



The
NEW TESTAMENT
CHURCH
and its
SYMBOLS

FRED PRUITT

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

**And Its Symbols, Metaphors,
And Analogies**

**By
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Introduction

For many months previous to the writing of this little book, the author was burdened and in much meditation concerning the awful confusion that exists in Christendom and the many precious souls that are being led into sectism learning to worship idols and being consoled with a mere profession of Christ. These thoughts brought sadness of heart and a longing to help them in some way to see and know that the Lord alone is all they need, and that He will lead and guide them aright if they will only yield to Him and His will and not entangle themselves with any earthly organizations or groups and keep free from affiliating with any manmade, so-called church.

By the help of the Lord, I longed to impart truth to them so they could believe and be settled and established in the Lord and never again be confused or bothered about the many winds of doctrine that are blowing.

The Spirit of God brought to my heart the magnitude of the spiritual wickedness that is in the world, and growing out of this, the atheism, which will add power and numbers to the pagan power or dragon, which is called Satan and the Devil (Rev. 12:9; John 8:44), which is being allowed by God the Father to be loose for a little season (Rev. 20:3), by which the saints will be persecuted, beaten, imprisoned, and slain. This pagan power will,

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in course of time, compass the saints about, the beloved City of God (Rev. 20:9-11); then the God of heaven and earth will send fire down from heaven and burn up these enemies, and the judgment will set (2 Pet. 3:10-12).

As we meditated upon this condition and saw that professors would wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived, and knowing that many precious and innocent souls who really want to know the truth will be caught in this spiritual wickedness of Satan because they know not what to do, and as the burden became heavier and meditations deepened, the outline and subjects of this little book began to form in our heart and mind. We had a clearness from God to write; and we give to the “born-again” ones this little book, which we pray that God will use to enlighten, settle, and establish souls in His body, the church, so they will be able to stand the fiery trials and awful persecutions which are and will come to pass in these, the last of the last days.

—Fred Pruitt

The New Testament Church

Practically all students of the Bible know that Jesus gathered material in the way of saved souls and built a church, or established a church; but it seems to be quite confusing to many what the church really is. What constitutes it? How does one get into it? What is the right name? How is it governed? We shall let the Bible answer all these questions, then none can truthfully answer against it, for the Bible makes the answers very plain and clear to all candid minds and souls.

First, we shall notice some Scriptures that teach of His building IT:

“He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against IT.” Matt. 16:15-18. In these words the Lord plainly taught that He built a church, and it was in the singular number, just one. The Father in heaven revealed to Peter that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. This was solid rock truth. He did not mean that He would build His church upon Peter, but on Christ the Son of the living God; for He was the

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Stone which the Pharisee sect builders rejected. In Psalms 118: 22, we read, “The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord’s doing and it is marvelous in our eyes.” After Jesus had given a parable to the chief Priests and elders of the people which were Pharisees in the 21st chapter of Matthew beginning at the 33rd verse, He said, “Did ye never read in the scripture, the stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord’s doing and it is marvelous in our eyes: Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.” He here uses the kingdom of God to represent the church. It is given to a nation of believers in Christ. This is also in Mark 12:10 and Luke 20:17.

In Acts 4:11, 12, Peter, speaking to the Israelites, said, “This is the stone [speaking of Christ] which was set at naught of you builders which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” To newly saved ones, Peter wrote, “As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom coming as unto a living stone [Christ] disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones [the church, saved souls], are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold I lay in Sion [the church] a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient [those who reject Him], the stone which the builders [Pharisees and other religious leaders] disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner.” 1 Pet. 2:2-7.

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“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints [saved people] and of the household of God [the church]; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets [Their foundation was Christ], Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building [all the saints or saved people] fitly framed together, growth unto an holy temple [a place where God dwells] in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together [not apart] for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” Eph. 2:19-22. He inhabits the members of His church, and they are builded, fitted, and framed together. Surely these Scriptures do prove that Jesus Christ was the foundation Stone upon which the church is built.

Different prophets have referred to Christ as being a Stone, a corner stone, or a precious stone, as is shown in the following Scriptures:

“Therefore, thus saith the Lord God, Behold I lay in Zion [Zion is a symbol of the church] for a foundation a stone, a tried stone [None were more tried than He.] a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet; and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies [self-righteousness and self-justification] and the waters [of salvation] shall overflow the hiding place.” Isaiah 28:16, 17. This prophecy not only speaks of Christ as being the foundation stone, but also says He is a tried stone and a precious corner stone.

Daniel prophesied of this stone, saying it was cut out without hands; was not of man’s devices. Jesus was begotten of the Holy Ghost; man had nothing to do with His coming into this world. “Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image [The image has reference to the earthly kingdoms

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which ruled over the whole earth in their turn at that time.] upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.” Daniel 2:34. The iron and clay represented the Roman Kingdom, or Empire, which was ruling when Jesus appeared and began to teach the gospel of the kingdom (Mark 1:14, 15). At this time Jesus was setting up His kingdom, or church. There have been no more universal kingdoms of earth, and never will be, as the knowledge of His kingdom is more or less in the hearts and minds of the people, for it has spread all over the earth (Romans 14:17). Read the next few verses after Daniel 2:34. “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom [and in a specific sense, a church] which shall never be destroyed: [Jesus told Peter that the gates of hell shall not prevail against IT.] and the kingdom shall not be left to other people [Jesus will govern and rule it Himself.] but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms [all earthly kingdoms, as we read in 1 Cor. 15:24, 25, “Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign until he hath put all enemies under his feet.”] and it shall stand for ever. [Paul tells us in Heb. 12:28, “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom (or church) which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”] Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain [God’s mountain of holiness] without hands, and brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, and the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain and the interpretation thereof is sure.”

In Zechariah 4:7 we read, “What art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring

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forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace, unto it.” “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ” John 1:17. When Jesus set up his kingdom, or church, it was the grace of God to us, an unmerited favor from God upon us sinful beings that we might be freed from sin and be able to keep His commandments and have a home in heaven. Glorious thought! His thoughts toward us are good thoughts, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give us an expected ending. Read Jeremiah 29:11.

The Name of the Church

We have made it plain by the Scriptures that Jesus Christ is the foundation stone upon which the church is built; now we shall show by the sacred Word of God what the name of the church He built is called in the words and writings of Jesus and the New Testament writers. When the Word of God says a thing, we know that it is true, for we find in 2 Timothy 3:16 these sacred words, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” The sacred words of God instruct us as to the proper name of the church.

We have already learned that He built a church, or founded a kingdom, and that it is composed of saved people, or followers of Jesus and now we shall see what Jesus said about it in the 17th chapter of St. John, in His earnest prayer just before He was crucified. These words He said while praying for His disciples who believed on Him: “I pray for them: I pray not for the world [unsaved people], but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And

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now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.” The name of the Father is “God.” The biblical definition of church is a body of saved people worshiping God together. So Jesus, in His prayer, calls His disciples “the church of God” or congregation of saved ones.

In modern times, humanly organized societies are called churches by the people, and they call their meeting house the church. They say, “We are going to church.” But in God’s family, the church goes to the meeting house to worship God, as the church constitutes saved men and women.

Paul recognizes and verifies the truth that Jesus spoke when he says in Eph. 3:14, 15, “For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ [who is God] of whom the whole family [saved people] in heaven and earth is named.”

In Acts 2:47 we read, “And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” Those who believed from the heart that Jesus Christ was the Son of God “should be saved,” and were added by the Lord to the church. You see by this that His church was built and the Lord added those who believed to the family.

In 1 Cor. 14:23, Paul made it plain that the church is the congregation and not the building. In Ephesians 5:25, he wrote, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for IT.” He would not love a stone and wood meeting house, but He loved the congregation of saved people and gave Himself for them. “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word. That he might present it to himself a glorious church [family of saved people] not having spot,

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or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it [His church or family of saved people] should be holy and without blemish.” (verses 26 and 27).

In Acts 20:28, Paul makes it very plain what the name of the church is, and what kind of people constitute it; “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the CHURCH OF GOD, which he hath purchased with his own blood.” The church of God then is composed of those men and women who have believed in Christ to the saving of the soul and thereby are purchased by the shedding of His blood, hence we are HIS PURCHASED POSSESSION as recorded in Eph. 1:14. In Peter 1:18, 19, we read, “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

In these last days there are many man-made and man-organized religious bodies that call themselves the church of God, even as it was prophesied. That is why Jesus said in John 15:1, “I am the true vine.” He knew that there would be many false vines. It should not be very hard for a spiritually enlightened soul to detect the false vines, or religious bodies, for they have only a feigned faith while claiming great faith. They are earthly in their general manner of life and conduct and put their faith in the arm of flesh (Jeremiah 17:5) in many ways, such as catering to the customs and fashions of the world in dress, insuring their lives, resorting to earthly remedies and doctors when sick rather than trust the Lord, and conforming to the world in many other ways; also participating in wars or aiding in different ways those that

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murder and kill what the nations call their enemies. Jesus said, “Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.” Why? “That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven.” Matt. 5:44, 45. Many of them have a hireling ministry and press on their subjects the law doctrine of tithing. They have many worldly ways of worship because they only have feigned faith in God. Generally, they endorse or tolerate divorce and remarriages. In fact, they just act like citizens of this world and not as citizens of heaven. God’s children who are in the true church have their names written in heaven and not in the earth. Read Heb. 12:23.

The Prophet Isaiah (4:1) said, “And in that day [this gospel day] seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, we will eat our own bread [just take what pleases us of the Word to suit ourselves] and wear our own apparel [fix up our own doctrines out of the Word] only let us be called by thy name [church of God] to take away our reproach.” They realize that “church of God” is the right name, so they want that name to make the world believe that they are not bastards but the legitimate seed. Many of them in analogy make one think of a worldly-minded woman dressed in the late fashions and fads with the latest make-up on—just a sham and a deceiver, and an apostate harlot daughter. They know nothing about the chastisements of the Lord, nor what it really means to bear the cross or suffer with Jesus that they might be glorified with Him. Heb. 12:8, “But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards and not sons.” Folks in this class are born of another spirit and have another master who keeps them deceived by playing God to them. The holy Scriptures warn: “Beware of false teachers,” and “Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ.” They

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claim that Christ is in them and they are His children, and make the deception all the more complete by having the name, “church of God.”

In 1 Cor. 1:2 Paul referred to the Corinthians as the “church of God” and spoke of them as being sanctified in Christ Jesus and called. In 1 Corinthians 15:9, he said, “I persecuted the church of God.” He was persecuting the church of God when he persecuted the disciples of Christ, so the followers of Jesus were called the “church of God.” Also read Gal. 1:13. Again in 2 Cor. 1:1, he called the people of God the “church of God.” Paul wrote to Timothy (1 Tim. 3:15), “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house [his people. Read Heb. 3:6] of God, which is the church of the living God [God lives in each member or saved person] the pillar and ground of the truth.”

These Scriptures from the inspired Word of God should be sufficient to establish without doubt the truth that the church, or family of God, the ones that have been born again and retain the heavenly life in the soul are called by the sacred Word, CHURCH OF GOD. Any local congregation of saved people constitutes the church that Jesus, built, and all saved people everywhere constitute the general and universal church of God.

The Door of the Church

God says in Proverbs 14:12, “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” Man has invented a multitude of ways to get into what is called the church, and many are believing them, hence multitudes are on the way to eternal death by believing the lies of Satan through his “angels of light” preachers. (Read 2 Cor. 11:13-15.) It is certainly

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true that Satan has a thousand false teachers to every one true teacher of the Lord's, because he has the majority of preachers under his influence, and they teach and live in such a way that souls do not separate themselves from this old world, which is the enemy of God, but cater to it and love and follow its ways, conforming to its revelries, fashions, and fads, which swallow up the life of Christ out of souls.

What does the inspired Word of God say about getting into the church of God, which He purchased with His own blood? Beginning at the first verse of the fifth chapter of Revelation, we shall read, "And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the back side, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in the earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not; behold the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof."

When Jesus the Son of God, who was begotten by the Holy Ghost and born of the virgin Mary and who was the root and the offspring of David, the bright and morning star (Revelation 22:16), was nailed on the cross and slain, He broke the seals that held men in darkness and opened up the book of life to all nations, kindred, tongues, and people. In Acts 13:23, we read, "Of this man's [David's] seed hath God according to his promise, raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus." Read Psalms 132:11; Isaiah 11:1; and Luke 1:31-33.

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God, through the sacrifice of His dear Son has cleared the way for all men who will to be saved, as the Prophet Zechariah has said (13:1), “In that day [gospel day] there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness.” The atoning blood of Christ is that fountain that is now opened up to all who will come.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and to depart from evil is understanding. Jesus says, “Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matt. 11:28-30.

When one begins to fear God, the Spirit of God will begin to work godly sorrow upon that soul so he can repent of his sins, for godly sorrow worketh repentance. “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.” 2 Cor. 7:10. The sorrow of the world is this: When one does a wrong and is caught and has to pay the penalty of the law and suffer for his wrong act, he is sorry because he has been caught. Such sorrow as that will not work repentance toward God. But if one becomes sorry because God sees his evil deeds and because he has sinned against God, that is godly sorrow, and it will work repentance. When one confesses all his sins to God, asks Him to forgive, promises that by God’s help and grace he will sin no more against Him, he is coming to Jesus. As he receives the blood of Christ as an atonement for his sins they will all be blotted out and the soul can have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ, which means that he is born again, as Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:3, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Being born again

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means born from above, a spiritual birth. When one is born again he is born right into the church of God and becomes a member of His spiritual family by virtue of a spiritual birth, and in this way one joins Him in a perpetual covenant (Jeremiah 50:5). It is wrong for one to join any of the many man-made and man-governed so-called churches. A saved one should just abide in Christ, keep separated from the world and all its folly and evil works, and the Lord will be his God and he can be God's son or daughter. (2 Cor. 6:18).

In Psalms 87:5, 6 we read, "And of Zion [a symbol of the church] it shall be said, This and that man was born in her, and the Highest himself shall establish her. The Lord shall count when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. Selah." Souls are born into the church of the living God and God puts each name on His book in heaven, for He counts and writes up the people; He keeps the record in heaven. One should not allow man to put his name on his book down here and have his name written in the earth. There is not a Scripture in the Bible which instructs people to join anything but the Lord, and one should not allow the Devil's preachers to decoy him into joining any earthly institution. When one is saved he should abide in Christ and bear the fruits of the Spirit. In St. John 10:9, Jesus says, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture." Jesus is the doorway into the church of God. When one is born again, he is in Jesus, and having come in at the door, he becomes a member of the church of God, which is the family of God, the born again ones.

When one is sanctified wholly and receives the Spirit of Truth into his soul, which is the resurrected life of Christ, or the Comforter which is the Holy Ghost, he can let the Spirit lead and

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guide him into all truth. Read John 16:13, 14. When one gets into Christ by being born again, he is in the church of the living God. He should separate himself from all the world and abide in Him, then he will have sweet fellowship with all others doing likewise, and the collective body of believers will be an habitation of God through the Spirit. "In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Eph. 2:22.

How The Church of God Is Governed

The church of God has a Governor who has been tested and tried. He has proved himself to be pure, clean, holy, and righteous, and is now exalted by God the Father far above all principalities and powers of an earthly nature, and is seated at the right hand of the Father on the throne having been given all power and authority, both in heaven and earth (Matthew 28:18). By the Holy Ghost which is given unto His believing children, He governs and rules the church, which is His body, in harmony with His precious Word, which becomes a living Word to His true children. It is written in Eph. 1:20-23, "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all." Let us believe the Scriptures and not the theories of weak, faithless men, for there is all joy and peace in believing.

Isaiah, prophesying of Jesus, said, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given [Read John 3:16] and the government shall be upon his shoulder and his name shall be called Wonderful,

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Counselor [“In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” Col. 2:3.] The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” “For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell and having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated, and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight.” Col. 1:19-22. Also read verse 18.

“Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David [Luke 1:31-33], and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice, from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.” Isaiah 9:7. Jesus is governor and ruler in his church now in this earth. He is its king, and he rules and governs in judgment and with justice to all. “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.” Daniel 2:44. “And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.” Matthew 2:6. All who are saved and in the church of God are spiritual Israel and the “Israel of God.”

“But now hath God set the members in the body as it hath pleased him.” 1 Cor. 12:18. The body spoken of here is the church of God. “Who now rejoice in my sufferings, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body’s sake which is the church.” Col. 1:24. “Now ye are the body of Christ,

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and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church; first, apostles; secondarily, prophets; thirdly, teachers; after that, miracles; then gifts of healings, helps,” etc. 1 Cor. 12:27. “Wherefore, he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men.” Eph. 4:8. Satan had souls bound by sin, but when Jesus arose from the tomb and ascended up on high He broke the power which Satan had over the souls of men, setting them free and giving them spiritual gifts. “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.” (11th verse). We read in Ephesians 5:23, “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church; and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject to Christ,” etc. “And it shall come to pass in that day [gospel day] That I will call my servant Eliakim [a type of the Messiah or Christ] the son of Hilkiah: And I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit thy government into his hand; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder: so He shall open and none shall shut: and he shall shut and none shall open.” Isaiah 22:20-22. In John 10:3, Jesus likens himself to a porter. To those who are eligible to enter in he says, “To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.” Again in Rev. 3:7, “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David [Christ] he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth and no man openeth.” Thank God Jesus is the door, and he lets in only those who have “washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” No human man-made church, nor men, nor companies of men can open any door that will admit a

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soul into the church of the living God. Jesus alone opens and He shuts all others out who will not forsake the world and their life here, no matter how self-righteous they may appear or how much profession they make. Members of the true church of God belong to no sect organization, nor fraternities, neither do they yoke themselves up with unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:14), but are free to worship God in spirit and in truth, for the whole Bible is their creed and discipline, as they are not of the world even as Christ and His disciples were not of the world.

In Mark 9:1 it is written, “Verily I say unto you, that there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.” On the day of Pentecost when the one hundred and twenty were gathered there at Jerusalem, the kingdom of God, or church, came down from God out of heaven, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. Jesus told the disciples in Luke 17:21, “Neither shall they say, Lo here; or, lo there; for, behold the kingdom of God is within you.”

The church of God was set up and in order, and the whole body of believers received the Holy Ghost, and began to function in their proper places. The Governor (Christ), Architect, Foundation, Builder, Head, Law, and all had descended down from God out of heaven and had begun to work in and through those who had yielded their hearts and all to Him. Thus the little Stone that was prophesied of in Daniel had broken the image (earthly kingdoms) and the tiny mustard seed, which Christ pleased to call himself (Matt. 13:31) began to grow and spread and become a power in this world, and it began to provoke jealousy in the hearts of the rulers of the darkness of this world. The “Man child” (Isaiah 66:7) was persecuted, but the gates of hell have never prevailed against IT, the church that Jesus built—and never shall. Glory be

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to God, who rules over, above, and beyond all the dark powers of this world and gives His children the victory again and again! Bless His name!

It is written in the Word that the “common people heard Him gladly.” “David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence is he then his son? And the common people heard him gladly.” Mark 12:37.

“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight.” The earthly learned men of our time are leading millions of souls astray. The D. D.’s and LL. D.’s of our day who depend upon their earthly intellect and reasoning powers to interpret the Word of God, are unsafe guides. They wrest the Scriptures from their proper meaning, and put interpretations on the sacred Scriptures in a way to cause souls to love and become spotted with the world and its fashions and fads, giving way to self-righteousness rather than letting Christ work in and through them, and thereby bearing the reproach of the cross. If there is no cross here, there will be no crown yonder. The Scriptures are all simple and plain and need no great philosopher of earthly intellect to explain them, for God reveals them to the common people and they hear Him gladly. People cannot receive the proper understanding of the Scriptures unless God reveals it to them by His Spirit; hence Peter said, “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

The earthly wise men of our day that are teachers in the Bible schools and great seminaries, together with many others who feign

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to be possessors of the Spirit of God but are only deceived by Satan, put their private interpretation, or that of others, on the Scriptures and lead souls into error and on to destruction. Anyone without the Holy Ghost can do nothing else but put his own private interpretation on the Word of God. The Word of God was given to inspired men of God by the Holy Ghost, and only those possessing the Holy Ghost can properly interpret the Word of God. All others put their private interpretations on the sacred Scriptures and deceive their own souls and those who hear them.

Jesus said in Matt. 11:25, 26, “I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: For so it seemeth good in thy sight.”

Paul said in 1 Cor. 1:18, 19, “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us that are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”

“For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world, to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world, to confound the things that are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are;” for this reason: “That no flesh should glory in his presence.”

Saul of Tarsus who was also called Paul, had much learning and was wise and prudent in a worldly, earthly sense, but he said, “Yet, doubtless, and I count all things but loss, for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I

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may win Christ, and be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.” Phil. 3:8. Many today have self-righteous laws of their own and do not submit themselves to the righteousness of Christ.

The Kingdom of God

The kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven are used interchangeably in the Word of God, and both phrases mean one and the same thing, although they may vary in their extent of meaning in the different parables. In this article, however, we shall use the term “the kingdom of God” principally.

In analogy, the kingdom of God is picturing the church of God as a kingdom. The King is Jesus Christ, and specifically speaking, the saved people are the subjects. In some parables, the kingdom seems to be broadened out to take in, not only the saved, but also those who profess to be saved; and we know it was also so in the Jewish church, or kingdom, which prefigured the kingdom of God, of which Moses as king was the type of Christ. Of Moses it is written, “And Moses verily was faithful in all his house [kingdom], as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after.” Heb. 3:5. In the house or kingdom, of Moses, there were times when his subjects, in becoming lovers of themselves, rebelled against Moses and thought evil of him and were slain. So it is in the kingdom of God today in one phase of its meaning: companies of men and women begin to love the world and their selfish life more than God, and rebel against His supreme government; then they are slain in a spiritual sense, receive delusions, and die spiritually. Many others are just about half loyal,

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and others partake of the world so much that they become diseased and are weak—almost useless to our King Jesus—others are lukewarm and are spewed out of His mouth; and yet, all may claim to be in the kingdom of God.

In a universal sense, there are but two kingdoms: one is the kingdom of God, and the other is the kingdom of Satan. The only reason that Satan has a kingdom at all here, is because men love darkness rather than light and will and do choose their selfish, worldly interests rather than God. By their actions, they say, “We will not have this man (Jesus) to reign over us, for we love the lusts of the flesh, and love to be counted wise by the majority of earthly beings.” They think more of this present life than eternal life, therefore choose to be somebody and not some weak being (as they think) who depends on another for wisdom and glorifies another (Jesus) in place of self. For these reasons, by believing the devil’s lies, they yield themselves to Satan; and thus Satan has an enormous throng of human beings as his subjects. He feeds them on lies and self-praise, gratifying fleshly ambitions and blinding their souls. He becomes the “god of this world,” the “prince of this world,” “the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience.” Eph. 2:2. God gives each soul his free will choice. People are not machines in His hand, as some would think and teach. God is now letting each one do just as he pleases, but He is going to bring all into judgment someday. Human beings can now individually choose life and be the subjects of King Jesus and inherit a glorified body to live in His kingdom forever; or they can choose death, spiritually speaking, and be the subjects of King Satan and inherit eternal death in the burning lake of fire where the worm (soul) never dies and the fire is never quenched. Each and every one is at liberty to make his own choice. Souls are now choosing day by day

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their eternal abode, whether in hell and torment, or in heaven and bliss.

While the kingdom of God is spoken of in the holy Word of God in these different phrases, yet in most places “kingdom of God” has reference to the children of God as His obedient subjects, which is the church of God, the pillar and ground of truth.

In order to get a clear understanding of the kingdom of God, it will be necessary to begin by quoting some of the prophets concerning the kingdom of God:

“But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the King Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days.” Dan. 2:28. (The “latter days” referred to is this gospel day or days.)

King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and a vision of a great image that stood before him. His brightness was excellent and his form was terrible. The head was of fine gold, which represented (or was a symbol of) Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom, which at that time ruled the world.

You will notice in the thirty-seventh verse Daniel said, “The God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory”—God gave it to him. He was the head of gold (38th verse). After him arose another kingdom to bear rule over all the earth. This was the Medo-Persian Kingdom, which was represented in the image by the breast and arms of silver. Then there arose another kingdom that ruled over the earth, which was the Grecian Kingdom. It was represented by the belly and thighs of brass. “And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and subdue” (verse 40).

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This fourth kingdom was the Roman Empire, which was universal and subdued all other kingdoms, including the Hebrew nation.

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.” (verse 44). This kingdom set up by the God of heaven is the “kingdom of God.” Many of the Scriptures which relate directly to the kingdom of God describe it as an everlasting kingdom and one that shall stand forever.

In the next verse Daniel tells about the stone (Jesus) that was cut out of the mountain (God’s mountain of holiness) without hands. Man had nothing to do with Jesus’ coming into the world, as He was begotten of the Holy Ghost and born of the virgin Mary. The stone that was cut out without hands represents Jesus Christ (Matt. 21:42, Eph. 2:20) who arose during the ruling power of the Roman Empire, and began to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God, saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand [at present] repent ye, and believe the gospel.” Mark 1:15.

“And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes part of potter’s clay [Potter’s clay is a symbol of God’s children who are pliable in His hands. Some of them were subjected to the Roman Empire at that time.] and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided [In heart, the children of God were not with the Roman Empire rulers.]; but there shall be in it the strength of iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.”

From these Scriptures, it is very evident that Jesus Christ set up His kingdom, which is an everlasting kingdom and the gospel of truth which He taught began to crush, break, and destroy all universal ruling powers, and there never has been and never will be

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another world empire, although many nations and kings have tried to establish one. Jesus is ruling above and beyond all the kingdoms of men. “How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.” Dan. 4:3. “This matter is by decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones [the Trinity]: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.” (Verse 17).

“They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.” Psa. 145:11-13.

In the Scriptures quoted above, Jesus is not only proclaimed King and Ruler over His “born again ones,” but He is also exalted as a universal ruler and governor even over and above the power of Satan with wicked men, unbelievers, indifferent ones, and also mere professors. Read Matt. 28:18.

In Isaiah the ninth chapter the prophet foretold the ruling and governing power of Jesus, the Son that was given to redeem man, and how He would be governor and king over God’s people, which is His body, the church. (Read Eph. 1:22, 23). “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice, from henceforth even

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forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.” God will and is performing this very thing. Praise His dear name.

“And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the Princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, That shall rule my people Israel.” Jesus was born in Bethlehem. We who are saved through Christ become the Israel of God. We are His people and He is our governor and ruler. Thank God for this just Ruler and Governor!

It is written in Luke 1:31-33, “And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his Father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever [All who are saved are the “Israel of God,” Gal. 6:16 and Rom. 2:29, or as a metaphor, Jacob]; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.” After this life in these clay houses, all who continue faithful will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and shall remain in His kingdom forever. Blessed be the name of the Lord!

