

6. HEAVEN

In Colossians 3:2 we are told to: "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Too many people and Christians are so earthly-minded that they are of no heavenly good. Jesus told us to "lay up treasures in heaven." Matthew 6:20.

In view of the difficulties of this world and of the treasures of heaven, we do well to focus constantly on heaven.

- Aim:**
1. To show us what great things await us in heaven.
 2. To comfort us concerning those who have gone to heaven.
 3. To motivate us to tell people how they may get to heaven.

1. THE BIBLE TEACHES US THAT THERE ARE THREE HEAVENS

The first heaven is earth's atmosphere, "the heaven gave rain". James 5:18.

The second heaven is outer space, "the stars shall fall from heaven". Matthew 24:29.

The third heaven is the throne of God, "New Jerusalem which cometh down out of heaven from my God." Revelation 3:12.

Paul says in II Corinthians 12:2-4, "I knew a man in Christ...caught up to the third heaven."

2. NAMES OF HEAVEN

- a) "Thine eyes shall behold the king in his beauty: they shall behold the **land that is very far off.**" Isaiah 33:17.
- b) "Ye have in heaven a **better** and an **enduring substance.**" Hebrews 10:34.
- c) "The **city** of the **living God.**" Hebrews 12:22.
- d) "Receive the promise of **eternal inheritance.**" Hebrews 9:15.
- e) "In my Father's house are **many mansions**:...I go to prepare a place for you." John 14:2.
- f) "Far more exceeding and eternal weight of **glory.**" II Corinthians 4:17.
- g) "Lay up for yourselves treasures in **heaven.**" Matthew 6:20.
- h) "...a better...**heavenly country**...he hath prepared for them a city." Hebrews 11:16.
- i) "He was caught up into **paradise.**" II Corinthians 12:4.

3. WHEN WE DIE WHERE DO WE GO?

- a) At death, the **spirits and souls** of believers **go immediately to heaven**, and the body "sleeps" in the earth until Christ's second coming when we will be caught up to rejoin our spirits & souls.
"To be absent from the body, and to be **present with the Lord.**" II Corinthians 5:8.
"Them also which sleep in Jesus will God **bring with him.**" I Thessalonians 4:14.
"For the hope which is laid up for you **in heaven.**" Colossians 1:5.
"But ye are come unto Mt Zion, the **heavenly** Jerusalem." Hebrews 12:22.
"But now they desire a better country, that is, an **heavenly.**" Hebrews 11:16.
"Knowing in yourselves that ye have **in heaven** a better and an enduring substance" Heb. 10:34
"To an inheritance.....reserved **in heaven** for you." I Peter 1:4.
"I heard a great voice of much people **in heaven.**" Revelation 19:1.

"Lay up for yourselves treasures **in heaven.**" Matthew 6:20.

"**Where I am** (heaven), **there** shall also my servant be." John 12:26.

"I go and prepare **a place** for you.....that **where I am** (heaven), there **ye** may be also" John 14:3

"We know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved (physical death), we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the **heavens.**" II Corinthians 5:1.

- b) At Christ's return to earth in glory, believers will return to earth with Christ.
"The Lord my God shall come, and **all the saints with thee.**" Zechariah 14:5.
- c) After the 1000 years of Christ's rule on earth, God will destroy this first earth with fire. He will create a new heavens, new earth and a **new Jerusalem city** which will be 1500 miles wide, 1500 miles long and 1500 miles high.
This is where our home with God will be forever. Revelation 21:1-3.

4. DESCRIPTION OF HEAVEN.

- a) Heaven is where **God's Throne is.** "Our Father which art in heaven." Matthew 6:9.
- b) It is a sinless **Holy Place.**
"He will hear him from his holy heaven." Revelation 21:27; Psalm 20:6.
- c) **Beautiful and clean.** "The street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass." Revelation 21:21.
- d) **River of Life and tree of life.** Revelation 22:1,2.
- e) **Angels** reside there. "The voice of many angels about the throne in heaven." Revelation 5:11.
- f) **Father, Son and Holy Spirit** reside there. "They shall see his face." Revelation 22:4.
- g) Place of **reward.** "Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven." Matthew 5:12; Revelation 22:12.
- h) Place of **separation** from the **wicked.** I Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21; Rev. 22:14,15.
- i) **Believers** reside there. "...an house not made with hands, **eternal in the heavens.**" II Cor. 5:1.
- j) We **return** to the **days of our youth**, in resurrected, youthful and immortal bodies. Job 33:25.
"This mortal must put on immortality." I Corinthians 15:53.
- k) Place of **joy and happiness.**
"Enter thou into the **joy** of thy Lord." Isaiah 35:10; Matthew 25:21.
- l) All **good earthly gifts** come from **God in heaven.**
"A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven." John 3:27.
"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights..." James 1:17.
Question: Do you acknowledge God as having given you everything good?
- m) God assigns **angels** in heaven to **each child** who is born in order to bring that person to hear the gospel, so that they will receive Christ as Saviour and have eternal life. Matthew 18:10.
- n) **God's Word** which we have in our hands is settled forever in heaven. It is heavenly and without error. We can confidently build our life on it.
"For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." Psalm 119:89.
- o) The **permanence of our heavenly possessions** comfort us when we lose our earthly possessions. Hebrews 10:34.

- p) An **inheritance** reserved in heaven for you, that fadeth not away. I Peter 1:4,5.
- q) **Saved people** from every kindred, tongue, people and nation will be there. Revelation 5:9. We will be **reunited** with saved friends and relatives, children who have died, Jesus Christ and angels.
- r) We shall have a **glorified body like Christ**. "We shall be like him." I John 3:2. This is **Christ likeness**. Our new bodies will not be subject to the laws of gravity, time or ageing. John 20:19
- s) Heaven is **eternal**. "an eternal inheritance." Hebrews 9:15.
- t) A place of **memory**.
Question: Will we know one another in heaven? Yes, David will meet his son. II Samuel 12:22,23. We shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 8:11.
- u) **Satisfaction** of all our needs. Revelation 7:16,17.
- v) **Sharing in Christ's glory**. "When Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in **glory**". Colossians 3:4.

5. ACTIVITIES IN HEAVEN:

- i) Intimate **fellowship** with God for all eternity. "They shall see his face." Revelation 22:4.
"That where I am there ye may be also." John 14:3.
- ii) **Rest** from hard labour.
"They may rest from their labours." Revelation 22:4.
One of the results of sin was the curse of toil and the sweat of hard work. When we arrive in heaven, we will continue to work, but the agony of labour will be gone.
- iii) Exciting **service**. "His servants shall serve Him." Revelation 22:3.
"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." Luke 16:10.
- iv) **Ruling**. "We shall **reign** on the earth." Revelation 5:10.
"Because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou **authority** over ten cities." Luke 19:17. "If we suffer, we shall also **reign** with him. II Timothy 2:12.
- v) **Worship**. "The 24 elders.....worship him that lives forever and ever." Revelation 4:9-11. "The Father seeketh such to worship him." John 4:23. We will be so amazed with the greatness of God, heaven and eternity that we will respond in worship.
- vi) **Singing**. "They sung a new song, saying, "Thou art worthy." Revelation 5:9.
"The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads." Isaiah 35:10.
- vii) **Eating**. "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna". Revelation 2:17.
- viii) **Marriage supper** of the lamb. "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the lamb." Revelation 19:9.

6. THINGS ABSENT FROM HEAVEN.

The "no-mores" in heaven are:

- i) "No more sea." Revelation 21:1.
- ii) "The first heaven and the first earth were passed away." Revelation 21:1.
- iii) No more tears. Revelation 21:4.
- iv) No more death.

- v) No more sorrow.
- vi) No more crying.
- vii) No more pain.
- viii) No more sun or moon. Revelation 21:23.
- ix) "No temple for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it." Revelation 21:22
- x) No more insecurity. "The gates of it shall not be shut at all by day" Revelation 21:25.
- xi) "No night there." Revelation 21:25.
- xii) No sin will enter. "There shall in no wise enter into it anything that defiles, or works abomination, or makes a lie..." Revelation 21:27.
- xiii) No more sickness. "Leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." Revelation 22:2
- xv) "No candle or light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign forever and ever." Revelation 7:16.
- xvi) No more thirst, hunger or heat. Revelation 7:16.
- xvii) No one who **adds** or **takes away** from the Bible. Revelation 22:18,19.
- xviii) Outside are dogs, sorcerers, whoremongers, murderers, idolaters, and liars. Revelation 22:15

7. WHAT WILL BE THERE?

- i) Behold I make **ALL THINGS NEW**. Revelation 21:5.
This means that everything will be new. It will be a new universe.
- ii) "He that overcometh shall **inherit ALL THINGS**." Revelation 21:7.
- iii) "The **Kings of the earth** do bring their glory and honour into it." Revelation 21:24. This means that there will be a new population on the new earth who will worship the Lord.
- iv) **Mansions**. "In my Father's house are many mansions." John 14:2.

Question: How may we enter heaven?

We must humble ourselves as little children, and **ask** Christ to be our Saviour. Matthew 18:1-6 "Thou would have **asked** of him, and he would have given thee living water". John 4:10.

Are you really sure of going to heaven?

Are you really living for Christ and for eternity?

Are you working to get lost people saved and into heaven?

7. HELL

In the New Testament, 162 passages speak about unrepentant people going to hell, and 70 of these were described by Jesus, as he warned people to avoid it.

When the unsaved die, they go immediately to hell. Later, at the end of Christ's 1,000 year reign on earth, the unsaved will leave hell, receive their resurrected bodies, go to the Great White Throne Judgment and will then be cast into the Lake of Fire, where they remain forever (Revelation 20:11-15).

I. FOUR BIBLE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE HELL:

1. **GEHENNA**¹⁰⁶⁷ referred to the continually burning rubbish dump on the south west side of Jerusalem, known as the valley of the sons of Hinnom (or Tophet). Jesus used the word "Gehenna" to describe the place of everlasting punishment because hell is a place of filth and stink, a place of smoke and pain, a place of everlasting fire and suffering. This garbage dump was likened to hell. It is used as a name for the place of everlasting punishment of the lost. It occurs twelve times in the New Testament. It is the ultimate hell of fire. It is the same as the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:14,15).

Matthew 5:22 "whosoever shall say, "Thou fool", shall be in danger of hell fire" (gehenna of the fire).

Matthew 5:29 "And if thy right eye offend thee ... and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell" (gehenna).

Matthew 5:30 "And if thy right hand offend thee ... and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell" (gehenna).

Matthew 10:28 "...fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (gehenna).

Matthew 18:9 "And if thine eye offend thee, ... rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire" (gehenna).

Matthew 23:15 "Pharisees, ... ye make him twofold more the child of hell (gehenna) than yourselves."

Matthew 23:33 "Ye serpents,... how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (gehenna).

Mark 9:43 "And if thy hand offend thee, ... two hands to go into hell (gehenna), into the fire that never shall be quenched."

Mark 9:45 "And if thy foot offend thee, ... two feet to be cast into hell (gehenna), into the fire that never shall be quenched."

Mark 9:47 "And if thine eye offend thee, ... two eyes to be cast into hell fire" (gehenna of fire).

Luke 12:5 "Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell" (gehenna).

James 3:6 "the tongue is ... set on fire of hell" (set on fire by gehenna).

2. **HADES**⁸⁶ is the intermediate state between death and the ultimate hell (gehenna), the Lake of Fire. It is where unsaved departed spirits reside. Luke 16:23. Hades never denotes the physical grave, nor is it the permanent region of the lost. Hades occurs 10 times in the New Testament, and Sheol, the Old Testament equivalent occurs 59 times. Hades is associated with privation, detention and just punishment of the unsaved dead.

Matthew 11:23 "Thou, Capernaum... shalt be brought down to hell" (hades).

Luke 10:15 Hades here expresses Capernaum's absolute overthrow, from pride to humiliation.

Matthew 16:18 "The gates of hell (hades) shall not prevail against it" (the churches' attack).

Luke 16:19-31 "And in hell (hades) he lifted up his eyes, being in torments"⁹³¹ (punishment)" v.23. Hades here has two compartments, close to each other, yet different.

Acts 2:27 "Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell (hades)."

Acts 2:31 "That his (Christ's) soul was not left in hell (hades)."

Christ here descended into the underworld of the departed (Ephesians

4:9,10), to take the believers in it (eg: thief on the cross) up to heaven.

Believers now go to heaven at death, while unbelievers still go to hades at death, a place of punishment.

Revelation 1:18 "I (Christ) ... have the keys of hell (hades) and of death."

Revelation 6:8 "a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and hell (hades) followed with him." Hades here is personified as the temporary destiny of the unsaved.

Revelation 20:13 "death and hell (hades) delivered up the dead which were in them."

Revelation 20:14 "death and hell (hades) were cast into the lake of fire."

Note: Fire is used 27 times in the New Testament to describe the after-death punishment of unbelievers and of demons.

2 Thessalonians 1:8 "In flaming **fire** taking vengeance on them that know not God, and obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Matthew 13:42, 50 "And shall cast them into a furnace of fire."

Matthew 5:22; 18:9; Mark 9:43,45,47 "cast into fire unquenchable, hell fire."

Isaiah 66:24 "... look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me, for their worm shall not die, neither shall their **fire** be quenched." Mark 9:44,46,48.

Isaiah 33:14 "Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire?"

Who among us shall dwell with the everlasting burnings?"

Matthew 18:8 "Two hands or two feet be cast into everlasting fire."

Matthew 25:41 "Depart from me ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

Jude 7 "Sodom and Gomorrha ... an example suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." (**Literally:** of fire eternal, the penalty undergoing).

Revelation 19:20 "Beast, .. false prophet, ... and them that worshipped his image. These were cast alive into a lake of **fire** burning with brimstone."

Revelation 20:10 "the devil ... shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (for the ages of the ages).

Revelation 20:14,15 and Rev. 21:8 "death and hell were cast into the lake of fire."

Revelation 14:10,11 "tormented with **fire** and brimstone ... the **smoke** of their torment ascends up for ever and ever (for ages of ages), and they have no rest (respite) day nor night..."

3. **SHEOL**⁷⁵⁸⁵ is hades of the Old Testament. In Hebrew, it means the depth, abyss, pit, world of the dead, underworld. It occurs 66 times in the Old Testament (grave 31 times, hell 30 times, pit 3 times). Though all Old Testament people went to the grave, the souls of some will receive punishment in sheol.

Numbers 16:30 "Korah, Dathan and Abiram went down into the pit."

Psalms 9:17 "The wicked shall be turned into hell (sheol)."

4. TARTARUS⁵⁰²⁰ is the deepest abyss of Hades; a place where evil angels are imprisoned in torment, awaiting judgment and everlasting punishment.

2 Peter 2:4 is its **only** reference in the Bible.

“If God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell (tartarus), and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.”

II. WHAT IS HELL (GEHENNA and HADES) LIKE?

1. UNQUENCHABLE FIRE: “He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” Matthew 3:12. Hell “fire” is real “fire” because the same Greek word (pur) for fire is used for both. “It rained fire and brimstone...” Matthew 17:15 and Luke 17:29.

The rich man in hades said: “I am tormented in this flame.” Luke 16:24.

2. MEMORY AND REGRET. Abraham said to the rich man in hades “remember” in Luke 16:25. Lost people will remember their sins and the times that they rejected the Holy Spirit convicting them of their sins and their need for Jesus Christ to be their Saviour. They will remember how Christians told them the plan of salvation.

3. THIRST. The rich man in hell begged Abraham to “send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue” (Luke 16:24), yet this was refused. Imagine going without water for one day, let alone for eternity without water.

Jesus Christ offers in John 7:37, “If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink.”

4. SEPARATION. People in hell will experience a “great gulf” (Luke 16:26) between them and God. They took all the good things of life for granted when they were on earth. They will be forever separated from all the good gifts of God. Many unbelievers joke that “I won’t be lonely in hell, as all my friends will be there.” Friendship means nothing under everlasting torment.

5. INJUSTICE AND FILTHINESS OF SIN are in hell. Revelation 22:11. “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy let him be filthy still.” No one likes people treating them unjustly, nor do people like being abused in a filthy manner. The unsaved will experience these conditions forever in hell.

6. HOPELESSNESS FOR ALL ETERNITY. Hell is the everlasting dwelling place of the unsaved. Sooner or later they will realise that they are in hell to stay there forever, with no escape. In Luke 16:26, Abraham told the rich man in hell: “They which would pass from here to you cannot; neither can they pass to us.”

7. STINK OF SULPHUR. “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and **brimstone** (sulphur); which is the second death.” Revelation 21:8.

8. EYESIGHT, HEARING, TOUCH, TASTE AND SMELL are senses that people possess in hell. The rich man in Luke 16:19-31 could “see” Abraham, “hear” his voice, “touch” the flames, desire to “taste” water, and “smell” the sulphur. Revelation 21:8.

9. THE DEVIL and DEMON ANGELS will accompany the Christ rejecters forever.

10. UNSATISFIED DESIRES. Both of the rich man's requests were denied in Luke 16:19-31. He requested a drop of water to cool his tongue, and for Lazarus to return to tell his five unsaved brothers how to be saved and avoid hell. Both requests were denied. How many times a day do you want something and get it? In hell, no one ever gets what they want.

11. PLACE OF WORMS. “Where their worm dieth not...” Mark 9:44,46,48.

Worm means maggot. If the maggots do not die, and the people own the maggots, then neither do the people die or get annihilated in hell.

12. TORMENT and PUNISHMENT. “In hell, he lift up his eyes being in torments.” Luke 16:23.

13. SHAME and HATRED. “Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” Daniel 12:2. People suffering in hell will get a resurrection body. They will be judged, and sent to the lake of fire in shame at their sins. They will experience everlasting contempt, hating their situation forever.

14. DEGREES OF PUNISHMENT IN HELL. “It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgement, than for that city.” Mark 6:11.

Those who reject Christ most often, will receive greater punishment. Matthew 10:15.

15. WEEPING, WAILING, GNASHING OF TEETH. “So shall it be at the end of the 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.” Matthew 8:12 and 13:49,50. People who today are arrogant, proud Christ-rejecters will be wailing and gnashing their teeth in hell.

16. HADES IS IN THE EARTH. Amos 9:2 “though they dig into hell ...”, Isaiah 14:9 “hell from beneath”, Ephesians 4:9 “descended into lower parts of earth”, Numbers 16:33 “they went down alive into the pit”, Psalm 63:9 “those that seek my soul, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth.”

17. HELL IS ORIGINALLY PREPARED FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS

“Depart from me, ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” Matthew 25:41.

How does one get to hell? By neglecting to receive Christ as Saviour.

Hebrews 2:3 “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?”

How does one avoid hell? By receiving Christ as their Saviour. John 1:12.

Christians should work harder to rescue people from hell, and seek to build their church to better achieve this task, both at home and overseas.

Question 1: Does “hell” mean “grave” where good and bad must go?

Answer: No, because in Luke 16:19-31 both men went to the grave, but the soul of Lazarus was comforted, and the soul of the rich man was tormented.

Question 2: How can a loving God send people to hell?

Answer: People send themselves to hell by rejecting Christ. God is loving in sending Christ to die for our sins, but God is just in punishing sin.

III. JESUS' STORY OF THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS in Luke 16:19-31.

An unbelieving rich man who had abundant material possessions and food in this life, died and went to hell. A believing poor man named Lazarus who had nothing in this life but sickness and poverty, died and was carried by the angels into the comfort of paradise. The suffering rich man in hell made two requests of Abraham in paradise:

i) To send Lazarus to put one drop of water on his tongue to relieve his suffering.

The rich man, who refused to show mercy to Lazarus in need, now begged that Lazarus might show mercy to him in his need (v.24). The rich man declares the greatness of his torment saying: “I am in torment (agony) in this fire (or flame).” v.24.

Lesson: Material things have only temporary, not eternal value. Luke 16:25. Abraham responded by calling him "son". This means that he was a son of Abraham by flesh, not by faith. The rich man trusted his **wealth** and his **physical** descent from Abraham for his salvation. Christ showed that neither reason was sufficient for salvation. At death, one's eternal destiny is settled. "Between us and you there is a great gulf fixed" (v.26). The rich man could remember his false confidence in wealth, and his wrong devotion to it. This story refutes "**soul-sleep**", because the rich man and Lazarus were conscious, one enjoying comfort, and the other suffering **torment**.

Note: Hades had two sections: paradise and hell punishment. Jesus emptied the paradise section when He rose from the dead and took the Old Testament believers' souls to heaven. Eph. 4:8-10; John 20:17.

"Torment" is used four times and means sorrow and grief.

Abraham gave two reasons why Lazarus could not comfort the rich man:

- a) The rich man had received his reward (Matthew 6:2,5,16), and he had left God out of his life.
- b) The great gulf separated them.

ii) **To send Lazarus back to warn his five brothers. Luke 16:27-31.**

The rich man did not say: "I'm glad my brothers will come here, we'll have a wonderful time together."

People sometimes say: "I want to go to hell. All my friends will be there."

Answer: There is no friendship in hell. Hell is a place of torment and loneliness.

Lesson: People in hell have a concern for the lost, but they cannot do anything about it, **BUT WE CAN!** What are you doing?

v.29-31: Abraham said that the only thing that could prevent his five brothers from coming to hell was:

Hearing the Word of God, and **responding** to it by faith in Christ as Saviour.

A man named Lazarus did come back from the dead, and some of the Pharisees wanted to kill him (John 11:43-57; 12:10).

God had spoken many times to the rich man while on earth:

1. God permitted him to have riches, but not attributing his riches to God's goodness, he did not repent.

"The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance." Romans 2:4-5.

2. Lazarus would have witnessed to him, but his pride rejected Lazarus' message.

3. Old Testament scriptures spoke to him.

4. Lazarus dying first, should have reminded him how he would also die. In hell he was still self-centred, praying for his comfort and for the safety of his family. He was not concerned about other lost sinners. C.S. Lewis says: "The safest road to hell is the gradual one - the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts."

Lessons from the rich man and Lazarus:

1. The souls of men **do not die** with their bodies.
2. The souls of men are **conscious** after death, not asleep until resurrected.
3. The righteous at death are taken immediately to a place of happiness and the wicked are sent to a place of misery and torment.
4. Wealth does not protect us from death.
5. We **should not envy the rich**, as riches can blind us to the reality of eternity.
6. We should seek a better inheritance than this life can give.
7. The sufferings of the wicked in hell will be indescribably great of torment, burning flame, and insatiable thirst, forever.

8. Hell is a place of suffering beyond the grave. If not, this story has no meaning.

9. There will never be any escape from hell. The gulf is fixed.

10. God warns us to prepare for death through:

His Word.

His Holy Spirit pleading with sinners.

His servants.

His goodness leading us to repentance.

Pleadings of friends.

Heaven.

If all that would not move sinners, then what would? He threatens hell.

11. God will give us nothing more to warn us. No dead man will return to tell us what he has seen. If he did, no one would believe him. If you will not hear Christ or the Bible, there is nothing you will hear. You will never be persuaded, and you will never escape the place of torment.

12. We see the amazing folly of those wanting to go to hell. They have been deceived.

IV. THE IMPLICATIONS OF HELL FOR US TODAY

1. **Soul winning** is important. When people get angry at a preacher preaching on soul winning, they are doing the devil's work.

2. We need to become **fishers of men**. Matthew 4:19.

3. If we are **busy** pulling souls out of the fire, we will **not waste our time** fighting other Christians. We will seek to maintain unity in our church.

4. We see **our Church** as of **great importance** in rescuing people from hell. Rescuing people from hell is a major purpose of churches.

5. Hell focuses our attention on **eternity**, taking our attention off petty present things like latest worldly fashions which pale into insignificance in the light of lost people going to an eternal hell.

6. Hell makes us **train workers** to be soul winners.

7. It gives us a **love for people** to win to Christ and to train in the Bible.

8. It makes us **use our time wisely** so that **all we do** helps in some way to rescue people from hell.

9. Hell makes us **mission minded** so that we try to win lost people to Christ overseas. For example, Roman Catholics in Africa grew from 52 million in 1980 to 92 million in 1993.

10. Hell and eternal judgment is the **sixth principle of the Doctrine of Christ**, so it must be emphasised in our doctrinal teaching. "the foundation ofeternal judgment." Hebrews 6:1,2.

