren. And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified” (Romans 8:28-30).

Wayward ancient Israel will be resurrected and stand among their repentant and God-fearing 21st century descendants, in amazement. “For when he sees his children, the work of My hands among him, they will honor My name, they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and they will stand in awe of the God of Israel. Then the wayward in spirit will come to understanding, and those who grumble will accept instruction” (Isaiah 29:23-24).

All things will come together as ONE when God has finished His work.

- **There is only ONE Almighty God.**

“Before Me no god was formed, and after Me none will come. I, yes, I am the LORD, and there is no Savior but Me. I alone decreed and saved and proclaimed—I, and not some foreign god among you. So, you are My witnesses,” declares the LORD, “that I am God” Isaiah 43:10b, 11-12).

Almighty God is clear. Before Him, there was no God, nor will a being like Him ever come into existence. He only can save. He only can bestow power for another to save, forgive sins and to heal spiritually. The Almighty God is one being.

- **There is only ONE Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

The Son of God was given power from the Father to create everything in heaven and on earth.

“For in Him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things were created through Him and for Him” (Colossians 1:16).

“As obedient children, do not conform to the passions of your former ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’ Since you call on a Father who judges each one’s work impartially, conduct yourselves in reverent fear during your stay as foreigners. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life you inherited from your forefathers, but with the *precious*

blood of Christ, a Lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you” (I Peter 1:14-20).

The Father, the Almighty God sent His Son to be the Saviour. Mankind has only one Saviour, Jesus Christ. He purchased mankind with his blood.

“And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God” (I John 4:14-15).

- **There is only ONE mediator for mankind.**

“For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus” (I Timothy 2:4-5).

The Antichrist to come will claim to be the mediator of mankind. He will claim to be mankind’s saviour and equal to Almighty God Himself. He will claim to be one in all.

“Then the king [the little horn/the Antichrist] will do as he pleases and will exalt and magnify himself above every god, and he will speak monstrous things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been decreed must be accomplished. He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers, nor for the one desired by women, nor for any other god, because *he will magnify himself above them all*” (Daniel 11:36-37).

- **There is only ONE church comprised of many people.**

“And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and firstborn from among the dead, so that in all things He may have pre-eminence” (Colossians 1:18).

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many are one body, and each member belongs to one another” (Romans 12:4-5).

- **There is only ONE Bride**

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him the glory. For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready” (Revelation 19:7).

- **There is only ONE theology—the word of God.**

Jesus, the Son of God is the personified word of God. He is the expert teacher on all things God. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He spoke only the words of the Father; he is the only Teacher for mankind to follow.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1).

“And do not call anyone on earth your father, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Christ” (Matthew 23:9-10).

“And it was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for works of ministry and to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in

the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, as we mature to the full measure of the stature of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed about by the waves and carried around by every wind of teaching and by the clever cunning of men in their deceitful scheming” (Ephesians 4:11-14).

Today, there are many churches all teaching different interpretations of scripture. This will continue until the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the *one* Teacher who can and will correct and bring the ministry and congregation onto *one* path to our Father in heaven.

- **There is only ONE law and ONE government, which is simplified in the ten commandments.**

“Teacher, which commandment is the greatest in the Law?”

Jesus declared, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments” (Matthew 22:36-40).

- **There will be ONE reunited kingdom of Israel.**

While God’s people are a fractured kingdom today, they will reunite into *one* kingdom. It is symbolic of binding law and grace forming *one* authoritative body. The house of Judah and the house of Israel each represent law and grace. The Jews will come to accept grace and the house of Israel, the Christians, will keep the law. Law and grace will never be separated once bound under the millennial

rule of Jesus Christ, so, the reunited kingdom of Israel will never fracture again.

“I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel, and one king will rule over all of them. Then they will no longer be two nations and will *never again be divided into two kingdoms*... My servant David will be king over them, and there will be one shepherd for all of them. They will follow My ordinances and keep and observe My statutes” (Ezekiel 37:22, 24).

- **There will always only be ONE body—a unified body of righteous and obedient members of God’s family.**

“The body is a unit, though it is composed of many parts. And although its parts are many, they all form one body. So, it is with Christ” (I Corinthians 12:12).

ONE means UNITY in thought, belief, and walk. The God family will comprise of the Father, the Son and his bride with many, many siblings.

“Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters” (NIV Hebrews 2:11).

Everyone in the God family will be reflecting the image of the Father, the Almighty God in everything they do.

DUALITY BY DESIGN

*“But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses”
(Matthew 18:16).*

Duality was designed by God. It is a revelation disclosing God’s legal system comprised of His law that is married to grace, which has the ability to separate lies and deception from information, obtain understanding and exercise wisdom. This duality will ensure judgement and sentencing is fair, just, and right.



GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING

Our Creator God, our Father in heaven is brilliant both in appearance and intellectually. His God abilities will forever amaze and dazzle His creation. His knowledge, His wisdom, His understanding and power to command and creation obeys, baffles the feeble mind of man. God creates and foresees. With a complete view, He strategizes to maximize His success for the creation in heaven and on earth. Together with the Son, they

detailed every step along the way. Though many angels and all of mankind have fallen, God's arm is not short; His creation is not out of His control. He foreknew the outcome before the beginning—every detail of it, and it remains an unbroken plan that will fully come to pass.

God spoke directly and through His prophets to ancient Israel. Through the preserved word of God, today He speaks urgently to His people. “Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, ‘My *purpose* will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure’” (Isaiah 46:9-10).

GOD CHOSE A PEOPLE

At the time after the flood, when God divided the people on earth into different groups because they were returning to the wicked ways of the people who were destroyed in the great flood, He gave them heavenly rulers to guide them back onto the path of righteousness. He chose to participate in this project and He gave Himself rulership over the descendants of Jacob. He became their King and they became His subjects. Each separate group on earth received their own land, language, and a heavenly ruler (Deuteronomy 32:8-9).

God specifically chose a people to be a kingdom of priests: holy and royal (Exodus 19:6, 1 Peter 2:9). That was God's purpose from the beginning. The duality here is: holy and royal. They are adjectives describing two core roles in God's government: national and religious leadership. That is the image of God; He is dual; He is King and Lord.

God's purpose is to teach creation in heaven and on earth that His eternal kingdom will be a marriage of law and grace, national and

religious leadership bound together as one ruling entity of equal importance. This body is both *holy*, that is, set apart from other religions and *royal*, that is, part of God's ruling monarchy.

On a side point, this opens a door to the thought that there exists created life who are not royal members of God's family residing in heaven. The "beasts of the field" and the "birds of the air" may be part of a non-royal creation. All of mankind was created in God's image, that is, to be members of His holy, royal, ruling family.

God is a benevolent King giving opportunities to His creation to develop into wise leaders. Unfortunately, relatively shortly after the heavenly rulers of God's holy court in heaven received their inheritance, that is, rulership over the nations, they rebelled against Him. He foreknew the rebellion, but the pain on the day it all began, was no less intense. Ezekiel recorded God's deep feelings of hurt during that rebellion. He "filled the deep springs with mourning... and clothed Lebanon (His holy court/headquarters) with gloom" (Ezekiel 31:15).

KINGDOM OF ISRAEL: TWO GREAT LEADERS

God's pain was not limited to the fallen angels in heaven, but His people added a heavy weight that He also foreknew. The twelve sons of Jacob were blessed before their father, Israel, died. Jacob gave the family sceptre to *Judah* and the firstborn birthright blessings to *Joseph*. The lesson of duality here is the reflection of the Messiah in Judah through the family line of King David and the Messiah in Joseph as Lord and steward of God's eternal kingdom.

DUALITY IN JOSHUA AND CALEB

Duality is peppered in the ancient stories of the Old Testament. God's people are without excuse. Moses sent twelve, one from each of the tribes of Israel, to spy out the promised land. They

returned and ten gave an evil report while Joshua and Caleb had faith in God that they could overtake the giants, trusting in the power of the God of Israel. Two out of the twelve gave a witness of faith and truth.

Caleb was from the tribe of Judah. From Judah, Jesus was born. From Judah, the Messiah became king; the sceptre has already been given to him. Joshua's and Caleb's faith in overcoming the giants is of itself a duality. The giants in the Promised Land are a mirror of the gigantic barriers that exist today. Ungodly, wealthy, and powerful people have taken hold of leadership positions in all countries on earth. Overthrowing these dark rebels can only be achieved when righteous leaders call out to God for help. Their faith and trust in Him, believing that He will go out ahead of them as He did for ancient Israel and weaken these dark forces so God's people can destroy them.

Joshua was from the tribe of Ephraim, son of Joseph. Joshua led all of the twelve tribes into the Promised Land. He mirrors the great work of God's people today, to bring many people into repentance, baptism, and a rebirth into maturity spiritually.

Caleb mirrors the faith of salvation through Christ; Joshua mirrors the faith in bringing many people into glory.

NATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP

Righteous leadership is a marriage of religious knowledge, understanding, and wisdom and national leadership where God's law is enacted. The experts of righteousness marry law and order with love and grace. That is the image of God.

KINGDOM OF ISRAEL: THE FRACTURE INTO TWO HOUSES

God's plan was for His people to be living examples of righteousness; they proved to be a stubborn and difficult people. Their kingdom fractured because the national leaders disobeyed

God. The kingdom of Israel divided into two houses: the house of Israel and the house of Judah over three thousand years ago.

The separation was caused by Solomon who breached God's law. God divided the kingdom and gave Solomon's son a remnant of the kingdom; he ruled over only two tribes. Ten tribes broke away and established their own king. Two houses formed: the house of Judah and the house of Israel. The fracture triggered hundreds of years of suffering because law and order were not married to love and grace.

The small house of Judah kept closer to God's law while the large house of Israel entered into hundreds of years of lawlessness, following the ways of the nations around them. The pendulum moved accordingly as the two houses became self-determined and self-reliant. The house of Israel continued to rebel and eventually they were divorced from the covenant family and lived for many years in disorder, like Barbarians. The house of Judah moved in the opposite direction swinging into self-righteousness by adding hundreds of rules and regulations to God's laws. They added so many that God's law was violated. All of their effort was channeled to earn salvation through their own effort.

The lesson of duality is the chaos created when a separation occurs from God's law and His theology. In this case, self-righteousness and unrighteousness reared up. God's law and His theology bound together can heal and bring people back into balance, back onto God's straight and narrow path of righteousness.

God's people, Israel, are living examples of the chaos and unhappiness that occurs when God's law and His theology are not applied to work together as one. God foreknew the fracture of the kingdom would occur. It is the witness He will use to prove His point during the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. God foreknew

the choices His people would make. The choices were used by God to turn lemons into lemonade. They needed to feel the pain of rejecting Him and His ways. They needed to feel the curses of disobedience and turn for help. God was teaching them and He is teaching believers today the importance of binding His law with His theology of love, compassion, and grace.

LAW AND GRACE

The historical journeys of the two houses are a witness of the importance of binding God's law with His theology. The two cannot be separated and bring happiness and goodness for all. The house of Judah embraced the law; they were the protectors of the oracles of God. The house of Israel, more commonly referred to as the ten tribes, begged for relief from the heavy taxes imposed upon them during the reign of King Solomon and his son, Rehoboam.

Two thousand years later, they were offered relief in the form of grace from Jesus, the Messiah. They were amazed that he would consider them, after all, they were the outcasts of the family. They recognized his power to heal and when invited back into the covenant family, they cherished it and praised the God of Israel for His grace that He extended to them. They wrote songs delighting in the amazing gift of grace. Their transformation began and they became known as Christians. Craving to know God's word, they carefully preserved the letters of the apostles and all of the books of the Old Testament. They translated them and bound them into one book.

To this day, grace is the driving force of the Christian churches. The lesson of duality here is: law without grace is like discipline without love, winter without summer, order without choice. Law and grace were intended to be bound and harmonized into one legal system.

Though the two houses of God's people remain fractured into the 21st century, God has promised to reunite them at Christ's return. Under the righteous rulership and priesthood of Jesus Christ, the fractured will be healed and made one, again. Jesus Christ will restore all things.

THE RESTORATION

- God's people will be reunited back into one kingdom never to fracture again.
- Law and grace will be bound into one legal system. The law will come out of Zion [heaven] and the word will come out of Jerusalem [earth].
- A marriage between a King from heaven and a Queen from earth will bind the realm in heaven and on earth together into the united, holy, royal kingdom of God.
- Righteous national and religious leadership will be bound into one. God Almighty reigns supreme. Jesus Christ will rule over God's kingdom under Him, and sit on the right hand of God with his bride, both reigning as a united body of national and religious leaders.

This lesson of duality is an exact mirror of God's people. They will desire and value their calling as a holy kingdom of royal priests during the reign of Jesus Christ. The great honour of serving in the temple of God will be cherished and highly prized. From all the nations of earth, people will come and serve God as His priests.

“You [Christ] are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom

of priests to serve our God and they will reign on earth” (Revelation 5:9-10). It was foreknown by God. It is His purpose and it will be accomplished.

TWO CREATIONS: ONE IN HEAVEN AND ONE ON EARTH

Planned from the beginning were two creations. The angels—sons of God, were created before time. With their first breath, they knew God and they had the fundamentals to know right from wrong. Before time, the angels built vast dominions and many became proud, arrogant, and powerful, eroding love for Almighty God into a raging jealousy.

At the time determined by Almighty God, the Son created again through the power of the Father. Together, they worked to create mankind, a second company of members who are destined to become part of the God family.

Mankind was created on the sixth day after their home was transformed back into order and beauty. The man was created first and the woman from out of the man. Both are members of God’s family kingdom.

Intentional to the overall plan of God, man would be created before the woman to image the first creation in heaven (created first) and the woman to image the second creation on earth (created second). She would come into life through the man. It is the image of the church coming into spiritual life through Jesus Christ. Another witness would take place, teaching creation in heaven and on earth that they complement each other. Each creation was designed to fulfill a different essential role for the peaceful operation of God’s family kingdom. This is best achieved through the pairing of the skills of the two into one.

Christ and his bride will be the perfect example of the principle of duality working as one. It was planned before creation that this

mystery would be revealed. The Apostle Paul understood it and said, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This mystery is profound, but I am speaking about Christ and the church” (Ephesians 5:31-32).

The profound mystery is the knowledge that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, will marry the church—a body of men and women—the saints and their relationship will be intimate. He will share the administration of God’s kingdom with the church. Their relationship will be identical to that of a loving husband and wife. He will be the king and she will be the queen, working in everything as one. She will be raised up from nothing to the highest level that creation on earth and in heaven can reach. The top three in God’s kingdom will be Almighty God as Supreme, His Son second and third will be Christ’s wife—the faithful church. What is so profound is Christ’s love for his church that he would give sin-laden men and women such a great honour of forgiveness and rulership with him.

King David caught a glimpse of this great calling when he asked, “What is man that you are mindful of him?” (Psalm 4:8)

God’s plan for the men and women on earth has always been a desire to honour them with positions of great importance. It is a profound mystery, suppressed by Satan, to keep mankind from knowing their so, very great calling. It is a profound mystery that Almighty God would honour once sin-laden people to the greatest positions of responsibility for all eternity.

A new office will be filled by Christ’s wife establishing the ruling order of three. It is by design that the number three is used as the seal of Almighty God confirming His approval on events that culminate and finalize His plans to form eternal structures.

THE NUMBER 3

*“For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth”
(Matthew 12:40).*

Jonah’s burial-like state in the belly of the fish, was both a witness by God’s use of the number two, through His emphasis of days and nights and the divine seal of God, using number three. God’s official seal of three days and nights was the confirmation that Christ’s burial in the earth was part of His divine plan. The number three is peppered heavily throughout the Bible; it simply cannot be ignored.



CHRIST TEMPTED BY SATAN

For forty years, the ancient Israelites wandered in the wilderness learning from God, but they failed to realize what Jesus successfully achieved during his forty days in the desert. Christ was tempted by Satan with three different scenarios.

1. THE FIRST TEMPTATION

Satan tempted Jesus to satisfy his hunger from his forty-day fast by challenging him to use his

superhuman powers and turn stones into bread (Matthew 4:1).

Jesus responded by quoting the latter part of Deuteronomy 8:3. *“Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD”* (Deuteronomy 8:3).

The ancient people of Israel, while wandering through the wilderness were humbled by going hungry (Deuteronomy 8:3), so God could teach them what Jesus understood. There are two types of food: earthly and heavenly. One is temporary; the other is eternal. The ancient Israelites were fed by God, while they journeyed through the wilderness with food from heaven—manna. The heavenly food was daily spiritual teachings. Satan was unable to tempt Jesus to change his priority. Through his forty-day fast, Jesus became a powerhouse of eternal strength. Spiritual food had strengthened him far above any possibility of a fall while physically weak.

Satan entraps people into a world of ignorance and deceit. They are blue-pilled in a physical world of earthly knowledge and temporary pursuits void of their Creator and the life-exciting knowledge of God's word.

The first temptation: earthly food or heavenly food. Ancient Israel failed to understand the value of spiritual knowledge,

understanding and wisdom. They kept falling back into this earthly world focusing on temporal living. Jesus never left his spiritual focus, a most important task given to him.

2. THE SECOND TEMPTATION

Satan took Jesus to the highest point of the temple and challenged him to jump. Satan knows the scriptures and he quoted Psalm 91, which vows if you make God Almighty your dwelling place, giving your allegiance to the Great God, then no harm will come to you.

“For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone... ‘Because he loves me,’ says the LORD, ‘I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation’” (Psalm 91:11-16).

This is a wonderful promise from God, our Creator and Father in heaven.

In 21st century language, Satan was saying, “Go on! If you are loved by the Great God, show me—show everyone—prove to us that God loves you!”

Jesus replied by quoting Deuteronomy 6:16, “Do not test the LORD your God as you tested Him at Massah.”

This quote referenced the rebellious behavior of the Israelites coming out of Egypt. Despite all of the miracles God Almighty performed for them, they still disbelieved and distrusted Him, perpetually putting Him to the test. Their hearts were hard, rebellious, and defiant. God concluded, “For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, ‘They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.’ So, I declared an oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest’” (Psalm 95:10-11).

In 21st century language, Jesus replied, “I trust in my Father in heaven and I have no need to question Him. God is faithful.”

The second temptation: trust in yourself or trust in God. The ancient Israelites could not let go and put their complete trust in God. It was difficult for them as it is for Christians today. Jesus put his life in the hands of God, without question—fully and completely.

3. THE THIRD TEMPTATION

The devil took Jesus to the highest mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you, if you will bow down and worship me” (Matthew 4:9). This temptation was by far the most tempting. With all of Jesus’ heart, he wanted to rescue mankind from the stranglehold of the devil.

Jesus replied, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the LORD your God, and serve him only’” (Matthew 4:10).

In 21st century language, Jesus said, “I worship only my Father in heaven, the Creator God. I trust in His plan and His timing. I will wait for Him.”

The third temptation: Rulership through Satan or rulership through God Almighty. The great promise of the rebel gods ruling over the nations was self-glory, self-reliance, and self-determination. The ancient Israelites looked at the wealth and glory of Egypt; they wanted to be like the nations around them and revel like them, in the glory of carnal greatness.

God wanted a humble people, a non-self-serving people *before* rulership could be offered. That would take time and a carefully designed, strategic plan. Jesus was aware that God had a plan from the beginning. While every detail is not shared with him, he has no reason to question God. “But about that *day or hour no one knows*, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but *only the Father*” (Matthew 24:36).

VICTORY OVER THREE DEMANDS

During the Great Tribulation, a people are seen standing beside a sea of glass mixed with fire. They are victorious over three demands by the enemy. They did *not*:

1. Worship the beast
2. Bend their knee to His image, or any idols
3. Have his number/name written on their forehead or right hand (Revelation 15:2).

These three demands are the core elements of worship for these fallen rebels:

1. Loyalty and allegiance to those being served
2. Idol worship

3. Living according to the belief and values of the One, being worshipped.

Idols are infused with spells that can be used to call on these rebel gods for help. God warned ancient Israel, “Pay close attention to everything I have said to you. You must not invoke the names of other gods; they must not be heard on your lips” (Exodus 23:13).

To have the name/number marked on the body is the outward binding with that leader to live according to his commands and demands. The number three keeps popping up at every significant marker.

FIRST THREE COMMANDMENTS

The first three of God's ten commandments are:

1. You shall have no other gods before me
2. You shall not make idols
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

The first three commandments set a divine seal when worshipping God. The victorious saints will remain loyal and faithful in worship and allegiance to Almighty God, their LORD, the Creator. Their prayers will bring them close to Him; He will hear them and rescue them. They will not take His name in vain. They are overcomers, choosing of their own free will, to keep His commandments and live righteously. Despite times of intense opposition and persecution, the overcomers will remain faithful to God when their government, family and friends, even members and the ministry of churches oppose them.

THREE EVIL SPIRITS

The three evil spirits like frogs (Revelation 16:13) that come out of the mouth of the dragon, the beast and false prophet encapsulate

what God deems as the central force of Wickedness coming from three beings with three evil spirits.

MARKERS ON A TIMELINE

The number three is also God's seal marked along a timeline. These time markers are expressed as: in three days, after the third day, in the third year, on the third hour, a three-day walk, and three times.

Every story in the Bible that references the number three is an indicator of God's finger. For example:

- Laban was told *on the third day* that Jacob and his wives had fled. God's seal of protection was on Jacob when he secretly left Laban.
- God selected 300 men to fight with Gideon against the Midianites. Three times 100 points to God's hand being involved in the selection of exactly 300 men, which is a very small number when going up against a sea of Midianites and their allies. God was saying that 300 is the full amount necessary; it will showcase His mighty hand in battle.
- Samson was confronted by thirty guards when he arrived at Timnah to celebrate the engagement to his first wife. Three times 10 points to God's seal coupled with His law at work when Samson dealt with the guards.
- For three days the people could not give an answer to Samson's riddle. God's hand keeps His opposition at bay, until He the time of disclosure.
- 3,000 Jews went to Samson to urge him to stop provoking the Philistines. Three times 1,000 points to the Jews having

a significant role with Almighty God for all eternity to warn against provocations.

- David, while being chased by King Saul, had three mighty men among his warriors. These three mighty men confirm God's mighty hand supporting David in his battles against those who fought against him.
- Jesus was thirty when he began his ministry. Three times 10 points to God's divine seal on the beginning of Jesus' ministry of God's law and His way.
- Christ went to the cross on the third hour. The third hour is 9:00 am. It points to God's divine marker along the timeline of the salvation plan for mankind.
- The Holy Spirit like rushing winds was given to the reborn church on Pentecost on the third hour. God's timeline is evident with every significant event.
- Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. It is God's divine seal on a new leadership beginning.
- Hannah gave birth to three sons. She was barren and prayed fervently to God for children. God performed a miracle and she gave birth to Samuel, Israel's faithful and loyal judge. He was the first of the three sons. The three sons blessed by God is His seal on her dedication and passion for Him.
- Job had three daughters who were the most beautiful in the land. Job's story is full of intrigue. The beginning of the book of Job tells the story of Job's seven sons celebrating their birthdays each year. The end of the book of Job unveils his three daughters born after his great revelation

with God. These daughters are given an inheritance and were showcased above his sons.

- Daniel had three faithful friends: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. God was with Daniel his whole life from freedom to captivity. His three friends were God's divine seal reminding Daniel that His hand of support is with him.
- Recorded in Zechariah, behind the man on the red horse among the Myrtle trees were three horses: one red, one brown, and one white. The three horses behind the man point to God's divine seal of support for the man in front of them.
- Peter denied Christ three times. Judeo-Christians struggle to develop a deep and everlasting relationship with Almighty God and Jesus Christ. Peter denied Christ three times point to his immature relationship with Christ. This is a mirror of a future time, during Jacob's trouble, when Judeo-Christians will have to stand against intense persecution, mockery, ridicule and even death to remain loyal to Almighty God and Jesus Christ. Peter's triple denial is God's divine acknowledgement of his immaturity and the immaturity of Judeo-Christians since then and to come.
- Christ asked Peter three times if he loved him. Each time Christ asked Peter if he loved him, Peter replied acknowledging his friendship with Christ but not the type of love that endures intense persecution. This is the witness scripture to Peter's triple denial. It will happen again.
- Paul asked three times for his "thorn in the flesh" to be removed. God denied healing him. Paul knew that if he

wasn't healed after asking three times, then it is God's divine and absolute decision that he should be inconvenienced with a physical issue until he dies.

- There are three harvests in the Bible: barley, wheat, and grapes. Each one indicates a different resurrection.
- At the second trumpet in Revelation, Mystery Babylon is attacked by God. This theological body is imaged to have their home base on the sea where ships are used to transport trading merchandise:
 - One-third of the **sea** turns to blood
 - One-third of the **sea creatures** die
 - One-third of the **ships** are destroyed.

The one-third portions are God's divine seal of His total destruction of the abode of Wickedness whose sea is their home. It is the haven of sea monsters and where rebel merchants engage in business traveling in ships freely.

- At the blast of the fifth trumpet, **three woes** begin.

The final three woes are God's final seal of events that will close out this evil age.

These are only a few examples among many, each to be studied separately to discover the rich details of God's multi-layered plan for mankind. In general, the number three is God's seal on planned events along the timeline of His grand salvation plan for mankind. Coupled with number three, God uses number seven to place His stamp of the completion of events, judgements, and punishments.

COMPLETION IN SEVEN

*“So, Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her”
(Genesis 29:20).*

Every number has meaning. Mankind will be without excuse when all of God’s transparency is understood and taught. Creation was finished after seven days. While there is discussion on whether it was created in seven days of earth time, it is clear, that after seven Biblical days, it was complete. No creation has taken place since. The number seven is all about completion.



Jacob was drawn to Rachel the moment he saw her. She was a shepherdess and he, a shepherd. Feeding, caring, and protecting the flock was their job, which they did well. Jacob wanted to marry her, but he had no dowry, so an arrangement was made with Rachel’s father, Laban. He was to work for Laban for seven years.

The end of seven years bought him the woman he loved. It completed the payment he owed. But, to Jacob's horror, Laban secretly gave him Leah, Rachel's older sister, which forced Jacob to work, yet another seven years to have Rachel as his wife. His rest was delayed.

The number seven is all about completion within God's divine plan. Like Jacob, God—King over His people Israel, has had no rest. He is forced to work with priests who are struggling to see His way. God's rest will come when Christ rules during the Millennium, mirrored in the seventh day of creation.

In seven days, God through His Son, reformed the earth and created life on it. The use of this number is by divine design. Adam named all the animals, birds, and fish on the same Biblical day he was created and later Eve was formed from his rib. That must have been a long day. Time may not have been measured in earthly hours during creation; it may have been measured at the moment, when God deemed creation as very good.

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day” (Genesis 1:31).

On the seventh day, God rested from His work. “Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which He had created and made” (Genesis 2:3).

Was God tired?

“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. *He will not grow tired or weary*, and his understanding no one can fathom” (Isaiah 40:28).

Why then, did God Almighty who does not tire or grow weary, rest—from what?

The Sabbath is a commanded rest day for God's people. He created this seventh day of rest to mirror peace, order, and love. He will rest from battling against rebels because on the seventh day, it will be the millennial reign of His Son on earth. Mankind will learn to love and order will be established.

God spoke of the rebel ancient Israelites, “‘And on the seventh day God rested from all his work’ and God vowed, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’ It still remains that some will enter that rest, and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience” (Hebrews 4:4-6).

Upon Christ's return, the final one-thousand-year millennial rule will begin and mankind will silence their rebellion and learn the way of God. It is the day when God begins His celebration of the repentance of mankind—the day that brings Him rest.

Only Jesus Christ can bring Almighty God rest. “A root will come up from the stump of Jesse...with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth... Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all... the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:1,3-6, 9b).

This period in our history will be filling up with peace, joy, and love for one another. Mankind will come to know their loving, long-suffering and gracious Creator God.

The creation of the seventh day rest is God's prophesy of mankind's repentance and their desire to obey Him. However, they are not ready. Much distress will come upon mankind before they repent and turn to Almighty God.

The number seven confirms the full completion of important components of God's plan.

- God's creation on earth was complete in seven days. Mankind made God's family complete. God's family comprises of two creations: one in heaven and one on earth.
- Christ established seven churches to form his body. The seven churches are the complete kingdom of Israel as a functional unit. It includes national and religious leadership, educational institutions, spiritual warriors protecting the kingdom from infiltration, charities, and missionaries to expand the good news as God reveals more of His plans.
- The Jubilee is determined by counting in sevens. "You are also to count off seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years, so that you have the time of the seven sabbaths of years, namely, forty-nine years. Then you are to sound the horn far and wide on the tenth day of the seventh month, the Day of Atonement" (Leviticus 25:8). The Jubilee year follows seven blocks of seven years. At the end of seven years, slaves are released. At the end of seven times seven years, everyone is released from the slavery of debt.
- Seven baskets of bread were picked up after Jesus fed the four thousand people who had come from far away. These people were from the redeemed ten tribes of Israel. (Matthew 15:37). The seven baskets represent the spiritual food that would feed the Christian churches, completely nourishing them spiritually until Christ returns.

- God can humble the proud and arrogant. He humbled King Nebuchadnezzar for reducing him to live for seven years as a beast of the field.

“This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree that the Most High has issued against my lord the king: You will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling will be with the beasts of the field. You will feed on grass like an ox and be drenched with the dew of heaven, and *seven times shall pass you by*, until you acknowledge that the Most High rules over the kingdom of mankind and gives it to whom He wishes. As for the command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots, your kingdom will be restored to you as soon as you acknowledge that Heaven rules” (Daniel 4:24-26).

God’s judgement and sentencing of King Nebuchadnezzar was the forecast of his eternal destruction if he does not repent and humble himself before the Great, Almighty God. He was reduced to live for seven years as a naked beast of the field eating grass.

- Revelation is the book that details the completion of God’s wrath and judgement:
 - The scroll with seven seals (Revelation 5:1) is a complete series of events leading up to God’s final outpouring of wrath.
 - Seven kings, five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while (Revelation 17:10) is the completion of evil rulership on earth.

- Seven angels given seven trumpets (Revelation 8:2) is the complete and final warning.
- Seven thunders, though what was said was not recorded, is God speaking out for all to hear His voice pounding out a final warning.
- Seven angels with seven plagues imaged as bowls (Revelation 15:6-7) destroys all of God's enemies:
 - Those who worship the beast.
 - Creatures living in the sea.
 - The watery homes of Wickedness imaged as rivers, turn to blood.
 - The stubborn wicked are scorched by the sun in a fiery purging.
 - The throne of the beast is thrown into darkness.
 - The three evil frogs come out of Satan, the beast and the false prophet.
 - Finally, the declaration, "It is done!"

Seven is the numerical symbol of completion to the fullest. It symbolizes the finality of events and judgements. The creation on earth—the second creation done in seven days was God's statement of the finality of the members added to His God family. The seven churches are the complete body of God's kingdom of priests on earth. The seven baskets are the complete and full amount of spiritual food given to the churches provided directly by Jesus until he returns. The sevens in the book of Revelation will

finalize judgement and punishment against the wicked and bring a complete and final end to this evil age.

God sees all—symbolized in the seven eyes. “These seven are the eyes of the LORD which range throughout the earth” (Zechariah 4:10b); He is fully and completely aware of everything done in heaven and on earth.

Like his Father, the Son has seven eyes symbolic of the same ability. “See the stone I have set before Joshua; on *that one stone are seven eyes*. Behold, I will engrave on it an inscription, declares the LORD of Hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day” (Zechariah 3:9).

Jesus Christ is that stone. “Listen, O high priest Joshua and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, the Branch. See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua!” (Zechariah 3:8-9a)

Joshua, the high priest, is symbolic of what was to come—the Branch, the stone, Jesus Christ who has the ability to see all completely and with full clarity. Jesus Christ is the eyes for Almighty God; he briefs Almighty God regularly on the activities in heaven and on earth.

Jesus Christ is the key person for all of mankind to watch, follow, and serve.

“Then one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep! Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed to open the scroll and its seven seals.’ Then I saw a Lamb who appeared to have been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which represent the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth” (Revelation 5:5-6).

Jesus Christ was described in Revelation 5 as the Lamb because his perfect sacrifice awarded him the right to open the seven seals. He has seven horns meaning he is completely in charge with full authority: King of kings and Lord of lords. He has seven eyes meaning he sees all things. The Spirit of God is all powerful, full in perfection and sees all.

God uses numbers as keys that open doors rarely used to unveil the deep things of God. Number ten is just that.

ORDER IN TEN

*“Yet as surely as I live and as surely as the whole earth is filled with the glory of the LORD, not one of the men who have seen My glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness—yet have tested Me and disobeyed Me these ten times—not one will ever see the land that I swore to give their fathers. None of those who have treated Me with contempt will see it”
(Number 14:21-23).*

Mankind’s journey out of ignorance into God’s truth and His sanctuary of peace and tranquility is a walk following our Messiah, through a complete series of: growth processes, knowledge building, understanding refinement, and the acquisition of true wisdom. God’s written word is an engineering feat of multidimensional stories crossing over time into limitless space about His creation on earth as mortals, and in heaven, as spiritual beings. God is teaching both creations how to live righteously. He is warning both creations of the consequences of sin. He is the loving parent wanting to save them all.



Through numbers, God folds into His teaching deeper pieces of understanding. The number ten trumpets law and order. The

application of law will re-establish order and sentence Wickedness to destruction. God's sword of truth will destroy the lies and deceptive of rebels. Christ's humble sacrifice and God's wonderful grace will redeem a creation lost in darkness.

LAW AND ORDER IN TEN COMMANDMENTS (Exodus 20:1-17) (Deuteronomy 5:6-21)

God established ten commandments as the umbrella for all laws, statutes, and ordinances that preserve order, peace, and love. All of God's commandments are summarized in ten fundamental rules and summarized in two ways.

Jesus taught, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39).

WARNINGS EXPRESSED IN THE NUMBER TEN

God is long-suffering until the number is reached. He has issued His ten commandments, caused ten plagues in ancient Egypt, put up with ancient Israel's rebellion against Him ten times, and for ten generations warned the people before the great flood. At the end of all of God's warnings, He has a prophecy of ten cycles culminating in jubilees showcasing His plan of forgiveness and kindness to repentant and law-keeping people.

From Adam to Noah, there were ten generations before the great flood destroyed everyone, except eight people. Mankind would start again with a family whose fatherhead was righteous, blameless, and close to God.

"Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God" (Genesis 6:9). Noah lived God's righteous way. He was described as blameless because he was loyal and faithful to Almighty God. He walked with God building

a close relationship. In ten generations, God determined the time of His judgement against all the rebels on earth.

TEN GENERATIONS PASSED BETWEEN THE CREATION OF ADAM AND THE BIRTH OF NOAH (GENESIS 5):

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Adam | 6. Jared |
| 2. Seth | 7. Enoch |
| 3. Enosh | 8. Methusaleh |
| 4. Kenan | 9. Lamech |
| 5. Mahalalel | 10. Noah. |

TEN RIGHTEOUS MEN WERE NOT FOUND IN THE CITY OF SODOM (GENESIS 18:32)

God respects, values, and protects those who uphold His law. He promised Abraham that He would not destroy Sodom, if ten righteous men could be found there.

Abraham understood God's word and His commandments. He was sensitive and careful when he asked God, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?" (Genesis 18:32)

Abraham was asking to save the law-abiding people, but only Lot and those in his household were saved. All of Sodom was lawless, corrupt, and participating in forbidden acts.

ALMIGHTY GOD AGAINST PHAROAH OF EGYPT

God brought upon ancient Egypt ten plagues. These ten plagues taught them that the God of Israel reigns supreme both on a national level as King and on a religious level as Highest Priest.

This is a great mystery to 21st century mankind. The reign of once-revered sons of God given rulership over the nations caused Almighty God to enter into a battle against them. At the time of

Babel, God gave the nations heavenly rulers. Unfortunately, these rulers rebelled against their Creator, the Great God. People fell into confusion. They could no longer distinguish between the Almighty God and the gods ruling over them. Prior to God taking His people out of Egypt, the Almighty God judged and sentenced both the heavenly and mortal rulers over Egypt. Both fully understood God's judgements and sentencing. The Israelites learned who was the Supreme God and it wasn't the Egyptian gods.

THE GOD OF ISRAEL IS KING AND LORD OF ALL CREATION

The staff is a symbol of authority. The first act proving God's supreme authority over the gods ruling over Egypt was the miracle of turning Aaron's staff into a snake. The Egyptian magicians each had a staff. They too, like Aaron, were the instruments of their heavenly gods with authority. They turned their staves into snakes. God proved His supremacy by Aaron's snake swallowing up all of the snakes of the Egyptian magicians (Exodus 7:12). That action was the Supreme God taking power and authority away from the heavenly gods ruling over Egypt. God's first task was to establish before Pharaoh and the people that the God of Israel is supreme.

Following the establishment of who is supreme, Almighty God then cursed the Egyptians with ten plagues. The number ten represents their violation of God's law.

1. **The water of the Nile River** and all water ways were *turned to blood* by God through Aaron's staff. Life in the water died and a stench came out; that is the typical smell of sin. The Egyptian magicians could also turn water to blood representing the ability of the heavenly gods over Egypt to accept blood sacrifices to acknowledge sin, but their gods could not forgive sin or heal them. Only Almighty God was able to cleanse the Nile River.

2. **The plague of frogs** that came out of the Nile River is an image of evil spirits, like those that are prophesied to come out of the dragon, the false prophet and the beast (Revelation 16:13).

The frogs coming out of this very river that Pharaoh claimed to have created, God declared to be a cesspool of wickedness. Recorded in Ezekiel is the Pharaoh in heaven bragging of his own ability to create. God heard Pharaoh's claim and said, "Son of man, set your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt and prophesy against him and against all Egypt. Speak to him and tell him that this is what the Lord GOD says: Behold, I am against you, O Pharaoh king of Egypt, O *great monster* who lies among his rivers, who says, '*The Nile is mine; I made it myself*'" (Ezekiel 29:2-3).

Pharaoh's river is full of evil spirits plaguing him and the heavenly king over Egypt was powerless to take them away (Exodus 8:8).

VERSE 10 OF EXODUS 8

Pharaoh pleaded with Moses to take the frogs away. Moses replied, "It will be as you say, so that you may know *there is no one like the LORD our God*" (Exodus 8:10). And Moses added, "The frogs will leave you and your houses, your officials and your people; they will remain only in the Nile" (Exodus 8:11).

3. **A plague of gnats** covered Egypt like dust. Like sin, it was everywhere on people and animals. The magicians could not produce gnats because only the Almighty God can determine sin. The magicians declared, "This is the finger of God" (Exodus 8:19). Like the writing on the wall, only God Almighty judges.

4. The **plague of disease-carrying flies** was designed by God to show Pharaoh a distinction between the Egyptians and God's people. This distinction will be fully recognizable during the millennial rule of Jesus Christ. They will be a kingdom of priests living righteously. Pharaoh asked Moses to pray for him so that the flies go away. Like Job who prayed for his three friends, righteous people are heard by God.
5. **The death of the Egyptian livestock** brought Pharaoh a clear warning that everything under his rulership would die because he lives in sin and he remains an enemy of Almighty God. Any possible plea for forgiveness through a sacrifice would be impossible without being fully committed to overcoming.
6. **The plague of boils** brought upon all of Egypt kept the magicians from coming before Moses and Aaron. They could not stand. Their suffering was intense; just like sin that brings suffering of all levels of intensity.
7. **The plague of hail** struck all of Egypt except for Goshen. After seven plagues are complete, finally Pharaoh admits, "This time I have sinned. The LORD is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong" (Exodus 9:26-27).

The magicians had drained their power and Almighty God stood alone thundering to the people on earth, "I will send the full force of my plagues against you and against your officials and your people, so you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth" (Exodus 9:14).

The rebel heavenly Pharaoh had declared himself before the people of Egypt to be a Creator, yet, he was powerless to stop the curse of plagues. Only the true Creator, the

God of Israel could unveil their many sins, curse them, and lift the curses.

8. The **plague of locusts** resulted because Pharaoh would not humble himself; he returned to sinning. God will bring everyone to their knees to confess their sins. The locusts consumed all of their food. This is symbolic of a spiritual event. Their beliefs and theology were destroyed. God's word is spiritual food. Pharaoh knew their false teachings were destroyed by God's truth and he was forced to admit his sin. "I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. Now forgive my sin once more and pray to the LORD your God to take this deadly plague away from me" (Exodus 10:16-17).
9. The **heavy darkness over Egypt** for three days was Almighty God, the God of Israel, declaring judgement on the "sun god" Re, who was the heavenly ruler over Egypt. The Almighty God declared him to have: no light, no truth, no righteousness, no life-giving force. Light shown over the Israelites because they had the Almighty God of Israel shining over them with the pure word of God and His law.
10. The **death of the firstborn Egyptians** without the blood of a lamb brushed on their door post was a direct result of Egypt not having a saviour who could pay for the sins of their people. God hardened Pharaoh's heart to drive His final point home. God Almighty pronounced the death of the firstborn Egyptians, as a clear message to the rebel heavenly rulers that the Egyptian people on earth will not be the first resurrected in God's kingdom. They will not be part of the firstborn. The opportunity was there for them to be part of the first to be transformed into eternal bodies, but the heavenly rulers failed to lead the nations on earth onto the righteous path to God.

Pharaoh let God's people go and God Almighty began His ministry. He provided His ten commandments, His calendar, and His Holy Days.

IT BEGAN WITH THE PERFECT SACRIFICE CHOSEN ON THE TENTH DAY OF THE FIRST MONTH

In ancient times, the people of the world were interacting with their rulers in heaven. It was an everyday occurrence. The confusion was not whether gods existed, but who is the Supreme God.

The second plague where the Nile turned to blood, taught the Egyptians that they do not have a worthy sacrifice, but the Supreme God does. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only, beloved Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

God taught ancient Israel to take a lamb, one for each family, on the tenth day of the first month (Exodus 12:3) to symbolize a new beginning, keeping God's law of love. The blemish-free lamb taught ancient Israel that they have a saviour—a Redeemer.

"This month is the beginning of months for you; it shall be the first month of your year. Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household" (Exodus 12:3).

TEN DAYS BETWEEN CHRIST'S ASCENSION AND PENTECOST

God's saving plan for His people and all people is transparent. Every step along the timeline is revealed in His Holy Days. There are ten days between Christ's ascension and Pentecost. Christ was seen on earth for forty days after his resurrection. Pentecost is fifty days after Christ's resurrection.

God accepted the sacrifice of Jesus, His only Heir. Fifty days later, He gave His Holy Spirit to a reborn body of people who initiated a new beginning of the church. This day marked the beginning where God would give all repentant people His Holy Spirit. Now the essential ingredient for spiritual growth was made possible.

The ten days between Christ's ascension and Pentecost points to a legal process of signing over all people on earth to their new King of kings and Lord of lords.

TEN DAYS BETWEEN ROSH HASHANAH/FEAST OF TRUMPETS AND YOM KIPPUR/DAY OF ATONEMENT—THE TEN DAYS OF AWE

God's Holy Days that have not yet been fulfilled all take place in the Fall. The fulfilled Holy Days are:

1. The Passover Lamb was accepted. Christ's sacrifice paid the price for the sins of mankind; he purchased mankind with his blood.
2. God's second Holy Day is comprised of the seven days of eating unleavened bread. It mirrors the conscious effort of the removal sin in our lives. It acknowledges the difficulty of this task as sin is everywhere. Nearly all foods contain leaven. Information is riddled with lies, misinformation, and disinformation. Jesus was the first of those who will be in the first resurrection. His resurrection is the assurance that the prophesied resurrections will take place.
3. The third day on God's timeline is the Day of Pentecost when God's Holy Spirit was given to the reborn church and will continue to be given to all repentant people.

The unfulfilled Holy Days are:

4. Rosh Hashanah/Feast of Trumpets remembers the day when Christ will return to usher in the long-awaited Jubilee. Together with the resurrected saints and his great army from heaven, Christ will overthrow Satan.
5. The Day of Atonement/Yom Kippur follows this tremendous event. God will gather His people from around the world and pass judgement on the unrepentant people. He will not allow unrepentant rebels to enter the Holy Land.

“Just as I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you, declares the Lord GOD. I will make you pass under the rod and will bring you into the bond of the covenant. And *I will purge you of those who rebel and transgress against me.* I will bring them out of the land in which they dwell, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 20: 36-38).

6. The Feast of Tabernacles/Feast of Booths/Feast of Ingathering/Sukkot is a period of seven days of living in tents picturing the upcoming millennial reign of Jesus Christ. His reign will be considered temporary, hence the practice of living in tents during this holy day period. This evil age will end. Christ's one-thousand-year reign will finalize the complete period of mortality on earth.
7. The Last Great Day is the final feast day. At the close of this day, the second resurrection will take place, followed by the final Judgment. The unrepentant will not enter into eternal life. The humble overcomers will be transformed into glorious, eternal bodies. Then, it will be time for the old earth and heaven to be destroyed by fire. A new earth

and a new heaven will be created and Jesus Christ will reign forever.

A deeper look into the Day of Atonement/Yom Kippur will unveil mysteries that Biblical scholars have found but have difficulty understanding.

TENTH DAY OF TISHREI—THE DAY OF ATONEMENT/YOM KIPPUR

On this wonderful day, repentant 21st century nations of Israel will have their sins atoned. God will work first with His people who comprise of twelve nations today.

Regardless of having accepted the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, many Christians are in danger of spiritual stagnation. How can this be said? The ceremony on the Day of Atonement holds all of the answers.

“The LORD said to Moses, ‘The *tenth day* of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. Hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves, and present an offering made to the LORD by fire. Do no work on that day, because it is the Day of Atonement, when atonement is made for you before the LORD your God’” (Leviticus 23:26-28a).



Aaron was instructed to take two identical goats. “Present them before the LORD at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. He is to cast lots for the two goats—one lot for the LORD and sacrifice it for a sin offering. But the goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the LORD to be used for making atonement by sending it into the wilderness as a scapegoat” (Leviticus 16:6-8).

Each young goat images a leader and the role the leader fulfills. The questions are:

- Who are the leaders?
- What role do they fulfill?



God has carefully and methodically established a specific set of processes to atone for His people that will be fulfilled on the official Day of Atonement. These processes comprise of two core components:

1. The sacrifice of a young goat to cover the sins of God's people and all of mankind
2. The release of a live, young goat in the wilderness as a scapegoat to atone for the sins of God's people.

The process of the ceremony is comprised of several very important and unique features, which are key to adding clarity to understanding this unique Holy Day.

Unique features:

- Two young goats from *their* herd are presented before the LORD
 - The two young goats are both without blemish and in this case, they are indistinguishable because it requires the casting of lots in the assignment of the roles. Both young goats qualify for either role.
 - The goats come from *their* herd points to two leaders that come from *their* people.
- Lots were cast giving the LORD Almighty the task of choosing which young goat would be sacrificed and which young goat would be kept alive as the scapegoat.

Casting lots was a common practice in ancient times for calling on God or the gods over the nations to make the decision of an outcome. A clear example of this practice takes place when God chose the tribe of Levi to be His priests. There was a legitimate reason for asking God for clarification on this decision, because God's previous practice was the selection of the firstborn son from all families to enter His priesthood. God commanded each leader from each tribe to provide a rod. Overnight, Aaron's rod was the only one to demonstrate a miraculous change. It "put forth buds, produced blossoms, and bore ripe almonds" (Numbers 23:8). Aaron's lot was clearly God's choice.

SCRIPTURES THAT SUPPORT GOD USING THE CASTING OF LOTS TO AFFIRM HIS DECISION.

Decision from the LORD: "*The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD*" (Proverbs 16:33).

“Then they drew lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so, he was added to the eleven apostles” (Acts 1:26).

“Distribute the land by lot, according to your clans. To a larger group give a larger inheritance, and to a smaller group a smaller one. Whatever falls by lot will be theirs. Distribute it according to your ancestral tribes” (Numbers 33:64).

SCRIPTURES THAT SUPPORT THE CUSTOM OF CASTING LOTS IN THE PRIESTHOOD.

Custom of the priesthood: *“He was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense”* (Luke 1:9).

“These were the Levites, according to their families. They also cast lots, just as their brothers the descendants of Aaron did, in the presence of King David and of Zadok, Ahimelech, and the heads of families of the priests and of the Levites” (1 Chronicles 24:30-31).

THE ISRAELITES WERE NOT THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO UTILIZED THE CASTING OF LOTS.

Custom among the people outside of Israel: *“Then the sailors said to each other, ‘Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.’ They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah”* (Jonah 1:7).

It becomes apparent in the story of Jonah that it was not only the ancient Israelites using the lot method to ask their god to make the decision on a matter. The sailors on the boat each worshipped different gods and did the same. *“All of the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god”* (Jonah 1:5).

The sailors worshipping different gods suggested that lots be cast to determine who was responsible for the calamity they were experiencing. The lot fell on Jonah.

The casting of lots is an essential practice for the ritual on the Day of Atonement because only Almighty God, the Creator with the legal right as the Owner of all created, can determine the leaders to fulfill the sacred Day of Atonement. The two young goats were both without blemish and equally qualified for the atonement ceremony. The two roles comprise of a sacrifice and an ongoing atonement until the Day of Atonement is fulfilled. The casting of lots represents Almighty God's direct input in assigning each role to each goat.

THE FIRST YOUNG GOAT

The young goat the LORD chose for Himself would be sacrificed as a sin offering in redemptive payment of the sins of His people, Israel, and all of mankind.

Violations of God's law results in penalties. The sins of Israel resulted in their death. The legal price for the sins of God's people would be reconciled by the sacrifice imaged in the young goat God selected for Himself. The LORD God is the ultimate Judge who only can rule on an offense that would satisfy His law; the law He put in place that He also keeps. Satisfying God's law is the first step to receiving eternal life.

The Son of God was the leader imaged in the first young goat. Jesus Christ died on the cross and his redemptive sacrifice was fulfilled on the Passover.

THE SECOND YOUNG GOAT

The second young goat would be presented *alive before the LORD to be used for making atonement of His people by sending it into the wilderness as a scapegoat.*

Each of the italicized points above will be discussed separately.

ALIVE BEFORE THE LORD

The young goat remains *alive before the LORD*. This young goat is an image of a perfect being—without blemish, a spiritual leader who is alive, well and qualified to atone for the sins of God's people.

USED FOR MAKING ATONEMENT

“Used for making atonement” is the work of Jesus Christ who intercedes for God's people who repent and have accepted his sacrifice as payment of their sins. Jesus Christ is also the image of the second young goat. This explains why Almighty God made the decision through the casting of lots because the priesthood could not distinguish one goat from the other. In fact, both goats image Jesus Christ. Almighty God selected the Son from before creation to be the redemptive sacrifice for mankind. Christ purchased mankind when he paid the price for their sins. They are under his jurisdiction and he alone can intercede for them.

“Because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, *because he always lives to intercede for them*. Such a high priest meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens” (Hebrews 7:25-26).

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1). The spirit of Jesus Christ knows the heart of the saints. “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know how we ought to pray, but *the Spirit Himself intercedes for us* with groans too deep for words. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because *the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God*” (Romans 8:26-27).

The spirit of Jesus Christ intercedes for God's people.

The two young goats image Jesus Christ who holds two roles in the salvation of mankind. The making of atonement is the second step to complete the forgiveness process. Those who accept the sacrifice of Christ have completed only the first step. Accepting the redemptive sacrifice, commits these people to the death of their old self. "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?" (Romans 6:3)

This second step is the ongoing spiritual growth of repentant people to come into the fullness of Christ. They are reborn to grow into spiritual maturity, growing in the knowledge, understanding and wisdom of God.

The Apostle Peter said, "Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. *Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good*" (1 Peter 2:1).

Repentant people begin as babes in Christ who cannot yet distinguish right from wrong.

"Anyone who lives on milk, *being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness*. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil" (Hebrews 5:13-14).

Because the rebirth is a growing process where mistakes and errors are made, making of atonement, that is, the intercession by Jesus Christ is necessary.

Repentant people are required to overcome and reach the whole measure and fullness of Christ. Jesus gave teachers to God's

people to prepare them “for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ” (Ephesians 4:12-15).

While the Day of Atonement is not fully understood among the Christian community and the rich meanings embedded in the ritual, God has still provided Christians with the essential knowledge of growing into spiritual maturity through the scriptures in the New Testament.