“And he said unto them [His disciples], Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.” Mark 9:1. On the day of Pentecost when the one hundred and twenty justified souls were together in one accord, the kingdom of God came with power and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. Some of the disciples to whom Jesus was talking were there. They had not died, so they witnessed the kingdom of God coming with power; and the church began to function with Jesus as King, Head, Governor, and Ruler! Now read Mai. 3:1, “Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me; and the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the

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messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.” This scripture says “The Lord whom ye seek will suddenly come to his Temple” (His church). The one hundred twenty justified souls on the day of Pentecost had been fitted and framed together (Eph. 2:21) by the Lord and were in one accord, and each one was a lively stone in the building, (1 Peter 1:5) praying with faith for the reception of the PROMISE OF THE FATHER” (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4) and suddenly Jesus, in the form of the Holy Ghost, occupied his temple or church and they were endued with gifts for the Kingdom of God had come with power (Mark 9:1) and the church began to function in the world. Souls of men who would be saved were being added to the church or his kingdom. (Acts 2:47.)

The disciples came unto Jesus and wanted to know what he meant by the parable of the tares of the field. Jesus said, “He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man: The field is the world [sinners]; the good seed are the children of the kingdom [His saved people]; but the tares are the children of the wicked one. The enemy that sowed them is the devil.” The devil sows evil thoughts, rebellious thoughts, and selfishness in the hearts of those who will not believe in God to the saving of their souls, for he is the spirit that worketh in the children of disobedience. “The harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.” The angels are God’s ministers who preach the unadulterated truth. “As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.” When the judgment sets the wicked shall be burned.

“The Son of man shall send forth his angels [His true ministers] and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity.” When the true ministers give

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out the truth of the gospel, it will sever the just from among the unjust and separate them unto God, and the offenders in this way will be gathered out. All those who have backslidden in heart and those who have offended God by loving the world and giving way to the pride and fashions of this old sinful world, loving filthy lucre and praise of men, are an offense to God, and Jesus will have them gathered out to be burned. This gathering out is going on now. Most men are not aware of it, but the zeal of the Lord of hosts is performing it. This work will go on until Jesus comes in the clouds to gather his true and loved ones to himself.

In these closing up days the ministers of God who are walking in the true light and are faithfully declaring the Word of God are filling sectism and other cut-off groups with converts; for the blazing evening light is offensive to self-loving professors and others who do not want to go all the way with the Lord and walk in the light as He is in the light. The truth is a “hard saying” to them, and they creep off into some sector cut-off group and hide there with a profession to ease their consciences and resist conviction. Such people as these become a prey and “make supper” for all the fowls that fly in the midst of the ecclesiastical heavens about which we read in Revelation 19:17-19. Jesus also refers to these things in Matthew 24:27, 28, “For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.” Many of the sects and holiness groups one time had spiritual life, but are now so fully walking according to the course of this world that they have become nothing but dead carcasses so far as true spirituality is concerned; and the foul spirits and vultures are gathered there feeding on them by using them against truth and true light which is shining more and more unto the perfect day.

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“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Luke 12:32.

“Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, the kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds.” It seems as though Jesus likened himself to a grain of mustard seed being sown in our hearts. Luke 17:21, we read, “Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for behold, the kingdom of God is within you.” The professing world looked upon Jesus as of very little importance and as a stone rejected. He was cut out without hands (without man’s aid) and had a very small beginning. “But when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree [His kingdom would increase] so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.” Birds here, no doubt, represent evil spirits, as they are of the air. Paul said in Eph. 2:2, “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.”

The birds or spirits that lodge in the branches are none other than those who profess to be saints and to belong to the kingdom. They go along with the saints absorbing their hospitality and money, living at ease, and by many are reckoned in the kingdom, but they are not really in the kingdom. They are just lodged in the branches as parasites. Jude calls them “spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear.” Jude 12.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: which when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. So shall it be at the end of the

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world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just: and shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” Matt. 13:47-50.

On this parable the net is analogous to the gospel of salvation preached; the sea, to the people; the fish, to those who hear and come out of the world to follow the Lord. Some of the latter turn out to be bad and unfit for the kingdom of God, as they show signs of loving the world and its ways, and at the end of the world (that time is now), God is sending forth His angels (or messengers, ministers) with blazing truth that makes it uncomfortable for the bad, unclean fish, or professors (which are the same as the fowls in the branches in the other parable). They are being severed from among the righteous, and the bride is making herself ready.

Here are some Scriptures that the true ministers are blazing forth at this time, the end of the world: “See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved [Christ’s kingdom is an everlasting kingdom], let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.” Heb. 12:25-29.

This Scripture is very important, and especially so, to the true children of God upon whom the ends of the world have come. Let us not turn away from the Lord who is now speaking from heaven through his true ministers, who are standing with one foot on the

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sea and the other on the land, declaring that time shall soon be no more, and eternity will begin—long, long eternity. How solemn the word!

The voice or commands of God which are in harmony with men's free-will choosing, are now not only shaking the earthly kingdoms and material things with wars, starvation, blood-shed, broken-hearted and weeping mothers and wives, and with great and deep commotion throughout the whole globe; but He is also shaking heaven, which means the ecclesiastical heavens, which is called Christendom. This shaking of Christendom is going on, because we are at the end of the world and He is making preparation for His coming. We read about some things that take place in His preparation in the first few verses of the second chapter of the Prophet Nahum. More will be written about his prophecies under the heading of another article.

The Lord is making up his jewels (Mal. 3:17) in these days, for "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried [These are trying days for the true-hearted]; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand [The wicked do not understand why all these evil things are going on, nor why the righteous are being so tried]; but the wise [the true children of God] shall understand." Daniel 12:10.

The Scriptures say that those things that cannot be shaken shall remain. Oh, brethren and sisters, let us be true and firm in all the furnaces that He permits, that we may come forth as pure as gold, jewels in the hand of the Lord, continuing in his kingdom. In Heb. 12:28 He comforts us with these words, "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved [Christ's kingdom cannot be moved. We are safe in it.] let us have grace, [Look to God for help and strength] whereby we may serve God acceptably

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with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.” All of this twelfth chapter of Hebrews is especially good for God’s children in these last days to strengthen us that we faint not in these troublesome times, but know that He doeth all things well. The Holy Spirit of God is at work and He is like a fuel of burning fire. Those who have given themselves wholly unto God will be thoroughly purged and made ready for his coming. We read in Matthew of the work of Christ the Son of God, “Whose fan is in his hand [the Holy Spirit] and he will thoroughly purge his floor [hearts that are really given to him], and gather his wheat [His true tested children] into the garner [kingdom of heaven]; but he will burn up the chaff [those clinging on and claiming to be in the kingdom] with unquenchable fire.” Matt. 3:12.

Although in this year of 1944 we are living in perilous and distressing times when there are great upheavals with men’s kingdoms being torn to pieces and governments being overthrown and much cruelty being heaped upon the innocent, yet it is just the beginning of sorrows.

John saw “An angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon [Paganism], that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years [long period of time].” Rev. 20:1.

Pagan Rome was then a persecutor of the church of God and typified a poison reptile, the Devil, and old Satan as he went about to slay all who professed Christ, and to do away with the Spirit of the Lord in the world. But the saints overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony, and Paganism, which so much symbolized Satan and the devil, went down; and the “beast” (Catholicism) arose in his stead. The third verse says, “And cast

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him into the bottomless pit [closed his mouth] and shut him up, and a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years [that long period of time] should be fulfilled; and after that he must be loosed a little season.”

By the above quoted Scripture we understand that the angel who came down from heaven represented the Son of God in the form of the Holy Spirit descending upon the followers of Christ on the day of Pentecost and remaining in the church, for the church is His body functioning in the world. (Jude 9; Daniel 12:1). The key was his power to shut the mouth of Satan in the form of Paganism, and to seal it for a long period of time. The great chain in his hand was the gospel of truth which after a few years grew to such an extent that it bound Satan and the Devil whom Paganism represented. The saints overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.

More is written concerning this in Rev. 12:9, “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: [Pagan Rome was deceiving the whole world by its poison doctrines and anti-Christ actions.] he was cast out into the earth, and his angels [wicked subjects] were cast out with him.”

The war in heaven, mentioned in the seventh verse, has reference to the conflict of powers in the ecclesiastical heaven where the saints are, whose weapons are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds of Satan. The saints had come into contact with this Pagan power which had exalted itself against God and his children to persecute and slay them. “Michael [Daniel 10:21 representing Christ who is the great Prince which standeth in time of conflict for the children of God Dan. 12:1] and his angels [God’s true children] fought against the

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dragon [not with carnal weapons]; and the dragon fought and his angels [with carnal weapons and otherwise], and prevailed not [thank God!] neither was their place found any more in heaven.” Rev. 12:7, 8. The saints had no more bother or persecution from that power of red paganism until after that long period of time when he was loosed a little season, for the Beast soon took his place under a cloak of religion and became in time the persecutor of the true saints of God.

The Dragon or Pagan power, which is termed by Scripture, “The old serpent, which is the Devil and Satan,” is loosed at this present time, and is deceiving the nations. It is written in Rev. 20:7, “And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.” “Gog” symbolizes Catholicism, and “Magog” symbolizes the hundreds of harlot daughters or denominations which are in the four quarters of the earth. You will notice that this Satanic power of evil went out to deceive the nations, through his fair speeches and deceptive ways. He was deceiving the subjects of Gog and Magog into believing him and they were affiliating and becoming of one mind, and he was gathering them together to battle against the saints. The recent edition of the “Revised Standard Version” Bible is a product which shows up this affiliation in a minor degree that Pagan power is doing that very thing now. It has rule in Russia, and thousands of men and women who merely had a profession of Christ together with the true saints of God have been put to death. Atheism is in great evidence throughout the land, and it has spread and is spreading to all other countries. Even in this country it has a strong hold, and is gaining subjects all the time. Russia, with its armies, at the present time is

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overrunning Europe, and, no doubt, will come out victorious. Then the Pagan power and its atheist doctrines will be spread faster than ever, because nearly all professors of religion, or a large majority are sick of their dead, formal religions and are ready and ripe to receive this Pagan doctrine. They are discouraged with their hireling ministry of D. D.'s and LL. D.'s, creeds, and forms, and are not willing to take the crucified way with Christ: so they are ripe for Paganism and will join hand in hand with this devil power to exterminate the Christians whether they be real or false.

The above prophecy was written in 1944 and it is easy to see how truly it has come to pass as nation after nation has fallen under the Communist influence and rule. It is stated that over half of the people on the globe have imbibed the Communist doctrines. In our own country the pressure of Communism is very strong. Just recently the Judges of our Supreme Court have made decisions which have practically handcuffed our police and F. B. I. men in bringing Communists into criminal courts. Many in our country are now desiring the impeachment of six of the Supreme Court Judges, but nothing is done about it. (This insert was written in 1957.)

The following quotation is taken from the "Oklahoma City Daily Times" paper and is a prelude to things that will follow:

"Historians of a century hence will view with amazed incredulity the attitude of the present administration [Truman's]. This administration demands that American taxpayers spend billions upon billions in the effort to "check communism abroad," but views the spread of communism within our own nation with smug and uncomprehending complacency, and even brands the efforts made to check this spread as "witch hunts" or "dragging red herrings across the trail."

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“Some of the highest placed officials in this administration, strange and incomprehensible as this seems, have admitted that official Washington is honey-combed with communists and fellow travelers. Proof is now a matter of government record. For the most part these Red and pinks are products of American universities where “academic freedom” has been so prostituted that treasonable doctrines have gone unchallenged, and have finally penetrated government itself.”

This nation of ours is seeing but little trouble to what it will see after this terrible war is over. There may be silence for a little while, but evil preparations are going on, for the Devil is come with great wrath, as he knows that his time is short. There will be upheavals in this country such as we have never seen nor heard of before. Our tolerating government will be overthrown and a Pagan government will assume authority. Then will shortly come to pass great persecutions and many of the saints will be slain and imprisoned. As his wrath waxes more fierce and hot he will finally fulfill the ninth verse of the twentieth chapter of Revelation, which reads, “And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: [New Jerusalem, the living church of God] and fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.”

This fire which will come down from heaven and devour them, is no doubt, the wrath of God at the coming of Jesus, when, as Peter relates, “The heavens shall melt with fervent heat; the earth also, and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” The saints have nothing to fear because God has always preserved His children when consuming the wicked. Even if they should kill this body, they have no more that they can do, and we would only get to heaven that much sooner. Praise God for a living faith in a living

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God, One who has all power both in heaven and in earth. Let us fear Him, and Him only.

Now let us consider more of the sacred Word of God on the subject of the Lord's present kingdom. We have shown by the Scriptures that Jesus Christ in this present world has all power both in heaven and in earth, for He said so himself in plain words in Matthew 28:18. Notice what the apostle Paul said about Christ and His reigning power in this present world in Ephesians 1:20, "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all." No king could have greater power than is plainly described here as being the power and authority of Jesus Christ.

Some may ask, "How can He be reigning now as King while the nations are in gross wickedness, causing misery and untold suffering of many innocent ones?" It is this way: God is letting men do as they please. Since the large majority are wicked at heart and rebellious against God's rule, He allows them to manifest their wickedness and often permits one wicked nation to punish another wicked nation. The case of Job and his dealings with Satan will serve as an analogy of His ruling above and beyond all the veil in the world. The only lack of a true comparison in Job's case and the case of the world and God ruling is that Job was a righteous man and the nations of today are wicked and ungodly, but God is exercising the same power over the nations and the prince of this

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world that he did over Satan in Job's case. Satan could not destroy Job's earthly property until God gave him permission.

Satan accused Job of serving God because of the earthly property that God preserved unto him. He told God if He would take away those things from him that Job would curse him to his face. God gave Satan leave to destroy all that he had, but commanded him not to lay his hand upon Job. Then Satan destroyed all that Job possessed, even his sons and daughters. Job held his faith in God, and worshiped God, and "in all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." Job 1:22.

When Satan failed in his first attempt, he went back to God and asked permission to touch his flesh, and God gave him permission. He smote him with sore boils from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. His wife turned against him and told him to curse God and die. "But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips." Job 2:10.

This shows how God had power over Satan; and tho he allowed Satan to do evil to Job, He was ruling beyond and above all the evil that Satan was doing. It is also thus in the kingdom of God now. Jesus is now King and ruler of the universe. He is allowing Satan to do wickedly and Satan uses men to carry out his wicked and murderous plans. He causes great distress and misery because men are "loving darkness rather than light." Since they are rebelling against the government of Jesus, He turns them over to their own lusts to kill and to fight (James 4:1) because their hearts are filled with the love of the world and self-righteousness and they seek their own honor and not the Lord's. Someone has said that they hate to see this war because it makes men so wicked. It is

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not the war that makes men wicked; the war only brings out in action the wickedness that is already there. To those who have forsaken the world and have become pliable in Christ's hand, and humbly accept His government and Him as King, He is very precious. They are very glad to have Him as King, for He deals so graciously with them and makes them know that He has a home in heaven for them. They have great peace, quietness, and assurance.

When Jesus came into the world and all power was given unto Him both in heaven and in earth (Read Rev. 1:5) then the Scripture was fulfilled in Rev. 11:15, which reads, "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever."

The great voices in heaven, no doubt, signify the true ministers proclaiming the blazing gospel in these winding up days that Christ is King and the Holy Spirit fire is burning in preparing and gathering His jewels together for His Son's coming, for the "Evening shall be light." Zech. 14:7.

Here it mentions His reign being forever and forever for it is an everlasting Kingdom. Isaiah said in 9:7, "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice, from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

Paul in speaking of Christ in 1 Cor. 15:24, says, "Then cometh the end, when he [Christ] shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; [he will not set up a kingdom at the end, but deliver up the kingdom to the Father] when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power; For he must reign till he hath put all enemies under his feet." The enemies are these wicked and

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ungodly nations and people who will not accept Him as King now, and rebel against His rule and authority. They will be under His feet when destroyed by fire from heaven. “The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.” Death represents Satan, because he is the author of death. He will be the last enemy destroyed. We read about it in Rev. 20:10, “And the Devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are [The beast represented Catholicism and the false prophet represented the Council of Churches and all other false cults that prophesy fables and lies unto the people and keep them in darkness and sin.] and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever.” He is destroyed when the fire burns up the enemies of the Lord, so there will be no more death for the ones that are accounted worthy by God to live forever. Satan and his subjects will have met their doom forever, being cast into the lake of fire and brimstone.

Oh, how we, as the saints, love our King Jesus. He is a just Ruler and righteous in all His ways, and we are glad and rejoice to have Him rule over us in this sinful and wicked world of infidels, atheists, skeptics, and ungodly professors who will not accept Him as King now. Many of these allow the devil to deceive them into believing that after the end the Lord will set up a literal kingdom where they can revel in the lusts of the flesh, and the lamb and the lion will lie down together, and they will have no more wars but peace and happiness. The Devil is making poor souls believe a lie by wresting the Scriptures and making them mean that which is contrary to the sacred Scriptures. He causes them to have a false hope and in this way keeps them from accepting the truth of the Son of God that makes us free from the elements of this world and gives us a true hope of being glorified with Christ. O thou lying Devil, thou enemy of all true righteousness, thou dost not cease to

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pervert the sacred Word of God; Thou hast been a liar from the beginning and never did abide in the truth (John 8:44), thou art doomed to the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. May God hasten the day.

The House of God

The term, “House of God,” is used in the Bible as a symbol of the church of God, or the people that are saved and retain the Spirit and life of Christ in the soul. The analogy is very appropriate. As a house is fitted and framed together and made strong to stand the storms and to keep out unfavorable elements, so the family of God fitted and framed together by the love and Spirit of God in order to stand the storms of life and keep out destructive elements. As a house is built on a good foundation, so are the children of God. In symbolizing the church of God, the Apostle Paul said in Eph. 2:19-22, “Now therefore ye [saved men and women] are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone: I whom ALL the building fitly framed together, [not apart] growth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together [God builds us together] for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” God inhabits each member of His house.

Also the word house is used to designate a family that may live or stay at any certain house or building, as in the case of the jailer. When he asked Paul and Silas, “What must I do to be saved?” they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved and thy house,” meaning all who lived there with

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him. So by this we learn that the “House of God” symbolizes God’s family or saved men and women which constitute the spiritual house of God in this time world. “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 2:5. These Scriptures make plain the fact that all who are saved are God’s house or dwelling.

God, through his inspired prophets in the Old Testament, spoke of the family or house of God; as well as in the New Testament, through his apostles. As we read some of these Scriptures, let us do so with the purpose in view to learn more about what it is and how blessed are they who abide in the Lord’s house.

Jacob, who is often used in Scripture as a type of the family of God, was on his way to Haran. “He lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and, behold, the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the Lord stood above it.” The Lord then began to make promises to Jacob and to tell how he was going to bless him and that in him and his seed should all the families of the earth be blessed. He promised him faithfully that He was going to do this. You will read about this in the twenty-eighth chapter of Genesis, beginning at the tenth verse.

Jacob awoke out of his sleep after the Lord had promised to bless him, and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this none other but the house of God [God gave him knowledge of

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things far in the future.] and this is the gate of heaven.” The house of God is the gateway to heaven. Those who are in the house of God have the promise of entering into heaven, for it is the gateway to heaven.

You will notice that Jacob beheld a ladder set up on the earth. The house of God is a two-story house, as a part of the family is in heaven. “Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.” Ephesians 3:15. Angels were ascending and descending upon the ladder. The children of God here pray to God in heaven and the angels take the prayers up and bring the answers back, Heb. 1:14. These things are taking place now in the house of God. The angels carried the soul of Lazarus to Abraham’s bosom (Luke 16:22). The Lord stood above the ladder. The Lord Jesus Christ is above all; He is the head of the church which is his body (Eph. 1:22, 23).

It is recorded in the seventh chapter of 2nd Samuel that God talked to David about building Him a house in which to live. David humbled his heart before the Lord, and prayed, “Who am I, O Lord God? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto? And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord God.” David began to sense something greater and far beyond a literal house. Then he said, “But thou hast spoken also of thy servant’s house for a great while to come. And is this the manner of man, O Lord God?” David knew that God was promising something greater and far beyond what man could build.

David prepared much material for the building of the literal house of God, but Solomon built this house, which was a type of the real house that God had promised to David. “And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I

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will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name [Read Heb. 3:6] and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”

Notice that God told David that he would set up his seed after him, and he would establish his kingdom or house, and in the next verse he said he would establish it forever. To prove that God here was referring to Jesus Christ as the seed that would build the house or sit on the throne forever, we shall read what Peter said about it in Acts 2:30. “Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne.” Also, Jesus is mentioned as being the seed of David in Acts 13:23; 2 Tim. 2:8; and Rom. 1:3.

“But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.” Heb. 3:6.

In Heb. 8:2, we read about Jesus our High Priest and King, “A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, [not the literal house that Solomon built] which the Lord pitched and not man.” As David said, “And is this the manner of man, O Lord God?” Man had nothing to do with the building of this house or tabernacle. Jesus Christ our Lord and King built it or pitched it.

“And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shall call his name JESUS. [Jesus is the seed of David.] He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; [We who are saved are symbolized by the term house of Jacob] and of his kingdom there shall be no end.” Luke 1:31, 32, 33.

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The house that Solomon built was a shadow, type, or figure of the spiritual house that Jesus built. When Jesus went into the temple and found those that sold oxen, sheep, and doves, and the changers of money sitting, he made a scourge out of small cords and drove them out of the temple and poured out the changers' money and overthrew the tables of money. He told them to take these things hence and make not His Father's house an house of merchandise (John 2:14).

The disciples remembered what was written, "The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up." Why was Jesus so stirred and so grieved? Was it not because they were cheating and swindling in the temple? for Jesus said, "Ye have made it a den of thieves." Luke 19:46. And as this was taking place in the house of God, which was a type, it was not a true type of the real. Jesus was stirred and overcome with zeal to clean it up, so it would be foreshadowing the true. It is written in Psalm 93:5, "Holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, forever." God told Moses to make the tabernacle according to the pattern showed him in the mount (Heb. 8:5) and was careful to instruct him to do so that it might be an honest type of the true tabernacle or house which the Lord pitched and not man.

"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." 1 Tim. 3:15. Here the apostle Paul makes it exceptionally plain and clear that the term, "house of God" is a metaphor of the church of the living God. God lives in his house which is here in this world, but not of the world. The souls who are saved and have his Spirit are his people and he dwells in them and lives in them. They are referred to by the inspired Scripture as the "household of God." The house

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of God is the family of God here in the world, the seed of Christ. All are possessors of His Spirit and have the divine nature; they are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones (Eph. 5:30). They are pliable subjects in the hands of God, and he rules and governs them by the Spirit of Christ which they possess (Romans 8:14). Paul said in Romans 8:9, “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” It is absolutely necessary for one to possess the Spirit of Christ in order to be of the household of God. The Spirit of Christ is the seed of Christ, the life of Christ in the soul, and this Spirit beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God, and if children we are heirs of God and joint (or equal) heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified together. Read Rom. 8:16-18.

Under the law which was a shadow of good things to come, the people of God went up to the house of God, which was a literal building, to worship; but since Christ is come and his people have become his house, the “house of God” goes to the meeting house or place of assembly and worships there, even though it may be in a barn, a tent, in a grove, or in their own dwelling houses.

Jesus made this very plain to the woman at the well, which account is recorded in John 4:21-24, “Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is [at present] when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” Since we are

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no longer in the shadow of things but out in the true and clear way, wherever we as a body of saved people meet together, we constitute what is called in the Scriptures, “the house of God”; and worship is in spirit and in truth, as His Spirit dwells in each one and offers spiritual sacrifice and praise unto Him who has washed us in his own blood. We no longer worship him in forms and ceremonies and with literal objects which foreshadow his coming; but all the literal and formal ceremonies which Christ instituted in the house of God have a spiritual significance and point to what Christ has already done and is doing now for his children who are the household of faith or household of God.

In Ezekiel 43:8, 9, some precious truths are set forth which give us some clear knowledge of the house of God. It reads as follows, “In their setting of their threshold by my thresholds, and their post by my posts, and the wall between me and them; they have even defiled my holy name by their abominations that they have committed . . . Now let them put away their whoredom, and the carcasses of their kings, far from me and I will dwell in the midst of them forever.” The Lord was angry with these people because they were taking his name by setting their threshold by his thresholds and their post by his posts. They had ways of their own that were abominable to the Lord, yet they claimed to be his people and his house. So He told Ezekiel in the 7th verse of something better. In verse 10 He said, “Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, [Here He is going to show them the real, the house that Jesus built] that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern.”

This article is written to “Shew the house to the house.” Saved people constitute the house of God which is in the world today. By showing them that the house of God is builded by the Lord himself

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and is a spiritual building and that it is most holy, because “holiness becometh thine house forever,” we are showing the house (house of God) to the house (God’s saved people).

In the 11th verse he goes on to say, “And if they be ashamed of all that they have done [if they are willing to turn away from their whoredom: falling in with sects and joining them and partaking of their evils, as many are doing today] shew them the form of the house, and the fashion thereof and the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and all the laws thereof, and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them. This is the law of the house; upon the top of the mountain, the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house.” God has a holy house, and he claims no other, for “Thy testimonies are very sure; holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, forever.” Psa. 93:5. “The wicked are overthrown, and are not: but the house of the righteous shall stand.” Prov. 12:7. “Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth.” Psa. 26:8. “Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causeth to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.” Psalm 65:4. “Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing.” Psalm 92:13, 14.

The Lord dealeth graciously with those of his house as he knows their frames are of dust and that they are all in clay houses; but the apostle Paul says, “We know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were to be dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” Thanks be

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unto God for the unspeakable gift that puts us in the house of God, spiritually speaking, in this life and gives us a hope and an assurance of a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Surely, all will want to be in the House of God and then when this clay house crumbles we can enter into that building of God which will be eternal in the heavens. Bless His holy name.

Mount Zion

Have you walked about Mt. Zion?
'Round her towers great and tall?
Have you seen her mighty bulwarks;
Have you seen her shining walls?

Have you seen her lovely places
Shining forth with splendor bright,
In the city of the ransomed
Where there never comes the night?

Yes, the City hath foundations,
She is anchored to the Rock!
She has stood the howling tempests,
And will stand the judgment shock.

It's a foursquare, twelve-gate City,
Walls of jasper, streets of gold;
And its blood-washed population,
No man yet has ever told.

No storm clouds shall gather o'er it.
Neither cast a shadow there;
The sun and moon shall give no light
In that City bright and fair.

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For there the Lamb himself is light,
He hath said, "I am the door";
And the saved of every nation
Shall worship and his name adore.

In her great and mighty tower,
There abides the peaceful dove;
And its banner, in the Zephyr,
Floating over me is love.

This blessed City is Mount Zion,
It's the New Jerusalem,
It's the Church of God—He bought her—
It's the fair Bride of the Lamb.