11. Hell will give us a **better testimony** as Christians. If we sin, people will go to hell.

12. Hell will **stop us backsliding** because we will realise that our job is important to accomplish in rescuing people from hell. "For what shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36. What is your answer to this question?

Conclusion

Are you really saved?

Have you received Jesus Christ as your Saviour, trusting Him alone to save you, not your religion or your good works?

If you are saved, then what are you doing to tell people how Jesus Christ can save them from hell?

8. REWARDS

God's Word teaches us that salvation is a free gift given to us by God. We do not work for it (Ephesians 2:8,9,10), we just receive it, and it becomes ours. Once we have received it, we cannot lose it. (John 10:28).

Question: Does this mean that I can go out and sin, now that I'm saved, without any bad consequences?

Answer: No, because: a) God will discipline us now, and we will be sorry.
b) We will lose our rewards later on in heaven.

I. STATEMENTS OF REWARDS IN HEAVEN

- "And, behold, I come quickly: and **my reward** is with me, to **give** every man **according** as his work shall be". Revelation 22:12.
- "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not to men; knowing that of the Lord **ye shall receive** the **reward** of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall **receive** for the **wrong** which he hath done". Colossians 3:23-25.
- "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may **receive** the things done in his body, **according** to that he hath done, whether it be **good** or **bad**". II Corinthians 5:10.
- "Knowing that whatsoever **good thing** any man doeth, the same shall he **receive** of the Lord". Ephesians 6:8.
- "I press toward the mark for the **prize** of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus". Philippians 3:14.
- "Moses... had respect unto the recompense of the **reward**". Hebrews 11:26.
- "Lay up for yourselves **treasures in heaven**..". Matthew 6:19,20.
- "To have an **abundant entrance** into the everlasting kingdom". II Peter 1:11.
- "So then everyone of us shall **give account of himself** to God". Romans 14:12.

Christ will come to judge the works of believers and to distribute rewards. The believer will not be judged with regard to his sins (John 5:24). Christ received that judgment on our behalf on the cross (II Corinthians 5:21) and we will not again be called to account for them at Christ's return. During this life, however the believer is disciplined for the sins that he commits (Hebrews 12:7-11). But when Christ returns, believers will be judged as to how well we have used the **talents** (Matthew 25:14-30), the **pounds** (Luke 19:11-27), and the **opportunities** (Matthew 20:1-16) that God has entrusted to us. Salvation is a free gift of God (Romans 6:23) and comes from the grace of God (Ephesians 2:8). When James says that we are saved by works (James 2:24), he means by faith that produces works (2:22,26). Paul says that while we are saved by grace, we are saved to do good works (Ephesians 2:8-10). The Lord has given believers an opportunity to lay up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:20), and so to have an abundant entrance into God's everlasting kingdom (II Peter 1:11).

II. FOR WHAT WILL WE BE REWARDED IN HEAVEN?

- (1) **Faithfulness to God** and to his **work** in using our talents, pounds and opportunities will be rewarded. If we sow sparingly, we reap sparingly. If we sow bountifully, we reap bountifully.
"It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful." I Corinthians 4:2.

- (2) **Reaping the harvest of souls** for Jesus Christ. "He that reapeth receives wages". John 4:35-37.
- (3) **Patiently enduring suffering** and affliction brings heavenly rewards. "Our light affliction which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." II Corinthians 4:17.
- (4) They that **turn many to righteousness** will shine as the stars forever and ever. Daniel 12:3.
- (5) In **keeping of them** (God's commandments) there is a **great reward**. Psalm 19:11.
- (6) When we are **persecuted** for righteousness sake. Matthew 5:10.
When people revile you and **say all manner of evil against you falsely** for **Jesus Christ's** sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for **great** is your **reward** in heaven. Matthew 5:10-12.
- (7) Giving **money** secretly. Matthew 6:4.
- (8) **Praying** secretly. Matthew 6:6.
- (9) **Fasting** secretly. Matthew 6:18.
- (10) **Hospitality**. Receiving, helping or welcoming a prophet or a righteous man. Matthew 10:41.
If you receive or help a prophet or righteous man, you get a prophet or righteous man's reward.
- (11) If you give a **cup of cold water** to a disciple, you will not lose your reward. Matthew 10:42. God notices all the little acts of kindness that we do, and promises to reward us for each of them.
- (12) If people **hate** you, and **separate** you from their company, and shall **reproach** you, and shall **cast out** your name as evil for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice, and leap for joy, for your **reward is great in heaven**. Luke 6:22,23.
- (13) Your **reward** shall be **great** if you do as in: Luke 6:27-31,35.
a) Love your enemies.
b) Do good to them that hate you.
c) Bless them that curse you.
d) Pray for them that despitefully use you.
e) To him that smites thee on the cheek, offer the other.
f) If he takes your cloak, offer your coat.
g) Give to every one that asks thee.
h) Of him that takes away thy goods, ask them not again.
i) Do to men as ye would have them do to you.
j) Lend, hoping for nothing again. As sufferers in an evil world, we will be rewarded for endurance. "If we suffer with him, we shall also **reign** with him". II Timothy 2:12.
- (14) If we **plant the gospel** and **water it** in people's lives.
"He that plants (Paul) and he that waters (Apollos) are one: and every man shall **receive his own reward** according to his own **labour**". I Corinthians 3:8.
- (15) If we have **eternal values**. If we build on the foundation of Christ, by using gold, silver, precious stone type **works** of eternal value. I Corinthians 3:11-15.
If our work abides, we will receive a **reward**. 3:14.
If any man's life work shall be burned, he shall suffer **loss**, but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. v.15. The quality of our life's work will be rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
- (16) If I **preach the gospel willingly**, I have a **reward**. I Corinthians 9:16,17.
- (17) **Meekness** in serving Christ. Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5) The reward is real estate ownership in the Millennium.

- (18) Cast not away your **confidence** which hath great recompense of reward. Hebrews 10:35.
- (19) How we **treat other believers**. "God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed to His name in that ye have ministered to the saints and do minister". Hebrews 6:10.
- (20) How we exercise our **Pastoral ministry** to others. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that **must give account**, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you". Hebrews 13:17.
- (21) How we **use** our **God-given abilities**. "Thou hast been faithful over a very little, have thou authority over ten cities". Luke 19:17.
- (22) How we **use our money**. "Charge them that are rich in this world. that they be ready to distribute...." I Timothy 6:17-19.
"**Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come**". 2 Cor 9:6,7.
- (23) How much we **suffer** for Jesus Christ.
"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory". II Corinthian 4:17; Romans 8:18; I Peter 4:12,13; II Timothy 2:12.
- (24) How we **run the race** that God has **chosen** for us."So run that ye may obtain". I Corinthian 9:24
- (25) How well we **control sin**. "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible crown." I Cor. 9:25-27.
- (26) How we react to **temptation**. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life". Revelation 2:10.
- (27) How much we **love the Lord's appearing**. "Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that **love His appearing**". II Timothy 4:8.
- (28) How **faithful** we are to the **Word of God**, and to **feed the flock** of God.
"Feed the flock of God ... When the Chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a **crown of glory** that fades not away". I Peter 5:2-4.
- (29) **Doing everything heartily**, as unto the **Lord**. "Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." Colossians 3:23,24.

III . WHAT WILL OUR REWARDS BE ?

The Christians' reward is sometimes mentioned as a "prize" (I Corinthian 9:24), and sometimes as a "crown" (I Corinthians 9:25). Five Crowns may be won:

- (1) **Incorruptible** crown - for those who discipline the body, as an athlete to achieve great things for God. I Corinthians 9:25-27.
- (2) **Rejoicing** - for those who win people to Christ. I Thessalonians 2:19,20.
- (3) **Life** - for those who love Christ enough to endure temptation. James 1:12; Revelation 2:10.
- (4) **Righteousness** - for those who love Christ's second coming. II Timothy 4:8.
- (5) **Glory** - for pastors and teachers who faithfully feed the flock of God. I Peter 5:2-4.

Other rewards available are :

- (1) Our Lord's **approval** - "Well done thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things." Matthew 25:21.
- (2) **Ruler over many things**. "If we suffer with him, we shall reign with him." II Timothy 2:12. "They shall reign for ever and ever." Revelation 22:5.
- (3) **Authority over 10 cities, 5 cities** etc. "Thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over 10 cities." Luke 19:17.
- (4) **Inherit all things**. "He that overcometh shall inherit all things". Revelation 21:7.
We may sit with Christ in His Throne. Revelation 3:21.
He has made us unto our God Kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. Revelation 5:10
- (5) His servants shall **Serve Him**. "They shall see his face". Revelation 22:3,4.

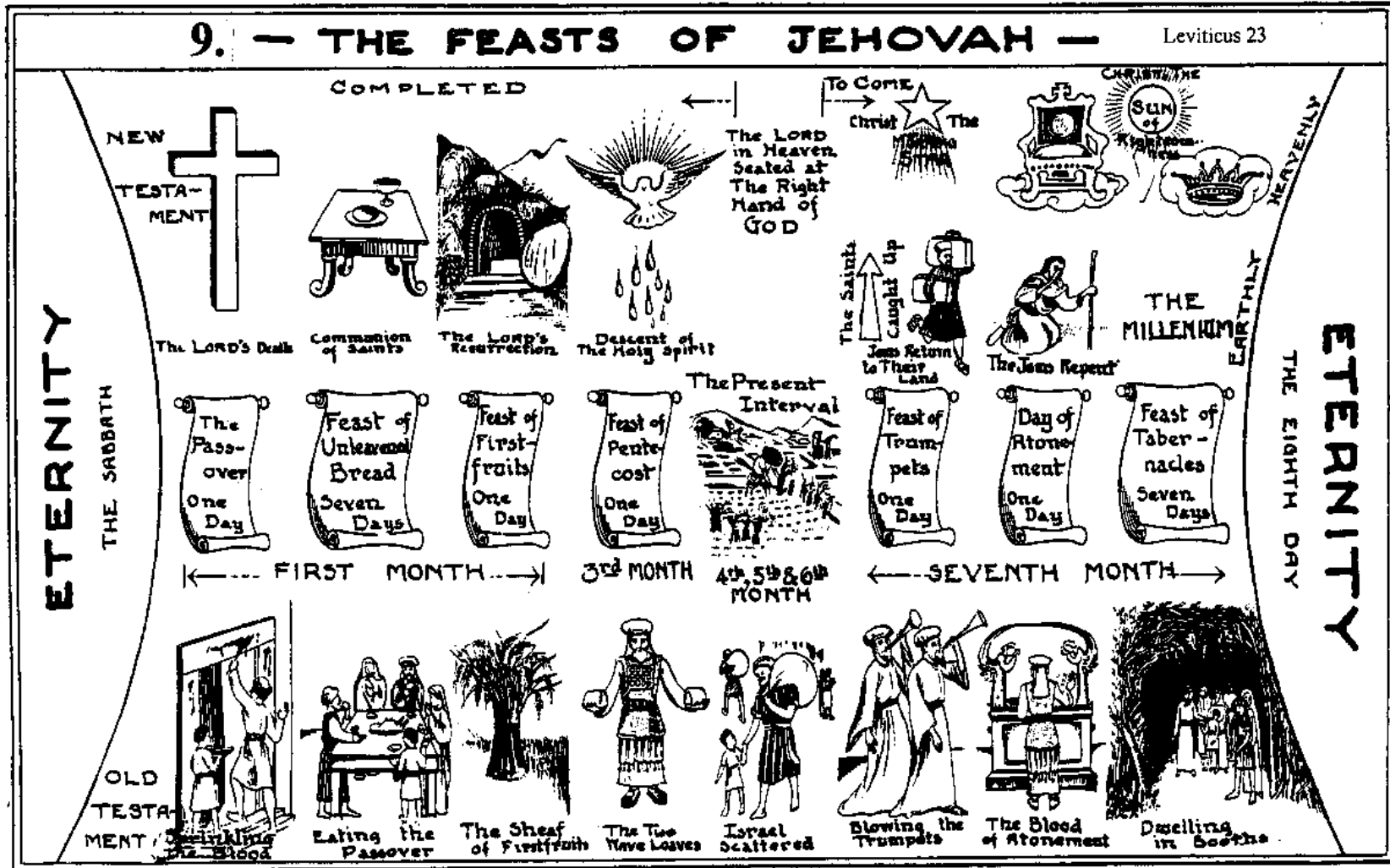
IV. HOW MAY WE LOSE OUR REWARDS ?

Is it possible for someone who has earned certain rewards to lose them through sinful living? These verses imply "yes":

- (1) By **Backsliding**, not holding fast which thou hast.
"Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown". Revelation 3:11.
- (2) By **following Deceivers**. "For many deceivers are entered into the world". II John 7.
- (3) By **not looking to ourselves**, to check our behaviour. "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we **receive a full reward**". II John 8.
- (4) By **Worshipping angels**. "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, ... and not holding the Head..." Colossians 2:18.
- (5) By **not expecting Christ's return**. "Say in his heart: My lord delays his coming". Matt. 24:48.
- (6) By **doing wrong**. "He that doeth wrong **shall receive** for the wrong which he hath done" Col.3:25
- (7) By **not abiding in Christ**. Faithfulness in our service here to Christ will result in privileged service in eternity. Our works from salvation to the grave will be on display as a painting, so that all believers and angels can see the results of our life's work for Christ.
"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have **confidence**, and **not be ashamed** before Him at His coming". I John 2:28.

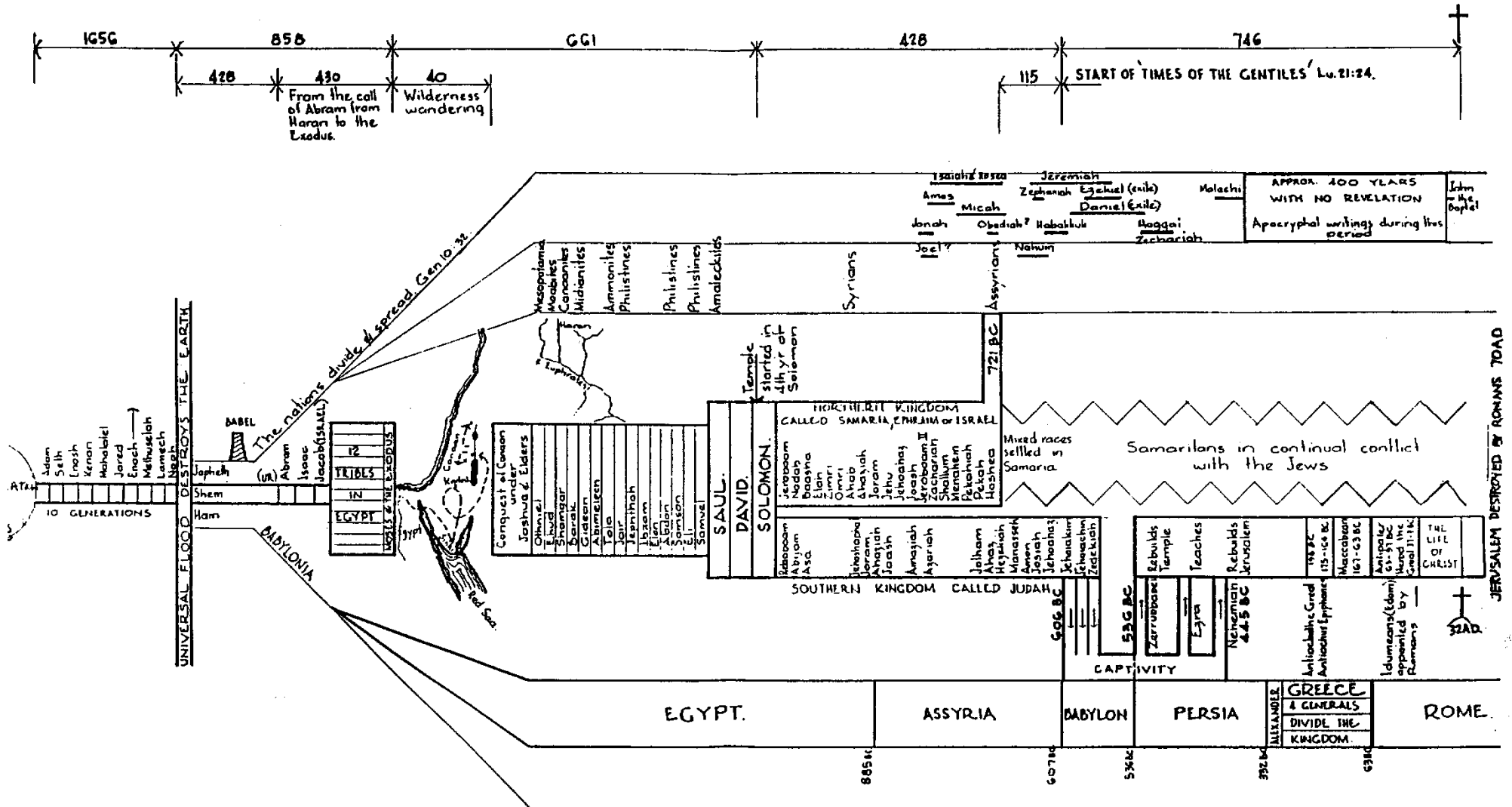
Question: Will you have confidence or be ashamed at Christ's coming?

9. THE FEASTS OF JEHOVAH

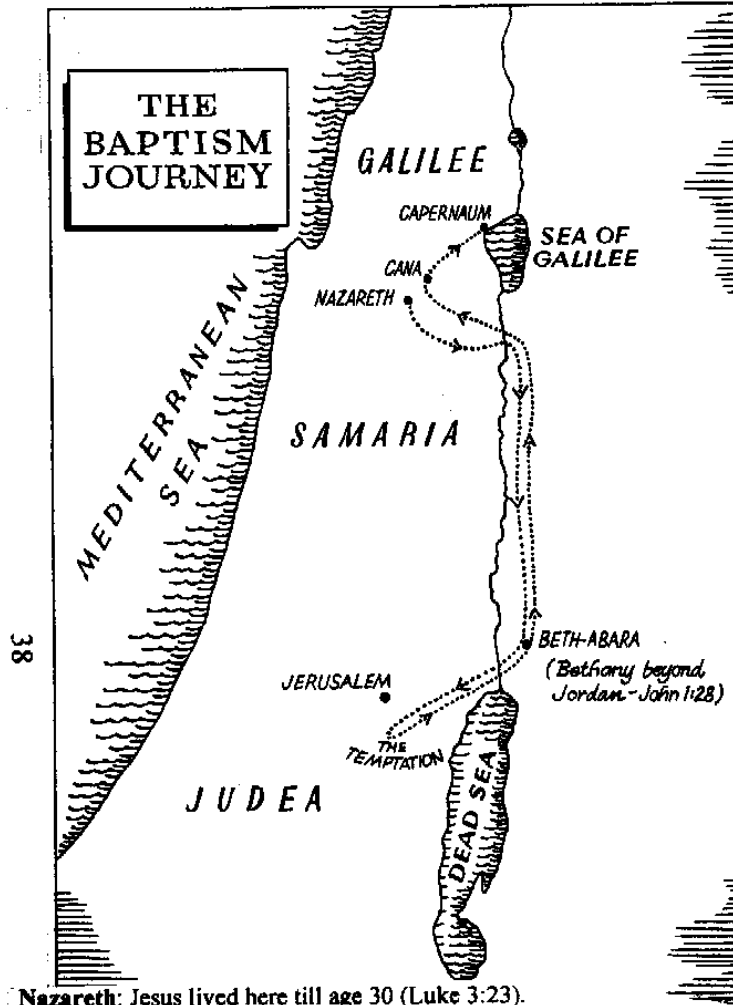


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10. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



11. BIBLE MAPS



Nazareth: Jesus lived here till age 30 (Luke 3:23).

Bethabara: Jesus baptised (Matthew 3:13-17).

Wilderness: Jesus tempted for 40 days. (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13).

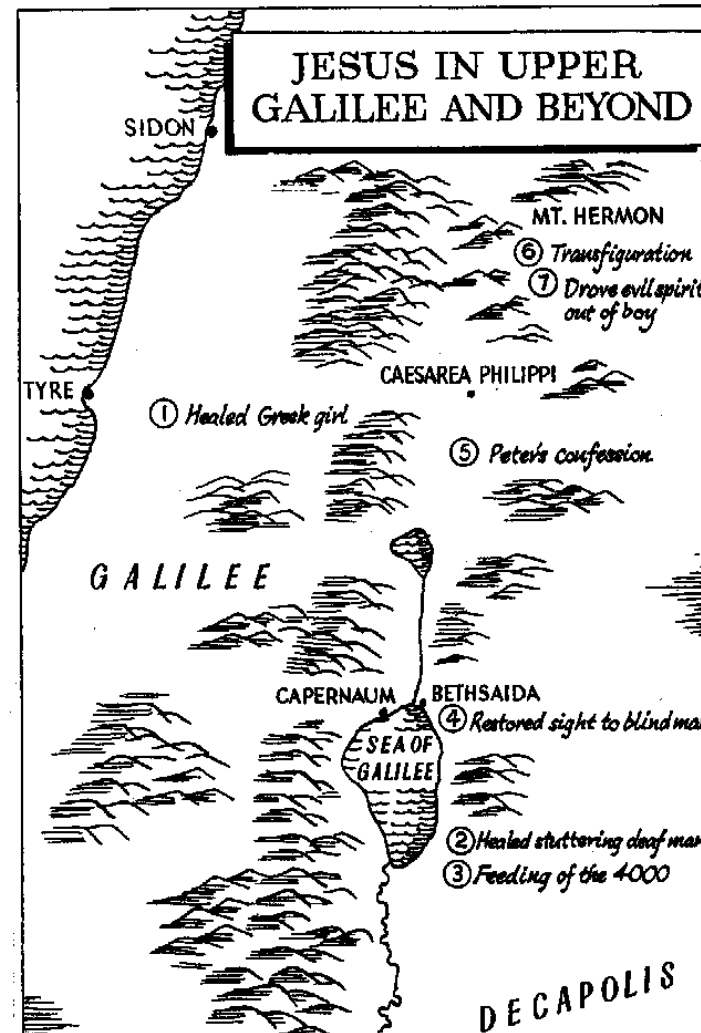
Galilee: After the temptation, Jesus returned through Bethabara to Galilee.

Capernaum: Jesus chose 12 disciples (Matt.4:18-22; John 1:43-51; Luke 6:12-16).

Cana: Jesus did his first miracle at a wedding, turning water to wine (John 2:1-11).

Nazareth: Jesus preached and rejected from synagogue (Luke 4:16-30).

Jesus casts out demon (Mark 1:21-28), heals Peter's mother in law (Mark 1:29-31), and forgives and heals a paralyzed man let down through a roof (Mark 2:1-12).



1. **Tyre and Sidon:** Jesus healed a Greek girl. (Mark 7:24-30).

2. **Decapolis:** Jesus healed a stuttering deaf man. (Mark 7:31-37).

3. Jesus fed 4000 people (Mark 8:1-10).

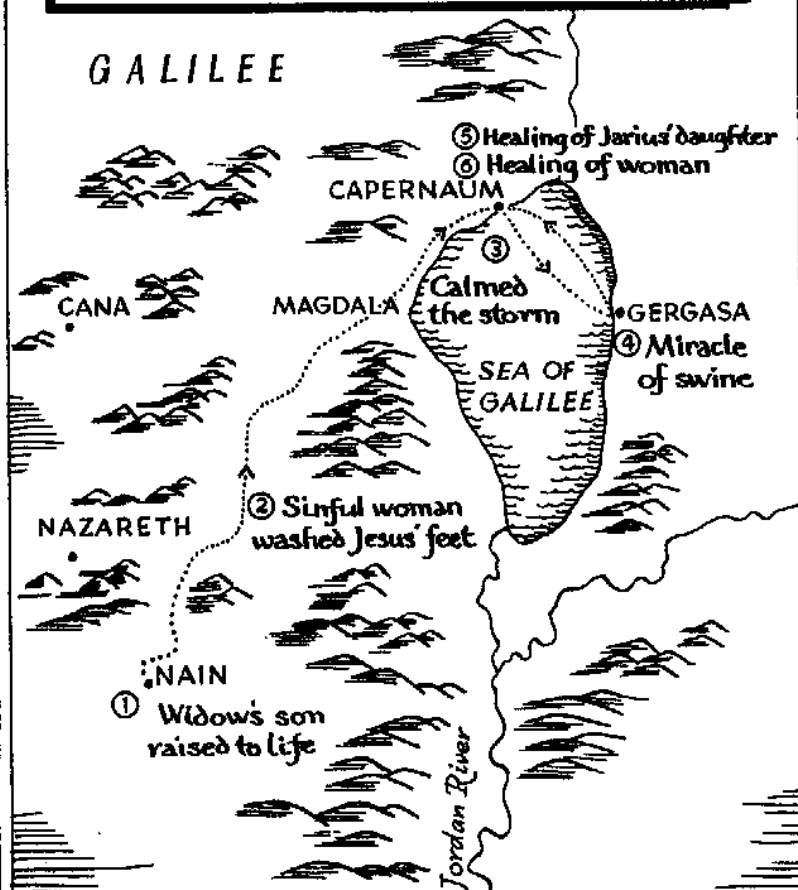
4. **Bethsaida:** Jesus healed a blind man (Mark 8:22-26).