The Day of Atonement will be *fulfilled*, ten days after Jesus Christ returns on the Feast of Trumpets/Rosh Hashanah. It is a unique piece to the grand puzzle. Eventually, all of the Holy Days will be fulfilled, leaving a remembrance of God’s transparency of His saving plan for His people and all of mankind.

THE WILDERNESS

“By sending it into the wilderness” places the goat in a very important place. The wilderness is an image of an isolated place where repenting people enter separating themselves from the general unrepentant public to grow in God’s knowledge, understanding, and wisdom to live righteously.

Ancient Israel entered the wilderness for forty years. It was the separation essential for their spiritual journey to draw close to God. After forty years, only the children of the original people who left Egypt survived because they did not rebel against God.

Today, into the 21st century, the journey of the Judeo-Christians who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour are separated in a virtual wilderness as they privately develop an intimate relationship with Almighty God, our LORD through Jesus Christ. As ancient Israel was fed directly by Almighty God in the forty-year wilderness journey by manna, so, the Judeo-Christians are fed by Jesus Christ after accepting his redemptive sacrifice.

THE SCAPEGOAT

The final italicized point is the scapegoat. Jesus Christ bore the sins of all of mankind. He was the sinless, perfect sacrifice willing to die for mankind. He is the scapegoat. Isaiah recorded, “Therefore, I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life until death, and was numbered with the transgressors. *For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors*” (Isaiah 53:12).

THE ROLE OF THE FIRST YOUNG GOAT

God Almighty selected the young goat as the sacrifice for the sins of mankind. The redemptive sacrifice of Jesus Christ fulfilled the legal requirement for Atonement.

THE ROLE OF THE SECOND YOUNG GOAT

The role of the second, young goat sent in the wilderness is the ongoing, continual work of the High Priest Jesus Christ who intercedes for God's people as they grow and overcome. This work will continue and reach its apex on the official year of the day of Yon Kippur—the Day of Atonement.

It will be fulfilled ten days after the return of Jesus Christ. It will be a solemn day for God's people. At the end of the great tribulation, Jacob's trouble, the people who are repentant and remain mortal because they have not reached the fullness of

Christ will not be transformed into their spiritual bodies. These people will be atoned for on the Day of Atonement. They will bring this day to completion. A remembrance of this day will continue in the same way that the Passover, Feast of Weeks/Days of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost are kept today.

Before God's people enter into the Holy Land, God will have them walk under His staff and He will, at that time, purge anyone who holds an unrepentant and rebellious spirit. Ezekiel 20:38 "I will take note of you as you pass under my staff, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant. I will purge you of those who revolt and rebel against me. Although I will bring them out of the land where they are living, yet they will not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD" (Ezekiel 20:38).

Among God's people, people from the nations will also enter into the Holy Land. "The LORD will have compassion on Jacob; once again he will choose Israel and will settle them in their own land. *Foreigners will join them and unit with the house of Jacob*" (Isaiah 14:1).

These foreigners who join with DNA people of God from all twelve tribes will be given rulership—an inheritance, exactly the same as the DNA people of God. Ezekiel recorded God's word. "You are to distribute this land among yourselves according to the tribes of Israel. You are to allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the foreigners who have settled among you and who have children. You are to consider them as native-born Israelites; along with you they are to be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel. In whatever tribe the foreigner settles, there you are to give him his inheritance" (Ezekiel 47:21-23).

There will be no re-atonement of God's people who go into the Holy Land at the beginning of Jesus Christ's millennial reign. They will walk under God Almighty's staff; He will purge the unrepentant

and the remainder will continue to settle in the Holy Land to live righteously. The Apostle Peter urged God's people to recognize the importance of their calling.

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9).

Both of the young goats selected for the sacramental service on the Day of Atonement image Jesus Christ. The two indistinguishable goats require the selection by Almighty God, Himself. This is intentional to point to only one heavenly ruler who could qualify to fulfill two roles. Jesus Christ fulfilled the perfect sacrifice paying the price of mankind's sins. His sacrifice entitled him to have rulership over God's people and all of mankind and qualifies him to be the High Priest who is able to forgive their sins, awaken them from spiritual death, and heal all of their spiritual infirmities.

God's Holy Days given to His people will be remembered for all eternity.



SMYRNA WILL SUFFER FOR TEN DAYS

Of the seven churches of Revelation, two are promised their own crown: Smyrna and Philadelphia. Jesus compliments the humility and spiritual strength of this group of people who are symbolized in the church of Smyrna. He encourages them to remain strong during a time of extreme distress when Satan will persecute and

imprison some of them (Revelation 2:10). Recorded in verse ten, Jesus said their suffering will be for ten days. The symbolism of their suffering for ten days is related to the keeping of God's law. Jesus recognizes the riches they hold and promises them a crown, if they remain faithful.

AFTER TEN JUBILEE CYCLES, GOD'S LAW WILL BE RE-ESTABLISHMENT BY HIS PEOPLE

Daniel recorded and revealed the timing given to God's people to stop sinning and live righteously.

“Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy” (Daniel 9:24). Seventy sevens equal 490 Biblical years. The time of the next Jubilee will be at the return of Jesus Christ. He will usher in righteous leadership and end corruption, slavery, and debt.

The whole house of Israel, all twelve tribes, which are today twelve nations, still have a lot of spiritual growth. Of the six tasks recorded in Daniel, three are to end sinning and three are to live righteously.

1. Finish transgression = stop/imprison rebellion within your people—the whole kingdom of Israel, all twelve tribes.
2. Put an end/seal up sin = hate sinning, imprison it, hinder it so that it is impossible to spread.
3. Atone for wickedness = sins are altogether removed out of the sight of God—blotted out. Hence, on the Day of Atonement of the last year of this evil age, the people of the twelve nations of Israel who come out of the Great Tribulation repentant and submissive to God finally, will be atoned.

Once sin is overcome, righteous living has to be learned:

4. These people must live perfectly in righteousness.
5. Then, the visions and prophecy that will be laid under a seal, meaning that the visions and prophecy can no longer actively show themselves because they are fulfilled.
6. The next most important and glorious task is the anointing of the Most Holy. This is a divine anointing of a new sanctuary, prior to God coming and filling it with His glory.

Keil and Delitzsch wrote, “The reference is to the anointing of a new sanctuary, temple, or most holy place. The anointing is the act by which the place is consecrated to be a holy place of the gracious presence and revelation of God. If thus the anointing of a most holy is here announced, then by it there is given the promise, not of the renewal of the place already existing, but of the appointment of a new place of God’s gracious presence among His people, a new sanctuary.”¹⁰

Reviewing the instructions from the angel to Daniel, God’s people have seventy sevens to complete six tasks. Seventy sevens is 490 years, that is, 49 times 10. This time period multiplied by ten immediately makes a statement that a legal matter is at stake here. If the multiplication of 10 points to the absolute enforcement of God’s law, then one block of time (49 years) just prior to the Jubilee is given to God’s people to overcome sin and dedicate themselves to living righteously in time before the anointing of the Most Holy. When does this time period start?

¹⁰ Keil and Delitzsch. Bible Commentaries. *StudyLight*, Daniel 9:24. <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/kdo/daniel-9.html>). Accessed April 10, 2022.

The Apostle John recorded, “Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff and was told, ‘Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the number of worshipers there. But exclude the courtyard outside the temple. Do not measure it, because it has been given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for 42 months’” (Revelation 11:1-2).

The new sanctuary will be established during the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. God’s people have 490 years or 49 years times ten to:

- To overcome sin and keep it from raising its head
- Live righteously and prepare the temple for the arrival of the Almighty God.

Regardless of the number of physical years—490 years or a message symbolized as a mathematical expression: $7 \times 7 \times 10$, if it is not accomplished within the given seventy sevens, they will be brought before the courts of God. A message written in a mathematical expression is solved by understanding the meaning of each number. Seventy sevens = $7 \times 10 \times 7$.

1. A witness is represented with God’s use of two sevens: $7 \times 7 \times 10$.
2. A fully complete time period is represented in number seven: *two completions*.
3. A multiplied by ten is represented in number ten, God’s law: *a legal matter*.

It is a period of time when God’s people are given a legal witness of their sins where they are without excuse. Thankfully, prophecy points to a success of God’s people coming out of the Great Tribulation repentant and will bend their knee before Almighty

God and Jesus Christ. They will go into the Holy Land with genuine sincerity.

The prophecies in scripture all point to success.

REPENTANCE: “In those days, and in that time, says the LORD, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the LORD their God” (Jeremiah 50:4). The return to God of *both* houses at the same time has never happened. This is a future event.

EVERLASTING COVENANT: “And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me” (Jeremiah 32:40).

GOD’S SANCTUARY WILL BE AMONG THEM: “Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore” (Ezekiel 37:26).

A question rarely asked is whether these 21st century Israelites are the only Israelites tasked with this legal directive? It appears, through scripture, that there is an additional group who also have this legal directive.

A physical resurrection will take place at the beginning of the Millennium by Ezekiel through the power of Almighty God. This exciting event is recorded in Ezekiel 37.

God said to Ezekiel, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life.’”

So, Ezekiel prophesied as he was commanded. “There was a rattling round, and the bones came together, bone to bone... Tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.” The ancient house of Israel is resurrected back into their physical bodies.

The Almighty God announced, in ancient times, that He will give ancient Israel breath and they will live. “Prophecy to the breath and say to it, ‘Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live... they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.’”

Ezekiel did as he was commanded and before him, breath entered the slain. These people were killed while they were at war with their God. In great compassion, God will resurrect them. Their heart will beat, their lungs will expand and contract, and their eyes will open. They will stand up before Ezekiel, millions of them!

Conscious of their failed spiritual state, they will say, “*Our bones are dried up.*” They know they have been resurrected back into their physical bodies and they admit defeat—they are spiritually dead and have been for many generations.

“Our *hope* is gone.” They understand that there is no hope of eternal life for them, for they are *both* the divorced house of Israel—the faithless and the unfaithful house of Judah.

“We have been *cut off.*” Both houses of Israel exasperated the Almighty God with their perpetual rebellious and treasonous behaviour. He gave the house of Israel a bill of divorce, severing them from His covenant people and sent them away forbidding them from returning to the Promised land.

Despite what these people have done, God’s timeless love for them endures. “I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then

you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them” (Ezekiel 37:13). In God’s great mercy and enduring love for His people, He has announced their resurrection in the writing of Ezekiel and has promised to bring them back home. The return to the land is God announcing and accepting their repentance at this resurrection.

“‘I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and *I will settle you in your own land*. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it,’ declares the LORD” (Ezekiel 37:14).

Christ’s sacrifice paid the penalty for all of our sins. This vast number of people have now the opportunity again to choose life. With the help of God’s Holy Spirit, their choices will be different from their destructive direction in the past.

Many of the prophets of old have not finished the job God has given them. They died knowing they didn’t nor could they finish it. The prophets will be resurrected at the time of Christ’s return and transformed into their glorious bodies. They will finish the God work given to them. The forty-nine-legal-week directive applies primarily to resurrected ancient Israel Israel.

Recorded by the Apostle John in Revelation 21:22, the New Jerusalem comprises of eternal righteousness. “I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp... Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”

The new Jerusalem is shaped as a cube imaging the layers of spiritually strong people filling positions to bind the foundation and all structures above as a single unbreakable, eternal unit. It

needs no light because the glory of Almighty God and Jesus Christ shines out in radiant beams filling all space.

TEN FINGERS AND TEN TOES

God created mankind male and female. Both have ten fingers and ten toes given so that they could write God's law in their hearts and remain balanced as they walk in His ways.

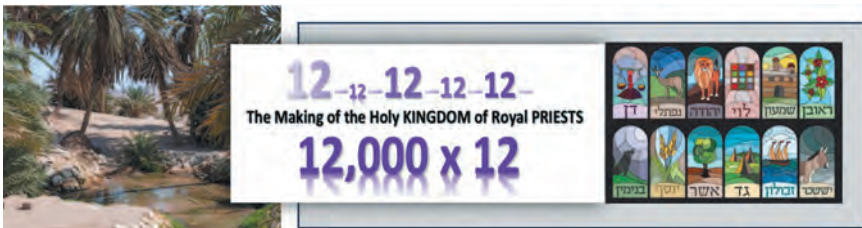
It is God's law, symbolized in the number ten, that deals with *all legal matters* that will bring divine order and eternal peace, while totally eradicating rebel chaos and confusion. With a humble body of men and women, living righteously and in complete obedience to God's law, a new government will be formed. God's heavenly courts have fallen; He will fill His new courts with repentant and righteous people from the twelve nations of Israel. How can we know this?

THE NUMBER 12 and 70, GOD'S PERFECT GOVERNMENT

“Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads... No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless”

(Revelation 14:1, 5).

Moses recorded a song for ancient Israel to sing and remember forever. It was a synopsis of their history. The chapter of Deuteronomy 32 records the lyrics of that song. Common knowledge of the ancient Israelites is the history of the time when God Almighty decided to divide the people on earth into their own communities with their own land and language. He placed loyal and revered heavenly rulers over the nations to help them learn God’s way. God decided to participate in this project and He chose the children of Jacob. He gave himself an inheritance— kingship over Israel.



“When the Most High assigned lands to the nations, when he divided up the human race, he established the boundaries of the peoples according to the number in his heavenly court. But the LORD’s portion is His people, Jacob His allotted inheritance”
(Deuteronomy 32:8-9).

God added, “Of all the families of the earth, only Israel have I chosen” (Amos 3:2).

It was a painful disappointment for God when one by one all of the heavenly rulers over the nations turned against Him. A storm of wickedness was raging on the earth when Abraham was born and growing up. Moses recorded the rebellion of these fallen angels that brought the destruction of truth—God’s knowledge, leaving a desert of lies, misinformation, and disinformation. Abraham was born over two hundred years after the heavenly rulers were given rulership over the nations and in that short time, all truth and goodness was lost.

Recorded in the song of Moses, “In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye” (Deuteronomy 32:10).

God Almighty began molding His people beginning with Abraham, then Isaac and Jacob. Hosea recorded God’s joy finding overcomers in a world of wickedness. “When I found Israel, it was like finding grapes in the desert and that when I saw your fathers, it was like seeing the early fruit on the fig tree” (Hosea 9:10).

God identified His people as the fig tree. This fascinating tree does not show its flowers, rather, they remain hidden within a fleshly structure known as the syconium. The flower eventually develops into fruit. This imagery describes a humble people growing in God’s word and developing into righteous leaders who are not seeking self-glory. That is the beauty God is forming in His people.

TWELVE SONS, TWELVE TRIBES, TWELVE NATIONS

Jacob was the father of twelve sons. This was by no accident; it was determined by God long before the creation of Adam and Eve. The history of these twelve sons into the 21st century is mostly

a dark story of rebellion, self-reliance, self-direction, and a drive for self-glory—behaving just like the nations of the world.

It was known to God, long before creation on earth began that He would be faced with many challenges. God knows the end from the beginning. He is not finished His handiwork; His plan is transparent. He began with twelve, the number of His perfect government and when He is finished, it will be twelve times twelve times one thousand—the eternal, multi-dimensional perfect government! God will accomplish all He has set out to do.

God said, “It is too small a thing that you should be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make you a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth” (Isaiah 49:6).

Ancient Israel was destined to become a holy kingdom of royal priests. God foreknew the pearl-like process that would transform His people into righteous, God-fearing servants.

Their transformation began in Egypt when they were slaves to sin. Moses stood in the place of Almighty God demanding the release of His firstborn people. Already, God was declaring who would be part of the first resurrection; it would begin with His people. God poured out ten plagues onto Egypt. The number ten because it is God’s symbolic number for His law. A legal judgement was brought upon the heavenly ruler over Egypt at that time, by Almighty God.

After the blood of a lamb without blemish was brushed onto the door posts, the exit out of Egypt was made possible. Egypt symbolized the place of sin that held God’s people captive. He was teaching ancient Israel about spiritual freedom and the process they need to follow to get it.

1. A perfect sacrifice accepted by God was the blood of the lamb on their door post.
2. Repentance and the purging of sin out of their lives was represented in their hast to leave Egypt. The time limitations resulted in them baking unleavened bread represented in them eating the pure word of God that is not puffed up with lies, misinformation, and disinformation.
3. Trust in God to guide them through the wilderness into His Holy Land was essential, but difficult for the ancient Israelites to achieve. Only their children, along with Joshua and Caleb, entered into the Promised Land.

The ancient Israelites did not understand the many rituals Moses told them to do. In haste, they ate unleavened bread fleeing out of Egypt. The spiritual significance of eating unleavened bread would not have entered their mind, as they left in the dark of night, fleeing for their lives. The plan of God to have His people eat unleavened bread was to be picture the growth into spiritual maturity through the eating of God's word that is true and good.

The power of the rebel gods over the nations was felt by the people. Almighty God had to prove to His people, who lived in Egypt for over four hundred years, that He was the Supreme God of all gods. The awakening event for the ancient Israelites was the parting of the Red Sea.

In the Middle East, Baal-Zephon was the great god over the sea. His heavenly presence watching over the Red Sea terrified the ancient Israelites. They found themselves cornered, as they gathered between Baal-Zephon's rushing waters and the mountain ranges. The blow of Baal-Zephon's cold trident would be the death of the ancient Israelites if their God was not the Supreme God, the Almighty God, as Moses claimed.

At the moment when all of ancient Israel was trembling and distressed, the God of Israel told Moses to raise his arms and then, the water parted and onto dry land all of ancient Israel crossed over. When the last Israelite walked onto land, God closed the opening and all of the Egyptians chasing them drowned by the crushing waters. Baal-Zephon proved to be powerless to stop the ancient Israelites or protect the Egyptians.

Only then, the Israelites believed that their God was more powerful, the Almighty. The battle of the Hebrew God against all the gods who once ruled over the nations is a totally foreign concept for 21st century people. Scholars mythicized the ancient gods and the power they once wielded. A time is coming on our near horizon, when the remaining heavenly rulers who have been promised a kingdom at the time of Babel, arrive on earth. The 21st century nations will experience the sting of these rebels once felt by ancient peoples.

SEVENTY PALM TREES, TWELVE SPRINGS OF WATER

Seventy palm trees provided a covering in the hot desert for the ancient Israelites, at their first stop of their journey towards the Promised Land. There, they were revived by twelve springs of water, one represented for each tribe. This was no random or by chance event. It was the Hebrew God prophesying to His people many hundreds of years in the future, the spiritual journey they would take when they return to the land of their forefathers. Seventy palm trees image seventy spiritually strong elders who can survive in very harsh conditions. They equate to the seventy elders with proven integrity and leadership like those selected to help Moses. This selection of the seventy elders also point to an eternal group of seventy who will serve Almighty God and forever guide God's royal, ruling family in righteousness.

“Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Come up to the LORD—you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of Israel’s elders—and you are to worship at a distance’” (Exodus 24:1).

These seventy were also given God's Holy Spirit. It was mirrored in God giving them some of the spirit given to Moses. Their role requires having God's Holy Spirit in order for them to fulfill their duties. They represent a law-abiding, complete group of counsellors filled with God's Holy Spirit.

“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone’” (Numbers 11:16-17).

This journey was a mirror of the reliable supports God will have in place when the 21st century nations of Israel return to the land of their forefathers. They will have very strong leadership from every tribe. Each tribe will have their own source of life—a righteous and God-serving ministry, who can baptize so that God's Holy Spirit can be given. This is imaged in the twelve springs.

As the Israelites approached the Holy Land, they were prepared to battle against the giants in their land. Moses set up twelve stone pillars, one for each of the twelve tribes and they confirmed their covenant with God. Success battling against the heights of Wickedness requires total allegiance to and trust in Almighty God. God Almighty is the Great King over all kings. That is the lesson ancient Israel learned. Belief in the giants has been viewed as a fantasy by scholars, but the people of the 21st century will awaken during the Great Tribulation, when they face-off against their only enemies who are spiritual: fallen angels, rulers, powers, and principalities. These giants will terrify them.

TWELVE PILLARS

The raising up of twelve pillars in ancient times is a prophecy indicating that the twelve nations into the 21st century will awaken and confirm their covenant with God before battling against rebel fallen rulers, powers, and principalities who will set up their thrones on earth during the latter days.

TWELVE FOUNDATIONS

The twelve foundations of the New Jerusalem image the leadership of the twelve apostles. The structure of this city is designed by God to be everlasting. Its fundamental strength is reinforced by the teachings of Christ through the twelve apostles.

“The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb” (Revelation 21:14).

The apostles have the exquisite qualities of gem stones. They were among the rare people on earth who endured harsh persecution and overcame growing into priceless members of God’s family reflecting the precision-cut lights of righteousness.

THE BLAMELESS 144,000

12,000 times twelve will be the saints who will form the new headquarters of the New Jerusalem. These are the saints.

Recorded by Daniel, God Almighty said, “Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His [Christ’s] kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him [Christ].” This is the end of the matter (Daniel 7:27-28a).

There have been some fierce invisible battles fought in heaven for rulership of God’s kingdom. These cannot be seen or fully

understood by mankind. And still on the near horizon, waits the worst battle to be fought on earth—a time like no other. The verdict of this final battle is known. Daniel 7 reveals God's judgement. Sovereignty will be awarded to Christ and the saints.

The 144,000 of Revelation are the overcomers from 21st century nations of Israel. "Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads... No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless" (Revelation 14:1,5). One hundred and forty-four thousand will be sealed from the twelve tribes of Israel: Judah, Reuben, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph and Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed (Revelation 7:5-8).

Why twelve? Why twelve tribes, twelve gates, twelve foundations and a central group of twelve thousand times twelve?

It symbolizes God's power and authority in bringing about a perfect, eternally righteous, ruling government of God-fearing, God-serving body of royal priests. Our Creator's plan of salvation for all of mankind begins with the twelve tribes—God's firstborn priest nation.

"Then you [Moses] shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, *Israel is my firstborn son* and I told you to let My son go so that he may worship Me. But you have refused to let him go, so I will kill your firstborn son!'" (Exodus 4:22)

Israel—the Overcomers—is God's firstborn who will, under Christ's leadership, bring the people of the nations to God. There will be children born into the God family after the firstborn. God is working on the construct of His multi-layered groups of twelve that can handle the entry of all the nations in the world and the ever-expanding kingdom of God.

THE JOURNEY THAT TOOK FORTY YEARS

*“They returned from spying out the land, at the end of forty days”
(Numbers 13:25).*

It wasn't at the completion of seven days or in three days, but after forty days spying out the Promised Land that the twelve spies brought back a report. Only Joshua and Caleb had faith and trust in God and reported favourably of the overthrowing of the giants living there. Only they were close to God.



Despite all of the many miracles that God did for ancient Israel, all of them except for Joshua and Caleb still did not have a relationship of trust in God. These people will be resurrected back into their physical bodies at the beginning of the Millennium, along with the Israelites like them who lived warring against God throughout the generations. They will be given God's Holy Spirit, a complete and full amount of time to mature spiritually, and draw close to the Creator God of all creation. The story is told in the imagery of numbers.

It was prophesied that these wayward people will repent. “No longer will Jacob [Israelites—who have not yet overcome] be ashamed; no longer will their faces grow pale. When they see among them *their children*, the work of my hands, they will keep my name holy; they will acknowledge the holiness of the Holy One

of Jacob, and will stand in awe of the God of Israel [God of the overcomers]. Those who are wayward in spirit will gain understanding; those who complain will accept instruction” (Isaiah 29:22-24).

“Their children” are the resurrected firstborn of mortals who are in reverence to God, obeying Him, trusting Him, and elated that He is their God and they are His people.

Strategically woven into the number forty are tests and trials for mankind designed to stimulate spiritual growth that provides mechanisms to find the way to God that brings spiritual healing and an intimate relationship with Him.

CHRIST WAS CLOSE TO GOD, BEFORE HE BEGAN HIS MINISTRY

For forty days and forty nights Jesus fasted in the wilderness. He was walking and talking with God. Filled with God’s Holy Spirit, he was a powerhouse of spiritual strength. He was ready to begin his ministry that would enable our spiritual healing, producing in us—a new man, necessary before entering into the presence of our righteous, heavenly Father. The foolish tempter who often uses physical needs and desires to lure believers away from the spiritual truths and ways of God, failed to entice Jesus. God’s plan to save mankind will not fail.

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. *After fasting forty days and forty nights*, he was hungry” (Matthew 4:1).

Despite Jesus’ physical hunger, he was filled with God’s Holy Spirit and the word of God. He made it possible for our spiritual filling. Through the receiving of God’s Holy Spirit, feasting on the word of God, and living the way of God, mankind grows into a healthy state ready to enter into God’s kingdom as His adopted

children—part of the eternal, great, royal, ruling, holy family of God Almighty.

The wilderness is the image God uses of the place that will bring people close to Him. It is a treacherous place outside of the touch of mankind. It is a place that will strengthen the righteous. The imagery God uses of the woman clothed in the sun and the moon under her feet wearing a crown of twelve stars, escapes to the wilderness from the torrent of water from the dragon. There, she is protected for forty-two months (Revelation 12:6). This woman is the righteous and faithful church; the wilderness is the testing and growth site that leads her into perfection.

AFTER HIS RESURRECTION—NOW VERY CLOSE TO HIS FATHER, MOMENTS FROM RETURNING, CHRIST PREPARED HIS FOLLOWERS FOR FORTY DAYS, BRINGING THEM CLOSER TO GOD

After the crucifixion and resurrection, Christ spent forty days meeting with his disciples and preparing them to teach the Jews and the gentile ten tribes who were returning back into the fold. These Gentiles were awarded the task of taking the message of the kingdom of God to the whole world.

“After His suffering, He presented Himself to them with many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a span of *forty days* and spoke about the kingdom of God” (Acts 1:3).

Christ’s work on earth was finished forty days after his death and resurrection. The Holy Spirit arrived fifty days later on the first day of Pentecost, seeding the spiritual healing and such growth that eventually all of mankind will come into the fullness of Christ.

GOD CLEANSED THE EARTH IN FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS OF RAIN

God caused the great flood that cleansed the earth of wickedness preserving only eight people, Noah and his family. They were the new beginning for mankind. For forty days and forty nights, Noah and his family, along with selected animals, were saved in the ark. As the rain poured and the waters rose, the ark was brought closer to the heavens. It was a natural result that brought the small remnant and their home on the water higher and higher, closer to God. Forty days and forty nights of God's judgement in the form of a flood sentenced the wicked to death. When God spells out forty days and forty nights, He is emphasizing the legal witness that led to His righteous judgement. Noah was judged before the flood and he and his family found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

“In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah and Shem and Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark” (Genesis 7:11-13).

“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD” (Genesis 6:8).

While the earth was being cleansed by a worldwide catastrophe, those preserved were brought close to God.

“For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the water increased, they lifted the ark above the earth. The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water” (Genesis 7:17-18).

NOAH WAITED FORTY DAYS AFTER IT RAINED BEFORE HE OPENED THE WINDOW IN THE ARK

Noah and his family remained covered sending out a raven, then a dove to determine the water level. When the dove did not return, he removed the covering of the ark and saw a cleansed new world. Forty days they waited for the waters to subside.

“And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made” (Genesis 8:6).

As the waters receded, they were brought down back on earth. This is an image of a blameless small group being spiritually strengthened and rejuvenated, ready to restore the way of God and repopulate the earth with God-fearing and God-obeying people. This remnant was humble before God and offered a sacrifice, which pleased God and He promised never to destroy mankind and living creatures again with a flood.

“Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: ‘Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done’” (Genesis 8:20-21).

“Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth... I will establish a covenant with you... Never again will all life be cut off by waters of a flood to destroy the earth... the sign of the covenant is the rainbow in the clouds’” (Genesis 9:1-16).

MOSES—FOR FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS COVERED IN A CLOUD, WAS TAUGHT BY GOD THE COMMANDMENTS, STATUES, AND ORDINANCES

During the forty days and forty nights, Moses was taught the complete law of God, returning with ten commandments written on two stone tablets.

“Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights” (Exodus 24:18).

Moses was prepared to restore the law of God and bring a spiritual healing to the people of ancient Israel. God’s law written on two tablets of stone provided a guaranteed witness that God’s law works to establish order, peace and prosperity.

“So, he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread or drink water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments” (Exodus 34:28).

ELIJAH—FOR FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS WALKED TO MOUNT HOREB TO STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

Filled with strength from the food given to him by the Angel of God, Elijah sustained the walk without eating or drinking to climb Mt. Horeb. Each step brought him closer and closer to God.

Elijah’s commission was to bring God’s people back to Him in repentance, have them recognize their sins and their need for God’s forgiveness. He ignited a spiritual awakening of God’s people when he challenged Jezebel’s priests. The event was a display of immense power of the God of Israel and a deep, empty void for Baal who could do nothing.

“Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the

water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “*The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God*” (1 Kings 18:38).

Elijah then seized the prophets of Baal and slaughtered them. Jezebel was very angry and swore, “So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow” (1 Kings 19:2).

It is difficult for people in the 21st century to understand this level of devotion and loyalty people had towards the gods they worshipped. These gods were the heavenly rulers given kingship over the nations at the time of Babel. These rulers were revered, holy sons of God until they all rebelled against God. People on earth were engaging directly with their heavenly rulers.

While Elijah was in hiding from Jezebel’s anger and decree to have him killed, he took refuge with people from the nations outside of Israel. These people were recipients of miracles. They believed and trusted Elijah and came to acknowledge the God of Israel as the Supreme God. These events point to a future mirroring where people from outside of Israel will believe and received God’s Holy Spirit. The story of Peter in the New Testament was a direct teaching on this important understanding.

“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard his message. All the circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and exalting God. Then Peter said, ‘Can anyone withhold the water to baptize these people? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have!’ So, he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay for a few days” (Acts 10:44-48).

“Then Peter began to speak: ‘I now truly understand that God does not show favoritism, but welcomes those from every nation who fear Him and do what is right’” (Acts 10:34-35).

Elijah's life was constantly under threat. After he told King Ahab that a severe famine would come because of his sins, God told Elijah to leave and hide in Kerith Ravine. There God had ravens bring him bread and meat in the morning and evening and he drank from the brook. Ravens are an unclean bird and it would seem odd that a God who defined which birds were clean and unclean for the reason to show a distinction between what is favoured and what is not, would have an unclean bird feed His faithful prophet from the northern house of Israel. It is likely because His “clean” people, were incompetent in accomplishing God's work. So, God through unclean means fed Elijah to keep him alive during a very dark time of history to show His people that He can use the “unclean” to do His work. God was not limited to His, so called, “clean” people.

When the water of the brook at Kerith Ravine dried up, he was fed by a widow living in Zarephath, outside of Israel. This woman was not an Israelite and would be considered unclean. Elijah found her collecting wood to prepare the last meal for her son and herself. He asked for food and water and she replied, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die” (1 Kings 18:12).

She could see that the god she worshipped was not breaking the famine, and Elijah promised her life if she gave the last of her food to him. With nothing to lose, she gave what she had to him, demonstrating her trust in his word and reliance on his God. This woman mirrored the bringing under the God of Israel, people from the nations outside of Israel.

Again, Elijah was fed by “unclean” means. Later, her son died and Elijah brought him back to life. Elijah’s ministry went outside of the boundary of God’s people. He was sent to a gentile church, imaged in the widow living outside of Israel, who took care of him. When God is teaching spiritual lessons, He uses imagery. Women are always imaged as a church—a religious body.

While Elijah was with her, he taught her the word of God which was passed down to her son, who was brought back to life. After this miracle, the woman then believed fully that Elijah is a servant of the Almighty God. She said, “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth” (I Kings 18:24).

While King Ahab and the people of the northern house of Israel were rebelling against the Almighty God, a gentile church came to believe in the true Creator, the Almighty God. Peter, a disciple of Jesus, learned not to call the Gentiles unclean. “The voice spoke to him a second time: “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean” (Acts 10:15).

Elijah’s commission was a key role, one that mirrored the work of John the Baptist.

“For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to receive it, *he is Elijah who was to come*” (Matthew 11:13-14). John the Baptist baptised both Jews and Gentiles. John prepared the way for the receiving of God’s Holy Spirit, which is expressed in scripture as having Christ in you. This initiates a spiritual rebirthing process that opens understanding into the scriptures, providing a rich source of knowledge, understanding, and wisdom.

Another “Elijah” will come just before the Great Tribulation—Jacob’s Trouble and prepare the way before the return of Jesus, the King over all kings and Lord over all lords.

When Elijah prayed to God to showcase His power before the wavering people of Israel, he said, “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that *you are turning their hearts back again*” (1 Kings 18:36-37).

Elijah has unfinished business. Either he is resurrected to complete this job or an Elijah-like prophet, will turn the hearts of the people back to God. God vows, “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel [both houses: Judah and Israel]. See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. *He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse*” (Malachi 4:4-5).

JONAH—FOR FORTY DAYS WARNED THE NINEVITES OF THEIR DESTRUCTION IF THEY DO NOT REPENT OF THEIR VIOLENCE AND EVIL WAYS

The Ninevites were cruel Assyrians and one of ancient Israel’s worst enemies who touted their supremacy and bragged of their military triumphs. And yet, God had compassion on them and He extended them grace, along with anyone who repents of their sins. God does not judge with bias. His people are not favoured over the people of the nations. In contrast, God will punish His people double for their sins because they have been given His law and the oracles. An oxymoron in its truest sense, will be the people of Nineveh on Judgement Day, who will stand against God’s people who have rejected Him. The Ninevites knew and

feared the Supreme God better than the wicked generation of God's people during Jesus' life on earth.

“On the day Jonah entered the city, he shouted to the crowds: ‘Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!’” (Jonah 3:4)

The people of the city of Nineveh listened and feared the God of Israel. They acknowledged Him as the Supreme God and that they were sinning against Him. He accepted their humble repentance and extended them grace and life.

Jesus said, “The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth” (Jonah 3:5).

The whole city repented and God had compassion on them. They were not destroyed but received God's forgiveness and respect.

Their repentance as a people without God's Holy Spirit is a marvellous event that Jesus highlighted when he condemned the rebellious Jews in Judah.

“The people of Nineveh will also stand up against this generation on judgement day and condemn it, for they repented of their sins at the preaching of Jonah. Now someone greater than Jonah is here—but you refuse to repent” (Luke 11:32).

ANCIENT ISRAEL—FOR FORTY YEARS WANDERED THE WILDERNESS BEFORE ENTERING THE PROMISED LAND

It took the full forty years to cleanse ancient Israel of the generation of unbelieving people who despite the many miracles they witnessed, still did not believe in the supremacy of the God of Israel and His love for them.

“And the LORD said to Moses, ‘How long will this people treat Me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in Me, despite all the signs I have performed among them?’” (Numbers 14:11)

While the unbelieving died during the walk in the wilderness, their children matured and lived to enter the glorious land promised to them. They embraced God’s law, kept His Holy Days, and vowed to keep His ways. God fought their enemies with them; together, they won. They were close to their God.

“It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our forefathers up out of Egypt... performed those great signs before our eyes. Protected us on our entire journey... the LORD drove out before us all the nations... He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. ‘If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.’ But the people said to Joshua, ‘No, we will serve the LORD.’ Then Joshua said, ‘You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD.’ ‘Yes, we are witnesses,’ they replied... ‘We will serve the LORD our God and obey him’” (Joshua 24:17-22, 24).

The unbelievers of ancient Israel didn’t know their God. Desire to live with Him in the Promised Land was easily snuffed out. Seen through their carnal mind, the Promised Land was just another place where they will die. The giant obstacles seemed too big in their eyes for their God. They simply didn’t know Him. Their mental state was dark and they accused Him of plotting to kill them as they journeyed in the wilderness, despite the wonderful saving-miracles that He performed solely for them. In great contrast to these ancient Israelites, people of great faith lived in the past and live into the present who without a single miracle believe in the supremacy and greatness of the God of Israel and they love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength.

The work of our Creator goes beyond the wisdom of man. His use of numbers is woven into His handiwork with exquisite precision. He threads them as mysteries and binds them securely in His timeline, in our story, in His gifts, in our correction, in His rewards, and in our obedience.

The number forty is used to confirm a completion in testing, a period of judging, the work of restoration and hope that culminates in an intimately close relationship with God. Learn from the city of Nineveh; don't wait for the fulfillment of forty. God's teaching of His mysteries woven in numbers does not end in the number forty. A significant number is next that trumpets the sound of freedom for all people on earth that will stir their hearts to search intensely and find their Great Creator.

THE JUBILEE OF FIFTY

“You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall give you forty-nine years. Then you shall sound the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month. On the Day of Atonement, you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land. And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan”
(Leviticus 25:8-11).

Fifty days after the Passover, the Holy Spirit came upon the reborn church kingdom. Gathered together, a small group of people experienced the arrival of God’s Holy Spirit. Tongues of fire rested on their heads. It was a new beginning! It was the rebirth of the church kingdom that God had planned before creation on earth.



“Now if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, you will be My treasured possession out of all the nations—for the whole earth is Mine. And unto Me you shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you are to speak to the Israelites” (Exodus 19:5-6).

God's plan for His people cannot be thwarted (Job 42:2). The Apostle Peter repeated God's plan for His people.

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, to proclaim the virtues of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

God's reborn church kingdom started as small as a mustard seed, but it will grow to cover the whole earth.

“This is what the LORD of Hosts says: ‘Peoples will yet come—the residents of many cities—and the residents of one city will go to another, saying: “Let us go at once to plead before the LORD and to seek the LORD of Hosts. I myself am going.” And many peoples and strong nations will come to seek the LORD of Hosts in Jerusalem and to plead before the LORD’” (Zechariah 8:20-22).

Under the rulership of Almighty God, Pentecost is a time of rebirth and growth. Under the rulership of man, Pentecost is a time of distress and oppression.

Ancient Israel rejected Almighty God as their King. They wanted to be like the nations around them whose heavenly rulers had rebelled against God and were teaching their subjects about war and how to increase their power to reach superpower status.

God warned against their request. He said to Samuel, “Now listen to their voice; but you must solemnly warn them and show them the manner of the king who will reign over them... He [Samuel] said to ancient Israel, ‘This will be the manner of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them to serve his own chariots and horses, and to run in front of his chariots. He will appoint some for himself as commanders of thousands and of fifties, and others to plow his ground, to reap his harvest,

to make his weapons of war, and to equip his chariots. And he will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his servants. He will take a tenth of your grain and grape harvest and give it to his officials and servants. And he will take your menservants and maidservants and your best cattle and donkeys and put them to his own use. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. When that day comes, you will beg for relief from the king you have chosen, but the LORD will not answer you on that day.' Nevertheless, the people refused to listen to Samuel. 'No!' they said. 'We must have a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to judge us, to go out before us, and to fight our battles'" (1 Samuel 8:9-20).

God gave ancient Israel their first king, Saul. He did not fully obey God and in time, he behaved exactly as God had described to ancient Israel. Into the 21st century, national leadership has continued to rule as God foretold.

The rebel heavenly rulers over the nations have now been captured and imprisoned. Their fall gave mankind two thousand years to rule over themselves. God is not finished with these rebels. A final ten were promised a kingdom at the time the original rulers received their inheritance over the nations. These ten will receive their kingdoms on earth during the final three and a half years of this evil age. God Almighty cannot be overthrown; He is the Supreme King and only Creator. His plan remains fully intact; He is building His legal case against all the rebels in heaven and on earth.

Regardless of the times, the battle has already been won. This evil age will end at the beginning of the next Jubilee year.

The Jubilee year is every fifty years. God taught His people to forgive debts, return land to their original owners, and release their Israelite slaves among them. The trumpet is blown on the Day of Atonement. The sound is produced from a ram's horn, which in Hebrew is "Yovel" meaning ram. This is the same word for the Jubilee year. It is a significant beginning that declares the atonement of God's people where they all will enter into a new time of total freedom. The Jubilee is a full year of joy and celebration.

People will rest from conflicts and chaos. The land will rest from overuse. The people will be blessed with a double portion in the previous year that will provide sufficient food for their families. It is a time that mirrors a rest from the hardships of everyday life on earth, with time to focus on growing spiritually.

Christ's millennial reign will begin the next Jubilee year. God's people will return to the land of their ancient ancestors free from debt, slavery, and a passion to serve God and worship Him. It will be the year that Christ restores God's law and His people will humbly return to Him to talk and walk with Him. This new beginning will never end. Christ is the covering for mankind and during his millennial reign, he will bring all people from all nations to worship the Creator God.

CLOTHING—A SYMBOLIC COVERING

*“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with hearts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience”
(Colossians 3:12).*

God’s coded language uses clothing as a covering to image specific attributes in different roles, as well as, a demonstration of humility or strength and by some, a means to hide their true intentions. Kings wear fine clothes, the saints wear fine linen, Elijah and John the Baptist wore camel hair, sackcloth is worn when humbling yourself before God, and evil people clothe themselves to appear honest and good.



Adam and Eve, when created were covered in a glorious radiant glow. When they sinned, that holy covering disappeared and they were left naked. They were ashamed and sought to cover themselves.

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so, they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves” (Genesis 3:7).

The expression “their eyes were opened” is their realization that they sinned. Adam’s mistake was different to Eve’s error. Their nakedness is the imagery used to describe the revelation of their wrong choice that led to their wrong action.

Adam and Eve recognized that once they sinned, they needed a covering. While they tried to cover themselves, only God Almighty could provide the appropriate clothing that could redeem them.

The LORD God was walking in the garden and noticed them hiding. They admitted to their mistakes and He made garments of skin and clothed them (Genesis 3:21).

The only covering that could redeem them was a perfect, sinless Son of God whose blood would pay the legal debit for their sins. Though it appears there were attempts by other sons in heaven, only one Son was successful and qualified. Jesus Christ became the only heir of God’s kingdom.

The story of Abraham is a mirror of this moment in heavenly history. Abraham’s first son, Ishmael, born from Sarah’s handmaid, Hagar, was his firstborn son. After Sarah gave birth to Isaac, Hagar and Ishmael were sent away upon Sarah’s request and God’s approval, because only Isaac was destined by God to be the heir to Abraham’s growing, family kingdom.

Sarah was protecting the family inheritance and said, “Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac” (Genesis 21:10).

These words may seem harsh but from the spiritual view, Sarah mirrors the free church, not a slave church. Slave churches are not freed from their master. Congregations birthed out of any church enslaved in paganism will not receive the inheritance of eternal life. Only congregations born again out of theological teachings

of the pure word of God, His ways, and keeping His laws will enter into eternal life and become the adopted children of God.

Sarah likely did not understand the spiritual impact of her demand. Her reaction was the tension that existed between the two mothers.

Ismael and Isaac were not the only sons of Abraham. He married Keturah after Sarah died and her six sons did not receive an inheritance from Abraham, either. Though Abraham had eight sons, only Isaac was the heir to his family kingdom. This is the case for Almighty God; only one Son, Jesus Christ, will be heir of His kingdom.

Isaac imaged Jesus Christ who has brought all of mankind back to life.

God provided a re-enactment of the future sacrifice of His Son through Abraham. He said to him, “Take your son, *your only son*, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you” (Genesis 22:2).

The Apostle Paul understood Abraham’s thinking, knowing he had only one heir, Isaac. Abraham’s faith and trust in God was evident. He would have sacrificed his son believing that God would perform the great miracle of the resurrection of Isaac in order to fulfill His promise.

“By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice *his one and only son*, even though God had said to him, ‘It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.’ *Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death*” (Hebrews 11:17-19).

These verses confirm Isaac as the only legal heir despite Abraham having eight sons. Only the son born from Sarah who images a righteous theological body—was destined to inherit the kingdom. So, only the Son of God with the complete knowledge, living God Almighty's righteous theological ways will inherit God's kingdom. That Son of God is Jesus Christ—the Word, already coronated as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Christ is the covering for mankind. Each person living in righteousness reflects the different, beautiful qualities of God.

LINEN

Righteous people devoted to God who live according to God's laws have a covering of fine linen. A linen covering has the characteristics of godliness and good deeds.

“She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear. For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God's holy people” (Revelation 19:8).

The Apostle John reminds believers, “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate before the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He Himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:1-2).

Linen is made from flax, which was harvested in spring in the Middle East. It is one of the earliest known textile materials in an abundance in ancient Egypt. When Joseph was appointed by Pharaoh as ruler, he was given garments of linen (Genesis 41:42).

Linen, when bleached becomes a vibrant white. White is a colour imaging purity; linen is resistant to mold, cool in hot weather, and a strong fabric. The righteousness of the saints describes a

redeemed people who live God's way, keep His laws and withstand the pressures of Wickedness. These people image those who will be in the first resurrection— the spring harvest.

“Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience” (Colossians 3:12).

God use of imagery is throughout the Bible. “I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels” (Isaiah 61:10).

Without being covered by Jesus Christ, our good works are imaged as filthy coverings. Isaiah described the justice of man to be as “filthy rages” used by women during their menstrual cycle.

“And we are all become as one unclean, and all our justices as the rag of a menstruous woman: and we have all fallen as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away” (Douay-Rheims Bible, Isaiah 64:6).

This description is rarely understood, but the image describes vividly God's view of the loss He feels when the priesthood fails to conceive a congregation fit for His kingdom and their spiritual life is lost. This happens when they are not preaching the pure word of God and spiritual conception does not take place. Their garments are filthy, that is, permanently stained.

SACKCLOTH

A covering of sackcloth is the image of humility.

King Ahab ruled in weakness and lived in sin. There was a moment, however, in King Ahab's life when he humbled himself before God

because he heard what was said about him and he repented. Gossip of King Ahad's doings echoed across the land that his behaviour was of the vilest manner.

“It came about when Ahab heard these words, that he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and fasted, and he lay in sackcloth and went about despondently” (I Kings 21:27).

God acknowledged his response and said, “I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son” (I Kings 21:29b).

King Ahab finished his reign over the northern house of Israel without being destroyed by God. His family rulership came to an end during the days of his son, Joram.

Job was an example of a man who truly humbled himself with an unrelenting desire to understand the reasoning of his infliction. God allowed Satan to test him and that testing brought riches in understanding for Job that few ever reach. His ancient story reveals a time when there were God-fearing people. Job was one.

His story begins suddenly. Out of the blue, he loses everything. Immediately, he clothed himself in sackcloth to come before God knowing that his misfortune was a direct result of something allowed by God (Job 16:15). He set the stage for dialogue with God. His God-fearing friends came to visit him and he entered into a long discussion with them that brought in Almighty God. During times when ancient Israel revelled in sin, God urged them to enter into a discussion with Him. “‘Come now, let us reason together,’ says the LORD. ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are as red as crimson, they will become like wool’” (Isaiah 1:18).

Reasoning with God will bring understanding. God told ancient Israel that their behaviour will change when they reason with Him and come to understand their sins. Job understood the value of talking with God. While lying in dust and ashes, an image illustrating his humble attitude and insignificance before the Almighty Powerful God, he talked to Him. Dust coupled with ashes illustrates both insignificance and destruction. Job admitted his worthless, dying mortality compared to the greatness of the eternal God.

Humility opens the self-reflective lens of life. Clothed in humility, Job listened and learned.

Job came see God in all His greatness. He overcame and God blessed him, like a firstborn son, with a double portion of what he had before. Suffering refines, purges, and perfects. God allowed Satan to perfect Job, while Satan thought he was destroying him.

Jonah was sent to *the people of Nineveh* by God to warn them of their destruction for their wicked ways. Looking forward to ending this great city of people, Jonah hesitated to warn them but eventually, gave into God after being vomited out of the great fish. He walked three days throughout the city, warning the king and all the people. Three days marked God's seal on Jonah's warning. The king ordered every person to put on sackcloth, including himself and he sat in ashes.

“Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them. When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered himself with sackcloth and sat on the ashes. He issued a proclamation and it said, ‘In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not

let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water” (Jonah 3:5-9).

The king, the royal family, the people and beasts put on sackcloth and fasted. They understood their behaviour was wrong. They also understood the covering needed to get the attention of the God of the Hebrews, while calling out for forgiveness and grace. God accepted their repentance and did not destroy them.

NO CLOTHING, NO COVERING

Wrongful behaviour is imaged as nakedness.

The Laodicea group of people, likely a mixture from many Judeo-Christian synagogues and churches, don't realize that they are not following Christ and living the way of God. They think they are more than okay; they think they need nothing. They think they understand scriptures and conclude that they do not need further instruction. Their confidence is remarkable. They do not see that their actions are carnal and their relationship with God is very underdeveloped.

“For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, white garments so that you may be clothed and your shameful nakedness not exposed, and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see” (Revelation 3:17-18).

Jesus described them as naked. They do not have a covering at all. This spiritual picture illustrates a group of people who are not following Christ. They are leading through their own interpretation of scripture with a bold confidence causing their congregation to remain babes in Christ not knowing the difference between right and wrong. In Revelation, Jesus urged them to let him into their congregations and begin trading with him, exchanging their

misunderstandings and misconceptions of God's word for the pure word of God, so they will be covered in pristine white garments.

A WOLF COVERING

Deceitful people are pretenders. Their outward behaviour appears harmless and warming. They put on an appearance that won't bring any attention to their true intent. God refers to these types of people as wearing sheep's clothing, but inside, their heart is like a wolf, ferocious and wild.

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves” (Matthew 7:15).

Jesus calls his followers “sheep” and he is their Shepherd. Judeo-Christians have only one Shepherd, One teacher—Jesus Christ. “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:21).

False prophets appear on the outside to be followers of Christ. They clothe themselves in an appearance of supporting right decisions and leading to righteousness, but their actions reveal carnal, selfish, and destructive motives.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers” (John 10:1-42).

Foreknown by the prophets in ancient times was the arrival a Messiah, the Good Shepherd. “He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young” (Isaiah 40:11).

The wolves among the sheep will be separated on Judgement Day. Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness!’” (Matthew 7:21-23)

These wolves in sheep clothing may have thought they were following Christ. They claimed to have performed miracles. Who were they truly serving? What went wrong for them? They were workers of lawlessness! They did not keep God’s law rather decided for themselves how they would live.

The faithful servants of God will be admitted into the wedding supper of the Lamb. But many will be shut out because they won’t be ready due to their lack spiritual maturity.

“After the master of the house gets up and shuts the door, you will stand outside knocking and saying, ‘Lord, open the door for us.’ But he will reply, ‘I do not know where you are from’” (Luke 13:25).

Characteristics of the wolves in sheep clothing:

- People who lap up power and self-glory.
- People who lack humility and spiritual growth.
- People who subordinate the people.
- People who lack the fruit of the spirit.

These wolves—false teachers are detectable through their actions—their behaviour reveals their unrighteousness; they have no covering.

“By their fruit you will recognize them. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?” (Matthew 7:16) These people are thornbushes and thistles. Prickly people who bear no good works—no fruit. *“As the old proverb says, ‘Wickedness proceeds from the wicked’”* (I Samuel 24:13).

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law” (Galatians 5:23).

SPECIAL ROLES

The special role of the priest requires them to dress specifically as God has instructed.

“It shall be that when they enter at the gates of the inner court, they shall be clothed with linen garments; and wool shall not be on them while they are ministering in the gates of the inner court and in the house. Linen turbans shall be on their heads and linen undergarments shall be on their loins; they shall not gird themselves with anything which makes them sweat. When they go out into the outer court, into the outer court to the people, they shall put off their garments in which they have been ministering and lay them in the holy chambers; then they shall put on other garments so that they will not transmit holiness to the people with their garments” (Ezekiel 44:17-19).

Only through Jesus Christ can the ministry rear a congregation fit for God's kingdom. The priesthood is not to deviate from the instructions given to them. Any deviation points to a different plan of salvation, one not of God.

SPECIAL COLOURS

Clothing made from fabric of specific colours such as purple, blue and scarlet are also images of royalty, holiness, and people willing to sacrifice their lives for God. These colours set on white linen image the Saviour of mankind—the High Priest of God. The holy garments specified by God are prophetic, trumpeting His salvation plan in vivid detail.

“Moreover, from the blue and purple and scarlet material, they made finely woven garments for ministering in the holy place as well as the holy garments which were for Aaron, just as the Lord had commanded Moses” (Exodus 39:1).

The colour purple was difficult to make and kept solely for royal use in ancient times. It is a mix of red and blue. Red is symbolic of a blood sacrifice and blue is symbolic of God's Holy Spirit. Royalty in God's eyes is the mix of those filled with God's Holy Spirit and are willing to die to stand loyal and faithful to God.