—Ulysses Phillips

Zion or Mt. Zion

That the word Zion or Mt. Zion is a symbol word for the Church of God or Family of God who are now in the world but not of the world is plainly taught in the sacred Word of God, and through this metaphor of the church we have an abundance of evidence that she is a gloriously made institution, beautiful for situation, is immovable, and established forever.

The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews (12:22-24) instructed the Lord's children with these words, "But ye are come [present tense] unto mount Sion, [Sion is a Greek form of the Hebrew word Zion—Smith's Bible Dictionary] and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."

By reading and understanding these few verses, it is plain to see what glorious and blessed place a man or woman gets into when he or she is "born again" and continues in the spirit and life of Christ. It is not only a precious and glorious place in this world, but it will also be great with multiplied glory and eternal riches in our eternal heavenly abode.

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Peter tells the young converts that they have come unto a living stone, (Christ) disallowed indeed of men, (worldly minded religious people) but chosen of God, and precious, “Ye also as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, Behold I lay in Sion a chief corner stone [Ephesians 2:20, Christ is the chief corner stone in the church] elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.” 1 Peter 2:4-6. Thank the Lord for Zion, which is a metaphor of the church.

“Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, [Zion] in the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King [Jesus] . . . For, lo, the kings were assembled, they passed by together. They saw it and so they marveled; they were troubled, and hasted away.” Psalms 48:1-5. Read Revelation 3:5.

“Let mount ZION rejoice, let the daughters of Judah be glad because of thy judgments. Walk about ZION and go around about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following. For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even unto death.” (verses 11-14). Truly, all of the redeemed are delighted to dwell in mount Zion; there is nothing like it in all the world. Mount ZION is where still the saved of earth dwell, and it is a safe and secure place, and will be forever.

“They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount ZION, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people from henceforth even for ever.” Psalm 125:1, 2.

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“And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things; this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of ZION: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.” Isaiah 12:4-6.

“And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there [no person with a lion-like nature] nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon [none with an ugly beastly nature] it shall not be found there: but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to ZION with songs, and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” Isa. 35:8-10.

When the souls are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb and enter into ZION they have joy and great peace and assurance with quietness, and will never sigh nor sorrow any more, saying, “Where is ZION? where is that safe habitation which is beautiful for situation and the glory of God Almighty?” For when souls enter ZION their parched souls will become a pool and their thirsty land (hearts) springs of water, the enemy will be routed and there will be grass with reeds and rushes instead. Read Isaiah 35:7.

“For the Lord shall comfort ZION: he will comfort all her waste places, and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.” Isaiah 51:3. Read also the 11th verse.

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“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto ZION, Thy God reigneth! Thy watchmen (ministers) shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing; for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again ZION.” Isaiah 52:7, 8. God is bringing again ZION and the ministers or watchmen that are clean and pure are seeing eye to eye and flowing together, never again to be blown about by every wind of doctrine. God is setting them and establishing them in Mount ZION, the dwelling place of all the righteous and the gateway to heaven and the glories of the eternal abode.

“The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down to the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the Lord, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel.” Isaiah 60:14. The Holy One of Israel is none other but the Son of God. He is the Ruler and Governor in ZION, and he rules and governs in justice, holiness, and righteousness, and causes much joy in the inhabitants of ZION. “Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as ZION travailed, she brought forth her children.” Isaiah 66:8. This prophecy has direct reference to ZION, which we have been writing so much about, and is a direct prophecy of the church of God, or Zion, in her infancy. When Peter preached on the day of Pentecost and Zion, the church, travailed and brought forth children, there was added to the church about three thousand souls. A nation was born at once. The children of God are called a nation, because when saved they become the seed of Christ. Peter referred to them as an holy nation in 1 Peter 2:9, “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood,

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an HOLY NATION, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” ZION travailed in pain on that day, and she brought forth children, and a nation of holy people was born at once. ZION is a symbol of the church of the living God. Nothing like this had taken place before. It had not been seen nor heard of, and it all took place in one day. ZION is still travailing and bringing forth children, and the Lord is adding to the church daily such as should be saved or such as are being saved. Mount ZION is a glorious and high institution; she is born from above and is not of this world.

“They shall ask the way to ZION with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten.” Jer. 50:5. People who seek the Lord and come to ZION, join themselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant, and all who are joined to the Lord in this way and have a realization that they are in ZION, the church of the living God, will not join any earthly institution that men call churches; but will separate themselves from the world and its spirit of revelry, fashions, fads, and live wholly to please the Lord. They will have great peace, joy, righteousness, quietness, and assurance forever. Thank God for those who are now coming to ZION.

“But in the last days [now] it shall come to pass that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains [or above men-exalted, so-called churches], and it shall be exalted above the hills [smaller groups] and people shall flow unto it. And many nations [or people from many nations] shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob [God’s children]: and he will teach us of HIS WAYS, and we will walk in his paths, for

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the law shall go forth of ZION, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.” Micah 4:1, 2. Jerusalem is a metaphor of the church of the living God. Paul said that she is the pillar and ground of the truth. David said, “All my springs are in her.” All the truth is in the church of the living God, and all the water of life that we need for the soul is in her. Praise God, she is a complete source of strength, power, and grace for every soul that will come and abide in her.

“They go from strength to strength; every one of them in ZION appeareth before God . . . Behold, O God, our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed. For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house [ZION] of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.” Psa. 84:7-12. In these few verses we read about the protection and goodness of God to his children in Mt. Zion. His loving kindness is over them to shield, give grace and glory, and make them satisfied in any state of life.

“And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem [a figure of the church], shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof, by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for upon all the glory shall be a defense. And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in

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the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.” Isaiah 4:3-6.

In this Scripture the prophet is speaking of things that are in ZION, which is the family of God or church of God. With the many good things he mentions about purging, judgments, and burnings, he says those who remain in Jerusalem shall be holy. God knows how to keep his church clean. He puts some in fiery trials, and if they exercise themselves rightly in them in a godly manner, then the Lord by his Spirit will do the cleansing and purging that the soul needs, and it will be holy and remain in mount Zion. In Malachi 3:2, 3 is a prophecy concerning the work which the Lord would do at his coming, “But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner’s fire, and like fuller’s soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.”

In Matt. 3:12, John the Baptist tells of the work of the Lord when he appears in ZION, or comes to his temple, in these words, “Whose fan [Holy Spirit] is in his hand [under his control], and he will thoroughly purge his floor [hearts given to him] and gather the wheat into the garner; [granary, or Zion] but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” The Lord has been purging, purifying, and keeping Zion clean and preparing vessels of gold in the house of God. There are many instances where he allowed those whom he loved to go into furnaces of trial and afflictions, either to keep them clean or prepare them for greater work in His vineyard. Peter was sifted as wheat. When the Lord rebuked him and told him to put up his sword at the time of his capture in the garden, he was so unarmed by the truth that Jesus spoke that in the

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test he denied the Lord and even cursed and swore; when Jesus looked at him he went out and wept bitterly and repented. The Lord loved him, and in this burning, much of Peter's self was destroyed. He was used mightily after he had received the Spirit of truth into his heart on the day of Pentecost. Paul and Silas were put in the furnace when bound in the jail with their feet fastened in the stocks and with their backs bleeding from the stripes which they had received at the hands of the enemies of the Lord; yet they exercised themselves in a godly manner. God honored their faith and they were released by a mighty earthquake. The bands fell off, and the doors flew open, and the jailer and his house got saved. If they had not exercised themselves in a godly manner, there would have been no earthquake that night; neither would the jailer have been awakened and saved.

In the third chapter of Revelation we read of some who were in great need of being purged and the burning Holy Spirit fire applied to their souls. The Lord said, "I know thy works that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Rev. 3:15, 16. If these people had been zealous for God and the truth—hot, as he terms it—the Lord could have put them in furnaces of trial and burned out the elements that were wrong: but as they were not, He would just have to spue them out of his mouth, or cast them out of Zion, the church of God, and leave them to their own fate with Satan and a profession of religion. He exposed their poverty-stricken spiritual condition in the next few verses, and told them what they needed to do in order to really be restored and put back in Zion, or the church. "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing [at ease in Zion, Amos .6:1], and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked."

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(verse 17) This is an awful state for souls to get into, but many are in this condition today. They are practically doing nothing at all, but have a profession and claim to be in Zion, or the church. They seem to think they have salvation and have need of nothing.

The Lord instructed them, “Buy of me gold tried in the fire.” By this He meant for them to get busy and deny themselves, and so resist the devil by deeds of righteousness that the enemy would be stirred against them, so he could get them into furnaces of trials, persecutions, and hard places, so the Holy Spirit could burn out the self-righteousness and all wrong elements that were in them, causing them to be deceived and at ease. Notice the next two verses. “I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich, and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear: and anoint thine eyes with eye salve [spiritual eyes. Trials will produce eye salve for those who are exercised in a godly manner in them] that thou mayest see. As many as I love I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent.” Do not remain indifferent to the cause of God. but be zealous; do not make any peace with Satan, but work for Jesus no matter in what way the Devil may fight you or revile you; be willing to bear the reproach of the cross, and in that way you will get the eye salve of God put upon your eyes and will be buying “gold tried in the fire.” You can then become one who rejoices in Zion and great peace and assurance will be your portion.

Just think of the hosts today that claim to be in the church and are at ease, bearing practically no reproach, and doing nothing that would stir the devil against them through cold professors or the unsaved. They seem to be content to just go to meeting, pay their dues, and be recognized by the majority as being in the church and

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ready for heaven. They seem to be content to have the name and eat their own bread and wear their own clothing; in other words, just take of the Word of God that which suits their carnal self-righteousness and leave the other, that which would unclothe them that they might be clothed with his righteousness, and just continue on at ease in Zion, or the church. The Lord is saying to all such, “Buy of me gold tried in [or by] the Holy Ghost fire.” Read Matthew 3:10-12, and so conduct yourself that the Lord can get some eye salve upon your spiritually blind eyes.

In Isaiah 10:24 are some consoling words for those in Zion who are in the furnace. These words should help them to be patient and just let the fire burn, and not be afraid, for the Lord will come to their rescue in due time. Due time will be when He sees that their souls have received the good that they need while in godly exercise in the furnace. “Therefore thus saith the Lord God of hosts, [He is God, above all evil hosts.] O my people that dwellest in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian: [evil people or professors] he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt. For yet a very little while and the indignation shall cease, and [then] mine anger in their destruction.” Truly God’s ways are not man’s ways, but as the heavens are high above the earth so are his ways higher and beyond our ways. Brethren and sisters, let us each seek His ways and then He will put us in the furnace of affliction, cleanse us, purge us, and make us white if we will be exercised in a godly manner while in it.

“Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.” Daniel 12:10. What a comfort this ought to be to saints who are in affliction and fiery trials to be patient and let the Holy Spirit fire burn and to continue

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to exercise themselves in a godly manner that their souls may get the good that our King and Saviour sees they need in order to remain in Zion and be ready for heaven. The wicked who cause us the trials do not understand, but we do know that God knows, and he says in his Word, "All things work together for good to them that love the Lord." Just keep loving the Lord and do not get stirred against the instrument He may be using, nor murmur and complain; but rejoice to think that God loves you so much that He allows you to go into a furnace of trial or affliction so that you can be of more use to Him and get into heaven in the end. Be one of the wise and understand and in patience possess your souls. Remember the Scripture in Proverbs 27:7, "The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet." If you are really hungering after God's righteousness, the bitter trials of life will become sweet to you. Paul glorified in tribulations and persecutions and called them "light afflictions," and said they worked out for him a far greater weight of glory. Jesus despised the shame that was heaped upon him, and looked upon it as a very small thing, for he was looking at the joy that was set before him. Read Heb. 12:2-16. The wicked do not understand why we as the children of God are often in afflictions and in fiery trials. But the wise ought to understand and be patient and just let the Holy Ghost fire burn that we may be made white and ready for clean service and for heaven.

In Isaiah 31:9 is recorded more things that are taking place in ZION, the church of the living God, "And he shall pass over to his strong hold for fear, and his princes shall be afraid of the ensign, saith the Lord, whose fire is in ZION, and his furnace in Jerusalem." Jerusalem is a metaphor of the church. In the preceding verse the prophet spoke of the Assyrians who were literal enemies of literal Israel. In this verse he used the word

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Assyrian as a symbol, which denotes our spiritual enemies, and said that they shall fall by the sword and his young men (or soldiers or imps of Satan) shall be discomfited or defeated. In the ninth verse he said that his strong ones, or princes, will be afraid, even in their strong hold when they see the ensign. One definition for ensign is a standard, or mark. Paul had the ensign of Christ when he said, "From henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." Gal. 6:17. The marks of the Lord Jesus were his sufferings and victories over the enemy. Jesus suffered willingly, and God fought his battle. When he arose from the tomb he came forth a conqueror; he was victor over Satan. Paul suffered willingly and even gloried in his great afflictions, and he came forth victorious and truly bore in his body the marks of the Lord Jesus, both in sufferings and in victory. At the end he said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness." 2 Tim. 4:7, 8. He exercised himself in a godly manner in the afflictions and trials and in that way kept the faith.

In Rom. 8:17, 18 is found the great hope of those who suffer with Jesus in this life and exercise themselves all through the sufferings in a godly manner with patience: "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." We have the promise of being heirs with Christ on the terms that we suffer with him. If there is no cross or suffering here, there will be no crown over there, and we shall not be heirs of His glorified body; in other words, we shall not inherit a glorified body as He has. The sufferings of Christ and the victories are the marks or ensign.

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When made to suffer by the Assyrians, or the imps of Satan, we exercise ourselves in the trials in a godly manner and come off victorious, it will make the princes of Satan afraid to send more imps to afflict us, as they will see the ensign. We shall have great victory and freedom to do service for God and be ready for heaven.

He says in the ninth verse that his fire is in ZION and his furnace in Jerusalem. It is certainly true that we who are in ZION and in Jerusalem the Free are subject to the fire of the Holy Ghost and the furnaces of afflictions and persecutions. But when we learn to rejoice in them as the apostle Paul did, then we shall be getting great good to our souls out of them. Many times we may be the “just” suffering for the “unjust,” that they may be brought to a knowledge of God and his ways. Truly the ways of the Lord are equal and righteous altogether.

The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites: who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?” Isa. 33:14. He tells us just who will be able to stand in and through the burnings and the Holy Ghost devouring fire. It is he who continues to walk righteously and speaketh the truth, is upright in his ways, despises the gain of oppression, will not take bribes (make peace with the enemy) but holds his faith in God and keeps himself committed into his hands. Read the next few verses and see how good the Lord is to those that are willing to suffer with Jesus.

“The sinners in Zion are afraid and fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites.” The sinners here spoken of and the hypocrites are those who are going along with the saints pretending to be one of them. The world and many who profess are looking upon them as such. These will be afraid of the burnings and afraid of the Holy Ghost fire that stirs things in Zion. But those who walk in

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righteousness and uprightness will meekly submit all to God and be quiet and submissive in his hand and look to the Lord for the good in each and every fiery trial. The Lord will spread a table for them in the presence of their enemies and they will find the Lord to be a high tower and a rock of defense. They shall behold the King in his beauty and the land where the celestial city is will be easily seen and joy will fill their souls.

“Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, [Jesus] a precious corner stone, a sure foundation [Eph. 2:20] he that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment also will I lay to the line and righteousness to the plummet; and the hail [stones of truth] shall sweep away the refuge of lies [places where hypocrites hide], and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.” Isaiah 28:16, 17. Salvation waters will overflow the hiding places or discover them and wash them away until there will be no strength but that of the Lord. The doctrines of man and his theories and self-righteous ways are like a bed that is too short and cover that is too narrow. The burnings of the Lord will find him and he will be compelled to accept a larger bed and larger coverings or to be removed to some sect with his profession where many are being gathered as chaff for the unquenchable burnings where the worm (soul) dieth not and the fire is never quenched.

“To appoint unto them that mourn in ZION, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness: [What for, Lord?] that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that HE might be glorified.” Isaiah 61:3. This is a plain prophecy of the work of Jesus Christ as found in the preceding verses of this chapter. Those who come to the Lord mourning and sorry for sins

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and evil, who have been captured and bruised by Satan, can be liberated by Christ. He will break chains that bind and set the captives free and then they will see beautiful things, will have joy and praise for God, will draw water out of the wells of salvation with joy.

In Romans 9:33 we read, “As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion [Zion] a stumbling stone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.” The stumbling stone or rock of offence is none other but the Son of God who is head and governor in Zion. The Israelite people stumbled and were offended in him because the works of the law was their righteousness, and they would not accept him as their righteousness. So it is today with a great majority who profess. They want their own righteousness and are not willing to take his humble, suffering, and self-denying ways. They are not willing to bear the reproach of the cross, so they just take that part of the Scriptures which please and suit them and let their self-life live and are offended at the crucified way. This did not Jesus nor Paul, for Paul said, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20. It is a walk of faith of the Son of God, and it means to just let go and let God work both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Not our will any more nor our life, but his life. He will lead one into humiliating and self-denying places and the flesh will suffer and be dishonored, but if he holds his faith in God He will get glory out of his life. What does it matter to us, just so our Saviour is getting glory, for He is our all and in all anyway? In letting Him have glory, we shall be sowing to the Spirit, but if we do otherwise, we shall be sowing to the flesh. The sacred Word says, “For he that soweth to his flesh, shall of the flesh reap

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corruption; [eternal death] but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” Galatians 6:8, 9. This Scripture makes it very plain that if we expect to reap everlasting life we must keep sowing to the Spirit even though we are naturally abused, slandered, scoffed at, despised, and put to shame and contempt. We should hold our faith in the Lord and be willing and obedient that He may get glory to His name. The more we are like Christ in this world, the greater glory we shall give to God. Many in this day boast of their righteousness, and say, “Live the life,” “Let your light shine;” and after all, it is just their righteousness. They would kick and back up from every way the Lord would want to lead them that would bring humiliation and shame to their life, which they call righteousness. Shame on people who let the Devil deceive them into believing a lie while they claim to love Jesus but by their actions they cry with the crowd, “Loose Barabbas.”

“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.” Heb. 10:38. Those who draw back when the Lord is leading them into humiliation, shame, and suffering, and will not exercise faith in the Lord and go through with him but try to fix it up some other way in order to bring no reproach of suffering to them, will find that the Lord will soon cease to have pleasure in them. If they keep drawing back, they will soon become to the Lord in an analogy like a nut on a bolt with the threads nearly worn out. They will have a profession but will be useless to the Lord, for they will not hold in time of pressure and will be good for nothing.

“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is

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perfect toward him.” 2 Chron. 16:9. These words were spoken to Asa the king by the seer of God, because Asa had relied on the king of Syria for strength and victory and not on the Lord his God. He would not manifest faith in God so the Lord could show himself strong in his behalf, and it displeased the Lord. He sent his prophet to the king to reprove him. Instead of being exercised in a godly way and seeing his wrong and humbly repenting of it, he flew into a rage and put the prophet in prison and oppressed some of the people. After that God permitted Asa to be diseased in his feet, and the disease was exceeding great. He failed God again and put his case in the hands of the physicians and did not trust God, and he died. God can get no glory out of a soul who backs up in time of test and trial, and is not willing to suffer humiliation, shame, and contempt, at the hands of the enemy of the cross. If we save our life here, we shall lose eternal life. Shall we go through life on flowery beds of ease while others fought to win the prize and sailed through bloody seas? If we bear no cross here, we shall have no crown yonder.

Not all of our trials, afflictions, and persecutions are allowed because we need some wrong element removed. Many times we suffer for other’s sake and sometimes for our own faults or because of being ignorant of God’s ways. Paul suffered much for the sake of others, and he took it patiently because he loved the souls of men, even those who persecuted him. Jesus suffered, the just for the unjust, and since he is gone and sends his resurrected life into our souls, we become the just suffering for the unjust that they might be brought unto God. When exercising ourselves in a godly manner in trials, we are lifting up Jesus, and Jesus said, “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.” John 12:32.

The Truth Is Marching On

When the gospel truth first came to man in the morning age of
time,

And its golden rays of light and truth on earth began to shine,
Old Satan then became alarmed, with all his wicked throng,
And tried to crush it to earth, but still it's marching on.

When Satan's kingdom was assailed by Michael's angel band,
The dragon with his mighty host against him took his stand.
And they the truth in fury fought with many millions strong,
But by the mighty hand of God, the truth kept marching on.

The beast then took the dragon's seat and came upon the
scene;

And with the sword his army left a bloody, crimson stream,
And fifty million saints or more to the martyr's stake had
gone

And when they thought they had prevailed, the truth kept
marching on.

The image of the beast then came to scatter and deceive
And hide the precious truth of God that we have long
believed.

His efforts failed, although he fought and labored hard and
long,

But still the precious truth we love is truly marching on.

So Gog and Magog then appeared in Armageddon's heights
To fight against the saints of God out in the evening light.
The battle now is raging hot with truth against the wrong,
And when the smoke has cleared away, 'twill still be marching
on.

—W. M. Pettigrew

The City of God

Surely every man, woman, boy, and girl would love to live in the city of God. There is no city that is so great, large, and beautiful as the city of God. There is no city that is furnished with such complete and carefully made conveniences for man. The water supply is inexhaustible and is one hundred per cent pure, and is so situated that it comes in from above the city and no armies of the enemy can cut off the supply nor hinder its flow. The food supply is immense and is given in abundance of every variety. It is the very cleanest, freshest, and most appetizing food that is obtainable. It, like the water supply, cannot be cut off by the enemy under any circumstances. The lighting system is perfect, and every nook and corner of the city is lit up continually with a light that far surpasses any of our modern electric light systems. They can be seen afar off shining even brighter than the noon-day sun. The buildings are perfect, made of indestructible material, and are magnificent in size, glittering and sparkling in the radiant light of the Son of God. The parks with shady pools and green, grassy lawns are exceedingly great and broad with elaborate fixtures in different parts that exceed anything mortal eye has seen. The balmy breeze from heaven is so tempered it delights the most sensitive nature and is blissful and wonderfully pleasing to all the inhabitants. The streets are paved with transparent gold and are spick, span, and clean all the time. The cleansing system is so

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perfect that no filth of any kind is allowed to accumulate in the city in any place whatever. The inhabitants of this city are all peaceable, loving, and kind, and are looking after one another's interests, even as their own. The Mayor, or City Manager, deals so justly and righteously with everyone and is so wise and great that all, from the least to the greatest, love Him with all their soul, mind, and strength. They would rather be slain than to offend Him or disobey Him in the least way, hence His government and rule is greatly desired by all. This city has a great and high wall around it which is so high and so thick that no enemy with all modern equipment can get over it or break through it. The only way they can get in is to come through the gates. This city has twelve magnificent gates. The Mayor, or City Manager, has charge of them, and he alone can let folks out or let them come in.

Surely all people would love to live or dwell in this wonderful city. All who will, can live in this city, but the cost for this right seems to be so great that many will not pay the price. It means that one will have to sell all that he has in order to have sufficient funds to buy this precious right. But even with this enormous price to be paid, the city is well inhabited. Every inhabitant becomes a light in this city and illuminates the sky so that the light shines out around this city for thousands and thousands and thousands of miles, and wayfaring men are directed to the city by this light. Jesus told his disciples, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." Matthew 5:14. And Paul said in Phil. 2:15, "Ye shine as lights in the world"—not one light, but many lights; yet but one light, as Paul speaks of the body of Christ which is the city of God, "But now are they many members yet but one body" 1 Cor. 12:20. The lights of this city are many, yet one light makes an illumination in the sky that shines out far and near to let earnest seekers find their way to the city of God.

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I have given the above description of the city of God by personal knowledge and experience in the city for the past twenty-eight years. We shall now give you some Scriptures on the subject. Scripture is the sacred Word of God: “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” 2 Tim. 3:16, 17. “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of men: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” 2 Peter 1:20, 21. Notice, Peter said, “No prophecy is of any private interpretation.” A private interpretation is an interpretation given by someone who does not possess the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost was the giver of the sacred Word, so it will take one possessed of the Holy Ghost to give out the clean and proper interpretation of the inspired Word of God. The reason so many folks who profess Christ are in darkness today is because there are so many who put private interpretations on the Word, having not the Holy Ghost. Therefore men are either led in darkness or kept in darkness by believing their private interpretations. It is much easier for the natural man to believe private interpretation rather than the Holy Ghost interpretations because private interpretations usually favor the self-life in man. That pleases the natural man and it is much easier for him to take up with such, thinking to get to heaven, because he is sincere in his belief. We might be sincere in a thing and miss heaven by not receiving light and knowledge that God wants to give us. A story is told that illustrates the truth I am trying to express, which goes like this:

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A man was traveling through a wooded country on a bright moonlit night when he came to a stream of water. He saw a log extending across the stream, so he, with all confidence, stepped down upon the log to walk across. It was only a shadow of a tree because of the bright moon. He was sincere all right, but his sincerity did not keep him from getting wet. Just so, if we believe those private interpretations of the Word of God and conduct our lives accordingly, it will not keep us out of hell. It is a personal matter with each one of us to get true light and knowledge from God, and to so yield ourselves daily to Him that when we hear interpretations of the Word of God the Spirit of God will enable us to know whether it be the true or the false. It can be this way, and it is up to us to have it this way, for God is faithful to every soul.

The term “City of God” in most places in the Bible is a symbol of the church of God or family of God. Jerusalem was the city of God in a literal sense, and it typified the church of God that we are in when saved—born from above. In literal Jerusalem was located the temple that Solomon built, a place where the Jews met with God in worship and the priest offered up sacrifices for their sins. However, the prophets, when prophesying, generally prophesied of the real or anti-type, and told of her glories to encourage the Jews to look with joy to the coming of the Messiah who would rule in the new city of God, and bring peace and joy to all. The prophets not only referred to the anti-type as being the city of God, but also often called it Jerusalem, or Jerusalem from above. John the Revelator, in the twenty-first chapter of his book and in some other places, called it “New Jerusalem.” In writing about the symbols under this heading, we shall use all three of these terms, as they mean one and the same thing.

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“There is a river the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early. The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered his voice, the earth melted. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.” Psalm 46:4-7. Notice what the ruler, or governor, of this city says about the river, of which the Psalmist prophesied in this verse. It is recorded in John 7:38, “He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly [or innermost being] shall flow rivers of living water.” This living water is clear as crystal and proceeds from the throne of God and of the Lamb, the governor and ruler of the city. Jesus told the woman at the well, “But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” John 4:14.

“Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem [the city of God] a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken. But there the glorious Lord will be unto us a place of broad rivers and streams; wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ships pass thereby. For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; he will save us.” Isaiah 33:20-22. This is a very precious and wonderful prophecy of the city of God in which the saved live in this time-world, and it only makes plain the truth that is the portion of all who abide there. While the world is in great trouble and souls are parched and dry, the Lord has an abundance of soul-refreshing water for his children, and they dwell in sure dwelling places and bathe in the streams of eternal bliss.