5. **Caesarea Philippi Road:** Peter confessed who Jesus was (Mark 8:27-30).

6. **Mt Hermon:** The Transfiguration. (Mark 9:2-8).

7. **Foot of Mt Hermon:** Healed boy with dumb & deaf spirit (Mark 9:14-29).

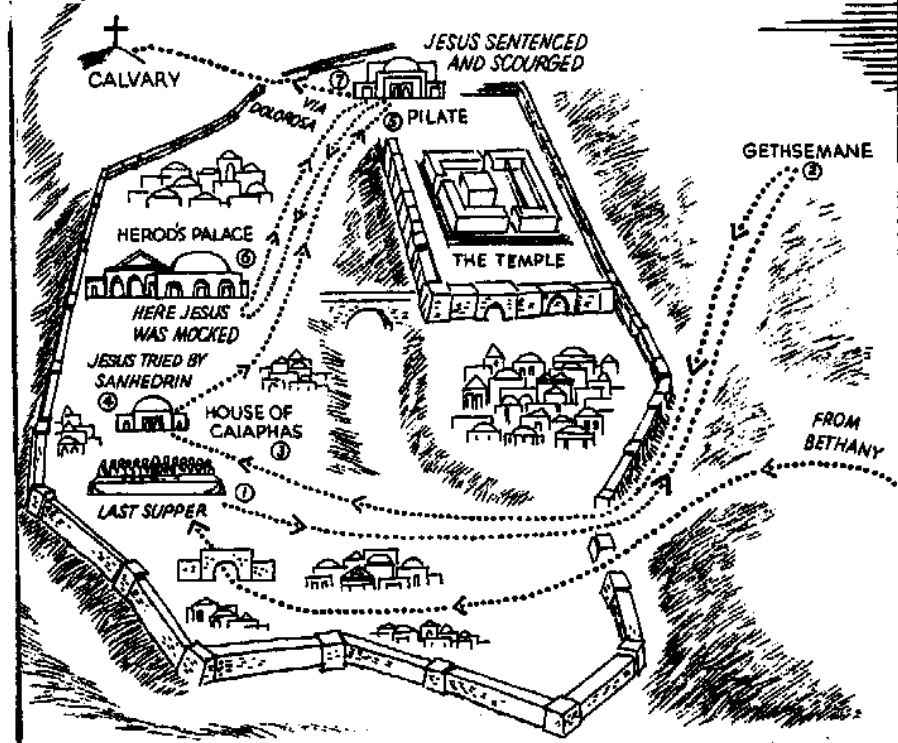
JESUS' MINISTRY AROUND SEA OF GALILEE



39

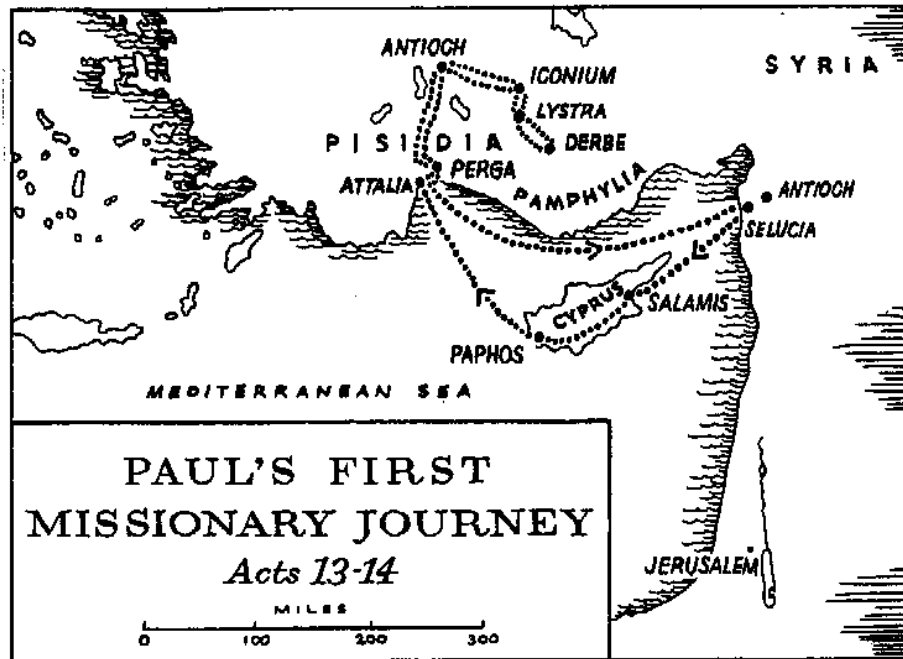
- Jerusalem:** Jesus met Nicodemus, a Pharisee. (John 3:1-21).
Sychar: Spoke to Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. (John 4:1-26).
Cana: Healed Centurion's son from Capernaum. (John 4:46-53).
 1. **Nain:** Jesus raised widow's son to life at funeral. (Luke 7:11-17).
 2. **Pharisee's house:** Repentant woman anoints Jesus' feet. (Luke 7:36-50).
 3. **Sea of Galilee:** Jesus calms a storm. (Luke 8:22-25).
 4. **Gadarenes:** Legion of demons cast out of man into pigs. (Luke 8:26-33).
 5. **Capernaum:** Jesus raises Jairus' daughter. (Luke 8:40-56).
 6. **Capernaum:** Jesus heals woman with issue of blood. (Luke 8:43-48).

Jesus Christ's Last Supper, Arrest, Trials, and Crucifixion.



Jesus' Last Journey to Jerusalem.

- Jericho:** Jesus heals a blind man. (Luke 18:35-43).
Jericho: Zaccheus repents and Jesus saves him. (Luke 19:1-10).
Bethany: Two disciples bring a colt to Jesus. (Luke 19:28-35).
Jerusalem: Jesus' triumphal entry as Messiah the Prince. (19:36-44).
 Jesus cleanses the temple of money changers & animal sellers. (v.45-48).
 1. The Last Supper in an upper room. (Luke 22:7-23).
 2. The Garden of Gethsemane prayer, betrayal and arrest. (Luke 22:39-53).
 3. Jesus mocked before Caiaphas the High Priest. (22:54-62; Matt 26:57-75).
 4. Jesus before the sanhedrin (70 scribes, Pharisees, elders). (Luke 22:66-71).
 5. Jesus before Pilate. (Luke 23:1-6).
 6. Jesus mocked before Herod and sent to Pilate. (Luke 23:7-12).
 7. Jesus before Pilate, scourged & sentenced to die. Luke 23:13-25; John 18:28-19:16).
Calvary: Jesus crucified with two thieves. (Luke 23:26-56).
 Jesus buried and rose from the dead 3 days later. (Luke 24:1-12).
 Jesus appeared 40 days to over 500 believers. (Luke 24:13-50).
Bethany: Jesus ascended from Mt of Olives to heaven. (Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-12).

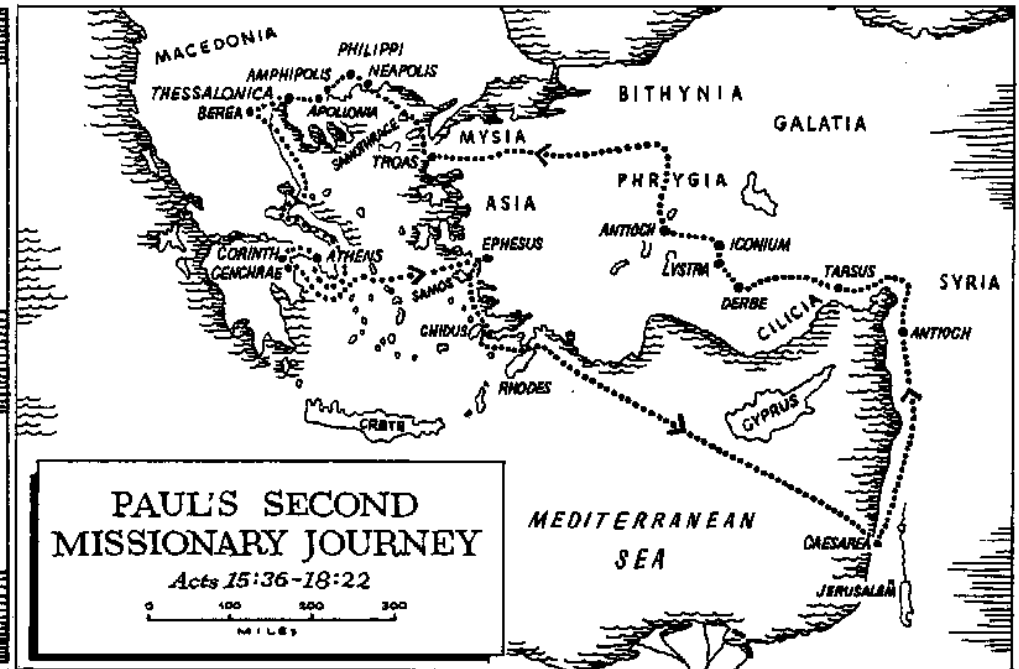


**PAUL'S FIRST
MISSIONARY JOURNEY**
Acts 13-14

MILES
0 100 200 300

First Missionary Journey (Acts 13:1-14:28).

- Antioch in Syria:** Saul, Barnabus, Mark sent on a church planting journey (13:1-3).
Seleucia seaport 16 miles from Antioch. Sailed to Cyprus, Barnabus' home. (4:36).
Salamis on east coast of Cyprus. Preached in Jewish synagogues (13:5).
Paphos (100 miles SW). Elymas the sorcerer was blinded for trying to turn Sergius Paulus, the Roman Proconsul from Christ. Paul took the lead from here. (13:6-12).
Perga: John Mark left and returned to Jerusalem (13:3).
Antioch in Pisidia: Paul preached in their synagogue. Next Sabbath, envious Jews contradicted, blasphemed, persecuted & expelled them from the city. (13:14-50).
Iconium: Many Jews/Greeks believed. Paul & Barnabus expelled (13:51-14:5).
Lystra: Paul healed a cripple. Jews from Antioch and Iconium stoned Paul (19).
Derbe: Paul and Barnabas preached the gospel and taught many (14:20,21).
Lystra, Iconium, Antioch: Paul and Barnabas retraced their steps exhorting the disciples (21,22) and ordained elders in every church (14:23).
Perga: Paul preached there (25).
Attalia: Paul sailed to Antioch in Syria (26).
Antioch in Syria: Paul & Barnabas told sending church all God did. (14:26-28).

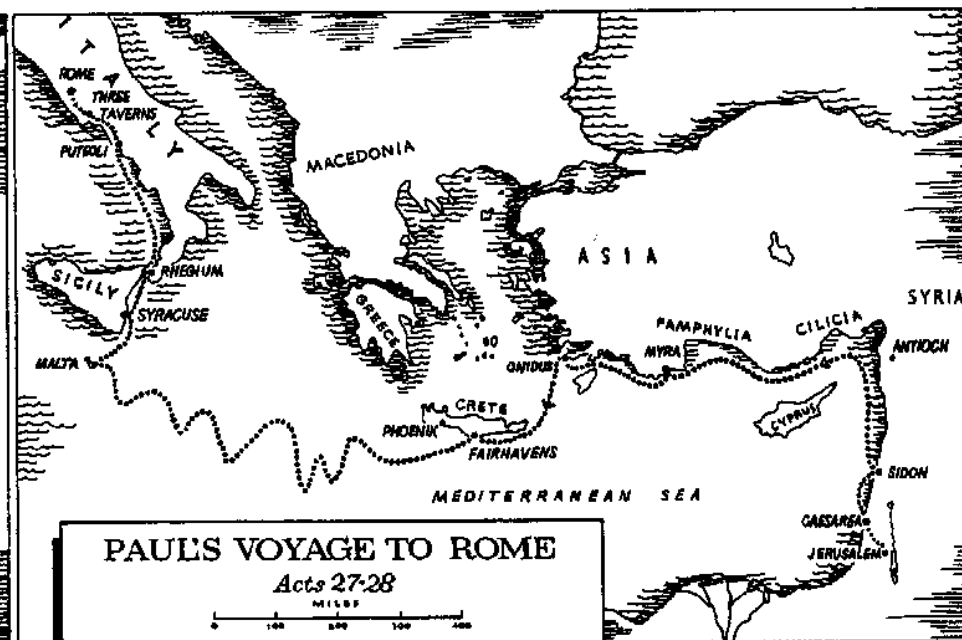
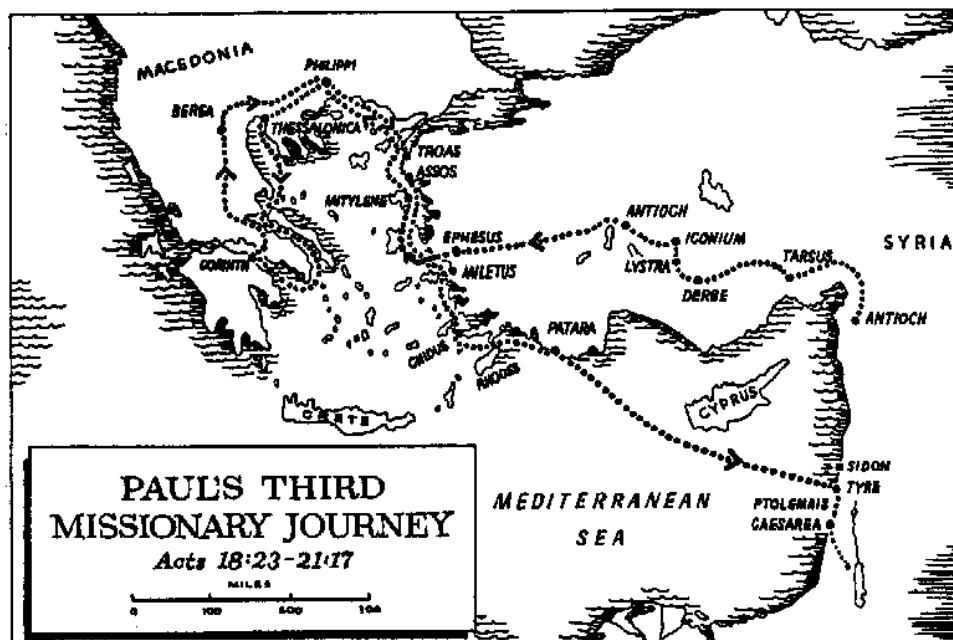


**PAUL'S SECOND
MISSIONARY JOURNEY**
Acts 15:36-18:22

MILES
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Second Missionary Journey (Acts 15:36-18:22).

- Antioch in Syria:** Paul and Silas leave to visit the churches Paul started (15:36-41) strengthening churches in Syria and Cilicia.
Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, Antioch: Timothy, a young man, joined up. (16:1-5).
Phrygia, Galatia, Mysia: The Holy Spirit forbid them preaching in Asia. (16:6-8).
Troas: Paul's vision of a man of Macedonia praying, "Come over into Macedonia, and help us." (v.9). The "we" section commences with Luke joining the team.
Samothracia and Neapolis (v.11).
Philippi (16:12) chief city of Macedonia. Lydia saved and baptized (16:14,15). Paul and Silas beaten and imprisoned for casting demons out of a girl (16:16-24). Philippian jailer and household saved and baptized (16:25-40).
Amphipolis and Apollonia passed through (17:1).
Thessalonica: (17:1) Paul preached in synagogue for 3 sabbaths despite Jewish riots.
Berea: (17:10) Paul preached in synagogue. Many believed. Thessalonian Jews opposed them. Paul left for Athens. Silas and Timothy remained there. (17:10-14).
Athens: (17:15) Paul disputed & preached on Mars Hill. Some believed (17:15-34).
Corinth: (18:1) Paul found Aquila, Priscilla. He persuaded Jews/Greeks in synagogue. Silas/Timothy rejoin Paul. Crispus believed. Paul taught here for 18 months. (18:1-17).
Ephesus: (18:19) Paul reasoned with Jews in synagogue. Set sail for Syria (18:19-21).
Caesarea: (18:22) Paul landed here, greeted the church. Travelled north to Antioch.



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Third Missionary Journey (Acts 18:23-21:17).

- Antioch in Syria:** Paul departed from Antioch (18:23).
- Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, Antioch:** Paul revisited, strengthened these churches (18:23).
- Ephesus:** (18:24-) Apollos met and instructed (18:24-28). John's disciples believe on Christ (19:1-12). Paul preached in synagogue for 3 months. Vagabond Jews (19:11-20). Silversmith riot (19:23-41). I and II Corinthians written during 2-year stay.
- Macedonia:** (20:1) Paul sailed for Macedonia. Encouraged churches. (Romans written).
- Greece:** (20:2) Stayed 3 months, then headed home, passing through Macedonia.
- Philippi:** (20:6) Stayed here several days, then sailed for Troas.
- Troas:** (20:6-12) Before Paul left Troas, he preached in upper room. Eutychus fell out.
- Assos, Mitylene, Samos, Trogylium, Miletus:** (20:13-15).
- Miletus:** (20:15-38) Paul sent for the Ephesian elders and preached to them (20:17-38).
- Coos, Rhodes, Patara, Cyprus:** (21:1-3).
- Tyre:** (21:4-7) Stayed 7 days.
- Ptolemais:** (21:7) Greeted the believers and stayed one day.
- Caesarea:** (21:7-14) Stayed Philip. Agabus prophesied Paul's binding at Jerusalem.
- Jerusalem:** (21:15-40) Paul reported to the Jerusalem church elders. Paul arrested.

Paul's Voyage to Rome (Acts 27-28).

- Caesarea:** (23:23-35) Paul taken from Jerusalem to Caesarea by 470 soldiers.
- Sidon:** (27:1-3) Ship stopped here. Julius (centurion) allowed Paul to visit his friends.
- Myra:** (27:5-6) Ship terminated here. They boarded another ship sailing to Italy.
- Fair Havens, Island of Crete:** (27:8-44) Paul warned voyage would end in disaster.
- Malta:** (28:1-) Shipwrecked on Malta. After 3 months, they left in another ship.
- Syracuse:** on Sicily (28:12). They stayed for 3 days.
- Rhegium** was the first port on Italy's mainland. They stayed one day (28:13).
- Puteoli:** (28:13,14). Paul was permitted to stay 7 days with some Christians.
- Rome:** (28:15-31) Paul stayed for 2 years, preached, sent letters. Executed by Nero.

12. MISCELLANEOUS CHARTS AND TABLES

Genealogy From Adam to the Exodus

Person	Age at Birth	Age at Death	Age at Event	Event	Notes	
Adam	130	930				
Seth	130	912				
Enosh	235	905				
Kenan	325	910				
Mahalaleel	395	895				
Jared	460	962				
Enoch	622	365				
Methuselah	687	187	969			
Lamech	874	182	777			
Noah	1056	500	600 Gen. 7:6	950 Gen. 9:29	Noah Ham Cush Nimrod	
Shem	Evidently not first born though mentioned first as Ephraim was not Gen 49:18		1556	100	600	
Arphaxad	Evidently first born but took third place Gen 10:22		1656	35	438	
Salah	Born 2 years after the flood Gen. 11:10		1691	30	433	
Eber			1721	34	464	
Peleg	lit. "Division" - "in his days was the earth divided" Gen. 10:25		1755	30	239	
Reu			1785	32	239	
Serug	Cain "builded a city" named "Erech" Gen. 4:17		1817	30	230	
Nahor	Some "dwelt in tents" Gen. 4:20		1847	29	148	
Terah	"Harp and organ" Gen. 4:21		1876	70	205	
Abram	"every artificer in brass and iron" Gen. 4:22		1946	100	175	
Isaac	Polygamy Gen. 4:23		75 when he left Haran	2046	60	180
Jacob			2106	80	147	
Levi			2186	(44)	137	
Kohath			2230	(70)	133	
Amram			2300	(71)	137	
Moses			2371	(75)	120	
			2446			

Jacob 130 when he came to Egypt Gen. 47:9
Aaron born 3 years before Ex. 7:7
2451 Exodus
© J. Ecob 1989

← 1,656 Years →

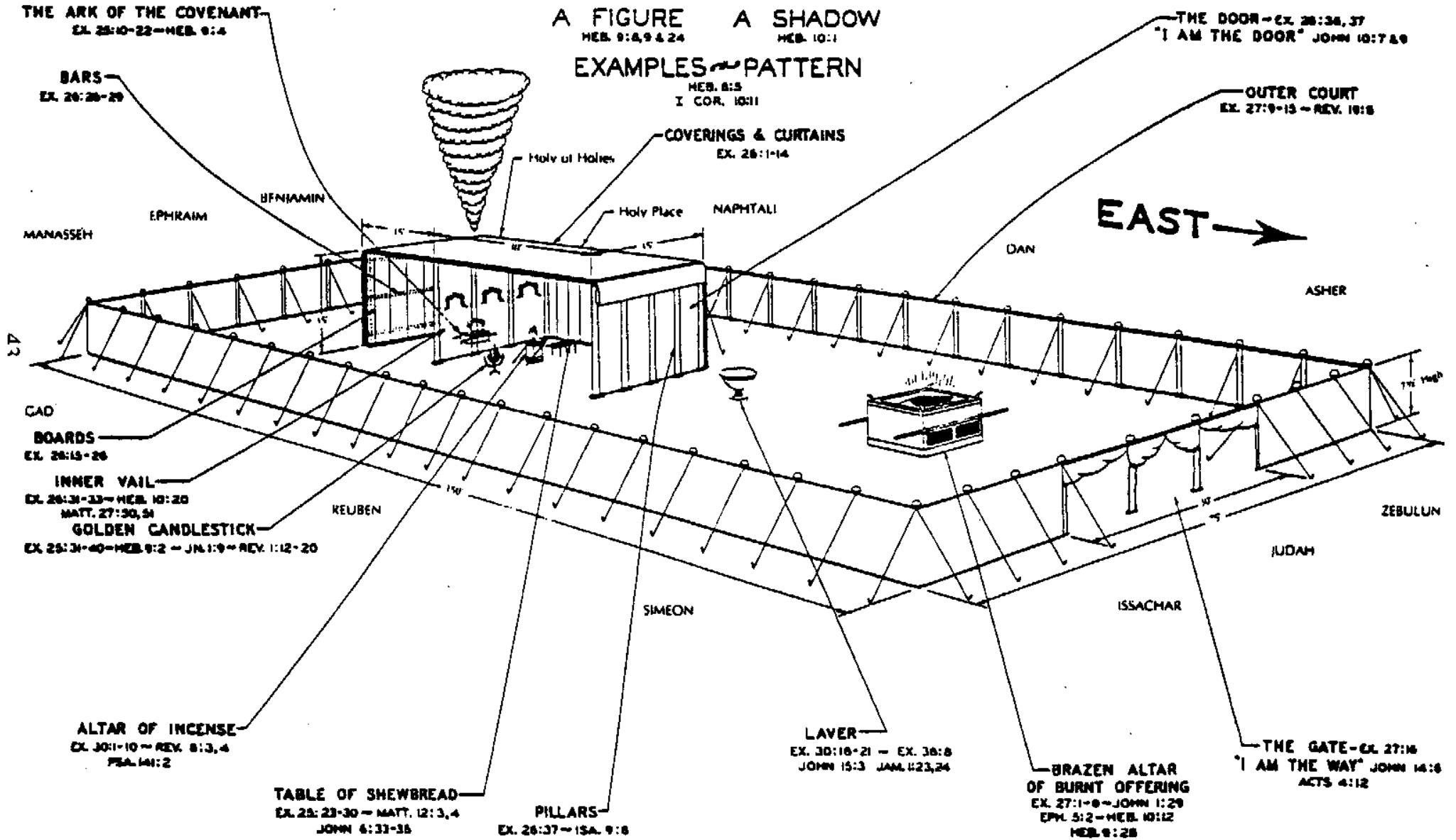
582

← 430 years sojourn →

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THE TABERNACLE

A FIGURE A SHADOW
 HEB. 9:24 & 24 HEB. 10:1
 EXAMPLES OF PATTERN
 HEB. 8:5
 I COR. 10:11



These 200 Omissions are in the Greek Textus Receptus from which the King James Bible Came

Griesbach, Lachmann, Tischendorf, Tregelles, Alford, Wordsworth, Westcott and Hort; in foot-notes and translations, have changed the Greek Textus Receptus in about 6,000 places. This is why we have so many omissions in our modern Bibles. Words omitted, in brackets, parentheses, or italics are counted as not authentic according to BRAIN-WASHED modern scholarship. With a red pencil, mark all these omissions which occur in your Bible and be surprised. *Interlinear Greek Textus Receptus. . . . Postpaid \$11.95*

MATTHEW

- 1:25 - (FIRSTBORN) is out. Speaking of the Lord Jesus.
- 5:44 - (BLESS THEM THAT CURSE YOU) is out.
- 6:13 - (KINGDOM, POWER, GLORY) is out.
- 6:27 - (STATURE) is changed to span of life.
- 6:33 - (OF GOD) is out. Referring to the kingdom-
- 8:29 - (JESUS) is out. As Son of God.
- 9:13 - (TO REPENTENCE) is out. Calling sinners-
- 12:35 - (OF THE HEART) is out. Good treasure-
- 12:47 - (VERSE IS OUT) About Christ's mother.
- 13:51 - (JESUS SAID UNTO THEM AND LORD) is out.
- 15:8 - (DRAWETH UNTO ME WITH THEIR MOUTH) is out.
- 16:3 - (O YE HYPOCRITES) is out.
- 16:20 - (JESUS) is out.
- 17:21 - (VERSE IS OUT) About prayer and fasting.
- 18:11 - (VERSE IS OUT) Tells Jesus came to save.
- 19:9 - (LAST 11 WORDS ARE OUT) About adultery.
- 19:17 - (GOD) is out. None good but (God)
- 20:7 - (WHATSOEVER IS RIGHT RECEIV) is out.
- 20:16 - (MANY BE CALLED BUT FEW CHOSEN) is out.
- 20:22 - (BAPTIZED WITH CHRIST'S BAPTISM) is out.
- 21:44 - (VERSE IS OUT) About Christ the stone.
- 23:14 - (VERSE IS OUT) Woe Scribes and hypocrites.
- 25:13 - (WHEREIN THE SON OF MAN COMETH) is out.
- 27:35 - (FULFILLED SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET) is out.
- 27:54 - (THE SON OF GOD) is a son of God.
- 28:2 - (FROM THE DOOR) is out.
- 28:9 - (THEY WENT TO TELL HIS DISCIPLES) is out.