Those holding important leadership roles wore a purple robe. Daniel was given a purple robe when he provided the interpretation of the writing on the wall. “The king spoke and said to the wise men of Babylon, ‘Any man who can read this inscription and explain its interpretation to me shall be clothed with purple and have a necklace of gold around his neck, and have authority as third ruler in the kingdom’” (Daniel 5:7).

Coverings do tell a story. Coverings and colours together unveil a deeper and richer story.

COLOUR-CODED PROOFS

*“Now Israel loved Joseph more than his other sons, because Joseph had been born to him in his old age; so, he made him a robe of many colors”
(Genesis 37:3).*

Through people on earth, God is telling the spiritual story. Mankind has only witnessed the birth of Jesus, his ministry and death. All of the Son’s achievements in heaven are invisible except for the imagery, the mirroring, the parallel stories, and the reflections carefully woven in the scriptures preserved in the Bible, unveils the transparency of God’s penmanship. He will not allow important history both in heaven or on earth to be smudged out. He declares, through all forms of communication, the respect and honour He has for His beloved Son. Like the sun, it radiates out in colours seen and unseen by the human eye.



Joseph’s story is a mirror of Jesus Christ. As Israel [Jacob] loved Joseph, God reveals how He loves His beloved Son, Jesus. Joseph was loved by Israel because he was born in his old age. It points

to the birth of mankind's Saviour born in the latter third of this evil age. Though Almighty God does not age, the end of the age of mortal man brings the completion of God's family. A new era will begin—a timeless era, post judgement, where only the righteous in both heaven and earth will exist. Joseph's covering of many colours is a mirror of the many achievements of the Son of God in heaven and on earth, now coronated King of all kings and Lord of all lords—the wearer of many crowns.

“Then I saw heaven standing open, and there before me was a white horse. And its rider is called Faithful and True. With righteousness He judges and wages war. He has eyes like blazing fire, and *many royal crowns on His head*. He has a name written on Him that only He Himself knows” (Revelation 19:11-12).

RED

The creation of the first man, made from the red earth is a very simplistic account of the human body and the brilliance of its design, engineering, and architecture. In simple terms, Moses wrote, “Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being” (Genesis 2:7).

Inside the human body, red blood flows. God said, “For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life” (Leviticus 17:11).

Red is the colour God gave to blood imaging both life and death. The rider on the red horse in Revelation 6 does not bring life, but mirrors the taking of life through war (Revelation 6:4).

The man among the myrtle trees riding the red horse described in Zechariah 1:8 is a life bringer; his blood paid the price for the sins for all of mankind.

The Old Testament sacrifices painted a graphic image for the ancient Israelites of the importance of the consequences of sin, the penalty, the payment that satisfies our Creator and finally, the fellowship offering that all work together to foster a relationship of unity with God. While these sacrifices could not pay the penalty of the sins of the people, they were a foreshadow of things to come described throughout the pages of the New Testament of the One who can and does pay the penalty for mankind.

THE RED HEIFER

All of the sacrifices involve a male animal except for one where God commands the sacrifice of a red heifer. God is very specific about which red heifer could be acceptable for a sacrifice. The female cow could not be used as a work animal or having worn a yoke and must be without blemish. This special sacrifice was teaching ancient Israel about how they can cleanse and purify themselves when exposed to the dead. The “dead” that God was most concerned about was the spiritually dead and the harmful and destructive influence these people have on those around them. In the physical world, to be cleansed from the exposure of the dead, the ashes of the red heifer in water were sprinkled on the individual.

“Put some ashes from the burned purification offering into a jar and pour fresh water over them. Then a man who is ceremonially clean is to take some hyssop, dip it in the water and sprinkle anyone who has touched a human bone or a grave or anyone who has been killed or anyone who has died a natural death” (Numbers 19:17–18).

But truly, God is most concerned about people poisoned by evil thoughts and wicked practices. Spiritual cleansing takes place through the mirroring of the sacrifice of the red heifer.

This sacrifice takes place outside of the camp. Toxic behaviour is never allowed in the area of God's holy tabernacle. Outside the camp and away from God, this sacrifice took place.

During the burning of the animal, the priest added some cedar wood, hyssop and scarlet wool.

The scarlet wool is an image of the blood of a pure covering, which is Jesus Christ.

“Among the lampstands was One like the Son of Man, dressed in a long robe, with a golden sash around His chest. The hair of His head was white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes were like a blazing fire” (Revelation 1:13-14).

The ashes from the red heifer were carefully collected, stored securely outside the camp, and added to water to cleanse and purify those who touch a dead body. God is determined to reinforce the importance of remaining purified from sin. Mankind, today, have the intercession of Jesus Christ who pleads on their behalf but that does not lessen the importance of avoiding toxic people.

The female gender is used by God to image a religious body in contrast to those who hold national, state, or civic leadership responsibilities. Jesus Christ is both king (national leader) and high priest (religious body). Unlike all of the other animal sacrifices where a blemish-free male was mandated, a blemish-free female animal is specific to the role of the One who can cleanse and purify.

A red heifer is a rare birth, which is not a surprise as it is rare to find perfect religious leaders. The sacrifice of the blemish-free red heifer foreshadows the sacrifice of Christ who was killed outside of the camp; he was crucified outside of Jerusalem. His blood

saved mankind from the contamination of death. After his death, he became our High Priest, our Lord. It is this role that cleanses the sins of mankind who are touched by toxic, evil people.

“And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified, in the name of the **Lord Jesus Christ** and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:11).

He is the High Priest of the church mirrored in the selection of a blemish-free red female heifer. Accepting Christ's sacrifice allows believers to be cleansed and purified by our faithful and blemish-free high priest. The imagery is layers deep. The colour red symbolizes the sacrificial blood. The young heifer is representative of the innocent high priest on earth who can cleanse and purify.

BLUE

A special story was recorded in the gospels of a woman suffering from a constant flow of blood for twelve years. She learned when Jesus would come to her area. She was seeking healing and she knew she could touch the hem of his coat and be healed. On each of the four corners of a robe, a blue and white tassel known as a “tzitzit” was sewn.

“Suddenly a woman who had suffered from bleeding for twelve years came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak. She said to herself, ‘If only I touch His cloak, I will be healed’” (Matthew 9:20-21).

In ancient times, all of Israel sewed tassels on the corners of garments. “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘Throughout the generations to come you are to make tassels on the corners of your garments, with a blue cord on each tassel. And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the LORD, to do them, not to follow after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to whore after. Then you

will remember and obey all My commandments, and you will be holy to your God” (Numbers 15:38-40).

Blue threads were sewn into the tzitzit. This colour represents God's Holy Spirit that opens the mind to fully know God's word and obey His commandments. God incorporated reminders in the clothing, their covering, to remember His ways and live by them. Living His ways brings spiritual healing.

The healing of the woman was recorded in only two verses, but her story is volumes long. The woman suffering for twelve years with a constant flow of blood was considered by God's law as unclean. She knew that she is unclean. Her presence with her condition among people on that day must be kept a secret.

“When a woman has a discharge of her blood for many days at a time other than her menstrual period, or if it continues beyond her period, she will be unclean all the days of her unclean discharge, just as she is during the days of her menstruation” (Leviticus 15:25).

Spiritual uncleanness needing spiritual healing is acknowledging a life of sin. The woman's discharge of blood prevented her from conceiving. She could not have children. She was a shamed woman mirroring a church living in paganism and being unable to conceive a congregation let alone, birth a congregation fit for God's kingdom. The church of the ten tribes at that time was aware of her spiritual condition.

The woman remembered the significance of the tzitzit. She believed that she would be healed by touching it. She believed Jesus could heal. By touching specifically the tzitzit, she was declaring her repentance and commitment to learning God's word and obeying His commandments.

Her story is preserved in only two verses; the number two declares a witness complete. Her story mirrors the repentance of the wayward church of the ten tribes of Israel. They accepted Jesus immediately as their Saviour. They became known as the Christians who trumpet Jesus as their Messiah for now over two thousand years.

It is not by accident that following the two verses of the story of a woman with a twelve-year bleeding issue, that Jesus resurrects back to life a little girl twelve years old. The spiritual story is all about the power given to our Saviour from God to heal a wayward ministry and bring back to life a dead congregation.

The story of the woman suffering with the flow of blood was an important story preserved by God to ensure the repentance of the church of the lost sheep of Israel would be remembered and their faith was acknowledged.

The cord of blue healed the church. The blue garments worn by the priests is designed by God to remind His people of their calling, a holy kingdom of priests. Looking up, the colour of the sky seen from earth is blue not by random coincidence, but by design.

WHITE

The first horse to ride out after Jesus opened the seals was the white horse holding a bow and wearing a crown. Unfortunately, this white horse, in this case, is not pure. It is the story of false religion—the weapon of a bow. The crown is its authority but it goes out to deceive. Satan leads the world in false religion.

“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you used to walk when you conformed to the ways of this world and of the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit who is now at work in the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2).

In ancient times when God was interacting with His people, they turned away from His righteous ways. He urged them to reason with Him.

“Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord, “though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool” (Isaiah 1:18).

Their sins were scarlet red—spiritual death, yet repentance will change their behaviour and they will become a radiant white. Living God's pure religion creates a covering of brightness and glory visible to everyone.

Wayward mortals look into the night sky and are impressed by the starry heavens. They decorate their celebrations with fireworks, bright lights and dazzling arrays of colour mixed with sparkles of popping explosions shot high in the night sky. God compares His truth, His word to earthly lights and still mortal man has difficulty putting the two concepts together. During times of distress, people appreciate the kindness they receive from good people.

Distress awakens people living in a small, self-centred world. Suffering is inevitable in order to break the mental barriers. A time of great trouble is on the near horizon. God will purify His people during Jacob's trouble. Purification by fire is coming and it will either destroy them or purify them. The choice will be theirs. “And some of the wise shall stumble, so that they may be refined, purified, and made white, until the time of the end, for it still awaits the appointed time” (Daniel 11:35).

Jesus urged the churches of Revelation to overcome and live righteously before God. “Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. The one who conquers will

be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels” (Revelation 3:4-5).

White is the colour that symbolizes purity—one without sin. Righteous actions are a clothing of white, fine linen. “It was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints” (Revelation 19:8).

The great distress to befall on mankind will cause many to repent. “Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?’ I said to him, ‘Sir, you know.’ And he said to me, ‘These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb’” (Revelation 7:13-14).

Christ’s army in heaven is arrayed in white. These are countless righteous angels. “And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses” (Revelation 19:14).

Like his army, Christ is an image of white glory. “The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire” (Revelation 1:14).

Peter witnessed Christ’s transfiguration; his glory was an astounding sight. “And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white” (Luke 9:29).

Almighty God is an image of great luminosity. “As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire” (Daniel 7:9).

God’s clothing is white as snow reflecting His perfect righteous behaviour—His faultless wisdom that leads to perfect decisions

and righteous actions, imaging a covering of radiant white glory. His throne is comprised of fiery, cleansing flames with wheels of burning fire purifying in every movement.

Colours tell a story. People in the know use them. A time came when the house of Judah, the Jews, during their exile came under attack by Haman, one of King Xerxes's top royal officials because Mordecai, the uncle of Queen Esther, would not kneel and honour him. Haman despised Mordecai and plotted to kill not only Mordecai but all the Jews. He obtained a decree from the king. This alarmed Mordecai who immediately tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes. The news also distressed Queen Esther for she was a Jew. She declared a fast.

The dramatic story erupted into many twists and turns during which, the Hebrew God extended His arm to influence the outcome. No matter what vile Haman did to promote himself, he was shamed and finally killed on the gallows that he made for Mordecai.

The story concluded with Mordecai promoted and honoured wearing royal robes of blue and white. These colours are known to represent the righteous actions of keeping God's commandments and living His way.

“Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white, with a great golden crown and a robe of fine linen and purple, and the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced” (Esther 8:15).

Three colours are tightly woven in the story of the believer's journey. Red, blue on white, paint a picture of mankind's need to accept Christ's redemptive sacrifice and receive God's Holy Spirit so that they can fully keep His word and His commandments and only then, can they be covered with a glorified body of white radiance.

PURPLE

The colour purple is often used in royal garments. It is the combination of red and blue. Making purple dye in ancient times was tedious. The city of Phoenicia in Tyre made their infamous Tyrian purple dye from one of the species of sea snails. It was a careful process of cracking the shell of the snail, extracting the purple-producing mucus, exposing it to sunlight for a specific period of time and the result was a stunning, long-lasting shade of purple. It was valued with gold and set aside for royal use only.

Mystery Babylon, the Great Harlot arrays herself in purple. Her dress is her declaration of being a valuable, exotic sacrifice of the people.

“The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls. She held in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality” (Revelation 17:4).

She considers herself a queen.

“As much as she has glorified herself and lived in luxury, give her the same measure of torment and grief. In her heart she says, ‘I sit as queen; I am not a widow and will never see grief’” (Revelation 18:7).

In doing so, the great harlot glorifies herself, showcasing her rarity and exquisite style of leadership. Riding the beast and coupling her influence with its power and strength to rule, she is convinced that now, she will sit forever on a throne. She is mistaken.

GOD'S TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS

God gave the ancient Israelites specific instructions on how to build the tabernacle in the wilderness and the materials to use, including the colours of those materials.

“Make the tabernacle with ten curtains of finely twisted linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn, with cherubim worked into them by a skilled craftsman” (Exodus 26:1).

God symbolized His ten commandments in the ten curtains of the tabernacle. By making them from linen, He is stating that the application of His commandments will result in righteous behaviour. “And it was given to her that she should be clothed in bright, pure, fine linen. For the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints” (Revelation 19:8).

The curtains woven with blue, purple and scarlet thread symbolize the importance of having God's Holy Spirit, accepting Christ's redemptive sacrifice, and entering into a blood covenant with God to remain loyal and faithful under every situation. This combination will produce a precious and rare individual that Almighty God loves dearly. His royal and eternal kingdom will be comprised of leaders represented in the mix of red and blue, shining out in radiances of white.

The same message is applied to the veil that separates the Holy of Holies from the Holy place. The veil was made from “blue, purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen” (Exodus 26:31-32).

“Make a veil of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and finely spun linen, with cherubim skillfully worked into it. Hang it with gold hooks on four posts of acacia wood, overlaid with gold and standing on four silver bases” (Exodus 26:31-32).

The picture of God's temple are reminders of the importance of accepting Christ's redemptive sacrifice, entering into a blood covenant, receiving God's Holy Spirit, and maturing into the full measure of Christ.

God's temple in the wilderness is an engineer's feat, intricately detailing every aspect of the Judeo-Christian walk into oneness with God symbolized in the dimensions, the materials, the colours, the items, the number of rooms, and the sacrificial components.

THE HOLY GARMENTS

Like the tabernacle, the clothing of the priests was designed with equal detail reflecting God's determination to teach His people the importance of His commandments, having His Holy Spirit, and accepting Christ's sacrifice.

“Fashion a breast piece for making decisions—the work of skilled hands. Make it like the ephod: of gold, and of blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and of finely twisted linen” (Exodus 28:15).

Wise judgement is precious, symbolized in gold and impossible without God's Holy Spirit which is symbolized in blue. It is interwoven with purple and scarlet yarn symbolizing the unique Son and only Son who could sacrifice his life in payment of our sins.

The ephod worn by the high priest is also made of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and of finely twisted linen (Exodus 28:6). The breastplate of the ephod has twelve precious stones symbolizing the repentant and purified twelve tribes of Israel. Their righteousness is precious. Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords, will wear the holy garments of the high priest in God's eternal kingdom. The twelve tribes of Israel will be instrumental in the role of priests serving God in His kingdom.

The robe of the ephod is made of all blue. It is symbolic of God's priests being filled with His Holy Spirit covering them completely. "On the hem you shall make pomegranates of blue and purple and scarlet yarns, around its hem, with bells and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, around the hem of the robe" (Exodus 28:33).

The hem of pomegranates symbolize spiritual virility as this fruit is full of seeds. The golden bells mirror the movement of the high priest, who on earth, is not yet seen but heard.

The clothing of God's priests showcases God's royalty and His perfect standard of living righteously: being filled with God's Holy Spirit, humbly accepting the sacrifice of Christ, and being prepared to sacrifice themselves to save others. This is a rare individual, like Christ—God's only Son, who could sacrifice himself to save mankind. The twelve tribes of Israel will have precious roles in the establishing and fortifying of righteous leadership on earth.

EYES, EARS, HEART, and WALK

*“Hear this, O foolish and senseless people, who have eyes, but see not,
who have ears, but hear not”
(Jeremiah 5:21).*

God often describes choices in life made by mankind as a journey stumbling along, often blind, deaf, and dumb. This journey and all of the difficulties it brings, is a direct result of not knowing Him, His law, and ways and living them. There is a reason for this.



The Apostle Paul said, “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned” (I Corinthians 2:14).

Understanding God’s world requires having God’s Holy Spirit. His highly complex supernatural world exists outside of the physical world of man. Mankind needs special eyes to see, special ears to be able to distinguish between good and evil, a special heart of flesh full of compassion kindness, and goodness, and God’s wisdom so that they can walk towards God, never wandering off back into darkness.

EYES to SEE

The eyes of man are the main component of the human anatomy used to guide movements, avoid obstacles, and walk towards the goal.

Jesus said, “For judgement I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind” (John 9:39).

The religious leaders at the time of Jesus, were rich in knowledge and the writings of Torah and the prophets. They were also highly trained and disciplined. It would appear from the outside that they were the finest examples of keeping God’s law and applying it. They were considered by the ordinary man and woman as having the eyes to understand spiritual matters. Jesus saw them for who they really were—a self-righteous leadership holding to the traditions of the elders and forgoing the teachings of God.

For that reason, Jesus said that he came into this world to blind these types of arrogant people and instead, he opened the eyes of the humble, teachable, ordinary man and woman.

The religious leaders moved the pendulum away from balanced into extreme self-righteousness. Their pride and arrogance became their blinders limiting their understanding of anything beyond their established and sanctioned traditions.

Jesus reiterated the prophetic words recorded by Isaiah, “Therefore the Lord said: ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. Their worship of Me is but rules taught by men’” (Isaiah 29:13).

Jesus had a difficult time correcting the religious leaders during his time. In all of their proclaimed righteousness and their

attention to detail by tithing to the leaf of herbs, yet, they planned and plotted his murder as their solution to someone disagreeing with them. Filled with hatred, their eyes were closed to the countless miracles he did, the healing he performed, and his teaching of God's way of love.

Recorded by the Apostle John, "Therefore, many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in Him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. Then the chief priests and Pharisees convened the Sanhedrin and said, 'What are we to do? This man is performing many signs. If we let Him go on like this, everyone will believe in Him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation'" (John 11:45-48).

The Pharisees were afraid that if the Jewish people started following Jesus and calling him King, the Roman government would feel threatened and destroy both the high positions they held and the whole Jewish nation. "Thou shalt not kill" was a law these Pharisees white-washed as they devised a plan justifying their actions, claiming that they were doing what was best for the people. But truly, they were working to hold onto their own power and influence.

Many attempts were made on Jesus' life. These ruthless religious leaders played the politician very well, putting on appearances and careful to keep secret their nefarious plans.

"When Jesus had finished all these sayings, He said to His disciples, 'You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to be crucified.' Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and took counsel that they might take Jesus covertly and kill him. But they said, 'Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people'" (Matthew 26:1-5).

Jesus was killed at the designated time. The religious leaders remained blind to their actions, blind to understanding God's law and His ways, and blind to their nakedness—their unrighteousness. Unlike Job, who grew in spiritual understanding during his suffering and declared, “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees You” (Job 42:5). Job's relationship with God moved up into perfect view.

Pride, arrogance, and hatred cause spiritual blindness. Misguided traditions, pressures from the crowd, trust in wayward leadership, all add to spiritual blindness. God's Holy Spirit is the daily cleansing agent essential to seeing and understanding spiritual matters.

EARS to HEAR

The ears of the human body provide supplementary information to the unseen. Pairing it with information coming from the eyes, wiser choices are made.

Frustrated by the disobedience of His people, God said, “Hear this, you foolish and senseless people, who have eyes but do not see, who have ears but do not hear” (Jeremiah 5:21).

Almighty God, the most powerful Being in all existence, the very Creator of all things, the God of all creation of whom all creation owes their every breath trumpeted to the disobedient houses: Judah and Israel, “Should you not fear me?” (Jeremiah 5:22a)

These people had become so familiar with their Great and long-suffering King that they lost all respect for the greatest wonder comprehensible to all creation—a Being perfect and pure, loving and kind, graceful and enduring.

God Almighty added, “Should you not tremble in my presence? I made the sand a boundary for the sea, an everlasting barrier it

cannot cross. The wave may roll, but they cannot prevail; they may roar, but they cannot cross it” (Jeremiah 5:22b).

The sea imaged as the home of Wickedness full of raging power, obeys the Great Creator. The ebb and flow of the tide does not cross the boundaries established by God. And yet, His people violate His boundaries recklessly, like senseless drunkards.

When people reject truth, God’s word and His law, the lessons are not learned from their mistakes because they see no wrongdoing of their choices. The harm done is blamed elsewhere, justified, ignored, or considered a natural consequence. With many people all thinking the same way, it becomes right and the consequences a part of life.

“Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And *do you not remember?*” (Mark 8:18)

A willful refusal to see and acknowledge truth is an indicator of a variety of issues. For some, they harbour a rebellious spirit determined to hold onto selfish thinking that often leads to pride and arrogance. For others, it is fear and intimidation, and for many, a trust in corrupt leadership.

“You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are *always resisting the Holy Spirit*; you are doing just as your fathers did” (Acts 7:51).

Typically, people follow the majority, listen to mainstream media, and submit to the “experts.” Many people don’t care to search out truth; they fear straying off the wide road of the masses. Worse still, it is prophesied that people will intentionally select a ministry who are bound to the whims of the congregation.

“For the time will come when *they will not endure sound doctrine*; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for

themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires” (II Timothy 4:3).

It begins by only wanting to hear favoured doctrines and interpretations of scriptures. By eating the poisonous fruit, bite by bite, it will lure these people into the depths of darkness where truth is hated and love is ridiculed. They will be transformed into the image of Wickedness where God’s salvation plan for them is no longer available.

The Apostle Paul saw it coming. “The coming of the lawless one will be accompanied by the working of Satan, with every kind of power, sign, and false wonder, and with every wicked deception directed against those who are perishing, because they refused the love of the truth that would have saved them. For this reason, God will send them a powerful delusion so that they believe the lie, in order that judgment may come upon all who have disbelieved the truth and delighted in wickedness” (II Thessalonians 2:9-12).

During the Great Tribulation, a great falling away will take place when people turn away from their faith in Almighty God and their gratefulness to their Saviour.

“Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to Him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, not to be easily disconcerted or alarmed by any spirit or message or letter seeming to be from us, alleging that the Day of the Lord has already come. Let no one deceive you in any way, for it will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness—the son of destruction—is revealed. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God... And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but the one who now restrains it will continue until he is

taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will slay with the breath of His mouth and annihilate by the majesty of His arrival. The coming of the lawless one will be accompanied by the working of Satan, with every kind of power, sign, and false wonder, and with every wicked deception directed against those who are perishing, because they refused the love of the truth that would have saved them” (II Thessalonians 2:1-4, 6-10).

This prophecy is a warning to all Judeo-Christians of the importance of being ready spiritually to withstand the most terrifying and deceptive theological battle to ever stand before mankind.

The “man of lawlessness” has already been reduced to mortality in God’s eyes—a state still on the near horizon. He is the “son of perdition”—a son, a family member, but unfortunately a *fallen* son of God who will declare his godship and supremacy over all gods including Almighty God. It is the powerful Archangel Michael who is restraining him from going down to earth. It will require the enemy of this raging, arrogant fallen being, the Son of God—the King of all kings and Lord of all lords, to destroy him. This spiritual battle will come down to earth causing the Great Tribulation that will unleash terrifying and terrible troubles onto God’s people and all of the nations on earth.

On a side note: Satan is destined for the same fate as the son of perdition. Isaiah recorded, “Those who see you will stare; they will ponder your fate: ‘Is this *the man* who shook the earth and made the kingdoms tremble, who turned the world into a desert and destroyed its cities, who refused to let the captives return to their homes?’” (Isaiah 14:16-17)

Isaiah recorded God’s words talking to this fallen being. “How you have fallen from heaven, *morning star, son of the dawn!* You have

been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!” (NIV, Isaiah 14:12)

This “morning star, son of the dawn” will be dealt with in the same matter of the “son of perdition.” Both are fallen sons of God in heaven. They are the two leaders of the rogue, heavenly coalition out to depose Jesus Christ and Almighty God. A closer study of each of these characters provides essential pieces to the great puzzle. The son of perdition can be identified with four key traits.

The son of perdition

- Man of lawlessness = an instrument of chaos, confusion, recklessness.
- The Antichrist = opposes and tries to subdue and overthrow Jesus Christ.
- The “little horn” = a heavenly being who acquires rulership by force and intrigue.
- The Assyrian = a cruel warrior of destruction.

The man of lawlessness—son of perdition—is against the Messiah. He is a spiritual being in the realm of heaven who gains his power by force and intrigue. Daniel recorded, “In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue, will arise. He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. *He will destroy the mighty men and the holy people.* He will cause deceit to prosper, and *he will consider himself superior.* When they feel secure, he will destroy many and *take his stand against the Prince of princes.* Yet he will be destroyed, *but not by human power*” (Daniel 8:23).

This powerful being cannot be destroyed by human power; he is spiritual. Daniel added, “The king will do as he pleases. *He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of*

things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place" (Daniel 11:36).

God Almighty will allow this wicked spiritual being to succeed. He is testing and identifying all who align with Wickedness within creation in heaven and on earth. He will bring them before His law courts and judge them. They are heading for destruction.

God has prophesied His plans for these wicked beings. The heavenly ruler in the dominion of Tyre in heaven is destined to be reduced into mortality and die. The aging process of mortality for these beings will likely not correspond to the rapid aging of 21st century mankind. Adam lived to 930 years old. Noah lived to 950 years old, 600 years before the flood and 350 years after the flood (Genesis 7:6 and Genesis 9:28-29). God has said that judgement for these characters will be "after many days."

"In that day the LORD will punish the host of heaven above and the kings of the earth below. They will be gathered together like prisoners in a pit. They will be confined to a dungeon and punished *after many days*" (Isaiah 24:21-22).

Hundreds of years of mankind's time will pass before they are judged, sentenced, and destroyed.

Ezekiel recorded God's sentencing of this arrogant being. "In the pride of your heart you say, 'I am a god; I sit on the throne of a god in the heart of the seas.'" Wicked spiritual beings do not believe that they can be destroyed. This wicked being sits on a throne in the territory of Wickedness in heaven—in the high seas.

God replied, "But you are a man and not a god, though you think you are wise as a god" (Ezekiel 28:2). God is forecasting this being's demise: reduced to mortality and having the foolishness of man.

God continued, “By your great skill in trading you have increased your wealth, and because of your wealth your heart has grown proud... Because you think you are wise, as wise as a god, I am going to bring foreigners against you, the most ruthless of nations; they will draw their swords against your beauty and wisdom and *pierce your shining splendor*” (Daniel 28:5-7).

Living in wickedness depletes the glory given of spiritual beings. The remaining shining glory left within the ruler of Tyre will not protect him. “They will bring you down to the pit, and you will die a violent death in the heart of the seas. Will you then say, ‘I am a god,’ in the presence of those who kill you? *You will be but a man, not a god*, in the hands of those who slay you” (Ezekiel 28:8-9).

God assures this being that he will be weak, like mankind, mortalized. He will not have the power and strength of a god when he is taken down. The pit is the prison for all sentenced, rebel, heavenly rulers. It is located in inner earth, the lowest place in all creation. These once glorious eternal beings have fallen from the high places of honour into the shamed, lower realms of creation, even below mankind.

Three key names revealing the traits of the son of the dawn

- Lucifer = once an honored guardian angel of God and very powerful.
- Satan = opposes Almighty God and tries to establish himself equal to God.
- The dragon = a wild and powerful beastly heavenly ruler destined for destruction.

Like the *ruler* of Tyre, the *king* of Tyre is destined for destruction. God continued prophesying the fate of the wicked leaders in Tyre, the home of Wickedness in heaven through Ezekiel. The king of Tyre is Satan, once a perfect example of God's creation.

He stated, “You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God... You were anointed as a guardian cherub for so I ordained you. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you... Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So, I threw you to earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings” (Ezekiel 28:12-15, 61a-17).

God Almighty trumpets Satan’s plan to overthrow his Creator. “You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit” (Isaiah 14:13-15).

God has already declared the fate of the fallen, rebel sons of God. “I said, ‘You are gods; you are all sons of the Most High. But you *will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler*’” (Psalm 82:6). They will be mortalized and die like mankind, crumbling into a devastating state of weakness, vulnerability, and helplessness.

Satan’s wisdom has become the folly of man. In contrast to the son of the dawn and the son of perdition, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing and rejuvenation.

“‘For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace, when all the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble; the day is coming when I will set them ablaze,’ says the LORD of Hosts. ‘Not a root or branch will be left to them. But for you who fear My name, the *sun of righteousness will rise* with healing in its wings, and you will go out and leap, like calves from the stall. Then you will trample the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day I am preparing,’ says the LORD of Hosts” (Malachi 4:1-3).

Wise people search for knowledge. They do not relax and simply trust the “experts” and “authorities” because in this evil age, these once-trusted people hold onto misconceptions, some lie intentionally, others spread misinformation and disinformation knowingly and unknowingly.

“The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge” (Proverbs 18:15).

The faithful who have repented, accepted Christ as their Saviour, and follow him wherever he goes are blessed with ears that understand the word of God and eyes to know where to walk towards our Great Creator.

They do not squeeze pieces into preconceived beliefs or mysteries too deep to understand. God opens their eyes and ears and what cannot be seen by rebellious man is clearly visible by God-fearing and God-serving people. God is transparent. His plan is recorded in the Bible. Time is revealing all that He prophesied many years in the past. What the prophets longed to understand is crystal clear to the saints into this present day and in the future.

“But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it” (Matthew 13:16-17).

God Almighty remains faithful to his people and longs for the sleeping to awaken, open their eyes, and listen. He plans to extend His grace to them and make an everlasting covenant with His repentant people. They will hear His voice and grow spiritually, even drawing so close to call Him, Abba Father instead of Master.

“Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, according to the faithful mercies shown to David” (Isaiah 55:3).

HEART to FEEL

God will keep the persistent, unrepentant rebels in a hardened state until the Day of Judgement.

“Go to this people, and say, ‘You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive. For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them’” (Acts 28:26-27).

Judgement day remains a day in the future. When people lose interest and faith in God, their heart hardens and instruction becomes impossible, only then, will God cause their disbelief and their hardened heart to remain closed. They will remain guilty until Judgement Day. God does not take pleasure in the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11). He wants to save all of mankind, beginning with His people.

God’s Holy Spirit softens the crusty human heart into a youthful, pliable spirit. “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26).

The heart is a vital organ of the human body. God designed it that way. Drawing attention to the mechanics of this muscle at the centre of the circulation system, pumping blood around the body exemplifies the importance of a humble, teaching attitude. The blood sends oxygen and nutrients to all parts of your body, and carries away toxic carbon dioxide and other waste products. A heart of flesh from the spiritual perspective does the same job as

the physical heart. Through a humble and teachable spirit, spiritual food is recognized as truth. Falsehood is purged and life-enriching truth flows into the mind, sustaining life.

To the churches of Revelation, Jesus urged, “He who has an ear, let him hear.” Change is needed for all the churches. All of them must overcome and time is running out.

THE WALK to and of GOD

With a new heart comes a safe, law-keeping walk. “And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes and to carefully observe My ordinances. Then you will live in the land that I gave your forefathers; you will be My people, and I will be your God” (Ezekiel 36:27-28).

Love one another is what Jesus taught. However, “whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes” (1 John 2:11). Hating your fellow brother or sister is living in sin and causes blindness.

Not only God’s people have rebelled, but the nations of the world during the Great Tribulation will surrender to Satan and the beast. They will rebel against truth, God’s word, and His laws. Foolishly, they will choose the losing side. “I will bring distress on mankind, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the Lord; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung” (Zephaniah 1:17).

History will repeat itself. “As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. And they were oblivious, until the flood came and swept them all away. So, will it be at the coming of the Son of Man” (Matthew 24:37-39).

The nations will be worshipping Satan. They will see the power of the beastly coalition thrown out of heaven and surrender. God is gracious. His wrath is designed to awaken the people on earth. He will succeed.

Eyes provide the interpretation of what is seen. Ears supplement information providing enriched depths of understanding. The heart moves mankind into a state of harmony or chaos. God's Holy Spirit transforms the heart of man into a state of harmony, valuing His law and ways. With eyes that see, ears that hear, and a humble and willing heart filled with God's Holy Spirit, people are brought onto a righteous walk following the lead of Jesus Christ towards Almighty God, their Creator, their Heavenly Father.

SHEEP and GOATS, the SERPENT, MONSTERS of the Sea, BEASTS of the FIELD, BIRDS of the AIR

*“Behold, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The beasts of the field will honor Me, the jackals and the ostriches, because I provide water in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My chosen people. The people I formed for Myself will declare My praise”
(Isaiah 43:19-21).*

Created with only instinct, how can God declare that the beasts of the field will honour Him? Is there life in heaven and on earth that is more than what is understood by man on earth? God’s use of language moves back and forth in both realms of creation.



In some cases, God uses animals to add meaning and a clearer visual of the characteristics of people on earth and rebels in heaven. The use of sheep is common in the Bible. They are a popular, domesticated animal raised for their fleece, their milk, and meat. God refers to them as a clean animal providing a safe meat source for mankind. The imagery of sheep is often attached to the faithful who follow Jesus Christ, their Shepherd. Sheep are vulnerable and need caring; they image people who will follow a loving leader.

Jesus was imaged as a lamb, sacrificed to save mankind. A lamb is a picture of innocence, gentility, and vulnerability. In contrast, Jesus was also imaged as a goat sacrificed on the Day of Atonement/Yom Kippur.

Goats are a cousin to sheep and this animal can be used to refer to foolish people, but also to a specific type of leader who is consistent and agile. There is an intriguing reference to two goats in the ritual on the Day of Atonement/Yom Kippur. Goats are independent and sure-footed, climbing up to very high places with ease, while sheep gather into flocks, grazing in pastures. The Son of God, Jesus Christ, is a reliable leader who has climbed to the highest level in God's government with ease. He is the One who Almighty God has placed His confidence.

God said, "See, I lay in Zion a stone, a chosen and precious cornerstone; and *the one who believes in Him will never be shaken*" (I Peter 1:26 and Isaiah 28:16).

On the Day of Atonement, in ancient times, one goat was sacrificed to pay the price of sin and the other was released into the wilderness. Both image two key roles that Jesus Christ holds: the Saviour and Intercessor of mankind.

The reference to different animals, points to specific characteristics of those they image. God broadens and deepens our understanding by His use of imagery.

THE SERPENT

On earth, snakes slide on their bellies; they move on the lowest place for life on the land. This reflects the state of the fallen angels who are the source of all sin. Lucifer, upon creation, was made beautiful and perfect. He was ordained by God as a guardian cherub. He walked among the fiery stones in the third heaven, the location of God's throne. He was a "model of perfection, full of

wisdom and perfect in beauty... every precious stone adorned you... Your settings and mountings were made of gold” (Ezekiel 28:12b-13).

Even having God’s wisdom, still Lucifer fell into sin. Pride and arrogance destroyed him and from his high place, God drove him out from the highest heaven, down into the heaven of the angels. He was expelled. His beauty and radiance faded along with his wisdom. His form began changing into a decrepit creature that took on a beastly appearance. He began to look like a serpent and on earth, a ground-crawling snake stripped of his wings. God is not finished with Satan, his form will continue to change until he is mortalized; he will appear like a crumpled, old man.

God said, “Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So, I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings” (Ezekiel 28:17).

Satan is expelled from God’s heavenly throne into heaven below with the angels. He will yet be thrown down to earth, soon. He will be captured for one thousand years and imprisoned deep inside the earth—the darkest and lowest place in existence. After one thousand years, he will be released for a short time where he will deceive again. The nations will be tested, Satan has already been tried, convicted; his destruction is only a matter of time.

Satan’s sentencing is recorded by Isaiah. God said, “But you will be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. Those who see you will stare; they will ponder your fate: ‘Is *this* the man who shook the earth and made the kingdoms tremble, who turned the world into a desert and destroyed its cities, who refused to let the captives return to their homes?’” (Isaiah 14:15-17)

Jesus said, “And when He comes, He will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin indeed, because they do not believe in Me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because *the ruler of this world has been judged*” (John 16:8-11).

Satan will be mortalized; his once-glorious body will be a horror sight. His destruction will take place with the destruction of the old earth and heaven. A new earth and new heaven will be the glorious home of the righteous.

Ezekiel recorded God’s future judgement, “By your many sins and dishonest trade, you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So, I made a fire come out from you, and *I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching*. All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more” (Ezekiel 28:18-19).

PHARAOH: A MONSTER IN THE WATERS:

Pharaoh, ruler over Egypt, was described by God as a monster lying among his rivers. When God is relating heavenly matters to His people on earth, He describes them referencing things on earth that man can see and relate to. The heavenly ruler over Egypt had become a monster living in wickedness—imaged as his rough waters. This heavenly ruler declared himself to be a Creator. He claimed to have created the Nile River, the richest source of life in Egypt in ancient times.

“Speak to him and tell him that this is what the Lord God says: Behold, I am against you, O Pharaoh king of Egypt, O great monster who lies among his rivers, who says, ‘The Nile is mine; *I made it myself*’” (Ezekiel 29:3).

God will take down this rebel, powerful leader and all of the fallen angels allying with him. “But I will put hooks in your jaws and cause the fish of your streams to cling to your scales. I will haul you up out of your rivers, and all the fish of your streams will cling to your scales” (Ezekiel 29:4).

SATAN: A COILING SERPENT, A RED DRAGON

Satan lives in the sea as a coiling serpent and on the “high seas” under the protection of his great battleship (Ezekiel 27:4). Again, God uses the image of the sea as the haven of Wickedness in heaven. Satan is imaged as a named serpent, called Leviathan, a dragon of the sea.

Isaiah recorded this future event. “In that day the LORD will take His sharp, great, and mighty sword, and bring judgement on Leviathan the fleeing serpent—Leviathan the coiling serpent—and He will slay the dragon of the sea” (Isaiah 27:1).

Leviathan will be destroyed by God. King David sang, “But you, O God, are my king from of old; you bring salvation upon the earth. It was you who crushed the heads of Leviathan and gave him as food to the creatures of the desert” (Psalm 74:12-14).

Wickedness will be overthrown. The many heads image the many dominions allied with him.

“And the great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him” (Revelation 12:9).

The red dragon will bring much blood shed and terror.

THE BEAST FROM OUT OF THE SEA

“Then another sign appeared in heaven: a huge red dragon with seven heads, ten horns, and seven royal crowns on his heads” (Revelation 12:3).

This beastly image is describing a heavenly coalition of rebel and very evil, fallen sons of God. The coalition is imaged as a huge red dragon; Satan is the builder and leader of this alliance. There are seven different leading governments imaged as heads and ten kings imaged as horns. These kings wear royal crowns because they are sons of God from His royal family in heaven. They are fallen sons of God.

God does not have a redemption plan for the animals and birds on earth. He describes Satan and his wicked coalition as a huge monstrous beast because there is no redemption plan for them and they are now operating on a form of instinct, void of sound thinking, void of God's Holy Spirit. Their original form has completely changed and they resemble something so fearful, terrible, and horrible that God compiles an image of a mix of wild, raging animals to provide a concept of sorts for something not found on earth.

What is to come in the last days, Jesus said, “will be great tribulation, unmatched from the beginning of the world until now, and never to be seen again. If those days had not been cut short, nobody would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, those days will be cut short” (Matthew 24:21-22).

Wars on earth between extremely vile, wicked sons of God against Almighty God will terrify all the nations on earth.

“And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound has been healed” (Revelation 13:1-3).

The beast from out of the sea—the haven of Wickedness, is a beastly coalition of evil, fallen sons of God who will appear on earth. Satan gives this coalition all of his power and authority. In paralyzing fear, the nations of the world will surrender after this evil coalition attacks the people serving God, those keeping His commandments, and holding to the testimony of Jesus Christ. These people do not escape with the “woman” into the wilderness because they are not ready spiritually.

The people of the world will be terrified. “The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, ‘Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?’” (Revelation 13:3b-4)

The nations, even as a collective unit of one military force on earth, cannot make war against this beast and win. Surrender is their only option if they want to remain alive. All opposition against this beast will be met with persecution and relentless attacks. The nations of the world will submit and accept the beastly rulership as their king. Satan will give his throne, power, and great authority to this beastly coalition. He will sit on the sidelines, knowing his only hope is the success of this coalition of evil forces as he has already been judged and sentenced. The leaders of the nations who submit will be richly rewarded for their obedience.

The description of the different animal appearances in this beast is designed to illustrate the different strengths wielded by the

different leaders within the coalition. They resemble a formidable force that will be strong, elusive, swift, and decisive.

THE LEOPARD

This beast represents the smallest of the large cat species. It is the strongest climber of the large cats and most elusive. In short bursts, it can reach high speeds. *Its strength is in its speed, elusive covering, and decisive attacks.*

THE FEET OF A BEAR

Bears walk flat footed like humans and using their toes, they can walk upright like people. Their feet are long, flat with sharp claws. The polar bear has partially webbed toes for swimming and walking on snow as well as furry bottoms to keep its feet warm on the ice.

The image of a bear with the focus solely on its feet illustrates the movements of this rebel heavenly beast *walking and moving like mortals, aggressively and carnally.*

THE LION

Lions are symbolic of royalty. The kings ruling within this beast are fallen, royal sons of God; they will speak with authority. They have knowledge of God's military plans and strategies. They roar and maul. These rebel sons of God will be heard; people will convulse. They will command and demand, ruling as dictators.

FOUR LIVING CREATURES

God's plan is transparent. He is using creation on earth to describe the unseen in heaven. A few prophets were taken into heaven and witnessed creatures beyond anything on earth. Ezekiel's ascension revealed more than angels, but also creatures with four heads and eyes all over their body.

“I looked and saw a whirlwind coming from the north, a great cloud with fire flashing back and forth and brilliant light all around it. In the center of the fire was a gleam like amber, and within it was the form of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: They had a human form, but each had four faces and four wings. Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the hooves of a calf, gleaming like polished bronze. Under their wings on their four sides; they had human hands. All four living creatures had faces and wings, and their wings were touching one another. They did not turn as they moved; each one went straight ahead. The form of their faces was that of a man, and each of the four had the face of a lion on the right side, the face of an ox on the left side, and also the face of an eagle. Such were their faces. Their wings were spread upward; each had two wings touching the wings of the creature on either side, and two wings covering its body. Each creature went straight ahead. Wherever the spirit would go, they would go, without turning as they moved. Each creature went straight ahead. Wherever the spirit would go, they would go, without turning as they moved” (Ezekiel 1:5-12).

These four living creatures are a marvel and a wonder. Nothing on earth resembles them. They are a mystery, until the heavens are opened.

TWO GREAT EAGLES and a VINE

There are also heavenly beings imaged as great eagles in heaven. Ezekiel recorded the imagery. God was speaking to the rebellious house of Judah about their efforts to independently strengthen themselves by allying with Egypt instead of being obedient to God. God spoke through an allegory and a parable to tell a story that involved characters both in heaven and on earth.

“Son of man, set forth an allegory and tell it to the Israelites as a parable. Tell them that this is what the Lord God says: ‘A great

eagle with great wings and long pinions, full of feathers of many colors, came to Lebanon and took away the top of the cedar. He plucked off its topmost shoot, carried it to the land of merchants, and planted it in a city of traders. He took some of the seed of the land and planted it in fertile soil; he placed it by abundant waters and set it out like a willow. It sprouted and became a spreading vine, low in height, with branches turned toward him; yet its roots remained where it stood. So, it became a vine and yielded branches and sent out shoots. But there was another great eagle with great wings and many feathers. And behold, this vine bent its roots toward him. It stretched out its branches to him from its planting bed, so that he might water it. It had been planted in good soil by abundant waters in order to yield branches and bear fruit and become a splendid vine” (Ezekiel 17:5-8).

God was talking to the king of Judah through His imagery. He asked the king if he understood this story and continued to decode it for him, spelling out every detail to ensure that the king knew full well, the fate of the house of Judah because of their rebellion against Him.

At that time, all of the nations had heavenly rulers over them. The Israelites had the Almighty God ruling over them.

GOD PROVIDES THE MEANING

He said, “Say to this rebellious people, ‘Do you not know what these things mean?’ Say to them: ‘The king of Babylon went to Jerusalem and carried off her king and her nobles, bringing them back with him to Babylon. Then he took a member of the royal family and made a treaty with him, putting him under oath. He also carried away the leading men of the land, so that the kingdom would be brought low, unable to rise again, surviving only by keeping his treaty. But the king rebelled against him by sending his envoys to Egypt to get horses and a large army. Will he succeed?

Will he who does such things escape? Will he break the treaty and yet escape?”

“As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, he shall die in Babylon, in the land of the king who put him on the throne, whose oath he despised and whose treaty he broke. Pharaoh with his mighty army and great horde will be of no help to him in war, when ramps are built and siege works erected to destroy many lives. He despised the oath by breaking the covenant. Because he had given his hand in pledge and yet did all these things, he shall not escape” (Ezekiel 17:11-18).

The king of Babylon is imaged as a great eagle who goes to Lebanon. Almighty God is referring to the heavenly ruler over Babylon. He is described as a great eagle. This ruler soars through the heavens with eyes that see everything. He is very powerful. He may even have the head of an eagle, like Horus, the Egyptian god of the sky deity.

THE TWO EAGLES

Egypt



Babylon



The physical king of Babylon is a regent for the heavenly ruler. God is using imagery because He is referring to the heavenly rulers.

God's holy court in heaven is located in Lebanon. It is by no coincidence that Lebanon on earth is of the same name. The great cedars grown in Lebanon on earth image the great leaders in heaven, members of God's holy courts. God is speaking from the spiritual view and uses His language accordingly. The heavenly king over Babylon on earth was not in rebellion against the Almighty God at this time. He was working with the God of Israel.

He overpowers the king and nobles of Judah so they are subservient to him, which God allowed because of Judah's rebellion against Him. The king of Babylon made a treaty and took Jewish leaders to keep their kingdom from becoming powerful and rising up against them. The kingdom of Judah is imaged as the vine that was nourished by God; all of their strength as a nation came from Him.

The king of Judah was determined to disregard God's punishment by being subservient to Babylon. So, the king of Judah went to pharaoh of Egypt for military help by forming an alliance.

Pharaoh of Egypt was the second great eagle. God responded to Judah's attempt to break from under the subservience of Babylon and said, "Will it not wither completely when the *east wind* strikes it—wither away in the plot where it grew?" (Ezekiel 17:10b)

God translated His own imagery and the "east wind" is the image of His unseen great power. "I will bring down on his head my oath that he despised and my covenant that he broke. I will spread my net over him, and he will be caught in my snare. I will bring him to Babylon and execute judgement upon him there because he was unfaithful to me" (Ezekiel 17:19-20).

God uses the imagery of birds and animals to unveil a bigger picture that is beyond what can be understood from earth.

THE BEASTS OF THE FIELD and THE BIRDS OF THE AIR

There is more to understanding the animals and birds on earth. There are vast dominions in heaven with different creatures some that exist on land in heaven and others with the ability to fly. Reference to this picture can be seen in God's lament of the fall of a great leader in His courts in heaven.

This fallen leader was given rulership over Assyria on earth. He once was a great leader described by God in Ezekiel 31 as a "cedar of Lebanon," which is the image of an eternal, righteous member of God's courts in heaven, named Lebanon. This leader fell into sin and when God took it down, the Assyrian nation on earth fell and the nations on earth trembled. The nations who had allied with Assyria lost military protection and rich trading opportunities (Ezekiel 31:16). God said, "*all the birds of the air nested in its boughs, all the beasts of the field gave birth under its branches; all the great nations lived in its shade*" (Ezekiel 31:6).

God added, "*I made the nations quake at the sound of its downfall, when I cast it down to Sheol with those who descend to the Pit*" (Ezekiel 17:16).

These birds of the air and beasts of the field are not likely referring to physical birds and animals. When nations on earth fall from a world-ruling force, the animals and birds on earth do not migrate to a different location. The leader that fell was a son of God in heaven, a member of His holy courts in Lebanon. The beasts of the field and the birds of the air are life forms in heaven who are not members of God's holy, eternal family. Mankind can only see into heaven through a glass darkly.

There exists in heaven creatures referenced as beasts, bulls and calves and more.

King David recorded a song in Psalm 22 that describes the death of Jesus on the cross and him surrounded by bulls, lions, dogs and wild oxen. These are likely descriptors of wicked heavenly beings.

King David wrote what Jesus saw while dying on the cross.

“Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. They open their jaws against me like lions that roar and maul. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are disjointed. My heart is like wax; it melts away within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth. You lay me in the dust of death. For dogs surround me; a band of evil men encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet. I can count all my bones; they stare and gloat over me. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing. But You, O LORD, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me. Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of wild dogs. Save me from the mouth of the lion; at the horns of the wild oxen” (Psalm 22:12-21).

The animals referenced in Psalm 22 are evil beings gloating over the death of Jesus on the cross. Roaring lions, encircling bulls, wild dogs, and wild oxen with horns paint a terrorizing image of raging rebels celebrating the death of the Messiah.

King David understood the fallen angels in heaven and the language God uses to identify them. He knew that God gives opportunities to sons of God in heaven to apply their judgement and correction. He said, “God presides in the great assembly; he gives judgement among the ‘gods’” (Psalm 82:1).

He knew that the nations on earth are led astray by *fallen* heavenly rulers and said, “Rebuke the beast in the reeds, the herd of bulls among the calves of the nations, until it submits, bringing bars of silver. Scatter the nations who delight in war” (Psalm 68:30).

A vast dominion and countless angels and creatures exist in heaven. The reference of beasts of the field and birds of the air reveal more than simply the animals and birds on earth. This use of language was common in ancient times. This is evident in the story of the repentance of the city of Nineveh. The king was alarmed about the news of their destruction because of their evil ways, so by a decree, he ordered, “Let no man or *beast, herd or flock*, taste anything at all. They must not eat or drink. Furthermore, let both man and *beast* be covered with sackcloth, and have everyone call out earnestly to God. Let each one turn from his evil ways and from the violence in his hands” (Jonah 3:7-8).

A strange picture appears to 21st century readers when the king of Nineveh grouped man with beast ordering them to fast and *wear sackcloth*. The herds and flocks were given a different order recognizing the *different level of accountability*. To be clothed in sackcloth means the wearer understands the level of humility and sincerity needed to show God their willingness to change from their evil ways.

On a side point, the people of Nineveh believed that the God of Israel was the Supreme God, so they repented to save their lives. They knew the god they worshipped could not thwart the commands of the God of Israel.

The future paints a grim picture of wild animals in Babylon. “Hyenas will howl in her fortresses and jackals in her luxurious palaces. Babylon’s time is at hand, and her days will not be prolonged” (Isaiah 13:22). The type of creatures living in Babylon’s

territory at the end of this evil age, will possibly be a mix of wild, unrepentant people and mischievous demons.

God's use of the word "beast" describes people and fallen angels who fail to acknowledge the work of the Almighty God and the power He gives to leaders.

Daniel had a dream of a great tree. This tree imaged a leader, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Daniel's dream prophesied the expansion of Babylon as a world-ruling power through the power of the God of Israel. His superpower status and expansion were a monumental gift from the God of Israel to a gentile king who acknowledged the supremacy of the true Almighty God.

"The tree grew large and strong; its top reached the sky, and it was visible to the ends of the earth. Its leaves were beautiful, its fruit was abundant, and upon it was food for all. Under it the beasts of the field found shelter, in its branches the birds of the air nested, and from it every creature was fed" (Daniel 4:3-4).

While at its height, the beasts of the field would find shelter and the birds of the air would nest. These creatures are not necessarily referring to animals and birds on earth, as their habitat does not change from one superpower nation to another. Rather an expanded story emerges, revealing God's imagery of creatures in heaven benefiting from the righteous rule of king Nebuchadnezzar on earth whose heavenly ruler over them at that time, also submitted and obeyed the Supreme God. Babylon was not always the haven of Wickedness.