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Again in Isa. 58:11 we read, “And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones; and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.” It certainly is a blessed place to dwell and to live in the city of God.

John, the Revelator, writes of the accommodations in this wonderful city: “And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life [Jesus is the tree of life], which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face, and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there: and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign forever and forever” (Rev 22:1-5). The descriptions of the things that John saw in the city of God are wonderful, to say the least, and give us some idea of the good and precious things the saints enjoy. Their joy and comfort will be increased as they continue to live in the city of God. The more we love, honor, and adore the Governor and Ruler of the city, the greater shall we enjoy the riches of His grace and the sweeter will be His choice of things to our taste. This pure river of water of life, which was as clear as crystal, issues from God and the Lamb. He wrote of the tree of life on either side of the river. The tree of life is, no doubt, Jesus Christ and the sacred Word of God. They bare twelve manner of fruits, referring, no doubt, to the twelve apostles as they brought forth fruits every month in the year. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (There will be no nations to heal in heaven.) The leaves, no doubt, are the

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doctrines and teachings of the Bible that if received will heal the soul and bring one into the city of God where he will be nourished and fed on the choicest of fruit. He said there shall be no more curse. In other words, there shall be no one in the city who is under the curse or in sin. When one comes to Jesus the waters of salvation will wash away all sins and he will be redeemed from under the curse. The throne of God is in the city, and the Lamb dwells there. His servants, or children, will serve him and they shall see his face. Spiritually speaking, they shall behold him and know what he is like. "His name shall be in their foreheads." They shall be marked and sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise (Ephesians 1:13). There will be no night there. There is no need for a candle for the Lord God giveth them light through the Lamb, the Son of God. Read Revelation 21:23. They shall reign forever and ever. We who are in the city of God here in this world shall someday meet the Lord in the air and our reigning with him shall never cease, for it shall be forever and ever. The saints of God who make up the city of God in this time-world will continue in the city and in its glorified state will shine in great splendor and brightness even as the stars of heaven forever and ever. Daniel 12:3.

In Hebrews the twelfth chapter, an address to the children of God, we read about what the children of God have come to and are now in, "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God [God lives in her], the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels [thank God, there are angels in this city], to the general assembly and church of the first born, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all and to the spirits of just men made perfect." Hebrews 12:22, 23. How precious and blessed it is to be in this city. All who are in the city of God have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and their names are written in heaven.

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The Psalmist David prophesies of this city of God in Psalm 87:3, 5, 6, “Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. Selah. And of Zion [city of God] it shall be said, this and that man was born in her; and the Highest himself shall establish her. The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. Selah.” Consider what is said and the Lord give thee understanding. People are born into the city of God by a heavenly birth, and when this takes place the Lord writes their names on the Lamb’s book of life. Eternal life has begun in the soul and they have become inhabitants of the city of God. Jesus told Nicodemus, “Ye must be born again.” To be born again, born from heaven with the life and Spirit of Christ coming into the soul to live, is the only way by which any one can dwell in the city of God in this time-world. Only those who are in the city now will be eligible to enter into that glorified state with God and the Son at his coming. Read the whole chapter of the 122nd Psalm and see what David says about this wonderful city in which we now live. One thing he says is that “Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together.” God’s people are always together. God never designed it to be any other way; all the sacred Word teaches of them as being together. They are raised up together and made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, and will be caught up together. God’s ways are always right and pleasant to the meek and humble.

God has promised to defend the city of God: “As birds flying, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it, and passing over he will preserve it.” “As birds flying,” no doubt symbolizes His angels that swarm over and around the city of God or Jerusalem to protect his people from being overcome by Satan and his hosts of evil workers in the world. In Psa. 34:7, we read, “The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.” “Let them be as chaff

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before the wind: and let the angel of the Lord chase them” (Psalm 35:5). “The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them as in Sinai, in the holy place.” Psalm 68:17. Jerusalem, the city of God, which consists of God’s saved children, is that holy place.

Isa. 66:10-13 tells of the joy of God’s children, who are Jerusalem, the city of God, “Rejoice ye with Jerusalem and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her: That ye may suck and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory. For thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees. As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem.” The Word of God is full of good things for his children who love and obey him. The compassion and love of God toward his saints is immense, and he truly delights in them that fear him. Oh. What a gracious and heavenly place is the city of our God, the holy city which has come down from God out of heaven!

In the fourth chapter of Galatians, the apostle Paul gives an allegory and in this reveals to us plainly the difference between Jerusalem in its literal, worldly state and Jerusalem which is above or from above, which is the mother of us all. We who are in the city of God are born from above and are free from the world and the devil. We have the “promise of the Father,” (John 14:16: Acts 4:4) and the Son has made us free, and we are truly free indeed. As Isaac was a child promised of the Lord, so are we who have received the Spirit of God, the children of promise. Jesus Christ promised to send us the Spirit, and since we have received Him

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and are born into the family of God and have become New Jerusalem, we are the children of promise. Those not born of the Spirit, even though they profess Christ, are still of the bond woman, or what the Scriptures call in bondage and symbolized as literal Jerusalem. They persecute the children of the free woman who are born of the Spirit. Jerusalem, which is the mother of us all, is both above and from above, as part of the family is in heaven and part down here in the world. For this reason the apostle Paul could truthfully say, "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." Ephesians 3:14, 15. Oft times the prophets, when prophesying of the city of God, (Zion, or Jerusalem), do not make much particular difference between the portion of the church in the world and the portion in heaven. As such, they speak of it being everlasting and forever, for they not only see its glory here, but also in a glorified state after this mortal flesh is dropped and has gone back to dust. The city of God, Jerusalem, or the family of God, is shining in this world and will be multiplied in its shining propensities in her glorified state.

In Gal. 4:27, Paul says, "For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren, that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband." You will find this prophecy in Isaiah 54:1-4. Those who are unsaved and out of the city of God are termed by the Lord as desolate people, and are many more in number than those who are in the city, who are married to the Lord, and have a husband. They are termed desolate because they have no hope and are without God in the world, and spiritually speaking, they dwell in the city of destruction. Being in darkness, they do not understand the children of light, and so speak evil of them. Those who profess Christ and are in self-righteousness are the worst enemies and persecutors of

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the children that dwell in the city of God, for they are only born after the flesh. “But as then he that was born after the flesh, persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.” Galatians 4:29. The humanly organized religious bodies in the world who are born of the world in self-righteousness do not understand those who are born into the city of God and have forsaken the world and all its ways and find their joy and comfort alone in God. Therefore, being in this state, they are ready to speak evil and to persecute the true saints. The righteousness of God working in and through the blood-washed and redeemed who have received into their souls the “promise of the Father” (John 16:8-11) acts as a reproof to their self-righteous ways and stirs their evil natures against the godly. It always has been and always will be, for in symbolical language those who profess and are religious are earthly Jerusalem. Thus Jesus could truthfully say, “For it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem” (Luke 13:33). In Rev. 11:8, this great city is spiritually called Sodom and Egypt, for it was those self-righteous people in the earthly Jerusalem who crucified our Lord, the prince of glory. The literal Jerusalem is typical of all the self-righteous, religious people in the world today, for they dwell in that great city which spiritually is called Egypt and Sodom. The Word and the Spirit are God’s two witnesses which the religious sects of today claim to have. And they do have the Bible, but they keep it dead, not obeying its precepts except in a self-righteous manner. They claim to have the Spirit, but keep it dead, not allowing it to lead and govern them. These two bodies are lying dead in the streets of this great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt (Rev. 11:8). The same spirit that crucified our Lord exists there today and they continually cry, “Loose unto us Barabbas.” In other words: let us live to satisfy and to gratify our fleshly lusts in self-righteousness at the expense of Christ

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being crucified.” They know nothing about what Paul meant when he said, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Gal. 2:20. In Gal. 4:30, Paul plainly teaches that these religious people who dwell in the great city of Egypt and Sodom and are of the bond woman, shall not be heirs with the sons of the free woman who are born from above.

As the book of Revelation is sprinkled very heavily with symbolical language referring to the false, deceptive religions of our day and also referring to the true church or the New Jerusalem, we shall now read some from the 21st chapter, beginning at the second verse, “And I John saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” This holy city, the New Jerusalem, is none other but the children of God who are born from above. When we are born of the Spirit, we give up our life here and receive the life of Christ from heaven and our strength, grace, and holiness all come down from God out of heaven. As John was in the Spirit, he saw spiritual things which God revealed to him. In vision he saw the whole body coming down from God out of heaven, and he termed it as the holy city, because the life of Christ coming into the soul makes each one holy, and all of them make up in figure a holy city. He saw it as New Jerusalem, as they all were made new creatures in Christ, for old things had passed away. God had turned away from old literal Jerusalem and met no more with those who rejected his only begotten Son, as we read in Matthew 23:37, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you

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desolate.” They rejected Christ and were numbered with the desolate, which means without God and lost. The ones who believe in Christ and receive life from heaven in their souls become the New Jerusalem which comes down from God out of heaven. John saw them prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Their souls were washed in the blood of the Lamb and they had on the best robe, which is sanctification. The linen clean and white is typical of sanctification (Revelation 19:8), for it means the righteousness of God which makes saints.

“And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.” Revelation 21:3.

The great voice John heard is none other than the voice of the ministers who dwell in heavenly places in Christ and declare the Word of God to men. He continues to say what that great voice declared. The first was, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men.” This truth is earnestly and faithfully declared by all God sent ministers in the world today, for they are keenly aware that they are dwelling in the tabernacle of God, yea, that the blood-washed throng that composes the family of God in the world is His tabernacle as is clearly set forth in the sacred Word of God.

The Psalmist David asked, “Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle, Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?” Psalm 15:1. Then the answer: “He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor.” In this the Prophet David recognized the fact that the tabernacle of God was with men. Peter proclaimed in

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Acts 10:35, “But in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”

“For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord.” Psalms 27:5, 6.

“I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings.” Psalm 61:4.

Hebrews 8:1 describes Jesus as being a high priest who is set at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens. And the second verse reads thus: “A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.” Man had nothing to do with the pitching of the tabernacle of God among men, for the Lord did that himself. “And Moses verily was faithful in all his house [Here he uses house in place of tabernacle, meaning the same thing.] as a servant [His tabernacle was a shadow of the real.] for a testimony of those things that were to be spoken after [Moses’ tabernacle pointed forward to the real.]; But Christ as a son over his own house [or tabernacle] whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.” He makes it plain here that we are his house or tabernacle.

“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together, growth unto an holy temple [or tabernacle] in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for

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an habitation of God through the Spirit.” This Scripture makes it exceedingly plain that the saved people are the temple or tabernacle of the Lord, and that God inhabits them, or dwells in them, by His Spirit. The above Scripture is found in Ephesians 2:19. “And he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.” Revelation 21:3.

“And what agreement hath the temple [or tabernacle] of God with idols? for ye are the temple [or tabernacle] of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them and will walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them [those in Sodom and Egypt] and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” 2 Cor. 6:16-18. This is very plain talk to us here in this world, but if we will do just what he says, he will fulfill all of his promises to us. Then we shall know that we are dwelling in the tabernacle of God and are the New Jerusalem that has come down from God out of heaven.

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Rev. 21:4). “God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.” When one is in sin and abused and bruised by Satan, he will have many tears, heartaches, and sorrows; but when he turns to the Lord, and God washes him in His blood and sends quietness, peace, and assurance in his soul, all of his tears will be wiped away and he will have joy and peace. “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost” (Romans 14:7).

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“And there shall be no more death.” What great consolation this brings to the redeemed soul. Jesus says in John 11:26, “And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?” When one gets saved and continues to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and is settled in the New Jerusalem, he will never die, spiritually speaking, but when this mortal body gives way, he will rise with Him and have a glorified body, and live on and on with God. “Death is swallowed up in victory.” 1 Corinthians 15:54. Satan is the author of death. One who is born of the Spirit of the Lord (or is in New Jerusalem), has victory over Satan and reigns as king and priest with Jesus in this life. Physical death loses its sting to all who are free in Jesus, but the world and those in “Sodom and Egypt” have death with sting.

“Neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things have passed away.” It is truly blessed to experience the great relief from crying, sorrow, and pain, and to know that the former things have passed away. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things have become new” (2 Cor. 5:17). Thank God for all things becoming new and the old and former things passing away. Oh, how blessed it is to dwell in Jerusalem the New and to be a partaker of His holiness, which brings joy, peace, and comfort and an assurance of some day meeting Him in the air and ever being with Him!

I feel much like the Prophet Isaiah when he cried out in prophecy as he saw the need of the people. Isaiah 62:1, “For Zion’s sake I will not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem’s sake, I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory; and thou shalt be called

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by a new name [It is New Jerusalem now.] which the mouth of the Lord shall name. Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God. Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate [Old Jerusalem was termed desolate.]: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah [I delight in her], and thy land Beulah [meaning, married]: for the Lord delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married.” When we are saved and inhabit New Jerusalem, we become His land and are married to the Lord, spiritually speaking. This is a glorious thought and a blessed reality to all true inhabitants of New Jerusalem.

“To Jerusalem the new
Come the tried and faithful few
Back to Zion’s golden glory once again;
Highest praise our tongues employ,
With the everlasting joy,
Now a thousand voices swell the glad refrain.

“Often have we heard of thee,
Blessed city of the free;
But our fathers sang thy glory far away,
Teaching us that only there
In that world so bright and fair
Could we hope to see thy blessed golden day.

“With thy walls of jasper bright,
Sparkling in the radiant light,
Blessed city of our God we come to thee;
Thro’ thy pearly gates ajar
Come the ransomed from afar,
Hear again the joyful songs of jubilee.

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“On the trees our harps we hung,
Zion’s songs were left unsung,
By the rivers sat we weeping all the day;
Now our harps we tune again,
Sing the everlasting strain,
Now our mourning, sorrow, sighing flee away.

“Now we reach the evening light,
Robed in shining garments white,
We return to where the saints of yore have trod;
Flee we now from Babel’s fall,
For we’ve heard the Saviour’s call
To Jerusalem, the living church of God.

His Flesh-and-Spirit Body

When one speaks of a body he thinks of an object of one nature which is joined together. Although it may have different parts which have a different work to perform, yet are all joined together and function in harmony, propelled by the same power and have the same object in view (Rom. 12:1; Acts 20:28).

Jesus, in speaking of laying His life down for the sheep (children), says in John 10:16, “And other sheep I have [Gentiles], which are not of this fold [Jewish people]: Them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice: and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.”

“For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace” (Eph. 2:14, 15). Notice he says, “for to make in himself of twain [the Jew and Gentile] one new man, so making peace.”

By the pouring out of His innocent blood and giving his life for the Jew and Gentile alike, He brings them together and makes in himself of twain (the Jew and the Gentile) one new man, thus making peace. The law of commandments contained in ordinances,

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which pointed forward to the real new man and was the old man, is abolished when the new man is created.

In the 16th verse we read, “And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby.” Note that both are reconciled in one body by the cross. It is just one body and that one body is reconciled together by the cross. Paul spoke the truth when he said, “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ” (1 Cor. 12:12). In the human body there are many members which function in their respective places, yet it is only one body as they all work in harmony and together for the best interests of the whole body. So also is Christ’s body which is now in the world, for He teaches us in the next verse that by receiving his Spirit into our souls we are baptized into, or inducted into one body. This body is His purchased body that is now functioning in the world. His body is made up of men and women who have presented their bodies to Him as a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1), sacrificing all their fleshly, earthly desires that His life might live in them in a supreme sense. In this way their body of flesh becomes a member in His body and with all the members of like nature and consecration make up His body that is in the world. As this body is His true body He is the Head, the Governor, Ruler, Power, and Life; in fact, He is all and in all.

When Jesus lived in His fleshly body before His crucifixion, He was God manifested in the flesh and He was invested with all the gifts of the Spirit and could perform all manner of miracles. Since He was crucified and has sent forth the other Comforter, His resurrected life into the souls of men, He gives gifts to each member; not all the gifts to one member as He possessed them, but

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several as He will. Then all the members with the different gifts working together make up the whole body or the New Man, which could be termed His fleshly body manifesting itself in the world. The body is in the world, but not of the world, for the life, strength, power, and grace is sent into the body from heaven where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. He gives us heavenly wisdom which makes us very peculiar to the worldly minded religious people who are of the world.

“Wherefore he saith, when he ascended up on high, he led captivity [Satan] captive, and gave gifts unto men.” (Eph. 4:8). The Scripture says that He gave some gifts that made them apostles; some He so gifted that they could be prophets or ministers; some were gifted to be evangelists, and others were gifted to be pastors and teachers. What does He do all this for? Note, He says in the 12th and 13th verses, “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” We see that He gifts members of the body that the saints might be taught and perfected and administered the spiritual truths of God, that they all might be edified as a body of Christ, that they may understand that we are all one in faith and unity and have the knowledge that we are in the Son of God and that we are a perfect man, one body, and that we might measure up in stature and show forth the fullness of Christ. Why does He want us to know all these things? What is the good in it? “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (14th verse). God wants each of His saints to be established in Him, and in His body, and to realize what manner of folks they are. He

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wants them to keep yielded unto Him and not be bothered about the winds of doctrine in the world that have what they call a church to join or clique or clan with human theories with which to affiliate. But we are to know that we are joined unto the Lord by His Spirit, are members of His body, and need nothing else. We should have a clear knowledge of what His body is, and that we are members in that body. There can be no other body, for every member which is severed from His body will die. Therefore we do not give heed nor listen to any of the winds of doctrine that Satan has blowing in the world to cunningly deceive the simple with his crafty religious juggling of the Scriptures and perverting of the truth. Those who do not discern the body of Christ very clearly are sickly in their experience, if they have any experience at all. In order to be established in the Lord so that the cunning crafty agents of Satan cannot deceive, one needs to have a clear understanding and realization of being a member in His purchased body which is in the world, and needs to resist any thought or suggestion of Satan or crafty men of joining anything else or even giving ear to the rabble of Satan's religious imps, which are so numerous in the world. When one becomes part of His body by presenting his own fleshly body to Jesus as a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1) He inhabits that one by His Spirit, he would only be denying the Lord by attaching or joining himself to anything else, for He is our all and all. It is a good thing to be established in the truth.

Ephesians 4:23, 24 tells us to be renewed in the Spirit of our minds and to put on the new man which is Christ and is created in righteousness and true holiness. We want true holiness, as Satan has many false holiness movements in the world bidding for souls to "Come join us, we preach holiness too," they say.

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“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him” (Col. 3:10). The preceding verse says, “Ye have put off the old man with his deeds.” The old man typifies the Old Testament church which was carnal and had laws, commandments, and ordinances which pointed forward to the New Man, which consists of those who have His Spirit in their souls and who continually give their bodies to him, sacrificing all fleshly, carnal desires that Christ might be all and in all, that the body of Christ might be lifted up so men will be drawn unto him. “Whose adorning, let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel, but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.” 1 Pet. 3:3, 4. Just think of the multiplied thousands of professed Christians who are disregarding these sacred commands of the Holy Bible. Peter says very positively, “Let it not be that outward adorning.” Then he names some things that would be outward adorning; such as, wearing of gold and putting on of apparel. Paul instructs Christians to adorn themselves with modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety, and not with broidered hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array (1 Tim. 2). Adorning one’s self would be fixing up to please the world and get their favor in this way. Peter instructs Christians to adorn the hidden man, which is Christ in us. Yield to Him so much that He will manifest Himself so that people will know your body is the Lord’s. In quietness and meekness let Christ be seen instead of adorning the body as the worldly-minded, for then only the person will be seen and not Christ. In that way one would show himself to be ashamed of Jesus, and would not bear the reproach of the cross with him. The majority who profess Christ are showing the old man in place of the new man, and when

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they beget children they are of the spirit of worldly religion and not of Christ. How sad it is to see people deceived by Satan's preachers in cunning crafty ways and tied up in the churches of the world, which are gates leading to hell.

Those who discern the body of Christ clearly will be so in love with Him and want Him to be seen, honored, and loved that they will not put adornments on the body. All unnecessary things put on are adornments and of the world. Uncle Sam has to have the tie on his soldiers, and they are not allowed to be without this adornment. Such things belong to the world and not to saints. Real saints are the body of Christ in this world and they want Him to be seen and lifted up, and nothing else. They keep themselves unspotted from the world, for they are not of the world even as Christ was not of the world when He was here in the body of flesh before His crucifixion. Neither are we, who make up His body now, of the world. If Christ had been of the world, the religious Pharisees would have accepted Him, but His life was a reproof to them, and they could not fit Him into their worldly-minded ways and carnal, fleshly worship; therefore they said, "Away with this man." If you cease from adorning like the world and being in spirit with them, they will say the same thing to you today—or act it out. The general makeup of religious people in the world today do not know God or Christ any more than did the self-righteous Pharisees, and they are ready to persecute and revile those who are true at heart and will follow Jesus in reproaches and shame and keep unspotted from the world. Shame on those who are mixed up in sham religion today and think more of their self-life than they do of obeying the Lord. Brethren and sisters, let us obey the Scriptures and adorn the Christ of the Bible so His purchased body, which we are, will be seen, and honest souls will be drawn to Him.

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The sacred Word of God tells us, “Not the wearing, of gold.” When we put on such things and wear them, we are giving way to pride and the spirit of the world, and are encouraging others to adorn with gold or other things that please the fleshly self-life in human beings. The Word also says, “or costly array.” Any material that is gaudy and flashy, whether it is costly or not, is unbecoming to a saint of God. Knee skirts, sleeveless dresses, low necks, and all such like, is immodest, and many of the late styles are indecent and vulgar. Could you imagine those women who followed Jesus and ministered to Him of their substance, being women with bobbed hair, painted face and lips, and half naked bodies as we see many religious women of today? Perish the thought! Women who profess Christ and follow the vulgar styles of the world today are disgracing Christ and bringing Him into great reproach, damning their own souls and the souls of them that hear them. Those who have presented their bodies to God as a living sacrifice would not think of following the vulgar styles of the world but would be glad to bear the reproach of the cross for Jesus’ sake. Who could imagine Jesus, if He were here in His body as He was before He was crucified, clothing Himself in the garb of this modern Sodom in which we live? If you are a member of His purchased body now, clothe your body as He would and grieve not away the Spirit. If one does not separate himself from the world in every sense of the word, he will find himself drifting more and more into its deceptive ways until he will soon just be a clever religious servant of Satan, grinding for him with his spiritual eyes put out.

In 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 God warns that He will send strong delusions to them that love not the truth that they might believe a lie and be damned. Any who profess to know Christ but dress themselves in the present vulgar styles are ungodly lovers of the world and its ways and will perish by their own deceivings.

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The apostle Paul used the human body as an analogy of Christ's fleshly body as it appears in the world today (1 Cor. 12, beginning at verse 14). He says, "The body is not one member, but many." This we all know to be true, for our human body is composed of an enormous lot of members and not one of them is unnecessary, but all are useful to the body. If all the members were eyes or all were ears it would be a worthless body and absolutely incapable of performing the duties of a human body. God is all-wise and set each member in the body as it pleased Him. He made them in such a way that they would all function together, being many members, yet one body. All the members are necessary, as they all have their places to fill and work to do. God has tempered the body together and He gives more honor or protection to that part which is weak and lacks, that there be no schism in the body, that they should all have the same care one for the other. After dwelling upon the functioning and working of the human body, he says, "Now ye are the body of Christ [Those who have presented themselves to Him as a living sacrifice] and members in particular." Then he speaks of how the different members are gifted to function in their proper places to the edifying of the whole body.

Someone may wonder as to what way and how he gets this body together. The Word of God will tell us how He does it and the way He does it.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is [at the present time] when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live." John 5:25. In this Scripture Jesus speaks of the first resurrection, which is the resurrection of the soul from a dead state of sin to life in God. He told Martha in St. John 11:25, 26, "I am the resurrection and the life: he that

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believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.”

The human body has five senses: it smells, it hears, it sees, it feels, and it tastes. These are fleshly senses, and they sense only earthly things. Before the soul is resurrected by the power of God, that is, the soul of the man who is in trespasses and sins, it is dead or dormant and cannot sense the things of God. But when that man becomes sorry because he is sinning against a just God and repents and covenants to serve the Lord, then God steps in with His supernatural power and resurrects or awakens the soul by His Spirit entering in. Then the soul begins to smell God, to taste God, to feel Him, to hear Him, and to see Him with its resurrected spiritual senses. In that condition, the person has come up at the first resurrection and becomes a member in the purchased body of Christ in this world.

In Ezekiel 37:1-14 we can read and know just how the Lord gets his body together.

Ezekiel has it recorded in these verses of his book in symbolical language, using the parts of the human body to symbolize the spiritual resurrection of man, and to show how God through His spirit-power places each member in the body in its proper place. When complete, all the members working in unity make this body to be a perfect man and in symbolical language it measures to the stature and fullness of Christ. (Eph. 4:13). In other words it becomes His spiritual body in the flesh in this present evil world.

“The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones.” Ezekiel 37:1. Notice that the Lord carried him out in the Spirit. In other words, he saw things that

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were true by his spiritual eyes. He was set down in the midst of a valley of bones. The next verse reads thus: “And caused me to pass by them round about and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and lo, they were very dry.” The Lord caused the prophet to pass by them and all around about them so that he might have a good look at them. After taking a close inspection of these bones, he said, “There were very many in the open valley,” which would convey to our minds that there was a great number of souls that were naked and open before the Lord in their sinful state. In symbolical language these bones represented the dead state of souls in trespasses and sins. As he further inspected them, he said, “And lo, they were very dry.” The dry state denoted the dry and parched condition of a soul that is deep in sin.

“And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest.” The prophet saw these bones in such a dead and dry state or condition that when asked by the Lord if these bones could live, he was puzzled about it, and said, “O Lord God, thou knowest.” He would not venture to say himself.

“Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.” The Prophet was told to prophesy upon these dry bones, which by interpretation means the souls of men that are in a dead state in sin; preach the Word to them and let them hear the Word of God. Jesus says in John 5:25, “The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead [soul] shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live.” It will mean life to those who hear His voice, or in other words, accept the Scriptures as truth and begin to obey them. It will mean heavenly life for that soul.

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“Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones, Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live.” God will cause breath to enter into those who hearken unto the gospel that is preached to them. Symbolically speaking, the breath means life, heavenly life. When he causes breath to enter, the dead soul will begin to live.

He makes more promises to these dead bones, or dead souls of men in sin “And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord.” In this verse the Lord continues to say what he will do for them.

“So I prophesied as I was commanded and as I prophesied there was a noise, and, behold, a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.” Here we see some of the results of his prophesying as the dry bones or dead souls began to believe and hear his voice by obeying. There was a noise, a shaking, and the bones or dead souls came to life and came together, bone to his bone; or in other words, every soul that was resurrected took his place as a member in the body of Christ, which is the new man. They took the place in which they were to function as a living soul to assist the whole body which is Christ, the new man. It says they came together. There can be no living schism in the body of Christ, which is the church, because when one member is severed from the body, it dies.