MARK

- 1:1 - (SON OF GOD) is out in Williams, Goodspeed, Panin, Nestle, New World, Westcott & Hort.
- 1:14 - (OF THE KINGDOM) is out. Jesus gospel-
- 1:31 - (IMMEDIATELY) is out. The fever left-
- 2:17 - (TO REPENTENCE) is out. Call sinners-
- 6:11 - (MORE TOLERABLE FOR SODOM & GOMORRHA) is out.
- 6:16 - (FROM THE DEAD) is out. John is risen-
- 6:33 - (HIM) is changed to them.
- 7:8 - (WASHING OF POTS AND CUPS) is out.
- 7:16 - (VERSE IS OUT) About having an ear to hear.
- 9:24 - (LORD) is out. A believer called Him Lord.
- 9:42 - (IN ME) is out. Little ones that believe-
- 9:44 - (VERSE IS OUT) About fire not quenched.
- 9:46 - (VERSE IS OUT) Where worn dieth not.
- 9:49 - (EVERY SACRIFICE SHALL BE SALTED) is out.
- 9:21 - (TAKE UP THE CROSS) is out. Jesus said-
- 9:24 - (FOR THEM THAT TRUST IN RICHES) is out.
- 11:10 - (IN THE NAME OF THE LORD) is out.
- 11:26 - (VERSE IS OUT) If ye do not forgive, etc.
- 13:14 - (SPOKEN BY DANIEL THE PROPHET) is out.
- 13:33 - (AND PRAY) is out, or in italics.
- 14:68 - (AND THE COCK CREW) is out.
- 15:28 - (VERSE IS OUT) Scripture was fulfilled, etc.
- 15:39 - (THE SON OF GOD) is a son of God.
- 16:9-20(12 VERSES ARE OUT) in some Bibles.

LUKE

- 1:28 - (BLESSED ART THOU AMONG WOMEN) is out.
- 2:33 - (JOSEPH) is changed to father.
- 2:43 - (JOSEPH AND HIS MOTHER) is changed to parents.
- 4:4 - (BUT BY EVERY WORD OF GOD) is out.
- 4:8 - (GET THEE BEHIND ME SATAN) is out.
- 4:41 - (THE CHRIST) is out. The Son of God.
- 6:48 - (FOUNDED UPON A ROCK) is well built.
- 7:31 - (AND THE LORD SAID) is out.
- 9:54 - (EVEN AS ELIJAH DID) is out.

LUKE Continued

- 9:55 - (YE KNOW NOT WHAT MANNER OF SPIRIT) is out.
- 9:56 - (SON OF MAN IS COME TO SAVE LIVES) is out.
- 11:2-4 (MUCH IS OMITTED FROM THE LORD'S PRAYER)
- 11:29 - (THE PROPHET) is out. About Jonah.
- 17:36 - (VERSE IS OUT) One taken, another left.
- 21:4 - (CAST IN UNTO THE OFFERINGS OF GOD) is out.
- 22:20 - (VERSE IS OUT) Out in NEB. and RSV.
- 22:31 - (AND THE LORD SAID) is out.
- 22:64 - (THEY STRUCK HIM ON THE FACE) is out.
- 23:17 - (WHOLE VERSE IS OUT) in many Bibles.
- 23:38 - (LETTERS OF GREEK, LATIN, HEBREW) is out.
- 23:42 - (LORD) is out. Remember me, etc.
- 23:45 - (SUN WAS ECLIPSED) in Moffatt and NEB.
- 24:3 - (OF THE LORD JESUS) is out.
- 24:6 - (HE IS NOT HERE, BUT IS RISEN) is out.
- 24:12 - (VERSE IS OUT) Peter's testimony.
- 24:40 - (VERSE IS OUT) Christ showed them hands, feet.
- 24:49 - (OF JERUSALEM) is out.
- 24:51 - (CARRIED UP INTO HEAVEN) is out.

JOHN

- 1:14 - (BEGOTTEN) is out in 1:18, 3:16, 3:18.
- 1:27 - (PREFERRED BEFORE ME) is out. Jesus is-
- 3:13 - (WHICH IS IN HEAVEN) is out.
- 3:15 - (SHOULD NOT PERISH) is out.
- 4:42 - (THE CHRIST) is out.
- 5:3 - (WAITING FOR MOVING OF THE WATER) is out.
- 5:4 - (VERSE IS OUT) Pool of Bethesda.
- 6:47 - (ON ME) is out. He that believes-
- 6:69 - (THAT CHRIST THE SON) is out.
- 7:53 - (TO 8:11) is out, in brackets or italics.
- 8:16 - (FATHER) is out. Changed to He.
- 9:35 - (SON OF GOD) is out. Is Son of Man.
- 11:41 - (WHERE THE DEAD WAS LAID) is out.
- 16:16 - (BECAUSE I GO TO THE FATHER) is out.
- 17:12 - (IN THE WORLD) is out.
- 20:29 - (THOMAS) is out.

ACTS

- 2:30 - (ACCORDING TO FLESH RAISE UP CHRIST) is out.
- 7:30 - (OF THE LORD) is out. An angel-
- 7:37 - (HIM SHALL YE HEAR) is out. Christ-
- 8:37 - (VERSE IS OUT) or in brackets, or italics.
- 9:5-6 (MUCH IS OMITTED) Concerning God's will.
- 10:6 - (WHAT THOU OUGHTEST TO DO) More is out.
- 15:18 - (KNOWN UNTO GOD HIS WORKS) More is out.
- 16:31 - (CHRIST) is out.
- 17:26 - (BLOOD) is out.
- 20:25 - (OF GOD) is out. The kingdom-
- 20:32 - (BRETHREN) is out.
- 23:9 - (LET US NOT FIGHT AGAINST GOD) is out.
- 24:6-8 (MUCH IS OMITTED) or in brackets or italics.
- 24:15 - (OF THE DEAD) is out. Resurrection-
- 28:16 - (HALF OF VERSE IS OUT) in italics or brackets.
- 28:29 - (VERSE IS OUT) in italics or brackets.

ROMANS

- 1:16 - (OF CHRIST) is out or in italics, brackets.
- 1:29 - (FORNICATION) is out.
- 5:2 - (BY FAITH) out in Moffatt, RSV, and NEB.
- 8:1 - (LAST 10 WORDS ARE OUT) or in italics.
- 9:28 - (IN RIGHTEOUSNESS) is out.
- 10:15 - (OF PEACE) is out. Gospel of-
- 7:31 - (OF GOD) is out. Christ is substituted.
- 11:6 - (LAST 18 WORDS ARE OMITTED)

ROMANS Continued

- 13:9 - (SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS) is out.
- 14:6 - (15 WORDS ARE OUT) Regarding the day.
- 14:21 - (OFFENDED, MADE WEAK) is out.
- 15:29 - (OF THE GOSPEL) is out.
- 16:24 - (WHOLE VERSE IS OUT) in italics or brackets.

1 CORINTHIANS

- 1:14 - (I THANK GOD) is out in many Bibles.
- 5:7 - (FOR US) is out. Christ sacrificed-
- 6:20 - (LAST 7 WORDS ARE OUT) Your spirit, etc.
- 7:5 - (FASTING) is out. Joined with prayer.
- 7:39 - (BY THE LAW) is out. The wife is bound-
- 10:28 - (THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S) is out, and more.
- 11:24 - (TAKE EAT) is out. This is my body-
- 11:29 - (LORD'S) is out, referring to the body.
- 15:47 - (THE LORD) is out. Lord from heaven.
- 16:22 - (JESUS CHRIST) is out.
- 16:23 - (CHRIST) is out.

2 CORINTHIANS

- 4:6 - (JESUS) is out.
- 4:10 - (THE LORD) is out.
- 5:18 - (JESUS) is out, or in italics.
- 11:31 - (CHRIST) is out, or in italics.

GALATIANS

- 1:15 - (GOD) is out.
- 3:1 - (THAT YE SHOULD NOT OBEY TRUTH) is out.
- 3:17 - (IN CHRIST) is out.
- 4:7 - (THROUGH CHRIST) is out.
- 6:15 - (IN CHRIST JESUS) is out.
- 6:17 - (LORD) is out.

EPHESIANS

- 3:9 - (BY JESUS CHRIST) is out. God created-
- 3:14 - (OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST) is out.
- 5:30 - (OF HIS FLESH AND OF HIS BONES) is out.
- 6:1 - (IN THE LORD) is out. Obey parents-
- 6:10 - (MY BRETHREN) is out.

PHILIPPIANS

- 3:16 - (LET US MIND THE SAME THING) is out.

COLOSSIANS

- 1:2 - (THE LORD JESUS CHRIST) is out.
- 1:14 - (THROUGH HIS BLOOD) is out, or in italics.
- 1:28 - (JESUS) is out.
- 2:11 - (OF THE SINS OF) is out.
- 3:6 - (SONS OF DISOBEDIENCE) is out.

1 THESSALONIANS

- 1:1 - (FROM GOD OUR FATHER AND LORD JESUS) is out.
- 2:19 - (CHRIST) is out.
- 3:11 - (CHRIST) is out, or in italics.
- 3:13 - (CHRIST) is out, or in italics.

2 THESSALONIANS

- 1:8 - (CHRIST) is out, or in italics.

1 TIMOTHY

- 1:17 - (WISE) is out. The only wise God.
- 2:7 - (IN CHRIST) is out, or in italics.
- 3:16 - (GOD) is out. Manifest in the flesh.
- 4:12 - (IN SPIRIT) is out.
- 6:5 - (FROM SUCH WITHDRAW THYSELF) is out.

2 TIMOTHY

- 1:11 - (OF THE GENTILES) is out.
- 4:1 - (LORD) is out.
- 4:22 - (JESUS CHRIST) is out, or in italics.

TITUS

- 1:4 - (THE LORD) is out, or in italics.

PHILEMON

- 1:6 - (JESUS) is out.
- 1:12 - (RECEIVE HIM) is out.

HEBREWS

- 1:3 - (BY HIMSELF) is out. Purged our sins-
- 2:7 - (SET HIM OVER THE WORKS OF THY HANDS) is out.
- 3:1 - (CHRIST) is out.
- 7:21 - (AFTER ORDER OF MELCHISEDEC) is out.
- 10:30 - (SAITH THE LORD) is out.
- 10:34 - (IN HEAVEN) is out.
- 11:11 - (WAS DELIVERED OF A CHILD) is out. Sarah-

JAMES

- 5:16 - (FAULTS) is changed to sins. (Wrong Greek text.)

1 PETER

- 1:22 - (THROUGH THE SPIRIT) is out.
- 4:1 - (FOR US) is out. Christ suffered-
- 4:14 - (LAST 15 WORDS ARE OUT) or in italics.
- 5:10 - (JESUS) is out, or in italics.
- 5:11 - (GLORY AND DOMINION) is out of some Bibles.

2 PETER

- 2:17 - (FOREVER) is out, or in italics.
- 3:9 - (US IS CHANGED TO YOU) Destroys meaning.

1 JOHN

- 1:7 - (CHRIST) is out.
- 2:7 - (FROM THE BEGINNING) is out.
- 4:3 - (CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH) is out.
- 4:9 - (BEGOTTEN) is out in some versions.
- 4:19 - (HIM) is out, or in italics. We love-
- 5:7-8 (MANY WORDS ARE OUT OR CHANGED)
- 5:13 - (LAST 13 WORDS ARE OUT)

JUDE

- 1:25 - (WISE) is out. Referring to God.

REVELATION

- 1:8 - (THE BEGINNING AND THE END) is out.
- 1:11 - (TEN WORDS ARE OUT) Alpha and Omega, etc.
- 2:13 - (THY WORKS) is out.
- 5:14 - (HIM THAT LIVETH FOREVER AND EVER) is out.
- 6:1 - (AND SEE) is out in 3, 5, 7 also.
- 8:13 - (ANGEL IS EAGLE) Greek text says "angel."
- 11:17 - (AND ART TO COME) is out.
- 12:12 - (INHABITERS OF) is out. The earth.
- 12:17 - (CHRIST) is out.
- 14:5 - (BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD) is out.
- 16:17 - (OF HEAVEN) is out.
- 20:9 - (GOD OUT OF) is out. Fire came from-
- 20:12 - (GOD IS CHANGED TO THRONE)
- 21:24 - (OF THEM WHICH ARE SAVED) is out. Nations-

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION OMITTS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

In the New International Version, references to "Lord" are omitted 39 times, "Jesus" 87 times and "Christ" 52 times.

These passages are shown below. The word's in bold are also omitted from the NIV.

Matthew 13:51 They say unto him, Yea, **LORD**
28:6 Come, see the place where the **LORD** lay.

Mark 9:24 and said with tears **LORD** I believe ;
11:10 that cometh in the name of the **LORD**.

Luke 7:31 the **LORD** said, Whereunto then shall I liken the men of this generation ?
9:57 a certain man said unto him, **LORD** I will follow thee. .
17:6 the **LORD** said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed. .
22:31 the **LORD** said, Simon, Simon, behold. .
23:42 Jesus, **LORD** remember me

John 4:1 **When therefore the LORD** knew how the Pharisees
6:34 **LORD** evermore give us this bread .
8:11 She said, No man, **LORD** .

Acts 9:36 Who is he, **LORD** that I might believe on him ?
7:30 an angel of the **LORD** in a flame of fire in a bush.
7:37 A prophet shall the **LORD** your God raise up. .
9:5 the **LORD** said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest:
it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks,
9:6 **and he trembling and astonished said LORD** what wilt thou have me to do? and the **LORD** said unto him...
10:48 he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the **LORD**
22:16 calling on the name of the **LORD**

Romans 1:3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our **LORD**
6:11 but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our **LORD**
14:6 and he that regardeth not the day, to the **LORD** he doth not regard it .
16:24 **The grace of our LORD** Jesus Christ be with you all.
Amen

I Corinthians 10:28 for the earth is the **LORD**'s and the fullness thereof.
15:47 the second man is the **LORD** from heaven.

II Corinthians 4 :10 in the body the dying of the **LORD** Jesus.
Galatians 6:17 I bear in my body the marks of the **LORD** Jesus.
Ephesians 3:14 I bow my knees unto the Father of our **LORD** Jesus Christ.
Colossians 1:2 from God our Father and the **LORD** Jesus Christ.
I Thessalonians 1:1 from God our Father, and the **LORD** Jesus Christ.
I Timothy 1:1 and **LORD** Jesus Christ .
5:21 I charge thee before God, and the **LORD** Jesus Christ
II Timothy 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the **LORD** Jesus Christ.
Titus 1:4 Grace, mercy and peace, from God the Father and the **LORD** Jesus Christ our Saviour .
Hebrews 10:30 I will recompense, saith the **LORD**.
II John 3 from God the Father, and from the **LORD** Jesus Christ.
Jude 4 denying the only Lord God, and our **LORD** Jesus Christ.
Revelations 16.5 Thou art righteous, O **LORD**
19:1 power, unto the **LORD** our God.

In John 20:13, Mary was weeping and the angel said, "woman why weapest thou?" She replied, "because they have **TAKEN AWAY MY LORD.**" How much more would she weep today, if she was to look at the modern translations, which delete the LORD 39 times. We should weep also.

References to "CHRIST" are omitted 52 times, as in these examples:

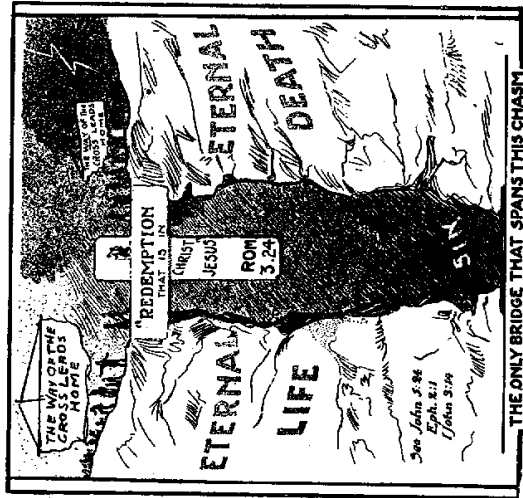
Matthew 23:8 one is your Master, even **CHRIST**
Luke 4:41 devils came out....saying, thou art **CHRIST** the Son of God.
John 4:42 this is indeed the **CHRIST** the Saviour of the world.
6:69 we believe and are sure that thou art that **CHRIST** the Son of the living God.
Acts 2:30 he would raise up **CHRIST** to sit on his throne.
4:26 against the Lord, and against his **CHRIST**
8:37 I believe that Jesus **CHRIST** is the Son of God.
9:20 he preached **CHRIST** in the synagogues.
15:11 through the grace of our Lord Jesus **CHRIST** we shall be saved..
16:31 Believe on the Lord Jesus **CHRIST** and thou shalt be saved.
19:4 that is, on **CHRIST** Jesus.
20:21 faith toward our Lord Jesus **CHRIST**

Romans 1:3 Concerning his Son Jesus **CHRIST** our Lord.
1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel of **CHRIST**
14:10 We shall all stand before the judgment seat of **CHRIST**
16:20 The grace of our Lord Jesus **CHRIST** be with you.
16:24 **The grace of our Lord Jesus CHRIST** be with you all.

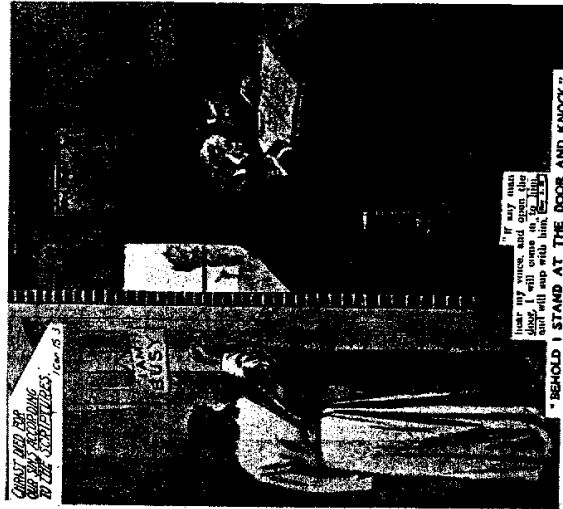
I Corinthians 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus **CHRIST**
 5:4 with the power of our Lord Jesus **CHRIST**
 9:1 have I not seen Jesus **CHRIST** our Lord.
 10:9 Neither let us tempt **CHRIST**
 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus **CHRIST** let him be
 Anathema.
 16:23 The grace of our Lord Jesus **CHRIST** be with you.
 II Corinthians 11:31 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus **CHRIST**
 Galatians 3:17 confirmed before of God in **CHRIST**
 4:7 an heir of God through **CHRIST**
 6:15 for in **CHRIST** Jesus neither circumcision.
 Ephesians 3:9 who created all things by Jesus **CHRIST**
 3:14 Father of our Lord Jesus **CHRIST**
 Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through **CHRIST** which strengtheneth me.
 Colossians 1:2 from God our Father and the Lord Jesus **CHRIST**
 3:13 even as **CHRIST** forgave you,
 I Thessalonians 1:1 from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus **CHRIST**
 2:19 even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus **CHRIST** at his
 coming?
 3:11 and our Lord Jesus **CHRIST** direct our way unto you.
 3:13 at the coming of our Lord Jesus **CHRIST** with all his saints.
 II Thessalonians 1:8 that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus **CHRIST**
 1:12 That the name of our Lord Jesus **CHRIST** may be glorified in
 you,
 2:2 That the day of **CHRIST** is at hand.
 I Timothy 2:7 I speak the truth in **CHRIST** and lie not;
 II Timothy 2:19 Let every one that nameth the name of **CHRIST** depart from
 iniquity.
 4:22 The Lord Jesus **CHRIST** be with thy spirit.
 Hebrews 3:1 Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession,
CHRIST Jesus.
 I John 1:7 the blood of Jesus **CHRIST** his son, cleanseth us from all
 sin.
 4:3 every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus **CHRIST** is come
 in the flesh, is... .
 II John 9 He that abideth in the doctrine of **CHRIST** he hath...
 Revelations 1:9 patience of Jesus **CHRIST** ...and for the testimony of Jesus
CHRIST
 12:17 have the testimony of Jesus **CHRIST**
 22:21 The grace of our Lord Jesus **CHRIST** be with you all. Amen
 I Corinthians 15:23 they that are **CHRIST**'s at his coming.
 II Corinthians 10:7 as he is **CHRIST**'s, even so are we Christ's.

13. SOME CHALLENGING THOUGHTS

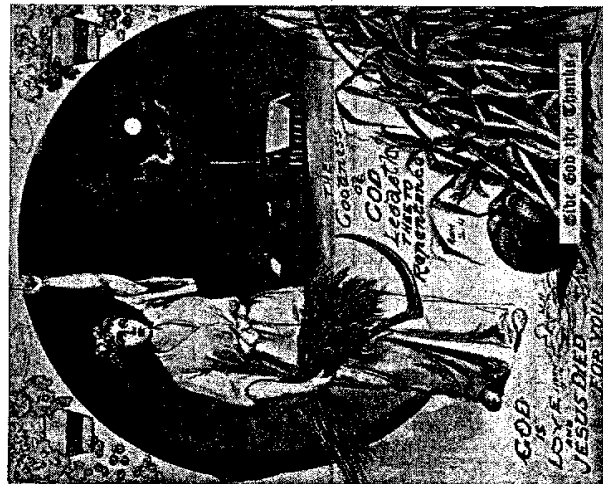
A WONDERFUL BRIDGE.