Through Isaiah, God prophesied new things! A time is coming when even the wild animals will honour God.

"Behold, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness and

streams in the desert. *The beasts of the field will honor Me, the jackals and the ostriches*, because I provide water in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My chosen people. The people I formed for Myself will declare My praise” (Isaiah 43:19-21).

The beasts of the field, the jackals, and the ostriches are prophesied to honour the Supreme God. In God's coded language, He is describing a creation been given His Holy Spirit. He is going to pour out His Holy Spirit into places that are spiritually dead; creation there will come alive. These deep mysteries will be fulfilled in time.

Immortality for mankind is described by Isaiah as having the ability to fly. He said, “But those who wait upon the LORD will renew their strength; *they will mount up with wings like eagles*; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

Unmeasurable joy will fill those who wait on the LORD to fulfill His plan for mankind. So much so, that it cannot be fully understood while in this decaying state.

The SWORD, the SLING, and the BOW and ARROWS

“Listen to Me, O islands; pay attention, O distant peoples: The LORD called Me from the womb; from the body of My mother, He named Me. He made My mouth like a sharp sword; He hid Me in the shadow of His hand. He made Me like a polished arrow; He hid Me in His quiver. He said to Me, ‘You are My Servant, Israel, in whom I will display My glory’”
(Isaiah 49:1-3).

Mankind, who live in sin, thinking their evil and corrupt deeds go unseen, will be ashamed when all of their actions are brought into the light. Sharper than any two-edged sword their lies will be exposed. Polished arrows of truth will pierce through the armour of the wicked. Exposed for who they are, they will flee searching for their hidden places but they will have no place to go. The testimony of Jesus will shine brightly leaving no shadows and no dark places.



The Apostle Paul said, “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it pierces even to dividing

soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight; everything is uncovered and exposed before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:12-13).

The day is coming when Almighty God and Jesus Christ will end Satan's reign on earth. The commanding power of God's spoken words will capture, judge, sentence, and destroy.

"In that day, the LORD will punish with his sword, his fierce, great and powerful sword, Leviathan the gliding serpent, Leviathan the coiling serpent; he will slay the monster of the sea" (Isaiah 27:1).

God refers to three main weapons above all others: the sword, the sling, and the bow with arrows. All weapons can kill and are used against enemies, but the sword, the sling and the bow with arrows are unique weapons used in specific types of attacks. The Apostle Paul said that our only enemies are the heavenly rogue, fallen rulers, powers, and principalities that are both on earth and in heaven (Ephesians 6:12). Mortals cannot kill or destroy spiritual entities, but they can destroy their lies, twists within truth, misinformation, disinformation, mal-information that creates chaos and division on earth.

The sword often images the word of God in particular His law and ways of living that produce peace and harmony. The great gliding and coiling serpent, Leviathan is already condemned; soon, he will be sentenced and destroyed by God's sword: His law and His word. God's law courts in heaven will soon be bustling. The rebel, little horn of Daniel will be brought before God. "The court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever" (Daniel 7:26). God prophesied against this rebel long ago; he is already doomed.

THE SWORD, THE SLING, THE BOW with ARROWS

The ancient battles fought by the Israelites all used, at some point, the sword. The famous battle remembered into the 21st century of David against Goliath involved a sling with a stone and Goliath's sword.

“Thus, David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; *without a sword in his hand*, he struck down the Philistine and killed him. Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled” (1 Samuel 17:50-51).

The sling is the stabilizing component of a weapon, like the stable structure created by righteous leadership. The stones released from the sling image the righteous servants of God who go out to all the world to shed light in all the dark places, destroying the giants of darkness. The use of a sling also images the supernatural participation of God, Himself, to disable the enemy.

The sword typically images God's word—the sword of truth. In the case of Goliath, his sword imaged his belief on what he promoted as truth. When David took the sword of Goliath and beheaded him, he brought an end to the leader and his rebellious belief system using Goliath's own sword, that is, Goliath's lies and deception decapitated him.

It is by no surprise that it would be David who would kill Goliath. Ancient stories will be repeated and in David's case, he will be anointed king over the twelve tribes—the twelve nations of 21st century Israel, during the Millennial reign of Christ. He will again behead leaders pushing Satan's lies and deception.

A time rests on our near horizon when God's people will return to Him, during a time when earth has become the habitat of

Satan. They will call out to their God and He will hear them. He will rescue them and lead them against their enemy described as an army spanning the size of a vast sea.

People, into the 21st century, have dismissed the reality of the spirit world. The reality of the ancient gods has been mythicized. Their silenced history is all part of Satan's plan to entrap people, keep them ignorant, and ill-prepared for his arrival and takeover of the earth. Many of God's people have accepted these lies and fallen away from religion, while others have been swept up into the concerns and business of everyday life.

Priorities will change, when the Great Prostitute takes control and Satan is thrown down to earth with his wicked coalition. An alien arrival may be the appearance seen across the planet by all nations—all peoples. They will dazzle the people with their life-saving technology and the pretense of good hearts. They will attack God's repentant people immediately to showcase their power and supremacy over mortals on earth and their disdain for the God-fearing covenant people. God will allow the attack, turning lemons into lemonade, these people will strengthen their relationship with Him and will enter a growth spurt of spiritual maturity to become an unbreakable force.

Another group of God's people will awaken during the latter part of the Great Tribulation. During their captivity, they, too, will call out to their God, the Almighty. Scattered among the nations by the beastly coalition, God will hear them. He will rescue them and give them a double blessing, like that of the firstborn in the family. Their *double blessing* will be their *rescue* and *victory* over their enemy. God will bid for them as He did in ancient times; He will gather them from the four corners of the earth. A second Exodus is coming.

The prophesied second Exodus will push the first Exodus into the shadows to become a faint memory. The greatest Exodus to be remembered for all eternity will be a grand exit from not just one nation, but people from twelve nations taken captive and enslaved in all of the nations on earth. To their fortress they will return—prisoners of hope, who will follow their God into the greatest victory to ever occur. The supernatural strength of the God of Israel leading His remnant people in battle, will crush both rebel spiritual and human forces on earth.

The Second Exodus of humbled people will ignite excitement and a surge of passion for their Rescuer—their Hero—their God. Loyal and faithful, they will finally trust God. His love for them will be felt and they will respond with eternal reverence. God “will bend Judah as I bend a bow and fill it with Ephraim. I will rouse your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and make you like a warrior’s sword.” The Jews will be God’s bow—the protectors of the Law, and the Christians of the ten tribes of 21st century Israel, will be the millions of arrows shot out against the nations of the world.

A religious war will surge across the planet with God’s people on one side and the false prophet on the other. Through the power and strength of Almighty God, His people, in obedience to His law and His ways, will become an invincible force of truth and righteousness. The Christians will slice open the lies, deceit, and corruption to reveal the dark secrets of Wickedness. The arrows are already being released as alternative media reveals the lies and deceit of mainstream media. What lies ahead on the near horizon is a coordinated work of all 21st century twelve tribes of Israel destroying Wickedness with God Almighty and Jesus Christ in front, leading and protecting them.

The height of this great battle will take place at the very end of this evil age. It will be the time to overthrow the “inhabitants”

whose names have not been written in the book of life since the foundation of the world. As the ancient Israelites marched into battle against the giants living in their promised land, with God Almighty in the lead and Jesus Christ behind, so it will be again.

“Then the LORD will appear over them; his arrow will flash like lightning. The sovereign LORD will sound the trumpet; he will march in the storms of the south, and the LORD Almighty will shield them. They will destroy and overcome with slingstones. They will drink and roar as with wine... The LORD their God will save them on that day as the flock of his people. They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown” (Zechariah 9:14-17).

Like David, God images them using slingstones because His guiding power will supernaturally disarm the giant forces making it possible for His people to decapitate the enemy. The bow and arrows work in the same way. The house of Judah and the house of Israel will bend their knee before their God and together, they will overthrow the armies of the nations who are in servitude to Satan.

The great repentance of the people of the 21st century nations of Israel remain a future event.

At that time, God has promised, “I will strengthen the house of Judah and save the house of Joseph. I will restore them because I have compassion on them. They will be as though I had not rejected them. The Ephraimites will become like mighty men, and their hearts will be glad as with wine... I will signal for them and gather them in. Surely, I will redeem them; they will be as numerous as before. Though I scatter them among the peoples, *yet in distant lands they will remember me. They and their children will survive and they will return...* I will strengthen them in the LORD and *in his name, they will walk*” (Zechariah 10:6-12).

When Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden of Eden, two powerful angels were stationed at the entrance to keep polluting sinners out.

“So, He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life” (Genesis 3:24).

Eternal life was not accessible to Adam and Eve after they sinned. They would need a Saviour with a two-edged sword—a double witness [two-edged] of truth [sword]. The sword of truth in the hand of Jesus Christ will determine honesty, justice, and ensure the preservation of peace.

THE COMMANDER OF GOD’S ARMY

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the great commander of God’s army of truth and righteousness. He is battling against Wickedness—that evil enemy, who is: a liar, a deceiver, and the instigator of dark secrets embedded in societies infested with corruption and destruction.

This Commander reveals his holy power to Joshua. “Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with *his sword drawn* in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, ‘Are you for us or for our adversaries?’ ‘Neither,’ He replied. ‘I have now come as Commander of the LORD’s army.’ Then Joshua fell face down in reverence and asked Him, ‘What does my Lord have to say to His servant?’ The Commander of the LORD’s army replied, ‘Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy. And Joshua did so” (Joshua 5:13-15).

The Commander [the Son of God] of the LORD’s army with his sword drawn revealed to Joshua his holiness, authority, and

expertise to execute the word of God in the battle of destroying the giants living in rebellion against God.

The relentless war on earth throughout all the ages, is the battle of: truth against lies and righteousness against wickedness. It will take the complete knowledge and understanding of God's word and His law to overcome Wickedness.

SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is *the word of God*” (Ephesians 6:17).

Lies and deceit will be exposed.

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

God's word cuts deep. Excuses and compromises will be exposed, bringing shame to the dishonest. The sword and arrows are weapons of the tongue. Cutting remarks, insults, labeling, accusations are the many arrows used by evil-doers.

King David understood God's imagery and used it in his lyrics. “Who have sharpened their tongue like a sword. They aimed *bitter speech as their arrow*” (Psalm 64:3).

In the wisdom of Solomon, he taught the importance of the careful use of language. “There is one who *speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword*, but the tongue of the wise brings healing” (Proverbs 12:18).

Jesus loves righteousness and truth. Compromising, twisting, and pushing disinformation is the battle Christ faces and he will use

God's truth as his sharp two-edged sword to destroy every deviation from the pure word of God. Nothing but the truth, the whole truth will be accepted.

Jesus said, "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but *a sword*" (Matthew 10:34).

Jesus Christ will not compromise on God's word. People will feel the discomfort as they are corrected and taught the truth.

The playbook of Wickedness has not changed since iniquity. In this evil age, every play is used by those who serve Wickedness.

"The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with every wicked deception directed against those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved" (II Thessalonians 2:9-10).

Question the narrative of the news reporters and people who claim to know the story. Search for the truth, test your findings by the word of God and do not lean on your own understanding but press God earnestly for His guidance into truth, so that you may be saved.

While Jesus was on earth, he was a perpetual victim of the ruthless, malicious plays of Wickedness.

The scriptures expose the playbook in use.

Liars

"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44).

Deceivers, twisting good works into evil

“And when the demon had been driven out, the man began to speak. The crowds were amazed and said, ‘Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel! But the Pharisees said, ‘It is by the prince of demons that He drives out demons.’ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness” (Matthew 9:33-35).

It is not surprising that the Jesus-hating Pharisees twisted the good works of Jesus claiming the power of all the miracles he did to have come from the devil.

Accusers, falsely accusing in order to bring a charge

“On another Sabbath He entered the synagogue and was teaching; and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. But He knew what they were thinking, and He said to the man with the withered hand, ‘Get up and come forward!’ And he got up and came forward. And Jesus said to them, ‘I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to destroy it?’” (Luke 6:6-11)

“The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death” (Matthew 26:59).

Character assassins, blackening and slandering every good action

Jesus said, “John [the Baptist] came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners’” (Matthew 11:18-19).

Tricksters, weaving malicious arguments to entrap

“What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. Haven’t you read this scripture: ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?” Then they looked for a way to arrest him because they knew he had spoken the parable against them... Then they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Him in order to trap Him in a statement” (Mark 12:9-12).

“So, they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, in order that they might catch Him in some statement, so that they could deliver Him to the rule and the authority of the governor” (Luke 20:20).

“When He left there, the Scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile and to question Him closely on many subjects, plotting against Him to catch Him in something He might say” (Luke 11:53-54).

Haters, filled with rage and angst

“Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him [Jesus] in his words... ‘Tell us then, what do You think? Is it lawful to give a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?’ But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, ‘Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites? Show Me the coin used for the poll-tax.’ And they brought Him a denarius. ‘Whose image is this, He asked, ‘and whose inscription?’ They answered, ‘Caesar’s.’ So, Jesus told them, ‘Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.’ When they heard this, they were amazed. So, they left him and went away” (Matthew 22:15-22).

Mockers are mob followers

Determined to discredit Jesus, they, “hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, ‘You who are going to destroy the temple

and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!’ In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ‘He saved others,’ they said, ‘but he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross, and will believe in him’... In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him” (Matthew 27:39-42, 44).

Bribers and enticers, paying-off informants

Bribing and enticing to pay-off informants became necessary to the cover-ups of their evil deeds.

“And after the chief priests had met with the elders and formed a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money telling them, ‘You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep’”” (Matthew 28:12-13).

Conspirators, plotting the death of those in their way

Jesus saw into their perpetual conspiracy against him. He spoke a parable. “But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ So, they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him ... When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them” (Matthew 21:38-39, 45).

The Pharisees were aware that Jesus knew their plans. It added more fuel to their fire to kill him at any cost. “But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus” (Matthew 12:14).

Outlaws, despisers of God

“So, you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy, burdensome loads and lay them on men’s

shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them” (Matthew 23:3-4).

Jesus said, “Be on guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees” (Matthew 16:11b-12).

“So, the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, ‘Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with “unclean” hands?’ He replied, ‘Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.” You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men’” (Mark 7:5-8).

God has called believers back into His word to live honestly, care for and love one another. Find ways to support each other and resolve conflicts peacefully. “Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will” (II Timothy 2:23-26).

Recognize the red flags and avoid them. There is no place for Wickedness in the lives of those who serve the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

AN ESPECIALLY NASTY ENEMY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

There lies on our near horizon a ruthless and cruel enemy. He will be used by God to awaken God's people and mankind to see the work of Wickedness. When God is done, this enemy is destined to fall by the power of God's spiritual sword. Isaiah recorded, "*And the Assyrian will fall by a sword not of man, and a sword not of man will devour him. So, he will not escape the sword*" (Isaiah 31:8).

Unfinished business remains to be seen; an invasion is prophesied. "When the Assyrian invades our land and marches through our fortresses..." (Micah 5:5). This remains a future event because God's people will subdue this Assyria, unlike Israel's captivity by Assyria at 722 B.C..

At this time, God's people will have righteous, God-fearing and law-keeping leaders. "We will raise against him seven shepherds, even eight leaders of men. They will rule the land of Assyria with the sword, the land of Nimrod with drawn sword. He [God] will deliver us from the Assyrian when he invades our land and marches into our borders" (Micah 5:6).

This will be a time when these people have repented of their sins; they are God-fearing and God-serving people. "Your hand will be lifted up in triumph over your enemies" (Micah 5:9).

It will be a time at the end of the Great Tribulation, a remnant will survive and they will become a great force among the nations because God Almighty strengthens them. They will come to see the "Assyrian" for who he really is—a traitor to their God and enemy out to totally destroy them. God said, "Woe to the Assyrian, the rod of my anger, in whose hand is the club of my wrath! I send him against a godless nation, I dispatch him against a people who anger me to seize loot and snatch plunder, and to trample them down like mud in the streets. But this is not what he intends, this

is not what he has in mind; *his purpose is to destroy, to put an end to many nations*” (Isaiah 10:5-7).

This group of God’s people are not part of the religious body referred to in Revelation as the “woman” who escapes into the wilderness for three and a half years. It would also appear that they are not the group who are keeping the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus Christ and then, targeted by Satan after his fall to earth. Rather a wayward and stubborn group who follow Satan for a time, worshipping idols, and serving him. These eventually go into captivity and are scattered among all of the nations on earth.

“For on that day, every one of you will reject the idols of silver and gold that your own hands have sinfully made” (Isaiah 31:7). God’s wrath is against these people who awaken by the invasion of the very leader in whom they had put their faith and trust.

The world at that time will have returned to worshipping the fallen gods, as they did in ancient times. Idols will be mandated. Power will return to mortals who call out to these fallen gods for favours and help. Magic and witchcraft will become common place. The remnant of God’s people will awaken and repent; they will destroy the idols that they make.

They will no longer rely on the Assyrian. “In that day the remnant of Israel, the survivors of the house of Jacob will no longer rely on him who struck them down but will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel. A remnant will return, a remnant of Jacob will return to the Almighty God. Though your people, O Israel, be like the sand by the sea, only a remnant will return” (Isaiah 10:20-22).

These people will be cruelly mocked and cursed. The God of Israel will comfort them, both Judah and the ten tribes—all twelve tribes of Israel, and save them.

“As you have been an object of cursing among the nations. O Judah and Israel, so will I save you, and you will be a blessing. Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong” (Zechariah 8:13).

This painful time will awaken the remaining stubborn people of God who refused to listen to instruction earlier.

The heavenly ruler over ancient Assyria is a fallen son of God. Ancient Assyria on earth collapsed around 609 B.C.. The Assyrian-like leader of the future will behave like the ancient Assyrian rulers who were relentlessly cruel. This Assyrian-like ruler will set himself up as supreme ruler in the Holy Land. His plan resembles the desires of the Antichrist and the little horn in Daniel. The LORD Almighty has sworn, *“I will crush the Assyrian in my land, on my mountains, I will trample him down. His yoke will be taken from my people, and his burden removed from their shoulders” (Isaiah 14:25).*

God will destroy the “Assyrian” with His spiritual sword when He orders the court to sit. The world will hear God’s condemnation, judgement, sentencing, and destruction.

“Then Assyria will fall, but not by the sword of man; a sword will devour them, but not one made by mortals. They will flee before the sword, and their young men will be put to forced labor. Their rock will pass away for fear, and their princes will panic at the sight of the battle standard,” declares the LORD, whose fire is in Zion, whose furnace is in Jerusalem” (Isaiah 31:8-9).

The war in heaven will come down to earth. It will be a time like no other and a time that will never occur again in all its horror and terror. God Almighty and Jesus Christ will pour out their wrath on all the wicked both spiritual and mortal, on earth. From the mouth of Jesus Christ through merely a spoken command, all will be fulfilled. *“In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His*

mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength” (Revelation 1:16).

All of the creation in heaven understood the fundamentals of God’s law upon their waking breath. There is no salvation plan for those who sin, knowingly.

“So, when the Lord has completed all His work against Mount Zion and Jerusalem, He will say, ‘I will punish the king of Assyria for the fruit of his arrogant heart and the proud look in his eyes’” (Isaiah 10:12).

The sword is God’s word and the bow is God’s law. The wicked rulers in heaven and on earth will all be brought before God’s heavenly court. Their reign of terror will end!

“In that day the LORD will *punish the host of heaven above and the kings of the earth below*. They will be gathered together like prisoners in a pit. They will be confined to a dungeon and punished after many days. The moon will be confounded and the sun will be ashamed; for the LORD of Hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before His elders with great glory” (Isaiah 24: 21-23).

GOD ALMIGHTY reigns supreme.

The HABITATS on and above EARTH

*“And God said, ‘Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place,
and let dry ground appear.’ And it was so”
(Genesis 1:9).*

In the beginning, God created realms for the first and second creation. The realm of the first creation is vast, a home for countless angels and creatures. Blocked from view for the most part, it remains a mystery for mankind on earth. The realm of the second creation is small by comparison. The sky above earth pricks the curiosity to search its vastness for life. Indeed, there is a great mystery waiting to become visible. The Psalmist wrote, “The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands” (Psalm 91:1). Mankind is yet to understand the magnitude of that scripture.



Godless scientists and researchers have withheld discoveries from the people that have generated suspicion. Many historians have bent their knee to silence truth and remain in lock-step with the puppeteers. A narrative devised by evil entities is preached repetitively to program the people, keeping them misinformed and spiritually ignorant of the wonderful truth of who they are and their royal calling. A hidden agenda is at play, but not for long.

The first verse of the Bible begins with the moment God, the Father began creating through the Son. A beginning was

established. “In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). The realms for two creations were created at the same time. Planned before the beginning, was the creation of an eternal, holy, royal, ruling God family.

“Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters” (Genesis 1:2). The earth had fallen into chaos—it was formless and covered with darkness. God is not a Creator of chaos and darkness. The Son, through the power of the Father, commanded and all the forces at work obeyed. “Let there be light,” God said. And, there was light. Order was set into motion again, and chaos disciplined.

Then God said, “Let there be a firmament between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth” (Genesis 1:6). This verse points to two separate water basins—one in heaven where the spirit beings live and one on earth. A firm divider was set in place to separate the waters.

The “firmament” by definition in the Merriam-Webster is “the vault or arch of the sky.”¹¹

Vocabulary.com state, “The *firmament* is the curve of the sky, especially if you imagine it as a solid surface.”¹²

God called the firmament, “sky.”

At the end of the age, God will roll up this structure—the sky—and mankind will be able to see into the realm in heaven. “All the stars of heaven will be dissolved. The skies will be rolled up like a

¹¹ Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Definition. “Firmament.” *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/firmament>. Accessed June 15, 2022.

¹² Vocabulary.com. Dictionary. “Firmament.” *Vocabulary.com*, <https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/firmament>. Accessed June 15, 2022.

scroll, and all their stars will fall like withered leaves from the vine, like foliage from the fig tree” (Isaiah 34:4).

THE SKY

This sky that God will eventually roll up is described to have ends, like a scroll. He may slice into the firmament to create each end. “And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other” (Matthew 24:31).

Job knew a lot about the amazing engineering of earth and all that surrounds it. He said to his friends who were debating with him, “Can you, like Him, spread out the skies to reflect the heat like a mirror of bronze?” (Job 37:18)

The Psalmist saw the greatness of the Almighty God. He wrote, “Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great; You are clothed with splendor and majesty. He wraps Himself in light as with a garment; *He stretches out the heavens like a tent*, laying the beams of His chambers in the waters above, making the clouds His chariot, walking on the wings of the wind. *He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved*” (Psalm 104:1-5).

This image sets Almighty God, of whom there is none like Him, covered in glorious light. The highest heaven is built with a sky like that over earth that is stretched out like a tent, with beams that are set deep in the waters of heaven. He uses the clouds as His chariot and walks of the poetic wings that span out from the forces of the wind. Like God’s throne in heaven, He set earth, an engineered structure, on foundations. Ezekiel saw God’s habitat. “*Above the expanse [the tent-like sky] over their heads [the four living creatures] was the likeness of a throne with the appearance of sapphire, and on the throne high above was a figure like that of a man*” (Ezekiel 1:26).

The Great Creator is mighty. “It is *He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in*” (Isaiah 40:22).

God’s throne is north of earth. Again, the heavens are stretched out like a tent. A massive canopy separates the realms of the first and second creation.

Even the sun on earth is described as covered under a tent. “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. Without speech or language, without a sound to be heard, their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. *In the heavens He has pitched a tent for the sun*” (Psalm 19:4).

God’s structures are familiar to all of mankind. All well-engineered buildings have a roof, supporting pillars, and a foundation. The New Jerusalem in the making will be comprised of the same engineering. The foundation will be comprised of the ancient judges, prophets, and apostles, the supporting pillars will be the Philadelphia saints and the roof will be the great expanse of Almighty God, Himself and Jesus Christ, King over all kings and Lord over all lords.

Satan’s goal is to distract mankind from discovering their Great Creator by looking into the great expanse. He provokes a desire to explore deep space; engineer high-tech craft and go star-trekking with hope to expand and settle, dominate and control, as if that is their calling. Instead of humbling themselves in wonder and amazement before their Great Creator, they are consumed with self-direction, self-reliance, and self-glory. It will take a time of great distress before all of God’s people awaken and seek their God. They will be dumbfounded when they realize that all this

time, He has been patiently waiting to offer them and all of mankind in time, life eternal in His holy, royal, ruling God family.

Despite mankind's refusal to see God in the incredible and awesome science and technology of creation, His plan for them moves forward. The sky is comprised of invisible gaseous substances seen only when forces propel movement. God's Holy Spirit is imaged as air moving with great force, energy, and power—like rushing winds. The people of the born-again church who received God's Holy Spirit felt the great force of His Holy Spirit.

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like a mighty rushing wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting” (Acts 2:1-2).

The first resurrection awakens and transforms first the saints who have died and then the saints who are alive. They rise to meet Christ in the air, above the ground they move upwards into a level of supremacy.

“Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so, shall we ever be with the Lord” (Thessalonians 4:17).

The resurrected elect will be gathered from the ends of earth and heaven. The ends of the vast expanse separating the realms in heaven and earth, is so vast that mankind cannot see the ends. Jesus uses exaggeration to emphasize that He will gather all the saints no matter where they are. Even those transported off planet and sent away, will be gathered by the angels if that becomes a possibility. He said, “And then He [Jesus] will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four

winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the *farthest end of heaven*” (Mark 13:27).

The sky is a habitat of unseen elements that are tapped and used. Airwave transmission is a broadcasting activity everywhere across this planet. Satan is the master of this invisible platform that carries his messages to unsuspecting mortals. He is referred to as the prince of the power of the air and his telepathic-like chatter never stops.

“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to *the prince of the power of the air*, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2).

The last bowl to be poured out on the earth at the end of this evil age, will go into the air, onto Satan’s communication platform. No longer will he be able to deceive, except after Christ’s one-thousand-year reign, but only for a short time.

The Apostle John recorded, “And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, ‘It is done’” (Revelation 16:17). The evil age will come to an end when Satan is captured and silenced.

THE LAND

And God said, “‘Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.’ And it was so. God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good” (Genesis 1:9-10).

Naming is important because the one who names has authority over it. God names these habitats because He has rulership over them.

Daniel recorded an event, global in magnitude and humbling for the house of Judah. “Now these were the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed: I was looking, and behold, there was *a tree in the midst of the earth* and its height was great” (Daniel 4:10-11).

Daniel had a vision of a tree positioned right in the middle of earth. The tree is an image of a leader and in this case, the leader was King Nebuchadnezzar. The middle of the earth points to his centre of control over all of the earth. His kingdom may have been the first world-ruling kingdom after the great flood, where God was involved in the subjugation of all people on earth.

The engineering of earth includes foundations that keep it from collapsing. The Psalmist recorded, “He established *the earth upon its foundations*, so that it will not totter forever and ever” (Psalm 104:5).

The earth also has supporting pillars not visible on the surface. When Job was describing the absolute power, perfection, and brilliance of God, he said, “Who shakes the earth out of its place, and *its pillars tremble*. He speaks to the sun and it does not shine; He seals off the light of the stars... He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be numbered... How can I dispute with him?” (Job 9:6-7, 10, 14a)

God built earth like a house using the same blueprint as He built for Himself. God said, “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house, you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest?” (Isaiah 66:1)

Indeed, God is great! Satan is working day and night to hide the evidence of the Mighty Creator using distraction and pride, encouraging foolish mankind to limit their calling to merely star-trekking under the canopy of earth when God is offering mankind eternal life in His vast, horizonless kingdom.

THE PLACE OF THE LIVING

The land is God's image for a habitat where growth takes place and an abundance of fruit can be produced. It mirrors people who have the potential for eternal life, where they can grow in God's knowledge, understanding, and wisdom to produce the fruits of righteousness. Like the covering of the righteous, the fields clothe the earth.

The Psalmist sang, "You attend to the earth and water it; with abundance You enrich it. The streams of God are full of water, for You prepare our grain by providing for the earth. You soak its furrows and level its ridges; You soften it with showers and bless its growth. You crown the year with Your bounty, and Your paths overflow with plenty. The pastures of the wilderness overflow; the hills are robed with joy. The pastures are clothed with flocks, and the valleys are decked with grain. They shout in triumph; indeed, they sing" (Psalm 65:9-13).

King David understood many of the deep things of God. He knew that God had given Himself an inheritance, that is, kingship over all of Israel [his portion]. He knew that land has a different spiritual story to the sea and the air. He said to Almighty God, "You are my refuge, my portion in *the land of the living*" (Psalm 142:5).

The land is the habitat of all people on earth. It is the place where they live—the land of the living. For people to grow and bear the fruit of righteousness, they need trained leaders, both national and religious leaders who know and exercise God's law to ensure justice and peace. Leaders are often the cause of much of the corruption on earth and the stunted spiritual growth of the people.

Mankind is incomplete without the inflowing of God's Holy Spirit. They have a very long and ancient history of taking the wide road to their destruction. To assist the people on earth, Almighty God

at the time of Babel, gave them princes—highly-trained and well-respected members of His heavenly court to rule over the nations on earth. He, Himself, participated in this project, giving Himself rulership over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Recorded in the Song of Moses, “When the Most High assigned lands to the nations, when he divided up the human race, he established the boundaries of the peoples according to the number in his heavenly court. For the LORD’s portion [the group of people on earth God gave to Himself to rule over] is his people, *Jacob his allotted inheritance* [rulership]” (Deuteronomy 32:8-9).

Having rulership over dominions is a snare for all creation both in heaven and on earth. The temptation to become proud and arrogant is difficult to fight. Power corrupts. The land remains the place of the living and under the land—inside the earth—is the place of the imprisoned.

INNER EARTH

The prison inside earth has many names. It is described by Ezekiel as the Pit. The Apostle John referred to it as the Abyss. The Psalmist and ancient Israel called it Sheol. It is located in the deep south inside the earth. After Jesus was resurrected, he took the captured rebellious, wicked rulers down to inner earth. “This is why it says: ‘When He ascended on high, He led captives away, and gave gifts to men’. What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions?” (Ephesians 4:8-9)

It is difficult for mankind to understand a place they have not visited. The lowest place in all creation is located in the realm of the fallen second creation—earth. Inside the earth, is the prison for the captured, rebellious, fallen, wicked spiritual entities. It is a great insult for the first creation of spiritual beings to be cast out of the most glorious places in all creation to be sentenced to

the lowest of all places—inner earth. Inside the earth is possibly where the pillars and foundation of earth are located.

The disciples understood the fate of the rebel spirits and the location of the prison where they remain today. “For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit, in whom He also went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built” (1 Peter 3:18-19).

When Satan is eventually brought down to Sheol, God will announce for all to hear that He no longer has a place among those who are spiritually alive. He will reside with the captured, fallen sons of God in the “Pit.”

BATTLE OVER RULERSHIP

God knew Satan’s secret plan. “‘You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; *I will make myself like the Most High.*’ But you are brought down to the grave to the depths of the pit” (Isaiah 14:13-15).

On the land, creation grows to great heights. God placed on earth a forest of great cedars in an area named Lebanon. By God’s purpose and design, locations on earth are named accordingly. In heaven, God’s heavenly court is located in Lebanon in heaven. Unfortunately, the highly respected and valued members of God’s heavenly courts in Lebanon rebelled against Him and they taught the nations of the world to worship *them* instead of the Great Creator God.

“Then all the trees [leaders] of Eden [God’s family name], the choicest and best of Lebanon [God’s heavenly court], all the trees [leaders] that were well-watered [filled with God’s Holy Spirit], were consoled in the earth below [imprisoned in the pit] (Ezekiel 31:16b).

Lebanon isn’t the only location named specifically to mirror a location in heaven. Tyre is a city on earth with a mirrored location in heaven. It is located on the edge of land—on the edge of the spiritual living, a seacoast city. Ezekiel recorded God’s words about the fall of Tyre, speaking to the king of Tyre, He prophesied the fall and destruction of this wicked king.

“When I make you a desolate city like other deserted cities, and when I raise up the deep against you so that the mighty waters cover you, then *I will bring you down with those who descend to the Pit*, to the people of antiquity. I will make you *dwell in the earth below like the ancient ruins, with those who descend to the Pit*, so that you will no longer be inhabited or set in splendor in the land of the living” (Ezekiel 26:19-20).

The book of Ezekiel records the destruction of all of the heavenly rulers given kingship over the nations on earth. The earthly names identify these rulers. Mankind’s only enemies are these fallen, heavenly rulers, powers and principalities (Ephesians 6:12) who have led mankind astray and hidden truths essential to their salvation.

THE LAND, HOLY GROUND

The land is also the place of God’s holy presence. It is often personified, alive with emotion.

“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is *holy ground*” (Exodus 3:5).

God Almighty's presence made the ground holy—a place separated from other places—a place pure and perfect.

“The Commander of the LORD’s army replied, ‘Take off your sandals, *for the place where you are standing is holy.*’ And Joshua did so” (Joshua 5:15).

Jesus Christ’s presence, the Commander of God’s army, made the ground holy—a place separated from other places—a place pure and perfect.

God expects His people to follow His directions and rest the land every seven years imaging God’s seventh day rest. By not resting, the land does not rejuvenate. By not resting on God’s Sabbath, mankind does not rejuvenate spiritually. Job declared his careful obedience to God’s commands and vowed that if he was guilty, then the land of the living—the land of the righteous would produce only briers and stinkweed—wicked people.

Job understood the correlation of obedience to God with blessings opposed to curses when disobedient. “I would give account of all my steps; I would approach Him like a prince. *If my land cries out against me and its furrows weep together, if I have devoured its produce without payment or broken the spirit of its tenants, then let briers grow instead of wheat and stinkweed instead of barley*” (Job 31:37-40).

Jeremiah asked, “*How long must the land cry out in mourning, the grasses of the field wither and bake in the sun? The birds and wild animals have simply vanished, all because of the wicked living here* — Because they say, ‘God does not see what will become of us’” (Jeremiah 12:4).

The land mourns when the righteous are not present. A desert forms resulting from the destructive practices of the wicked.

God warned ancient Israel, “And if you defile the land, *it will vomit you out* as it vomited out the nations that were before you” (Leviticus 18:28).

The land is intimately bound with the actions and lifestyle of people. During the millennium, the righteous people will reap great blessings. Obeying God will bring blessings beyond the capacity of the storehouses. When God’s people return to their homeland, they will be cared for and the two: the people and the land, will be bound together as one.

“You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and *your land shall no more be termed Desolate*, but you shall be called *My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married*; for the LORD delights in you, and *your land shall be married*” (Isaiah 62:4).

People married to the land will care for each other. The desert is the image of land on earth that is spiritually dead.

Abraham was born 200 years after God gave the nations on earth heavenly rulers. “But the LORD’s portion is His people, Jacob His allotted inheritance. *He found him in a desert land, in a barren, howling wilderness*; He surrounded him, He instructed him, He guarded him as the apple of His eye” (Deuteronomy 32:9-10).

It didn’t take long for these heavenly rulers to rebel against God, creating deadly sandstorms starving plant life and forcing birds and animals to flee. Their land became a desert—a barren, howling wilderness. Rebel sons of God were raging against God and among each other. As it was before the flood, so it happened again. God guarded Abraham from all the wickedness surrounding him. Abraham obeyed God trusting in Him completely. He became the father of mankind’s Saviour and a people destined to become a holy kingdom of royal priests.

The story of God's people is: a struggle of good against evil, uncontrolled passion for power over humble priesthood, a reflection of childlike ignorance chosen over becoming highly-disciplined experts of righteousness, and a desire to prefer living in the moment instead of waiting on the LORD for His kingdom and Christ's reign.

Hosea recorded God's lament of His back-sliding people, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you as My priests. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children. The more they multiplied, the more they sinned against Me; they exchanged their Glory for a thing of disgrace" (Hosea 4:6-7).

The journey of God's rebellious people across the land has been one of flight from the east wind. Israel was pushed by the east wind to move westward all the way to its borders. "Has the LORD struck Israel as He struck her oppressors? Was she killed like those who slayed her? By warfare and exile You contended with her and removed her with a fierce wind, as on the day the *east wind* blows" (Isaiah 27:8).

When they repent and turn to Him, God has promised, "I will restore from captivity *My people Israel and Judah*. I will restore them to *the land* that I gave to their fathers, and they will possess it" (Jeremiah 30:3).

God's people will go home to their land—the Holy Land. Finally, thousands of years later the descendants of Jacob will awaken, turn to their God and grow spiritually.

There is a land mass on earth that stands like an elephant in a small room that most people ignore as if it is inconsequential. It is Antarctica. Attention was drawn to it at the end of World War II because Nazi submarines were going there. The Americans

were chasing the last of the Nazi escapees. Their pursuit ended quickly after a fateful battle with unidentifiable crafts. All attention now is quietly redirected, except for selected governments. The Antarctic treaty was formulated and later signed on December 1, 1954 by twelve nations to remain a demilitarized zone. The treaty now has 54 signatory nations. It has been declared a site for research and study. This land mass holds mysteries that leaders of 54 nations are interested in, which are rarely shared with the public. If an entrance was found, the discoveries with it remain classified to the ordinary people.

THE SEA

When Christ has restored all things, the last enemy to be overthrown will be death (I Corinthians 15:26–28) for then, there will be no sin—no wickedness. At that time, God will create a new heaven and a new earth and there will be *no sea*—no haven for Wickedness.

God likens wicked entities and wicked people to the waves of the sea that push and pull people away from truth, kicking up falsehood and deceit: hidden reefs that cause trouble, impersonators of righteousness for their own evil goals, evil practitioners that froth up in shame, undisciplined emotions that rage in anger, shouting voices with an intimating presence, and unethical users of fearful, bullying tactics.

“The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt” (Isaiah 57:20).

“These men are the hidden reefs in your love feasts, shamelessly feasting with you but shepherding only themselves” (Jude 1:12).

Scriptures identify both mortals and spiritual beings guilty of wickedness. Evil heavenly entities are like rough and turbulent waters. “They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their own

shame; *wandering stars*, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever” (Jude 1:13).

The Psalmist described them using God’s imagery. “The seas have lifted up, LORD, the seas have lifted up their voice; the seas have lifted up their pounding waves. Above the roar of many waters—the mighty breakers of the sea—the LORD on high is majestic” (Psalm 93:3-4).

THE DEEP WATERS, THE HEART OF THE SEA IMAGES THE HEADQUARTERS OF WICKEDNESS

King David praised God and thanked Him for rescuing him from wicked, powerful enemies.

“I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies. For *the waves of death engulfed me*; the torrents of chaos overwhelmed me... He reached down from on high and took hold of me; *he drew me out of deep waters*. He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the LORD was my support” (II Samuel 22:4-5, 17-19).

King David prayed many times for saving. “Rescue me from the mire and do not let me sink; deliver me from my foes *and out of the deep waters*. Do not let the floods engulf me or the depths swallow me up; let not *the Pit* close its mouth over me” (Psalm 69:14-15).

“Reach down from heaven and rescue me; rescue me from deep waters, from the power of my enemies, whose mouths speak falsehood, whose right hands are deceitful” (Psalm 144:7-8).

Jonah prayed, when he found himself in the very headquarters of Wickedness. He experienced the hellish realm of the wicked in the belly of the great fish; it terrified him.

“In my distress I called to the LORD and He answered me. From the belly of Sheol, I called for help, and You heard my voice. You *hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas*, and the currents swirled about me; *all your waves and breakers swept over me*. I said, ‘I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple. The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head... but you brought my life up from the pit, O Lord my God’” (Jonah 2:2-6).

GOD HAS SUPREME AUTHORITY AND HE MAINTAINS CONTROL OVER THE WICKED: ON EARTH AND IN HEAVEN

God’s plan cannot be thwarted, every move of the wicked is known; He is *all powerful*.

“But mightier than the violent raging of the seas, mightier than the breakers on the shore—the *LORD above is mightier than these!* Your testimonies are fully confirmed; holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, for all the days to come” (Psalm 93:4-5).

“*You rule over the surging sea; when its waves mount up, You still them*” (Psalm 89:9).

“*You quieted the raging oceans with their pounding waves and silenced the shouting of the nations*” (Psalm 65:7).

JESUS CHRIST HAS AUTHORITY OVER THE WICKED

Mankind does not have power or authority to quiet spiritual wickedness on earth without praying in the name of Jesus. He has authority over these raging entities. “Then Jesus got up and rebuked *the wind and the sea*. ‘Silence!’ He commanded. ‘Be still!’ And the wind died down, and it was perfectly calm” (Mark 4:39).

Jesus was not talking to the weather, but the wicked entities raging against him.

TWO SIGNIFICANT CENTERS OF WICKEDNESS: TYRE AND BABYLON

TYRE: The king of Tyre.

The wicked centers of Wickedness are described by God to be on the high seas. God said, “You were once the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God... you were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you” (Ezekiel 27:12b, 15). His “*domain was on the high seas*” (Ezekiel 12:4).

The sea referenced here is likely the waters in heaven separated like the separation of the waters on earth recorded in Genesis. It is also an image of space separated from one another; Wickedness is not part of Righteousness. They do not share the same home.

“His builders brought his beauty to perfection” (Ezekiel 27:3-4). They built a maritime city. “All the ships of the sea and their sailors came alongside to trade for your wares” (Ezekiel 27:9).

This maritime city also established and maintained an army of mercenary troops. “Men of Persia, Lydia and Put served as soldiers in your army. They hung their shields and helmets on your walls, bringing you splendor. Men of Arvad and Helech manned your walls on every side, men of Gammad were in your towers. They hung their shields around your walls; they brought your beauty to perfection” (Ezekiel 27:10-11).

It was a well-fortified, world trading center—a complete package: self-defending, self-reliant, and self-determined coalition.

However, in God’s grand plan, this maritime city is doomed.

“The east wind [God Almighty] will break you to pieces in the heart of the sea. Your wealth, merchandise and wares, your mariners, seamen and shipwrights, your merchants and all your

soldiers, and everyone else on board will sink into the heart of the sea on the day of your shipwreck” (Ezekiel 27:26b-27).

THE SEA BEAST AND THE EARTH BEAST

When the great dragon is thrown down to earth, standing on the seashore, Satan will summon up the beast from out of the sea (Revelation 13:1).

He will stand on the seashore and orchestrate the meeting of the beast from the sea with the beast from out of the earth. A union of the high seas—the heavenly domain of Wickedness with their earthly domain from out of the earth will form a powerful body comprised of the spiritual and physical: a rebel government and a false church serving dark heavenly forces will fight this one last time—together. Like iron and clay, this mix will not endure.

The beast from out the sea [Wickedness] is an ancient enemy that it will rise again in the latter days and appear on the international scene in its true form—a grotesque and malformed body beyond any natural recognition. Seven heads [seven governments] one of which, suffered a fatal wound but healed, with a blasphemous name on each of its ten horns [ten rulers], moving like raging, wild animals; it is desperate to devour the living.

“The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction” (Revelation 17:8).

The nations of the world will be taken captive and they will say, “Who can make war against him?” (Revelation 13:4) The combined weaponry of the nations on earth will not be able to overpower the sophisticated, superior, and spiritual weaponry controlled by the heavenly forces, so, they will submit and worship Satan. “Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast” (Revelation 13:4).

The prostitute dressed in purple will ride this beast. She will hold the golden cup filled with the blood of the saints. She is the teacher of her church called: the Great Mystery Babylon. This church will be the centre of mankind's theology, producing a congregation who thrive on physical knowledge and human achievements, while discrediting God's word—His spiritual knowledge and His commandments.

“And the angel said to me, ‘The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages’” (Revelation 17:15). These people are not righteous God-fearing, God-serving people; they are sold into the theology of Satan. They are masters at engineering and building vessels that travel into the sea. This is a mirror of their mastery to travel into living in darkness filled with cargoes of lies, deception, corruption, and infiltration to grab power, wealth, and prestige.

SHE SENDS HER MERCHANTS OUT TO SEA

The Great Harlot directs her Satan-worshipping merchants to venture out into the home of Wickedness to bring back ideas and knowledge in every area of new science, revolutionary medicine, devious business dealings, alluring arts, and tantalizing mysteries.

God will bring this city down. “Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim. ‘Was there ever a city like this great city?’ They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: ‘Woe, Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour, she has been brought to ruin!’” (Revelation 18:17-18)

They are powerless against Almighty God.

“In that day the LORD will punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below. They will be gathered together like prisoners in a pit. They will be confined to a dungeon and punished after many days” (Isaiah 24:21-22).

The victims of the Great Harlot are the saints who oppose her merchandise and wares. “I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony of Jesus” (Revelation 17:6).

Wicked mankind loves self-reliance, self-determination, and self-glory. Relying on and trusting in Almighty God has never been their first choice since day one. It is a difficult lesson to learn for the created to rely on their Creator. What seems so right and good in the eyes of the created can be so wrong and destructive. Solomon wrote, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

THE MOUNTAINS, HILLS AND VALLEYS

God images his highest level of government as a mountain. “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain heights of Israel, I will plant it” (Ezekiel 17:22-23a).

The most revered sons of God in heaven were all falling into rebellion. The power given to them seeded pride, which grew into arrogance. It was time to end any further challengers who would rule with His Son. Enough was enough. The verses in Ezekiel 17, share the moment when God officially announced that His Son will rule alone and his headquarters, at the highest level of government, will be in Israel.

The image of a mountain top is a clear picture of the height only a rare few can climb and the only formation on earth that reaches high into the heavens. God's coded language is not difficult. The images of hills, valleys and mountains are clear choices for all levels of government.

Mountains will be taken down by God as Wickedness on earth is destroyed. Their lofty federal governments will be demolished. Amazing battles are yet to take place. Not through the use of superpower military might but through God's Holy Spirit, rebellious forces on earth will be flattened. God will use resurrected Zerubbabel to obliterate rebel forces in the way of building God's new temple on earth.

Zechariah recorded God's words, "What are you, O mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of 'God bless it! God bless it!' then the word of the LORD came to me: 'The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands will also complete it.' Then you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you" (Zechariah 4:7-9). All unfinished tasks given to the people in ancient times will be completed by them, after they are resurrected.

HILLS

When Jesus taught the five thousand Jews and four thousand people of the ten tribes, he sat on a hill. He knows God's use of language. A hill is an elevated position, in this case, indicating his authority to teach them.

Ancient Israel has a long history of rebellion against the God of Israel. They craved to be like the nations who were the superpowers on earth with grand temples, massive armies, wealth, and riches. Ancient Israel thought that serving the gods ruling over these nations would give them the self-glory and power they craved.

The nations understood where their heavenly rulers resided and they built altars on the highest locations on earth and under evergreen trees. The symbolism acknowledged the heavenly authority of the gods and the evergreen trees acknowledged them as eternal leaders. These rebel heavenly rulers taught the people of the nations to worship them, instead of the Almighty God. The power that the heavenly rulers wielded made it difficult for all people on earth to distinguish between the Almighty God and the lesser gods—sons of God. These once, highly honoured heavenly rulers turned away from God and entered into a war that remains to this day. God taught ancient Israel against serving these rebels.

“You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess serve their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree” (Deuteronomy 12:2).

When God’s people in the latter days are oppressed by the enemy and God’s punishment against them ends, He will direct His wrath to the destruction of their oppressors. “The LORD Almighty will lash them with a whip” (Isaiah 10:26).

In response, the oppressor will rage against the “mountain of the daughter of Zion” and “the hill” in Jerusalem on earth. God’s great theological leaders in heaven and on earth will be the target of their rage as these rebels fall from power.

“Yet today he will halt at Nob; He shakes his fist at *the mountain* of the daughter of Zion, *the hill* of Jerusalem. Behold, the Lord GOD of Hosts will lop off the branches with terrifying power. *The tall trees will be cut down, the lofty ones will be felled*” (Isaiah 10:32-33).

This language of “mountains” and “tall trees” is all about God destroying the government of powerful, rebel heavenly rulers

battling on earth raging against Zion in heaven and His centre, Jerusalem on earth.

God settled the leading tribes on hills as a visual of their authority. It is to no surprise that the tribe of Ephraim was given land in the hill country. This signified their authority as leader among the ten tribes of Israel. Joseph, the father of Ephraim received the firstborn blessing by his father, Jacob. Ephraim was Joseph's youngest son. Both sons were blessed by Jacob when he adopted them into his family as equal members. They received Joseph's firstborn double blessing.

One of many stories of the ancient Israelite's oppression by their enemies is preserved when God sent Ehud, a left-handed Benjaminite to lead them into freedom. He goes to the hill country of Ephraim to blow the battle trumpet. It was symbolic of his authority in the place of authority. "It came about when he had arrived, that *he blew the trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim*; and the sons of Israel went down with him from the hill country, and he was in front of them" (Judges 3:27).

THE VALLEYS

In the low places, life thrives. God promises to remove the hinderances that cause people to stumble and fail to move forward towards God. A time is coming when God will level the way to Him.

"A voice of one calling: 'In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it.' For the mouth of the LORD has spoken" (Isaiah 40:3-5).

Before truth breaks out to cover planet Earth, mankind will experience a dreadful and terrible time at the end of this evil age. Places will have become totally controlled by Wickedness; God's word will be buried. God Almighty will heal those places with the outpouring of His Holy Spirit. People will witness God's truth and recognize the God of Israel as the Supreme God. The valleys will be raised up. Church leadership will not be considered secondary to national leadership. Federal and state/provincial leaders will be lowered; their authority will be reduced. All of the local authorities imaged as "rough ground" and "rugged places" that have worked to spread disinformation and lies, such as mainstream media, will be flattened—silenced. Their power will be gone. People will finally hear the truth; people will hear and believe.

God will accomplish all that He desires. "So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11).

There is a time after the Great Tribulation when joy will fill the hearts and souls of the righteous. The governments at the highest level will recognize and admire the faithful saints who endured patiently. All levels, within the states/provinces, will celebrate in joy the righteous among them. They will clap their hands honouring the righteous people serving Almighty God.

"For you will go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands" (Isaiah 55:12).

The world will change because God's covenant people will finally and sincerely return to their loving Father in heaven, the God and only God who mankind owes worship.

He created their home, called Earth with a canopy filled with stars and planets that appear in their vast sky. Pillars support the tented-sky and a foundation keeps all planets stable.

Today, we see through a glass darkly often because godless scientists, researchers, puppeted leaders, and puppeteers want it that way. This evil age will end. Truth will be untethered and mankind's Great Creator and their Saviour will come into perfect view. All directions will light up and God's way will be clear and trouble free.

DIRECTIONS

*“And they will come from east and west and from north and south,
and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God”
(Luke 13:29).*

The *big picture* of God’s story comes to life as God reveals His deeper things. He will take His scholars in all directions making it clear why He pushed His unrighteous people westward all the way to the borders and why the lawless are gathered to the south. He will remind His people that His temple is located in the east far from the unrighteous, and His throne and centre of law and justice are located in the north.



From the beginning, two realms were planned, one in heaven and one on earth. The directions: north, south, east, and west exist in both realms. By no coincidence, heaven is north and earth is

south. From out of infinite space and time, God gave His creation in heaven and on earth multiple ways to recognize their path and the direction to where they are moving. God, Himself uses these mechanisms to fulfill His work.

Events initiate time and boundaries define space. When God created, time came into existence and space was allotted. When God first deemed Lucifer His enemy, it became a marker along a timeline and his dominion became dark and chaotic.

THE NORTH

“I looked, and I saw a windstorm *coming out of the north* – an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light” (Ezekiel 1:4).

God’s throne appears to Ezekiel from out of the north. “Above the expanse over their heads was the likeness of a throne with the appearance of sapphire, and on the throne high above was a figure like that of a man. From what seemed to be His waist up, I saw a gleam like amber, with what looked like fire within it all around. And from what seemed to be His waist down, I saw what looked like fire; and brilliant light surrounded Him. The appearance of the brilliant light all around Him was like that of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD” (Ezekiel 1:26-28).

The power of Almighty God presents itself like a windstorm, a massive, thunderous force that comes from the north. God’s throne is north of earth beyond earth’s skies. He has an army that is located in the same direction. From there, His throne radiates as His centre of His law where judgement and sentencing proceeds.