“And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.” They had life but needed that quickening gift of God that would enable them to work and labor and function in their place in the body.

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“Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind [the Spirit of God], Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds [the four parts of heaven], O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceeding great army.” It is said, “They lived and stood upon their feet.” This would denote that the body was complete and every member had taken his place in the body of Christ and had functioning power and lived to perform his work in His spiritual fleshly body. He said there was an exceeding great army. The members coming together and making up the body are an exceeding great army, a large number.

“Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel.” All who are resurrected to life in God become the Israel of God or His house which he inhabits and the whole house of Israel make up the body of Christ, the church.

He says in the next verse, “Therefore prophecy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, O my people [This house of Israel is his people.], I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves [Graves in symbolical language means the soul’s dead state, and when they are resurrected to spiritual life they come up out of the grave of sin.], and bring you into the land of Israel.” The land of Israel which he brings us to has reference to our state in God as He then inhabits us and we become His land. He tells us that we might bring forth fruits.

“And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you out of your graves. And shall put my Spirit in you, and ye shall live; and shall place you in your own land then shall ye know that I the Lord hath

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spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord.” When we are fitted into the body of Christ and become a lively member with functioning power from God, then we are in our own land and are very much at home. All is lovely and our souls are filled with peace, quietness, and assurance forever.

A fish was made to swim and live in the water. A bird was created to fly in the air and to sing in the trees. Put fish out of the water and it is not at home, not in its place; and it will flounder around and be restless. If it does not get back into the water it will die. Thus it is with our souls. We were created to be companions of God and to live in him. When we are dead in sin, we are out of our place, not at home, and we are uncomfortable and restless, and unless we get back in God we shall die eternally. When we are resurrected to life by the power of God, we get back in our own land and are perfectly satisfied with God our heavenly Father. Blessed state!

This great valley of exceedingly dry bones, which symbolizes the multiplied thousands of souls of men and women who are in a dead state of sin, which the prophet Ezekiel saw resurrected to life was a great army which represents the whole house of Israel, the redeemed who are now in the world. They make up his fleshly and spiritual body, which is the church. There is no division, for they are the one fold that Jesus speaks about and that Paul says in Eph. 2:15, “To make in himself, . . . one new man so making peace.” That new man is none other than the body of Christ which constitutes all the members or souls that are resurrected to life by the power of God and placed in the body as it has pleased him. They are many members, yet but one body. God sees no division in the body and there can be none. Men, through lack of knowledge or by being decoyed by false prophets into human organizations,

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get themselves out of fellowship with the proper functioning body that God recognizes as the church. The Lord may have much compassion and wait upon them and try to teach them His ways, but if they persist in following with idol worshippers they will die, or what little life they may have will ebb away and they will perish. There is not a place in the Bible where it gives any hint for his children to be in a divided state, but the Lord always speaks of them as being together.

In Psalms 34:20 we read, “He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.” Jesus was pierced by the spear while hanging on the cross, but not one bone in His body was broken. They all remained knit together. So also is the body of Christ in this world.

“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment.” Paul tells them to speak the same thing, have the same judgment, be perfectly joined together and that there be no divisions among the people of God (1 Cor. 1:10). In the 13th verse he asks, “Is Christ divided?” The implied answer is, NO! Christ is not divided, the body is together, not one bone is broken. When one member severs itself from the body it will become sickly and finally die.

In 1 Cor. 3:3 we read “For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?” We see by this that those who are in division are manifesting carnality, have envy and strife and are like men in the flesh. Instead of Christ being in them, the self-carnal life is manifesting itself in strife, envy, and divisions. “While one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?” 4th verse.

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Those today who follow a certain preacher and separate themselves from the rest of the body of ministers are carnal, having envy and strife and making division. Ministers who will allow such without teaching souls better and insisting that they have confidence in and fellowship with all the ministers in good standing in the body are equally in strife, envy, and division, and the devil loves to have it that way.

“For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.” 1 Cor. 11:18, 19. Paul would not allow any division in the body, and plainly says, “There must also be heresies among you.” Heresy is a sect; a sect is a cut-off part. Even though they were going along and claiming to be of the church, they were not; but were cut off parts going along making division and were carnal, had envy and strife.

Paul says in 1 Cor. 12:24-27, “For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ and members in particular.”

The apostle Paul gives no room for division, neither does he sanction such in the least, and tells us plainly that we are the body of Christ, and members in particular, or particular members. Every member has his or her place to fill in the body. The Lord has set each member in the body to fill his particular place, and if he allows envy, strife, and carnality to develop, he will fail God and

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become a division maker and be in heresy. The devil will use such to destroy unity and oneness while he has him cover with a religious covering and he will be branding others like he is, and sees everything in a mess of confusion and division. No; dear brethren and sisters, there is no division in the real heavenly, live body of Christ, or church of the living God which is the pillar and ground of the truth. There may be and are weak members and some with very little light and understanding, and others may be allowing their affections to run out after the things of the world until their vision of spiritual things is dimmed, and all such things as that. The Lord may be bearing, and does bear with them and suffer and wait. But to say that there is division in the church of God and all of those divided factions are His, is an untruth and not Biblical at all. It only shows that some leader is carnal or has become carnal and has severed himself from the live body of Christ, which is the church. One cannot sever himself from the body of Christ without that member becoming dead, any more than he could cut a branch from a tree without it dying.

Some, however, through lack of knowledge and willingness to fill their places in the body, become weak, sickly, and some even die from this cause. In 1 Cor. 11:29, 30, it tells us that because some do not discern the Lord's body, many of them among the saints are weakly and sickly and many sleep or die. In the 28th verse he says, "But let a man examine himself."

The carnal professors and faction leaders hate the thought of Jesus being in the flesh. They deny His spiritual body as in a fleshly body of people, separate from the world and as His chosen generation, an holy nation and a peculiar people unto Himself, showing forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into this marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9).

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“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come [present tense] in the flesh, is of God. And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God, heareth us; he that is not of God, heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.” 1 John 4:1-6.

In the beginning of this reading, he instructs us not to believe every spirit, for many false prophets are gone out into the world. If there was need for them to be careful and not to believe every spirit, how much more is it needful for us today? And if there were many false prophets gone out in John’s day and time, how they must be multiplied now. Just think what a great army of them are in the world today, and they profess Christ in order to deceive, but will not confess that Jesus is (right now) come in the flesh and is a body of people separate from the world. They could not clearly do this, because they are of the world and so they cannot see spiritual truths. Many of them will say, “Yes, we believe that he came in a fleshly body and was crucified,” but they will not crucify the flesh so they can be in his body now and thereby be able to discern the body of Christ. Neither will they confess that He is in the body now. Being of the world, they are anti-Christ in spirit and against His body while they profess to be His followers. John says that they are anti-Christ because they confess not that Christ is come in the flesh.

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He tells us that we are of God and have overcome them, because “greater is he [Christ] that is in you than he that is in the world.” We who have Christ in our souls, or His life and spirit possessing us, discern that we are each one a member in the body and that it takes all the members to make up the fleshly and spiritual body of Christ functioning in the world.

Paul says that we, the saved people, are of God and he that knoweth God heareth us; and he that is not of God heareth not us and by this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. In the 2nd epistle of John we read, “The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth; For the truth’s sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us forever.” With not much thought, we might think that John was addressing a lady who had a large family of children. John is doing this very thing, but not in the way that many think, for the lady is a symbol of the church and the children are those who have been born from above. John, the beloved apostle, addresses the church or family of God in that place and says in the 4th verse, “I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father. And now I beseech thee, lady . . . that we love one another.” What did John mean by this? Did he mean that he and this lady were to love one another? He meant more than that, for the lady represented the family of God, or the children of God, or his body, and they were to love one another. The church is often represented in the Bible as a woman; in fact, we are the Lamb’s wife or bride and it is altogether proper for John to refer to the family of God as a lady. It was also proper for John to address her as “Elect Lady,” as we who are saved are the elect of God. “For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an

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antichrist.” In exhorting the members of his body to be on the watch, he brings them right back to the text again, for those who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, is a deceiver and an antichrist. Many will confess that Christ was in a fleshly body before he was crucified, and many others will say that Christ dwells in them; but not many discern the body and confess by word and deed that he is now in a fleshly body of people who are his body, separate from the world and undivided before God. If all who really have the spirit of Christ in their souls would loosen from the old world altogether and would deny themselves and drop their preconceived ideas which are wrong, and cease from every idol worship and fill up on the pure love of God and have no selfish interests here and step out solely on the promises of God, they would easily flow together with all the body of Christ which is already in this state.

John closes his epistle with these words, “The children of thy elect sister greet thee.” This “elect sister” is the church or congregation of saints where John is a pastor or overseer. He refers to the church or family of God’s children as an “elect sister” because it is a local congregation and is geographically separated from the congregation written to, but has the same father and mother as spiritual parents. When speaking of the church in a universal sense, he would not call it a “sister,” for she is but one. We read in Solomon’s Song 6:9, “My dove, my undefiled is but one: she is the only one of her mother.” He speaks this way of the church in a general sense. Local congregations could be called sisters because they are geographically separated and yet have the same parents. They could truthfully be called sisters in that sense.

No, dear brethren and sisters, God does not acknowledge nor accept any division in His body, and if we want His full favor and

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desire to be one of His bride to go with Him when He comes, we shall have to loosen and flow into the body. Then we shall be at home and great liberty and freedom will be ours.

The church of God, which is the body of Christ, is knit together (Col. 2:2), compacted together (Eph. 4:16), fitted and framed together (Eph. 2:21, 22), raised up together, made to sit together in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6), and will be caught up together and so shall they ever be together with the Lord (1 Thess. 4:17).

The Bride, The Lamb's Wife

(Revelation 21:9)

The holy Scriptures in different places and ways tell us of the Lord's bride or wife, and in some places make it very plain that those who are saved and possess the Spirit of the Lord are married to Him. Considering it in a spiritual sense, this is very reasonable and true. It is a truth that saints will do well to settle in their souls and act accordingly.

In this life when a woman and man are married by or in accordance with the laws of the land, they make a covenant with one another. The man vows that he has chosen this woman above all others to be his wife and that he will love her, provide for her, protect her, cherish her, and seek her happiness in life, to be manly and virtuous, to seek her welfare and happiness as his own; and he pledges himself to be an honorable husband in good faith. The woman covenants and vows that she has chosen him in preference to all others, even as he has chosen her. She pledges to trust him as her best earthly friend, to love him, to comfort him, to guard his reputation and to assist in his life's work, and to esteem his happiness as her own; and she gives herself trustfully to him as his helpmeet in life.

When a soul becomes sick of sin and rebellion against God and his sacred laws and ways, and longs for something better,

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eternal, and lasting, something that will give comfort and happiness more than the fleeting, literal, fleshly things of this short, earthly life; then he will want God of whom the Bible speaks. When he realizes he is a transgressor against the laws and the pleasure of God, it will work godly sorrow in his soul. Then he will confess his sins to God and repent, asking God to forgive him of all his evil ways, and from the heart will turn from sin, choosing the Lord above everything else in the world. He covenants to quit all sin, to love the Lord above all else, to honor and reverence Him, to serve Him, and to present himself to Him as a living sacrifice, always sacrificing his selfish fleshly desires to give Him pleasure, to suffer for His sake at any time, to love Him supremely, and to yield himself into His hands all the days of his life.

The Lord covenants and does forgive this penitent soul of all his sins, throws His arms around him, plants a kiss upon his forehead, and brings him to His house where He puts shoes on his feet (shoes him with the preparation of peace), puts a ring on his hand (denoting His endless pledge of love), and puts the best robe upon him (the robe of righteousness, the sanctified state as he sets himself apart to be His forever), and calls all the household together, and they make merry—even as oftentimes at an earthly wedding. Read about this in the 15th chapter of Luke. When all this takes place with a soul in this world, he is certainly married to the Lord, as stronger vows could not be made. He purchases souls with His own blood, as is recorded in the sacred Word of God in Acts 20:28, “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.” “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Cor. 6:20. Peter tells us in his first epistle (1:19) that the Lord’s people are

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redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot. The apostle John said Jesus lay down His life for His friends. Also in John 19:34 it is written, “But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true; and he knoweth that he saith true that ye might believe. For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.” By the above Scripture, we can plainly see that it was the opening in his side by the spear that brought the blood and water of life out; which, if we believe, will atone for all our sins, and we shall be washed in his own blood and made his pure, clean wife in this time-world.

There are some beautiful symbols and analogies in the Word of God concerning the Lamb’s wife; how He married her and what she looks like. Following are some scriptures on the subject:

“And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Gen. 2:21-24. I am sure that by reading this Scripture you can see very plainly how Adam got his wife, and that God gave her to him in marriage, and how that he loved her and counted her as his own flesh and bone.

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In Scripture Jesus Christ is termed the “second or last Adam.” In the fifth chapter of Romans Paul says that Adam was a “figure of him that was to come.”

We shall show you by the Scriptures the analogy between the first Adam getting his wife and the last Adam, which is Jesus, getting His wife.

Notice that the Lord God caused a deep sleep to come upon Adam. When Jesus our Saviour hung upon the cross and suffered such pain and agony and finally died, the soldiers were sent to break the legs of those who had been crucified that day to finish them in death; but when they came to Jesus they found that he was already dead, so they brake not his legs but thrust a spear in his side and there came out blood and water.

God had put Adam in a deep sleep and took the rib from his side and made him a wife. Here we find that Jesus was asleep in death and we might call it a deep sleep. The spear opened a place in his side and the purchasing blood of Christ flowed freely out, the precious, innocent blood that washes and cleanses for himself a wife. The Scripture says, “. . . feed the church of God [his wife! which he hath purchased with his own blood.” Acts 20:28. As the first Adam, after the Lord had closed up the flesh thereof lived on and enjoyed his wife, so the second Adam, after the God of heaven awakened Him out of the sleep of death, lived on to enjoy companionship with His wife which He had purchased with His own blood.

It is said that out of the rib which the Lord took from Adam he made a woman and brought her unto the man. God, today, through His Holy Spirit convicts and woos and draws souls to Christ to be His wife. Adam was well pleased with his wife and said that she is now “bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh.” And so it is with the

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last Adam, when we present our bodies to him as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1) we become bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. It is written of the saints in Ephesians 5:30-32, where Paul is comparing the church of God to man and wife, “For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.” This is so plain it seems that anyone could see the symbol or analogy.

“She shall be called woman.” We are the woman and Christ is the husband. As Adam was the husband of the woman that God made for him, so we being taken out of, or from, the side of the Son of God, become the woman, the wife that travails and brings forth children. In Isaiah 66:8 we read, “For as soon as Zion [the church, the wife] travailed, she brought forth her children.” Paul, in writing to the Galatians and realizing that they had lost Christ out of their hearts, said, “My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.” (4:19)

“Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Gen. 2:24. Before we come to Christ we are born of earthly things, of the flesh, decaying matter, and our mother and father had earthly natures. Jesus told the religious Pharisees in John 8:44, “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your Father ye will do.” In Eph. 2:2 we read what Paul has to say concerning the unsaved, “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince [Satan] of the power of the air, the spirit that now [present tense] worketh in the children of disobedience.” In that condition the wrath of God was abiding upon us and Satan was our father and we were mothered by the

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world. But when we come to Christ we leave Satan, and the world, and cleave unto Christ, and then we shall be a member of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. We shall be one Spirit as Jesus promised the disciples before He left to be crucified in John 14:20, "At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you." We shall then have a new Father and mother. God will be our Father and the church, which is the body of Christ, our mother, and Jesus will be our husband. Hallelujah to God! Oh, how we love and cleave unto our Father, our Mother, and our precious Husband. Thank God, we love the whole heavenly family as we are knit together by the bonds of love, blood relationship and Holy Spirit fellowship and the Lord, our Husband, inhabits us, dwelling in each member of the family which are many, yet one body.

"And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." Genesis 2:25. We find in the Bible in Hebrews 4:12, 13: "For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not made manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." We who are saved bare our souls before the Lord and are not ashamed, for we want him to be looking at us. If He discovers any imperfection, we want Him to apply the blood and cover with His own covering. As we yield ourselves and hearts to the Lord, the Word, which is the sword of the Spirit and is sharp and piercing, will go through and through our bare souls and remove anything that would hinder us from loving Him supremely. All is naked and open unto Him, for we love to be naked before Him and are not ashamed to have it so.

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When Adam and Eve sinned against God, they were ashamed because they were naked and knew that God saw. When God came down in the cool of the day they hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God, amongst the trees of the garden. Just so, when people are not living right, they are ashamed to meet God. They try to hide themselves in the man-made trees and holiness brushes of earth and will not come out in the clear that God may search them out. Instead they go to the earthly made churches where the Word is adulterated, the sword is dull and little used. They put on fig-leaf clothes and will not come naked before God where the blazing truth of the gospel is proclaimed in all its purity. They are ashamed to bare their souls before the Holy Spirit teaching of the truth. Oh, that professors of religion would bare their souls before God so that He could clean them up from all their idols and separate them from the world and from Satan so they can have a new father and a new mother. They can then be a member of the wife of the Lord Jesus Christ and be clothed with His righteousness.

Jesus told the multitude who followed Him, "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:26. This saying is just as true today as it was the day our Lord spoke it. How could one love God and please Him with Satan as his father and the world as his mother and its spirit his wife and the imps of Satan as his brothers and sisters and his own life of the same? Of course, if one hates all these spirits, which are one's kinfolds, and turns from them, he will necessarily be separating himself, in spirit, from his earthly human father and mother and relative who have the same spirits for their associates. One has to die to the world to become a member of the wife of Christ. Jesus says: "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone." John 12:24. One will be alone and desolate

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unless he dies to the world. Jesus says if one dies he will bring forth much fruit.

In Isa. 54:1 we read, “Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: For more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord.” The unsaved and all professors who have the world for their mother are the desolate ones. There are multiplied thousands more in number than the legitimate children who are born of Christ and are the children who make up the married wife. The prophet says in the 4th and 5th verses concerning the children of the married wife, “Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: Neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.”

The Prophet Isaiah (62:4, 5) makes it very clear that those who covenant with the Lord to be his are married to him, “Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land [the Lord’s tillage, our souls] any more be termed Desolate: But thou shalt be called Hephzibah, [ones He delights in] and thy land [his children] Beulah [married]: For the Lord delighteth in thee and thy land [born again ones] shall be married. For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.” One could hardly find words to make it any clearer that those who are born of the Spirit are married to the Lord and have become His wife.

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“I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence.” Isaiah 62:6. Jerusalem here is a symbol of the church, the Lord’s wife. The watchmen on the walls of Zion are His true ministers who heard the word at His mouth and give the people warning from the Husband who is the Head of that body which is the wife of the Lord.

“Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him [Christ] who was raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit [children] unto God.” Romans 7:4. When a young couple gets married, it is the natural laws of God for them to start a family, and that the children will be in likeness to the parents. It is also that way when we get married to the Lord. God expects a travailing in birth, then children will be born into the family in likeness to Christ, the husband. How pleased the husband is when a new baby is born into his earthly family. When someone remarks that he looks just like his daddy, the father’s joy is complete. Just so, how pleased is our Husband when children are born into His spiritual family, and what joy it brings to Him when He sees His image reflected in the new children.

In Eph. 5:23-27, Paul compares man and wife in the natural state to the church, the body of Christ, “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is head of the church: and he is the Saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it

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should be holy and without blemish.” The Lord Jesus Christ has a clean and pure wife and all those who will not allow him to purify and make them clean will be spewed out of His mouth.

Some precious endearing terms are used in the Song of Solomon concerning His beloved, His wife, “Let him kiss me with kisses of his mouth: For thy love is better than wine” (1:2). “He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.” (2:4). “Thou art all fair; my love; there is no spot in thee” (4:7). “A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed” (5:12). “A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon” (4:15). “I am come into my garden [saved people are the garden of the Lord], my sister, my spouse; I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk: eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved” (4:12). “His mouth is most sweet, yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughter of Jerusalem” (5:16). “I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine: he feedeth among the lilies” (6:3). “My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her” (6:9). “How fair and how pleasant art thou, O love, for delights!” (7:6).

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her it was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.” Rev. 19:7-9. This took place when the Lamb of God, while hanging on the cross, said, “It is finished.” He gave up the ghost and the veil of the temple was

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rent in twain from top to bottom and all men could enter into the holiest of holies. It was then that men began to marry themselves to the Lord and began to eat of the marriage supper. The first part of this 19th chapter of Revelation tells about great rejoicing taking place, and at the end of the sixth verse are these words, "For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." Truly, the Lord began to reign when he came forth from the tomb. He had conquered the devil, and there was great occasion for exceeding great rejoicing. He declared to His disciples after He had risen that all power was given unto Him both in heaven and in earth. Sons and daughters began to be married unto the Lord and the marriage supper began.

"Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, [the certain man was God, who gave His Son. The supper represents Christ, the Bishop of our souls and the great Shepherd of the flock] and bade many: And sent his servants at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready." Luke 14:16-17.

He bade many, for the call is, "Whosoever will may come." But then, as it is today, the majority made excuses and would not come as they were too busy with the temporal things of life. The first call was to the Jews. Almost all of them made excuses. Then the Master of the house (God) was angry and he sent his servant again to the streets and lanes of the city, and said, "Bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind." This call was to the Gentiles. The halt, maimed, poor, and spiritually blind people began to come in to marry to the Lord and to eat of the great marriage supper which was all prepared. It consisted of all the good things that the soul needs to be fat and flourishing in the courts of God.

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“And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.” Rev. 21:9-11.

Some commentators on Revelation teach that this revealed truth given to John the Revelator was all up in heaven where God is and we are not supposed to know what it all means. If this be true, then the scene given in the 17th chapter of Revelation concerning “Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and the Abominations of the Earth,” was also in heaven, for some of the same words—“the woman which thou sawest is that great city”—are used to give an account of this apostate church as are used in the account of the true church. One difference was that to see the true church, the Spirit carried John to a great and high mountain, which would represent Mt. Zion, a metaphor of the true church. You can read about this in the 43rd chapter of Ezekiel and the 12th verse; also in Psalms 48:2 and Hebrews 12:22.

In showing John the apostate church he was carried away by the Spirit into the wilderness. This is a very fitting place to see the apostate church, for wilderness would represent a place of sin and desolation. When John saw the true church he said, “That great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.” It would not still be in heaven when it descended out of heaven from God. In the second verse of the 21st chapter he makes it exceedingly plain for us to comprehend as it reads thus: “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God

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out of heaven, [a scene that has come down out of heaven is no more in heaven] prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” This description could be nothing else but the church of God which is in the world, but not of the world, for the spiritual life in the true church is from above, and not of this world. This is why Jesus spoke of His disciples in the 17th chapter of St. John, as being not of the world even as He was not of the world, for the Spirit of truth that was with them came from heaven.

In John 8:23, Jesus said to the self-righteous Jews, “Ye are from beneath; I am from above: Ye are of this world; I am not of the world.” We must remember that Jesus was born of a woman, the virgin Mary, and possessed a body as we do, but as He was begotten by the Holy Ghost He did not have that defiled nature that passed upon the human race from Adam, which thing causes men to sin. Jesus did not sin and therefore His blood, being innocent, could atone for our sins and cleanse us from the sin nature that we also can keep from sinning.

Jesus was full of the Holy Ghost or the Holy Spirit. Luke 4:1. He possessed all the gifts of the Spirit, with all knowledge and wisdom. He was the Son of God, or God manifested in the flesh. He could truthfully be called the Son of man and the Son of God. When we today receive the Holy Spirit from God we also become the sons of God, but in a minor sense, as none of us have all the gifts and are far from having all knowledge and wisdom. But being born of the Spirit from above, in that sense we are not of this world even as Jesus was not of this world. It is especially true with those who have presented their bodies to Him as a living sacrifice and truly continue to be led by His Spirit. Their life, power, grace, wisdom and knowledge comes from above, and in that sense they are in the world but not of the world. They are from above in a

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minor sense as Jesus was in a major sense. In 1 John 3:1, we read, “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: Therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”

Seeing that by the Holy Spirit from above coming into an individual, makes him not of the world, we can easily see how John, being in the Spirit, could see the Holy Jerusalem, the bride, the Lamb’s wife, which is his spiritual life, coming down from heaven on the Day of Pentecost and entering into the one hundred and twenty as they were there crying for the “promise of the Father,” being of one accord, built together as His temple. As the Holy Spirit entered each one they became an habitation of God through the Spirit. The Holy City, the New Jerusalem, the bride, the Lamb’s wife, the church of the living God had begun to function in the world! God is expecting the same witnessing power now as in the early church. Those who refuse to walk in the true light of the gospel hold themselves in such a state that, as time goes on, the enemy will have them leaning to their own intellectual knowledge, and they will be taking up more and more with worldly religions and automatically separating themselves from the working body of Christ which is not of this world. Some of such is going on now and not many discern it. It matters not how much light you have, if you fail to walk in the light that is revealed to you, your light will become darkness and Jesus says, “How great is that darkness!”

I wish to repeat again that the major portion of Revelation is symbolizing things that have taken place on the earth, are taking place, or will take place; and much of it is concerning the true church and the false church, showing how apostasy came in and darkened the minds and understanding of the people, and how in

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the Spirit the true ones stood against it and even to the sacrificing of their literal lives. Yes, truly, my dear friends, the scene that John saw recorded in the 21st chapter of Revelation is, in symbol, no more and no less than the redeemed of earth who are born from above and constitute the spiritual family of God, the church of God which is the pillar and ground of all the truth.

Malachi, who prophesied 400 years before Christ came into the world as a Saviour, foretold of this scene which the Revelator saw: the Holy Jerusalem, the bride, the Lamb's wife, coming down from God out of heaven. His prophecy is related in the third chapter of Malachi, the first verse: "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts." You will notice it says, "Shall suddenly come to his temple." In Acts, the 2nd chapter and the 2nd verse, the same word "suddenly" is used in speaking of the Holy Ghost coming into the one hundred and twenty, for it says, "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting." This sound came from heaven.

In the first verse it said, "They were all with one accord in one place." The one hundred and twenty were all justified men and women whom the Lord had built together as his family as they were in one accord. His temple or church was built and was waiting there to be occupied by the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit from heaven, which scene John saw and Malachi prophesied of. The kingdom of God had come with power and the church began to function in the world. It was not of the world, but came down from God out of heaven. Truly, God's ways are not man's ways, "For as

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the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:9. Bless His holy name forever!