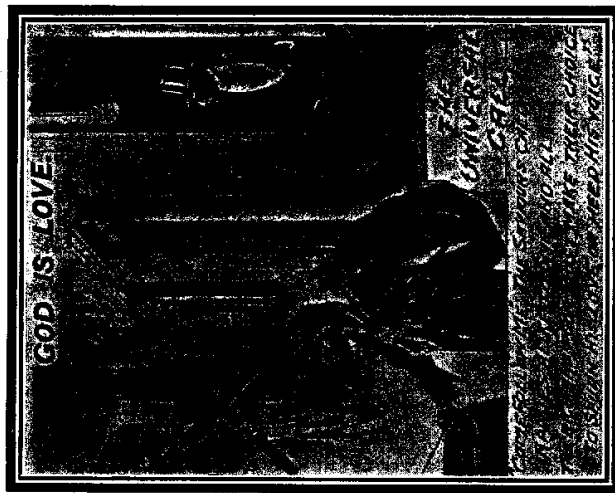
CHRIST OR SATAN?



RETROSPECT.



REST FOR THE WEARY.



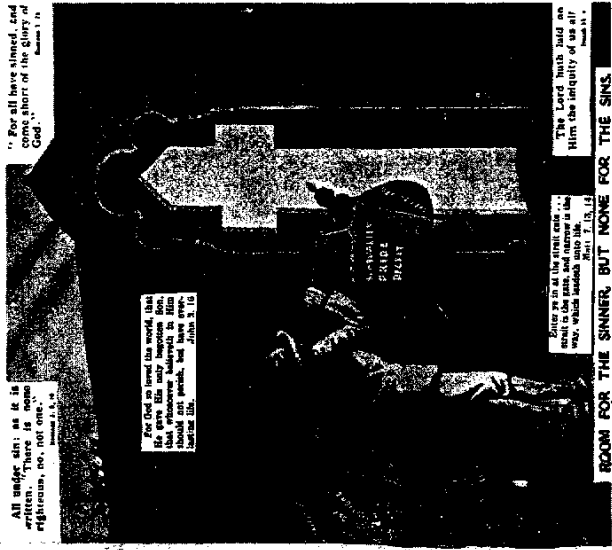
"Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee."—Deuteronomy 8: 2.

LIVING WATER.



The man in the picture represents a class of person who seem much concerned about what they do not believe. When spoken to about their soul's salvation they meet us with, "I do not believe the world was made in six days"; "I do not believe the story of Jonah and the whale"; "I do not believe in hell fire," etc. Such persons are burdened with the useless negatives of faith, and may well be asked to cast these away and have, instead, the positive belief in Jesus Christ, and "drink of the fountain of life."

**HEAVEN OR HELL?
AND THE WAY TO GET THERE.**



"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

All souls are as it is in heaven, no, not one."

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

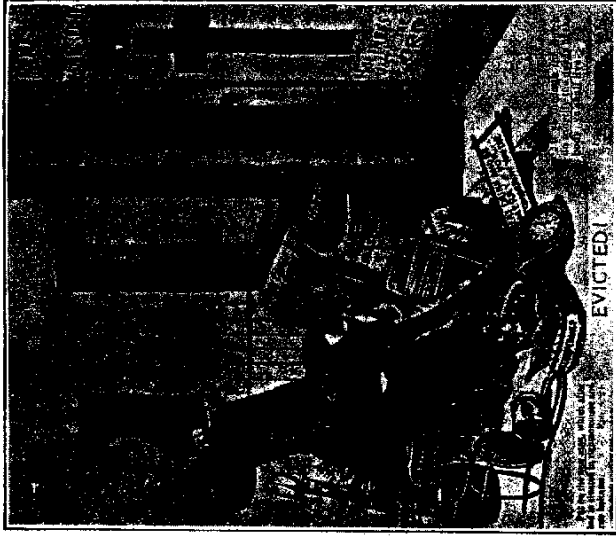
ROOM FOR THE SINNER, BUT NONE FOR THE SINS.

"They shall which shall be with the equality of the all."

ENTER BY THE STRAIT GATE, AND YE SHALL ENTER IN TO LIFE, WHICH ABIDETH FOR EVER, WHICH ABIDETH FOR EVER, WHICH ABIDETH FOR EVER.

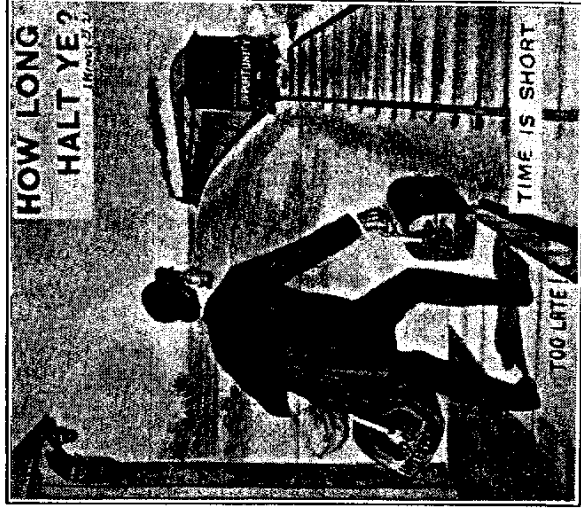
Strive to enter in at the strait gate."—Luke 13: 24.

NOTHING BUT LEAVES.



When the life can be symbolised as a figtree bearing "nothing but leaves" the devil is in occupation of man's soul. But Satan and all his works must be evicted when Christ comes to dwell there.

THE LOST OPPORTUNITY.



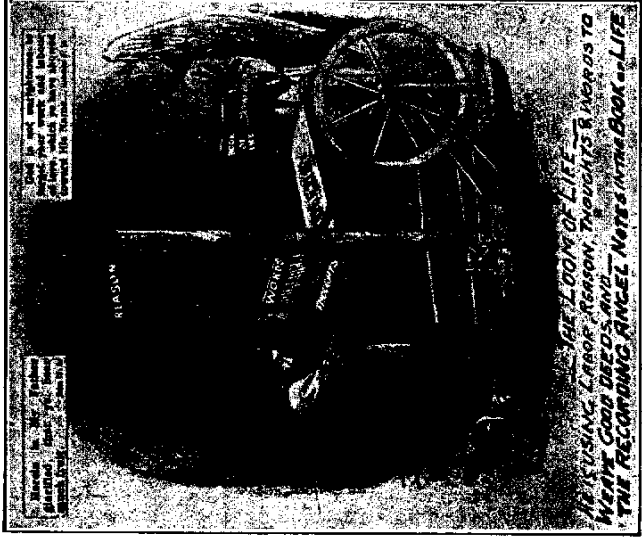
HOW LONG HALT YE?

TIME IS SHORT

TOO LATE!

THE LOST OPPORTUNITY.

THE LOOM OF LIFE.



"The years' of man are the looms of God
 (They are passing us one by one),
 And therein we are weaving always,
 Till the mystical work is done,
 And when the task is ended,
 And the web is turned and shown,
 Shall we hear the voice of the Master
 Saying to us, "Well done"?"

CURSE OF MEROZ. Judges 5:23



Are you a bocker
 or a slacker?

PROSPECT.

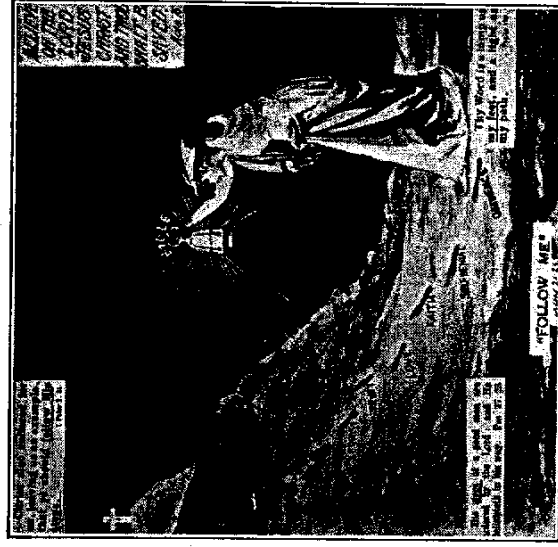
A NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS.

The Two Plans—Which is Yours for the New Year?



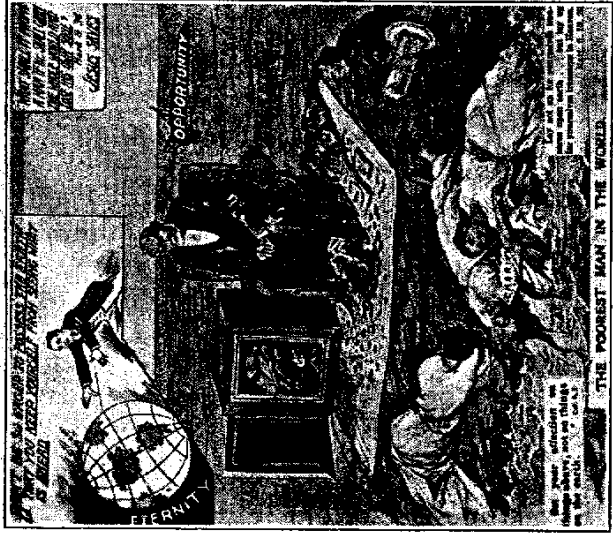
"Thy plans, O Lord, are better far
 Than all our best contrivings are.
 The future days we cannot see
 Are all, we know, ordained by Thee;
 And we have but to take Thy hand
 And go the way that Thou hast planned."

IN HIS STEPS OR WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?



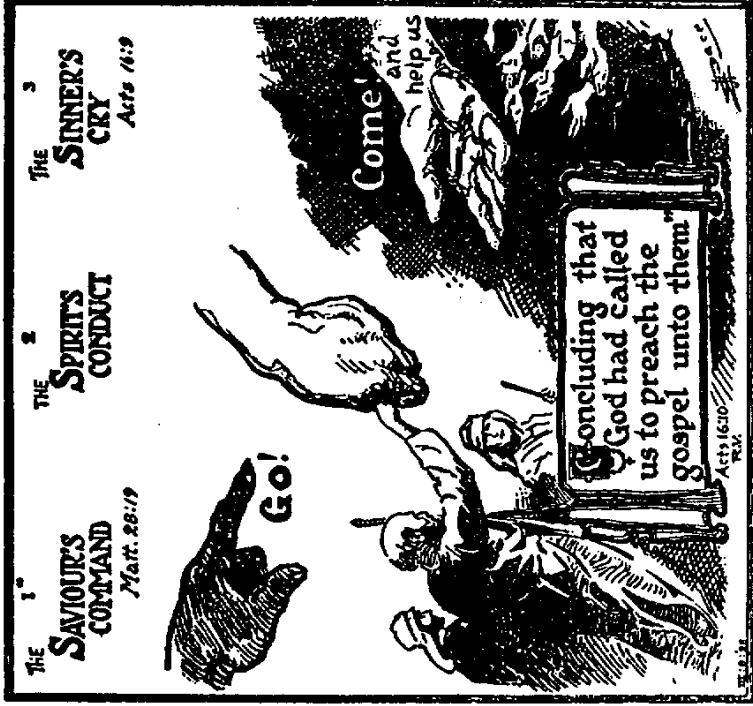
"Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example
 that we should follow His steps."—1 Pet. 2: 21.

MAMMON.



"I know thy poverty, but thou art rich" (Rev. 2: 9); "Having nothing, yet possessing all things" (2 Cor. 8: 10).

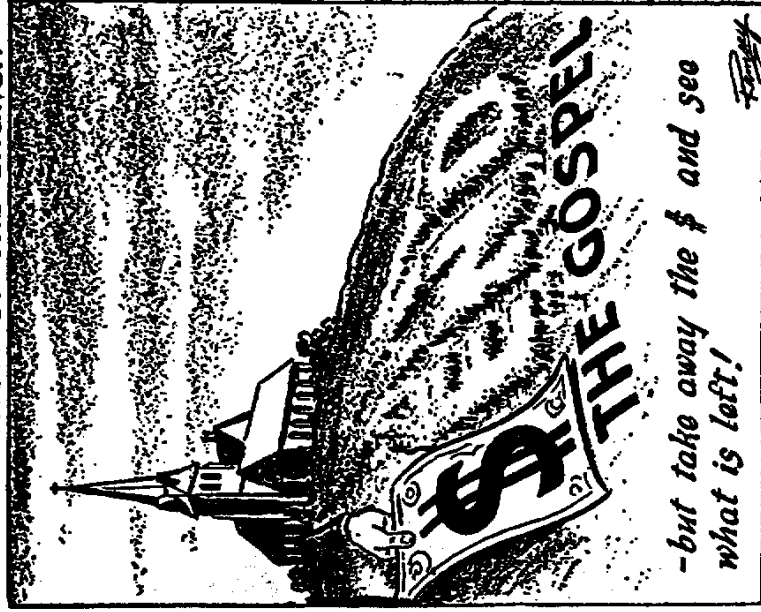
The artist responsible for the illustration on the left has given us a speaking picture of the end of a man whose life has been spent in making and hoarding up riches. His opportunities, symbolised by the wreck, are gone for ever; to him Faith, Hope and Love are dead, and he is about to drift—a lost soul—on the ocean of eternity. The inset in the upper left-hand corner seems to tell us the reason why—the world and its pleasures have so filled his life that he did not see and prepare for the endless existence beyond the grave.



THE THREE ELEMENTS OF A MISSIONARY CALL

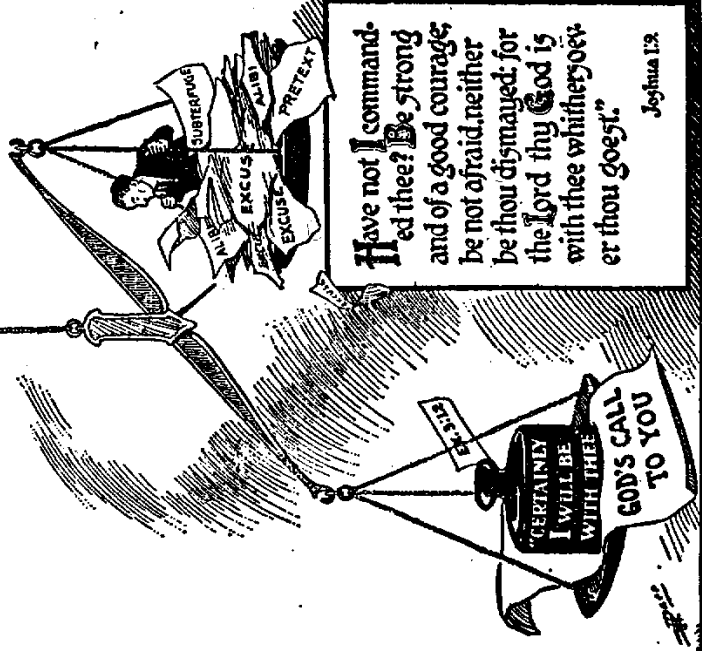
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THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH





IT OUTWEIGHS EVERY OTHER CONSIDERATION



Have not I command-
ed thee? **B**e strong,
and of a good courage,
be not afraid, neither
be thou dismayed; for
the Lord thy God is
with thee whithersoever
thou goest."

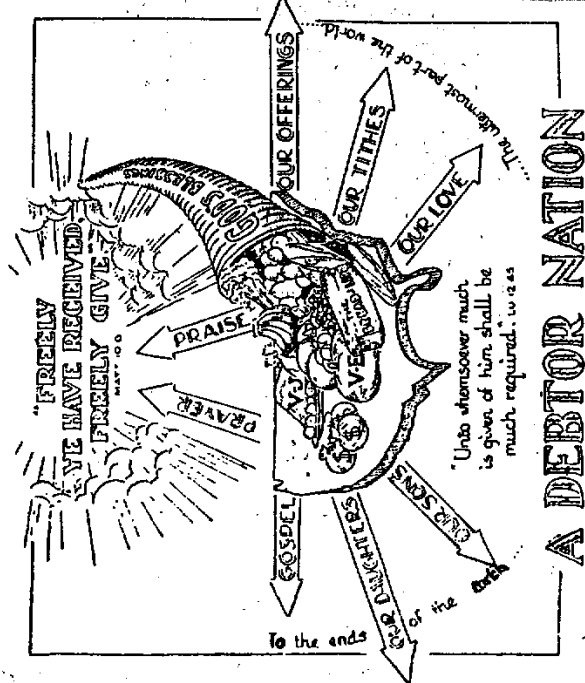
Joshua 1:2

NO MORE!

A black and white illustration of a dark, shadowy valley. A bright light source is visible on the left, casting long shadows across the scene. The overall mood is somber and dark.

"IN THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW."

First Pilgrim: "We are nearing our journey's end.
Alas! how gloomy the prospect!"
Second Pilgrim: "Surely you are shortsighted, my
brother, for to me it seems most glorious."



A DEBTOR NATION

14. THE PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

Bible Reading: Matthew 13:1-52.

Aim: To understand the background and meaning of Jesus' Parables, and apply them to serving Christ.

Introduction: The word "parable" comes from the Greek word "parabolè", made up from the verb "ballo" (to throw, lay or place) and the prefix "para" (meaning alongside of). A parable explains an unclear idea by **laying it alongside of** a clear idea to help interested listeners to better understand it. The known clarifies the unknown, making it more interesting, easier to remember, and easier to apply to life. The word parable occurs 48 times in the first three gospels, and twice in Hebrews 9:9 and 11:19. A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

I. WHY DID JESUS TEACH IN PARABLES?

About one-third of Jesus' teachings as recorded in the Gospels were in Parables.

The disciples asked Jesus in Matthew 13:10 "Why speakest unto them in Parables?" Four reasons are:

1. To **reveal truth to genuine seekers**, but to **hide truth** from those with **hard hearts**, to minimise the severity of their judgment. Matthew 13:10-17. The same sun that melts the ice, hardens the clay. The same message that awakens some, will harden another. Jesus' reason for speaking in parables contained a prophecy from Isaiah 6:9-10. This important prophecy refers to the spiritual deterioration of Israel, and occurs 5 times in the New Testament (Matt. 13:14-15, Mark 4:12; Luke 8:10; John 12:39,40; Acts 28:26,27). The Jews would hear God's word but not understand it and see Jesus' powerful miracles but not understand them as proof of His Messiahship. Their dull hearts would make them spiritually blind and deaf, and the result would be judgment in 70 AD. The disciples saw and believed. The Jewish leaders saw and rejected, so God gave them no more light.
2. A second reason Jesus used parables is given in Matthew 13:34,35:
"That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world". This was to fulfil the prophecy of Asaph in Psalm 78:2 "I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old".
Jesus' parables **opened secrets**, mysteries, or new truths hidden since the foundation of the world.
3. Many of the parables **explained the time period between Christ's rejection and His return**. Both the disciples and ourselves need to understand this period as we set out to evangelize the world.
4. Many parables were **answers to some problem or opposition**. For example:
 - a) The Pharisees criticised Jesus for eating with sinners, so He told them the parables of a lost sheep, a lost coin, and a lost son.
 - b) The disciples thought they were very successful because of the big crowds, so Jesus replied with the parable of a sower who saw 75% of his seed become fruitless.
 - c) The Pharisees claimed Jesus was in league with the devil, so He told the parable of a strong man guarding his goods being overcome by a stronger man.
 - d) The disciples asked "Lord, teach us to pray", so Jesus told the parable of the persistent friend.

The parables are mirrors and windows. As mirrors they help us see our faults.

As windows they help us understand life and God's plans for this world.

II. HOW SHOULD WE INTERPRET PARABLES?

1. **Christ's interpretation** of parables is the key to how we interpret other parables
Matt13:18-23;36-43
2. Look for the **main truth** the parable teaches.
3. Not every detail of a parable means something unless the context demands it. Sometimes, symbols have different meanings in different parables. For example, in the parable of the sower, the seed represents the word of God, and the soil represents the human heart. But in the parable of the wheat and tares, the good seed represents the children of the kingdom, and the field represents the world.
4. Parables were given to **illustrate doctrine**, not to teach doctrine. Don't try to prove a doctrine only on the basis of a parable. Parables are windows of a house, not its foundation. For example, to try to teach salvation by good works from the parable of the sheep and goats (Matthew 25:31-46) ignores the prophetic context and would contradict clear doctrines taught elsewhere.
5. **Other passages** of scripture may define some detail of a parable. For example, in the parable of the treasure hid in a field, Exodus 19:5 and Psalm 135:4 define God's peculiar treasure to be Israel.
6. Jesus stated that the parables concern the **"kingdom of heaven"** (Matthew 13:11), of which we know the following:
 - i) It is **found** only in Matthew's gospel and is mentioned 32 times.
 - ii) Its **character** is described in the 12 kingdom of Heaven parables in Matthew 13:1-50; 18:23-25; 20:1-16; 22:1-14; 25:1-30.
 - iii) Its **time** is limited from the First to the Second Coming of Christ.
 - iv) Its **sphere** is limited to Christendom.
 - v) It **contains a mixture of good & evil**, Wheat & Tares, good & bad fish, wise & foolish virgins.

III. THE POSTPONEMENT OF CHRIST'S EARTHLY 1000 YEAR KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

At the time of Jesus' birth, there was a widespread expectation that Messiah's coming was near, maybe because some understood the Daniel 9:24-27 "70 week" prophecy that Messiah would come 173,880 days after March 5, 444 BC. This made the due date for Messiah's coming to be March 30, 33 AD. Hence Simeon and Anna waited in the Temple for Christ as the "Consolation of Israel" (Luke 2:25-38).

The Kingdom of Heaven is named since it was given from heaven by God the Father (Daniel 7:13,14).

Jesus' message was the same as John the Baptist's: "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is **at hand**". Matthew 3:2; 4:17. They both called for Israel to nationally repent.

The Messianic kingdom cannot be set up until Israel as a nation repents. (Zechariah 12:10).

Jesus preached the "gospel of the kingdom" in Matthew 4:23 and the same "gospel of the kingdom" will be preached in the Tribulation that Christ's coming is near. (Matthew 24:14).

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to offer Himself as King to the Jews in fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9, He accepted the "Hosannahs" of the multitude, thus acknowledging His right to Kingship over an earthly kingdom. Sadly, the Pharisees in the crowd that day said to Jesus, "Master, rebuke thy disciples" (Matthew 19:39), thus rejecting Christ's offer as King over the Messianic Kingdom. Christ's Kingdom was thus postponed and the church, which is the mystery form of the Kingdom of heaven, was introduced at the day of Pentecost. It is the subject of Christendom being a mixture of saved and imitators that is discussed in some parables.

Question 1: What would have happened if the Jews as a nation had repented and accepted Jesus Christ as their King and Messiah? Would Christ's earthly Kingdom have been set up?

Answer: Certainly, but not necessarily straight away because Jesus had to die for the sins of the world as Saviour before He could assume His rule as King. This would have been achieved by the Roman government crucifying Jesus as a usurper. With Jesus' resurrection and ascension, Daniel's 69th week would have ended and the 70th week begun **without a break**. At the close of the 70th week, Jesus would have returned to set up His 1000 year earthly Kingdom.

Question 2: What about the church? How could it be formed if there was no break between the 69th and 70th week? Doesn't Ephesians 1:4 state that it was God's eternal purpose to form the church?

Answer: Yes. God foreknew that Israel would reject Christ's offer of the kingdom, yet His offer was still genuine. After Christ's resurrection, the disciples asked Him:

"Lord wilt thou **at this time** restore again the Kingdom to Israel?"

Jesus replied: "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power". (Acts 1:6). Jesus' answer is that He was not going to tell them if the Messiah's earthly 1000 year kingdom was to come then or later. Why? Because it depended on Israel's response to Christ's offer as proclaimed by the Apostles. Peter's second sermon states that if the nation repented, then Jesus Christ would return and establish His earthly kingdom:

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the **times of refreshing** shall come from the presence of the Lord; and **he shall send Jesus Christ...**" (Acts 3:19:20).

This offer of the Kingdom is in a transition period within the church age. Acts is a transition book where God gives the Jewish nation a chance to repent, they fail, and so God temporarily sets Israel aside and instead works through the church. Hence, the King having been rejected, it was impossible to set up the Kingdom at that time, so the Kingdom took on another form known as the "Mystery Form" as described in the Matthew 13 "Kingdom of Heaven Parables", which describe the character of the period from Christ's Ascension to the Rapture of the Church.