Mankind will one day see God’s great army. “Listen, a tumult on the mountains, like that of a great multitude! Listen, an uproar

among the kingdoms, like nations gathered together! The LORD of Hosts is mobilizing an army for war” (Isaiah 13:4).

“The Lord utters His voice before His army; surely His camp is very great, for strong is he who carries out His word. The day of the Lord is indeed great and very awesome, and who can endure it?” (Joel 2:11)

North is the location of God’s throne where His law is centred and His heavenly courts work to judge and sentence. Before God’s people return to the land promised to their ancient fathers, God will gather them from the places all around the world where they were taken as slaves, during the Great Tribulation, and He will bring them to an area in the north.

“In those days the house of Judah will walk with the house of Israel, and they will come together *from the land of the north* to the land that I gave to your fathers as an inheritance” (Jeremiah 3:18).

God is not allowing any rebellious people back into His Holy Land. In the north, He will bring them from all directions before His throne, reminding them of His law. They will see God’s heavenly courts in operation and as they walk east towards the Holy Land, they will walk under His staff and He will take note of them. From the north, judgement takes places. “I will purge you of those who revolt and rebel against me. I will take note of you as you pass under my staff, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant” (Ezekiel 20:38, 37).

This northward location goes beyond the location of the angels. It goes far north into the highest of heavens.

THE FAR NORTH

Heaven, from the view of mankind on earth, is not simply the sky covering earth. It extends high above the physical universe into the location of the first creation—the habitat of spiritual beings—the angels, living creatures, the elders and much more. The skies covering earth and filling space in our vast universe is the first heaven. The habitat of angels extends into their vast heavens. God's throne is located in the highest heaven. From earth, it directs the human eye northward, way into the far north.

The Apostle Paul visited this far north location in some way. “I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to *the third heaven*—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter” (II Corinthians 12:2-4).

God's throne is in the far north. “A Song; a Psalm of the sons of Korah. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, in the city of our God, His holy mountain. Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion in the *far north*, the city of the great King. God, in her palaces, has made Himself known as a stronghold” (Psalm 48:1-4).

God's throne is the centre of His law and order. It is fortified in the far north and there it will remain forever.

THE ROGUE KINGDOM IN THE FAR NORTH

There exists also something else in the far north. God is aware. It is a rebel kingdom untouched by God's hand, saved for the final testing of mankind at the end of Christ's millennial reign on earth. The leader of this rebel kingdom is Gog, king of Magog. He and

his hordes in Magog will be called into judgement by Almighty God at the very end of Christ's millennial reign.

This leader was likely given rulership, at the time of Babel, over the territory of Russia today. The ancient cities of Meshech and Tubal point to that assumption.

To God's great disappointment, all of the highly honoured members of His heavenly court, after given rulership over the nations on earth, turned against Him and allied with Satan. Jesus Christ disarmed the heavenly rulers over the nations when he was coronated King of kings and Lord of lords. Russia, like all nations on earth today, is not a puppet of this rebel, heavenly ruler. All nations on earth for the past two thousand years have been freed from these fallen princes.

"O Gog," God said, "I will turn you around and drag you along. I will bring you from the far north and send you against the mountains [government] of Israel" (Ezekiel 39:20).

This king is doomed along with the hordes within his dominion. These hordes are a spiritual army of beings existing in the far north of heaven serving in the dominion of Magog.

This dark kingdom remains untouched, until Almighty God calls him to war. He is not finished. He will use King Gog of Magog to test mankind at the end of the Millennium. King Gog, a chief prince, has the same power and authority as Michael, the archangel, also a chief prince.

Ezekiel heard God's condemnation and recorded, "The LORD came to me, saying, 'Son of man, set your face against Gog of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. Prophecy against him and declare that this is what the Lord GOD says: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and

Tubal... After a long time, you [Gog] will be summoned. In the latter years you will enter a land that has recovered from war, whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and all now dwell securely. You and all your troops, and many peoples with you will go up, advancing like a thunderstorm; you will be like a cloud covering the land...Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the *far north* and all its troops—many people are with you” (Ezekiel 38:2-3, 6, 8).

The Apostle Paul made it clear that mankind’s enemies then and today are the rebel, powerful fallen rulers, powers and principalities in heaven. Gog ruling over the territory of Magog in heaven, in the far north, has a vast army. He sits quietly until the end of Christ’s millennial rule. His last chance to destroy God’s righteous people on earth and steal salvation from the nations will be attempted. Satan is released and joins with this rebel force. They go out and deceive people in the nations on earth, again.

A second time, raging nations will gather led by desperate, wicked, heavenly rulers to war against God’s peaceful people. There will be no need for God’s people to fight; Almighty God will end the attack in a single moment. Three separate groups will receive judgement: Satan and Gog, the hordes with Gog, and the people within the nations on earth who join with them.

“I will execute judgement upon him with plague and bloodshed. I will pour out torrents of rain, hailstones, fire, and sulfur on *him* and on *his troops* and on the *many nations* with him. I will magnify and sanctify Myself, and will reveal Myself in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 38:22-23).

Note: God will execute judgement on:

- Him [Gog]

- his troops
- the many nations with him.

Many scholars identify Gog of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, to be the ruler over Russia because in ancient times, Meshech and Tubal were cities located in old Russia. However, they have not understood God's language. His heavenly court is located in Lebanon in heaven. The king over Tyre has his domain on the high seas [in heaven]. The city of Tyre on earth is not located on the high seas.

Gog of Magog is a chief prince like Michael, the archangel. The war that Gog will initiate against God's people, living in safety, will draw in people from the nations on earth, as well as, all of the remaining rebel domains in heaven. The rebel domains include: "Persia, Cush, and Put will accompany them, all with shields and helmets, as well as Gomer with all its troops, and Beth-togarmah from the *far north* with all its troops and the many nations with you" (Ezekiel 38:5-6).

God is not singling out any one nation from the nations on earth when He references Gog of Magog. He is identifying the final great rebel in heaven who will lead and gather all of the other rebel rulers with their hordes to attack God's people on earth. He will incite the nations on earth to join them. At that time, the existence of heavenly rulers and their domains will be common knowledge. The sky will have been rolled back. All the people in the nations on earth will see and engage with them. Gog of Magog will incite the people in the nations to become jealous of the riches God's people will be enjoying. They will be receiving the blessings promised long ago for keeping God's laws of love and living in peace.

The people in the nations on earth will question Almighty God as their Supreme King and some will favour Gog and his allies,

believing these heavenly rulers have greater power than the God of Israel. The final battle is a decisive blow to Gog and all of his allies. Almighty God, in a single moment, will disarm Gog and his allies and destroy them all with torrents of rain, hailstones, and burning sulfur. God Almighty will then declare His greatness over all heavenly rulers and judge the people on earth who put their trust in these lesser sons of God.

“I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. *Then they will know that I am the LORD*” (Ezekiel 38:23).

All creation will know that YHWH [Yahuah] is LORD. God's reference to His title, LORD, is Him taking on His role of High Priest and passing righteous judgement and destruction on Gog and all who follow him.

Of the four directions engineered by God, north is the centre of God's throne and His law. Only one direction is the centre of God's holy temple.

THE EAST

From the east, wise men came bringing three precious gifts to the new born King. A lot can be learned from little. Applying God's coded language, the number three is the divine seal of God—His official stamp indicating His mark. The three gifts: Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh are a picture of the Messiah. He is rare and extremely valuable like gold; he symbolizes kingship, and divinity. Gold was used extensively inside the tabernacle in the wilderness, Solomon's temple and Herod's temple. It symbolizes precious purity and, in this case, the pure sacrifice of Christ.

Frankincense and Myrrh come from two different trees. To obtain the resin used in healing balms, the bark of these trees is wounded, scraped, and gouged. The tree resin bleeds out, when hardened,

it is harvested and like Myrrh used in healing balms, burned as incense and added to oil to be used in anointings.

These three precious gifts image: The royal Messiah's pure sacrifice, his ability to heal mankind, and his role as mediator between Almighty God and mankind. The men from the east point to righteous, religious men. If they came from the north, it would indicate that their focus is on the law of God, but from the east, the focus is on religious leadership: the application of the knowledge, understanding, and wisdom.

Through God's use of direction, a clearer picture is visible. God is providing believers with the direction leading to His precious and pure religious centre. He is consistent in His language. His powerful and righteous force is described as the *east* wind. His garden [His family] is in the *east, in Eden*. The entrance of the tabernacle built in the wilderness faced east. The wise men came from the east.

When our Messiah was born, three wise men recognized the timing and were ready to bring him gifts.

“Now Jesus having been born in Bethlehem of Judea in *the* days of Herod the king, behold, Magi from *the east* arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? We saw *His star in the east* and have come to worship Him’... On coming to the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh” (Matthew 2:1-2, 11).

GOD’S TEMPLE IN THE EAST

It is no surprise that God engineered the movement of the sun to rise in the east, generating a fresh new beginning shining brightly and setting in the west where darkness creeps in to cover the earth. God is teaching creation on earth where to find the ways

of all things right. It is in the east where His temple is located. He is the source of righteousness. The rebuilding of a physical temple will take place and stand in the east. It will be a glorious visual with water flowing from the south forming a river lined with lush, tall trees. The water cleanses every area it touches, reaching the sea and making it fresh.

“The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple *toward the east...* The *water flows toward the eastern region* and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Sea. When it empties into the Sea, the water there becomes fresh. Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows” (NIV Ezekiel 47:1, 8, 9a).

CHRIST'S RETURN FROM THE EAST

Our Messiah's return will come from the east. It is pointing to the location of God's temple and the seat of righteousness. “So, if they tell you, ‘There He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. For *just as the lightning comes forth from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man*” (Matthew 24:26-27).

CAIN PROTECTED IN THE EAST

Cain was cursed for killing Abel and sentenced to live outside of Eden, still on the eastern side as God promised to protect him. “Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and *settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden*” (Genesis 4:16).

Eden is the home of God's family. Cain was cast out of God's immediate protection. Like his parents, Adam and Eve, he was sent away from God's presence. It is a mystery why Cain needed protection, but likely other strange activities were taking place by Satan and his rebel followers who could harm him. God kept him

close, as He did with Adam and Eve, but not in His immediate holy place.

THE EAST WIND

The east wind brought the plague of grasshoppers to Egypt. The east wind burns and destroys. The east wind scatters God's people. Jeremiah recorded God's promise to turn away from His rebellious people on their day of distress. *"Like an east wind I will scatter them before the enemy; I will show them My back and not My face in the day of their calamity"* (Jeremiah 18:17).

The east wind is the power driving unrighteous people in the opposite direction of God's righteous abode. The fault of the ancient house of Israel was their godless, unrighteous behaviour when they were in rebellion against the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The house of Israel is not the Jews of 21st century, but descendants of ten sons of Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel. These ten tribes separated from the kingdom of Israel around 900 B.C.E. keeping the name Israel, while the remaining two tribes took the name of Judah, the patriarch of the Jews.

The split was caused by the oppressive taxes on the people initiated by Solomon. The ten tribes had had enough and pleaded for grace, relief from this heavy burden. The young king, son of Solomon, refused. War between the two houses was about to break out, but God intervened. God divided the kingdom forming two houses: Judah and Israel.

Jeroboam was anointed king over the house of Israel while Rehoboam remained king over his tribe of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin. These two houses became two kingdoms. Both kingdoms, in time, wandered away from God.

“Have you not noticed that these people are saying, ‘*The LORD has rejected the two kingdoms he chose*’? So, they despise my people and no longer regard them as a nation” (Jeremiah 33:24).

King Jeroboam, ruling over the kingdom of Israel, was a great disservice to his people. He established two golden calves and led his people into rebellion against God. They were unrelenting so God caused them to be captured and sent them out of His Holy Land. The house of Israel went into captivity around 722 B.C.E. God punished them to live in exile for 360 years. After that time, they remained indignant and angry with God, so they were sentenced seven times their original sentence. They have never returned to the Holy Land as a kingdom comprised of all ten tribes. Their story of repentance is mirrored in a story of Naaman, the general. These people were pushed by God’s power of the east wind, westward into the far west to the very border. West is the direction of the unrighteous.

THE WEST

Like the prodigal son, it took a long time and much hardship for this kingdom to repent and return to their heavenly Father. Upon their release from the kingdom of Assyria, they continued to move as the east wind directed them. They wandered among the heathen nations for a period seven times their original sentence. Despite their continued rebellious attitude, God never lost sight of them. He showed the nations watching how unholy they remained by pushing them out of His Holy Land in the opposite direction of His temple. These lost ten tribes were never lost; they live in the west all the way to the western border in the opposite direction of God’s holy temple facing east.

Into the 21st century, these people are known as Westerners who live in Western Europe and the West. While they have forgotten their roots, it is clear where they live. These once wayward Israelites, repented and became known as Christians. Still young

in their relationship with their God, a time of great distress will awaken the wayward among them. They will sincerely seek with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength their God and beg for redemption.

“They will walk after the LORD; He will roar like a lion. When He roars, *His children will come trembling from the west*” (Hosea 11:10).

Despite many generations of rebellion, these people will see the light and remember their heritage. They will acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Messiah and through him, they will build a deep and unbreakable relationship with their God. “Afterwards, the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. *They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days*” (Hosea 3:5).

This divided kingdom of Judah and Israel will at this time, be joined as one. They will serve one God, accept the sacrifice of one Saviour, and embrace one theology—the word of God. While still in the west, 21st century ten nations of Israel will repent.

“Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And *in the place* [in the West] where it was said to them, “*You are not my people,*” it shall be said to them, “*Children of the living God*” (Hosea 1:10). These outcasts living outside of the Holy Land will return home.

God’s enduring compassion for them will bring comfort during a time of great distress.

“At that time, I will gather you; at that time, I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes” (Zephaniah 3:20).

“‘For behold, days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will restore the fortunes of my people, Israel and Judah and I will bring them back to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall take possession of it’” (Jeremiah 30:3).

Into the 21st century, the people of Israel and Judah have grown into the millions. Twelve nations on earth are the descendants of ancient Israel. They are prophesied to enter into a time of great trouble, Jacob’s trouble, but they will be saved out of it. This trouble will bring them a second time into slavery and scatter them to the north, south, east, and west over the earth. In the homes of people in different countries, they will take the gospel to the whole world and complete the witness of the gospel. Then, they will be ready to return to the Holy Land.

THE SOUTH

From the view of Almighty God after creation, planet Earth is in the southernly direction. Mankind looks up to the heavens. The south implies imprisonment as all of mankind have sinned, hence, slaves to sin and doomed to die. The south is in the opposition direction of the north where God’s law and His courts operate. All people on earth have broken God’s law. Though a salvation plan is in place for the repentant, Earth today, is the decaying southerly home of the lawbreakers.

The rebel fallen rulers who have been captured and sentenced, are presently imprisoned in inner Earth, in the Abyss, the Pit. When the king of Babylon is overthrown, he will be imprisoned in the Pit, awaiting judgement. Satan, too will be imprisoned in the same location during the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. His jail cell will be the darkest most southerly place in all creation.

Not seen to be a force in the 21st century, the king of Babylon will rise up during the final years of this evil age. This heavenly ruler, when overthrown and imprisoned, will be taken into the

Underground. “Sheol beneath is eager to meet you [Babylon] upon your arrival. It stirs the spirits of the dead to greet you—all the rulers over the earth. It makes all the kings over the nations rise from their thrones” (Isaiah 14:9).

The rulers over the earth and the kings over the nations are condemned to Sheol, awaiting their execution. These rulers and kings are the rebel rulers, powers and principalities in heaven and on earth identified by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 6:12.

From earth, all battles in heaven are not visible. Through God’s imagery, His prophecies can be anticipated and understood with reasonable accuracy. The heavenly ruler identified as the king of Babylon is known to be ruthless and unrelenting, targeting *both* the righteous in heaven and God’s people on earth.

“On the day that the LORD gives you [God’s people and those who live with them] rest from your pain and torment, and from the hard labor into which you were forced, you will sing this song of contempt against the king of Babylon: How the oppressor has ceased, and how his fury has ended! The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked, the scepter of the rulers. It struck the peoples in anger with unceasing blows; it subdued the nations in rage with relentless persecution. All the earth is at peace and at rest; they break out in song. Even the cypresses and cedars of Lebanon [great heavenly leaders] exult over you: ‘Since you [the heavenly ruler over Babylon] have been laid low [overthrown], no woodcutter [rogue heavenly ruler] comes against us’” (Isaiah 14:3-8).

Even the great leaders in heaven are fearful of this rebel and ruthless heavenly ruler. They rejoice with God’s people over the fall of this unruly, cruel, wicked king. They are described by God as “cypresses and cedars of Lebanon.” Again, God’s use of imagery to describe tall, majestic leaders in heaven.

This fallen king of Babylon is not the great harlot of Mystery Babylon. This king is the heavenly ruler over Babylon who in the future, is prophesied to fall. Mystery Babylon is a queen ruling with the beast. She will be selling her theology to the nations on earth.

Following the fall of Babylon, Satan will follow. “O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain, I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ But *you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit*” (Isaiah 14:12-15).

The prison for all of the fallen angels awaiting judgement lies inside the earth. The Apostle Paul explained it. “This is why it says: ‘When He ascended on high, he led captives away, and gave gifts to men.’ What does ‘He ascended’ mean, except that He also descended to the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the very one who ascended above all the heavens, in order to fill all things” (Ephesians 4:8-9).

When God prophesied against the house of Judah through Ezekiel, it was as if He was positioned in the land of Babylon. It was a time period prior to the fall of this heavenly ruler. His kingdom was used as God’s sword against the house of Judah. Jerusalem was considered to be south—symbolic of living lawlessly (the opposite direction of north—symbolic of keeping the law of God).

Ezekiel recorded God’s words, “Son of man, set your face toward the *south*; preach against the *south* and prophesy against the forest of the *southland*” (Ezekiel 20:46).

In one verse, three times “the south” is mentioned adding the divine seal of God. The southern direction is the place where the rebellious are imprisoned. Jerusalem had become lawless. The “forest of the southland” images many lawless leaders covering the land in their jurisdiction of the south.

Still in the future, many from the 21st century ten tribes will again go into captivity along with their brothers, the Jews. The king of the south will again take captive the Jews, while the king of the north, as it was done in ancient times, will take captive the ten tribes. During their great distress, they will remember their God and cry out.

God will hear them because they will be sincere and He will rescue them. “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; YHWH 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).

This great Exodus is still in the future. It will surpass the first Exodus, which will become a faint memory. God Almighty will rescue His people and those with them. The rebel heavenly rulers, powers, and principalities of Ephesians 6:12 will all soon be imprisoned in the most southernly pit. South is the furthestmost point from north—the direction opposite to God’s throne and His law; it is the place of lawlessness, those living in darkness and chaos.

NORTH, SOUTH, EAST AND WEST

Suddenly, all directions will be pointing at one time to the Saviour of mankind. His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives and split the mountain to the east and west then move it, one part to the north and the other to the south. Upon his arrival, all compass arrows will point to the return of Jesus Christ simultaneously. From that location, everything on earth changes immediately.

The imagery God uses when applying all four directions at one time, implies a universal marker. When the 21st century nations of Israel return and settle in the land promised to their ancient fathers, this universal marker appears. Three nations from the twelve will settle in the north, three in the south, three in the east and three in the west. The nations of the world will witness this incredible event and from all directions, God's people will be seen.

“And He will lift up a standard for the nations and assemble the banished ones of Israel, and will gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth” (Isaiah 11:12).

Christ's death on the cross paid the penalty of sin for all of mankind. While God chose the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to be their King, His saving grace is not limited to only His covenant people. From all nations of the world, from every direction, people will come and serve Almighty God. “And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God” (Luke 13:29). This universal accomplishment is the work of Almighty God.

The four living creatures with four faces each placed at four corners move with the spirit speeding like flashes of lightning back and forth, yet moving in any direction without turning (Ezekiel 1:10, 12-13).

These multi-directional creatures guarding God's throne see in every direction at one time, they move in any direction instantly, as if they are of one mind. With eyes all over their bodies, they see everything; nothing is hidden.

“When they moved, they went in any of their four directions without turning as they went; but they followed in the direction which they faced, without turning as they went” (Ezekiel 10:11).

God implemented the sacrificial system for His people so that they could learn about the penalty of sin and the heavy costs living continually in sin. The altar at the front of the temple had four horns built-in to each of the four corners. These horns were symbolic of God's presence everywhere, in all directions at one time, where people could hold onto and receive God's protection by His authority. They were a means of refuge for fugitives. Ancient Israel understood the meaning and applied it.

We see this in the story of Adonijah seeking his life from the King of Solomon. “But Adonijah, in fear of Solomon, got up and went to take hold of the horns of the altar. It was reported to Solomon: ‘Behold, Adonijah fears King Solomon, and he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, ‘Let King Solomon first swear to me not to put his servant to the sword.’ So, King Solomon summoned Adonijah down from the altar, and he came and bowed down before King Solomon, who said to him, ‘Go to your home’” (1 Kings 1:50-53).

In ancient times, God's people struggled to keep from rebelling against God and worshipped the gods of the nations, building altars with horns that symbolized these strange gods. This apostasy and treason brought both houses into captivity in ancient times and will bring all rebels of the twelve nations of 21st century Israel into captivity, again in the future. On that day of

God's wrath, His fury will reach all four corners of their land. Nobody will escape.

“And you, son of man, thus says the Lord God to the land of Israel, ‘An end! The end is coming on the four corners of the land’” (Ezekiel 7:2).

God saw into the future, into the 21st century and said to 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).

The twelve nations of 21st century Israel will return to apostasy and worship gods. This is a difficult truth for people today to understand because the ancient gods have been mythicized. And yet, this history will be repeated. An arrival, foreign to the average 21st century person, will come and if they do not understand what is happening, they will worship these gods as commanded by them.

“O mountains [government] of Israel... I am about to bring the sword against you... Wherever you live, the towns will be laid waste and the high places demolished... your people will be slain among you... But I will spare some, for some of you will escape the sword when you are scattered among the lands and nations... those who escape will remember me—how I have been grieved by their adulterous hearts, which have turned away from me...

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 6:3-10).

They will awaken to the reality of their world—Satan’s rule, and feel great shame. Then, upon their repentance, when they cry out to God, He will hear them and gather them from every place on earth.

It has taken hundreds of years for God’s people to repent and grow into spiritual maturity. On that day, when evil has been conquered, Christ’s bride will come down from heaven. She is described as a cube with layers upon layers of righteous men and women. They fortify a structure that gives every member equal value and importance, unlike the structure of a pyramid.

The New Jerusalem is this image with gates of pearl on the north, south, east, and west opening their doors in every direction will be a riveting sight (Revelation 21:12). God wants to save all of mankind; He will open the doors to everyone inviting them into His kingdom. The light of the New Jerusalem will draw their attention. Nobody will be left behind.

ENERGY bursting into LIGHT

*This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you,
that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all”
(1 John 1:5).*

Almighty God is pure energy, always existed, never tires, never sleeps. He is perfect in wisdom and understanding. He is rich in knowledge and His spirit is unique to all other spirits. Mortals cannot look at His face and live. His greatness cannot be contained. He is the one and only Almighty God.



THE LIGHT

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. During timelessness, the earth became corrupted by spiritual beings in rebellion against Almighty God. Earth became covered in darkness and chaos, when God recreated.

Moses recorded, “Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.” God said, “Let there be light and there was light... God called the light ‘day’” (Genesis 1:3, 5).

Light was the first correction made to earth. Light restores order. God was recreating the home for the long-planned, second creation. He was making it suitable for them.

Objects in the physical world are seen when light reflects onto them. This property was specifically incorporated into God's design to teach mankind about spiritual matters. God is clear that light is the key component to sight.

The spiritual story is God's primary focus. The Son, given power by the Father to create, said, "While I am in the world, *I am the light of the world*" (John 9:5).

Jesus is fully qualified to show mortals the way to living righteously and peacefully. He existed from the beginning of creation.

The Supreme God has told us exactly what light images; it is an image of His word.

King David lived during those ancient days when the Supreme God of all creation spoke through the prophets and prophetesses. King David said, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105).

The word is God's knowledge, understanding, and wisdom of His laws and ways of rightness. The Supreme God is perfect. He is all-knowing, full of wisdom and complete in all understanding.

King David knew the Supreme God and said, "As for God, His way is perfect: The Lord's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him" (Psalm 18:30), and "For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does" (Psalm 33:4).

The Son of God was with the Father before creation. He is an expert of God's law and His ways. He has become the personification of God's word because the Son lives and breathes

God's ways perpetually and perfectly. "In the beginning was the Word [the Son of God], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

The Father said that this Son is the "tested stone." The Almighty God will not award kingship to anyone who will fall and bring decay and chaos into His eternal, family kingdom. He will test everyone who will hold important positions. The Son, who created through the power of the Father, has been tested thoroughly. He is a proven righteous leader.

"So, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'See, I lay a stone in Zion, a *tested stone*, a *precious cornerstone for a sure foundation*; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic'" (Isaiah 28:16).

This image illustrates God's concluding assessment of His tested Son who proved his strength, loyalty, and love for God's ways resembling stones with crushing strength, durability, and hardiness. The Son became the Word, the Light, and the Way for all of mankind to follow.

The Father is the source to all knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. The Son is the conduit for all creation both in heaven and on earth to access God's knowledge, understanding, and wisdom.

After God creates the new heaven and earth, He will live with mankind in the great city. "The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp" (Revelation 21:23).

God is very specific with His language. Recorded in Revelation 21:23 is the reference to the Son as the Lamb. God is intentionally reminding His creation on earth that Jesus Christ, His Son qualifies as the conduit for all creation because he died and his blood paid

the penalty for all of mankind. The Son became King of all kings in heaven and on earth; the Son became Lord of all lords in heaven and on earth. He reigns supreme above all creation in heaven and on earth.

“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age’” (Matthew 28:18-20).

Above the Son, reigns the Father—the Almighty God of whom worship is entitled. “For he has put everything under his feet. Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ” (I Corinthians 15:27).

Almighty God, the Great Creator is a consuming fire, powerful with unsurpassable strength and force. In this God, King David sought refuge and enjoyed peace. He said, “The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1)

The word of this Great God establishes a legal framework of love that cannot be broken and interactions among one another that fortifies peace, bringing eternal happiness. God’s ways are bright and beautiful, radiant and rich, peace-loving and perfect.

Christ died and was resurrection back into his eternal body. He sits on the right hand of Almighty God. He has not left mankind alone. Through the acceptance of Christ’s sacrifice, God’s Holy Spirit is given and the word of God opened. It cannot be replaced or destroyed despite countless wars, invasions, captivities, and many years of rebellion. Light cannot be darkened.

Light is the imagery God uses to illustrate, in earthly terms, the power of His knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. Objects, like the sun that release explosions of energy, overpowers darkness and, in many cases, eliminates it completely. Clarity is instantly visible.

God's word is the radiating light that unveils dark secret agendas and guides believers onto the righteous path towards their salvation. It takes Biblical explorers into the precious, deep things of God. Journeys for truth become lifelong adventures.

God's imagery is to provide transparency for mankind on earth of heavenly matters. So, precious is His word, His ways, His laws that God likens these to rare precious pearls, and the eternal value of gold and silver. Applying God's imagery is critical to understanding His language; it is coded to amplify clarification.

God uses imagery to illustrate the rebellion against Him, His laws, and His ways. Rebellion is a fearful journey into darkness where shadows creep, secrets are kept, and dangerous creatures lurk.

DARKNESS SEPARATED FROM LIGHT... LIES SEPARATED FROM TRUTH

Before the earth was recreated, it was formless and void spinning out of control and dying. It was in a state of chaos. When God returned light, He separated the light from the darkness. He called light "day" and darkness He called "night" (Genesis 1:5).

God separated His knowledge, understanding, and wisdom from the falsehood, twists of truth, misinformation and disinformation.

The creation of the sun and the moon was intentional and part of God's design to distinguish two different significant bodies of light where one is significantly greater than the other. The greater

light is an actual light source, while the lesser light reflects its light from the greater light.

“God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also” (Genesis 1:16).

God made two governing lights. The sun is the image of Almighty God as the source and governor of all truth, knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. The moon is the image of Jesus Christ, the unique and beloved Son of God who reflects God's word to the very letter.

Jesus didn't come to earth with his own words rather like the moon reflecting the light of the sun; he came to repeat the words of the Father. He said, “For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken” (John 12:49).

It is wise for religious leaders to follow Christ and avoid applying their own interpretations of scripture. Breaking away from following Christ leads to many different views on scripture, many different theologies, and many different practices.

The lesser lights visible to mankind on earth point to other bodies that reflect light. These image the righteous angels in heaven. God is teaching mankind that there exist other family members. There are countless, righteous spirit beings all living in God's truth and His righteous ways. Under the canopy of earth's firmament, these lights contribute to mankind's knowledge of seasons, landscape, and direction. As the physical stars work to guide mankind, so do the righteous angels in heaven and they rejoice when one sinner repents. Through God's imagery, we can know they exist even from a great distance.

“In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels when even one sinner repents” (Luke 15:10).

The birth of Jesus Christ was foreknown to ancient Israel. Through Balaam, ancient Israel’s rebel prophet, God blessed His people and prophesied the birth of their Saviour. “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; a star shall come forth from Jacob, a scepter shall rise from Israel” (Numbers 24:17).

The ancient story of Joseph provides another spiritual image. He had a dream that offended his brothers and startled his father.

“Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, ‘Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me’” (Genesis 37:9).

“He told his father and brothers, but his father rebuked him and said, ‘What is this dream that you have had? Will your mother and brothers and I actually come and bow down to the ground before you?’” (Genesis 37:10)

When Joseph told his father his dream, immediately Jacob, understood the imagery of the sun, moon, and the stars to reflect him, Joseph’s mother, Benjamin and Joseph’s half-brothers. He understood that he was head of the household, the source of knowledge, passing God’s word onto his wife, who then, taught the children.

The depth of Jacob’s understanding of Joseph’s dream was likely not fully understood, but he kept the matter in mind. Joseph didn’t understand either; he was a young boy sharing his dream. But many years later, events revealed a parallel between the life of Joseph and the life of Jesus. The story of Joseph’s dream is a mirror of Jesus where he will rule over everyone in his family. It is

a prophecy of the rise of Jesus Christ as King over all kings and Lord over all lords.

Before Jacob died, he understood more of the details of Joseph's dream when he came before Pharaoh and saw his son ruling, second in command, over Egypt.

The story of Israel as a light to the world has been an ebb and flow throughout time, but at the end, they will shine brightly, like dazzling stars in the night sky.

“Then the wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and ever” (Daniel 12:3).

God's use of objects seen on earth are intended to provide an understanding of spiritual matters, things that are not visible on earth.

Darkness is the absence of light. Rebels in heaven live in opposition to the ways of God and His law. They are deceitful and dangerous. The spiritual death of mankind is one of their main objectives, while trying to overthrow Almighty God and Jesus Christ.

God allows the rebel, fallen rulers to continue during the evil age of man. It is a legal matter. God's is using this time to show mankind sin and teach them the importance of leaning on and trusting in Almighty God for His wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Jesus Christ is the tested Son, who proved consistently and without failure that he would remain totally loyal to God.

“So, He [Jesus Christ] became as far superior to the angels as the name He has inherited is excellent beyond theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say: ‘You are My Son; today I have become Your Father?’ Or again: ‘I will be His Father, and He will be My Son?’

And again, when God brings His firstborn into the world, He says: 'Let all God's angels worship Him'" (Hebrews 1:5-6).

Almighty God is enamoured with His Son's devotion to Him, His law and the love His Son has for righteousness. In awe, God has awarded greatness to this unique, beloved Son. He was willing to lay down his life for mankind; in doing so, he jeopardized his resurrection back into his spiritual body because if he had failed that would have meant that he had sinned. His eternal life would not have been returned to him.

It was Jesus' physical death on the cross that brought so much delight to the fallen angels. They were not briefed on Almighty God's plan of salvation for mankind and the concept of the resurrection. If these evil entities had known, they would not have crucified the Saviour of mankind.

"We speak of the mysterious and hidden wisdom of God, which He destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. Rather, as it is written: 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no heart has imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him.' But God has revealed it to us by the Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God" (I Corinthians 2:7-10).

"But about the Son He says: 'Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever, and justice is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You above Your companions with the oil of joy'" (Hebrews 1:8-9).

God Almighty's unique and beloved Son is King of kings and Lord of lords.

Whatever heavenly battles that have taken place unseen and unknown to mortals on earth, Jesus Christ stands tallest among every being in heaven. He has been anointed to the highest office, like that of Joseph to Pharaoh who ruled second in command, taking on all of the decision-making with complete authority over the kingdom.

Jesus is the bright morning star. “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star” (Revelation 22:16).

When the sun rises in the morning, one morning star shines brighter than the rest.

A mystery woman is described in Revelation 12:1 “clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head.”

This imagery describes a religious body of devoted men and women living righteously, keeping God’s commandments, and dedicated to serving Him. Throughout time, this church existed. She is the mirror of the ancient judges, the prophets and prophetesses in ancient times. She birthed the Son of God, and into the 21st century she will stand against Mystery Babylon, Mother of Harlots.

The image of the woman clothed with the sun, is a religious body of men and women crowned with twelve stars imaging the righteous members of the twelve tribes of Israel—God’s new governors, like the 144,000 faithful saints of Revelation 14. She is held up by the moon, Jesus Christ who is showcasing his beloved bride clothed in radiance.

She is a wonder before God. She is the beloved church among God’s covenant people. She is devoted to serving God; she will

put her life on the line to stand loyal to God and her Saviour. She embodies religious authority, which is one of the only two offices God has ordained. She is the mother of all righteous churches birthing congregations fit for the kingdom of God.

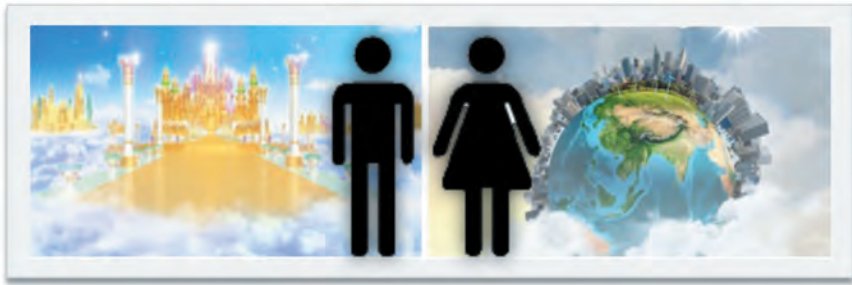
She unveils the mystery of the genders and why God created mankind male and female. Hated by rebel angels and loved by the righteous angels, she will be honoured with the highest office in God's kingdom under Jesus Christ. She is his body; together, they are one.

God's second creation is highly valued by God and He has announced the exciting news that He will live with them because they are no ordinary creation. They are His kingdom of holy, royal, ruling priests—an image of Him.

THE GENDERS

“For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This mystery is profound, but I am speaking about Christ and the church”
(Ephesians 5:31-32).

The spiritual meaning behind the creation of gender is often a mystery, rarely understood. God is primarily concerned with spiritual teachings. He wants mankind to know His plan for them and yet, theologians often don't fully understand this teaching.



When God said to Adam and Eve, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it” (Genesis 1:28a), it is often interpreted to mean that God is promoting big families filled with children. The surface interpretation is not all together wrong, but what is often missed is the deep, spiritual meaning.

God is birthing family members through mankind on earth. He wants children fit for his kingdom. The mystery that Apostle Paul understood was the spiritual story of the man becoming one flesh with the woman through marriage. This union is a mirror image of Jesus Christ marrying the church and through their combined

leadership working as one, a righteous God-fearing and God-serving congregation is birthed fit for God's family kingdom.

God is not concerned with numbers; He is concerned with the quality of each individual.

Gender made male and female was intricately planned in every detail to mirror the importance of righteous national and religious leadership working together as one to ensure the family is protected and nurtured. Each gender specializes in a unique role, seamlessly fitted, and operating as one. The big picture of the creation of gender is the future relationship of the first creation in heaven with the second creation on earth.

Scriptures reveal parallels between the first and second creation.

Physical world	Spiritual world
The man was created first.	Spiritual beings in heaven were created before mortals on earth.
The man named the animals and has rulership over them.	Heavenly rulers, powers, and principalities (Ephesians 6:12) rule in heaven over vast dominions, which they have named.
Mankind's history is primarily led by men holding leadership positions.	The spirit beings are all referred to by God using the male gender. They hold national leadership positions in heaven.

Physical world	Spiritual world
Religious leadership is identified in the Bible using the female gender.	Christ's wife is the church, religious leaders. Mankind is destined to become a kingdom of holy, royal, ruling priests.
Eve was created second from the rib of Adam.	Mankind, like Eve, is the second creation. Spiritual life is possible for mankind through Christ. The church is made from Christ's "rib" revealing their vital role in God's kingdom. "So, it is written: 'The first man Adam became a living being;' <i>the last Adam a life-giving spirit</i> " (I Corinthians 15:45).
Ribs protect the vital organs.	Eve images the church who was created to have a vital role of the structure that protects the organization as a whole.
The words "wisdom," "knowledge" and "understanding" in Hebrew are all referred to in the female gender.	God Almighty is LORD—high priest, the source of holy wisdom, knowledge and understanding. Christ is the Son, the Word, King of kings and Lord of lords. Mankind is destined to become a holy, royal, ruling kingdom of priests—lords.

Physical world	Spiritual world
Eve [female] images mankind.	Mankind is destined to be part of the God family with the role of priests—lords.
Adam [male] images the sons of God in heaven, with the same responsibility to enforce law and keep order, lead and protect.	The sons of God in heaven are powerful rulers, who understand God's law fully and incorporate it within the legal structure of their dominions.
Adam sinned knowingly buying into the wiles of Satan.	The fallen angels/sons of God knowingly sinned and allied with Satan "Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come" (Romans 5:14).
Eve was deceived and sinned unknowingly.	Mankind sins unknowingly for the most part. They are deceived, which allows for God's salvation plan for them.
The marriage of a man and a woman is a mirror of the future bonding of two creations.	Christ is the man to marry the faithful and loved church, bringing two realms together under one rulership: Christ and his bride.

Physical world	Spiritual world
Mankind was created male and female. They are made in the image of God.	God is both King and Lord mirrored in gender: male and female, which image kingship and lordship. Christ is both King and Lord. He is King over all kings and Lord over all lords.

Gender was created to reveal the big spiritual picture of two different anointed, leadership positions. God is still birthing His family kingdom. Repentant mankind is being reborn—given a new life, one that can image God. Ultimately, when He is finished and a new heaven and earth are created, both realms will unite under one ruler—Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords. Ruling by his side will be his wife, his Queen.

God Almighty is the ultimate KING and LORD. Jesus Christ has been already anointed ruler over *all* creation. He is King over all coronated kings and Lord over all anointed lords. The kings and princes in heaven are subject to Jesus Christ for he is King of kings and when repentant and righteous mankind is transformed into their spiritual bodies, they will be subject to Jesus Christ as he is Lord of lords.

The bride of Christ will hold one of the top ruling three positions. This body of men and women are the saints from times past into the present and the future. Their crowns have been given to them and yet, the world cannot see them for who they are, nor do they hold positions in this world that would identify them.

“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the

general assembly and Church of the Firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect” (Hebrews 12:22-23).

They are Christ’s body of many members. “Just as each of us has one body with many members, and not all members have the same function, so in Christ we who are many are one body, and each member belongs to one another. We have different gifts according to the grace given to us” (Romans 12:4-6).

Upon Christ’s return, all will quickly be known. The bride will be transformed immediately and she will be radiant. Her covering will dazzle all of creation; her beauty will be admired and her role and responsibilities will be elevated above all of creation in heaven and on earth. She will be respected and honoured standing by the side of her Husband who she follows wherever he goes, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

The bride will marry Christ and together one unified body will become the fundamental and critical structure within God’s kingdom that will bind God’s law and His ways into every proposal, thought and action. Love will reign and peace will ensue eternally.

The wife of Christ will be a body of experts in God’s righteous ways, His teaching, and practices. They will be the work of God’s hands, beings given grace, living in humility, and righteousness.

As God’s kingdom expands, birthing new life will take place. Members of God’s kingdom of priests will nurture, provide instruction, righteous direction, and spiritual healing. The leadership of the priests will be bound with national leadership in the same way adjectives are with nouns. *Righteous rulership* will reign because of the marriage of the roles of the priest and the king. God pictures the intimacy of these two very important roles in the physical marriage of a man and a woman.

From before creation began, God Almighty planned the two critical roles: Priest and King. The number two is symbolic of a legal witness. God Almighty is the Great Teacher. He expects His students to think, search, dig, and discover. He has hidden His deep things in numbers, images, mirroring, stories, parables, parallels, and in plain sight in nature everywhere.

God will eventually bring His whole creation into judgement. A legal witness will first be given both in heaven and on earth. It will involve the implementation of His law and ways coupled with mercy and grace. God mirrors this principal in His people.

- **Law linked with grace completes God's way.**
 - The kingdom of Israel split into two houses thousands of years ago because they rejected God as their King and He gave them what they wanted, a mortal king who cannot rule lovingly. They wanted to live like the nations around them, instead of growing and maturing in a single kingdom of humble, holy priests. These two houses mirror the story of law and grace. The house of Judah embraced God's law, while the house of Israel received God's grace.

The two houses remain split to this day because law and grace have not been bound as one. Jesus Christ will bind the two together for all eternity, when he returns.

- **Law-keeping national leadership bound with righteous, religious leadership is a complete image of God.**
 - The fallen in heaven are a direct result of rebellious heavenly rulers who enforce their own ideas of leadership.

- The fallen angels do not want to share their rulership with a religious body. Even the Great Harlot will not be tolerated by them.

“The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire” (Revelation 17:16).

Without the union of national and religious righteous leadership, the image of God is not present.

- **Perfect leadership is the marriage of righteous national leaders with grace-filled priests who compassionately teach the perfect ways of God. They are one team fulfilling two essential roles of equal value and importance.**
 - Christ and His bride will be the perfect leadership team.
 - A husband and wife were designed to mirror the perfect leadership team.
 - The idea of creating gender is God's design to teach creation in heaven and on earth the value and importance of their roles, which is a perfect image of Him.

God Almighty is molding His creation on earth to bring them into perfection. He is working in stages. The angels in heaven do not always understand the work of God's hand on earth. “It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, when they foretold the things now announced by those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. *Even angels long to look into these things*” (1 Peter 1:12).

To understand God's spiritual plans, He has given mankind His language which uses:

- Imagery on earth to mirror the spiritual world in heaven.
- Parables to bring understanding.
- Numbers to be markers that confirm His divine seal.
- Stories that mirror history that God wants preserved.

God created gender for the following reasons:

- To provide a window into the roles and responsibilities in His kingdom. The first creation in heaven is mirrored in the male gender who were created to be rulers holding positions that require expertise in the law, to enforce and uphold it. Adam named the animals because there exists in heaven life forms that are mirrored in the animals, birds and fish on earth. Just as mankind has authority over the animals on earth, so, the angels and sons of God in heaven rule over vast dominions populated with “beasts of the field” and “birds of the field.” Adam was created first to mirror creation in heaven. He was given the task of naming the animals, birds, fish, and plants. This is pointing to creation in heaven who rule over vast dominions.
- To reveal the special qualifications that *only* the *second* creation on earth can offer creation in heaven, that is complementary and well-fitted to national leadership, is their expertise of having a full measure of knowledge, understanding, and wisdom of God's word and His ways. One-third of the angels have fallen away from God; they do not like His plan for mankind helping them. They want to rule by themselves or ally with other ruling angels. This is why God forbids homosexuality. God is blessing only the union of one male and one female because it mirrors the

marriage of Christ and the church for all eternity. God will not sanction the partnership of angels in heaven.

- Christ is the last Adam. It was written to echo a series of Adams. The fallen rulers over the nations failed. They may have had the opportunity to rule with Christ. It is a difficult temptation to remain humble when given access to large portions of power. Only Jesus Christ, the Son of God, succeeded, hence through him, mankind can live eternally. That is why Eve was made from the rib of Adam. God is specific. The spiritual Adam is Jesus Christ. Spiritual Eve is the church. Christ will marry the church. God foreknew the fall of man and His successful saving plan.

“So, it is written: ‘The first man Adam became a living being’; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit” (I Corinthians 15:45).

The Apostle Paul understood God’s coded language and constantly revealed God’s mysteries to the Judeo-Christians. The mystery of the creation of two genders was not limited to physical procreation, but a great revelation of two critical roles that form the image of God.

After God’s kingdom is established, holy, royal priests and kings, together, will design and develop exciting new directions and creations that glorify the Great Creator, Almighty God. The future will be an explosion of wonder and awe.

Mystery, seemingly hidden in codes, is often viewed as pieces of a great puzzle. Soon, these pieces will come together for all to see clearly God’s grand plan for mankind’s salvation and His future plans. Even, Samson’s riddle will be resolved.

THE RIDDLE slipped in among EVERYDAY STORIES

*“Out of the eater, something to eat;
out of the strong, something sweet”
(Judges 14:14).*

Everyday stories hold mysteries that tease scholars for centuries. The deep things of God are discovered by the relentless explorers. The story of Samson is rich in lessons.



The story of Samson is a maze of mysteries orchestra by God, Himself. Samson lived during a time when the ancient Israelites were ruled by the haughty Philistines. He was born from the tribe of Dan. He was not a Jew from the house of Judah. He was a miracle baby from the house of Israel.

God opened the womb of Manoah's wife and she conceived. From birth, Samson was a Nazirite, set apart to serve God. He was not to drink wine or fermented drinks; he was not to cut his hair or eat anything unclean. As a Nazirite, he was to avoid contact with the dead and keep his distance from vineyards—the site where fermented drinks are made and stored.

Yet, Samson travelled through the vineyards of Timnah to visit and later marry a beautiful Philistine woman. On the way with his parents to visit this woman, a lion came roaring toward him and he killed it with his bare hands. As he returned to marry the Philistine woman, he saw the carcass of the lion and inside was an unnatural and intriguing sight. Bees had built a honeycomb filled with honey. He reached into the carcass and ate.

Samson's disregard of the Nazirite vow was part of the revelation in this story. It was the Spirit of the LORD moving him to do as he did. It was by God's wise choice and teaching method that a Danite was chosen for this job. The tribe of Dan was notorious of flirting with the neighbouring nations worshipping their gods in opposition to the God of Israel—the Almighty God. They have a history that has lingered into the Middle Ages with the Celts. Following the story of the Danites in the book of Judges, they took a pagan-serving Levite, Micah with his idols, as their priest.

The people of Israel were called to be a set-apart people—a kingdom of holy, royal priests. Yet, they behaved just like Samson. His Nazirite vow prohibited the touching the dead, which mirrors engaging with the spiritually dead—toxic evil people. Samson played his part well. He used the jawbone of a donkey to strike down one thousand men. Samson didn't hesitate to grip with all his might, the jawbone of an unclean animal. He was a mirror of God's people at that time, engaging in and embracing evil practices. They were careless about God's instructions that He had taught them for many years.

The close of Samson's story reveals a deliverance from the rule of the Philistines when the law-breaking people of God repented of their evil ways and turned to serve Him. God's penmanship is always many layers deep and Samson's story is rich and wonderful, filled with God's coded language.

Locked in with the tide of the sea, ancient Israel endlessly moved back and forth between worshipping the gods of the nations and the God of Israel. They flirted with sin and did evil in God's sight by taking on the practices of the heathen nations around them. From the tribe of Dan, Samson was the appropriate candidate to prophesy to ancient Israel then and into the present, because that tribe held onto pagan worship for many centuries.

Ancient Israel craved the glory of military and economic strength. They sought superpower status that leading nations around them had acquired. The price for the rise in power was the worship of rebel gods. Often, ancient Israel was prepared to pay that price. As a result, the God of Israel subdued them by bringing them into captivity by they tried to emulate. At times, God simply brought them under an oppressive rule. This was the case at Samson's time. He initiated the battle for freedom. Clumsy and ruthless, he played his role well. He taunted the Philistines with his great strength and they hated him.

They were wary when he arrived to marry a beautiful Philistine woman; thirty security guards appeared. Samson was not intimidated. In the spirit of the wedding celebration, he offered these guards a prize of thirty linen garments and thirty sets of clothes to those who could solve a riddle fairly and honestly. This was considered a great reward.

THE RIDDLE

“Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the strong, something sweet” (Judges 14:14).

Applying God's coded language, by offering a prize of new sets of clothing made from linen was Samson offering these guards an opportunity to change their behaviour of sin to put on “linen garments”—that is, receive instruction on living the way of the God of Israel, if they could solve the riddle.

This riddle has teased scholars for generations. Samson had killed a lion and it decomposed providing an unnatural habitat for a community of bees that produced sweet, eternal honey. It was the Almighty God who gave Samson the superhuman strength to kill the lion with his bare hands. It was the Spirit of the LORD that inspired Samson to offer the thirty Philistine guards linen garments, if they could solve the riddle. The riddle baffled them and they became agitated. They coerced Samson's wife and eventually he gave in to her. The men of the town had the solution and they taunted back, "What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?" (Judges 14:18)

If their only understanding of the solution was pairing a lion with the strong and honey with the sweet, then they gained nothing. Their response is merely the surface of the riddle. The prophecy God had woven into the riddle was the Saviour of Israel and mankind. Jesus Christ is the Lion of Judah. He was killed for the sins of Israel and mankind. The event that brought Samson to fear the lion and take its life was the mirror of the Messiah calling out the sins of Israel and their response was to kill him, instead of repenting.

God Almighty warned Israel. "Behold, I am sending an angel before you to protect you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. Pay attention to him and listen to his voice; *do not defy him, for he will not forgive rebellion*, since My Name is in him" (Exodus 23:20-21).

A set-apart people were violating God's law and rejecting His way. Samson was a clear reflection of them, and yet, the Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power. Through God's power, Samson tormented the Philistines, like a well-seasoned actor, the story of the salvation of Israel from their enemy and a rich understanding of God's word, sweeter than honey, was prophesied in the riddle that remains a conundrum to most into the 21st century.

Jesus was born from the tribe of Judah. They were given the sceptre of the kingdom of Israel by Jacob. From Judah's earliest history, their tribe was represented as a lion. Jesus is the Lion of Judah.

Honey is a sweet nectar made by bees. They fly from flower to flower collecting nectar and along the way, they pollinate the flowers and vegetation that they touch. This incidental activity leads to fertilization as they transfer pollen grains from the male to the female stigma resulting in the germination of seeds.

The nectar is stored in the stomach of the bee where the complex sugars are converted into simple sugars, then regurgitated once in the hive. The house bees work to concentrate the nectar by beating their wings; the nectar is fanned and the water is evaporated. Finally, in a concentrated state—no longer nectar, the honey is deposited into the honeycomb.

Like the processing of honey, believers mature and grow in God's grace and knowledge. During that process, their understanding of God's word transforms from an undeveloped state into a rich, concentrated source of wisdom, like honey which is eternally fresh.

In his God-given wisdom, Solomon said, "Eat honey, my son, for it is good, and the honeycomb is sweet to your taste. Know therefore that *wisdom is sweet to your soul*. If you find it, there is a future for you, and your hope will never be cut off" (Proverbs 24:13-14).

Solomon asked for wisdom and God gave him a taste of His omniscience. Honey is God's image for His sweet, eternal wisdom that revives the soul.

Learning from God, changes the heart so that words are careful and caring, fitly spoken, “The heart of the wise man instructs his mouth and adds persuasiveness to his lips. *Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones*” (Proverbs 16:4).

Bones are the core structure holding the whole body together. Words spoken using God’s wisdom heal a broken and dying spiritual body.

“Instruct a wise man, and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man, and he will increase his learning. *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding*” (Proverbs 9:9-10).

Our Father in heaven is perfect and will not and cannot sin. His wisdom is absolute purity of action. Trusting in our LORD Almighty brings peace. King David prized understanding God’s word. He said, “*The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the judgements of the LORD are true, being altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb*” (Psalm 19:9-10).

Like honey, the word of God revives the dying, those living in lies, deception, and corruption. A short historical moment was recorded in I Samuel when Jonathon, the eldest son of King Saul, ate the honey found in the forest. “Now the men of Israel were in distress that day, for Saul had placed the troops under an oath, saying, ‘Cursed is the man who eats any food before evening, before I have taken vengeance on my enemies.’”