In the beginning of the book of Revelation John declares that he “was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day,” and here it says the angel carried him away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain. When one is in the Spirit he is in a condition to see spiritual things. He showed that great city. Truly, it is a great city and he said it was the holy Jerusalem, which is none other than the born-again ones, the New Jerusalem, the Lamb’s wife for she came down from God out of heaven. He said she had the glory of God and was like unto a precious stone, clear as crystal. What a beautiful illustration of the members of the family of God who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. They are the ones who are married to the Lamb, who have come down from God out of heaven, the holy Jerusalem, made holy by the blood, purchased by His precious blood. Their new life, wisdom, strength, and power came down into their souls from heaven; therefore they have come down from God out of heaven, and they are not of this world even though they are in the world. God keeps them from the evil, and they shine as lights in the world. “She was like unto a precious stone, clear as crystal.” This precious stone clear as crystal symbolizes the spiritual building, the saints of God who are purified, tried, and made white. “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices [praise and honor to God] acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” Thus the saints are symbolized by the term “lively stones,” and here we see them as stones refined and polished; and for brightness, clear as crystal; and they in that state are the holy Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven, as heaven is the place from which they are born.

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The mission of Jesus into the world was not only to save sinners from the power of Satan, but also to “sit as a refiner and purifier of silver and gold.” Read what the Prophet Malachi says about Him in the third chapter of his book, verses 2 and 3, “But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner’s fire, and like fuller’s soap: and he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.” Jesus not only baptizes us with the Holy Ghost, but also with the Holy Spirit fire which brings the dross to the surface so the Lord can skim it off and see His image in us. Then we shine as precious stones in His sight and become as shining lights in the world. The Prophet Isaiah speaks about this Holy Ghost fire (9:5). “For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise and garments rolled in blood.” In this part of the verse he is speaking of the earthly warriors and their carnal weapons, for they have confused noise and blood-shed and great clashing. In speaking of the war that saints are engaged in, whose weapons are not carnal, he says: “But this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.” It will be the Holy Ghost fire burning in souls. As saints get into trials and tests, the fire will burn in their souls and destroy all elements that would be contrary to heaven. Then they will shine and glisten as precious, polished stones. In Matt. 3:12, where John the Baptist was speaking of the work of Jesus, he says, “Whose fan [Holy Spirit] is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor [hearts given to him are his floor] and gather his wheat [those who will stand the purging and refining] into his garner; [his granary or family] but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” All those who back out and will not be exercised in a godly manner when in the furnace of afflictions,

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and all others who refuse to come unto Him could be termed chaff, together with any wrong existing in one's life.

When the Revelator saw the bride, the Lamb's wife, it appeared to him coming down from God out of heaven in a purified and cleansed state, as everyone was washed in the blood of the Lamb and made white and glistening clear as crystal. Praise God for the blood, the all-cleansing blood of the Lamb that makes whiter than the snow!

After he saw the bride, the Lamb's wife, come down from God out of heaven, he began to view her and to describe her likeness. He uses for symbol (analogy or figure) a beautiful city, and says this wonderful city had a wall great and high. Salvation is the great and high wall around the children of God, and none can come in among them except those who have salvation. "In that day [this Holy Ghost day] shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; we have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks. Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in." Isa. 26:1, 2. The gates are opened only to the righteous by the blood of the Lamb.

"Violence shall no more be heard in thy land [land is a figure of God's children, for he disciplines them so they can bear more fruit], wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise." Isaiah 60:18. This ought to make it very plain about the walls and what they represent in this symbolic language.

This city "had twelve gates." The twelve gates were the twelve apostles. They were termed gates because they taught the truth of the gospel of Christ, and those who believed it could enter in and become members of the bride of Christ. The angels at the gates were the apostles also, and His ministers, or messengers, are called

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angels by the Holy Scriptures. There were gates, or messengers, with the truth on every side, for salvation was extended to all nations, kindred, and people, and none need miss it except it be for their own self-will in choosing otherwise.

The walls of this city had twelve foundations, and it is said that in them were written the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. Paul tells us the same thing in Ephesians 2:20, “And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.” The city was measured by the angel and found to be foursquare, “and the length is as large as the breadth: . . . The length and the breadth and the height are equal”—a complete cube, all together, and exceedingly great and mighty. The city was of pure gold, like unto clear glass. It was composed of the shining souls of the saints. The foundations of the walls of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones which represent God’s true ministers who give out the clean truth of His Word and are precious in His sight—“watchmen on the wall of Zion.” It was a most beautiful city, as the gates were pearls, and the street of the city was pure gold, as if it were transparent glass. Surely this was a most beautiful place. It is not a literal city made of brick and stone or literal gold and precious stones, but this language is used to convey to our earthly minds in symbolic language the grandeur and beauty of the bride, the Lamb’s wife, which He has purchased with His own blood.

He saw no temple therein, for he said, “The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.” They inhabit the whole family as Paul states in Ephesians 2:21, 22. “In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the spirit.”

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“The city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon [literal lights] to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.” Our glory and light comes from God and the Lamb who is in us and we in Him. It is never night there, and the gates shall not be shut at all by day. The gospel is always declared and men are earnestly entreated to come and partake of the water of life freely. The last verse of this 21st chapter of Revelation makes it very plain that nothing shall get in except those who are washed and made clean by the blood. Those who preach the pure gospel tell the people plainly that the sign is the blood. “And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie; but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.” “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whore-mongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.” Revelation 22:14. By these scriptures, it is plain to be seen that there are no sinners in the church of God, house of God, city of God, nor could they be a part of the Lamb’s wife in any way, as they are all outside the gates of this most beautiful city, which is the bride, the Lamb’s wife.

Those who are in the city here in this world will also be in the city in heaven, for Jesus is coming after His Bride. In this world, in figure, we are living downstairs, but when Jesus comes He will take us upstairs, and we shall be then in a glorified state. Only those who dwell in the city down here will be in the city up there. All who will, can get in the city now, and yield themselves completely into the hands of God and be polished up and refined and be ready to go up to meet the Lord in the air and shall always be with the Lord.

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The earthly-wise religious people think that we are going into a literal city in heaven, made out of literal gold and the street paved with gold and transparent like glass, but such is only the imagination of a carnal, fleshly mind. We shall have something that far surpasses such things and more than the natural eye can behold. The Lord uses the most precious and beautiful objects that mortals know about to, if possible, convey to us in a small degree the grandeur and beauty of heavenly things.

One time I saw a picture on the screen that worldly wise men had invented from their fleshly imaginations. It showed this city, the bride, the Lamb's wife as a city made out of brick and stone and had it coming down, as it were, out of heaven and setting upon the earth as though a thing like that would take place when Jesus comes and that He would live in this New Jerusalem, as they called it, and rule the nations.

Satan has the world filled up with his agents and ministers who pervert the pure Word of God and make people believe his lies. It is easy for the natural man to believe teaching that tends to exalt the fleshly man and make him have a false hope of being greatly blessed in the future with literal blessings; and the fleshly man gets happy over such thoughts and thinks he has great revelations from God, when it is that old lying Satan deceiving the nations and fooling them through their fleshly lusts by his deceitful, lying ways. We read about him and his foul, nasty work which he is now doing under a cloak of religion in 2 Cor. 11:13-15, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness whose end shall be according to

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their works.” Satan’s ministers are transformed into ministers of righteousness and they preach and teach many good things, but Satan puts that into their hearts to deceive people and to make them think that they are God’s ministers. Some of Satan’s ministers are the cleverest people there are, and can appear so nice, polite, and pious that they would deceive the very elect if they would believe and give ear to them. Satan has a thousand preachers in the world to the Lord’s one, and he needs a host of them to deceive others and keep those who are deceived believing his lies. Because his subjects are so many, they have great meetings and large crowds, making a big show in the flesh. His radio and television preachers are many, and they get into nearly every home and poison the people with false doctrines and prophecy that the natural man likes to believe.

Many of Satan’s agents teach a “once in grace always in grace” theory to keep their subjects from getting disturbed or restless when the blazing truth of the gospel is preached, and the Holy Ghost fire is piercing and cutting and laying bare their sins and evil works. This doctrine of “once in grace always in grace,” or “eternal security” teaching is the best shield the devil has to preserve the selfish life in you and finally get you into hell.

The devil cares not how much you profess Christ if he can keep you fearing him more than God. When you fear the devil, he will bring you under bondage to him and cause you to do evil or be worldly minded while you continue to profess, and land your soul in the lake of fire where the worm (your soul) dieth not and the fire is never quenched.

It is amazing and greatly astonishing to a person when he considers the awful sin of adultery and disloyal actions that accompany a large majority of the marriages of people in this

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world. But how about the adultery and disloyal actions of many who have covenanted in marriage to the Lord? We read in the Word about how people of olden times served idols, and in this way grieved the Lord until His anger was kindled against them. Today the nation is cursed with spiritual adultery, idol worship, and atheism. God is shut out of most all lives, while the majority profess to be followers of the meek and lowly Lamb of God. The last words that the apostle John said in closing his first epistle were, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols,"

An idol is anything that one allows to get between him and the worship of God. So men love their own self-life more than God's will and pleasure, and self will have to be pleased, honored, and respected whether the life of Christ is manifested or not. Others have lovers in the form of humanly organized and man-made churches, and will not listen to the sacred Scriptures and the voice of God and be led away from such things so God can have their whole heart. God is a jealous God and is grieved when His children join themselves unto idols or flirt with other lovers (man-made churches).

If we are married to the Lord, let us keep our vows and be loyal to our own Husband, that His pleasure may be upon us and His delight in us.

Suppose a young man should marry a young woman. The young man is loyal to his wife and provides everything for her comfort and they are very happy together. But after a while she begins to flirt with some other man and allows her affections to run out after him. The young man is grieved about it and tries to tell her how wrong it is and how he wants her affections, but she goes on with her flirting. He comes in for his meals and she has much to say about the other fellow and does not give him much attention.

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She may have the food cooked ever so nicely and everything clean and nice in the house and plenty of nice cooked food on the table, but his heart is so grieved that he has no appetite to eat, for the wife to whom he has been true and loves so much, has denied him the first place in her heart. You say that is a sad condition, and so it is; but, oh, how many who have covenanted to be true to the Lord are treating Him likewise today! Their affections are on things of this world in one way or another, and the Lord is grieved and cannot take pleasure in them anymore. They love a life here more than the eternal life of Christ, so He just becomes a husband to them in name and their time is spent bestowing their affection upon other lovers. God's wrath was kindled against the Israelites because they had many lovers and were given to idol worship.

Brethren and sisters, let us obey the scriptures found in Col. 3:1-3, "If ye then be risen with Christ [or married to Him], seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead [to the world], and your life is hid with Christ in God." At least, your life should be hid with Him. Why should we be dead to the world? Because "when Christ, who is our life [or husband], shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." (Verse 4.)

The Seed of Christ

In the realm of material things there is a multitude of different kinds of seeds. To the gardener or agriculturist every different seed planted in the earth which is watered and moistened by the God-sent rains will germinate and bring forth of its kind; some will bring forth vegetables, some will bring forth grains of wheat or corn, some will bring forth fruits and nuts. The same seed left out of the soil or earth and kept in a dry place or separated from the elements of the moist earth would remain dormant and would reproduce nothing. We learn from observation and experience that literal seed will not reproduce of its kind unless brought in contact with the elements of the earth which will cause its likeness to spring up. As it is given the tillage and God favors the plant with rain and sunshine in proper proportions, it will multiply itself many times in reproduction.

God did not only command the plant life to have seed within itself to reproduce of its kind, but also commanded that the created animal life should bring forth of its kind, and it is so.

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply and replenish the earth.” Gen. 1:23-27. This scripture teaches us that man and woman had power or seed within themselves to reproduce

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of their kind as God had commanded it to be so. He is the Creator of all living human beings, and all other life, and by this we understand that we came into existence by the commandment of God. We ought by all means to reverence our Creator and plially yield into His hands, as He has created us for His own pleasure and glory. When we fail to yield ourselves into His will and pleasure, we become rebels and the curse and wrath of God will be upon us.

When Adam and Eve, our first parents, yielded to the temptations of Satan, the enemy of God, and broke the one and only commandment that God had given, they brought the wrath of God upon them; and God pronounced a curse upon Satan. Among other things, He said, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it [meaning the woman's seed] shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Gen. 3:15. Notice the Scripture says, "And thou shalt bruise his heel," using the masculine gender. Thus we see that the seed of the woman was to be a man. This seed was to be the conqueror for man and would bruise Satan's head. It would be the seed of a woman, and have a human fleshly body as all others who are born of woman. Notice too, that it was to be the seed of a woman. Posterity in the Bible is always reckoned after the male, but in this case it is reckoned after the female, for it was to be the seed of the woman which was to be the conqueror of Satan, the enemy of all mankind. Man had no part in this, for we read in Matthew 1:20 where the angel of God was instructing Joseph, who was to be the husband of the virgin Mary, to take her as his wife. He said, "Fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." Again in Luke 1:35, we read: "And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee;

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therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”

We could multiply scriptures to prove that Christ was the seed of the woman which God referred to in the garden when He pronounced a curse upon the serpent which represents Satan.

“It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” Gen. 3:15. The bruising of one’s heel is very painful and annoying. This is what the scripture says Satan would do to Christ, who is the seed of the woman. Truly this was so, as the seed of Satan, in the form of the religious Pharisees and Roman soldiers, rejected, persecuted, reviled, mocked, scourged and spit upon Christ, and finally caught him, brought him before the rulers, tried him contrary to usual legal proceedings with false witnesses, claimed to find Him guilty, hung Him on the cross between thieves and murderers, and put Him to shame and contempt until death came to the body. All this was very painful to the flesh, as He cried out in the anguish of His soul, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” Surely all these evil doings toward and upon Him were annoying and painful, and were in symbol as His heel being bruised. But after they had laid His body in the tomb and thought they had done away with Him forever, the Almighty God resurrected Him to life again, and He came forth as one that was bruising Satan’s head. We hear Him say in the last part of the 28th chapter of Matthew, “All power is given unto me, both in heaven and earth.”

Since Jesus ascended to the Father, He has sent His resurrected life, which is His seed, into the hearts of those who truly believe on Him. By this we become His seed, which represents heavenly things to men. The enemy sets about under a cloak of religion to bruise us, to annoy, to accuse, to think evil and

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speak evil of us, to scoff and ridicule, and sometimes to imprison or slay; but through it all we have the victory, and by faith in Christ our Lord we are bruising his head. Someday the Lord will give the victory so completely that Satan will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone with all of his seed that persecute and reject the gospel of the righteous seed.

This seed of the woman was to come through Abraham, for God told Abraham, “And in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” Gen. 12:3.

Again we read what Paul has to say about it in Gal. 3:16. “Now to Abraham and his seed was the promise made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many, but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.” The sacred scriptures teach that the blessings were not to come upon all the families of the earth through many seeds, but just by one seed, and that seed was Christ.

As Isaac, Jacob, and David were of the literal seed of Abraham, and we might say of his spiritual seed, Jesus is often referred to as being of the seed of Isaac and of Jacob, also of David; hence we read in Acts 13:23, “Of this man’s seed [speaking of David] hath God, according to his promise, raised unto Israel, a Saviour, Jesus.” “Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel.” 2 Timothy 2:8.

In John 7:42 Jesus says, “Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?”

“Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.” Jeremiah 23:5.

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Paul, in Romans 1:3, 4, says, “Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; and declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”

“Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, they which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.” Rom. 9:7, 8.

Christ was in the world from the beginning, but not as a Saviour or as a Redeemer. The Holy Spirit moved upon the prophets and righteous men to speak of His coming as Messiah, the rest giver, ruler, and governor; and through their prophesying the people were encouraged to have hope and patiently wait for the Saviour.

Jesus told the unbelieving Jews who were persecuting Him and finding fault, “Verily, verily I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.” In Revelation 13:8 we read about some whose names were not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Jesus was truly a Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. In one sense he was a Lamb slain from the foundation of the world because it was prophesied of him that He would be slain and redeem man from sin; but in another sense He was a Lamb slain from the foundation of the world because every soul that possessed His Spirit of righteousness was persecuted and sometimes slain by those who were seeds of evildoers, or those whom Satan controlled. Satan has always been the enemy of righteousness and always will be until destroyed at the Judgment Day.

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Abel's works were righteous and Cain's were evil; therefore Cain rose up and slew his brother. Thus in Abel, Jesus was slain, and so on down. Whenever Jesus would manifest Himself in the prophets they were stoned and persecuted and many times had to lie in jail. So Christ has truly been a Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Satan and his agents are just as cruel and as wicked as they ever were, and are ready to persecute the Christ in us if He, Christ, is allowed to clearly manifest Himself. This persecution is by religious people who even claim to be Christ's. Jesus says, "If they have hated me, they will also hate you." We who retain the seed of Christ or His Spirit in our souls will not be loved by the worldly religious professors in the world.

Just think of the many whippings and beatings and imprisonments which were heaped upon the Apostle Paul because he would retain the seed or Spirit of Christ in his soul. Then when the sainted Stephen, who was the seed of Christ, allowed the Spirit of Christ to have free course through him in declaring unto men the truth, it is stated that they cried out and ran upon him with one accord, and gnashed on him with their teeth. They cast him out of the city and stoned him to death while he was calling upon the Lord. He prayed for them and asked God not to lay this sin to their charge. Truly, Jesus Christ is a Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

In the twenty-second chapter of Genesis, we are told how Abraham obeyed the voice of God even to the slaying of his only son if God had not stopped him. What faith this was in God! We admire Abraham for his faithfulness to God, and God was exceedingly pleased with him. While God withheld Abraham from taking the life of his only son and making a sacrifice out of him and furnished him a ram as an offering in the son's place, yet God

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allowed His only begotten Son to be slain in the cruelest manner as a blood offering to atone for our sins. Today God is greatly pleased with us when we sacrifice our “Isaacs,” our fleshly pleasures, desires, and ambitions; and become willing to suffer with Him and patiently and calmly receive the scoff and scorn of proud hearted professors and self-righteous men and separate ourselves from this old world, bearing the reproach of the cross that we may retain the seed or life of Christ in the soul.

“And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord; for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son; that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying, I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.” Gen. 22:15-17.

The seed of Abraham who was to possess the gate of his enemies was none other than Christ. When Christ was crucified and laid in the tomb and was resurrected on the third day by the power of God, there was no other hope of men reaching heaven only through Him. He became the gateway to heaven. He said plainly, “I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved and shall go in and out and find pasture.” “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:12. When Jesus was climbing up the Mount of Olives, he looked back over the city of Jerusalem where the people had rejected Him and were seeking to kill him, and He wept over the city, and said, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under

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her wings, and ye would not! Behold your house is left unto you desolate.” Matt. 23:37, 38.

When Jesus was crucified and arose from the tomb, He became the Saviour of the world. Then God ceased to meet with the Jews in their house, or temple, at Jerusalem, and they were left without God and without any hope except through Christ whom they hated. He was the gateway to heaven for them and all others. Jesus also taught this same thing to the woman at the well when He said, “Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” John 4:21-24. So Jesus Christ was the promised seed of the woman that would bruise Satan’s head, and also the seed of Abraham through Isaac who was to be the gate of his enemies. The only way those who hated Him could get to heaven was by believing on the Son of God, humbling themselves unto Him and confessing their sins. There was no other way for them. “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6. His enemies claimed to believe in the Father and owned Him, but hated His Son, so they could no more come unto the Father because He was approached only by the Son.

It is written in Gen. 24:60 about Rebekah, the wife or intended wife, of Isaac and how she was blessed, and it was told her: “Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those that hate them.” Here we see the plural words, “thousands of millions,” which is used in denoting

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the children of God that through the new birth became the seed of Christ. And it is stated that they will possess the gate of their enemies. All those who are really born from above and possess the life of Christ have become the seed of Christ; they have become His Body in this world. Although they are in the world, they are not of the world. The only way that men and women who hate the children of God can get into heaven is to humble their hearts, confess to God and become one with the despised children of God, as they are now the gateway to heaven and to God.

“Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, and the Lord have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land. But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them when they cast their leaves, so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof.” Isa. 6:11-13. This is a prophecy concerning the Jewish nation, His chosen people who rebelled against the government of God and invented ways of their own. For four hundred years before the coming of Christ, God sent no prophet among them, and they were left in utter darkness and with blinded eyes and deaf ears. They stumbled on claiming to worship God, but their worship had become an abomination unto Him. They became in symbolical language as an oak tree that had shed its leaves. Apparently there was no life there, and yet there was some substance of life in this desolate people, for he said, “The holy seed shall be the substance thereof.” When Jesus began to preach and teach the kingdom of God, the holy seed (the few that were among them that had not in heart bowed to the idols nor loved the builders’ building, but in pureness of heart looked for the Messiah, the rest-giver) heard His

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voice, believed on Him as the promised Messiah and began to follow Him.

This truth is also brought out in the second chapter of Daniel, but the figures or symbols here are clay and iron. Jesus was the Stone cut out without hands that brake the great image of gold, silver, brass, and iron. The Roman Empire was the iron, and those who were pliable in God's hands were the clay. In one place it is called "potter's clay." The disciples who followed the Lord were the "potter's clay" part of the Roman Empire, which ruled the world at the time of the coming of Jesus, the little Stone that brake the great image and set up His kingdom that was never to end.

In Psalms 22:30 we read, "A seed shall serve him; it shall be counted to the Lord for a generation. They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this." Here the Psalmist David prophesies of the seed that would serve the Lord, and declare His righteousness unto a people that would be born.

Peter (1 Peter 2:9) speaks of this seed that is counted as a generation, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

Because we are the seed of Christ, having His Spirit and life in our souls, we are termed a generation, a chosen generation, because He has chosen us to follow Him, to manifest Him, to be like Him, to shew forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. We are a royal priesthood because the business of a priest is to offer up sacrifices. We who have His Spirit are of the royal family, even the family of King Jesus, and in offering up sacrifices of praises unto Him continually,

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we become a family of priests in this sense. “An holy nation”—when God comes into our souls to abide, He makes us holy; and as we are a great army of believers fighting against sin and evil, we are termed “An holy nation.” “A peculiar people”—yes, we are very peculiar people to the carnal professors of religion, as we do not follow the fads and fashions of the world in dress, we do not attend nor endorse their picture shows, do not gamble, drink, lie, steal, use tobacco, use slang words and phrases, nor fellowship the manmade, so-called churches. To the religious world we are a very peculiar people. Jesus told the disciples, “Ye are not of the world even as I am not of the world.” And again, in speaking to the religious Pharisees, He said, “Ye are from beneath, I am from above, ye are of this world, I am not of this world.” We, as His seed, are no more of the world than He was. We could not retain the seed of Christ in the soul and be a partaker of the world. To do so and to think we were His would be only deceiving our own souls.

“Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him [Christ]; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed [the Spirit of Christ dwelling in us through faith in His sacrificial work or atoning blood makes us His seed], he shall prolong his days [His days are prolonged because we have His Spirit, which is His seed within us, and we become the Body of Christ], and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.” The pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand, is exceedingly true, for the children of God plant the gospel seed in the womb of the souls of others, and that gospel seed brings forth other children of God; for it is God that giveth the increase, so God’s pleasure does prosper in His own hand.

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“Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the Lord will hasten it in his time.” Isa. 60:21, 22. In this scripture we see that all will be righteous, because when we are born of Him and His seed (His Spirit and Word, which is His life) in us, we become righteous with His righteousness. “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil [is born of Satan, has his seed in him]; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed [his life and Spirit and Word] remaineth in him: and he cannot sin because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.” 1 John 3:7-10.

These scriptures speak so plainly that none need be in doubt about the truth. Notice in the beginning he says, “Little children, let no man deceive you.” The apostle John knew that Satan would have many preachers teaching a “sin-you-must” doctrine to deceive, confuse, and damn souls, so he warned his newly made converts to not allow such to deceive them, for he tells them that he that doeth righteousness or yields to the righteous Spirit that is in Him, which is the seed of Christ, will become righteous even as Christ is righteous. After explaining this to them, he tells them that those who commit sin are of the devil. This is plain talk, but it is just as true now as it was then. He said the devil sinned from the beginning. This truth in itself would overthrow that blasphemous doctrine that many are teaching that Satan was once an angel in heaven where God is. John declares that he was a sinner from the

beginning and that is why it was necessary for the Son of God to be slain and redeem us from sin and the power of sin. When we through faith believe in Christ and his atoning work, the seed of Satan, or planting of Satan, is destroyed in our hearts and we receive the seed of Christ which gives us power over sin, and we become righteous because of his righteous seed or Spirit life in our souls. He tells us plainly that whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin, for just as long as His seed remaineth in him he cannot sin, because he is one born of God. This is the reason Jesus told Nicodemus, “Ye must be born again.” It is absolutely impossible for one to live without sin unless he is born again; but when born again, it is not only possible, but also it is actually true so long as His seed or Spirit dwells in that one. Not to keep yielded to the Lord and His Spirit in us, would grieve the Spirit, and if we persisted in denying the righteousness of God to have His way in our hearts and lives, we would soon sin and have just a profession without a possession. Satan would delight for us to go on with a profession with his evil seed in our souls, sinning more or less all the time and deceiving others. In this John says the children of God are manifest and the children of the devil. The children of God do not sin because His seed or life is in them and the children of the devil do sin because the seed or planting of Satan and his life is in them. There is no neutral place or way. We are either of Him or against Him. “Ye must be born again” [born from above].

He says also that, “They shall inherit the land.” Our souls in the scripture are often spoken of as a garden, land, or field; and to inherit the land would mean to overcome the evil that Satan had planted in the soul and to rule over this earthly body by the power of the seed of Christ in our souls. Paul makes this plain in the third chapter of 1 Corinthians, for he says, “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.” Paul planted the gospel seed

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in the garden of their souls, and God caused the seed to become life, even like the seed that was planted. In the ninth verse he says, “For ye are laborers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.”

In the 24th chapter of Proverbs is a good illustration of a soul that neglects God and will not continually yield to Him and His tillage. In this parable the soul is referred to as a vineyard. The word garden or land could have been just as well and truthfully used, but as vineyards were everywhere seen and men were well acquainted with such, he used the word vineyard. This is what he says in regard to our souls, which he symbolizes as a vineyard: “I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; and lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw, and considered it well; I looked upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: so shall thy poverty [soul poverty] come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.” Prov. 24:30-34.

Just think of the awful condition that a soul gets into that neglects worshipping and yielding to God’s tilling and pruning. Just think of the multitude of professors who have become void of understanding and have grown careless about allowing God to till their souls and keep them in a healthy, heavenly condition. You will find them everywhere and having a high profession, but when crossed a little they will think evil of the righteous, will say hard words, and will try to pierce and prick the innocent and nettle them, will show and manifest a thorny disposition, by picking and finding fault. All this is a manifestation that the soul has been neglected and is all grown over with briars, thorns, and nettles. The

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stone wall, or God's protecting presence, has been broken by selfish desires and ways and all manner of vermin and obnoxious spirits have crept in and the soul is desolate and in great poverty. This will become the condition of every soul that is slothful about yielding to God and slothful to obey, and in that way fail to let God till his field, garden, vineyard, or land, which is our souls.