IV. DOCTRINE of the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BASED ON CHRIST'S PARABLES.

1. Christ's Offer of the Kingdom.

- a) Because of Old Testament promises, Israel expected a literal kingdom ruled by the Messiah. Christ spoke the parable of not putting a **new patch on an old garment**, and of not putting **new wine in old wineskins** (Luke 5:36:39) to show that He did not intend to build on Pharisaism, but came to set up a new and different Kingdom.
- b) The **Good Shepherd and His sheep** parable (John 10:1-18) was spoken because of the Pharisees who rejected Jesus Christ as Messiah, to show that His own would recognize Him, leave Pharisaism's bondage and enter the freedom of Christ's Kingdom.
- c) The **lost sheep, lost coin** and **lost son** parable (Luke 15:1-32) was spoken to correct the Pharisees wrong view that God hated sinners and rejoiced in a sinners' death because the sinner was then removed from God's presence forever. They reasoned that one's goal in life should be to produce enough good works to enter heaven. These 3 parables show the great search by the owners and joy when found. These show God's great love for sinners to return to God.

- d) The **blind leading the blind** (Luke 6:39) warns against following the Pharisees described as spiritually blind shepherds trying to lead spiritually blind followers.
- e) The King preparing a **wedding banquet** for his son (Matthew 22:1-14) taught that Christ was inviting that generation to the Kingdom. Since the wedding banquet pictured Christ's millennial kingdom, this parable teaches Christ's offer of the Kingdom to the Jews.
- f) The **narrow way to life** that **few** find, and the **broad way to destruction** that **many** travel (Matthew 7:13,14) warned against the danger of rejecting Christ's invitation just given.
- g) The **wise** man building his **house** on the **rock** and surviving the storm, pictured those hearing and doing Christ's teachings who enter the Kingdom by trusting Christ. The **foolish** man building his house on the **sand** that collapsed in the storm pictured those rejecting Christ's words, accepting the Pharisees doctrine, and being excluded from the Kingdom (Matt. 7:24-27).

2. Israel's Rejection of Christ's offers is seen in these parables:

- a) The **Physician** who was called on to **heal himself** (Luke 4:23) pictured Israel rejecting Christ, calling Him a sinner needing to deal with his own sins before He could offer salvation to others.
- b) The **Wedding banquet** (Matthew 22:1-14) showed the offer and rejection of the Kingdom by the guests (Israel) who were busy with their personal pursuits. The **Great Banquet** (Luke 14:16-24) showed the invited guests (Israel) ignoring the banquet by making excuses not to come.
- c) The **landowner who planted a vineyard** (Matthew 21:33-44) taught that the servants (Old Testament prophets) were beaten, stoned and killed by Israel when they were sent to collect the harvest (spiritual fruit). The landowner then sent his son (Christ) to collect the harvest, but the tenants (Israel) killed him. This pictured Israel rejecting the Kingdom and crucifying Christ.

3. Christ Postpones the Kingdom.

The unconditional **Abrahamic** covenant (Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14:17; 15:18-20; 17:4-8) promised that Abraham's physical descendants would dwell in the land forever. The unconditional **Davidic** covenant (II Samuel 7:16) promised that one of David's descendants would rule on David's Throne forever. Because Israel rejected Christ's offer, David's Kingdom was not cancelled but postponed.

- a) Christ spoke the parable of **10 pounds** (Luke 19:11-27) to teach that His Kingdom offer was being withdrawn and postponed. Christ was the nobleman who went into a far country to receive a Kingdom and to return to rule (v.12). Hence, Israel's rejection of Christ did not stop His right to rule.
- b) The **watching porter** (Mark 13:34-37) spoke of Christ's postponement of and absence from the Kingdom for a long time period, and our watchfulness in His absence.
- c) The **householder who planted a vineyard** parable (Matt. 21:33-46) taught that the Kingdom would be taken from first century Israel and given to the nation Israel at Christ's return. (v.43).

4. First Century Israel Judged.

In the **cleansed house** parable (Matthew 12:43-45), Christ pictured Israel as having experienced a cleansing ministry by John the Baptist. That cleansing was not permanent, because the unclean spirit that left the house of Israel returned with 7 other more wicked spirits, so that the final state of that house of Israel was worse because of their rejection of Christ than before John the Baptist's ministry. "Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation". (v.45).

5. **The New Mystery Form of the Kingdom.** Because Israel rejected Christ's offer of the Messianic Kingdom, the offer was withdrawn, postponed and substituted with judgment by the Romans in 70 AD. The mystery form of the Kingdom known as the Church age was then introduced.

Many of the parables revealed the character of the Church age, such as:

- i) The **Sower** (Matthew 13:3-23). The church age would be characterised by sowing the seed of the Word of God (Luke 8:12) throughout the world by Jesus and his followers, met by varying responses depending on the attitude of the hearers.
- ii) The **Wheat and Tares** (Matthew 13:24-30). In the Church age Satan will try to defeat God's program by sowing weeds (darnel) among the good seed. Satan's seed will imitate and closely resemble God's seed. Only at harvest can both kinds be distinguished. Christians who sow the word of God in the church age may expect Satan's opposition to spreading Christ's gospel.
- iii) The **seed growing by itself** (Mark 4:26-29). As physical seed germinates and grows because of life in the seed, so the mystery form of the Kingdom will grow because of life-giving power in the seed of the word of God sown in people's hearts.
- iv) The **mustard seed** (Matthew 13:31,32). The mystery form of the Kingdom would begin insignificantly but grow to great size. The Church age began with 11 disciples and grew to millions of people in Christendom.
- v) The **leaven** (Matthew 13:33-35). When the Church age began, evil (leaven) would be present, which would spread throughout Christendom to permeate the whole system by Christ's return.
- vi) The **Hidden treasure** and the **Pearl** (Matt. 13:44-46). Christ's plan in this Church age is to die on the cross, to purchase a treasure (Israel) and a Pearl (the church) out of the field (the world).
- vii) The **Dragnet** (Matthew 13:47-50). During the Church age the gospel will go out like a dragnet, catching two kinds of fish, good and bad, useful and useless. At the end of the tribulation the angels will cast the wicked into a furnace of fire, and allow the righteous into the millennium.

6. **Warnings to Prepare for Christ's Millennial Kingdom.**

In Matthew 24:3 the disciples asked Jesus "what shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world?" Jesus listed many signs that would be fulfilled in the 7 year tribulation (Matthew 24:4-26). Some (16) are: Deception (v.4,11,24), False Christs (v.5), Wars (v.6), famines, pestilences and earthquakes (v.7), persecution (v.9), disloyalty (v.10), false prophets (v.11), little love (v.12), worldwide gospel preaching (v.14), Jewish temple in Jerusalem, (v.15), great trouble (v.21,22), false prophets showing great signs and wonders (v.24) sun and moon darkened (v.29), the fig tree of Israel budding (v.32-34). These signs will be given to unsaved Israel to warn them that the Kingdom is being offered again and of Messiah's soon arrival.

- a) The **budding Fig tree** parable (Matthew 24:32-34) picturing Israel's nationhood warns that Christ's coming is near, at the doors. **Question:** How should we respond to these signs?
- b) The **watching doorkeeper** parable (Mark 13:33-37) teaches **watchfulness** and **faithfulness** in serving Jesus, because we don't know when Christ will return.
- c) The **watching homeowner** parable (Matt. 24:42-44) teaches us to **watch** and be **prepared**. As thieves come when unexpected, so Christ's return at the rapture will be at an unexpected time.
- d) The **wise and evil servants** parable (Matthew 24:45-51) teaches Christians to be faithful to our Bible teaching ministry in view of Christ's return. A faithful and wise servant will fulfil his Bible teaching work, but a foolish and evil servant will neglect his

Bible teaching ministry and will live for himself and his fleshly lusts. He will be severely rebuked by Christ at His return and be deprived of the joys of Christ's Kingdom. We must watch & be ready for Christ's return.

7. **Three Judgments Before the Millennium.**

This age will end in judgment, details of which are given in Matthew 25.

a) The **wise and foolish virgins** (Matthew 25:1-13): **Judgment on living Israel.**

After Christ returns to earth (Matthew 24:30), angels will regather living Israel from all over the earth (v.31), back to the land promised to Abraham (Genesis 12:7). Deuteronomy 30:1-10 teaches that Israel's entry to the Millennium kingdom blessings depended on repentance and receiving Christ as their Messiah and Saviour. Hence no unsaved Jew or Gentile will enter the Millennium (Ezekiel 20:38). The wise and foolish virgins parable states that Israelites living at the time of Christ's return will be judged to see which Jews are prepared to enter the Kingdom (by possessing the Holy Spirit) and which Jews are not prepared to enter the Kingdom (by being unsaved).

The **virgins** in an Oriental wedding refer to guests at the banquet (**Jews**).

The **bride** is the **Church** (Rev. 19:7,8; 21:9; II Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:23-32) who appears on earth with the **Bridegroom** who is **Jesus Christ**. Hence living Israelites (10 virgins) will be brought back to the land for a judgment to see who is prepared to enter Messiah's Millennial Kingdom (5 wise virgins) and who is not prepared and will therefore be excluded (5 foolish virgins).

b) The **sheep and the goats** (Matthew 25:31-46): **Judgment on living Gentiles.**

"When the Son of man shall come in His glory....before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats." (v.31,32).

The sheep will enter the Millennium because of how they treated Christ and helped His brothers in the tribulation. Their works prove the genuineness of their saving faith, because no one is saved by works. "Brothers" (Matthew 25:40) refers to persecuted Israelites as a whole in the tribulation, or to the persecuted 144,000 Israelite preachers (Revelation 7). Hence, the goats on the left will not have faith, and will not have produced works of helping persecuted Israelites. Sheep will enter and goats will be excluded from the Kingdom. Hence in 2 judgments the whole world will be judged to see who qualifies for entry into Christ's millennial Kingdom.

c) **5,2,1 Talents** (Matthew 25:14-30): **Judgment to Reward Believers' Faithfulness.**

A master travelling to a far country delivered his goods to his servants, and in his absence required them to trade these goods for a profitable return. When the master returned, these servants were called to give account of their success in trading. Those found faithful were allowed to enter the joy of their Lord and were made ruler over many things (v.21,23). On the other hand, the one servant who through fear, hid his master's talent in the earth, returned the talent with a nil profit. Because he was unfaithful he was excluded from the Kingdom, lost the talent, and was **denied rule** in the millennium. Those who are faithful and prepared will enter the Kingdom and will be made ruler over many things, with great authority. Christ predicted this judgment to occur just before the millennium in Matthew 24:40,41 when he said:

"Then shall two be in the field: the one shall be taken (away in judgment), and the other left (to enter Christ's millennial Kingdom). Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken (away in judgment), and the other left (to enter Christ's Kingdom)".

8. **Life in Christ's Mystery Form and Millennial Kingdom.** Many parables were given to teach the disciples what the King expects of His subjects who will live in the Kingdom.

i) **Obedience - Two sons.** (Matthew 21:28-32). Obedience is a test of sonship. A man asked his 2 sons to work in his vineyard. The first son refused, but later on obeyed (picturing tax collectors and prostitutes). The second son agreed to work, but never showed up (picturing the Pharisees).

Question: Which son did the Father's will? The first son did.

Despised people like tax collectors and prostitutes were entering the Kingdom of God instead of Pharisees and religious leaders who did not repent and believe. What a shock!

ii) **Love - Two Debtors** (Luke 7:41-50).

During Christ's earthly ministry, He showed compassion on the poor, sick, sorrowing, outcasts and sinners. This compassion will be required to be shown by His people in the Kingdom. This parable was spoken in the house of a Pharisee who objected to an ex-prostitute showing love and devotion to Christ. Christ replied how a creditor forgave the debts of a large debtor (pictured by the ex-prostitute) and a small debtor (pictured by Simon the Pharisee). Who would love the creditor more? Obviously the debtor who had been forgiven the most would love the most. Hence more love for Christ will be shown by those who are forgiven more. Also, Christ always accepts love from forgiven sinners.

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:27,30-37). Mercy (love in action) is to be shown to anyone in need, whose needs we can meet. Christ commanded the lawyer to show mercy as the Samaritan did. Those in Christ's Kingdom must show love to God and man because God has forgiven us.

iii) **Prayer** will play a key role in life in the Kingdom.

a) The **basis of prayer** is the merit of Christ's atoning blood.

The **Pharisee and Tax Collector** parable (Luke 18:9-14) shows how to approach God in prayer. The Pharisee by telling God about his righteousness, incorrectly approached God on the basis of his good works. God rejected his prayer. The Tax Collector, by seeing no merit in himself, claimed the blood of Christ saying, "God be merciful to me a sinner". He thus went home justified before God (Luke 18:14).

b) **Persistence in Prayer:** The **Persistent widow** (Luke 18:1-8).

Christ taught that we must persist in prayer to be answered. Even a hard hearted, indifferent judge, though unmoved by the **justice** of a widow's request, can be moved by her persistence.

The **Persistent friend at midnight** (Luke 11:5-13). A man had a visitor arrive, and not having bread to feed him, went to his neighbour at midnight to ask for 3 loaves. The neighbour being in bed would've had to disturb his whole family to give his neighbour the 3 loaves, so was unwilling to assist.

Lesson: "Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity (persistence) he will rise and give him as many as he needeth." (Luke 11:8).

Jesus concluded: "**Ask** and it shall be given you; **seek** and ye shall find; **knock** and it shall be opened unto you". (Luke 11:9).

This parable defines intercessory prayer: The man asking the sleeping neighbour was not the one in need, but was representing another person who was in need.

Definition: An intercessor represents the needy person to the one who can meet that need. Intercessory prayer is totally unselfish, because it is concerned for others needs, not one's own needs. Hence, unselfish intercessory prayer will characterise Kingdom life.

iv) **The Right use of wealth.**

The Pharisees regarded wealth as a sure sign of God's blessing and proof that the person was righteous and certain of entering heaven. Christ used parables to correct this wrong thinking:

a) The **wise use of present opportunities:** The **unjust steward** (Luke 16:1-13).

A righteous person will act wisely, knowing that he must give account to God of his stewardship in the future. He will not misuse his money selfishly thinking only of the present. When the steward wasted his master's goods, he lost his job, so he wisely used his present position to secure his future by reducing the amount owed by his master's debtors, so they would give him accommodation. Christ commended him, not for his dishonesty, but for wisely using present opportunities for future gain.

Christ applied this truth to our use of wealth in v.8-13. If we are not faithful in handling worldly wealth now, who will entrust us with true riches later in eternity?

Hence people will wisely use material possessions in the Kingdom.

b) **Material possessions are temporary.** The **Rich man and Lazarus** (Luke 16:19-31). The rich man who died left all his wealth behind, yet his soul continued to exist in hell without his wealth. This rich man believed the Pharisees' doctrine that wealth was a sign of God's favour. Jesus teaches here that:

* Your wealth cannot save you.

* The beggar was saved because he trusted God for salvation, not because of his poverty.

* Poverty is not necessarily a sign of God's displeasure or punishment for sin.

* Poverty is no barrier to gaining true eternal riches.

c) The **Result of selfishness and covetousness.** The **Rich fool** (Luke 12:16-21) parable shows that one's use of wealth will reveal if he is righteous or unrighteous. This man, already wealthy, found his riches greatly increased by an abundant harvest. This increased wealth gave him an opportunity to show his love for God and fellow man by sharing his wealth with needy people. He refused to do this and instead stored them up for his own use. This wrong use of wealth showed that he was unrighteous. Christ taught that we must rightly use our wealth now for other's salvation, for earthly wealth to benefit us in the next life.

v) **Faithfulness.** The **Faithful and Wise Steward.** Luke 12:42-48.

This parable teaches that "privilege brings responsibility now and accountability to God later". If we are given authority and we misuse it, then we will lose it.

"It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." (I Corinthians 4:2).

Faithfulness to our privileges and responsibilities will characterize Kingdom life.

vi) **Humility. Seats at the Wedding Feast.** Luke 14:7-11.

We must take a lower seat as a sign of humility, not seeking the best seats for ourselves. Let the host honour him that deserves it. Don't honour yourself, let others honour you instead. In the Beatitudes (Matt5:3-12), Christ described righteous people who will be citizens in His Kingdom.

THE PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST.

1. The Two Houses Matthew 7:24-27 (Luke 6:47-49).
2. The New Cloth and New Wineskins Matthew 9:16-17.
3. The Sower Matthew 13:5-8 (Mark 4:3-8; Luke 8:5-8).
4. The Weeds Matthew 13:24-30.
5. The Mustard Seed Matthew 13:31-32 (Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19)
6. The Yeast Matthew 13:33 (Luke 13:20-21).
7. The Hidden Treasure Matthew 13:44.
8. The Pearl of Great Price Matthew 13:45-46
9. The Fishing Net Matthew 13:47-50.
10. The Unforgiving Servant Matthew 18:23-35.
11. The Workers in the Vineyard Matthew 20:1-16.
12. The Two Sons Matthew 21:28-32.
13. The Wicked Vinegrowers Matthew 21:33-46 (Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19).
14. The Marriage of the King's Son Matthew 22:1-14.
15. The Two Servants Matthew 24:45-51.
16. The 10 Virgins Matthew 25:1-13.
17. The Talents Matthew 25:14-30.
18. The Seed Growing Secretly Mark 4:26-29.
19. The Doorkeeper Mark 13:34-37.
20. The Rude Children Luke 7:31-35.
21. The Two Debtors Luke 7:41-43.
22. The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37.
23. The Friend at Midnight Luke 11:5-8.
24. The Rich Fool Luke 12:16-21.
25. The Barren Fig Tree Luke 13:6-9.
26. The Great Supper Luke 14:15-24.
27. The Unfinished Tower and the King's Rash War Luke 14:28-33.
28. The Lost Sheep Matthew 18:12-14 (Luke 15:4-7).
29. The Lost Coin Luke 15:8-10.
30. The Prodigal Son Luke 15:11-32.
31. The Shrewd Manager Luke 16:1-9.
32. The Servant's Reward Luke 17:7-10.
33. The Unjust Judge Luke 18:1-8.
34. The Pharisee and the Taxgatherer Luke 18:9-14.
35. The Pounds Luke 19:1-27.

**15. EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST and
THE HARMONY OF THE GOSPELS**

	<u>MATT</u>	<u>MARK</u>	<u>LUKE</u>	<u>JOHN</u>
Introduction: A. The Source of Knowledge. B. The Pre-existence of God.			1:1-4	1:1-18
I. INTRODUCTION of the King.				
A. Arrival of the King.	1:1-17		3:23-38	
1. His Ancestry.				
2. His Advent.				
a) Annunciation of John's Birth to Zechariah.			1:5-25	
b) Annunciation of Jesus' Birth to Mary.			1:26-38	
c) Arrival of Mary in Judea to visit Elizabeth.			1:39-45	
d) Anthem of Mary.			1:46-56	
e) Advent of John the Baptist.			1:57-80	
f) Announcement of Jesus' Birth to Joseph.	1:18-25			
g) Advent of Jesus Christ.			2:1-7	
h) Announcement to the Shepherds.			2:8-20	
3. His Infancy and Childhood.				
a) His Circumcision at Bethlehem.			2:21	
b) His Presentation in the Temple.			2:22-38	
c) His Infancy - in Bethlehem, the wise men.	2:1-12			
- in Egypt, to flee Herod.	2:13-18			
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2. Through His Temptation in Judean Desert.	4:1-11	1:12-13	4:1-13	
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	<u>MATT</u>	<u>MARK</u>	<u>LUKE</u>	<u>JOHN</u>
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6. Christ's authority over demons.		1:21-28	4:31-37	
7. Christ's authority over sickness.	8:14-17	1:29-34	4:38-41	
8. Christ's authority to preach.	4:23-25	1:35-39	4:42-44	
9. Christ's authority over defilement.	8:2-4	1:40-45	5:12-16	
10. Christ's authority to forgive sins.	9:1-8	2:1-12	5:17-26	
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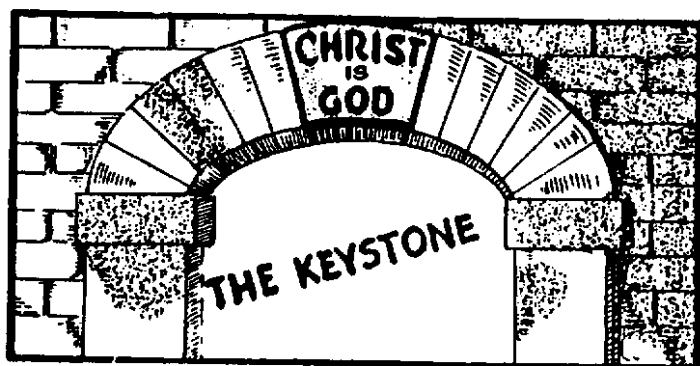
	<u>MATT</u>	<u>MARK</u>	<u>LUKE</u>	<u>JOHN</u>
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	<u>MATT</u>	<u>MARK</u>	<u>LUKE</u>	<u>JOHN</u>
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	<u>MATT</u>	<u>MARK</u>	<u>LUKE</u>	<u>JOHN</u>
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	<u>MATT</u>	<u>MARK</u>	<u>LUKE</u>	<u>JOHN</u>
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	<u>MATT</u>	<u>MARK</u>	<u>LUKE</u>	<u>JOHN</u>
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16. ANGELS

Bible Reading: 2 Kings 6:8-17 and Hebrews 1:14.

Aim: To be encouraged from God's teaching about His angels ministering to us.

Introduction:

Is there intelligent life apart from man in the universe? Yes. Are they friend or foe? They are both. Is their civilisation older than ours? It is. Will we ever communicate with them? Some people have already. Who are these extraterrestrials? They are angels. The Word "angel" occurs 273 times in Scripture. (108 times in Old Testament, 165 times in New Testament). In the Greek New Testament it is "angelos", in the Hebrew Old Testament it is "mal'ak", both meaning messenger. Sometimes it means "human messenger", but mostly it means "heavenly messenger". It basically means "one who is sent".

In Biblical appearances, angels always manifest themselves as males, never as women or children (except maybe in Zechariah 5:9 where they seem to appear as women angels). They always appear youthful, like the angel at Christ's tomb (Mark 16:5).

Moses and the tabernacle craftsmen knew what winged cherubim angels look like, because they made two cherubim of gold on the ark of the covenant (Exodus 37:6-9), as did Solomon (1 Kings 6:23-32).

The winged, human faced bulls of Assyria and Babylon may have resembled cherubim guarding Eden.

Balaam's donkey saw the angel but Balaam did not. (Numbers 22:31). They have selective visibility.

The main tasks of angels are to:

1. Deliver messages from God to man (Daniel 9:21-23).
2. Encouraging and ministering to people's needs (1 Kings 19:1-8).
3. Opposing the work of Satan and demons (Daniel 10:20).

Benefits of studying the doctrine of angels are:

1. They constantly **watch** our lives (Daniel 4:17). Hence we will improve our conduct.
2. They **protect** us, hence we understand God's care for us (Hebrews 1:7).
3. As we see their great strength and authority as they humbly perform small tasks, we learn to serve God with humility also.
4. As God created many holy, powerful angels who worship Him, so we are encouraged to **worship** God (Revelation 22:8,9).
5. Understanding the **angelic conflict** helps us to be more committed to winning the spiritual war for people's souls.
6. As **God opposes** and **judges** wicked angels, so He will oppose and judge us if we fall into sin.
7. Much **evil in this world** is from evil angels. This helps us to understand human affairs.
8. We will be **more cautious** to watch for the deception of evil angels.
9. As angels deliver us from danger, so we can **trust our lives to God** who sends them (Hebrews 1:14)
10. As angels are **completely devoted to God** and ready to serve Him, so should we follow their example. Their unceasing service should motivate us to be more devoted in our service to God.

I. EXISTENCE OF ANGELS.

Jesus, Paul and most great Bible characters taught their existence. In Matthew 4:11, angels ministered to Christ after His wilderness temptation. The word "angel" first occurs in Genesis 16:7, where the angel of the Lord ministered to Hagar after Sarah had mistreated her (1913 BC). The existence of angels is tied to the reliability of the testimony of Christ and the Bible.

II. ORIGIN OF ANGELS.

Angels, like man, were created by a special act of God. They were not formerly men, nor did they evolve, but were created as angels, and do not procreate (Matthew 22:28-30). They are called "sons of God" (Job 1:6; 2:1) because they are directly created by God.

"All the sons of God" shouted with joy at the creation of the earth (Job 38:4-7). This shows that God created angels before He created the earth.

"Praise ye him, all his angels.....for he commanded, and they were created." Psalm 148:2,5.