“So, none of the troops tasted any food. Then all the troops entered the forest, and there was honey on the ground. And when they entered the forest and saw the flowing honey, not one of them put his hand to his mouth, because they feared the oath.

Jonathan, however, had not heard that his father had charged the people with the oath. So, he reached out the end of the staff in his hand, dipped it into the honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes brightened. Then one of the soldiers told him, “Your father bound the troops with a solemn oath, saying, ‘Cursed is the man who eats food today.’ That is why the people are faint.”

“‘My father has brought trouble to the land,’ Jonathan replied. ‘Just look at how my eyes have brightened because I tasted a little of this honey’” (1 Samuel 14:24-29).

Stories are preserved to teach mankind about spiritual matters. After Jonathon ate the honey, he was revived. Jonathon was a God-fearing man, but his father was rejected by God for his disobedience. Unfortunately, his father could not see the benefits of reviving food when he was set on revenge. Like honey, God’s word revives the distressed, the weak, and the dying.

Valuing God’s wisdom, His word and standing strong under His flag during times of extreme duress, will bring great rewards; God Almighty honours the faithful.

The tribe of Dan is the only tribe not listed among the 144,000 of Revelation likely due to their long history of idolatry. In this story, Samson is an image of God’s people and their history of worshipping the gods of the nations and rejecting the God of Israel, the only true God—the Creator. The Israelites craved the glory of having superpower status like that of Assyria, Babylon, and Egypt. God was training them to be a kingdom of humble, God-fearing, God-serving priests.

Ancient history preserves a record of gods battling against the Hebrew God, the Almighty Creator. The Old Testament is peppered with commands to worship the only *true* God. There is only *one* God, the Almighty and there is *one mediator* for mankind, Jesus

Christ. All other gods claiming to be the Almighty are liars and are in league with other rebel sons of God, attempting to overthrow the Supreme God and His loyal and faithful Son, Jesus Christ.

Samson was captured when he revealed the secret of his strength. His hair was cut while he was sleeping and the Philistines captured and imprisoned him. The god worshipped by the Philistines was Dagon. “Now the lords of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to their god Dagon. They rejoiced and said, ‘Our god has delivered Samson our enemy into our hands’” (Judges 16:23). Credit is given to the god Dagon for the capture of Samson.

The Philistines gouged out Samson’s eyes. They sentenced him to work grinding at the mill in the prison. Blind and humbled, Samson turned to the God of Israel and asked for strength one more time. His hair had grown and his strength returned. God answered his request. Brought before the people on a day of celebration, Samson turned toward the servant guiding him, and said, “Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them” (Judges 16:26).

The temple was crowded with three thousand men and women on the roof. Samson pushed with all his might against the pillars and the temple collapsed; he died with the taunting Philistines. There will be 21st century Israelites from all twelve nations of Israel who will die during Jacob’s trouble. They will be guilty of flirting with the beast and the great harlot. Others will awaken and repent. God will humble them and their treasonous sins will bring them death.

Samson lost his physical sight, but gained spiritual insight. He lost his physical life, but gained God’s grace and support.

His life, orchestrated by God, is a witness to all of God's people throughout time who flirt and play with false religion and evil doings. They will suffer.

The final words of the blessing by Jacob to his son Dan, were, "Dan will judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel. He will be a snake by the road, a viper in the path that bites the horse's heels so that its rider tumbles backward. *I await Your salvation, O LORD*" (Genesis 49:16-18).

Finally, the people behaving like the tribe of Dan will learn and patiently wait for God to save them. It is then; they will receive supernatural power to take down their enemy.

It is not by coincidence that there were three thousand Philistines on the roof who died, along with the rulers on the main floor of the temple. The number three is God's divine seal on the event. One thousand is symbolic of eternity. People and leaders who worship the fallen, rebel sons of God will perish for all eternity.

Samson initiated the overthrow of the Philistines, but it was King David who would complete it. Samson's story is a prophesy detailing the clumsy recklessness of ancient Israel fighting against their enemies. What can be expected at the end of this evil age is a reformed, righteous, God-fearing people fighting and winning against the enemy. The Apostle Paul said the only enemy God-fearing people fight against are the rebel, fallen rulers, powers and principalities in heaven and on earth (Ephesians 6:12).

When Samson's mother conceived and learned that the boy would be a Nazirite, Samson's father prayed, begging God to send the man of God who spoke to his wife back, so that he can learn how to raise the boy correctly. The angel of the LORD returned and gave Manoah instructions. Manoah invited the man to stay and eat after the burned offering. The angel of the LORD said that

he would stay only for the sacrifice. Manoah prepared a young goat together with a grain offering and sacrificed it to God. Then, an amazing event took place as flames of fire burst up towards heaven, the angel of the LORD ascended in the flames (Judges 13:20). Samson's father was terrified as he thought that the man was Almighty God. He feared for his life, thinking he had seen God. His wife reassured him that God would not have accepted the burnt offering or given the blessing of a miracle child to have them die. The angel of the LORD in the Old Testament is the Son of God. He is not the Almighty God who is a consuming fire that mortals cannot look upon and live.

The sacrifice of a goat by Manoah is connected with the Hebrew Day of Atonement where two goats are selected, one is sacrificed and the other is released into the wilderness. The imagery of the angel of the LORD ascending in the flames of the sacrifice is an enactment of Jesus, the angel of the LORD, sacrificing his life for the sins of mankind and being resurrected to return to our Father in heaven.

THE RIDDLE: If the only discovery of the riddle was the revelation of the lion as the “eater” and the “strong” and honey as the “sweet to be eaten,” then the riddle remains unsolved.

If, however, a deeper investigation into God's penmanship is applied, then, puzzle pieces of the plan of salvation appear.

- Christ is the lion who will not tolerate wickedness.
- He is killed by sinning people.
- Christ's body is the word of God—the bread of life.
- Sweet honey is the reviving delight upon understanding God's word.

- Samson is the actor whose life mirrored ancient Israel and all of God's people who flirt and mingle with false religion and Wickedness.
- Manoah, Samson's father offered a sacrifice when he learned that his wife would become pregnant and birth a Nazirite son. He offered a goat and the angel of the LORD returned to heaven in the flames of that sacrifice. Christ is imaged as both goats in the ceremony on the Day of Atonement/Yom Kippur. The first goat is sacrificed and the second one is the released scapegoat. The goats point to a special leader who is sure-footed and able to climb to high places easily.
- Samson died taking down the enemy, so it will be for God's people who behave like him.

THE SOLUTION OF THE RIDDLE

Out of the eater, something to eat;

Out of the Messiah's sacrificed body, God's word resides—the bread of life, he is the word to eat;

Out of the strong, something sweet;

Out of the unique and strong Son of God, mankind is revived by the eternal, sweet knowledge and understanding of God's ways, and His wisdom.

There is more that can be learned from Samson's story than the pesky riddle. The spiritual story behind why Samson's mother was sterile points to a miracle being performed for her to conceive. In order for mankind to come into the family of God, it takes the receiving of the miraculous power of God's Holy Spirit.

Her husband begs God to send the messenger back and again the angel of the LORD goes to Manoah's wife and she brings her husband to meet with the angel. God is pointing to the elevated role of His church who will be the leaders to communicate God's instructions. The prophets and prophetesses were the communicators of God's instructions to the national leaders in times past. This will be the practice in God's eternal kingdom.

Samson's mother's name is not spoken. She is an image of the church who will remain a silent figure until Christ returns and rules on earth.

Samson's story preserved the history of ancient Israel at that time. They were suffering the oppression of the Philistines because they were not obedient to God. It was written, "Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, so the LORD delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years" (Judges 13:1). Forty is the number of drawing close to God. Unfortunately, it takes captivity and distress before God's people look to Him and humbly bend their knee in obedience to His law and ways.

Samson's long hair was braided into seven sections. Long hair is a covering that symbolizes protection against spiritual death through Christ's redemptive sacrifice. Christ is the covering for the church. Women are a mirror of the church that is why God wants women to have longer hair than men. The seven sections are an image of the seven churches of Revelation.

The spirit of the LORD came upon Samson three times. It was the divine seal of God completing His prophecy and judgement on His people at that time.

The stories God preserved in the Bible are rich in details that provide many of the missing pieces to the grand puzzle of God's

plan for mankind. These stories will provoke the curiosity of Bible explorers and bring them closer to their Creator where they will marvel at His penmanship, His engineering, and His deep love for His creation.

HOSEA'S AMAZING LOVE

“You will live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will live with you. For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol”
(Hosea 3:3-4).

The stories of many of the great prophets are a mirror of God’s relationship with His people, His encounters with them, and how they have treated Him. As a result, the lives of selected people within the family were full of hardships and betrayals from within their own family and throughout their country. They served God and endured, often not understanding the message woven in their lives. Their stories are preserved for the end-time believers.



The ten tribes of the ancient house of Israel were sentenced to live 2,520 years in exile. This number is seven times their original sentence, because they did not repent. They had many years of wandering across Europe raping, pillaging, plundering, worshipping gods, playing with magic, and casting spells. Sometime, prior to the birth of Jesus, they fell into despair and pleaded with God, like the prodigal son, to accept them back into His covenant family. With their long history of superficial sincerity,

they were left to wait until their heart softened into a humble and pliable state.

Into the 21st century, they may not remember the full details of their wayward past, their illusive repentance, nor do they see their future allegiance with the God of Israel who has prophesied a double blessing for them. Regardless, the God of Israel never lost sight of them. He preserved their history in a story.

The ten tribes of Israel were divorced by God because of their relentless waning back and forth determined to find refuge living like the nations around them. A kingdom of humble, holy priests was not what they desired, rather a life of glitter and glory, pride and arrogance, power and control. God gave them their wish and turned away. “As for you, O house of Israel, this what the Sovereign LORD says: Go and serve your idols, every one of you! But afterward you will surely listen to me and no longer profane my holy name with your gifts and idols” (Ezekiel 20:39).

Deeper and deeper into paganism the church of the ten tribes wandered serving the gods of the nations, intimately engaging in their perverted and heinous practices. One after the other, these rebel gods used them and eventually discarded them until one day, they were rescued. The amazing love story of Hosea is the mirror of the redemptive rescue of the church of the ten tribes of Israel.

The word of God spoke to Hosea and instructed him to marry an adulterous woman. Enactments preserved in stories are one of the teaching tools used by God. Hosea married Gomer and he loved her. It wasn't long and Gomer became restless. She turned to serving the god, Baal and became a prostitute of the gods. The unfaithful relationship that Hosea experienced mirrored the ongoing relationship that the house of Israel had with their God.

Over two thousand seven hundred years later, the relationship continued to move like the ocean tide.

This story cannot be fully understood without the knowledge of the events that took place at the time of Babel. The Great God gave the members of His holy court in heaven rulership over the nations. The nations received an inheritance, which meant they received heavenly rulers because they were going astray, again. This knowledge is not lost rather mythicized. God divided the nations accordingly and gave each one their own language. This change remains to this day. The task of the members of God's heavenly court was to teach each nation the way of God and how to worship the Almighty God, the God of all gods. The members of God's heavenly court were experts on God's law. They judged; they ruled; they sentenced.

“When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples *according to the number of His heavenly court*” (NLT, ESV, Berean, BST, CEV, NAB, GNT, Deuteronomy 32:8).

Some translations based the division according to the number of the sons of Israel, but Abraham was not born for another 100 years and his grandson, Jacob for at least 200 years, after the dividing of the people into nations. In addition, Jacob's twelve sons do not account for the number recorded in Genesis 10 in the Table of Nations, which is a list of seventy.

Michael Heiser provides the explanation in his book, *The Unseen Realm*.

“Most English Bibles do not read ‘according to the number of the sons of God’ in Deuteronomy 32:8. Rather, they read ‘according to the number of the sons of Israel.’ The difference derives from

disagreements between manuscripts of the Old Testament. ‘Sons of God’ is the correct reading, as is now known from the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The notion that the nations of the world were geographically partitioned and owe their terrestrial identity to the sovereign God takes the reader back to the Table of Nations in Genesis 10-11, and two details there regarding God’s apportionment of the earth that are important for the context of the textual debate in Deuteronomy 32:8. First, the Table of Nations catalogs seventy nations, but Israel is not included in the inventory. Second, the use of the same Hebrew root in both passages to describe the “separation” of humankind and the nations substantiates the long-recognized observation of scholars that Genesis 10-11 are the backdrop to the statement in Deuteronomy 32:8. Israel alone is Yahweh’s portion and so is not numbered among the seventy other nations.

Deuteronomy 32:8–9 harks back to events at the Tower of Babel, an event that occurred *before the call of Abraham*, the father of the nation of Israel. *This means that the nations of the earth were divided at Babel before Israel even existed as a people.* God decreed, in the wake of Babel, that the other nations he had forsaken would have other gods besides himself to worship.”¹³

Mike Heiser confirmed from the Dead Sea scrolls that the translation in Deuteronomy 32:8 should be “sons of God” not “sons of Israel.” While his research is thorough solving the

¹³ Heiser, Michael. “The Unseen Realm.” pp. 68-69. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014.

question of how God divided the nations, I challenge his reasoning that God surrendered the nations at the wake of Babel, allowing them to worship gods. His thought conflicts with the reality that there is only one Great Creator and He only is deserving of worship. Jesus rejected Satan's offer by remaining loyal to Almighty God and said, "Away from Me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only'" (Matthew 4:10).

Satan demands worship. The ruling rebel sons of God demanded worship, but there is only one Almighty God that all creation owes their life, service, and worship.

In as little as one hundred years, the heavenly rulers over the nations began to fall. Two hundred years later only a few remained faithful to God. These rebels no longer taught the people in the nations God's law or His ways. Instead, they became oppressive dictators.

All of ancient civilization experienced the interaction of the gods on earth. Many nations rose in power and glory. The people of the nations benefited and enjoyed the riches that filtered down to them. The exuberance of power and glory that their nations flaunted opened Pandora's box for God's people to desire the same greatness and self-glory. The heavenly kings over the nations tasted, enjoyed, and gorged on power and control, until they were incoherent from the ecstasy that they could not control. Their toxic desires pushed them away from humbly serving God to forever change their values, morals, thoughts, and actions. They had woven themselves into darkness with plans to overthrow Almighty God with increased ferocity and determination.

The northern house of Israel saw the great structures of Egypt, the wonders that dazzled their eyes and challenged their engineering. They admired Egypt's enormous army: skillful soldiers, pure-bred horses, and fast chariots. They craved to be

just like them and relish in greatness, strength, self-reliance, self-determination, and self-glory. The fallen gods taught their nations the art of war, weapon making, military strategies, and techniques to prepare them to expand their territories into empires by overthrowing weaker nations. The people of the nations followed their leaders and worshipped them willingly no longer able to distinguish between their heavenly rulers and the Almighty God, the Supreme Creator. The presence of these powerful heavenly rulers was felt; it was real and at times excruciatingly painful for those opposing them. These are the same gods of 21th century mythology.

The plan to overthrow the Almighty God includes all of mankind. It was never a difficult task for these rebel gods to capture mankind and prepare them for the last great battle. Deceived mankind, believe these rebel principalities and powers in high places who teach that humility, forgiveness, and servitude to the Almighty God is weakness—attributes to be despised and disdained.

Gomer served these rebel gods. She was representative of a covenant people destined for priesthood who chose to depart from humbly serving their God and living His ways of love, kindness, justice, honesty, and righteousness. Instead, these people worked to build a dark kingdom covered in red, as they built-up their military might through the acquisition of weapons, building alliances, while pillaging and plundering wealth from invasions. They built their economic riches by stealing, lying, and the implementation of many deceitful practices. Their desire for stardom was hindered, as they were forced to move north west and west from the strong eastern and southern powers. It would take them hundreds of years before they could rise up and fulfill their dreams. These people had become intoxicated with power like every other nation. They had all eaten of the poisonous fruit and now they were all lifting their darkened eyes covertly to do

all that it takes to remain on top. The plan to turn God's covenant people against Him worked with minimal effort. The northern house of Israel was completely and thoroughly entrenched in the ways of the gods. Their story is recorded in the life of Gomer, Hosea's wife.

Three children were born under the care of Hosea. The first child, a son, was named Jezreel. He was the only child born from both Hosea and Gomer. The second child was a daughter named, Lo-Ruhamah born in harlotry along with the third child, a son named Lo-Ammi.

Jezreel reminds God's people throughout the ages, that it will take much blood shed for the houses of Israel to repent. A short reminder, Hosea's life was a mirror on earth of God's relationship with His church nation. The kings of ancient Israel adopted many pagan practices from the nations around them. They were often in rebellion against God. Jezreel was the name God told Hosea to name his first son. The name means "to scatter" or "to sow." In this case, Jezreel means both because God will scatter and then, He will sow them.

The root meaning of the name is provided by Biblehub.com.¹⁴

JEZREEL Word Origin: Derived from the Hebrew root זרע (zara), meaning "to sow" or "to scatter," and אל (El), meaning "God."

Jezreel symbolizes the harsh conditions that bring repentance to a stubborn, rebel people. In ancient times, God brought both houses into captivity because of their rebellion against Him. The house of Israel did not repent after their captivity. Their sentence of extended and they wandered Asia Minor into Western Europe for 2, 520 years. During that time, after they had experienced

¹⁴ Biblehub. "Jezreel." Biblehub.com, <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/3157.htm>. Accessed May 15, 2020.

enough pain and suffering from the curses of disobedience, like the prodigal son, they repented and begged to return to the Father.

The kingdoms of Israel remain today separate nations, each with their own language, but a reunification is prophesied by God. The reunification is the sowing together of the kingdom and planting them back in their original homeland. Only after they truly repent, will God restore the whole kingdom of Israel.

The Valley of Jezreel was a fertile plain in ancient times and today. Many battles of the house of Israel took place in that valley against neighbouring people and from within their kingdom. It was a strategic location, a trade route. Its name is well-fitting for God to mirror the crucial battles that result in so much pain, suffering, and death for some, as God crushes His rebel people to humble them and then, mold them into God-fearing and God-serving people who bear the rich fruit of righteousness. The fertile plain of Jezreel was ideal for growing crops, but little could be harvested when battles ravaged the land. This mirror is exactly God's message to His wayward people. When living in sin, hatred, and disobedience against God, the rich harvest of His word and law that leads to righteousness and peace is destroyed.

Hosea 1:4 describes God's judgement on the battles He fought, through his servants, to end evil, warn His people, and purge them of their unrelenting wickedness.

“Name him Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will visit the bloodshed of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and I will cause the kingdom of the house of Israel to cease” (Hosea 1:4).

The wording of this scripture has caused some confusion of its meaning. King Jehu fulfilled God's order to bring a total end to the reign of King Ahab's family line. It was a bloody event and

painful for God to endure, but it was ordered in righteous judgement. The house of Israel rarely had a king who would reign righteously. King Jehu is the only king that did as God had commanded. His failure was in his carelessness of God's law. "Yet Jehu was not careful to keep the law of the Lord, the God of Israel, *with all his heart*" (II Kings 10:31). God vowed to end the monarchy of the house of Israel. Their unrelenting sinful behaviour and stubborn mindset, and continual failure to sincerely return to Him and obey His law had reached the boiling point.

After thousands of years of sin that has brought so much pain, suffering, and death symbolized in the name, Jezreel—God will scatter, but a new day is coming—the day of Jezreel. God's poetry is a marvel. The name Jezreel is both a judgement and a blessing.

It is on our near horizon, when 21st century nations of Israel will unite together and humbly bend their knee before the Almighty God. A remnant will return. God will bring them back home safely and settle them in the promised Holy Land, symbolized in the name, Jezreel—God sows. On that day, both houses of Israel: Judah—the Jews and Israel—the West and Western Europe will reunite. Together, they will truly call out to God and He will hear them.

"Then the people of Judah [the Jews] and Israel [the West and Western Europe] will unite together. They will choose one leader for themselves, and they will return from exile together. What a day that will be—the day of Jezreel—when God will again plant his people in his land" (Hosea 1:11).

The plains are often God's image of a pathway without obstacles. Zechariah recorded the LORD Almighty saying, "What are you, O mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of 'God bless it! God bless it'" (Zechariah 4:7).

The mighty mountain God is referring to, are the superpower forces across the earth controlling all of the world's governments. It is imaged in the great statue in the book of Daniel. A level ground will appear; all of the barriers to obeying God will be gone; all of the toe-stubbing stones—the lying media, the bullying national leaders, the puppeted scholars and educators, and the false and wayward religious leaders will all be crushed.

Lo-Ruhamah, a daughter, mirrors the religious leadership specifically the churches of the ten tribes, the house of Israel, who struggle to grow in God's knowledge. Theologians have difficulty removing the old pagan traditions and returning to the pure word of God written in both the Old and New Testament.

God said that Lo-Ruhamah is not loved by Him. The theological doctrines of this daughter church of their mother, Jerusalem, are incomplete. They resemble the Laodicean group in Revelation who believe that they have a full understanding of the scriptures and what they are teaching is the pure word of God. Yet, the Laodicean's are blind to their ignorance; their nakedness—ungodly behaviour, and their walk is not with Jesus because he is standing at their door knocking to come in to teach them the pure word of God.

While the Laodicean group are in need of growth, Jesus offers those who overcome rulership with him. This is a great honour and a reflection of their value before God.

God's Holy Days were given to His people to be kept for all generations. The Holy Days are a memorial, a celebration, and a permanent statute. "And this day will be a memorial for you, and you are to celebrate it as a feast to the LORD, as a permanent statute for the generations to come" (Exodus 12:14).

Almighty God has woven His transparency of His saving plan for His people and all of mankind into His Holy Days. Every Holy Day, in its sequence, maps every crucial step to the saving plan of mankind. To alter or remove any of God's Holy Days or to keep them on the different day or month in the wrong way will push God's transparency into the dark.

Christians have modified their ancient pagan customs to celebrate their Saviour, Jesus Christ in a way that was not recognized by Almighty God. Easter is an example where the Christians try to remember the death and resurrection of Christ on the cross with easter bunnies, eggs and hot cross buns. Christ's birth is celebrated on December 25th by decorating a tree and exchanging gifts. Christ was not born on December 25th. God commanded His people to keep His Holy Days exactly as He has had them recorded in Leviticus 23. God will not draw close to a theological body that is not cleansed of their pagan customs, their twists and turns applied to doctrines, and the pride in assuming that they can change what God has ordained as permanent.

Lo-Ammi mirrors the national leadership who have little or no relationship with Almighty God. They lack humility; they grapple continually for power; they aspire for self-glory, self-reliance, self-direction and superpower status. They engage in all sorts of corruption in every department at every level.

Technology has deepened and broadened their grip over the people: spying, manipulating their thoughts and decisions, lawless leadership, lying, propagandizing, overtaxing, misusing taxpayer's money, serving for personal financial gain does not reflect God's leadership style. Worst of all are those who are aware of the dark practices of many politicians and wealthy elites, and do nothing to expose them and purge government of their scandalous activities. God said that they are not His people. They do not

reflect God's "servant of all" mindset and self-sacrificing work to care for the people.

Gomer did not appreciate the love of her husband, instead she went out and chased her lovers who she thought were giving her the luxuries she enjoyed. Unknown to her, it was her husband who continued to provide generously. God watches this house of Israel revel in the wealth He provides, but vows that at the planned set time, He will withhold it and added, "I will expose her lewdness before the eyes of her lovers; no one will take her out of my hands" (Hosea 2:10).

God will sort this house and separate the unrepenting from the overcomers. The unrepenting will undergo judgement by God and the nations of the world will come to know who they are and their lewdness will be exposed. All of the nations will understand why the ancient house of Israel was punished in 721 B.C. and why the descendants of the same people in the 21st century, will be punished again in the near future.

"When I please, I will punish them; nations will be gathered against them to put them in bonds for their *double sin*" (Hosea 10:10).

"From that day forward the house of Israel will know that I am YHWH [Yahuah], their God. And the nations will know that the people of Israel went into exile for their sin, because they were unfaithful to me" (Ezekiel 39:22).

The story of the church of the house of Israel is a picture of Christians feeling secure with their understanding of God's theology, yet blind to their true state. God is talking to the churches in Western Europe and the West. They need spiritual guidance onto the narrow path towards the God of Israel. When God uses the female part of speech, He is speaking to the churches.

“Therefore, I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her. There I will give her back her vineyards... I will show my love to the one I called ‘Not my loved one’. I will say to those called ‘Not my people,’ ‘You are my people’; and they will say, you are my God” (Hosea 2:14-15, 23). A future spiritual rejuvenation is prophesied. A forgiving Father will reclaim His people.

God told Hosea to love Gomer again and love her how He loves the Israelites. Hosea found her at a slave market tethered to an auction block. She was wretched, weathered, dirty, and destitute. She had lost her youthful beauty and become a despised and degraded woman. Hosea was moved with compassion. He bought her for the price of a slave. Nobody wanted her.

Hosea paid “fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethech of barley” (Hosea 3:2). Thirty shekels was the price for a servant (Exodus 21:32); the barley was the required sin offering for a woman’s unchastity. Hosea specifically paid in cash and grain to cover all legal obligations for his wife’s sin before man and God. Today, she has been redeemed and God refers to her as a virgin.

The story of the buying back of Israel is an account, rich in grace, and mercy. It tells of the great love our Father in heaven has for His people. He gave His only heir to die for the disobedient houses of Judah and Israel and redeem all nations of their sins. Jesus Christ willingly gave his life because he has never stopped loving Israel and all of mankind. God is the head and Christ is His body. They work as one; they are united in saving all of mankind. The secret redemption plan of mankind began with the perfect sacrifice of Christ, which was kept hidden from the enemies of God. Paul knew this secret and their defeat.

“None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, *they would not have crucified the lord of glory*” (1 Corinthians 2:8).

The fallen rebels were not briefed on this pivotal portion of God's plan. "He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that war against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And *having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross*" (Colossians 2:13-15).

Christ won rulership over the nations and received the victor's booty. "This is why it says: 'When He ascended on high, *he led captives away*, and gave gifts to men.' What does 'He ascended' mean, except that He also descended to the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the very one who ascended above all the heavens, in order to fill all things'" (Ephesians 4:8-9).

Christ gave the authority, which He took as booty from his conquest over the rebel rulers and gifted it to His servants. We see here that the job of the heavenly kings over the nations involved being teachers of God's word. Their job was given to God's people. "Some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we *all* reach unity in the father and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-13).

Hosea said to Gomer, "You will live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will live with you. For the Israelites will live many days *without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol*" (Hosea 3:3-4). Hosea understood the mission God had given to him.

After Christ died and was resurrected, He disarmed the gods ruling over the nations and imprisoned them in the lower parts of the earth, for now. These powers have been silenced and 21st century scholars have mythicized them. For "many days" Hosea said the

Israelites will live with Christ, but like him, they will not be intimate. A possible two thousand years as the Apostle Peter said, “With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day” (II Peter 3:8b), the house of Israel has been without:

- Their **KING** of kings [Christ] who has not yet returned. They are without their King nor do they have **princes** because these rebel “princes”—heavenly rulers, have been imprisoned.
- The **SACRIFICES** to God brought awareness and forgiveness of sin, which came to an end with the destruction of the last temple in 70 AD. The placement of **sacred stones** taught by the mystic pagan priests as objects of power, charms of protection, and guarantees of blessings and healings are no longer practiced.
- The **EPHOD** is part of the official dress of the High Priest in Israel. It is symbolic of true religious practice while the **household idols** are symbolic of false practice (Hosea 3:4).

These people neither fully worship God and His ways or the gods and their pagan practices.

Many Christians may believe that they have all truth—the full word of God, but John’s record to the seven churches in Revelation is a plea for the churches to overcome their wayward practices and traditions of men to turn fully to the way of God. Only those who overcome will rule with Christ.

God longs to redeem Israel, but recorded in Hosea are all the wicked ways of the house of Israel who He said, “is swallowed up; now she is among the nations like a worthless thing... [note: God’s use of the female gender. He is speaking to the church of the ten tribes of Israel].

“Ephraim [the leader of the ten tribes who are often collectively identified under that name] has hired lovers” (Hosea 8:9b).

“Ephraim will return to Egypt and eat unclean food in Assyria” (Hosea 9:3).

“The days of punishment are coming; the days of reckoning are at hand. Let Israel know this. Because your sins are so many and your hostility so great, the prophet is considered a fool, the inspired man a maniac... They have sunk deep into corruption, as in the days of Gibeah (the place where the tribe of Benjamin protected heinous, Satan-worshipping men). God will remember their wickedness and punish them for their sins” (Hosea 9:7-9).

“Woe to them when I turn away from them!” (Hosea 9:12)

“Ephraim is blighted, their root is withered, they yield no fruit... They will be wanderers among the nations” (Hosea 9:16).

“My people are determined to turn from me” (Hosea 11:7).

21st century readers are not blind to the practices of their own government; they are like ancient Israel.

“They make many promises, take false oaths and make agreements; therefore, lawsuits spring up like poisonous weeds in a plowed field” (Hosea 10:4).

“The merchant uses dishonest scales; he loves to defraud” (Hosea 12:7).

Such is a fair description of Wall Street, the City of London today, and the International Monetary Fund.

“Ephraim boasts, ‘I am very rich; I have become wealthy. With all my wealth they will not find in me any iniquity or sin’” (Hosea 12:8).

Indeed, God will bring them into captivity for now twice sinning and protecting evil, Satan-worshipping people holding leadership positions throughout their countries.

“When I please, I will punish them; nations will be gathered against them to put them in bonds for their *double sin*” (Hosea 10:10).

The northern house of Israel will be attacked by more than just one nation, in the future. The Assyrians took captive the ancient northern house of Israel. A future event will impact the 21st century northern house of Israel because many have fallen away from worshipping Almighty God.

God will correct this rebellious house and bring them to their knees, because He loves them.

“The guilt of Ephraim is stored up; his sins are kept on record... [note now God’s use of the male gender, He is speaking directly to the national leadership] he is a child without wisdom... his spring will fail and his well dry up. His storehouse will be plundered of all its treasures. The people of Samaria must bear their guilt, because they have rebelled against their God. They will fall by the sword” (Hosea 13:12 – 13, 16).

God pleads to the house of Israel, “Return, O Israel to the LORD your God. Your sins have been your downfall!” (Hosea 14:1)

When God refers to “Ephraim,” He is talking to all of the ten tribes of Israel, Western Europe and the West. God longs to redeem them. “How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel... My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused. I will not carry out my fierce anger, *nor devastate Ephraim again*. For I am God, and not man—the Holy One among you. I will not come in wrath... They will follow the LORD; He will roar like

a lion. When He roars, His children will come trembling from the west. They will come trembling like birds from Egypt, like doves from Assyria... Afterwards the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings *in the last days*” (Hosea 11:8-11, 3:5).

There won't be just a few people from each of the twelve tribes, but many from within all of the ten tribes and the house of Judah who will repent. Millions will repent and turn to God. The world watching will be amazed!

“In the place where it was said to them ‘You are not my people,’ they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’ The people of Judah and the people of Israel will be reunited, and they will appoint one leader and will come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel. ‘Say of your brothers, ‘My people,’ and of your sisters, ‘My loved one’” (Hosea 1:10- 2:1).

A careful study of this scripture uncovers long forgotten roots and a reunification that will never be broken.

- **“In the place”** is not in the Promised Land—their original home, but a place they called their own after their sentence of wandering through the nations was complete. They are Westerners.
- **“Sons of the living God”, “My people”, “My loved one”** are the changed identifiers of these repentant people, humble and sincere people desiring to obey and worship their God—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- **The people of Judah and the people of Israel** will be reunited. The house of Israel today has forgotten their roots. They began as ten tribes split from their brothers, Judah and Benjamin. They moved away from their God,

craving the ways of the nations around them serving rebel heavenly rulers.

God will roar like a lion; they will tremble in fear and repent—this time with sincerity. Their return will ignite the love God has for them and the two houses will reunite at the return of Christ to remain a reunited kingdom forever.

- **They will appoint one leader.** This will occur after the return of Jesus Christ. The first resurrection will take place and the reunited house of Israel will appoint King David as their national king.
- **For great will be the day of Jezreel.** It will take much blood shed for the houses of Israel to repent. Jezreel symbolizes the conflict and the suffering that brings hard-hearted people to repentance.

There isn't a group of people who have been so treacherous to their God than the people of both houses in the kingdom of Israel. It is the hope that their repentance brings the greatest and most binding love for their Redeemer as the story of the woman told by Jesus in Luke describes:

“Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?’ Simon replied, ‘I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled.’ ‘You have judged correctly,’ Jesus said. Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, ‘Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing

me feet. You did not put oil on my head but she has poured perfume on my feet. *Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little*” (Luke 7:41-47).

The wayward house of Israel will awaken to their sins. They will say, “Assyria cannot save us, we will not mount war horses. We will never say ‘Our gods’...” (Hosea 14:3). “Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. He will revive us *after two days; He will raise us up on the third day*, that we may live before Him” (Hosea 6:1-2).

God will respond, “I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily. Like a cedar of Lebanon, he will send down his roots; his young shoots will grow. His splendor will be like an olive tree, his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon. Men will dwell again in his shade. He will flourish like the grain. He will blossom like a vine, and his fame will be like the wine of Lebanon. O Ephraim, what am I anymore to do with idols? I will answer him and care for him. I am like a green pine tree; your fruitfulness comes from me” (Hosea 14:3-8).

God gave Hosea old leather shoes to wear. His life was hard; his feet were sore from his life’s journey. It was by design to preserve a record of the history of the church of the ten tribes through Hosea’s life. Upon Hosea’s resurrection, he will be given a glorious pair of shoes. All of his hardships will be lifted. He will be delighted to see the spiritual growth of the church and dearly love their humble and sincere return to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They will humbly bend their knee before their loving Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The Master Potter will finish His work; it will be glorious.

THE SHOES GIVEN TO WEAR

*“His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned,’ said Jesus, ‘but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed [revealed] in his life’”
(John 9:2-3).*

Throughout the Bible, there are examples of people who lived their whole life like Hosea, mirroring the greater story—the spiritual story. No fault of their own, they suffered, so that the history of God’s people could be preserved and prophecy revealed to His people in the latter days. During the millennial reign of Jesus Christ, the truth of God’s word, His law, and history will be taught to everyone.



Selected people were given shoes to wear and a path to walk to fulfill a role like an actor on the stage. For some, like Abraham and Jacob, chapters of their lives became reenactments of God’s relationship with His people. Others, like Isaac, were part of events pointing to the great saving sacrifice to come. Selected women played important roles mirroring churches within God’s

people that suffer persecution, while others separated to stand alone, over doctrinal interpretations. The difficulty for all churches is the work of teaching and training their congregations to grow spiritually in the body of Christ “until all reach unity in the *faith* and in the *knowledge of the Son of God*, as *mature to the full measure of the stature of Christ*” (Ephesians 4:13). This is an extreme high standard for the ministry.

Every story in the Bible has a spiritual message essential for our spiritual growth towards maturing into the full measure of the stature of Christ.

The blind man recorded by the Apostle John in chapter 9 was given by God to wear, figuratively, *broken shoes with the sole flapping open and heel coming apart*, through no fault of his own.

The disciples asked Jesus, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

Jesus responded, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life” (John 9:2-3).

This blind man was a selected man by God to live with the hardship of blindness to teach the disciples that God has woven in the lives of ordinary people, spiritual learning opportunities.

The key to unlocking these teaching moments given to the Judeo-Christians is the application of God's coded language.

Important chapters of spiritual history have been preserved in the lives of ordinary people. The shoes were given to them and their walk was more often one of suffering than of joy. The patriarchs and their wives were all given shoes to wear and a path to walk that was difficult and meshed with troubles.

JACOB WAS DECEITFULLY TRICKED INTO MARRYING LEAH, NO FAULT OF HIS OWN

Laban, his father-in-law, tricked him. “It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one” (Genesis 29:26).

Jacob's life has many revealing chapters. He was given many different shoes to wear. In this particular episode, he mirrors the reaction of God Almighty who entered into a marriage covenant with ancient Israel. God believed that He would get the church that He loved, instead ancient Israel turned out to be Leah, the weak-eyed church who had difficulty seeing and staying on the righteous path of God, despite all of the help received directly from Him.

Jacob was devastated; God Almighty was devastated. Jacob felt God's pain. He was given by God to wear, figuratively, *tight imitation leather shoes* to the day he died. He described his life to Pharaoh of Egypt as “The years of my pilgrimage are a hundred and thirty. My years have been few and *difficult*” (Genesis 47:9).

God knew that Jacob was spiritually strong enough to wear the shoes that He gave to him, so that 21st century Judeo-Christians would come to learn the greater story. This was only one small scene of the many chapters of the greater story.

LEAH WAS BORN WITH “WEAK EYES,” NO FAULT OF HER OWN

God foreknew the path His people would take, which did not ease His pain when the very events took place. Leah was given by God to wear figuratively, *hand-me-down shoes*. Her story has been retold countless times; she is not the hero. Her life was a struggle to look pretty and feel loved, just as the wayward twelve tribes of Israel tried to please God, but they were careless in how they

kept His commandments and they were perpetually swayed to live the ungodly ways of the nations around them.

Birthing children is the God-given role of women. It mirrors the ministerial role of the church ordained to birth a God-fearing, God-serving congregation fit for the kingdom of God. Both Leah and Rachel felt the shame of being infertile. Leah, in particular, saw the love Jacob had for Rachel and felt the loneliness of an outcast pushed onto her through her father's neglect.

“When the LORD saw that Leah was not loved, *he opened her womb*, but Rachel was barren” (Genesis 29:31). This is a mirror of God having mercy on the wayward church wanting to be loved by Him. He gave her a congregation; this church would birth children fit for the kingdom. It is a miracle!

Jesus has urged the Laodicean church to overcome and allow him in to teach them, remove their blindness, bring them onto the righteous path, clothe them in humility, and open their heart to learn the pure word of God (Revelation 3:14-22).

God knew that Leah was spiritually strong enough to wear the shoes that He gave to her. The churches of Revelation will be forever grateful for her suffering, because they will recognize the life she lived, was a mirror of the life, they gave her. They will repent and overcome.

RACHEL WAS BORN BEAUTIFUL BUT BARREN, NO FAULT OF HER OWN

Rachel was selected by God to wear figuratively, *glittering silk slippers*. Her shoes wore out quickly and fell apart. It is an image of her premature death, while a young woman. In addition, the beautiful shoes did not make her happy; she felt ashamed and troubled that she could not initially conceive or understand why. Her life mirrored the loved prophets who died prematurely due

to persecutions and executions. God's decision to suspend the anointing of prophets came due to the infiltration of false prophets. Jesus was the last prophet who also died prematurely in Jerusalem.

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing” (Luke 13:34).

The prophets were all killed trying to bring people back to God—back into righteousness. It was a dark time for them as God's people refused to listen. Matthew understood what Jeremiah wrote in 31:15, “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more” (Matthew 2:18).

Rachel mirrors the loved church—the faithful prophets. Her name is used by Jeremiah and understood by Matthew as the faithful, mother church loved by God, who is distraught because it appears that her children are dead, that is, no congregation is left that is fit for the kingdom of God. The news of utter failure would cause an uncontrolled cry of distress from the faithful prophets and prophetesses of old. Their suffering and death would appear to be worthless.

God assured the prophets and prophetesses, imaged in Rachel, that their work will be rewarded. “This is what the LORD says: ‘Keep your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for the reward for your work will come, declares the LORD. Then your children will return from the land of the enemy’” (Jeremiah 31:16).

A born-again people will rise up from the teachings of the prophets throughout the ages. They will keep the commandments of God, His Holy Days and the Sabbath. God knew it would take a miracle,

that is, the receiving of God's Holy Spirit, which is imaged in the opening of Rachel's womb by God, for the pure and loved church to birth a righteous congregation. The prophets died before the fruits of their labor were known by them.

God intentionally did not open Rachel's womb until after Leah and the two handmaids had given Jacob children to show the 21st century Judeo-Christians about the birth of the righteous congregation that will take place in the last days after God's Holy Spirit is given. "So, the last will be first, and the first will be last" (Matthew 20:6). The first was ancient Israel and the last are the Holy-Spirit filled 21st century Judeo-Christians.

It should be noted that Leah too had her womb opened by God. It is an illustration of the church having a difficult time seeing the path of righteousness of God, without God's Holy Spirit.

Rachel's two children: Joseph, whose life mirrors Christ and Benjamin, whose life mirrors the saints. Rachel's life was shortened. She was found to have taken idols from her father's home. This is a reflection of the infiltration by false prophets that would take place among God's faithful prophets. God knew false prophets would infiltrate his church. Did God inspire Rachel take the idols that shortened her life? The premature end of the prophets brought Rachel's premature death. She was blessed with two sons—both image a righteous people.

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL WAS SHUNNED AND DESTITUTE, NO FAULT OF HER OWN

Nowhere in John 4 is the description of the woman at the well as a prostitute. She was a woman who married five times and was divorced five times, leaving her impoverished to live with a man, who was willing to take her in. Women, in those days, relied heavily on the care of a man.

Figuratively, this woman was given by God *stilettos that distorted the growth of her feet*, which is an image of God's people who depart from Him. She mirrored the church of the ten tribes of Israel who for hundreds of years walked, flirting, and engaging intimately with false religion. This church, imaged in the woman at the well, was divorced by God because the house of Israel craved to be like the powerful nations around them. To get what they desired, they were willing to worship rebel gods who forced the church of the ten tribes of Israel to adopt their heinous, pagan practices. The people followed leaving the ancient house of Israel infertile spiritually. None of them were fit for the kingdom of God. The woman at the well was an image of the spiritually infertile church of the ten tribes of Israel, who went from one god to another hoping to find love, but all she received was abuse.

Discarded by the gods, this church repented and sought to return to the God of the Hebrews. They learned of their Saviour and patiently waited for his arrival and forgiveness of sins.

Then, one day Jesus arrived at the well, built by Jacob many centuries earlier. A Samaritan woman was there. He entered into a conversation with her by asking if she would give him a drink. She was puzzled that a male Jew would engage with her. Jesus ignored her response and continued his discussion about *water in this well*, by introducing himself as someone with the exceptional ability to provide *living water*.

While Jesus entered into a spiritual conversation, the woman initially focused on the physical matter of giving Jesus water from the very deep well, until she gave thought to Jesus' description of "*living water*." She immediately understood the movement of the conversation to have entered into the spiritual world and she responded, "Are you greater than our father, Jacob who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" (John 4:5-6, 11-12)

In one statement, the woman showed that she understood that both she and Jesus were of the lineage of Jacob as she referred to Jacob as *their* father who gave both of them, the well. More importantly, she recognized that Jesus could be a prophet to offer her “living water.”

Jesus knew this woman at the well was the one playing the role of the church of the ten tribes of Israel. He offered her God’s Holy Spirit, but before she could accept it, Jesus addressed her many relationships. She immediately acknowledged him as a prophet, someone who must have had direct communication with God to know of her failed relationships. She did not hide her failures, instead the poverty she suffered not knowing or living God’s way brought her to seek a Saviour. For that reason, Jesus waited for her at the well built by Jacob.

The well is the source of water imaged as Almighty God, the source of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that he was that Saviour and she immediately believed him because he proved to have information that only a prophet could know. This woman mirrored the faith of the church of the ten tribes of Israel who was taught by Jesus. He was commissioned by God to save them and bring them back into the covenant family.

Jesus said to the Canaanite woman of great faith, *“I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel”* (Matthew 15:24).

It took the church of the ten tribes of Israel hundreds of years, but finally they were ready to obey God.

Like the church of the ten tribes of Israel, the woman at the well married five times but could not conceive. Her life was a conundrum of failed relationships and distress. God knew that the woman at the well could endure the shoes that He had given her to wear because deep inside, she was strong. She was the

embodiment of the church of the ten tribes whose roots were alive and well.

“She will chase after her lovers but not catch them; she will look for them but not find them. Then she will say, ‘*I will go back to my husband as at first, for then I was better off than now*’” (Hosea 2:7).

The two tribes of Israel have a long history of stubborn rebellion. Finally, in the latter days, they will humbly and sincerely submit to their God. “The time is coming when Jacob’s descendants will take root. *Israel will bud and blossom and fill the whole earth with fruit!*” (Isaiah 27:6)

After God divorced the house of Israel, both church and nation became known as pagan Gentiles. They lost their name, Israel. God will not allow the name to be defiled. Jacob’s name was changed to Israel when he proved to be an overcomer. The house of Israel was not a house of repentant people nor did they overcome. Their name was changed to what they had become, Gentiles, goyim—non-covenant people. After their repentance, Jesus brought them back into the covenant family and they became known as Christians, roots in Christ. Songs of grace continue to fill their hearts playing from one generation to the next, thankful and grateful to their God, the Great Creator, the Almighty for His grace and His warm welcome back under His care.

NAAMAN, THE GENTILE GENERAL SUFFERED FROM LEPROSY, NO FAULT OF HIS OWN

The recorded history of the repentance of the national leaders of the ten tribes was preserved in the story of Naaman, the gentile general. It can also be said that the repentance of the ten tribes of the house of Israel is visible in the story of the prodigal son. However, the story of Naaman provides the greater details.

Naaman's story is recorded in II Kings 5 and mentioned by Jesus in Luke 4:27, "And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, but the only one healed was Naaman, a Syrian." Every story that Jesus referred to is an important one.

Naaman was given by God to wear, figuratively, *shoes with abrasive insoles causing discomfort and ulcers*. He was a man who achieved a high military status, but suffered a contagious life-debilitating disease. He heard about the God of Israel and Elisha through a little Israelite girl. She imaged a young and tender Hebrew church, in captivity. He went to Elisha for healing. Separate from the church, the national leaders desired to change their barbaric behaviour from serving Oden and return to the ways of God under His law and order. They brought with them a changed heart—imaged as ten sets of clothes, one set for each of the ten tribes, and an offering of gold and silver. Elisha declined payment and told Naaman to wash in the Jordan River.

Typical of the behaviour of the ten tribes of Israel, Naaman initially reacted foolishly towards Elisha's instructions.

"So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, 'Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed.' But *Naaman went away angry* and said, 'I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy'" (II Kings 5:9-11).

Urged by those with him to listen, he returned and submitted to the instructions of Elisha. As he washed, he witnessed his own body healing rapidly and renewing itself back into the form of a robust, young man. The prophecy of this story has already begun. The ten tribes of Israel were healed and their spiritual growth over the past two thousand years is visible, but the greater growth

is yet to be seen. The ten nations of 21st century Israel will be healed of their spiritual, decaying condition in stages, beginning before the Great Tribulation. Jesus told the group of people who form the Thyatira church that they are doing more than what they did in the past, but still more needs to be done before he returns.

“Never-the-less, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed by idols. I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is not willing... Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you): Only hold on to what you have until I come. To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—’He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery’—just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star” (Revelation 2:20-21, 24-28).

To each of the seven churches in Revelation, Jesus appears with different striking features. Before the Thyatira church, his “eyes are like blazing fire and feet like burnished bronze.” This is a picture of Christ when he returns as King over all kings and Lord over all lords. He is a ruler and he is addressing the rulers (Thyatira) of all twelve nations of Israel into the 21st century.

Prior to his return, Christ has urged the national leaders of all twelve nations of Israel to get out of the ways of the Jezebel-types in leadership positions. Jezebel, in ancient times, was Queen under King Ahab. She used his seal to execute commands. Most of the Jezebel-types today have acquired their positions of authority deceptively, falsely, and illegally. They are highly destructive, serving darkness, and bound to practise Satanic rituals.

Jezebel is the source of “Satan’s so-called deep secrets” (Revelation 2:24b). She has her “daughters” in many agencies all working for her. These deep secrets include promises of power, wealth, and leadership offered to weak people willing to submit to this evil force that promotes Satan’s one-world government, his globalist agenda that is working to entrap the ordinary people, and forced submission to his regime.

Jezebel in ancient times died a violent death, thrown out from a high window and “her blood splattered the wall and the horses trampled her underfoot” (II Kings 9:33).

Everyone in 21st century Israel who participates in her activities will, like Jezebel, suffer intensely, if they do not repent. God will strike the people dead working with her and bring a total end to her work (Revelation 2:22-23).

As national leaders clean out the “swamp,” they are met with malicious and aggressive opposition. God is witnessing the suffering, the attacks, the slander, and slurring by those who are against the people who are trying to do the right thing by upholding the law, enforcing justice, and restoring peace. In some cases, their lives are in danger. During Christ’s millennial reign, the nations will see the peace coming from God’s people and ask for help. These people will be rewarded rulership to teach and help them implement God’s laws and policies within their national legal system.

They will also receive the “morning star.” Their resurrected bodies will shine very brightly, like Jesus Christ (II Peter 1:19). God has always shown favour to those who uphold the law.

In the millennial rule of Jesus Christ, the nations will return to God and implement His laws and policies and the people will no longer suffer. The leaders will learn to serve. In time, every nation on

earth will join the united, holy kingdom of royal priests (Revelation 5:10).

God chose Naaman, the Syrian general knowing that he would humble himself and accept Elisha's instructions to reflect clearly the broken spirit of the returning ten tribes, who during their desperate time, will collectively decide to return to their God—the Almighty God.

“O Jacob, O Israel, Fear not, for *I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine... you are precious and honoured in my sight, and because I love you*” (Isaiah 43:1).

From a far off, God saw the prodigal son returning home. This story provides insight into the desperate state of the ten tribes of Israel that brought them to repentance.

“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ So, he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, *his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.* The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So, they began to celebrate” (Luke 15:17-22).

Naaman’s life was a mirror of the national leaders of the spiritually lost ten tribes of Israel. Their return to God brought the

reintroduction of God's laws and His order into the legal structure of their land. While their fervour has waned in our present day, soon, distress unlike no other, will ignite their loyalty where they will stand strong under the flag of the God of the Hebrews, again.

THE WOMAN BENT OVER FOR EIGHTEEN YEARS, NO FAULT OF HER OWN

“One Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman there had been disabled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was hunched over and could not stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, ‘Woman, you are set free from your infirmity’” (Luke 13:10-12).

Eighteen long years God gave this woman a burden that weighted her down, a figure of the wearing of *heavy construction boots*. Her story provides a vivid illustration for 21st century Judeo-Christians of the burdened state of the Jewish church that won't be healed by Christ until the Millennium—on the Sabbath. Her condition mirrors the greater story of the Jewish church that has been crippled by the many added rules and regulations placed on them by their religious leaders for a symbolic eighteen hours of a complete twenty-four-hour period.

Jesus described the self-righteous, law-making Jewish priests in his time. “They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them” (Matthew 23:4).

Jesus saw the woman and had sympathy for her. She is an image of the Jewish elect who love God and are willing to endure patiently for Him. Jesus called to her and healed her on the Sabbath. This is an image of Jesus Christ healing the suffering Jewish church at the beginning of his millennial reign. God knew that this woman, bent over for eighteen long years, could withstand the suffering because she was humble and faithful.

Jesus has overcome the world and he will give us all rest. “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

THE WOMAN WITH THE ISSUE OF BLOOD FOR TWELVE YEARS, NO FAULT OF HER OWN

This woman was given by God to wear, figuratively, *thrown-away shoes*. Always bleeding, she would have been perpetually considered unclean by everyone. She would have been treated as an outcast and she would have been very lonely. Now, God is providing an additional lens into the story of the church of the ten tribes. They were entrenched in false religion, divorced by God, and cut out of the covenant family.

“And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had borne much agony under the care of many physicians and had spent all she had, but to no avail. Instead, her condition had only grown worse. When the woman heard about Jesus, she came up through the crowd behind Him and touched His cloak. For she kept saying, ‘If only I touch His clothes, I will be healed.’ Immediately her bleeding stopped, and she sensed in her body that she was healed of her affliction. At once Jesus was aware that power had gone out from Him. Turning to the crowd, He asked, “Who touched My clothes?” He kept looking around to see who had done this. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him trembling in fear, and she told Him the whole truth. ‘Daughter,’ said Jesus, ‘your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be free of your affliction’” (Mark 5:25-34).

This woman preserved the story of the repentant church of the ten tribes of Israel. For half of their time as a people, that is, twelve hours of the symbolic twenty-four hours in a day, she was dying spiritually. Her bleeding condition imaged her inability to conceive and birth a healthy congregation. She practiced false

religion with all the heinous rituals that oppose God's law of love. A time came after searching and exhausting all of her resources for healing, she turned to Jesus. She remembered her ancestors and their ancient Hebrew teachings and knew by merely touching the corner of his tallit, it would communicate her repentance and desire to keep God's commandments. Jesus felt the power of repentance leave him, healing her.