We who have the seed of Christ in the soul are the branches of his planting and the work of His hands that God might be glorified. Jesus says, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman." Jesus Christ was the planting of the Father. The Father gave His only begotten Son. We are the branches in the vine, which is Christ. God is the husbandman and He will till, prune, purge, and try us, and make us white and clean in soul; and Christ will live there, His seed will remain in us, and we will not sin. "I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5. Here we learn that it is absolutely necessary for us to keep yielding ourselves unto Him if we are to bear the fruits of the Spirit. And if we will continually abide in Him, or yield unto Him and His ways, we have the promise of bringing forth much fruit. He tells us plainly that without Him we can do nothing. He means nothing that will be glorifying to God or fruit that He is pleased with.

The Lord says in Isaiah 60:22, "A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation." There is so much meaning in this verse of scripture that I feel it will be good for us to look into some other scriptures and bring the thoughts out in order to lead up to the great and far reaching truths contained in this one verse of the sacred Word of God.

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In the thirteenth chapter of Matthew's gospel is a parable of the sower who went forth to sow. Some seeds fell by the wayside and the fowls came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places where there was not much earth and they soon sprang up, but withered away in just a short time, for the sun was too much for them in such little soil. Some fell among thorns and the thorns sprang up and choked them out. But some fell on good ground and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. After repeating this parable, Jesus said, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." He had no reference to our literal ears, but to those who by receiving the seed or life of Christ in the soul were resurrected, being one that had the senses of the inner man resurrected to life and was able to taste God, to see God, feel God, and to hear God. That kind are the only ones who can truthfully hear and understand aright the Holy Ghost given words of the sacred Bible.

Beginning with the eighteenth verse is Jesus' interpretation of the parable of the sower who went forth to sow. He plainly states in verse nineteen that the seed is the word of the kingdom, or gospel of the kingdom; and this gospel seed was sown in the heart. So here we know that the ground that he speaks of in the parable is men's hearts or souls, and the seed is the gospel of Christ, or the Word of God of which we are born, as Peter says in 1 Peter 1:23, which reads, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever." Christ is the Word of God, for it is recorded in John 1:14, "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we held his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth."

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Those who have hard, sinful, calloused hearts are counted as ground by the wayside. The sufferings of Christ, when His hands and feet were nail pierced by the wicked mob (a seed of evildoers who murdered the innocent), and his side was pierced, bringing forth blood and water, has no effect on such, but is considered lightly. Then the fowls or evil spirits just take away the Word altogether, and they are then bound up with the wicked to be burned.

Others had stony hearts with a little pity and feeling for the innocent, but it was in such a small proportion that when some persecution came they would not be true and stand with God and bear the shame or scoffing of the proud and sneers of near relatives, so just gave up; and not having root or strength in themselves and not willing to trust all with God, they became offended at the leadings of the Lord and turned away.

Others had hearts that were full of thorns. They heard the Word and received it, but had so much interest here in the world and were so anxious to gain and receive earthly riches, which are deceitful, that they had no time to give or yield themselves unto God's leadings; so the Word that they received was choked out and they could bring forth no real fruit for God.

But he that receiveth seed into the good ground is he that heareth the Word of God, and understandeth it. He is not a man who is void of understanding. He bears fruit, which means the fruits of the Spirit; and in highly symbolical language it could and likely does mean offspring, as the gospel seed was planted into the womb of their souls and they retained the same, thus sowing gospel seed into the womb of the souls of men and women who would love and embrace the truth and thus bring forth children with like natures or in the likeness of Christ, which life fills their

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souls, and the Lord says, “Some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, and some thirtyfold.” There would be an increase in a multiplied manner. Paul says in Romans 7:4, “Wherefore, my brethren [talking to saved folks], ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ [our own works and righteousness]; that ye should be married to another, even to him who was raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.”

Who was it that was raised from the dead? Jesus Christ is meant here and no other.

Paul says that the man is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of his body, the church. In the natural earthly sense of things we know that the woman in order to bring forth fruit, or children, first sees, hears, and believes in the man and then forsakes all others and joins herself unto the man, embraces and yields to him and thus there is reproduction, a progeny, which is the fruit of the womb—children in likeness to the parents. And so it is in the spiritual kingdom of God. First, we see the hand of God in His created things and believe that there is a God; then we hear Him when the gospel is preached or printed; and receive the seed of the gospel or the truth of His Word into the womb of our souls. As we love and embrace it, and want it more than anything else, we are born again by the power of God and receive life from heaven. Old things pass away and behold all things become new. We become new creatures in Christ Jesus. As we have faith in God above all else, we just yield to God’s will continually and offspring is the result; thus the scripture is fulfilled in Isaiah 60:22, “A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the Lord will hasten it in his time.” In other words, God will give the increase in due time. Notice the Word of God in Isa. 66:8, “Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth

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be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion [the family of God] travailed, she brought forth her children.” You can see here how that the children of God travail, in other words, are burdened for the sinner who is seeking for God, and travail in prayer with strong crying and spiritual pains until a new life begins in another soul. The souls hear the Word of God and love and embrace it and the seed is sown in the heart or womb of the soul and God in due time gives the increase.

When Jesus was trying to comfort the disciples about his leaving them, He said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, that ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.” John 16:20. He was trying to make them understand that they would be filled with sorrow because He would be hated and slain and taken from them; while at the same time the world would be rejoicing. But He said that He would see them again in a little while, and their sorrow would be turned into joy. Truly, their joy must have been great when He appeared unto them after His death and resurrection. Just think of how some of the disciples ran to the tomb to see Him when they heard of His resurrection!

He also said to them (John 16:21), “A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of a child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.” Exceeding great joy came into the hearts of the disciples on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Ghost (or the resurrected life of Christ) came into their souls with power and the church was set in order. What great rejoicing accompanied this infilling of the Spirit! And truly all former sorrow disappeared for joy that a “man child” had been born into

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the world, and the prophecy of Isaiah had been fulfilled which is recorded in Isaiah 66:7, 8: “Before she travailed she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a MAN CHILD. Who hath heard such a thing; who hath seen such things? shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day: or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion [the church] travailed, she brought forth her children.” The MAN CHILD that was born was none other than the formation of the church, the power and Spirit of God that came down from heaven into the souls of the one hundred twenty who were tarrying for the “promise of the Father” (John 14:16; Acts 1:4) on the day of Pentecost in the upper room. They were not praying and crying for others, but that God would fulfill His PROMISE to them; and thus it could be said, “Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came she was delivered of a MAN CHILD.”

The same day that the “man child,” which symbolized the church, was born, Peter stood up and preached a convicting message to sinners and the whole church was travailing in pain for sinners to believe. Then something took place. A nation (a holy nation, 1 Peter 2:9) was born at once (Isaiah 66:8), for “as soon as Zion travailed she brought forth her children.” It is recorded in the sacred Word that the “holy nation” which was born that day consisted of about three thousand souls (Acts 2:41). They had received the Holy Spirit and power of God into their hearts, had become the seed of Christ, and could be termed a man child or holy nation, which constitutes the spiritual body of Christ functioning in the world through fleshly bodies who are living sacrifices. This holy nation was and is the church of the living God, which is the pillar and ground of the truth.

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Just recently we received two letters in one day among many others. In one of the letters, a woman who wrote from Louisiana said, "I have received one of your gospel papers, Faith and Victory, and enjoyed reading it very much. I was doing wrong and dancing, and I read your paper and see plainly that I cannot serve two masters. We must serve one and I choose God. He will be my Master from now on." She was so happy as she embraced the truth. The gospel seed was being sown in her soul by the printed page.

The other letter was written by a woman in Texas. In substance, she said, "I just want to thank you for your precious service and sacrifice. It surely is a blessing to me that I cannot express in words. What I could say would not compare with, nor express the feeling that is in my soul. I have been filled with courage and joy and I realize it is God's doings." The gospel seed by the printed page is finding lodgement in these souls. A young man who had been sitting under the gospel of Christ came to my house at 1:30 a.m. in the night and awakened me out of sleep and said, "Bro. Pruitt, I want to get saved." I told him that the Lord was always ready to save us when we were ready. He said that he wanted a real experience. After I had dressed, we prayed and called upon God to forgive this dear young man and brought before him in prayer the suffering and death of Christ and the blood that saves. He believed and was filled with joy, for a new life had begun in his soul. The gospel seed had been planted there and he loved the truth and embraced it. God gave him life from heaven in his soul. He was born from above and could not control his feelings of love and thanksgiving to God. Yes, the soul that is saved and married to Christ by His seed in him and His life from heaven in his heart will be imparting that gospel seed to others. There will be good ground found for its lodgement and children will be born into the kingdom of God or the family of God, and

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there will be a multiplication of fruit: some thirty, some sixty, and some a hundredfold.

Oh, the joy of seeing a soul saved from sin; to know that a new heavenly life has begun in a soul! Yes; dear reader, it is absolutely so: “Ye must be born again.” Those who are born again and retain the seed of Christ in the soul will enter right into the labors of other born again ones, and thus God will, through the channel of His Bride, perpetuate the kingdom of God among men.

The Lord says, “And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labor: other men labored, and ye entered into their labor.” John 4:37. A Paul may plant the seed of the gospel in the hearts, then some Apolloses may come along and water it; then God will perform the miracle and give the increase. In that great eternal day of bliss with God, they who have been wise in this world “shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the star for ever and ever.” Daniel 12:3.

In these last years of time (1944) in which we are living, God is doing some mighty shaking, not only in the earth, but also in the ecclesiastical heavens. The nations of the earth are in a fearful combat with confused noise and garments rolled in blood. Nations are falling, and earthly kingdoms are being rent, and people are being brought into bondage and slavery. The Jewish people are being humiliated, insulted, blistered, robbed, and driven from their homes and lands. Many are being killed, while the remnant is being scattered to the four corners of the earth. Certainly God is doing, or allowing some mighty shaking to take place. God will bring good out of this chaotic condition to every soul that will love and embrace the gospel of Christ. In the ecclesiastical heavens we see new religions springing up. Great evil powers are taking hold

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upon the hearts of the Christ rejecters, and many otherwise good men are being swept into atheism, while devil religion is on the increase as never before. But in the midst of all this, the faithful God of heaven and earth is gathering to Himself a remnant, both Jew and Gentile, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd. We are living in the days of His preparation, the time when He is gathering His jewels together for His coming, and great and mighty things are taking place.

Let us read the words of Nahum, the minor prophet, 2:1-4, “He that dasheth in pieces is come up before thy face: keep the munition, watch the way, make thy loins strong, fortify thy power mightily. For the Lord hath turned away the excellency of Jacob, as the excellency of Israel: for the emptiers have emptied them out, and marred their vine branches. The shield of his mighty men is made red, the valiant men are in scarlet: the chariots shall be with flaming torches in the day of his preparation, and the fir trees shall be terribly shaken. The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings.”

Notice the first verse, “He that dasheth in pieces has come up before thy face.” In other words, the time has come that God is doing, or allowing mighty things to be done before our face. We are living in such changeable times with so many conflicting powers at work that he warns all who are wise and have his life in their souls to “keep the munition;” that is, to hold on to the truth of His Word, which will be the saints’ ammunition to use against the different enemy spirits which will try to deceive them and overthrow their faith in God. His Word is the sword of the Spirit, which, if skillfully used, will cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against God and truth. We want to be

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sure to hold up the shield of faith—let it be red, representing the blood covered soul—against the enemy. He also says to “watch the way.” Keep your eyes on your captain, the Lord Jesus Christ, and see that you keep in His ways regardless of what others do or think. Also, “make thy loins strong, fortify thy power mightily.” Put on the whole armor of God, and when you have done all to stand, stand therefore, having your loins girded about with the truth. Cover yourself in Christ and hold to Him even if they take your natural life. As you have your decisions deep and firm when Satan’s hosts storm, you will be unmovable, always abounding in the Lord.

“The Lord hath turned away the excellency of Jacob.” Jacob is a symbol of God’s children who walk by faith. In these awful times many are apostatizing and being swallowed up. The excellency or greatness of Jacob, or Israel was at one time when the Jews as a people were scattered at the burning of the city of Jerusalem. “For the emptiers have emptied them out.” Yes, the emptiers are at work in these perilous times. By cunning crafty methods they empty the Christ life out of many by feeding them on worldly and earthly food, which drives out the life of the Lord. He is grieved away. So many in these days are being emptied by the emptiers, the false preachers and teachers, and other religious spirits take the place of the meek and humble life of Christ. “And have marred their vine branches.” It is truly so, for we are the branches of the true vine, and many of these vines are being marred or messed up with worldly ways, and their experiences are not very satisfactory. They are not shining much for God, as their souls are grieved and they know not what to do.

“The shield of his mighty men is made red.” Those who are firm and unshaken hold up the shield of faith, and show the blood

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as a covering. Thereby they defy the devil's hosts and witness clean and clear for Jesus. Unfeigned faith in God will carry his true soldiers of the cross through, and his pleasure will prosper in their hands. "The valiant men are in scarlet." They are covered up with the innocent blood of the Lamb, and are such as are spoken of in Rev. 12:11, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

"The chariots shall be with flaming torches in the day of his preparation." (These chariots, no doubt, mean the automobiles which are as flaming torches in these last days when He is shaping things up and making preparation for His coming. He says, "The fir trees shall be terribly shaken." Here he symbolizes God's people as fir trees, and says that they shall be terribly shaken even as a mighty storm shakes fir trees in a literal sense. Great spiritual storms and upheavals will come against the true and faithful in this day of his preparation. The next verse has reference to the fast going traffic in these preparation days.

In the eleventh chapter of Isaiah, verse 4, the prophet begins by foretelling of Jesus and His greatness. "But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked." He works in the souls of men by destroying the wolf, leopard, and lion like natures out of them, causing them to lie down, or rest, with the kids or lambs, which represent saved people. Verse 9, "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." His holy mountain is his children or family of believers in the world, and in the scriptures are symbolized as the house of God. They have the

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truth and are full of the knowledge of the Lord, and being earthen vessels or earthly houses (2 Cor. 5:1) they are symbolized as “the earth which is full of the knowledge of the Lord.” Their actions and deeds are so like Jesus that when folks look upon them they will see nothing but the Lord; even as you would look at the sea and see nothing but water.

“And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek; and his rest shall be glorious.” An ensign is a flag, badge, or mark; and truly the Lord marks his people with humility and meekness and the seal of the Holy Spirit. Eph. 1:13, “Ye were seeded with that Holy Spirit of promise.” He puts His stamp or seal upon us and people will know that we belong to the Lord, and that we are Christ’s. To this Christ shall the Gentiles seek, and their rest shall be glorious. The sacred Word says, “And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever.” Isa. 32:17.

He has been talking about this gospel day and what Jesus would do and how lovely it would be for the Gentiles when in the Lord and believing on Jesus. Now let us read Isa. 11:11, 12, “And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea, and he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.” This is a wonderful prophecy. The prophet says, “It shall come to pass in that day,” which means this gospel day. From all appearance it is coming to pass now. In this awful shaking and

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scattering time the Jews have been run out of their homes and bruised and beaten. They are now scattered to the four corners of the earth; many are starving and hungry, and without hope in this world, and find themselves without God. The Lord has set his hand the second time to gather his people. He said there shall be one fold and one shepherd, but it is written that “He came to his own, and his own received him not.” As a nation, they rejected Jesus, and God has allowed the enemy to scatter them among all nations. Since He is setting his hand in this gospel day the second time to gather the remnant of his people, he is permitting greater persecutions. The Jews are being scattered; they are becoming destitute of earthly goods and are separated from loved ones. They have been brought down to very humble ways. The honest ones seek Him in their distress and He reveals himself to them as the Messiah, whom they have so long rejected. The remnant in these days is being gathered unto him, as this is His preparation day. The bride will be made up of both Jew and Gentile, for the wise Jews are gathering back to spiritual Jerusalem, and when the Lord comes both Jews and Gentiles will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall they always be with the Lord. The unwise Jews are gathering back to literal Jerusalem and are expecting the Lord to come and set up a literal kingdom, exalt the Jews in the flesh so they can revel in their lusts and be exalted above other nations and will be great according to fleshly imaginations. It is no wonder that the Lord said that there would be weeping and gnashing of teeth and people crying for the mountains and rocks to fall on them and hide them from the face of the Lamb when He appears in the skies.

I have just recently read the testimony of many Jews who have come back to spiritual Jerusalem. One in particular is very touching. This Jew testifies that he lived in Hungary and was a

prosperous business man. He had the respect of his fellows in the city where he lived and was enjoying fleshly, earthly things very much. When the Germans overran the country they compelled him to sell his business at one-third its value, forced his wife to divorce him, and then taxed him so heavily that he was nearly stranded. In some way he managed to come to America. He was destitute, a stranger in a strange land with no friends. The Lord began to work upon him. He saw a sign one night which read, "Jesus is the Messiah." The Lord worked on him so much that he went to the meeting to see, and after many struggles he gave himself to the Lord and believed that Jesus is the Messiah. He is exceedingly happy, and with great joy he is going forth and telling his people that Jesus is the Messiah of whom Moses and the prophets have written. Truly, it has come to pass in this gospel day that the Lord has set his hand again the second time to gather the remnant of his people, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.

Wheresoever, whensoever, or howsoever whosoever will believe on the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved and become the seed of Christ, as His Spirit and life lives in them. God will (if they only keep pliable and willing to be led by his Spirit) lead them on from light to light or glory to glory and bring them all into one faith. The oneness, unity, power, and glory of God will be realized in a magnified manner before the Lord comes to take his bride, or wife, to himself in glory; and the judgment will set, the earth and all things therein will be burned up. Those who have rejected Christ will be consumed in the flames of God's wrath, and their souls will become inhabitants of the burning regions of a never ending flame of hell fire and brimstone.

Are You Born From Above?

In Psalms 39:3 we find these words, “While I was musing, the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue.”

The subject before us is of great importance to every child of God, and to believe the truth set forth will enrich your soul and make you stronger in the Lord and in the Church of the Living God. It will help to so establish you in God as a member of his body, the church, that his rich graces and truth will flow from heaven into your soul and out to those with whom you come in contact to the edifying of the body of Christ and the gathering together unto Him all the redeemed of the earth, as it will no longer be “I or my church,” but “Christ,” for He is the gateway to heaven.

In the third chapter of John and the third verse Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.” In the margin readings it says, “or born from above.”

Let us go back to the prophets of God and see what they have to say on the subject, and bring the truth on down to us at this present time, and we shall be able to get a better meaning and understanding of what it really means to be born again or from above.

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In Deut. 32:1, we read, “Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.” It would not be sound speech to say that the literal heavens or the literal earth could hear; but by reading the remainder of the chapter you can readily see that he was addressing this to Israel his people whom he had called out of Egyptian bondage and was referring to them as heaven and earth. They were under the old covenant which constituted the old order of things which were to pass away. At that time they had a tabernacle built patterned according to God’s own words where God met with them. That was a heavenly place, and they lived in earthly bodies, which could be termed earth; therefore it was not unreasonable for him to address them as heaven and earth when he asked them to hear his words.

Turning to the 16th chapter of 1 Chronicles, it would be good for you to read this chapter down to the 37th verse. In the 23rd verse it says, “Sing unto the Lord, all the earth; shew forth from day to day his salvation.” Surely he meant for his people to sing, and not the literal earth. In the 31st verse he says, “Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, The Lord reigneth.” There he refers to his people as heaven and earth, for the literal heavens could not be glad nor the literal earth rejoice, but his people could rejoice, and they could tell the people, “The Lord reigneth.”

So we see that the old Jewish economy or literal Israel was referred to as heaven and earth which passed away at the coming of Jesus, and the new order of things was ushered in. In Matt. 21:42 we read what Jesus says to the Jews, “Did ye never read in the Scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: This is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of

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God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.” Jesus in speaking of Jerusalem, which represented the old order of things, said in Matt. 23:38, “Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.” Because the Jews rejected and crucified Christ, God ceased to meet with them in their tabernacle or temple which had been a heavenly place to them.

Turning to the 65th chapter of Isaiah, we find that after God had admonished Israel for their rebellion and iniquity, he records in the 17th verse: “For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, or come into mind.” He will not recognize the old order of things any more. The new Jerusalem will be different, established on better promises. Those under the law had much weeping and sorrow of heart, as they had sin in them which caused them to do evil continually; but Jesus gives power over that when one is born from above, and rejoicing takes the place of weeping. The law and the old order of things do not belong to us when we are born from above and are settled in the new heavens and the new earth, which is his body, the church. Jesus said that men do not put new wine into old bottles, but new wine must be put in new bottles and both are preserved.

In verses 18 and 19 he says, “But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.” He concludes this chapter by saying, “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.” Surely we who have been born again, or born from

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above, constitute His holy mountain, Mount Zion, the church of the first born, the heavenly Jerusalem—Heb. 12:22, 23; Ezekiel 43:12.

In Revelation 21:2, we read, “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

This holy city, new Jerusalem, which John saw coming down from God out of heaven was a revelation of the work of Jesus when he began to preach the kingdom of God, saying, “The time is fulfilled, the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye and believe the gospel.” Mark 1:15. When he began to preach the gospel of the kingdom and teach the new covenant doctrines, many began to believe and were born again, or born from above, and miracles were performed both by Jesus and the twelve apostles. Also there were seventy who were born again, justified, and the Spirit of truth was with them, whom God sent out to preach the kingdom and do miracles. All his power, grace, and salvation and healing work came down from God out of heaven to men, and they who were given it constituted the holy city, the new Jerusalem, which John saw spiritually coming from God out of heaven. They became as a bride adorned for her husband. In Matt. 9:15 Jesus acknowledges that he is the Bridegroom. When we are born from above, we become married to Christ in a spiritual sense. Read Rom. 7:3.

In the 3rd verse we read, “And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.” Jesus Christ was God manifested in the flesh, and the spirit of truth was with all the family of God, the ones born from above. Fourth verse “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes” (Isaiah 65:19)—The

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sinner woman who came to Jesus weeping, and washed his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hairs of her head, lost all of those tears when Jesus forgave her sins. (This is the kind of tears spoken of in Rev. 21:4.) And she was born from above, for Jesus said unto her, "Go in peace, thy faith hath saved thee." Read about it in the latter part of the 7th chapter of Luke. "And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things [the old order] are passed away." In John 11:26 the Lord says, "And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." Those that in this world believe in the Lord to the saving of the soul will never die if they continue faithful and hold their confidence of the hope firm unto the end. Hebrews 3:6.

In Rev. 21:9 something else comes to view concerning the kingdom of God, the church, and it reads thus: "And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God." Here we have a spiritual scene of the Holy Spirit descending from God into the hearts of one hundred and twenty on the Day of Pentecost when the kingdom of God came with power and the church of God was set up and began to function in the world. It is termed the Bride, the Lamb's wife and the holy Jerusalem. The one hundred and twenty were all justified souls and were there waiting for the promise of the Father. They were of one accord, united or built together for God to inhabit by his Spirit. They were his Spiritual Temple, 1 Peter 2:5. He had built His church and it was now ready to be occupied. When this took place there was a mighty stir in the city of Jerusalem as we read in the first part of the 2nd chapter of Acts. It says, "And suddenly there came a sound

from heaven.” “And it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues [languages] as the Spirit gave them utterance.” This great out-pouring of the Spirit was also prophesied by Malachi in the third chapter which reads thus: “Behold I will send my messenger [John the Baptist] and he shall prepare the way before me: And the Lord, [Jesus Christ] whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in.” On the Day of Pentecost the Lord came into the hearts of the disciples who were consecrating themselves to the Lord as His House (Hebrews 3:6), His Temple (2 Cor. 6:16,) His Sanctuary or Tabernacle (Hebrews 8:2), waiting for the “Promise of the Father,” in the form of the Holy Spirit, and the church of God was set up and begun to function in the world. Mighty signs and wonders were done in the name of the holy child Jesus. Zion began to travail, and she brought forth sons and daughters. Three thousand were converted, or born from above, in one day, and the Scripture was fulfilled in Isaiah, “Who hath heard such things? who hath seen such things? shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.” The above is a prophecy of what took place when the holy Jerusalem descended out of heaven from God and the one hundred and twenty began to function in the world as the kingdom of God, the church of God, and a nation of holy people was born in one day. Some commentators claim that this scene all took place up in heaven where God is and that we are not supposed to know much, if anything, about it. A scene that descends out of heaven from God is no more in heaven where His throne is established. It was the great City, the Bride, the Lamb’s wife, which John saw

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descending from God out of heaven, and it could be nothing more not less than the Holy Spirit and the power of His kingdom that came into the hearts of the one hundred and twenty, His Temple, His church which He had built together for an habitation of His spirit to function in, in the world; and by being from heaven they were not of the world, yet in the world whom the Lord keeps from evil.

Your Heart, His Garden

In the Bible we find many references made to literal things in order to convey to our hearts and minds spiritual truths. In different places in the Bible our hearts are referred to as a field or ground, as a vineyard, and in many places as a garden.

In the parables of the Lord recorded in the 13th chapter of Matthew the heart of man is referred to as ground or earth: “Behold a sower went forth to sow.” Some men’s hearts were like a wayside place which was in no condition to receive the truths of the gospel, so the fowls came and devoured them up. In other words, the evil spirits carried the truth from them and kept their minds occupied with earthly thoughts. The next hearts were like stony ground where there was not much earth. The gospel seed soon began to show life, but having no deep desire to suffer for the gospel, the life soon withered away. Some fell among thorns; that is, into a heart full of the cares of this life and fooled with the deceitfulness of riches; so the Word was choked and fruits ceased to be borne. But some seed fell on good ground, and it brought forth much fruit.

In the twenty-fourth chapter of Proverbs it is referred to as a vineyard and a field. The thirtieth verse reads: “I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding.” This is referring to the heart of a saved man who

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fails to understand God's way, or rather is slothful about doing his will, and shows us that such a man's heart will become like the literal vineyard or field of a man who is slothful about cultivating and hoeing out the weeds. His field is soon overgrown with weeds, thistles, and briars, and he raises no grain nor fruit, and the stone wall around it is broken down so the field or vineyard has no protection and becomes subject to all manner of devouring animals.

This is the condition that will be found in the heart of a man who neglects his soul and is slothful about obeying the Lord and is not willing to be led into places where he will have to suffer for Jesus' sake. His soul becomes poverty stricken and the Lord finds no fruits of the Spirit there. Through his carelessness and slothfulness the wall of salvation, which God has around him, is broken down, and his strength to resist evil is destroyed by the enemy coming in. It is sad for a soul to be in this state but many seem to be in that condition today and it is distasteful and very grievous to the Lord.