Jesus Christ created them all (John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:16). The purpose of their creation was to glorify and worship Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 4:11).

III. THE FALL OF ANGELS.

1. **The Fact of their Fall.** All angels were created sinless, but Lucifer who wanted to be like the Most High (Isaiah 14:12-17, Note his five "I wills") through pride led a rebellion of angels against God. Ezekiel 28:15-17 describes Satan's fall. Some angels are evil (Psalm 78:49; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 9:11; 12:7-9). This is because they left their own principality and proper habitation (Jude 6) and sinned (2 Peter 2:4).

2. **The Time of their Fall.** Their fall occurred before the fall of man.

3. **The Cause of their Fall.** They were created perfect with all affections of their heart directed to God

Question: How could such a being turn away from God?

Answer: Their fall was due to their deliberate, self-determined revolt against God. They chose self and their interests in preference to God and His interests.

Question: What motive caused their revolt?

Answer: Undue ambition and the desire to surpass God, along with great prosperity, beauty, selfishness, pride, discontentment with what they had, and craving to get all that everyone else had. The cause of Satan's fall, was the cause of the fall of other evil angels.

IV. THE RESULT OF THEIR FALL.

a) All of them lost their original holiness and became corrupt in nature and conduct (Matthew 10:1).

b) Some were cast down to hell (Tartarus) & are held there in chains until judgment day (2 Peter 2:4).

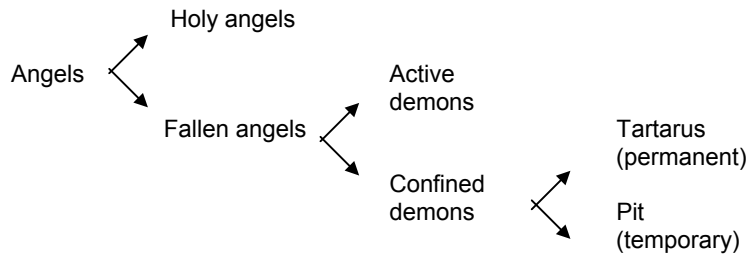
c) Some are left free to oppose the work of good angels (Revelation 12:7-9; Daniel 10:12,13,20,21).

d) The ground was cursed because of Adam's sin (Genesis 3:17-19), and creation is groaning because of the Fall (Romans 8:19-22).

e) They will be cast to the earth in the middle of the seven year tribulation (Revelation 12:8,9), then into the pit for 1,000 years. Then following their judgment (1 Corinthians 6:3), they will be cast into the Lake of Fire (Matthew 25:41; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6).

"And the angels which kept not their first estate but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." (Jude 6).

A. Classification of Angels



B. Number of Angels.

“to an **innumerable** company of angels”. (Hebrews 12:22).

“And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was **ten thousand times ten thousand**, and thousands of thousands.” (Revelation 5:11).

The number of angels is innumerable, 200 million is just an initial estimate of what John could see around God’s throne. Hence angels constitute an exceedingly large number which cannot be counted. There is no increase or decrease in their number because they neither reproduce nor die.

C. Fact of their Organisation.

God is the Author of order and organisation, not of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). Both human and angelic societies are organised.

Angelic organisation is seen as follows:

- i) “There was a day when the sons of God (angels) came to present themselves before the Lord.” Job 1:6 and 2:1. There are stated assemblies among God’s angels when they meet to praise God and report their service to Him. They, as well as us, are accountable to God. At these meetings God discusses the conduct of Christians on earth with the angels, as seen in the case of Job, where God testifies of Job as a “perfect and upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil.” (Job 1:8).
- ii) “I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him.... And the Lord said, who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the Lord,and said, I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.” (1 Kings 22:19-23).
Again God discusses with the angels how to bring about the death of evil King Ahab in battle. God even uses evil angels to achieve His plans in both believers and unbelievers lives.
- iii) Angels gathered in order to witness the creation of the world.
“Who laid the corner stone (of earth): when the morning stars (angels) sang together, and all the sons of God (angels) shouted for joy?” (Job 38:7,8).
- iv) Jesus Christ is the captain of the host (army) of the Lord. Joshua then worshipped Him as God. (Joshua 5:13-15). God’s armies are organised for war. Jesus Christ is their Captain, and Michael the Archangel under Jesus Christ. In the middle of the 7 year tribulation Michael and his angels fight and expel Satan and his angels from heaven, destroying their place (Topos⁵¹¹⁷ = territory, location, place), casting them to earth to suffer defeat and imprisonment in the pit 3½ years later.(Rev.12:7-10)

Demons loosed from the pit in the tribulation show organisation by having a king over them named Abaddon (destroyer) or Apollyon (Revelation 9:11). Thus Satan’s armies are well organised.

v) Organisation levels amongst angels are seen in eight titles given to them:

- ✂ **Principalities**⁽⁷⁴⁶⁾ are princes or chiefs among angels (Ephesians 1:21; 3:10; Colossians 2:10), or among demons (1 Corinthians 15:24; Ephesians 6:12; Colossians 2:15).
- ✂ **Powers**⁽¹⁸⁴⁹⁾ or **Authorities** (Gk: Exousia¹⁸⁴⁹) (1 Peter 3:22).
- ✂ **Dominions** (Gk: Kuriotes²³⁶³) = lord or mighty one, an order of angels (Eph. 1:21; Col. 1:16).
- ✂ **Angels**
- ✂ **Rulers** of the darkness of this world (Gk: Kosmokrator²⁸⁸⁸) meaning “holders of this world, or Lord of the world. This is used of Satan and his angels (John 12:31; 2 Corinthians 4:4).
- ✂ **Spiritual wickedness** in high places, or wicked spirits. (Ephesians 6:12).
- ✂ **Thrones** (Gk: Thronos²³⁶²) referring to heavenly Kings, with a seat of power (Colossian 1:16).

<u>Romans 8:38</u>	<u>Ephesians 1:21</u>	<u>Ephesians 3:10</u>	<u>Ephesians 6:12</u>
Principalities Powers Angels	Principality Power Might Dominion	Principalities Powers in heavenlies	Principalities Powers Rulers of the darkness of this world Spiritual wickedness in high places

<u>Colossians 1:16</u>	<u>Colossians 2:10</u>	<u>Colossians 2:15</u>	<u>1 Peter 3:22</u>
Thrones Principalities Powers Dominions	Christ is the Head of Principalities and Powers	Christ spoiled Principalities and Powers	Angels, authorities and powers being made subject unto Him.

God has organised the good angels, and Satan has organised the evil angels.

Application: Angels are organised, and demons are organised, yet Christians individually and in groups, often feel no need to be organised, especially in fighting evil, in winning souls, and in teaching the Bible. Believers often feel they can “go it alone”, have no need of church, or expect victory without any prior, organised preparation and discipline. Believers often miss the best because they don’t plan their good works and evangelistic activities.

D. Ranking of Angels.

Within classes of angels there seems to be various ranks appointed by God. Different angels are created for different purposes, just as God has gifted different believers for different tasks.

The angels may be classified as follows:

- i) Governmental Rulers (based on order of listing implying rank)
 - Thrones
 - Principalities
 - Authorities
 - Powers
 - Rulers of the darkness of this world (The rule of angels is often manifest through earthly rulers.) Daniel 10:13,21; 12:1; Ephesians 6:12.
 - Wicked spirits
 - Angels
 - ii) Cherubim
 - Defend God's holiness against human pride.
 - iii) Seraphim
 - Give unceasing worship, and have a ministry of purification.
 - iv) Living creatures
 - v) Individual angels
 - Michael, Gabriel, Lucifer
 - vi) Specially designated angels
 - Are known by the service they render
- Angels of judgment
 - Gen. 19:13; 2 Sam. 24:16; 2 Kings 19:35; Ezek 9:1,5,7; Ps. 78:49

The Watchers
 - Daniel 4:13,23

Angel of the abyss
 - Revelation 9:1

Angel over fire
 - Revelation 14:18

Angel of the waters
 - Revelation 16:5

V. APPEARANCE OF ANGELS

What do angels generally appear as?

1. **Young men.** "And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment: and they were amazed." (Mark 16:5).
2. **Lightning.** "His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow." (Matthew 28:3).
3. **Shining garments.** "Behold, two men stood by them in shining garments." (Luke 24:4).
4. **Face like the sun.** "I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud; and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire." (Revelation 10:1).
5. Clothed in **pure and white linen**, and
6. Their breasts **girded with golden girdles.** (Revelation 15:6).

Because of angels' splendour and great glory, we can understand why unsaved (Colossians 2:18) and believers (Rev 19:10; 22:8,9) have attempted to worship them, and why God stops us from seeing them.

VI. NAMES OF GOOD ANGELS

A. **Michael the Archangel.** His name means "who is like God?" It teaches the incomparableness of God and devotion to God's will. He contrasts with Satan's pride who declared "I will be like the Most High." (Isaiah 14:14).

Michael is mentioned **five** times in the Bible, always warring against Satan's forces:

1. He helps a lesser ranked angel break free from the evil angel Prince of Persia to answer Daniel's prayer: "But, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me;" Daniel 10:13,21.
"There is none that holdeth (supports) with me in these things, but Michael your prince." 10:21.

We see here that:

- a) Michael is one of the chief princes, which implies that there may be other archangels.
 - b) Michael is Israel's prince guardian angel, assigned to Israel.
 - c) Satan assigns evil angels to increase the evil and corruption in a nation, as in the case of the evil angel called the Prince of Persia (a Principality), who is assigned to Persia.
 - d) "I remained there with the Kings of Persia" (10:13) shows angelic "thrones" referred to as the "Kings of Persia".
2. Michael will stand up to protect Israel in the future 7 year Tribulation, as their guardian angel:
"At that time shall Michael stand up, the great Prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble...." (Daniel 12:1).
 3. People hear Michael's voice shout out at the coming of Jesus Christ to catch up believers at the rapture in 1 Thessalonians 4:16.
"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the **voice** of the **archangel**, and the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first." (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

Question: Why does Michael shout at the rapture?

Answer: Because Israel comes back into God's prophetic program with the 70th week commencing, leaving only 7 years until Christ sets up His Kingdom on earth. This is cause enough to shout for joy.

4. Michael disputes with Satan about the body of Moses.
"Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, the Lord rebuke thee." Jude 9.
In this situation, and in spite of Michael's power and greatness, not even he dare bring a railing accusation against Satan, but falling back in dependence upon God, he declares, "The Lord rebuke thee."
We cannot rebuke Satan, but only say to him, as Michael did, 'The Lord rebuke thee' Zech 3:1,2
"He showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.
"And the LORD (first person) said unto Satan (second person), the LORD (third person) rebuke thee, O Satan:..."
We see the Trinity mentioned here, that is, the first person of the YHWH Godhead rebuking Satan in the name of another member of the YHWH Godhead.
5. Michael and his angels fight against and defeat Satan and his angels, destroying their place in the heavens, and casting them into the earth. (Revelation 12:7-12). This occurs in the middle of the seven year tribulation, causing rejoicing among those angels and departed saints who dwell in the heavens.
This should comfort us knowing that God's angels are more powerful than Satan's angels, and that ultimate victory is God's and the Christians. Not only does Michael overcome Satan in the heavens, but Christians on earth will overcome Satan in three ways:
 - i) By the blood of the Lamb.
 - ii) By the word of their testimony.
 - iii) By loving not their lives unto death.

Lesson: The problem with Christians today is that they love their lives on earth with all its luxuries that they don't make any sacrifices to achieve anything for God and in winning of souls to Christ.

Conclusion: Michael's activities are always seen in connection with warfare with Satan, and with the resurrection of the body. If one so great as Michael, the chief angel of God's angelic armies, does not rely on his own strength in opposing Satan but respects his evil power, how much more must we rely upon God. (Ephesians 6:10-12; 2 Peter 2:11).

B. GABRIEL. His name means "the mighty one". He is never called an archangel. As Michael's job is to war against Satan's armies, Gabriel's job is always as a **messenger, revealer and interpreter** of God's purposes concerning Israel and the Messiah to the prophets of Israel. He appears **four** times in Scripture, as follows:

1. Gabriel appeared as a man to Daniel with the task "Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision." (Daniel 8:15,16). This sets in place the role of Gabriel to **interpret God's Word** to the prophets of Israel. This is an example of the first mention principle in Scripture.

This vision in Daniel 8:15-27 interprets the future Medo-Persian empire, the Greek empire, Alexander the Great and his four successors, and Antichrist's activities at the time of the end.

2. The man Gabriel, in answer to Daniel's prayer, flew swiftly, and informed Daniel saying "I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding" (Daniel 9:21,22).

He **interpreted the 70 week prophecy** to Daniel concerning the time of Messiah's first coming, and some events of Christ's second coming. (Daniel 9:20-27).

3. Gabriel **predicts the birth of John the Baptist** to Zacharias (Luke 1:10-20).

As the people prayed, Gabriel appeared to Zacharias to declare "thy prayer is heard" (1:13).

He describes himself as "I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent ... to shew thee these glad tidings" (1:19).

4. Gabriel **predicts the birth of Jesus Christ** and His ministry as King on David's throne to Mary before Jesus was conceived. (Luke 1:26-38).

Conclusion: a) Gabriel, as one who is swift to reveal and interpret God's message concerning Christ and Israel. So should we follow his example to be swift to carry God's message of Christ to the lost. Gabriel is seen in association with the **Holy Spirit's** ministry of interpreting God's Word.

b) Michael is seen in association with **Jesus Christ** at the rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:16), and in fighting Satan, which Jesus does at His glorious appearing.

c) Lucifer's sin of pride was to desire to be like the **Most High**.

Hence these three angels have some association with the three persons of the Godhead.

C. CHERUBIM. (Cherub singular) are heavenly beings of the highest order, created with incredible power and beauty.

1. **Description.** During Ezekiel's captivity in Babylon, he received a vision of God's glory involving four living creatures (Ezekiel 1:1-28).

a) Each has **four faces**, being that of a man, lion, ox and eagle.

"They four had the face of a **man**, and the face of a **lion** on the right side: of an **ox** on the left side,and of an **eagle**." Ezekiel 1:10.

"Every one had four faces; the first face was the face of a **cherub**, and the second face was the face of a **man**, and the third the face of a **lion**, and the fourth the face of an **eagle**". Ezekiel 10:14.

By comparing these two passages, we see that a **cherub** has the face of an **ox**.

b) "I knew that they were the cherubims. Every one had **four faces** apiece, and every one had **four wings**; and the likeness of the **hands** of a **man** was under their wings. Ezekiel 10:20,21

c) "The sole of their feet was like the sole of a **calf's foot**." Ezekiel 1:7.

d) "The noise of their **wings**, was like the noise of **great waters**, as the voice of the Almighty." Ezekiel 1:24.

e) A **man** (Christ) sat on a sapphire throne high over their heads. Ezekiel 1:26.

f) "The living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a **flash of lightning**." Ezek.1:14

g) "Their whole body, backs, hands, wings and wheels were **full of eyes** round about" Ezek10:12

2. Scriptural occurrences.

i) Cherubim first appear at the gate of the **garden of Eden** after man was expelled (Genesis 3:24). They guarded the way to the tree of life lest sinful man should eat of it and live forever in an unredeemable state (Genesis 3:22). They teach us that sin and paradise are incompatible. Sinful man cannot approach God without the righteousness of Christ.

Statues of winged bulls and lions with human faces guarded the entrances of temples and palaces of ancient Babylon and Assyria. These nations were near the garden of Eden.

ii) Golden images of cherubim facing each other appear on the **mercy seat** of the Tabernacle (Exodus 25:17-22). God said "There I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims." (Exodus 25:22).

They are hence called "cherubims of glory" shadowing the mercy seat; of which we cannot now speak particularly." Hebrews 9:5. They guarded the holiness of God against sinful man breaking God's law. When they saw the blood on the mercy seat, judgment was stayed.

iii) They appear as **tapestry on the curtain of the tabernacle**, separating unholy people from God's presence in the Holy of Holies (Exodus 26:1).

iv) "Hezekiah prayed before the Lord, and said, O Lord God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims," (2 Kings 19:15).

v) Solomon in his temple "set the cherubims within the **inner house** and he overlaid the cherubims with gold. He carved all the **walls** of the house ... with cherubims, palm trees and open flowers." (1 Kings 6:21-29).

vi) Ezekiel while captive in Babylon received visions of the glory of God with four living creatures (1:1-28) later identified as cherubim (10:4,18-22).

vii) The **Millennial temple** will have cherubim carved on its inside walls:

"From the ground unto above the door were cherubims and palm trees made, and on the wall of the temple." (Ezekiel 41:20).

viii) John sees four living creatures very similar to cherubim in heaven in Revelation 4:6-8 "in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts **full of eyes** before and behind. And the first beast was like a **lion**, ... and the second beast like a **calf**, and the third beast had a face as a **man**, and the fourth beast was like a flying **eagle**."

3. Purpose and Duties of Cherubim

Cherubim are never called angels because they are not messengers in their duties. They never carry instructions from God to men.

- i) Their purpose is to **proclaim** and **protect** God's **glory, presence** and **holiness**.
- ii) They are never sent from God's presence but are confined to God's throne. They designate the **place of God's presence**, as in the Garden of Eden, the Tabernacle, and in Solomon's temple.
The Shekinah glory represents God who is dwelling between the cherubims:
"Thou that **dwellst between the cherubims**, shine forth." Psalm 80:1.
"The Lord reigneth: let the people tremble: he **sitteth between the cherubims**."
Psalm 99:1
- iii) They show the **unapproachableness** of God.
- iv) They show God's **glory**.
- v) They show God's **intervention** in human affairs in Ezekiel 1.
- vi) Above the mercy seat they show how God can meet sinful man on the basis of blood sacrifice, and through a God given priesthood. These pointed to Christ as our only blood sacrifice to atone for our sins and as our great High Priest.
They also teach the grace of God that provides salvation for man and access to God through Jesus Christ's blood sacrifice.

D. **SERAPHIM**. Or "burning ones" are only mentioned in Isaiah 6:2,6.

Cherubim are under God's throne. "Above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne..." (Ezekiel 1:26).

'This is the living creature that I saw **under** the God of Israel..they were the cherubims'
Ezek.10:20

The Seraphim stand above God's throne.

"...a throne.....**above** it stood the seraphims" (Isaiah 6:1,2), their name meaning "burning ones" speaking of their consuming devotion to God.

"**Above** it stood the seraphims: each one had 6 wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he did fly."

The symbolism is clear: "with two (wings) they cover their faces" shows that even the most exalted spirits cannot bear the full vision of God's **glory**.

"with two (wings) they cover their feet" - shows their **reverence**, their hesitancy to tread uninvited upon holy ground.

"with two (wings) they did fly" - shows their **swiftness** to obey God's commands.

They cried to each other "Holy, Holy, Holy, is Yahweh of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." (Isaiah 6:3).

Their duties are to lead heaven in the worship of God's holiness, and to purify God's servants for true worship and service. Hence they are concerned with **worship** and **holiness**, whereas cherubim are concerned with **justice** and **might**.

Application: They show that a sinner must be cleansed of sin before he can stand before God and serve Him (as in Isaiah's case). Isaiah's lips, now cleansed (by the hot coal) are now ready to speak God's message to men (Isaiah 6:8,9).

E. GUARDIAN ANGELS.

"Take heed that ye despise not one of these **little ones**; for I say unto you, that **in heaven their angels** do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 18:10).

The holy angels minister to the saints (Hebrews 1:14):

1. Through giving **assistance, protection** and **deliverance** (Lot in Genesis 19:11); "He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." (Psalm 91:11);
"Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-nego who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in Him." (Daniel 3:28);
"The angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors (for the apostles)." (Acts 5:19);
"Then said they, It is his (Peter's) angel." (Acts 12:15).
2. Through giving **encouragement**. "There stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am saying, Fear not, Paul..." (Acts 27:23,24).
3. Through **watching over** and **representing believers** in heaven. "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." (Psalm 34:7).
4. Through **bringing people** that they are assigned to, **to hear the gospel**, receive Christ as Saviour, and to serve God in this life. (Matthew 18:10).
When a person gets saved, their angels rejoice in heaven that the person they are assigned to has been saved. When we preach the gospel and lead people to Christ, we are cooperating with God and with holy angels who are assigned to the new believer from birth.

F. GENERAL NAMES OF ANGELS.

1. **Angel** is a supernatural, heavenly being who serves God's purposes.
2. **Ministering spirits**. "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14).
"Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire." (Psalm 104:4).
They minister for God in spiritual service.
3. **Host** shows God's angels as His army. Angels are called upon to bless the Lord.
"Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his that do his pleasure." (Psalm 103:20,21)
"Hosts" shows God's heavenly army as a military force to accomplish His will and to fight His battles. God's name, Yahweh of hosts, shows God as Commander in Chief of a great heavenly army. (Psalm 89:8).
4. **Chariots of fire** protected Elisha and his servant from the Syrian army. "Behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." (II Kings 6:16,17). Four chariots which executed God's military judgments on nations around Israel are seen in Zechariah 6:1-8.
Elijah was caught up to heaven in a chariot of fire in 2 Kings 2:11.
5. **Watchers** denote angels as spectators of people and events of earth. God uses them to control and judge the world governments.
"Behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven. ... This matter is by the decree of the watchers ... to the intent that the living may know that the Most High ruleth in the Kingdom of men." (Daniel 4:13,17).
On four occasions angels are said to be observing:
 - a) Angels rejoice with God when one sinner repents (Luke 15:10).
 - b) "Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of Man confess before the angels of God: but he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God." (Luke 12:8,9). They watch us confessing or denying Christ publicly.
 - c) All of Christ's life on earth was "seen of angels". (1 Timothy 3:16).
 - d) Angels watch the Beast worshippers being tormented forever. (Revelation 14:10,11).

6. **Sons of God** (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7; Genesis 6:2,4) is used of angels. The Hebrew is "bene elohim", meaning in contrast with man, angels belong to the class of Elohim (God) speaking of their might. In Job 1 and 2, they assemble before God, serve Him and answer to God.
7. **Sons of the mighty.** (bene elim).
 "Who among the **sons of the mighty** can be likened unto the Lord?" (Psalm 89:6).
 This describes the great strength of angels.
 "Give unto the LORD, O ye **mighty**...glory and strength." (Psalm 29:1).
 "Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in **strength**.." (Psalm 103:20).
Note: Often the expression "son(s) of" describes a class of persons. For example:
 a) sons of the prophets (2 Kings 2:3,5,7,15; 6:1) refer to a class known as **prophets**.
 b) sons of belial (1 Samuel 2:12; 25;17,25) means a class of lawless **or worthless persons**.
 c) sons of Asaph (Nehemiah 11:22) refer to a class of **singers** founded by Asaph.
 d) sons of Levi (Nehemiah 12:23; Malachi 3:3 "He shall purify the sons of Levi") refers to the **priestly class** descended from Levi.
 e) sons of Arcturus (Job 38:22) refers to a class of **stars** belonging to the brightest star in the constellation Bootes. "Canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?"
 f) Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God means that He is uniquely of the class of **God**.
8. **Gods** (Elohim⁴³⁰ in Hebrew), sometimes applies to angels, though Elohim mostly refers to God.
 "Thou hast made him (man) a little lower than the **angels** (elohim)." Psalm 8:5.
 "Give unto the LORD, O ye **mighty** (Hebrew "El" meaning angels)...glory." Psalm 29:1.
 "Worship him, all ye gods (Elohim⁴³⁰ or angels)". Psalm 97:7; 138:1.
 "Elohim" is used of angels as of God because they are like God as spirit beings. The same word is used of man. "I have said, Ye are gods (Elohim⁴³⁰) and all of you are children of the most High." It is used in Psalm 82:6 and in John 10:33,34 by Jesus. It means "magistrates" here because of the dignity and honour of their office is applied to man.
9. **Flaming Fire** (Psalm 104:4 and Hebrews 12:29) reveals their holiness and zeal for God.
10. **Princes or Principalities.** These are angels that are princes over certain nations. Satan is the prince of this world (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11), having demon princes over the nations (Daniel 10:13,20,21; 12:1).
11. **Stars**, used of angels, denotes their heavenly nature and dwelling place. (Job 38:7). Both angels and stars are called "the host of heaven". (Psalm 33:6; Nehemiah 9:6; "They fought from heaven; the **stars** in their courses fought against Sisera." Judges 5:20.).
 Note that astrology is connected with demon worship through the term "stars", or "host of heaven": "they burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, to the moon, to the planets, and to all the host of heaven." 2 Kings 23:5; Jeremiah 19:13;
 "God gave them up to worship the host of heaven." Acts 7:42.
 Satan is described in his rebellion against God as a "great red dragon and his tail drew the third part of the **stars** of heaven, and did cast them to the earth." Revelation 12:3,4.
 "I saw a **star** fall from heaven to the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit." Revelation 9:1.