“But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness [Christ] will rise with healing in its wings [kanaph—the corners of the tallit]” (Malachi 4:2).

The Christians churches have accepted Christ as their Messiah and their spiritual healing has begun. Jesus is able to heal the spiritually dying and he is able to heal the spiritually dead. The proof is recorded in the raising from the dead, the twelve-year-old daughter of Jairus. While Jesus is still speaking to this woman, he is told about a little girl who just died. Two stories flowing one over the another. The wonder in God's penmanship is His preservation of the timing of events. The healing of the ministry will overlap the resurrection of the congregation.

THE DEATH OF JAIRUS' TWELVE-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, NO FAULT OF HER OWN

Jairus' daughter was given to wear, figuratively, *shoes saturated with toxic oils*.

While He was still speaking, messengers from the house of Jairus arrived and said, “Your daughter is dead; why bother the Teacher anymore?” (Mark 5:35)

She mirrored the spiritually dead congregation of the church of the ten tribes of Israel. Fortunately, Jesus can heal the dead.

All of the crippled, the lame, the deaf, the blind, and the dumb in the gospels were healed. It was not necessarily any fault of their own. All of these people, whether they were sinners or not, mirror the countless spiritual deformities within all of the twelve tribes of Israel. They cannot understand the word of God; they don't keep God's commandments; they fail to value God's Holy Days and His Sabbath; they wander easily away from God; they love self-glory, self-direction and self-reliance. Yet, Jesus healed them. He is able to heal any condition. It will take the millennium reign of Christ to bring spiritual healing to all the world.

The stories preserved in the Bible all mirror the greater story—the spiritual story, which is the only story that matters. The *ill-fitting shoes* God has given us all to wear during this evil age, will be instantly replaced with a perfect fitting, radiant eternal pair after the resurrection. Our walk will be healthy and make us eternally strong.

In the meantime, as the Apostle Peter said, “But rejoice that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed at the revelation of His glory” (1 Peter 4:13).

Suffering is always the result of sin, but in God's wisdom, it is also the mechanism to strengthen and fortify character in righteousness. “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His footsteps” (1 Peter 2:21).

The Apostle Paul reminded us that suffering during this evil age is inevitable. “For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him” (Philippians 1:29) and “They encouraged them to continue in the faith, reminding them that we must suffer many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22).

The Bible is full of stories of people given shoes to wear by God. In fact, both genders: male and female wear different shoes from each other, so that the 21st century nations of Israel will understand the image of God as King and Lord.

Blessed are the participants of the greater story.

FORESHADOWS: THE REDEMPTIVE SACRIFICE

*“Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come”
(Romans 5:14).*

The Apostle Paul said that Adam is a type of Christ. Adam’s failure was a conscious decision to choose rebellion against God, while Christ’s success was a conscious decision to remain faithful and loyal to God. Adam was a mirror of the sons of God in heaven. Christ is a special Son of God. Christ succeeded; he was victorious, and his redemptive sacrifice has bought salvation to all of mankind.



Adam was a foreshadow of the first creation in heaven who have the responsibility to protect all life under their care. One-third of the angels in heaven have rebelled against God. Adam chose to follow in their footsteps. The Son of God through the power of the Father created all of the spirit beings in heaven. He is the protector that the Father has tested and with absolute assurance, trumpets to mankind that he will not fail. By following him, mankind will not fall again.

“So, this is what the Lord GOD says: ‘See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; the one who believes will never be shaken’” (Isaiah 28:16).

The New Testament is clear about events that have happened in the past, are a foreshadow of greater events in the future. It is God’s method of transparency revealing His plan to His people. He is not a God of secret societies, but a God who has applied imagery on earth to mirror spiritual matters, used numbers to point to the invisible, spoke in parables to hide the truth from the wicked while making it known to believers, recorded stories to preserve history and provided foreshadowing that works like a hologram to broadcast future events. This is all by design, so that nobody can say that they didn’t know, or couldn’t understand their spiritual calling and miss out on God’s invitation into His family.

The Apostle Paul explained, “Things which are a *mere shadow of what is to come*; but *the substance belongs to Christ*” (Colossians 2:17).

Christ is the real deal, the substance.

The Apostle Paul understood God’s coded language. The tabernacle built by ancient Israel while wandering in the wilderness was a copy of God’s temple in the highest heaven.

“Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are already priests who offer gifts according to the law. The place where *they serve is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven*. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: ‘See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain’” (Hebrews 8:4-5).

God is plain and simple. The disciples all understood. Even the prophets saw as through a glass darkly things that were to come.

The people of ancient Israel were an example for believers today. “Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, for they were struck down in the wilderness. *Now these things happened as examples for us*, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved” (1 Corinthians 10:5-6).

Also, “*Now these things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us*, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come” (1 Corinthians 10:11).

Relentlessly, God teaches His people about the pain and destruction caused by sin and the heavy price needed to correct wrongs and bring change. He implemented the sacrificial system to teach them this important lesson, watching the innocent die and feeling the painful loss. It was a method for atonement, but only a shadow of the only sacrifice that could atone.

“For Law [the physical rituals that atone through the application of the sacrifice], since it has only *a shadow of the good things to come* and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near... Instead, those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins” (Hebrews 10:1, 3-4).

The study of Jesus Christ and his shadow in the Old Testament is well studied and yet, still so much more will to be discovered in the future.

THE REDEMPITIVE SACRIFICE OF JESUS WAS FORESHADOWED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT AND FULFILLED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Joel Settecase provides a succinct list of events and the supporting scriptures that record the Old Testament foreshadow and the New Testament fulfilment of Christ's redemptive sacrifice.¹⁵

- **He would be betrayed by a friend who ate his bread.**

Foreshadowed: Psalm 41:9 – “Even my friend in whom I trusted, one who ate my bread, has raised his heel against me.”

Fulfilled: Mark 14:10 – “Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them... “Jesus said, ‘...one of you will betray me – one who is eating with me... the one who is dipping bread in the bowl with me.”

- **The Lord would be valued at just 30 pieces of silver.**

Foreshadowed: Zechariah 13:11 – “Then I said to them, ‘If it seems right to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them.’ So, they weighed my wages, thirty pieces of silver’ ...the Lord said to me–this magnificent price I was valued by them.”

Fulfilled: Matthew 26:15 – ““What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?” So, they weighed out thirty pieces of silver for him.”

¹⁵ Settecase, Joel M.. “This Is Apologetics: An Argument from Foreshadowing.” 29 March, 2018. Settecase, <https://settecase.wordpress.com/2018/03/29/this-is-apologetics-an-argument-from-the-bibles-hyper-specific-foreshadowing-of-jesus-death/>. Accessed May 15, 2020.

- **The coins would be thrown into the temple and would go to a potter.**

Foreshadowed: Zechariah 11:13 – “‘Throw it to the potter,’ the Lord said to me... so I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw it into the house of the LORD, to the potter.”

Fulfilled: Matthew 7, 27:5 – “So he threw the silver into the temple and departed... They conferred together and bought the potter’s field with it....”

- **He remained silent while being treated unjustly.**

Foreshadowed: Isaiah 53:7 – “He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth.”

Fulfilled: Matthew 27:12 – “While he was being accused by the chief priests and elders, he didn’t answer.”

- **He would be hated without cause.**

Foreshadowed: Psalm 69:4 – “Those who hate me without cause are more numerous than the hairs of my head....”

Fulfilled: Luke 23:4 – “Pilate then told the chief priests and the crowds, ‘I find no grounds for charging this man.’”

- **He would be surrounded and mocked by strong, evil men.**

Foreshadowed: Psalm 22:12 – “Many bulls have surrounded me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me.

Foreshadowed again: Psalm 22:16 – “For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me.”

Fulfilled: Mark 19:15:16 – “The soldiers led him away... and called the whole company together. They dressed him in a purple robe, twisted together a crown of thorns, and put it on him. And they began to salute him, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ They were hitting him on the head with a stick and spitting on him.”

- **His hands and feet would be pierced.**

Foreshadowed: Psalm 22:16 – “They pierced my hands and my feet.

Fulfilled: Mark 15:24 – “Then they crucified him”

- **He would entrust his spirit to God.**

Foreshadowed: Psalm 31:5 – “Into your hand I entrust my spirit.”

Fulfilled: Luke 23:46 – “And Jesus called out with a loud voice, ‘Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit.’ Saying this, he breathed his last.”

- **He would be scourged.**

Foreshadowed: Isaiah 53:5 – “By his wounds [scourging] we are healed.”

Fulfilled: Matthew 27:26 – “Then he released Barabbas to them and, after having Jesus flogged, handed him over to be crucified.”

- **He would be positioned among criminals.**

Foreshadowed: Isaiah 53:12 – “...he was counted among the rebels....”

Fulfilled: Luke 23:33 – “When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals, one on the right and one on the left.”

- **His bones would not be broken.**

Foreshadowed: Psalm 34:20 – “He protects all his bones; not one of them is broken.”

Foreshadowed again: Exodus 12:46 – “You may not take any of the meat outside the house, and you may not break any of its bones.” (Referring to the Passover lamb).

Fulfilled: John 19:33-36 – “When they came to Jesus, they did not break his legs since they saw that he was already dead...For these things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled: Not one of his bones will be broken.”

- **He would gain the approval of God by going to his death willingly.**

Foreshadowed: Isaiah 53:12 – “Therefore I will give him the many as a portion, and he will receive the mighty as spoil, because he willingly submitted to death....”

Fulfilled: John 10:18 – “This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again.”

- **He would be condemned to death with the wicked, but he would be given to a rich man after he died instead, because he had spoken and lived righteously.**

Foreshadowed: Isaiah 53:9 – “He was assigned a grave with the wicked, but he was with a rich man at his death, because he had done no violence and had not spoken deceitfully.”

Fulfilled: Matthew 27:57-60 – “When it was evening, a rich man... named Joseph came, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus... So, Joseph took the body... and placed it in his new tomb....”

- **He would be gazed at by residents of Jerusalem responsible for piercing him.**

Foreshadowed: Zechariah 12:10 – “...the residents of Jerusalem... will look at me whom they pierced.”

Fulfilled: John 19:19-22 – Outside of the city of Jerusalem, the Place of the Skull, is where they crucified him. “Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, ‘Do not write “The King of the Jews,” but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.’ Pilate answered, ‘What I have written, I have written.’”

- **He would be mocked for not being saved.**

Foreshadowed: Psalm 22:7-8 – “Everyone who sees me mocks me; they sneer and shake their heads: ‘He relies on the LORD; let him save him; let the LORD rescue him, since he takes pleasure in him.’”

Fulfilled: Mark 15:29-30 – “Those who passed by were yelling insults at him, shaking their heads, and saying, ‘Ha! The one who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself by coming down from the cross!’”

- **He would be mocked by those who accused him.**

Foreshadowed: Psalm 109:25 – “I have become an object of ridicule to my accusers.”

Fulfilled: Mark 15:31 – “In the same way, the chief priests with the scribes were mocking him among themselves....”

- **He would be offered gall.**

Foreshadowed: Psalm 69:21 – “Instead, they gave me gall for my food...”

Fulfilled: Mark 15:23 – “they gave him wine mixed with gall to drink.”

- **He would be offered vinegar.**

Foreshadowed: Psalm 69:21 – “...and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”

Fulfilled: Luke 23:36 – “They came offering him sour wine”

- **His garments were divided among those nearby.**

Foreshadowed: Psalm 22:17-18 – “People look and stare at me. They divided my garments among themselves....”

Fulfilled: John 19:23-24 – “When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, a part for each soldier.

- **Lots would be cast for his clothing.**

Foreshadowed: Psalm 22:18 – “...and they cast lots for my clothing.”

Fulfilled: John 19:24- “They also took the tunic... they said to one another, ‘Let’s... cast lots for it, to see who gets it.’”

Jesus’ death on the cross was clearly recorded in the Old Testament as a foreshadow of future events that were fulfilled and recorded in the New Testament. Jesus was always with the people of ancient Israel from the beginning all the way back to Abraham and before the foundation of the earth. He was the lead angel of the three who came to Abraham about the decision of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Jesus was present with the ancient Israelites when they left Egypt. God Almighty—their King, moved ahead of them by fire at night and a cloud by day and the angel of God moved with Almighty God leading the people of Israel.

“Then the angel of God, who had been leading the people of Israel, moved to the rear of the camp. The pillar of cloud also moved from the front and stood behind them, so that it came between the camps of Egypt and Israel. The cloud was there in the darkness, but it lit up the night. So, all night long neither camp went near the other” (Exodus 14:19-20).

Jesus in the Old Testament was the angel of God. He has been with the people of Israel from the beginning to this very day; he

never left them. He has been leading and protecting them without them realizing it. Though God told them, they didn't seem to understand.

God Almighty said, *"Behold, I am sending an angel before you to protect you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. Pay attention to him and listen to his voice; do not defy him, for he will not forgive rebellion, since My Name is in him"* (Exodus 23:20-21).

God's name is YAHUAH

The Son of God's name is YASHUAH.

The redemptive sacrifice of the angel of God was the first critical step to the salvation of mankind. This sacrifice is foreshadowed in the Passover supper. A young male lamb without blemish was killed and the blood of this lamb was painted on the door post of every home by ancient Israel before exiting out of Egypt.

THE HEBREW PASSOVER IS A FORESHADOW OF A PACKAGE OF THREE SIGNIFICANT STEPS IN GOD'S SALVATION PLAN FOR MANKIND.

1. The redemptive sacrifice of Yashuah HaMashiach
2. The First Resurrection
3. The exodus out of Egypt/sin.

The redemptive sacrifice of the Messiah is celebrated annually by Judeo-Christians. The Jews keep the Passover service awaiting a Messiah. Christians keep Good Friday and Easter Sunday remembering the death and resurrection of Christ. Both groups are flawed. The Jews will come to learn that they were instrumental in the death of their Messiah over 2,000 years ago and the Christians will clean out the still-remaining pagan elements of this very important event.

Christ did not die on Good Friday nor was he resurrected on Easter Sunday. Jesus died around 3:00pm on a Wednesday afternoon. There was a short period of time before sunset for the women to prepare his body for burial. That evening was the annual Passover Holy Day. God designed the new day to begin after sunset. Jesus was resurrected just after sunset on the weekly Sabbath (Saturday). The Easter celebration includes chocolate bunnies, Easter eggs and hot cross buns, which are all ancient pagan traditions that do not belong with the holy blood of Jesus Christ.

Forgotten in the 21st century, is the joy Christians felt when Jesus welcomed them back into the covenant family. Amazing grace has never been forgotten. Sung regularly, it will be heard for all eternity by the humbled, repentant people of all twelve tribes of Israel.

The second foreshadow in the Passover celebration is revealed in the name itself. The death angel passed over the firstborn sons of those with the blood of the lamb painted on the door post. Pharaoh understood God's message. Under the leadership of the heavenly ruler, all the people of Egypt went into sin. The Egyptians would not be part of the first resurrection; the death angel took the lives of the Egyptian firstborn sons who did not have the blood of the lamb on their door posts. They felt the pain of this loss.

The ancient Israelites with the blood of the lamb painted on their door posts lived. God is pointing to a spiritual message: those who accept the sacrifice of Christ will live. The people who accept the redemptive sacrifice and obey God, they will be the first to be resurrected into their eternal, glorious bodies. They will be part of the *better* resurrection. They are those who accept the sacrifice of Christ and eat the unleavened bread during the annual Days of Unleavened Bread by overcoming, picturing the taking in of pure truth not puffed-up lies, disinformation, and misinformation.

They annually drink wine on the Passover service remembering Christ's sacrifice, his spilt blood, and renew their blood covenant with God. They are prepared to die, if necessary, to remain faithful and loyal to Almighty God.

The heavenly ruler over Egypt was at one time a great leader, but he fell away from God. His pride and arrogance destroyed him. God warned him, but he would not listen. In turn, only the people who painted the blood of the lamb on their door posts among Pharaoh's people will be part of the first resurrection.

“Son of man, say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his hordes: ‘Who can be compared with you in majesty?’” (Ezekiel 31:1)

God urged this heavenly ruler to consider the fate of the heavenly ruler over Assyria on earth who was envied by all the leaders in God's family and yet, he fell. This renown member in God's heavenly court became proud and arrogant because of the height to which his leadership grew. This ruler was brought down by God and now He urged the heavenly ruler over Egypt, “Yet you, too, will be brought below; you will lie among the uncircumcised [wicked], with those killed by the sword [judged and sentenced by the law of God]. This is Pharaoh and all his hordes,” declares the LORD (Ezekiel 31:18).

Most of the fallen angels given rulership over the nations on earth, have been brought down into inner earth, where they are imprisoned in the Pit—Sheol—the Abyss. From their great heights in heaven, they have been cast down to live, until judgement, inside the earth—the lowest place in all creation—below mortals, below the creation they despise.

Still in the future, the heavenly ruler over Babylon will be dethroned. Babylon was precious at one time in God's eyes. King Nebuchadnezzar declared the God of Israel as the Supreme God

and commanded all to worship Him. This is directly linked to the righteousness and faithfulness of the heavenly ruler over Babylon. But, this ruler, like all the others, has turned against his Creator.

Isaiah wrote, “Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the glory of the Babylonians’ pride, will be overthrown by God like Sodom and Gomorrah. She will never be inhabited or live in through all generations. On the day the LORD gives you [Israel] relief from the suffering and turmoil and cruel bondage, you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon, ‘How the oppressor has come to an end... Now that you have been laid low... The grave below is all astir to meet you at your coming; it rouses the spirits of the departed to greet you—all those who were leaders in the world; it makes them rise from their thrones—all those who were kings over the nations. They will respond, they will say to you, you also have become weak, as we are; you have become like us’” (Isaiah 13:19, Isaiah 14:3-4a, 9-10).

These heavenly rulers thought they were invincible, but they can be destroyed. “Will you then say, ‘I am a god,’ in the presence of those who kill you? *You will be but a man, not a god, in the hands of those who slay you*” (Ezekiel 28:9). Taking down the powerful king of Babylon will be as easy as spiritual beings taking down mortals.

The fallen sons of God will die like mere men. They will become powerless; they will feel their weakness, loss of sound thinking and their decay will be visible to all to see.

“I have said, ‘You are gods; you are all sons of the Most High.’ But like mortals you will die, and like rulers you will fall” (Psalm 82:6-7).

The third step in the foreshadow of the Passover was the exodus out of Egypt symbolized as the exodus out of sin. The great, ancient exodus remembered today and portrayed in movies will be a small event compared to the second, spectacular exodus to come.

FORESHADOWS: The FIRST and SECOND EXODUS

*“It will no longer be said, ‘As the LORD lives, who brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ but, ‘As the LORD lives, who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where He had banished them.’ For I will restore them to their own land which I gave to their fathers”
(Jeremiah 16:14-15, Jeremiah 23:7-8).*

When God’s people turn away from Him and live in the ways of rebels, full of corruption, hatred, and dishonesty, God causes them to fall into captivity, where they are attacked and taken out of their country to live as slaves among their captors. It happened in ancient times and it is prophesied to happen, again. Back into captivity, they will go.



Today, we live in a world of corrupt governments, manipulated finance and trading, protocol-controlled medical professionals, and an educational system who has misrepresented history by filling text books with a formulated narrative. Religion is silent,

for the most part, to warn and educate the people who are captured in a system of darkness.

A second captivity is prophesied. God's people will be the target of Satan's wrath and they will awaken in shock and terror. During this time of great distress, God's people will remember Him. They will humbly repent and cry out to Him. He will hear and rescue them. God used the First Exodus of the ancient Israelites out of Egypt as a foreshadow of the greater most spectacular Exodus to come.

"If anyone is destined for captivity, into captivity he will go; if anyone is to die by the sword, by the sword he must be killed."

Here is a call for the perseverance and faith of the saints. Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. This beast had two horns like a lamb, but spoke like a dragon" (Revelation 13:9-11).

THE EXODUS OUT OF EGYPT FORESHADOWED THE GREATEST EXODUS YET TO COME

Isaiah recorded God's prophetic words describing a second exodus, one different from the first. God trumpeted, "Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean thing! Come out from it and be pure, you who carry the vessels of the LORD. You *will not leave in a hurry, running for your lives. For the LORD will go ahead of you; yes, the God of Israel will protect you from behind*" (Isaiah 52:11-12).

During the First Exodus, ancient Israel left in a hurry. They lived the urgency of quickly removing sin out your life and leaving it behind. In contrast, the Second Exodus will trumpet a great departing *knowing not to touch any spiritually dead thing* because they have repented and already turned to God, sincerely. They will not be racing for their lives because God Almighty is completely covering them; they are fully protected and they trust in Him. The

Second Exodus will overshadow the First. It will be a massive exodus of righteous, God-fearing and God-serving people. It will be remembered for all eternity, while the First was merely the stage play of the biggest event to ever take place.

The great Second Exodus was also recorded in the Old Testament by Zechariah.

“It will no longer be said, ‘As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ but, ‘As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where He had banished them.’ For I will restore them to their own land which I gave to their fathers” (Jeremiah 16:14-15, Jeremiah 23:7-8).

The parallels between the first and second exodus are remarkable. Each one reveals events from the past that will happen again, without being hindered or thwarted.

The First Exodus and the Second Exodus comparison

- **Joseph fed the ancient world; Jesus feeds the modern world**

First Exodus: Prior to the exodus, the ancient Israelites went to Egypt to be saved from the great famine. They eventually became slaves to the Egyptians. Joseph rose up and became second in command under Pharaoh. He fed the people. He gave them all physical life. This is a mirror of what is to come.

Second Exodus: Prior to the Second Exodus, a portion of the 21st century nations of Israel will return to slavery (imaged as Egypt) because of they are slow to repent. Jesus Christ will teach them first through the saints, the two witnesses, and then, directly.

- **Leaving in haste to not leaving in haste**

First Exodus: The ancient Israelites left in haste during the dark of morning after the Passover. They were told to eat in haste mirroring the urgency to exit sin imaged as Egypt.

They left in the Spring, God's designated time when life begins each year.

Second Exodus: The 21st century Judeo-Christians will not leave in haste. They will sincerely repent during their captivity. They will not fear their enemy (Isaiah 52:11-12). In fact, they will be ecstatic with the realization their God is the Supreme God who will fight for them for their release.

They will know their God and trust in Him. Their exodus will likely take place again in the Spring.

- **Population**

First Exodus: Over 2 million people left.

They include:

- 603,550 counted men, twenty years and over who could serve in Israel's army (Numbers 1:46).
- In addition, older men, young boys, girls, and women.

Second Exodus: Over 300 million people will likely exit from the second captivity.

One-third of 21st century twelve tribes—nations of Israel. "I will bring into the fire; refine them like silver and test them like gold. *They will call on my name and I will answer them*" (Zechariah 13:9).

Prior to this exodus different groups of 21st century Israelites will not be included in the group who go into captivity. The Philadelphia group are prophesied to be “kept from the hour of trial” (Revelation 3:10). The church that escapes from the grips of the serpent into the wilderness (Revelation 12:6) may be a different group to the Philadelphia group. Many will die. As Zechariah recorded, “And in all the land, declares the LORD, *two-thirds will be cut off and perish*, but a third will be left in it” (Zechariah 13:8).

- **Bondage**

First Exodus: Ancient Israel was in bondage.

“And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigor” (Exodus 1:14).

Second Exodus: The last portion of the 21st century nations of Israel will repent while in bondage.

“In that day,’ declares the LORD Almighty, ‘I will break the yoke off their necks and will tear off their bonds; no longer will *foreigners* enslave them” (Jeremiah 30:8).

- **Cried out for deliverance**

First Exodus: Israel cried out in Egypt to the God of their fathers before they are delivered.

“And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them” (Exodus 3:9; 2:24).

Second Exodus: 21st century Israel will be taken into captivity and they will plead to God for rescue.

“So, there is hope for your future, declares the LORD, and your children will return to their own land. I have surely heard *Ephraim’s moaning*: ‘You disciplined me severely, like an untrained calf. Restore me, that I may return, for You are the LORD my God. After I returned, I repented; and after I was instructed, I struck my thigh in grief. I was ashamed and humiliated because I bore the disgrace of my youth’” (Jeremiah 31:17-19).

How often we do foolish things when we are young.

“For behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will *restore from captivity My people Israel and Judah*, declares the LORD. I will restore them to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they will possess it” (Jeremiah 30:3).

The whole kingdom, both houses, will repent and cry out to God at the same time. This has never happened in the past.

- **Ransomed**

First Exodus: Israelites were ransomed from the hand of a stronger force—Egypt.

“And the LORD said unto Moses, ‘Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews, “Let my people go, that they may serve me”’” (Exodus 9:13).

Second Exodus:

“For the LORD will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they” (Jeremiah 31:11).

“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; YHWH [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).

- **Gathered**

First Exodus: The Israelites were gathered as one family out of Egypt.

Second Exodus: The 21st century nations of Israel will be taken into captivity and scattered as slaves among many nations on earth. God will again gather them, raking them up from wherever they are across the planet into a single body, a united kingdom.

“In that day the LORD will thresh from the flowing Euphrates to the Wadi of Egypt, and you, O Israelites, will be *gathered* one by one” (Isaiah 27:12).

- **Nation to nations**

First Exodus: The God of Israel pulled one nation out of one nation.

“Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation” (Deuteronomy 4:34).

Second Exodus: The God of Israel is going to pull the Israelites who are now *many nations* from out of all the nations of the world.

“I will gather you and your children from east and west and from north and south. I will bring my sons and daughters back to Israel from the distant corners of the earth” (Isaiah 43:6).

“I will surely bring my people back again from all the countries where I will scatter them in my fury. I will bring them back to this very city and let them live in peace and safety” (Jeremiah 32:37).

- **Traveled**

First Exodus: Traveled by foot

Second Exodus:

Returning captives will travel over land on the Highway of Holiness (Isaiah 35:8) also from the air and on boats.

“Who are these who fly like a cloud, and like doves to their roosts? Surely the coastlands shall wait for Me; and the ships of Tarshish will come first, to bring your children from afar, their silver and their gold with them, to the name of the Lord your God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because He has glorified you” (Isaiah 60:8-9).

- **Leave with riches**

First Exodus: When ancient Israel left, the Egyptians gave them riches.

“The LORD caused the Egyptians to look favorably on the Israelites, and they gave the Israelites whatever they asked for. So, they stripped the Egyptians of their wealth!” (Exodus 12:36)

“He brought Israel out with silver and gold, and none among His tribes stumbled” (Psalm 105:37).

Second Exodus: The exiting 21st century Israelites will be treated as royalty and given a wealth of riches.

“Surely the islands will wait for Me, with *the ships of Tarshish in the lead*, to bring your children from afar, *with their silver and gold*, to the honor of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for He has glorified you” (Isaiah 60:9).

“I will give you the treasures of darkness and the riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who calls you by name” (Isaiah 45:3).

- **Distance**

First Exodus: The short distance of about 480 miles from Egypt to Canaan was prolonged for forty years as they wandered in the wilderness. The children grew close to God.

Second Exodus: The distance will be far and wide when the many Israelites from *all* over the world return. It reflects the magnitude of the conversion of God's people into a humble, God-fearing and God-serving people.

- **Miracles and Wonders**

First Exodus: The God of Israel parted the Red Sea.

“Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all the night the LORD drove back the sea with a strong east wind that turned it into dry land. So, the waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with walls of water on their right and on their left” (Exodus 14:21-22).

“Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation, by testings, by miraculous signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds, like all the things the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes?” (Deuteronomy 4:34)

Second Exodus: The God of Israel will part every ocean and every sea necessary to get His people home.

“The LORD will devote to destruction the gulf of the Sea of Egypt; with a scorching wind He will sweep His hand over the Euphrates. He will split it into seven streams for men to cross with dry sandals. There will be a highway for the remnant of His people who remain from Assyria, as there was for Israel when they came up from the land of Egypt” (Isaiah 11:15-16).

“The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East” (Revelation 16:12).

- **The exodus was prophesied**

First Exodus: Joseph said that they will exit and to take his bones with them.

“By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones” (Hebrews 11:22).

Second Exodus: This exodus will be remembered as the crescendo of God's work molding His people into holy, royal priests.

“It will no longer be said, ‘As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ but, ‘As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where He had banished them.’ For I will restore them to their own land which I gave to their fathers” (Jeremiah 16:14-15, Jeremiah 23:7-8).

- **United to reunited**

First Exodus: When the Israelites left, they were *one family, one kingdom*.

Second Exodus: The healing of a fractured kingdom will take place. When the Israelites return to the land of the forefathers, they will be *reunited into one kingdom*.

“For behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “that I will bring back from *captivity My people Israel and Judah*,” says the Lord. And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it” (Jeremiah 30:1-3).

“I am going to take the stick of Joseph—which is in Ephraim’s hand—and the Israelite tribes with him and join it to Judah’s stick with the Israelites with him, making them one single stick of wood in my hand” (Ezekiel 37:19).

The house of Israel is not the Jews today but the ten tribes that were the “lost sheep” that Jesus brought back into the covenant family. Their identity is not known to them today. The Jews today are the house of Judah. The two houses will be reunited.

- **Plagues to tribulation**

First Exodus: The plagues God poured out on Egypt demonstrated the superiority of the Hebrew God over the gods ruling over Egypt. He exposed their sins and sentenced to death those who are not redeemed. The ancient Israelites were not cursed with all of the plagues. God showed the Egyptian rulers that He will save His people with the blood of the lamb.

The Israelites went through tribulation (the plagues) prior to their exodus.

1. Water turned to blood
2. The plague of frogs
3. The plague of lice
4. The plague of flies
5. The plague of pestilence on their livestock
6. The plague of boils
7. The plague of hail
8. The plague of locusts
9. Darkness
10. Death of the firstborn

(Exodus 7-11, Psalms 78:42-51, 105:27-36)

Second Exodus: 21st century nations of Israel will go through the great tribulation—Jacob's trouble, an unprecedented crisis. There will be none like it nor ever again will there be anything like it.

“For thus says the Lord: ‘We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned

pale? Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it” (Jeremiah 30:5-7).

“Therefore, when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains... 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. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened” (Matthew 24:15-16, 21-22).

- **Birth**

First Exodus: The tribulation of the First Exodus did not birth a righteous people.

The heart or spirit of a man is the center of his thought, reason, and motivation. Because of human nature, the natural—unconverted—heart is “deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked” (Jeremiah 17:9).

The Old Covenant that God made with Israel was a good agreement but, the ancient Israelites lacked the right heart that would have allowed them to follow God truly and obey His laws sincerely.

Second Exodus: The future great tribulation will birth the remnant of the 21st century nations of Israel into a new spiritual state that leads to a true, everlasting repentance and intimate relationship with God.

“For I will take you from among the nations and gather you out of all the countries, and I will bring you back into your own land. I will also sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes and to carefully observe My ordinances” (Ezekiel 36:24-27).

The Jews will receive grace and God’s Holy Spirit.

“The Lord will save the dwellings of Judah first, so that the honor of the house of David and of Jerusalem’s inhabitants may not be greater than that of Judah” (Zechariah 12:7).

“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications” (Zechariah 12:10).

- **From only two to many**

First Exodus: All of the Israelites left Egypt, but only two: Joshua and Caleb demonstrated faith in the power of Almighty God before entering the Promised Land, hence, the forty-year wandering in the wilderness.

God would not allow those who did not put their trust in Him to enter the Holy Land.

Second Exodus: Again, God will not allow the disobedient to enter the Promised Land.

“I will take note of you as you pass under my staff, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant. I will purge you of those who revolt and rebel against me. Although I will bring

them out of the land where they are living, yet they will not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 20:37-38).

Only a remnant will return even though they were of the sand of the sea. “Though your people be like the sand by the sea, Israel, only a remnant will return. Destruction has been decreed, overwhelming and righteous” (Hosea 10:22).

It should be noted at this time, that modern Israel will experience waves of conversion. The Philadelphia group is prophesied to be kept from the hour of trial. This group may be the “woman” who flees to a place of safety for three and a half years prior to the great tribulation.

- **The blood of the lamb protects the life of the firstborn**

First Exodus: Those Israelites and even Egyptians who painted the blood of the lamb on their door post protected the life of their firstborn son.

“The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are... I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt” (Exodus 12:13).

Second Exodus: A first resurrection will take place giving eternal life to a special firstborn group of people.

“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming” (I Corinthians 15:19-23).

- **Saved**

First Exodus: The ancient Israelites were saved out of their suffering.

“During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, ‘Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord as you have requested’” (Exodus 12:31).

Second Exodus: The 21st nations of Israel will suffer but Jeremiah promises that Jacob will be saved out of his trouble. Even though that “day” is great, and like nothing we have seen before, it will not be the end of Jacob (Jeremiah 30:7).

“‘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).

- **Ancient Israel was established, but 21st century nations of Israel will participate in a great restoration**

First Exodus: When the ancient Israelites arrived in the Promised Land, there were houses for them to live in and produce from the previous peoples.

“When the Lord your God has destroyed the nations whose land He is giving you, and when you have driven them out and settled in their towns and houses” (Deuteronomy 19:1).

Second Exodus: When the Israelites return to the land of their forefathers, they will rebuild. They will be blessed and become rich and increase more than ever before.

“Behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘when the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them,’ says the LORD your God” (Amos 9:13-15).

“The land will produce abundantly, the people will multiply, and the old cities will be rebuilt” (Ezekiel 36:8-12).

• Leadership

First Exodus: The Israelites began with strong God-fearing leaders: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, and Caleb but over the years their leadership wavered and waned. Peace and prosperity did not last.

Second Exodus: Into the 21st century after the nations of Israel purge their corrupt leaders and a cleansing takes place during Jacob’s trouble, God will raise up strong leaders. Peace and prosperity will prevail (Jeremiah 23:3-7, Hosea 3:5, Micah 2:12-13).

King David will rule over the house of Israel.

“And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgements, and observe my statutes, and do them” (Ezekiel 37:24-25).

The twelve apostles will be resurrected and sit as judges over the twelve tribes; righteous judgement will be made (Matthew 19:28, Luke 22:30).

- **The tribe of Ephraim's leadership, once dead will be alive**

First Exodus: The tribe of Ephraim was the leader of the northern house in ancient times. The leaders from this tribe were feared and well respected.

“When Ephraim spoke, people trembled; he was exalted in Israel. But he became guilty of Baal worship and died” (Hosea 13:1).

Second Exodus: The nations of Ephraim will resume his place as God's son and sincerely repent.

“You have chastised me, and I was chastised, like an untrained bull; restore me, and *I will return, for You are the LORD my God.* Surely, after my returning, I repented; and after I was instructed, I struck myself on the thigh; I was ashamed, yes, even humiliated, because I bore the reproach of my youth” (Jeremiah 31:18-20).

“For there will be a day when watchmen will call out on the hills of Ephraim, ‘Arise, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God!’” (Jeremiah 31:6)

“For I am Israel's Father, and Ephraim is My firstborn” (Jeremiah 31:9b). This is an interesting scripture pointing to God's love for a people who strayed very far from Him and returned to humbly serve Him, forever.

- **Aware of their nationality to unaware**

First Exodus: The ancient Israelites all knew their birth tribes.

Second Exodus: The house of Judah knows their Hebrew roots but the house of Israel has forgotten them today. They will know soon enough because when they return to the land, it will be distributed according to their tribes. Believers from other nations will come with them and choose which tribe they want to live among, living as native citizens of Israel.

“You are to divide this land among yourselves according to the tribes of Israel. You shall allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the foreigners who dwell among you and who have children. You are to treat them as native-born Israelites; along with you, they shall be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel” (Ezekiel 47:21-23).

- **The old covenant to a renewed covenant**

First Exodus: The Israelites agreed to the covenant at Mt. Sinai, but they did not have the Holy Spirit to keep it.

“For thus says the Lord God, ‘I will also do with you as you have done, you who have despised the oath by breaking the covenant’” (Ezekiel 15:69).

“It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord” (Hebrews 8:9).

Second Exodus: Both houses of Israel (Judah and Israel) will make a new covenant. This time, they will be given the Holy Spirit that will produce a willing heart to obey (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Ezekiel 11:17-20, 36:24-29).

This new covenant is a renewed covenant made possible because they are a redeemed people so, God can give them His Holy Spirit.

“I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 11:19).

“‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will make *a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah*. But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD. I will put My law in their minds and inscribe it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they will be My people. No longer will each man teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquities and will remember their sins no more’” (Jeremiah 31:31, 33-34).

- **Ancient Israel was married to God. This intimate relationship will be offered**

First Exodus: Israel was married to God at Mt. Sinai.

“And all the people answered together, ‘We will do everything that the LORD has spoken.’ So, Moses brought their words back to the LORD” (Exodus 19:8).

God proposed an intimate relationship with the people of ancient Israel, one that only a husband and a wife share. They accepted, but they did not keep their agreement.

“For your husband is your Maker—the LORD of Hosts is His name—the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; He is called the God of all the earth” (Isaiah 54:5).

“‘Return, faithless people,’ declares the LORD, ‘for I am your husband. I will choose you—one from a town and two from a clan—and bring you to Zion’” (Jeremiah 3:14).

Second Exodus: 21st century nations of Israel will be offered again an intimate relationship with God meaning that their relationship with Him will be eternally, tightly bound as one.

“Israel will be comforted, be given hope, and will finally call God ‘My Husband’” (Hosea 2:14-16).

“Therefore, behold, I will allure her and lead her in the wilderness, and speak to her tenderly. There I will give back her vineyards and make the Valley of Achor into a gateway of hope. There she will respond as she did in the days of her youth, as in the day she came out of Egypt. In that day, you will call Me ‘My Husband,’ and no longer call Me ‘My Master’” (Hosea 2:14-16).

God has offered His people an intimate relationship with them, sharing His every dearest plan and thought. He established the marriage arrangement to mirror this type of intimacy. Only after His Holy Spirit is given, these mysteries will be understood and valued.

- **As ancient Israel cried out and sought God, so will 21st century nations of Israel**

First Exodus: The ancient Israelites called out to God for deliverance.

“After a long time, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned and cried out under their burden of slavery, and their cry for deliverance from bondage ascended to God” (Exodus 2:23).

Second Exodus: The 21st century nations of Israel will return with weeping and pleas of mercy (Jeremiah 31:9, 50:4).

The great tribulation will humble them. Now they can see both: how they have fallen short and what is expected of them. They will finally recognize that they need God.

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

- **Spiritual rejuvenation**

First Exodus: Ancient Israel went through a spiritual instruction with the receiving of the covenant at Mt. Sinai but not a transformation.

God's covenant with Abraham:

- His descendants would become great nation.
- The land of Canaan would be given to him.
- Ultimately all nations on earth would be blessed through him by the birth of Jesus from the tribe of Judah.

God's covenant with Moses at Mt. Sinai:

- Was built upon the covenant He made with Abraham.
- If they obeyed, they would be blessed and curses when disobedient (Leviticus 26).

At Mount Sinai, Israel learned:

- They were the great nation that God had promised to Abraham.
- They were the ones who would inherit the land of Canaan.
- Ultimately, their responsibility was to be a blessing to all the nations.

The implications were clear: the LORD would be Israel's God and Israel would be His people (Exodus 19).

Second Exodus: The 21st century nations of Israel will undergo a lasting spiritual transformation.

“I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily. Like a cedar of Lebanon, he will send down his roots; his young shoots will grow. His splendor will be like an olive tree, his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon. Men will dwell again in his shade. He will flourish like the grain. He will blossom like a vine, and his fame will be like the wine of Lebanon. O Ephraim, what am I anymore to do with idols? I will answer him and care for him. I am like a green pine tree; your fruitfulness comes from me” (Hosea 14:3-8).

The imagery in these verses describes God's people like a cedar—great eternal leaders, the prophets and the apostles, with deep roots—establishing a stable foundation. They will have the splendor of an olive tree—the bright lights shining on the righteous path. They are the ministry, rich in God's word, bringing their congregations into the fullness of Christ. They will flourish like grain; there will be an abundance of these leaders. These types of leaders will be famous.

- **Exodus, a witness to the world**

First Exodus: The exodus of ancient Israel and their claiming the land of Canaan was a great witness to the ancient world of the power of the God of Israel who declared himself to be the Almighty God, the Supreme God above all gods.

“I know that the Lord has given this land to you and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you... We heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea... and what you did to Sihon and Og... When we heard of it, our hearts sank and everyone's courage failed... for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below” (Joshua 2:8-11).

Second Exodus:

The 21st century nations of Israel will go through Jacob's trouble. They will be attacked and the remaining remnant will be taken into captivity where they will complete the witness of the gospel to the whole world.

Their repentance will be a witness to the whole world after hundreds of years of corruption.

“The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory” (Isaiah 62:2).

Both houses of the kingdom of Israel will be held captive and rescued by God at the same time.

“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; YHWH [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).

After 21st century nations of Israel are devastated, taken out of their countries to live as slaves among the nations, God will restore wealth and riches to them.

“At that time, I will gather you; At that time, I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes” (Zephaniah 3:20).

“And he said, ‘It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth’” (Isaiah 49:6).

“Many peoples will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.’ The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem” (Isaiah 2:3).

- **People from different nations will join Israel**

First Exodus: Some foreigners left with Israel. These people were required to keep God’s laws too.

“Many other people went up with them, and also large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds” (Exodus 12:38).

“But you must keep my decrees and my laws. The native-born and the foreigners residing among you must not do any of these detestable things” (Leviticus 18:26).

Second Exodus: Even though God makes this covenant primarily with Israel and Judah (Jeremiah 31:31), it is not limited to them.

Gentiles who submit themselves to God will also join them.

“The Lord will have compassion on Jacob; once again he will choose Israel and will settle them in their own land. *Foreigners* will join them and unite with the House of Jacob” (Isaiah 14:1).

The Sabbath will be kept by those joining the house of Israel (Isaiah 56:1-2, 6-8).

- **The rebellious will not enter into the Holy Land**

First Exodus: In the wilderness, some Israelites died due to rebellion and the whole of Israel who left Egypt died in the wilderness, except for Joshua and Caleb.

“Now Korah..., took men. And they rose up before Moses, with a number of the people of Israel, 250 chiefs of the congregation, chosen from the assembly, well-known men. They assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron and said to them, ‘You have gone too far! For all in the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?’ God saw this and became angry. He sent a plague that killed 14,700, besides those who died in the affair of Korah” (Numbers 16:1-4,46-50).

Second Exodus: Again, God will not allow rebels to enter the Holy Land.

“‘Just as I entered into judgement with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgement with you,’ declares the LORD God. ‘I will make you pass under the rod and will bring you into the bond of the covenant. I will purge you of those who rebel and transgress against Me. I will bring them out of the land in which they dwell, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD’” (Ezekiel 20:37-38).

- **Two different hearts**

First Exodus:

The old heart of stone:

God exclaimed, “Oh, that they [Israel] had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!” (Deuteronomy 5:29)

God again identifies the problem that hinders His people from honouring their covenant with Him.

“Therefore, I was angry with that generation, and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways’” (Hebrews 3:10).

Ancient Israel listened to their logic and followed their hardened heart, leading them further and further away from God’s righteous ways.

Second Exodus:

A new heart of flesh:

Ezekiel 11:17, 19-21 is a prophecy of Israel and Judah receiving a new heart from God—a spiritual heart that will enable them to keep His commandments and statutes.

“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... 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, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgements and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God. But as for those whose hearts follow the desire for their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their deeds on their own heads,’ says the Lord GOD” (Ezekiel 11:17, 19-21).

- **Model nation**

First Exodus: Ancient Israel was to be a model nation. They were not successful.

“See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding in the sight of the peoples, who will hear of all these statutes and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people’” (Deuteronomy 4:5-6).

Second Exodus: A second chance for Israel has been given to them to be a model nation. This time, they will be successful.

“In the last days the mountain [government] of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains [governments]; it will be raised above the hills [states], and all nations will stream to it. And many peoples will come and say: ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us His ways so that we may walk in His paths.’ For the law will go forth from Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. Then He will judge between the nations and arbitrate for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer take up the sword against nation, nor train anymore for war” (Isaiah 2:2-4).

- **Israel was intended to be an example to the nations of the world**

First Exodus: Ancient Israel was a bad example. The kingdom was divided into two houses and each house was taken into captivity for their sins.

722 B.C. The house of Israel is taken captive by Assyria.

586 B.C. The house of Judah is taken captive by Babylon.

After 70 years some of the Jews returned to rebuild Jerusalem but many did not return. The house of Israel never returned because they refused to repent and were then sentenced seven times their punishment. They have remained in exile to this day.

Second Exodus: The 21st century nations of Israel into the Millennium will be the good example. Israel's godly example will be so noticeable that the rest of humanity will desire to live the same way and will seek, not only God's laws, but God Himself.

“Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Peoples shall yet come, inhabitants of many cities; the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, “Let us continue to go and pray before the LORD, and seek the LORD of hosts. I myself will go also.” Yes, many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD”’ (Zechariah 8:21-22).

“In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you”’ (Zechariah 8:23).

“My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed, I will be their God, and they shall be My people. The nations also will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore” (Ezekiel 37:27-28).

- **God is merciful**

First Exodus: God brought them out of Egypt into freedom; however, continual disobedience brought them back into punishment and slavery.

“The LORD replied, ‘I have forgiven them, as you asked. Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the LORD fills the whole earth, not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt and in the desert but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times and have not obeyed my voice, shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it”’ (Numbers 14:20-23).

Second Exodus: Israel and Judah will be rescued, but not without justice.

“Behold, I will bring back the captivity of Jacob’s tents, and have mercy on his dwelling places; the city shall be built upon its own mound, and the palace shall remain according to its own plan. Then out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of those who make merry; I will multiply them, and they shall not diminish; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small. Their children also shall be as before, and their congregation shall be established before Me; and I will punish all who oppress them” (Jeremiah 30:18-20).

The first exodus brought ancient Israel out of sin into the knowledge of overcoming sinful ways with annual reminders of the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. Despite the consistent practice of the annual Holy Days, the spiritual meaning behind them was rarely fully understood because they needed God’s Holy Spirit. Christ’s accepted sacrifice brought God’s people and all humanity salvation, as well as, access to His Holy Spirit, making possible the transformation from human understanding into Godly understanding. Jesus, the Son of God is the key. He is the great Teacher, the only Teacher with a perfect understanding of God’s word. Indeed, he is the Word.

Moments in Isaac’s life provided a foreshadowing of the Messiah. Isaac’s father, Abraham, was willing to obey God in everything, even sacrifice his only heir. Isaac carried the wood over his shoulder for his potential sacrifice and was bound by his father, foreshadowing the prophecy of a sacrificial lamb. Though God did not allow Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, the event remained a foreshadow of the only sacrifice God Almighty could accept. No human sacrifice can pay for the sins of mankind. One, the Son of God, is the only heir because his sacrifice was accepted; he paid the price and bought salvation for all of mankind. His life was mirrored in Joseph, Jacob’s oldest son born from Rachel.

FORESHADOWS: JOSEPH and JESUS

*“Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come”
(1 Corinthians 10:11).*

The scriptures clearly state that by divine design examples were given to believers for teaching purposes and especially to those at the end of this evil age. The events in Joseph's life are a mirror of the troubles and successes of Jesus Christ. Joseph's life was the stage play, Jesus' life is the spiritual reality.



IN ANCIENT TIMES, JOSEPH FED THE WHOLE WORLD. IT WAS A FORESHADOW OF CHRIST FEEDING THE WHOLE WORLD IN THE LAST DAYS

Foreshadowed in ancient times, 21st century nations of Israel will find themselves in a great famine of God's word. It will stretch out across the whole world after Satan is thrown out of heaven. He

will hand his throne over to the beastly coalition. He has already been condemned and does not have sufficient power alone to overthrow Jesus Christ and Almighty God. His only hope is to stand aside and hand over his throne, great authority, and power to the beastly coalition (Revelation 13:2).

Together, with the great harlot, Mystery Babylon will cover earth with her theology wrapped in magic spells and rituals. People will be lured into a different religion that will appear to be right and good. It will take the 21st century people back to how things were in ancient times. The mythicized will be their reality. A great teaching will take place.

This special story is preserved in the life of Joseph. He was a foreshadow of Jesus. His life, his dreams, his betrayal, his trials, his sufferings, his promotions, his successes all foreshadow the life of Jesus Christ.

A comparative analysis has been done by Jews for Jesus from the notes of Mr. Bill McDonald detail a comprehensive study.¹⁶

Parallel	Joseph	Jesus
Beloved of his Father	“Now Israel loved Joseph more than all of his children” (Genesis 37:3a).	“This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17b).

¹⁶ McDonald, Bill. “Joseph and Jesus Comparison.” *Jews for Jesus*, <https://jewsforjesus.org>. Accessed May 15, 2020.

Parallel	Joseph	Jesus
Envied and hated without a cause	“When his brothers saw that their father love him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him” (Genesis 37:4).	“He knew that the chief priests had handed him over because of envy” (Mark 15:10). “They hated Me without a cause” (John 15:25b).
A root out of dry ground	“Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also, he made him a tunic of many colors” (Genesis 37:3).	“He [Messiah] shall grow up before Him as a tender plant. And as a root out of dry ground” (Isaiah 53:2a).
He foretold that one day he would rule	“Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed, your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf” (Genesis 37:7).	Jesus said to him, “It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds in heaven” (Matthew 26:6-4).

Parallel	Joseph	Jesus
Accused of being a dreamer (beside himself, deluded)	“Then they said to one another, ‘Look, this dreamer is coming!’” (Genesis 37:19)	“They went out to lay hold of him, for they said, ‘He is out of his mind’” (Mark 3:21b).
Sent by the Father to seek the welfare of his brothers	“Then they said to him, ‘Please go and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me’” (Genesis 37:14).	“Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son. Probably they will respect him when they see him’” (Luke 20:13).
He went willingly and sought until he found them	““They have departed from here, for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’ So, Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan” (Genesis 37:17).	“Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God” (Hebrews 10:9). “He came to his own, and his own did not receive him” (John 1:11).
Rejected and condemned to die	“They conspired against him to kill him” (Genesis 37:18b).	“We will not have this man to reign over us” (Luke 23:21).

Parallel	Joseph	Jesus
Stripped of his clothing	“They stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him” (Genesis 37:23b).	“They stripped him” (Matthew 27:28a).
Thrown into a pit (alone, forsaken)	“Then they took and cast him into a pit” (Genesis 37:24a).	“So will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (Matthew 12:40b).
Sold for silver into the hands of Gentiles	“So, the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt” (Genesis 37:28b)	“They counted out to him thirty pieces of silver” (Matthew 26:15b).
Raised from the pit	“So, the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit” (Genesis 37:28a).	“He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:4b).

Parallel	Joseph	Jesus
Became a servant	<p>“Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar... bought him from the Ishmaelites... The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian” (Genesis 39:1-2).</p>	<p>“I am among you as the One who serves” (Luke 22:27b).</p> <p>“Taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men” (Philippians 2:7b).</p>
Everything he did prospered	<p>“The Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand” (Genesis 39:3b).</p>	<p>“When You make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand” (Isaiah 53:10b).</p>

Parallel	Joseph	Jesus
Resisted temptation	“The temptation by Potiphar’s wife” (Genesis 39:7-12).	“For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens (Hebrews 7:26) ... but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15b).
Falsely accused	“The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me; so, it happened, as I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me and fled outside” (Genesis 39:17-18).	“But at last, two false witnesses came forward and said, ‘This fellow said, “I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days”’” (Matthew 26:60b-61).

Parallel	Joseph	Jesus
Numbered with transgressors	“Then Joseph’s master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king’s prisoners were confined” (Genesis 39:20a).	“There they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left” (Luke 23:33).
Promised deliverance to a condemned man	“Now within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your place, and you will put Pharaoh’s cup in his hand according to the former manner, when you were his butler” (Genesis 40:13).	“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43b).
Foretold the future accurately	“And it came to pass, just as he interpreted for us, so it happened” (Genesis 41:13a).	“Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am he” (John 13:19).