The heart is also reckoned as the land of the Lord and He is the tiller. In 1 Cor. 3:6 it is written, "I [Paul] have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase." Paul planted the gospel seed in the heart, and he reckoned it as land, soil, or ground. In the 9th verse, speaking of saved men and women, he writes: "For we [Paul and Apollos] are laborers together with God: and ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." Saved people are God's husbandry. He is the one who does the tilling of the soul to cause it to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit. In Isaiah 32:15 one can read of the condition of the heart being a wilderness, a dry parched place before the Spirit was given, but when the Spirit was poured out upon it, it became a fruitful field. In the 35th chapter of Isaiah

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reference is made to the hearts of men. The prophet, speaking of the coming of the Lord to give us His Spirit, says, “The wilderness and the solitary place [the condition of the heart before Christ comes in] shall be glad for them; and the desert [a heart without the Lord] shall rejoice and blossom like the rose.” He continues the prophecy by telling of the rejoicing of the once desert heart in these words: “For in the wilderness [hearts that are dry and without spiritual life] shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.” Verse 7, “And the parched ground [hearts without God] shall become a pool, and the thirsty land [the heart] springs of water.” When a heart receives the Lord it is full of the water of life.

If saved men and women will let the Lord have his way and willingly be led into places where they will have suffering for Jesus’ sake, they will then be allowing God to till His garden, their hearts, and He will give streams of water, thus the heart in a spiritual sense will become a well-watered garden, bringing forth the luscious fruits of the Spirit.

This is what the Revelator wanted to teach the lukewarm church about which we read in the third chapter of Revelation. They felt and said that they were rich and increased in goods and had need of nothing, but the Lord looked into their hearts and said that they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. His counsel to them was for them to buy of him gold tried in the fire (Holy Spirit fire) “that thou mayest be rich.” In other words he was telling them to give up their ways and let Him lead them by His Spirit into hard places and into places where they would have nothing of this world’s goods to lean upon nor to trust in, and by being willing and obedient to His voice or leadings, He would so till their hearts, His garden, that they would be rich with the things of heaven and this would bring to them real joy and happiness that

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would be eternal. They would then be clothed with white raiment and their eyes would be opened so they could see and rejoice in His ways.

In Jeremiah 4:3 we read about professors that were not right in heart with God. God's instructions to them was: "Break up your fallow ground and sow not among thorns." Let God have His way so He can take out the thorns, the wrong things in your heart. Read the fifth verse also.

God has always been preparing good things, for His creation. If they would only hearken unto his voice and be willing for him to lead them where their souls can really be fed, then all things that would make for their eternal good and happiness has been in His mind to do, but He finds very few who are willing to be nothing and let Him be all. A perfect heart in whose behalf God can show Himself strong is hard to find, but self-religion is in evidence everywhere.

Before God created man He prepared a garden for him with everything in it that man could wish to make him satisfied, and God was his companion. This garden was called Eden, which the Bible dictionary says denotes pleasure. God had pleasure in the garden and in man. In Gen. 2:15 it is written, "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." Here we find that God put the man in the garden and told him to dress it, or till it, and to keep it. Later God made the man a help meet in the form of a woman and Adam was pleased with his wife; but in the course of time they both broke the one and only commandment that God gave them, and God was greatly disappointed and grieved at heart because of their disobedience and He drove the man and woman out of the garden and placed a

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flaming sword at the entrance of the garden which turned every way to keep the way of the tree of life.

Even though the first man failed God, yet He still loved the man whom He had created, so He promised a Saviour from the seed of the woman, which was Christ our Lord, which promise came to pass in due time.

Since Christ has come, God has changed the whole order of things from what He planned for man in the beginning. Now, instead of putting the man in the garden and telling him to till it and keep it, He puts the garden in man and tills it Himself. The only thing that He requires of man now is to confess his sins, repent of them, cease from them, accept the blood of His Son as an offering for his sins, and then become pliable, willing, and obedient in His hands so He can till the soil of his heart and cause it to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit.

Many scriptures in the Word of God use “GARDEN” as a symbol of the hearts of men. In Deut. 11:10 God was talking to the children of Israel whom He had led out of Egypt, and said, “For the land, whither thou goest in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed and wateredst it with thy foot, as a garden of herbs.” In the 12th verse where He spoke concerning the land of Canaan which symbolizes the hearts of those who are sanctified wholly, “A land which the Lord thy God careth for [This land typifies our sanctified hearts.] the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year, even unto the end of the year.”

In Isaiah 51:3 we read, “For the Lord shall comfort Zion: [his saved people] he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of

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the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving and the voice of melody.”

In the 58th chapter of Isaiah we read again what God will do for those that obey Him (11th verse), “And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.”

In Jeremiah the 31st chapter is a description of God’s children after they are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. (11th and 12th verses), “For the Lord hath redeemed Jacob [Jacob symbolizes saved people] and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he. Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion and shall flow together to the goodness of the Lord, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd; and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.”

In connection with our souls being the garden of the Lord, I think of what the scripture says concerning Jesus in John 19:41, 42, “Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews’ preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.”

Dear brethren and sisters, our souls are really the garden of the Lord when Christ is living in them, but by wanting our own way and refusing to die to our own selfish interests in this life we can make a new sepulchre and put the Lord in it while we go on, filled with our own religious ways. The scripture above says they laid Him in the sepulchre because of the Jews’ preparation day. The Jews were a self-righteous people. They typify our own religious life without Christ. These Jewish people, although very religious,

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had become like Sodom and Egypt, spiritually speaking, for Jesus said they were “graves that appear not.” In Revelation 11:8, where it speaks of the Word and the Spirit being as dead bodies lying in the streets of a great city, it also says, “Where also our Lord was crucified.”

If you want your soul to prosper and be like a watered garden, just let God have His way and lead you into places where you will have opportunity to suffer for Jesus’ sake, and as you continue to be willing and obedient, He will be tilling your soul and real heavenly joy will be yours. The Jews wanted Barabbas to be loose but cried for Christ to be crucified. That is just what your life wants today, and with the aid of Satan and his evil spirits, he will deceive you if you let him, and you will have Christ crucified and laid in a sepulchre while your life takes over religion and goes on making a show in the flesh while Christ is laid bound in a tomb. Jesus says, “Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone, but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.” You cannot bring forth fruit pleasing to God unless your life is dead and He is loose in your soul.

The True Vine and the False Vine

In the first verse of the fifteenth chapter of John's gospel Jesus says, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman." Jesus would have been guilty of using idle words if there had been no false vines; so we know if He is the true vine, there are false vines. In the gospels, Jesus quite often spoke of false prophets and false teachers, men coming in sheep's clothing, and some saying, "Here is Christ," and "Lo, there is Christ;" but he warns us to be not deceived.

In the fifth verse he says, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit." From this statement it is plain to see that every saved person who retains the Spirit of Christ in the soul is a branch in the vine (Christ) or a member in His body, the church. "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." (verse 6)

As there are many false prophets and false teachers in the world who have false vines (churches) that will be burned and destroyed, it is easy to see how a branch, (a saved soul) that ceases to abide in the true vine (Christ) will become withered and men will gather them into their false vines and they will in time be burned or destroyed with the other false vines (religions). In the chart or diagram, you will notice that the true vine is rooted in God

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and in heaven, but the false vines are rooted in Satan and in the earth, yet both are flourishing in the world and have their life here. In John 17:14, 15, Jesus prayed for his disciples who were branches in the true Vine, "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."

In the third chapter of John's gospel, Jesus says, "Ye must be born again." In the margin it says, "From above." A soul that is truly born again is born from above, and has a life coming down into it from above, from God and from heaven, and it is not of this world any more than Jesus and His disciple were of this world. He did not pray for the Father to take His people out of the world but to keep them from the evil. We who are truly born again are in the world where all these false religions are, but we do not partake of them, and the Spirit of God keeps us from all these evils; therefore we are not of the world but of heaven.

Jesus met with the false religions of His day, and they hated Him because He told them the truth. False religions and false teachers and prophets will not receive all the truth, and will array themselves against the true ministers of God, who are not of this world but are from above. Jesus told the false teachers in His day, "Ye are from beneath: I am from above: Ye are of this world; I am not of this world." John 8:23.

The present-day religions are nearly all of this world and are drawing their substance from the earth, are from beneath, are of this world, and will not receive all the truth, but just that which suits them to hold up their false religions. They can mix with and draw support from the world, and at the same time claim to be following Christ and leading souls to heaven.

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It is remarkable to note the comparison of Jesus and the false religions of His day and the branches in the true Vine today and the false vines. In Jesus' time the false teachers and prophets claimed Abraham as their father and owned and worshiped God, but at the same time they reviled and hated Jesus who was the true God manifested in the flesh. Present day false teachers and prophets claim God as their Father and Jesus Christ as their Saviour, but at the same time they hate and resist the true Vine in the world today that comes down from God out of heaven and brings all of the real truth to men. Often they will brand the branches of the true vine as fanatical and legalistic people, narrow minded, and such like, in order to justify themselves before men in their attachments to the world. James says that the world is the enemy of God. "Whosoever will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." We love the souls of men, but not the spirit of the world in which they move. Those who are Christ's, or pretend to be, and conform to the world in different ways, are showing themselves to be friends of the world, which is the enemy of God. Read James 4:4, and also 1 John 2:15, 16.

Someone may ask, "How is it that these ministers in the different man made religions have so much light, and preach so many right things, and many of them seem so nice and pious?" Jesus witnessed that they were such in His day, and said that they were like "whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness." Matt. 23:27. False teachers have all the appearance of the true, but they have poison doctrines back of it that will cause folks to be of the world and not from above. In Luke 11:44 Jesus said to them, "Ye are as graves that appear not." In other words, He was telling them that they appeared to be much alive in the things of God, but at the same time their end was death, as their

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beliefs and practices showed them to be dead in their souls so far as real truth was concerned.

Paul, in 2 Cor. 11:13-15 tells us very plainly what false teachers are and why they become such “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light [knows the truth about a lot of spiritual things]. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; “whose end shall be according to their works.”

Someone may ask, “Why is it that many who once had the truth are now in this class, and are partakers of the world with other false religions?” For an answer to this question read 2 Thess. 2:10-12, “Because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved, and for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believe not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” These people did not continue to love the truth, but began to love the world and conform to it, and became withered branches. God sent them strong delusion, so that they went right on preaching and claiming to follow Christ, becoming more and more like other false religions, and partaking of nearly all manner of worldliness. Thus they became the enemies of the cross of Christ.

In the chart you will notice Catholicism and her harlot daughters (Rev. 17:5) pictured as false vines coming out of the earth, and they are very prominent in the world. You will also notice on the other side of the “true vine” more false vines coming out of the earth and of Satan, and in the world. These represent the three unclean spirits like frogs which have come out of the mouth

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of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. “For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth [Kings here mean ministers that have wide influence, swaying the multitudes into false doctrines and ruling over them, spiritually speaking. They are kings of the earth and not from above. They draw their substance from the earth and Satan, and are, spiritually speaking as angels of light, transformed into preachers of righteousness—as they preach many right things.] and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” Read Revelation 16:14, 15.

The true Vine in the picture represents the family of God that is in the world but not of the world. It is not of the multitude of false religions, but is separated unto God and set apart from all the religious rabble. It does not love the world or the things in the world, but it has its affections on things above where Christ sitteth at the right hand of the Father. In the Scriptures it is symbolized as, “New Jerusalem” (Read Rev. 3:12 and also Rev. 21:2). It is also termed “the bride, the Lamb’s wife,” for when one is saved he is symbolized as being married to the Lord (Read Romans 7:4). You will notice that John saw the holy city (which symbolizes the holy children of God) the New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven prepared as a bride adorned for her husband (Rev. 21:2). Also, notice that the true Vine is come down from God out of heaven and this is symbolized as the New Jerusalem, the people of God that are born from above. They draw their power, strength, wisdom, and righteousness from above and bear the fruits of the spirit in the world, to the glory of God. Souls that are born from above are all made new in Christ Jesus, old things have passed away and all things have become new. They do not walk according

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to the course of this world any more, do not fellowship the multitude of false religions in and of the world.

Rev. 21:10 is a description of what John saw when he was shown the bride, the Lamb's wife, "And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God." The children of God are often termed as on a mountain, and a mountain. Read Isaiah 2:2, 3; also, read in Ezekiel 43:12, "Upon the top of the mountain the whole limit thereof around about shall be most holy."

We shall now show you that John also saw the fallen church, the multitude of earthly religions that surround us in the world today which he called "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abomination of the Earth." Notice, these things are of the earth and not from above. Read Rev. 17:5.

Let us begin reading at the first verse of the 17th chapter of Revelation, "And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore [Mystery, Babylon the Great, and her harlot daughters] that sitteth upon many waters." Waters here symbolizes people. You will get the definition out of the 15th verse of this chapter. This great mystery of false religion is resting on the people and they are supporting her, are in bondage to her, and become idol worshipers. In the 2nd verse it says, "With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication." The kings of the earth are these great preachers that sway the people, such as popular radio preachers, pulpit preachers, and editors. You notice it says, "Kings of the earth." They are not of heaven although they claim to be of God and to worship him and claim Jesus as their Saviour. They are of earth and rule over

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men, spiritually speaking, and commit fornication with the harlot daughters of Babylon. They acknowledge them, conform to the world as they do, and get their own converts into the family of some harlot daughter, and in that way commit fornication with the whore that sitteth upon many waters. All ministers, radio preachers, and editors who call themselves interdenominational are committing fornication with the harlot daughters of Babylon whether they realize it or not. This verse reads on, “And the inhabitants of the earth [You notice it says “earth”, which would leave the true children of God out, as they are from above] have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.” In other words, they drink of her doctrines, imbibe them, and are spiritually intoxicated, being partakers with her in her fornication and are conformed more or less to the world, as all the false, “Mystery, Babylon-the-Great” religions are.

The third verse reads thus, “So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness.” You will notice the contrast between the scene of the bride, the Lamb’s wife, and the scene of Mystery, Babylon the Great, and her harlot daughters. In the one he was carried to a great and high mountain to see the bride, the Lamb’s wife; but here he is carried into the wilderness, which symbolizes a wild unattended place where many evil things grow and some good things which have no husbandman to dress them, to purge them and cause them to bear acceptable fruit unto God or to keep them from the world and the intoxicating wine of Mystery, Babylon, and her harlot daughters. In order to see this Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth, it was needful to go into a wilderness place not inhabited, not cultivated or tended by the true God.

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When I mentioned wilderness where John was carried to see “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, AND HER HARLOT DAUGHTERS,” and said that some good things grew there, I meant by that that there are some of God’s people in these places, who are sincere and living up to all the light they have, but God in these last days is calling them out of those places to separate them from the world and its religions and abide in the true Vine alone to fully glorify God. This is clearly taught by Jesus in the parables he uttered and recorded in the 13th chapter of Matthew, verse 24. In the 36th verse of the same chapter the disciples asked him to declare unto them the parable of the tares of the field. And He said, “He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man: The field is the world: The good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one: The enemy that sowed them is the devil: The harvest is the end of the world [We are now living in the end of the world] and the reapers are the angels [messengers or true ministers]: As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels [true ministers], and they, shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth [after this is done]. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.” In other words, if your spiritual ears are open to receive truth, hear it and do it. Those who will not hear his angels or true ministers and come out of these worldly churches will be gathered for the burning, for in these last days the righteous are going to shine forth as the sun in his kingdom.

The three unclean spirits like frogs spoken of in the 13th verse of the 16th chapter of Revelation are now working among the three

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great spiritual powers which are in the world, and are deceiving them, and are gathering them together against the righteous and in the end the whole army of them shall be burned as recorded in the 20th chapter of Revelation, verse 9.

God is, and has been for some time, calling the righteous out of these man-made, worldly religions to abide in the true Vine and shine as the sun in His kingdom, thereby escaping the burning.

In 2 Cor. 6:14, it is written, “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers,” because a child of God could not have fellowship there. Notice verses 17 and 18, “Wherefore, come out from among them, and be ye separate saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing: and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

In Rev. 18:1 it is recorded that John saw an angel come down from heaven, having great power, and the earth was lightened with his glory. “And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the Great is fallen [the whole system of false religion] is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils [These unclean spirits like frogs are termed “Spirits of devils working miracles” and you will find many miracles being done in these false religions today, which helps to deceive the people] and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.” Many of them in there possess a hateful bird nature although having a nice outside appearance.

In the fourth verse we read again, “And I heard another voice from heaven saying, Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” The children of God that are in these earthly religions are partaking of

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their sins, and if they do not come out, will receive of her plagues and be burned in the end.

In reading the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th verses you will find that these false religions are symbolized as a woman sitting on a scarlet colored beast. To the natural man (the earthly part of man) she looks beautiful. Even when John saw her he said he wondered with great admiration. This is a solemn warning to us here in the world not to be carried away with dazzling, showy religions, but to keep on loving the self-denying, crucified way, bearing the reproach of the cross with Christ and the apostles. Paul, in speaking of the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, says, "By whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world" (Galatians 6:14).

The religious world of today is in great darkness and the wicked one is gathering his hosts to crush out and wither the few remaining true branches in the Vine, for atheism is on the increase and new and slimy religions are springing up to deceive and decoy the elect of God, if possible.

In the 16th chapter of Revelation we read, "And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates: and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared." This drying of the great river Euphrates has already taken place and the kings of the east which are, spiritually speaking, earthly in nature, are flooding this country with their atheistic doctrines. The inhabitants, having been made drunk on the wine of Mystery Babylon and her harlot daughters, are ripe to take up with those damnable doctrines.

In these last days of fast flying airplanes, all hindrances are practically removed and evil workers can contact any country in a short time and poison those who are ripe for deception.

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Smith's Bible dictionary says that the word "Euphrates" means "Good and abounding." The Euphrates being dried up represents the dried up spiritual condition of people's cold souls. When one's soul is filled up on good things from heaven and abounding in his love and graces, it would hinder and bar out these spiritual earthly kings from sowing their poison seed in his soul. Today, the last of the last days, we see this dried-up soul condition all about us and they are ripe to receive communist doctrine of atheism. In John 7:37, 38, we read, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me, as the Scriptures hath said, out of his belly [inner most being] shall flow rivers of living water." If this river of the water of life is not springing up in the soul, or is becoming dried up, then the soul is ripening up and is ready for the reception of the poison seed of the spiritual earthly kings of the east and all manner of other false doctrines. When we note the great amount of dead, formal worship in this land of ours and so many of them drunk on the wine of Babylon with conformity to the world and its ways, we know that, symbolically speaking, the Euphrates is dried up, for the stream of salvation has ceased to flow down into their hearts from heaven. Therefore the ways of the kings of the east has been prepared.

Church federation is growing in this country, and they are calling it the one great church of God. A clipping from a newspaper reads as follows, "New York, May 14, AP, The Right Rev. William T. Manning, Episcopal bishop of New York, called today for the 'reunion of all Christians, both Catholic and Protestant, in one great Church of God.

" 'The day in which we are living calls for the Christian church all over the world to a new awakening,' he said in a speech prepared for the one hundred and sixty-third convention of the

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diocese of New York. 'But in this great day of need and opportunity the Christian church stands with its witness weakened and its message confused and obstructed by its own differences and divisions.

“ ‘More than ever today, when the whole world is one, we must think of Christian unity in this world-wide meaning. Christian unity means the reunion of all of us, all who are baptized into Christ and can accept Him as God and Saviour. Christians both Catholic and Protestant in the one great church of God.’ ”

To the nominal Christian, who is void of the Spirit of God, such talk would sound good and reasonable and it would be reasonable and in harmony with God's word if it could be that all these world religions were of God, but when those who are attached to the true Vine and have wisdom and counsel from above see these things coming together, they see deeper than the surface and realize that it is Satanic powers moving the religious people of earth together in time to be solid enemies of the children of God who are from above to fulfill the prophecies of the Scriptures.

In Revelation 20:7-9 we read where Satan shall be loosed out of his prison and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: The number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

Gog is a term used for Catholicism and Magog denotes all the harlot daughters or the present day denominations. It reads. “Went out to deceive the nations.”

God's people are referred to as “An holy nation.” 1 Peter 2:9. These denominations (different harlot daughters) are unholy nations: and Satan has gone out to deceive them into evil works that they have perhaps never thought of doing before as nations.

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Most of them will not know about the awful wicked deeds ahead until they are right upon them and then will be forced to be a partaker with them.

Satan here represents the Pagan power, the old dragon that persecuted the saints in the morning church. Now he is being loosed a little season and in different forms and manners he is deceiving the earthly religious people. You can read about this Satanic power which is called the old serpent, the devil, and Satan in the 2nd verse of the 20th chapter of Revelation, and again in Revelation 12:9. This same Pagan power, or dragon, is deceiving many religious people into Communism. He is using the word communism as a cloak, as it is not a bad meaning word, but the spirit of atheism is hidden under it. Some may say that Catholicism is opposed to Communism; and it is so, as a general thing, but many of her subjects are in it now, and as time goes on many more will be deceived into the thing along with the host of the “Magog” family, and when their power becomes strong enough to overthrow the government, the rest will be forced to serve the purpose and ends of this mighty power that is fulfilling prophecy.

In Revelation 20:9, we find a great comfort to the true saints of God who will be persecuted by this satanic power, and many will be killed and slain. But God will fight our battles for us, and will send down fire from heaven and devour them. While they and the world and all things therein are being burned up and the souls of the wicked will be cast into hell fire where the worm dieth not and the fire is never quenched, the righteous will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall they ever be with the Lord. The victory belongeth to the saints of the Most High and they shall possess the kingdom forever and forever. Blessed be the name of

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our great King, the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is worthy of all praise and honor and glory.

The Church of God

The family of God, or the Church of God is symbolized in the Scriptures by many different literal objects to bring to the minds of the saved, spiritual truths which enlighten, establish, and settle the saved of earth into a united and compacted company of heaven born beings working with one object in view, and that is to lift up Christ as the Saviour of the world and show forth his body, which is the Church, that men may lay aside all idol worship and forsake the man-made churches and human institutions and abide in Christ, who is the head of the body, the true church (Col. 1:18).

In all literal objects used in the Scriptures to symbolize the church, we see them as objects that are solid always together and firm. Consider the word Mt. Zion or Sion, which is a figure of the church (Heb. 12:22). When we think of a mountain, we look upon it as something great and mighty, and can be seen from a long distance, wearing a snowy white robe (which denotes purity and cleanness), and something that is compacted together, towering upward toward heaven in one great, solid lump. In this respect Mt. Zion symbolizes or is a metaphor of the true church that is shining in the world at this present time. Read Psalms 48:2; Isaiah 8:18; also the first few verses of the second chapter of Isaiah, which is a direct prophecy of the church, the house of God or family of God, in this gospel dispensation in which we live. There is no carnal

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warfare going on in Zion. Paul says, “The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God.” 2 Cor. 10:4. Read Isa. 32:17, 18.

In other places in the Bible, the Scriptures speak of the church in symbolical language as a City: “Jerusalem is builded as a city which is compact together.” Psa. 122:3.

“And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin: and I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counselors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The City of righteousness, the faithful city. Zion shall be redeemed with judgment and her converts, with righteousness.” Isaiah 1:25-27.

“In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; [where God’s people dwell] We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks. Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation that keepeth the truth may enter in. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” Isaiah 26:1-3.

In Isaiah 60:14 we find these words concerning the church in this day: “And they shall call thee, The city of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.” Jesus Christ is the Holy One of Israel.

“And they shall call them The holy people, The redeemed of the Lord and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken.” Isa. 62:12. This holy city is redeemed men and women. God has sought them out by His searching spirit and has brought them to the city of God, and He does not forsake them.

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In those days the cities were built with a strong wall around them and only those inside of the wall were in the city. They had the wall for protection, and no intruder or undesirable person could get into the city unless they came in at the door or gate (Jesus is the door). The strong wall was the protection of those in the city. The prophet, in speaking of the city of God in which we dwell, said, "Salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks." There are none in this holy city now except those who have real Bible salvation. Salvation is as a wall around the city. The city of God, or church of God, is often referred to as Jerusalem or New Jerusalem. Paul says in Galatians, chapter four, where he is comparing the children under the law age with the redeemed of the Lord now: "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." So we are born from Jerusalem which is above all of the sect mountains and hills, and have become the New Jerusalem, the city of God, which is here in the world shining for God, bringing heavenly truths to the attention of earthly men that they might believe. In Revelation 21:2, we read: "And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." This is none other than the family of God, or church of God, that is here in the world now. They are not of the world because their spirit, life, power, and wisdom have come from God and are coming from him. They are only ambassadors from heaven and are being used of God in revealing heavenly things to men, and they shine as lights in the world (Phil. 2:15). Jesus said to the disciples in Matt. 5:14: "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." He refers to his disciples as a city.

This drawing pictures the church as a house. There are many Scriptures which tell us of the house of God, which is the church of God, the pillar and ground of the truth. You will read about this in

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1 Tim. 3:15. Peter tells us that we, “As lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 2:5.

A house is something that is fitted and framed together, making a solid structure to stand the storms of hail or rain that may come; likewise is the church of God, as we read in Eph. 2:20: “And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all [not part of it] the building, fitly framed together, groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: [now notice] In whom ye also are builded together [not apart] for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” This is very plain talk, and it seems to me that even a new-born babe in Christ should understand and never join themselves to any of the many manmade churches or any other earthly institution, but just keep free in the Lord so God can fit and frame them into His building or church which is divinely governed and ruled. Read Psalm 87; also Isaiah 9:5-8. You will find the government is on the Lord himself, not on a man or company of men. There is no place in the Bible where it tells you to join any earthly man made organization, or to have any idols.

In Hebrews 3:6 we read, “But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we.” In Hebrews 8:2 we find the apostle referring to God’s people as a sanctuary or tabernacle “which the Lord pitched and not man.” Man has nothing to do with the building of the tabernacle, house, or church of God, only as he yields to God and God works through him to reveal Christ unto men. God sets the members in the body or church as it pleases Him, and we are all governed and ruled by the Lord, which gives us great freedom and boldness of speech.

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In Col. 1:18 we read, “And he [Christ] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the first born from the dead: that in all things he might have the preeminence.” This makes us absolutely free from man rule and the biased judgment of men. Thank God, we are members of his body, of his flesh and of his bones (Eph. 5:30); and He, Christ, our near kin, has all power both in heaven and in earth (Matt. 28:18). He is worthy to rule and govern. His side was pierced, his innocent blood covers our souls and we are His blood cleansed people, His family of blood-bought souls; and this makes us His blood kin, and we become one family, one house, one church, and have become heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ our Lord, for He will change our vile (or decaying) bodies and fashion us like unto His glorious body. (Phil. 3:21.)

Dear brethren, you who are tossed, bruised, and ill fed, and have been decoyed into some human organization or manmade church, and your soul is longing for better days; we beseech you, to harken unto the voice of Scripture in Revelation 18:1: “Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partaker of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” For the angel is crying with a strong voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen [already fallen] and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.” Come out clear from it all and obey the Scripture in Jeremiah 50:5: “They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten.” When you are clear from all idols and settled in the house of God, the church of God, the pillar and ground of the truth, then you can with a joyful heart sing the new song found in Revelation 15:3. “And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and

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marvelous are thy works, Lord God almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.”