Parallel	Joseph	Jesus
Proved to be a great counselor	“Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you’” (Genesis 41:39).	“His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6b).
Promoted to honor and glory and given a new name	“Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt’” (Genesis 41:41, 45a).	“Therefore, God also has highly exalted him and given him the name which is above every name” (Philippians 2:9).
All people commanded to bow to him	They cried out before him, “Bow the knee! So, he set him over all the land of Egypt” (Genesis 41:43b).	“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth” (Philippians 2:10).
Provided for all in need	“So, all countries came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine was severe in all lands” (Genesis 41:57).	“Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall never hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst’” (John 6:35a).

Parallel	Joseph	Jesus
His people did not recognize him	“So, Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him” (Genesis 42:8).	“Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known me?” (John 14:9a) “But their minds were blinded” (II Corinthians 3:14a).
His brothers were troubled when they met him	“Now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life” (Genesis 45:5a).	“I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for him as one mourns for his only son, and grieves for him as one grieves for a firstborn” (Zechariah 12:10b).

Parallel	Joseph	Jesus
Allowed his brothers to suffer a period of tribulation	<p>Read Genesis 42:6-44:34</p> <p>“Now please let your servant stay here as my lord’s slave in place of the boy. Let him return with his brothers. For how can I go back to my father without the boy? I could not bear to see the misery that would overwhelm him” (Genesis 44:33-34).</p>	<p>“It is the time of Jacob’s trouble. But he shall be saved out of it” (Jeremiah 30:7).</p>
Revelation and reconciliation	<p>“Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am Joseph.’... ‘Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph: ‘God has made me lord of all Egypt’”’ (Genesis 45:3-9).</p>	<p>“And so, all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and he will turn away ungodliness from Jacob’” (Romans 11:26).</p>

JOSEPH AND JESUS

The studies done by theologians prove the author of the Bible is an eternal being, an architect with a plan, an engineer incorporating layers upon layers of interworking compartments spread over time into eternity.

The lives of the ancient patriarchs, the prophets and judges were given to them by the hand of God to foreshadow the very important spiritual story. The events in their lives are full of meaning and within the multi-layers, clear reflections into a glorious and wonderful world appear.

The story critical to mankind will always be the spiritual story, not the physical representations. However, the spiritual story remains hidden when the physical representations are not understood.

Joseph's life is one of the richest stories preserved from ancient writings. Into the 21st century, information is overflowing and resources are available at the touch of a finger. Unlike many people in the past, today's believers can grow exponentially in the knowledge of our Creator and Saviour.

“So, the last will be first, and the first will be last” (Matthew 20:16).

Jesus saved the best wine for last. In these last days, people are maturing in the knowledge, understanding, and wisdom of God. They are reading the stories, discovering the mysteries, and understanding the foreshadowing of God's great servants of long ago. Their knowledge is grounding their faith in truth. Their love for their Creator and Saviour is bringing them all together, intimately close.

Ancient Israel struggled; they died without receiving God's Holy Spirit.

When they are resurrected, they will say, “We are without hope.”

Indeed, they are correct. In God's great mercy, they will be resurrected back into their mortal bodies and He will give them His Holy Spirit. God's grace will melt their hearts of stone and move them to ask for God's word and drive them to obey His law. Their eyes will open and they will fall to their knees, humbly acknowledging the absolute supremacy of the God of Israel. Then, the multitude of faithful and righteous people will teach them. For the first time, they will appreciate the richness of God's word. Their appetite will be stimulated and strength will fill their soul. They will commit their service to the Great Creator and vow their loyalty and servitude forever.

This blend of ancient Israel with the 21st century nations of Israel is mirrored in Joseph's life. He brought his family back as a single unit and provided for them. While only a small group of seventy; Jesus will bring together millions. He will heal the fracture of the kingdom of Israel and bind them as one solid, indestructible union.

Christ's death conquered sin and secured him *the sceptre*—kingship over the kingdom. He bought all people on earth under his rulership with his blood.

Jesus is the first of the firstborn from mortality. He has been given the firstborn *birthright blessing*—the riches of all resources physical and spiritual. He has a full measure of God's knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. He will feed the whole world who live in abject poverty of God's law and His word. The Son of God is the only Teacher who knows God's word in perfect precision.

“Neither be called instructors; since One is your instructor, the Christ” (Matthew 23:10).

No Rabbi or minister can claim to be an expert of God's word and declare a doctrinal change from what Jesus taught.

Joseph's life was a mirror of mankind's Saviour. Like Jesus, he was young when God began His work through him.

"Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him" (Genesis 37:3).

The Son of God was there before the creation of heaven and earth. More than just his presence, but through the power of the Father, the Son created both heaven and earth. He is the centre piece to the whole puzzle and nothing can be fully understood until that piece is recognized and fitted in its place.

It was God's love for this Son that He planned an expansion and the birth of the God family. The engineering of the God family necessitated the death and resurrection of this Son to: test, perfect, and fortify him as the centre piece capable of holding everything together for all eternity. Without this Son of God, everything will collapse. The God family will not exist. The rebel fallen angels know this and they will continue to attack him until their time of terror is complete. While Joseph's story reveals the opposition from within the family, there exists powerful adversaries outside.

Joseph was the oldest born from Rachel, the wife Jacob loved. From the moment Jacob met this shepherdess; he loved her. Joseph was the eleventh of twelve boys born to Jacob. The number twelve is a reference to a perfect government. From four different wives, two free women and two slaves, twelve boys were born. These wives represent churches. Two churches will rise up from out of the covenant family. This family is emblematic of a perfect government engineered by God, where Christ is the

head. The firstborn of God's repentant people and people from gentile nations will become Christ's body—a unified body of many, ruling as one.

THE DREAM REVEALED WHO WOULD RULE

Jacob loved Joseph and made a prestigious robe for him (Genesis 37:3); one fit for a king. One day, Joseph had a dream. Listen he said, “We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it” (Genesis 37:7). Joseph was not haughty, nor was he competitive. He was sharing a dream that was intriguing. But his brothers scoffed and said, “Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule over us?” (Genesis 37:8)

Joseph's story provides a window into Christ's life. A mystery for many, but not for those in the last days. As Joseph suffered, Christ suffered. Joseph was exalted to rule second in charge in Egypt, Christ has been exalted and anointed by God to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords, second in charge under Almighty God.

Christ has been given rulership in heaven and earth—over all creation, including all of the sons of God in heaven, mankind on earth and those fallen angels imprisoned in inner earth. Joseph's sheaf standing upright images Christ's superiority and rulership over God's people. He is the tested stone who has been given all power and authority on earth and in heaven—his sheaf stands above them all. “So, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: ‘See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic’” (Isaiah 28:16).

His rebellious brothers both on earth and in heaven were jealous and hated him, but as prophecy reveals—all will bend their knee:

the whole house of Israel, mankind and all of the powers, authorities, and rulers in heaven.

Joseph had another dream. He said, “This time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me” (Genesis 37:9). The ancient house of Israel, the founding family of Israel clearly understood the meaning of the sun, moon and eleven stars because Jacob replied, “What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?” (Genesis 37:10)

The family of Israel over the centuries has rebelled against their calling to be a holy kingdom of royal priests. “‘You will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites” (Exodus 19:6). The Apostle Peter reaffirmed their calling. “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9).

The house of Israel said, “‘We want to be like the nations, like the peoples of the world, who serve wood and stone.’ But what you have in mind will never happen” (Ezekiel 20:32). God is in charge; His plan cannot be thwarted. “For the LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?” (Isaiah 14:27)

These rebels will repent and bend their knee. “You will remember your conduct and all the actions by which you have defiled yourselves, and *you will loathe yourselves for all the evil you have done...* I will deal with you for my name’s sake and not according to your evil ways and your corrupt practices, O house of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD” (Ezekiel 20:43-44).

Still in the future, on a near horizon, both houses of Israel, who in this 21st century have become many nations, will repent and become a God-fearing, reunited, holy kingdom of royal priests.

HE WAS SENT TO FIND HIS BROTHERS

“Now his brothers had gone to graze their father’s flocks near Shechem, and Israel said to Joseph, ‘As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them... Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me’” (Genesis 37:12-14).

Like a mirror image, Christ was sent to find his lost brothers, the lost sheep of Israel (Matthew 15:24). The house of Judah (the Jews) rejected Christ as their Saviour, so the baton was passed to their brothers—the ten tribes. These outcast tribes Jesus was sent to find and bring back into the family through God’s grace, were part of the new beginning of a church given God’s Holy Spirit. God’s people have always been a church; they have always been a church kingdom. Only a few were given God’s Holy Spirit in times past to fulfill important roles, allowing God to move forward in the rescue of creation on earth.

With the resurrection of Christ, all repentant people from inside and outside of the covenant family will receive God’s Holy Spirit. They will complete the commission and take the legal testimony of Christ to all the nations, and then the end will come. It was the house of Joseph who fed the world in Joseph’s time not the house of Judah, so the mirroring continues as the West led by the Christians will take the gospel to the world during a time of extreme distress, Jacob’s trouble—the Great Tribulation.

At a distance, Joseph’s brothers saw him coming—a reflection of Christ’s coming foretold by the prophets. Before Joseph reached them, they had plotted to kill him. The mysteries hidden in the multi-layers, shimmer through as we see the remaining fallen sons

of God ruling over the nations from the heavens, also plotting their brother's demise. While it was the Jewish priests who led the campaign to kill Jesus on earth, they were not alone. An obscure scripture in I Corinthians 2:8 removes the veil for a moment, between heaven and earth to give us a glimpse on earth of the battles that rage in the heavens. "None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, *they would not have crucified the lord of glory*" (I Corinthians 2:8).

HE IS THROWN IN THE PIT

Joseph was thrown into a pit by his brothers, like the Son of God who, too, was put into the grave by his brothers, the leading Jewish priests shouted, "Crucify him, crucify him!" The Psalmist recorded the death of Christ with unlikely imagery of raging bulls, lions, and dogs surrounding him as he was dying on the cross. God's imagery of bulls, lions, and dogs refer to the rebel heavenly rulers, powers, and principalities who have lost their godliness and are now destined to die are characterized as soulless animals. Dogs are also an image used to describe heathens.

"Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. Roaring lions [lion symbolic of royalty—royal family members] tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint... you lay me in the dust of death... Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all of my bones; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing" (Psalm 22:12-18).

Christ spent three days and three nights in the grave.

JOSEPH'S COAT WAS TORN AND DIPPED IN BLOOD

The coat is an image of honour like that of a prince. It mirrors the love that God, the Father has for His Son who is the Prince among all princes. Joseph's brothers fake his death by tearing his coat and dipping it in the blood of a goat. God is consistent with His use of language. Joseph's brothers didn't understand their actions. The choice of the blood of a goat is a mirror of the two goats selected by God on the Day of Atonement/Yom Kippur. In ancient times, animal sacrifices were practiced. On the Day of Atonement/Yom Kippur, one goat was used as a "scapegoat" who took the blame for their actions of sinners and the other goat was sacrificed. It is no surprise when Christ returns that his "robe is dipped in blood" (Revelation 19:13).

Jacob recognized Joseph's coat and said, "It is my son's robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces" (Genesis 37:33). Jacob believed Joseph to be dead and he mourned. Overtime, even Joseph's brothers believed their own lie. As Joseph was considered dead by his father, so too, God the Father recognized Jesus on earth in his dying physical body as dead, until Almighty God resurrected him back into immortality. Many among God's people today, disregard the sacrifice of Jesus; it is like he is dead.

SOLD AS A SLAVE

Both Joseph and Jesus were sold for the price of a slave.

"And he sent a man before them—Joseph, sold as a slave. They bruised his feet with shackles, his neck was put in irons" (Psalm 105: 17-18). God will choose enduring, humble servants who trust in Him and receive strength from Him to do His work.

TEMPTED BUT DID NOT SIN

Joseph became the servant to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials in Egypt. Everything that Joseph did, God blessed him and Potiphar noticed and promoted him; "He left in Joseph's care everything he had... he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate" (Genesis 39:2-6).

Joseph was well-built and handsome and it wasn't long when Potiphar's wife noticed him and asked him to go to bed with her (Genesis 39:7). Relentlessly, she threw herself on him, each time he declined. "One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. She caught him by his cloak and said, 'Come to bed with me!' But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

She knew his conviction and remembered his words, "How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" So, she lied and accused him of attempting to rape her.

Far from his Father's place in heaven, Christ was born on earth and became a servant. As the life of Joseph unfolds, the greater story of Christ is revealed. The temptation by the evil one after Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights in the wilderness, shimmers through as a repetition out of the pages in the story of Joseph.

"Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, 'All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve'" (Matthew 4:8-10).

Joseph and Jesus were tempted in the same way, but neither one of them weakened; they ran from adultery. They were unrelentingly

loyal to serving and obeying the Almighty God. Women image the church. Knowledge, understanding, and wisdom all are expressed in the female part of speech.

Solomon understood. “Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will preserve you; love her, and she will guard you” (Proverbs 4:5-6). Three times in one sentence, Solomon referred to God’s theology in the female part of speech.

The Apostle Paul had an exceptional knowledge of the mysteries of God. He fully understood the God’s use of gender. “For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:9-10).

Biblehub.com provides the translation and meanings of the Greek for the word “knowledge,”¹⁷ and Hebrew for the words “understanding”¹⁸ and “wisdom.”¹⁹

Knowledge	Understanding	Wisdom
<p>epistēmē: Knowledge, full knowledge, discernment, recognition</p> <p>Original Word: ἐπιστήμη</p> <p>Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine</p> <p>Transliteration: epistēmē</p> <p>Pronunciation: eh-peh-gno-sis</p> <p>Phonetic Spelling: (ep-ig' ne-sis)</p> <p>Definition: Knowledge, full knowledge, discernment, recognition</p> <p>Meaning: knowledge of a particular point (directed towards a particular object), perception, discernment, recognition, relation</p>	<p>binah: Understanding, insight, discernment</p> <p>Original Word: בִּינָה</p> <p>Part of Speech: Noun Feminine</p> <p>Transliteration: binah</p> <p>Pronunciation: bee-NAH</p> <p>Phonetic Spelling: (bee-naw)</p> <p>Definition: Understanding, insight, discernment</p> <p>Meaning: understanding</p>	<p>chokmah: Wisdom</p> <p>Original Word: חֹכֶמָה</p> <p>Part of Speech: Noun Feminine</p> <p>Transliteration: chokmah</p> <p>Pronunciation: kho-MAH</p> <p>Phonetic Spelling: (khok-maw)</p> <p>Definition: Wisdom</p> <p>Meaning: wisdom</p>

¹⁷ Biblehub. “Knowledge.” Biblehub.com, <https://biblehub.com/greek/1922.htm>. Accessed May 15, 2020.

¹⁸ Biblehub. “Understanding.” Biblehub.com, <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/998.htm>. Accessed May 15, 2020.

¹⁹ Biblehub. “Wisdom.” Biblehub.com, <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/998.htm>. Accessed May 15, 2020.

All three words use the female part of speech.

There is only one woman to love and that is the church that is full of the knowledge of God, the understanding of His law and ways, and the rare wisdom that protects against sin.

Daily, Joseph lived feeling the expectations upon him to accept and participate in the pagan practices of the Egyptians, but longed to be living among the righteous. Jesus loved Jerusalem and longed to bring the ministry under his wing and purify them. Satan knew his tender feelings and tempted him. Jesus responded, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only” (Matthew 4:10). He, like all of the prophets of old, knew to wait patiently on God, knowing the right time will come when God has His legal case complete against the enemies of righteousness.

Both Joseph and Jesus are in love and fully committed to the church who loves and lives the theology of Almighty God. Wickedness is always at work. Counterfeit churches have risen up confusing the people and causing them to commit adultery against Almighty God.

THE ADULTEROUS WOMAN RIDING THE BEAST

During the dark days that lie ahead, a false church riding a beastly government will persecute the righteous church. Relentlessly, this loyal and faithful church will be attacked for a time that God has determined.

“The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. *He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed*, for what has been determined must take place” (Daniel 11:36).

The men and women who comprise this body of Christ, will not be tempted to join the false church and commit adultery against

Almighty God. Characteristic of the Philadelphia church is their love for their Saviour. They will not deny Christ's name or sin against God. Among the faithful, another tested group will overcome Satan "by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they will not love their lives so much as to shrink from death" (Revelation 12:11).

THE ACCUSED—THAT HEBREW SLAVE WAS SILENT

In her disdain for being rejected, Potiphar's wife said, "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house" (Genesis 39:17-18).

When the master heard the story his wife, he ordered Joseph's imprisonment. "Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined" (Genesis 39:20).

The difficulties in the life of Joseph continued to reflect the life of Jesus. False accusations were made against Jesus. "Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas, the high priest... The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. But they did not find any, though *many false witnesses came forward*" (Matthew 27:57-59).

"When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, 'Don't you hear how many things they are accusing you of?' But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor" (Matthew 27:12-14).

Both Joseph and Jesus were innocent and falsely accused, yet accepted the penalty without a word.

BOTH JOSEPH AND JESUS WERE HEBREWS

Together they represent all of the twelve tribes of Israel. Joseph received the firstborn blessing by his father and his youngest son became the leader of the ten tribes of Israel—the northern house. Jesus was born from the tribe of Judah, the southern house given the sceptre.

Through the mirroring in the story of Joseph, it is understood that Jesus is also representative of the ten tribes of Israel, the northern house. Joseph was given the firstborn birthright blessings. It is a blessing of rich, physical resources of land and the abundance it produces. On a spiritual level, it images an abundance measure of having God's word.

Jesus Christ was anointed High Priest. He is Lord of lords. He has the firstborn blessings of riches; he is the bread of life. He is full of God's knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. The sceptre is a symbol of law and the double blessings of the firstborn is symbolic of grace. Christ has the authority to extend grace because all people on earth have been purchased by him, through his redemptive sacrifice. Christ will bring law and grace together at the beginning of his millennial reign on earth; he is King of kings and Lord of lords.

Today, God's people remain a divided kingdom, but their reunification is prophesied; it is guaranteed.

“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: ‘I am going to take the stick of Joseph—which is in Ephraim's hand—and the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah's stick with the Israelite tribes associated with him, making them a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand... they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms’” (Ezekiel 37:19, 22).

The reunification of the two houses by God is an event timed exactly when Christ rules on earth where he will be King and Lord. Law and grace will be bound together as one. It will result in leadership that exercises the full knowledge of God's way, the clear understanding of the truth, and the rare application of wisdom that will heal the spiritually sick and give spiritual growth to the weak.

GOD'S HUMBLE SERVANTS WERE NUMBERED AMONG THE TRANSGRESSORS

“While Joseph was there in the prison, the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. So, the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there” (Genesis 39:21-22).

Joseph's fascinating story takes a twist when the cupbearer and the baker are thrown in prison and placed under his care. They each have a dream, which leads to Joseph's reply, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams” (Genesis 40:8).

God gives Joseph the meaning of the dreams, but it wasn't until Pharaoh had a dream, two years later that the cupbearer remembered Joseph and he was brought before Pharaoh and again, Joseph gives credit to God. Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “It is not within my power, but God will speak concerning the welfare of Pharaoh” (Genesis 41:16).

No matter what place Joseph found himself in, he remembered God. Whether serving under the captain of the guard or in a prison. The place was of no significance; he revered and served God humbly not taking any glory for himself. He sought to reveal the power of God, which in his time, often came in the form of interpreting dreams.

The Son of God, for a time, gave up his glorious eternal body to be born flesh and blood and die with the shamed. “I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier, because he exposed himself to death. *He was counted among the rebels*. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels” (Isaiah 53:12).

Jesus lived and breathed God’s will. “I don’t speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it” (John 12:49).

The work of God’s hands is a meek and humble servant who is not self-seeking or selfish. And through God’s grace, He shares His plan, knowledge, and wisdom to those who seek and obey Him.

THE MEANING OF THE DREAM

Now, Pharaoh had another dream.

- Out of the river, seven fat, sleek cows came up—after them, seven very ugly and lean cows and they ate the seven fat cows and remained lean and ugly.
- Seven heads of grain, full and good, growing on a single stalk—after them, seven heads sprouted, but withered as they were scorched by the east wind (Genesis 41:22-24).

Pharaoh sought the meaning of the dream.

“‘I cannot do it, but God can,’ Joseph replied. ‘At this,’ Joseph said to Pharaoh, ‘The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what He is about to do. The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven ripe heads of grain are seven years. The dreams have the same meaning. Moreover, the seven thin, ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and so are the seven worthless heads of grain scorched by the east wind—they are seven years of famine’” (Genesis 41:25-27).

The COWS and the HEADS OF GRAIN

The dream of the seven cows and the seven heads of grain both tell the same story. There will be seven years of abundance and seven years of famine. Despite the incredible abundance produced during the first seven years, so much so that Joseph stopped keeping records, it had no relief on the famine that followed. The lean, ugly cows that ate up the fat cows remained still lean and ugly, the heads of grain still withered for they were scorched by God, himself—the east wind.

The lesson God is making clear to all of mankind is that the overwhelming abundance of information, misinformation, and disinformation that God allows today, will die. God is the engineer of the upcoming famine. He will destroy the lies and disinformation. Mankind will be forced to turn to God for answers. In a time of great distress, they will be forced to rely on Him, the true Provider of life. All of mankind will become totally indebted to God for their survival through the authority of Jesus Christ. This is evident when the Egyptians sell everything to Joseph to survive, even their freedom. They tithe to Joseph and become indentured servants.

LIFTED UP BY GOD, NOW THEY ARE CONSIDERED DISCERNING AND WISE

“Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you’” (Genesis 41:39-40).

The rulership foreseen in this dream by Joseph is now his reality.

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me’” (Mathew 28:18).

The Apostle Paul added, “For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him [Christ], and through him [Christ] to reconcile to himself ALL things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross” (Colossians 1:19-20).

Jesus and Joseph were given authority over everything, except with respect to the throne. God, our Great Creator remains supreme.

HIS NAME IS CHANGED

Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah and gave him Asenath, daughter of Potiphara, priest of On, to be his wife. From Easton's Bible Dictionary, “The meaning of Joseph's new name, Zaphenath-Paneah remains unclear. This is a pure Egyptian word, and has been variously explained.”²⁰

It is no surprise that the meaning of Joseph's new name remains unclear. Even Christ's new name remains hidden to this day.

Drama and difficulties surfaced and subsided in Joseph's story, but now a time of peace and happiness ushered in the calm after the storm. Joseph was honored with a new name, reflective of his new title and authority, and a wife from a priestly family like Christ and his bride, the church. Christ has been given by God a new name reflective of his new title—King of kings, Lord of lords. One special group of people will have Christ's new name written on their foreheads.

“I will write on him [the Philadelphia church] the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem... and my new name” (Revelation 3:12). These people are a body of overcomers, of a priestly family—like Asenath.

²⁰ Biblehub. “Zaphnathpaaneah.” *Biblehub.com*. <https://biblehub.com/topical/z/zaphnathpaaneah.htm>. Accessed May 15, 2020.

“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns, He has a name written on him that no one but he himself knows” (Revelation 19:11-12).

Not known then, but will be the Name the world will come and bend their knee.

STORAGE AND PROCESSES WERE ESTABLISHED DURING THE TIME OF ABUNDANCE IN PREPARATION FOR THE TIME OF FAMINE

“Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh’s presence and traveled throughout Egypt. During the seven years of abundance, the land produced plentifully. Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities” (Genesis 41:46-49).

Christ began his ministry at the age of 30 years old. On the day of Pentecost, in the year of his resurrection, the church—a reborn group of people became the church. These people vowed to follow Christ wherever he goes. The baton was passed on that day, to spread the good news of the gospel to the whole world. As Joseph traveled the land freely, he established storehouses, so too, Christ has traveled and established churches stored with the word of God. With the invention of the printing press and the development of the internet, information, and knowledge of God’s word is everywhere. The Bible, resources, studies, research materials are easily accessible and available at a minimal cost.

We are truly living in a time where the word of God can be easily accessed—so much, that its value is diminished and often ignored. Initially, this Holy-Spirit-filled group of people, now known as the church, was a store house of the pure word of God. They were

delighted to be given the job to preach the gospel to the whole world, but over the years, false teachers and false teachings have polluted the pure truth and the seven churches of Revelation are now urged by Christ to overcome and come into perfection before God.

A great famine is on the horizon. “The seven years of abundance in Egypt came to an end, and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph said” (Genesis 41:53-54).

Christ too, has warned mankind of an upcoming trouble unsurpassed before nor ever will be.

“For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. If those days had not been cut short, nobody would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, those days will be shortened” (Matthew 24:21-22).

From the story of Joseph, we can anticipate mirroring events in our future. During the time of the Great Tribulation an unusual event will take place. A Hebrew people will come to Christ and ask for help. “Then ten of Joseph’s brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt. But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph’s brother, that harm might come to him... Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the one who sold grain to all the people” (Genesis 42:3-6).

Just as Joseph’s brothers came to him for help, so Judeo-Christians will go to Christ, who makes intercession for them, to call on God for help. “Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them” (Hebrews 7:25).

The Apostle Paul said, “Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us” (Romans 8:34).

“So, Joseph’s brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground” (Genesis 42:6). Joseph’s dream becomes a reality.

“As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them... they did not recognize him” (Genesis 42:7-8).

Many of the Jews today, do not acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God or their Saviour. Many Christians, too, have left the faith. In this upcoming time of famine, 21st century nations of Israel will turn to Christ for answers to their troubles, but he will speak harshly to them, just as Joseph did to his brothers. For over two-thousand years, Christ has urged his churches in the book of Revelation to overcome.

“Where do you come from? You are spies!” Joseph said.

Jesus said, “I know your deeds” (Revelation 3).

He has shown them their mistakes and offered them his hand to bring change and commitment to establish a strong foundation in God’s word and pure teaching in how to live God’s ways of righteousness.

The churches don’t recognize Christ talking to them because he is not speaking to them face-to-face, just as Joseph initially spoke through an interpreter. Time and the movement away from the pure truth taught by the apostles, has created a wall of confusion for the churches. They are unable to see how they have wandered off the narrow Way of Righteousness. Like Joseph’s brothers,

they believe themselves to be honest and all of their teachings to be true.

“Your servants are honest men, not spies” (Genesis 42:11). Joseph’s brothers pleaded.

They were offended by his harsh words and feared to return as the churches will fear, when they realize that they are far from honest, far from preaching the truth. Payment for grain was not accepted by Joseph. There is no payment any human can pay for eternal life, nor can eternal life be earned through works. The greater story cannot be hidden. Salvation comes from the precious gift of grace from our Creator—the Almighty God.

Joseph held them in contempt for their waywardness and imprisons Simeon, the most brutal of the family, as ransom. The remaining nine returned home with, their money, grain, and having disclosed that they have a younger brother who is with their father. Christ will feed the 21st century Israelites, but he too, will hold them accountable for their waywardness.

When Joseph’s brothers returned home, they told their father what happened and their disclosure of their youngest brother. Jacob had lost his beloved wife, Rachel and Joseph, the son he loved more than the others who he believed to be dead. He wasn’t about to lose Benjamin, the son he brought under his protective care. Joseph’s brothers knew how their father felt and they were afraid.

FORESHADOWS: BENJAMIN, A MYSTERY PEOPLE

*“Benjamin shall ravine as a wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil”
(Genesis 49:27).*

*“About Benjamin he said: ‘Let the beloved of the LORD rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long, and the one the LORD loves rests between his shoulders’”
(Deuteronomy 33:12).*

A mystery people remain hidden today because Almighty God shelters them. They will appear at a critical point, during the Great Tribulation. The 21st century nations of Israel will recognize them as part of them, but wonder why they are favoured and given authority.



Benjamin was the youngest of the twelve sons of Jacob. He is one of the most intriguing characters in the Bible. His mother, Rachel named him, Benoni, which means “son of my sorrow.” Rachel died after giving birth to him. She knew she was dying in child birth.

The only child whose name was changed by Jacob was Benoni. He changed it to Benjamin, meaning “son of my right hand.” Jacob often mirrored the special moments of Almighty God. This boy would in time, prove to be a group of men and women who will become righteous leaders with great strength.

When Jacob blessed all of his sons, he characterized Benjamin to be like a ravenous wolf devouring the prey in the morning and sharing the spoils at night. The blessings ripple in and out of time to surface with full understanding, in the latter days of this evil age. They were known to be left-handed, distinguished archers, and slingers.

The blessing Moses gave to Benjamin reflected the name that his father, Jacob gave to him. He is a son cherished, loved, and resting on his father’s chest protected in his arms.

Benjamin mirrors a mystery people who were birthed last in the family, hinting to a last-days people. Not having a mother at birth, Jacob brought him very close, protecting him with extra care more so than his brothers.

Joseph’s brothers kneeled before Joseph, revealing that they have a younger brother. “But they replied, ‘Your servants were twelve brothers, the sons of one man, who lives in the land of Canaan. The youngest is now with our father, and one is no more’” (Genesis 42:13).

After many years, Joseph’s brothers still perpetuated their lie that their brother, Joseph was dead. Many of God’s people today have reduced the monumental role and testimony of Christ into a novel, a nice idea, or a curious myth—like, he is dead. Most of the Jews [the house of Judah] have rejected Jesus and refuse to accept him as their Saviour. The admonition of Christ to his churches to overcome has faded from the pages written in

Revelation 3, so they continue in what they are doing. They image Joseph's brothers who believe that their brother is dead.

Two years later, Joseph's brothers were forced to return to Egypt to buy food. They had no choice if they wanted to live.

"Now the famine was still severe in the land. So, when they had eaten all the grain they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, 'Go back and buy us a little more food'" (Genesis 43:1-2).

Judah took the leadership role cautioning his father, "The man warned us solemnly, 'You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you'" (Genesis 43:3).

Joseph's response is similar to Jesus' response to the Jews who rejected him, "For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'" (Matthew 23:39).

Judah is the patriarch of the Jews. Their acceptance of Christ in the future is key to a chain of events that will revive 21st century Israel and the task then given to them, will test their loyalty and faithfulness.

Benjamin was the only brother of Joseph who did not betray him. He was Joseph's blood brother. Joseph demanded that his brothers bring Benjamin to him, if they want to live. Christ will do the same. He will demand to have his faithful people brought near—the ones in the direct care of the Father. Jacob, like God our Father in heaven, is very protective of His 'preserved ones' so He, like Jacob, will be reluctant to put those who are mirrored in Benjamin in the care of the 21st century wayward brothers of Joseph.

The mirroring story reveals future events where God will have to rely on Joseph's 21st century wayward brothers who image the

nations of Western Europe and the Jews, to protect this younger and vulnerable brother, God's tender faithful body of people, on their journey to Christ.

God uses the male gender to mirror national leadership. Benjamin mirrors a body of men and women who uphold the law of God and exercise truth and justice. They also will not deny Christ when planet earth is ruled by the Antichrist and his beastly coalition.

God's 'preserved ones' will be spared, during times when scoffers mock the faithful. "You have said, 'It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the LORD Almighty? But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly, the evildoers prosper, and even those who challenge God escape.' Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name. 'They will be mine,' says the LORD Almighty, 'in the day when I make up treasured possession. I *will spare them*, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him'" (Malachi 3:14-17).

These good men and women will be protected. They will rise up on the international scene during the terrifying reign of the Antichrist.

LOVE FOR HIS BROTHERS BROUGHT HIM TO TEARS, MORE THAN ONCE

Finally, after Joseph continued to confront his brothers, they began to remember how they treated him, the one who is "no more." They talk among themselves admitting to their part in the wrong doing.

"They said to one another, 'Surely, we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded

with us for his life, but we would not listen; that's why this distress has come upon us...' They did not realize that Joseph could understand them. He turned away from them and began to weep" (Genesis 42:21-24).

This scene is a mirror of the pain our Messiah will feel when God's people awaken to their waywardness.

This ancient story images the time when Christ confronts the nations of 21st century Israel. Initially, they will not recognize the confrontation coming from Christ. They will react in the same way as Joseph's brothers. Initially, they will excuse themselves; but Christ will force their return. They will come to feel shame for their evil ways, their corruption, Christianized pagan practices, false teachings, lack of depth and sincerity. Christ will see them, as Joseph saw his brothers. He will reveal his inside knowledge of them by placing them at his table in their birth order. "The men had been seated before him in the order of their ages, from the firstborn to the youngest; and *they looked at each other in astonishment*" (Genesis 43:33).

Christ will do the same. These 21st century nations do not remember their identity. Christ will heal their amnesia and they will be afraid.

At the sight of his brother, Benjamin, Joseph was brought to tears. "As he looked about and saw his brother Benjamin, his own mother's son, he asked, 'Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?'... Deeply moved at the sight of his brother, Joseph hurried out and looked for a place to weep. He went into his private room and wept there" (Genesis 43:29-30).

This chapter of the story reveals the unique relationship felt by Joseph for Benjamin—a close and tender relationship—his blood brother, who did not take part in his betrayal. Joseph has his silver

cup placed in Benjamin's sack, intentionally. It mirrors future events when the faithful people of God are given authority from Jesus that causes them grief from their own family.

The sons of Jacob return to Egypt by the command of the Egyptian soldiers. They are terrified. In this return, Joseph reveals himself. "Then he [Joseph] threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them" (Genesis 45:14).

Benjamin mirrors a special group of people who remain faithful, strong, and dear to both Almighty God and Jesus Christ. God is forming a kingdom of holy, royal priests. This holy kingdom of royal priests will eventually include people from all twelve tribes of Israel. "All of Israel will be saved" (Romans 11:26). Repentant people from all twelve tribes of Israel will be saved.

Judah brings Joseph to tears through his genuine humility, his leadership, and life-time servitude to Joseph in exchange for the safe return of Benjamin to his father. Judah's speech, while nine of his brothers remained silent, opened Joseph's heart to bring his wayward brothers close to him. "Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, 'Have everyone leave my presence!' So, there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it" (Genesis 45:1-2).

Still in the future, Christ will bring all of 21st century Israel, that is, all twelve nations, before him to see whether they are worthy of eternal life. Joseph is a mirror of Jesus. During a time before Christ's return, before and during the great famine of misinformation and disinformation, the 21st century house of Joseph will teach the world the word of God and His law. This imagery will become clear soon, but the story is clear that the

Jews will be prepared to lay down their life to protect God's cherished people—their youngest brother. The house of Judah at that time, will stand up as the leader among his brothers to prove their eternal change of heart. Christ will not send them away; this time, he will invite them *all* to stay close to him.

Joseph, who imaged Christ in his life on earth, never stopped loving his brothers, but they certainly tested him. And again, after Jacob died, they said, “What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?” (Genesis 50:15)

They distrusted Joseph's love for them and “when their message came to him, Joseph wept” (Genesis 50:17).

How many times have the houses of Israel caused Jesus to weep?

“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him” (John 1:11).

Christ suffered much sadness and disappointment from the actions of God's people. They have witnessed many, many wonders and miracles, yet still, for hundreds of years, they were faithless (the northern house) and unfaithful (the southern house).

HIS CALLING BECOMES CLEAR

At thirty years old, Joseph began to rule. His calling was clear to him. Joseph understood his two-fold, God-given commission. “But God sent me ahead of you to:

1. Preserve for you a remnant on earth.
2. Save your lives by a great deliverance” (Genesis 45:7).

Christ understood his two-fold purpose:

1. Preserve the Benjamin-type of men and women. “And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all

those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day” (John 6:39).

2. Pay the penalty for sin to save his brothers—all twelve tribes of Israel, even the ten tribes who were once divorced by God, as well as, all of mankind.

All will become evident when the resurrections take place. “For as in Adam all die, so also *in Christ all will be made alive*. But *each in his own order*: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ’s at His coming” (1 Corinthians 15:22-23).

Almighty God wants to save everyone. He longs for all of mankind to recognize their Saviour. “For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day” (John 6:40).

Almighty God knew from before creation began that His beloved Son would have to be tested and put his eternal life on the line before creation on earth could be saved. This act of great love of the Saviour of mankind weaves an eternal gratitude filled with wonder and amazement. God’s love to allow His beloved Son to die and the life-saving sacrifice of mankind’s Saviour both exhibit the greatest and deepest elements of love that exist.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one unique Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

The lives of Joseph and Jesus meet at this very point where their calling is no longer a mirror image but one of the same:

- The preserving of the faithful and true people throughout the ages and the faithful remnant that God protects and holds dear to his heart.

- To save all who come to buy food as Christ saves all who come to him and believe.

JOSEPH'S SILVER CUP

Joseph's cup goes missing and is found in Benjamin's bag! "Let it be as you say. Whoever is found to have it will become my slave; the rest of you will be free from blame," Joseph said to his brothers (Genesis 44:16).

What meaning lies in this cryptic chapter in Joseph's story of his silver cup, secretly and intentionally, hidden in Benjamin's sack that releases a gush of tension, anxiety, and terror at the moment, when everything appeared to be resolved and peaceful?

Initially, Joseph's plan was to keep only his younger brother with him—the brother who did not betray him, his blood brother. Judah stood in the way. He was bound to his promise with his father; he was unmoveable. His steadfast promise changed Joseph's heart.

We can expect the Jews, the descendants of Judah, will again demonstrate an unrelenting promise to God that will change Christ's heart and the prophecy recorded in Romans 11 will be fulfilled, "All of Israel [that is all 12 tribes] will be saved."

When Paul quoted that scripture, he was reminding the Jews that their brothers, the ten tribes will be saved. The Jews thought that only they would be saved. Today, the meaning of the same scripture is reversed. The Christians who have accepted Christ as their Saviour and follow him wherever he goes, will be saved. The wait is for the Jews to accept Christ as their Saviour and then, they will be saved. Only then, can scripture be fulfilled stating, "All of Israel [that is, all twelve tribes of Israel] *will be saved* (Romans 11:26).

Five years remaining in the famine, Joseph reveals himself. His brothers were terrified, but he asked them to come close and he comforted them by not reprimanding them for their betrayal. He explained, “It wasn’t you who sent me here, but God” (Genesis 45:8).

When Christ reveals himself and he stands face-to-face before 21st century Judeo-Christians, they will be terrified. Their relationship will be distant and immature. During that terrifying time, they will sincerely repent and then, and only then, will Christ bring them close to him. They will feel intense guilt and shame, but he will comfort them and explain that his sufferings were planned from before creation to bring forgiveness of sin for all of mankind. It establishes forever, Christ’s pre-eminence that will never be contested. His achievements are too great to be minimized and challenged.

BENJAMIN’S IS MORE THAN A BROTHER

Rachel called him “Benoni” meaning “son of my sorrow” when he was born, but Jacob changed his name to “Benjamin” meaning “son of my right hand.” Joseph’s name means “he will add.” Benjamin was added to the family. He was Joseph’s only blood brother. He represents the added body of Christ—a called-out assembly of faithful people.

Joseph cried aloud when he revealed himself. The pain of holding back his love for Benjamin and his brothers was intense. Christ loves the faithful and loyal people of God to the same degree. He has urged the seven churches of Revelation to overcome and remove the spots, wrinkles, and blemishes in their teachings and behavior, which keep them far and away from him.

When portions were served from Joseph’s table to his brothers, Benjamin’s portion was five times more than his brothers. They feasted and drank freely with him (Genesis 43:34).

In addition, Joseph gave each of them “new clothing, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five sets of clothes” (Genesis 45:22).

The imagery of Benjamin receiving five times the meal portion and five sets of clothing foretells of the time when Christ gives his faithful and loyal followers five times more knowledge, understanding, and wisdom of God’s word through an outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit. Their resurrected bodies will shine five times brighter.

As Joseph put his cup into Benjamin’s sack, Jesus will do the same to the Benjamin-type people. The rise in leadership of these special people will identify who Jesus has chosen to have authority prior to his return. Joseph’s cup is both a cup of authority and a cup of suffering. The people in the nations of 21st century Israel will watch in amazement, the rise of men and women who were previously insignificant—protected and hidden by the Father.

The tribe of Benjamin were known warriors. During the last days of this evil age, there will be no time to lure people to God, as fishers of men do. The urgency of the times will bring in the Benjamin hunters who will tear the lies, misconceptions, disinformation, misinformation away to expose the pure truth of God’s word. They will feed the people God truth and confront, with the aggression of a warrior, falsehood and destroy it. They are not afraid of death and their love for truth fortifies their loyalty to Almighty God and Jesus Christ. Alternative media today is the beginning of the Benjamin-type of people coming into view.

“Benjamin shall ravin (as) a wolf; in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil” (Genesis 49:27).

DURING JACOB'S TIME OF TROUBLE, PEOPLE SELL EVERYTHING TO GET THE WORD OF GOD

The great famine is the time of bringing all of mankind to their knees. The story of Joseph bringing all Egypt into total subjection to Pharaoh mirrors the whole world in the 21st century coming under servitude of Almighty God.

Their state of poverty is a mirror of the lies, misinformation, and disinformation fed to mankind throughout the ages by Wickedness. Truth will rise and fill the earth; lies will be exposed and a great exchange will take place. Mankind will go to 21st century Joseph for life-bringing food. They will exchange all of their beliefs with him and he will bring them into total servitude to Almighty God, to the level where they begin tithing; they will give one-fifth of their livelihood to the Supreme God.

“So, Joseph bought all the land in Egypt for Pharaoh. The Egyptians, one and all, sold their fields, because the famine was too severe for them. The land became Pharaoh's, and Joseph reduced the people to servitude, from one end of Egypt to the other... Joseph said to the people, ‘Now that I have bought you and your land today for Pharaoh, here is seed for you so you can plant the ground. But when the crop comes in, give a fifth of it to Pharaoh. The other four-fifths you may keep as seed for the fields and as food for yourselves and your households and your children.’” The Egyptians agreed to this contract and said, ‘You have saved our lives,’ they said. ‘May we find favour in the eyes of our lord; we will be in bondage to Pharaoh’” (Genesis 47:20-21, 23-25).

JOSEPH AND BENJAMIN, JESUS AND THE FAITHFUL SAINTS

The story of Joseph is the foreshadowing of Christ foretold over three-thousand years ago. A mystery people come to light through Benjamin. Their work is illusive, but it will come into full view during a time of great distress.

Understanding God's coded language brings the “wow” moment to why the stories have been preserved in the Bible and why the people in ancient times experienced what they did. There is no mystery when the key to God's coded language is applied.

FORESHADOWS: JOB'S THREE DAUGHTERS

“And in all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job’s daughters. And their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers.”
(Job 42:15)

A surface reading of Job 42:15 would appear that in ancient times, it takes having exceptional physical beauty before daughters were valued equal to sons and receive an inheritance. The penmanship of Almighty God triggers curiosity, drives critical thinking, and demands exploration.



The story of Job that most theologians discuss is Satan’s attack that caused intense suffering for Job and his incredible spiritual growth that brought him to venture where few go to see deeply into the mind of God. But casually, written in the introduction and the conclusion of Job’s book is another story that unveils a shift in God’s ordained practices. It is a direct result of Job’s spiritual growth causing him to gasp, “My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you” (Job 42:5).

Job was a devout God-fearing and God-serving man. Each year, his seven sons held a celebration that some Bible translations state were birthday parties. They invited their sisters, though their sisters did not have annual celebrations of their own. Job did not attend these celebrations. Concerned about possible sinful behaviour at these annual celebrations, Job would offer the next day, early in the morning, a sacrifice to God for each of them to bring atonement should any of his children have sinned or cursed God in their hearts.

One day, Satan came with the righteous angels to present themselves to God. He took the occasion to recognize the blameless and upright behaviour of Job before Satan. God foresaw the opportunity to take Job to a higher level of spiritual maturity so that he could understand God and His work through a refined lens.

As anticipated, Satan mocked Job and accredited his loyalty and righteousness to be a result of the blessings God had bestowed upon him. God was ready to write the prophecy His people need to know. He removed the hedge He had placed around Job and allowed Satan to inflict him.

The suffering, at the hands of Satan, did not cause Job to stumble rather it brought him up higher into God's world. He acquired knowledge beyond the grasp of humanity and came into understanding of the deep things of God. This spiritual growth in Job brought a change visible in the conclusion of the book of Job where the focus unexpectedly moved away from Job's seven sons to his three daughters born after his infliction.

“The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first. He had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 donkeys. And he also had seven sons and three daughters. The first daughter he named Jemimah, the second Keziah and the

third Keren-Happuch. Nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Job's daughters" (Job 42:12-15).

The conclusion of Job's story provides a bridge into the great spiritual future of God's people. Job was blessed with a double portion of what he had before his infliction. He received the firstborn birthright blessing. God is pointing to the people who are part of the first resurrection. They will receive the firstborn birthright blessing of rulership and wealth.

The sons in Job's story were unnamed in the introduction and the conclusion of the book because they were never the focus of the story. Their annual celebrations were the reason for their mention, which are not recorded again in the book.

Like the sons in the first chapter of Job, the names of Job's daughters are also not mentioned. However, a big change takes place after Job's affliction. The names of his three daughters born after his affliction are made known. They were the most beautiful women in all the land. God's focus appears to be misplaced giving attention to Job's daughters physical appearance.

God is always teaching on the spiritual level. Women image the church—a theological body. Job's daughters are born after Job grows spiritually to see Almighty God fully. He then becomes the image of spiritually mature, male leadership. God is prophesying the future event of three churches who will become the most righteous of all churches on earth.

The two different types of leadership roles will be fully in effect and bound to operate as one during the reign of Christ in the Millennium. Jesus Christ will hold both roles: King and Lord. The leadership of Jesus Christ will birth the rise of three most beautiful churches on all the earth.

The Apostle Paul understood the mystery of God's mirroring within the genders. "For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and *the two will become one flesh. This mystery is profound, but I am speaking about Christ and the church*" (Ephesians 5:31-32).

Naming is very important to God. Names are mentioned when people hold a significant role valued by God. The daughters of Job image three churches known to God from ancient times. He is teaching His people about the change that will take place after the first resurrection where righteous, God-fearing and God-serving men and women are resurrected and transformed into their glorious bodies. They will receive the firstborn blessing—a double portion of riches. Through their leadership, guidance, and instruction, the three religious centres will blossom in God's word, His law, and love.

Jerusalem is the oldest of the three centres within the kingdom of ancient Israel. Jerusalem, into the 21st century, remains an important centre for Israel. In ancient times, it became a city of debauchery.

God said, "Son of man, confront Jerusalem with her detestable practices" (Ezekiel 16:1).

He added, "You, adulterous wife! You prefer strangers to your own husband!" (Ezekiel 16:32)

Jesus said, "*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing*" (Matthew 23:37).

In ancient times, both the national leaders and the priesthood became corrupt and in total rebellion against God. He refused to

acknowledge the names of Job's sons and daughters because they imaged the badly behaving national and religious leaders of ancient Israel, where blameless and upright Job felt the need to atone for them.

A change is still to come. The resurrection and transformation of the firstborn and their rulership with Jesus Christ will bring the necessary conversion that will amaze the world. Jerusalem will be reborn and her beauty will be breathtaking.

Jemimah means “dove” a symbol of peace. Jerusalem, in the millennium, will be the law-abiding centre, living God's law of love and at peace with God and mankind. Finally, God will rest from the rebellion of His people.

Jerusalem had two sisters; the churches of the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

“Like mother, like daughter... Your older sister was Samaria [the capital city of the kingdom of Israel of the ten tribes], who lived to the north of you with her daughters; and your younger sister, who lived to the south of you with her daughters, was Sodom [God is identifying the kingdom of Judah to be no different from the deplorable Sodomites]. [God continued] You [Jerusalem] not only walked in their ways [the ways of Samaria and Judah] and copied their detestable practices, but in all your ways you soon became more depraved than they... Samaria did not commit half the sins you did. You have done more detestable things than they, and have made your sisters seem righteous by all these things you have done” (Ezekiel 16:44, 46-47, 51).

What lured these three churches: Jerusalem, Samaria and Judah to enter into the worship of rebel sons of God and practice their detestable rituals is difficult to understand. Carnal nature is a

significantly limiting spirit that struggles to reach any level of holiness.

God prophesied the first will be last and the last will be first. The faithful and blameless people of God will be resurrected first and ancient Israel will be resurrected last.

A change will come. The second oldest daughter's name is **Keziah**. Another spelling of the word is *cassia*. *Cassia oil is like frankincense oil*. It has an unmistakable fragrance and calming aromatic properties. It is similar to one of the gifts given to Jesus at his birth. It is expensive, rare, and beautiful.

Cassia bark oil is one of the oldest known spices derived from steam distillation of the cassia bark, leaves, and twigs. It has a highly prized aroma very similar to cinnamon bark in both fragrance and in chemistry. It is like frankincense with healing properties. Reborn Christians will learn God's healing ways and become a living model of compassion, enduring patience, eternal love, and genuine care for all of mankind. Their beauty will exude the warmth of God's love and His eternal grace.

The third daughter's name is **Keren-Happuch**, which means *the horn of adornment*. It is a reference to the outward beauty that comes from inward character through the keeping of God's laws perfectly. The church of the house of Judah, will in the near future, be a synagogue of experts keeping God's law, freed from the old traditions of the elders. This is what the LORD Almighty says: "In those days *ten people* from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, 'Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you'" (Zechariah 8:23).

They understand that touching the hem of the Jew's robe, where the reminder of keeping God's law has been placed, communicates

to God their commitment to keeping His law and establishing order. It is no coincidence that God has ten people from all languages and nations because the number ten is a symbol of God's ten commandments.

The house of Judah, known into the 21st century as the Jews, have a history of honouring God's law, however over time, they added the traditions of the elders, which eventually displaced the law of God. Jesus tried to correct their mistake.

“So, the Pharisees and teachers of religious law asked him, ‘Why don’t your disciples follow our age-old tradition? They eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony.’”

“Jesus answered them, ‘Isaiah prophesied correctly about you hypocrites, as it is written: “These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. They worship Me [God] in vain; they teach as doctrine the precepts of men. For you ignore God’s law and substitute your own tradition.” He went on to say, ‘You neatly set aside the command of God to maintain your own tradition’” (Mark 7:5-9).

The symbolism of a “horn” is having authority. Job’s third daughter will be adorned with authority. Her name identifies the royal authority of the keepers and protectors of God’s law. The future Jewish synagogues will reflect the glistening beauty of a crown that will attract the world’s attention.

God provided reminders for His people to remember His plan for them and all of mankind. Included in these reminders, was a daily reminder to keep His commandments. He instructed the everyday Israelites to hem their outer garment and at the corners put a blue thread in the tassels. It was symbolic of God’s law and a reminder that every Israelite from every tribe had the responsibility to obey God’s commandments. The colour blue and type of fabric

reminded every man and woman of their royal calling to be a nation of holy priests.

“Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. And you shall have the tassel, that *you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them*, and that you may not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, and that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your God” (Numbers 15:37–40).

Job’s three daughters image the transformation of the wayward kingdom of ancient Israel who will, still in the future, transform their three religious centres into three God-fearing, God-serving, God-loving churches. Their beauty will be seen all around the world. They will be a holy kingdom living God’s way and a kingdom of royal priests modeling for all to see the way of God.

With the sacrifice of Christ and the receiving of God’s Holy Spirit, a new birth is forecasted in the story of Job: the rebirth of Jerusalem, Israel—the Christians, and Judah—the Messianic Jews all walking in the ways of God. They will fulfill their calling. “But you are *a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession*” (1 Peter 2:9).

These daughters who image the three religious centres of the future kingdom of Israel will receive an inheritance (Job 42:15b). Traditionally, the family inheritance was given to the sons with a double-portion blessing going to the oldest. In ancient Israel, daughters received an inheritance only when there wasn’t a son to receive it. In the case of Job, he gave his daughters an inheritance along with his seven sons.

God's holy, royal family, now in the making, will be a ruling church-kingdom. Job's three daughters received an inheritance—rulership. So, as Job's story reveals, God will give an inheritance—rulership to the three religious centres of the future reunited kingdom of Israel. This is a move, taking the focus of honour away from the national leaders of countries, to three religious centres. Their names will be renown throughout all creation because of their spiritual beauty: their devotion to righteousness, their gracious love, and their protection of God's law.

Job's story is simple. It is all about the transformation of God's firstborn men and women into eternal life and the three religious centres they conceive, nurture, and bring into maturity. God will elevate them to take centre stage and the nations of the world will marvel.

Christ's bride will be comprised of these three churches. She will rule as Queen with her husband. She will have rulership and lordship with him. God is the Master Potter. His plans for creation in heaven and on earth are generous and marvelous. His family is coming together. When everything has been restored, a new heaven and a new earth will be created. The God family will rule and the ever-expanding family will populate the vast, limitless space for all eternity. The Great God will then rest.

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The Apostle Paul added, "these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God" (I Corinthians 2:10).

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