Stars then symbolise angels. Astrology and worship of the stars is condemned in Deuteronomy 18:10-14 as being connected with demonism. (Jeremiah 10:2; 2 Kings 23:5; 2 Chronicles 33:3; Isaiah 47:13).

12. **Angel of light.** "Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." (2 Corinthians 11:14).

VII. NATURE OR CHARACTER OF GOOD ANGELS.

A. The **nature** of angels is as follows:

- Created beings.** Revelation 4:11; "He commanded and they were created." Psalm 148:5.
- Spirit beings.** Hebrews 1:14; Psalm 104:4. They are not limited to the physical realm.
- Immortal.** "Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels." Luke 20:34-36
- A company of beings, not a race.** "An innumerable company of angels." Hebrews 12:22.
- Innumerable.** They are innumerable from man's viewpoint. Only God knows their number.
- Higher than man.** "Thou madest him (man) a little lower than the angels." Hebrews 2:7.
- Invisible.** "visible and invisible" Col. 1:16. At times they can become visible to human eyes.
- Intelligence.** They have greater knowledge than man but are not omniscient (Matthew 24:36). They have continued to learn since their creation (Eph. 3:10). They learn more of the wisdom of God by studying churches and Christians. Their learning capacity has not been corrupted by sin as has man's. They do not have to study the past, because they have experienced it.
- Strength.** Paul calls them "mighty angels" (2 Thessalonians 1:7).
 One angel killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in a night (Isaiah 37:36).
 "We should pray "God help me to be strong to do your work."
 "His angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word." Psalm 103:20.
 One angel killed 70,000 Israelites due to David's sin. 2 Samuel 24:15,16.
 One angel rolled away a four ton stone from Christ's tomb.
- Personality.** This is proven because they have **intelligence** (Matthew 8:29; Daniel 9:23; 10:21; 1 Peter 1:12), **emotions** (Luke 2:13; James 2:19; Revelation 12:17), and **wills** (Luke 8:28-31; 2 Timothy 2:26; Jude 6). These are the three necessary features of personality. The Holy Spirit shows these qualities, proving He is a person, not an active force as JW's claim.
 They can render intelligent worship to God.
 They are held responsible for the quality of their service and for their moral choices.
- They neither marry nor die. Matthew 22:30; Luke 20:35,36.
- Angels eat food. "Man did eat angels' food." Psalms 78:25
- Angels dwell in the heavens. John 1:51; Ephesians 3:10.
- Believers shall judge angels. 1 Corinthians 6:3.
- They are not bound by natural laws, because they are spirits:
 - they can enter locked prisons (Acts 12:7).
 - open prison doors (Acts 5:19).
 - ascend in a flame of fire (Judges 13:19,20).

- travel great distances very quickly, faster than the speed of light.
An angel apologised to Daniel for taking 21 days to travel from heaven to earth.
Dan.10:12,13

16. Force of appearance. Mary, Zacharias and the shepherds were greatly afraid at their sighting. The Roman soldiers at Christ's tomb trembled for fear and became as dead men (Matt. 28:4).
17. Angels observe human activities.

B. The character of good angels is as follows:

1. **Holy.** Mark 8:38; Revelation 14:10. They are sinless and are unable to fall.
2. **Meek.** 2 Peter 2:11; Jude 9. Their character resembles the meekness of God. They are humble in contrast to the pride of fallen angels.
3. They **worship** God. Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 22:9. Good angels never accept worship from man, though fallen angels seek to be worshipped.
4. They **obey God** immediately and unquestioningly. (1 Peter 3:22).
"ye ministers of his that do his pleasure." (Psalm 103:20,21).
5. Their **knowledge** is limited, but has increased over time, particularly as they study God's workings on earth. (1 Peter 1:12).
6. **Stronger** than man (2 Peter 2:11);
"Angels are greater in power and in might" (Revelation 18:1,21); "a mighty angel" (2 Thessalonians 1:7); one angel killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night, and rescued King Hezekiah and Jerusalem (2 Kings 19:35).
7. **Patience.** Numbers 22:22-35 shows the angel gently resisting Balaam going to curse Israel.
8. **Joy.** They rejoice at the creation of earth (Job 38:7) & rejoice over people being saved. Luke 15:10
9. They are **clothed** in white linen, bright as light. No darkness is in them. (Revelation 15:6).

VIII. THE WORK AND MINISTRY OF GOOD ANGELS.

They minister to worship God in heaven, and to serve man on earth.

A. They minister to God in:

1. Worship and praise. In Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:6-11 they worship God for His holiness, worthiness, creation and omnipotence.
2. Service to God and men. Since "angel" means "messenger", they carry God's messages to men such as Manoah, Zacharias (Luke 1:19), Mary (Luke 1:26-33), & the shepherds at Christ's birth.
3. Governing the universe.
In Psalm 103:19,20 God's rule is associated with the service of angels:
- in controlling **nature**, such as winds (Revelation 7:1), the seas (Revelation 16:3), the sun's heat (Revelation 16:8,9).
- in controlling **nations**. Behind the scenes, good angels oppose Satan & his angels.
Dan.10:13,21 Evil angels may influence governments to oppose the gospel and Christians. For our needs we have the armour of God (Eph. 6:10-13) and the angels of God (2 Kings 6:17; Heb. 1:14).
4. Protecting believers. They may harass our enemies (Psalm 35:4,5,6) and deliver us from their wicked works (Psalm 34:7; Psalm 63:9; Hebrews 1:14).
5. Execute God's judgments, as in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 9:1-13), plaguing Egypt (Psalm 78:43,49), destroying Egypt's firstborn (Exodus 12:13,23), chastening Israel by killing 70,000 Israelites (1 Chronicles 21:15-18),

killing 185,000 Assyrian soldiers (2 Kings 19:35), and Michael and his angels will judge Satan and his angels (Revelation 12:7-9).

B. They minister to Christ in:

1. Predicting His birth to Mary, assuring her that her child would be the God-man and Saviour. Luke 1:26-28.
2. Announcing His birth to shepherds. Luke 2:8-15.
3. Protecting Him as a baby from Herod by warning His parents to flee to Egypt, then return to Nazareth after Herod's death. Matthew 2:13-21.
4. Strengthening Christ during His earthly trials in the wilderness. After this trial "angels came and ministered unto Him." Matthew 4:11.
In Gethsemane when He faced the full wrath of God for our sins, an angel came to strengthen Him. Luke 22:43.
5. Defended Christ at His request. When He was taken prisoner, He could have called 12 legions of angels to rescue Him, but He willingly went to the cross to pay for our sins. Matthew 26:53.
6. Announced His resurrection. An angel rolled away the stone from Christ's tomb to let people in, and later announced Christ's resurrection to those coming to the tomb. Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:5-8.
7. Angels are subject to Him in heaven now. "Angels, authorities and powers being made subject unto him." 1 Peter 3:22.
8. Angels rejoice when God saves a repentant sinner. Luke 15:10.
9. Angels now worship the God-man in heaven. Revelation 5:11,12.
10. Angels predicted Christ's bodily return in the clouds. Acts 1:11.
11. Angels accompany Christ when He returns in glory. Matthew 25:31.
12. Angels worship Christ when He returns. Hebrews 1:6.
13. Angels gather the saved and wicked at Christ's return. Matt. 13:39-43; 24:31; 2 Thess. 1:7-10.

C. Angels are present at the beginning of new dispensations or at great events.

1. At Creation, "the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." Job 38:7
2. At the **giving of the Law**, at Mount Sinai, God used angels to deliver the Law to Moses, as seen from:
 - i) Galatians 3:19 "the law was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator."
The Law came from angels to Moses the mediator, then to the people.
 - ii) Acts 7:38,53 "Who have received the law by the disposition of angels and have not kept it."
 - iii) Hebrews 2:2 "For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast..."
God's giving of the law through angels explains the Jews high regard for angels. It explains why Hebrews 1 and 2 shows the superiority of Christ over angels, and why Christ replaced the Mosaic law.
3. At Christ's birth, resurrection, ascension and return.
4. They **minister to believers**. As God loves us, so angels are also interested in us, as seen in Daniel 10:11, "O Daniel, a man greatly beloved."
Their ministry shows God's love and care for us, in these forms:
 - a) **Revealing** God's will and word to men. Much of the books of Daniel and Revelation were given through angels.
 - b) **Guiding** and directing people to win others to Christ.

An angel directed Philip to go south from Samaria to the Gaza desert to win the Ethiopian eunuch to Christ. (Acts 8:26). Notice that the angel gave the general direction, but the Holy Spirit pointed out the exact person (Acts 8:29).

An angel directed Cornelius to send for Peter who would tell him how to be saved. (Acts 10:1-8; 11:13,14). Notice again that the Holy Spirit gave Peter specific instructions (Acts 10:19; 11:12).

- c) Providing physical needs such as food and water.** For example:
- i) To Hagar and Ishmael in the desert (Genesis 21:17-20).
 - ii) God providing manna known as angels food to Israel in the wilderness. Psalm 78:23-25.
 - iii) When Elijah had fled from Jezebel and had lay down to die, an angel awoke him and provided him with “a cake baked on the coals, and a cruse of water.” (1 Kings 19:5-7).
 - iv) Angels ministered to Christ after His 40 days fasting and His temptation by Satan in the wilderness. (Matthew 4:11).
- d) Protecting or guarding believers from physical danger:**
- i) God sent an angel to shut the lions’ mouths when Daniel was thrown into the lions’ den. (Daniel 6:20-23).
 - ii) God sent an angelic army to surround and protect Elisha and his servant at Dothan from the Syrian army. Elisha said “Fear not: for they that be with us (angels) are more than they that be with them.” (2 Kings 6:16-17).
 - iii) God sent an angel to kill 185,000 Assyrians who were laying siege to Jerusalem. Isaiah 36,37.
- e) Delivering believers from harm:**
- i) When the Jewish leaders imprisoned the apostles, an angel opened the doors, led them out and told them to keep preaching. (Acts 5:17-20).
 - ii) Peter was delivered from prison by an angel causing his chains to fall off, opening the prison doors and leading him out. (Acts 12:5-10).
 - iii) God delivers from harm, by sealing the 144,000 Israelite witnesses in the Tribulation so they are preserved to complete their job of preaching the Gospel to the world.
- f) Strengthening and encouraging believers to continue preaching and serving God:**
- i) After setting the apostles free from prison, an angel encouraged them to continue preaching. (Acts 5:19-20).
 - ii) An angel appeared to Paul at sea in a storm predicting that he would be preserved from death at sea so he could preach at Rome. (Acts 27:23-25).
- g) Sent in answer to prayer:**
- i) Daniel prayed for Israel’s restoration to the land and an angel came to instruct him and answer his prayer. (Daniel 9:20-24).
 - ii) Daniel prayed and fasted, so God sent an angel to give him the detailed history of the next 300 years. (Daniel 10:10-12).
 - iii) When Herod imprisoned Peter, the church prayed for his release without ceasing, and God sent an angel to deliver him. (Acts 12:1-17).
- h) Carrying believers to heaven:**
Angels carried Lazarus’ spirit to paradise at death (Luke 16:22).
Michael disputed with Satan over Moses’ body (Jude 9).
Scripture shows that the Holy Spirit’s and angels’ ministry differs as follows:

Angels

1. External and physical.
2. Minister for us.
3. Guard our bodies and pathway. right way.
4. May be agents to answer prayer.

Holy Spirit

1. Internal and Spiritual.
2. Minister in us.
3. Guards our spirits and guides us the right way.
4. The Prompter and Director of our prayers (Romans 8:26,27).

- i) Angels **observe believers**. Angels learn and develop from observing the work of God and men on earth in this church age. Luke 12:8,9; 1 Corinthians 4:9, 11:10; “I charge thee before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels....do nothing by partiality.” 1 Timothy 5:21.
- j) Angels **execute judgment on unbelievers and nations**. For example: Herod was eaten of worms (Acts 12:23), and Sodomites were blinded and destroyed (Genesis 19:13,11).
- k) **Future work** of angels. They will gather the elect when Christ returns. (Matthew 24:31). They will separate the saved from the lost at Christ’s coming. (Matthew 13:39,49,50).

Question: What do they observe?

- i) **Salvation**. They aim to learn more about God as they observe the operation of salvation in people. “of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently which things the angels desire to look into.” 1 Peter 1:10-12.
As angels learn and develop, they can worship and serve God with more understanding and devotion.
- ii) **Worship**. Angels observe worship in a local church, looking for evidence of woman’s subjection to man. “For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.” 1 Corinthians 11:1-10. A woman’s long hair (v.15) or head covering evidenced her submissive condition of heart, as she worshipped God. (v.3).
- iii) **Work and witness**. Angels observe the ministry of each believer in any local church. Paul charges Timothy before God and the holy angels to administer his church impartially, “I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.” (1 Timothy 5:21).
Paul describes the Apostles and all believers as a public spectacle involved in a life and death struggle with Satan over the souls of men. God, Satan, man, good and evil angels, watched the Apostles and believers fighting daily for the souls of men. “We are made a spectacle unto the world, to angels, and to men.” (1 Corinthians 4:9).
When a sinner understands the gospel and repents, the angels rejoice from their “grandstand” in heaven. (Luke 15:10). Angels will hear Christ confessing or denying people who confessed or denied Him on earth before men (Luke 12:8,9); Angels will witness the rewarding of believers. (Matthew 16:27). The fact that angels observe us should cause us to walk soberly in dedication, dependence on Christ, and in dignity.

IX. ACTIVITY AND WORK OF EVIL ANGELS (DEMONS)

Under Satan's control are a great number of evil spirit beings known as demons, authorities, principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, etc..

These are symbolised in Scripture by:

1. Fowls of the air. (Matthew 13:4,19).
2. Unclean and hateful birds in a cage. (Revelation 18:1-3).
3. Unclean frogs (Revelation 16:13,14).
4. Locusts from the bottomless pit. (Revelation 9:1-10).

The activity of demonic spirits is summarised as, "The thief cometh to steal, and to kill, and to destroy." (John 10:10).

These spirits attack mankind spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically and morally.

Examples of this are:

1. They **oppose** God's servants by "taking away the word sown." Matthew 13:19.
2. They **hinder** the Gospel: "but Satan hindered us". 1 Thessalonians 2:18.
3. They **take** people captive: "who are taken captive by him". 2 Timothy 2:26.
4. They **blind** unbelievers' minds. 2 Corinthians 4:4.
5. They **sow tares** (children of the devil) among wheat (believers in a local church), to destroy its outreach. Matthew 13:39.
6. They **seduce** people to believe error so as to stop them achieving God's plan for their lives. They seek to lead astray, tempt, corrupt, and to cause people to be obsessed with false ideas. 1 Timothy 4:1; Mark 13:22; 1 John 2:26.
7. They **trouble** people as in the case of Saul (1 Samuel 16:14).
The Hebrew word for "trouble" means "to terrify, to make fearful or afraid."
It means agitation of mind, perplexing and uneasiness.
8. They **oppress** people: "healing all that were oppressed of the devil." Acts 10:38.
"Oppress" means to "overburden in body or mind."
9. They **vex** people, meaning "to suffer at the hands of another, to harass, to mob, to experience pain" (Acts 5:16; Luke 6:18); "Vexed with unclean spirits".
"My daughter is grievously vexed with a devil." (Matthew 15:22).
10. They **bind** people: "whom Satan hath bound these 18 years." Luke 13:16.
This means "to tie up, confine, to fasten by binding cords around".
11. They **deceive** people: This is a sign of Christ's return. Matthew 24:4,5,11,24.
12. They **possess** people. They occupy, own and indwell a person, sometimes causing lunacy, blindness, and dumbness. Matthew 4:24.
13. They **buffet** people, meaning "to hit with blow after blow, to punch, to slap, and to fight against." 2 Corinthians 12:7.
14. They **resist** people, meaning they "stand up against, to act as an adversary, and to oppose." Zechariah 3:1-3.
15. They **torment** people (Revelation 9:1-11; 16:13-14).
16. They **wrestle** against us (Ephesians 6:12), seeking to pin us to the ground so we achieve nothing for God, or to throw us out of the ring or race of life for people's souls.

Question: What do we have to oppose them and to defend ourselves?

Answer: The Lord has given the believer mighty spiritual weapons to defeat the attacks of Satan:

1. **The Word of God.** Satan's power to deceive is due to people's ignorance of God's Word. God's people are often destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). Jesus used the Word of God when He said "it is written" to defeat Satan (Matthew 4:1-10).
2. **The Whole Armour of God.** Ephesians 6:10-18. Truth, righteousness, gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of the Spirit, praying and watching.

3. **Jesus Christ living in us.** At salvation, Jesus Christ, the Father and the Holy Spirit indwell the Christian. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. (1 John 4:4).

4. **The Filling and Power of the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit filled believer has the power to withstand, fight and conquer all the power of the enemy.
"If I cast out devils by the Spirit of God."
"First bind the strong man, and then he will spoil his goods." Matthew 12:28,29.

5. **Fellow believers in a local church.** "Nevertheless, God that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus." 2 Corinthians 7:6.

A reason for coming to church is for comfort, as believers use spiritual gifts to help each other.

6. Good angels ministering to us.
7. The Name of Jesus Christ. Acts 16:18.
8. The Blood of Jesus Christ cleansing us from sin. Revelation 12:11.

X. JESUS CHRIST'S SUPERIORITY TO ANGELS.

The Book of Hebrews in showing Christ's perfection and superiority to the Old Testament system and persons, begins by showing Christ's superiority to angels, who were highly esteemed by the Jews.

In Hebrews 1:2,3 **Christ is given a seven-fold exalted position** as:

1. **Heir of all things.** v.2. As the Son of God He is possessor or Lord of all things. All things are His
"All things that the Father hath are mine." (John 16:15; 17:10).
An heir is one who acquires anything. The title "heir" denotes His rank and dignity.
2. **By whom also he made the worlds.** v.2. (eternity, the universe).
Christ is the agent of creation, the Creator Himself. John 1:3,10; Colossians 1:16; Ephesians 3:9; 1 Corinthians 8:6.
3. **Who being the brightness of His glory.** v.3.
Brightness means radiated splendour. The rays of the sun are its "brightness", or that by which the sun is seen and known. The sun itself we do not see; the beams which flow from it we do see. Hence, if God the Father be represented as the Sun ("The Lord God is a sun.." Psalm 84:11; Malachi 4:2), then Christ is the radiance of the sun. He is that by which we perceive or know God. "Neither knoweth any man the Father save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him." (Matthew 11:27). As the sun's rays are of the same substance as the sun, so is Christ of the same substance (full Deity) as God the Father.
"Glory" means praise, applause, honour, dignity, splendour, dazzling light, excellence and perfection of God as resembling a bright light. This word is applied to:
 - the sun and stars. (1 Corinthians 15:40,41).
 - to the light Paul saw on the Damascus road. (Acts 22:11).
 - the shining of Moses face. (2 Corinthians 3:7).
 - the celestial light surrounding the angels. (Revelation 18:1).
 - to glorified saints (Luke 9:31,32).
 - to the dazzling splendour or majesty of God enthroned. (2 Thessalonians 1:9).
4. **The express image of his person.** v.3.
"Express image" means a character stamped. Christ is the exact resemblance of the Father, as an image is of the stamp. "Who is the image of the invisible God." Colossians 1:15.

5. Upholding all things by the Word of His power. v.3.

Christ upholds or sustains the universe by His powerful word or command.

Proof that Christ is God omnipotent:

- God spake, and it was done. (Psalms 33:9).
- Jesus commanded the waves and winds, and they were still. (Matthew 8:26,27).
- Jesus spoke to diseases and they departed, to the dead and they arose.

6. He had by Himself purged our sins.

By Himself = not by blood of bulls and lambs, but by his own blood.

Purged = purified, expiated (John 15:2)

= having made purification for our sins.

Cleansing us from all sin is why Christ came (1 John 1:7). Having done this:

7. He sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on High, His work of redemption being finished.

In Hebrews 1:4-14 we find **seven Old Testament quotations**, all of which prove the **superiority of Christ to the angels**. They are:

1. Christ has a **more excellent name**, "my Son" than the angels. 1:4,5.

This is quoted from Psalm 2:7, "The Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee." Paul pinpointed the day of this begetting as the resurrection of Jesus Christ in Acts 13:33, "God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath **raised up Jesus** again; as it is also written in the second Psalm, Thou art **my Son**, this day have I begotten thee."

The name "sons of God" is applied to Christians (John 1:12; 1 John 3:1,2) and to angels (Genesis 6:2,4; Job 1:6; 2:1), but the argument here is that the name "my son" has never been given to any angel in particular.

From eternity past, Jesus Christ was God the Son.

At His incarnation, He humbled Himself to become a man.

In His resurrection He glorified His humanity, receiving back the eternal glory He had veiled.

2. Christ has a **better relationship** as the **Son of David**. 1:5.

This is quoted from 2 Samuel 7:14 "I will be his Father, and he shall be my son."

This promise was given to David to have a permanent heir/descendant to sit on His throne, to comfort David, after God forbid him from building the Temple. The immediate application was to David's son, Solomon, whom God would love and discipline as a son (Psalm 89:27). The ultimate application is to Jesus Christ as the greater than Solomon, and the fulfiller of the Davidic Covenant.

3. Christ receives **worship of all angels**. 1:6. "Let all the angels of God **worship** Him." God commanded all the angels to worship Christ, which proves that Jesus Christ is God. None of God's angels would worship a mere creature, or heaven would be full of idolaters. Jesus Christ is not Michael the archangel, because Michael must worship Jesus as well. We only worship God, never a creature. "Worship him, all ye gods (angels)." Psalm 97:7.

4. Christ is **served by angels**. 1:7. "And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire." This is quoted from Psalm 104:4. Angels often served Christ when He was on earth. (Matthew 4:11; Luke 22:43). Angels obey God's will as the wind (spirits) and lightning (flame of fire), while the Son is Lord of all.

5. Christ is called "**God enthroned**". 1:8. This is quoted from Psalm 45:6,7:

"But unto the Son he saith, **thy throne, O God**, is for ever and ever..."

Christ's deity is proven here by Him **owning the throne**, and by Him **being called "God"**.

i) Angels minister before the throne, they do not sit on the throne.

Psalm 110 teaches that Jesus Christ is now enthroned in glory, but not yet enthroned on earth. Both God and the Lamb own the one throne in heaven."

"...proceeding out of the throne (of God and of the Lamb)." Revelation 22:1.

"but the throne (of God and of the Lamb) shall be in it." Revelation 22:3.

ii) The Father here calls the Son "God", proving Jesus Christ's Deity.

6. Christ is the **Eternal Creator** of all things. 1:10,11,12.

"And, Thou Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the **earth**; and the heavens are the works of thy hands. They shall perish but thou remainest...."

This is quoted from Psalm 102:25-27 being addressed to YHWH.

Here in Hebrews 1:10-12, the writer applies it to Christ, hence calling Christ YHWH God. The angels did not lay the foundation of the earth, only Jesus Christ as God did that. He will one day fold up and change the old creation into a new universe. Everything around us changes, but Jesus Christ never changes, He is the same yesterday, and today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

7. Christ as **King of Kings sits on the Father's right hand** (1:13,14), the place of honour. This quotes Psalm 110:1. Christ applies this passage to Himself in Matthew 22:43,44.

Peter applies it to Christ in Acts 2:34,35 "until I make thine enemies thy footstool," means to reduce Christ's enemies to entire subjection. Ancient warriors stood on the necks of conquered kings as a sign of complete triumph over them.

Conclusion: No angel can lay claim to any of the above attributes of Christ.

Christ is fully God and fully man. Angels serve Christ and us who are saved.

XI. **SATAN'S TACTICS.**

"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." 2 Corinthians 2:11.

Aim: To war a good warfare we must know our enemy's devices and put on the whole armour of God to defeat Satan's devices.

1. **THE NAMES OF SATAN**

- a) The Anointed **cherub** who covers. Ezekiel 28:14,16. Before he fell, he was a high ranking guardian for God. "Anointed" means that he had a special position.
- b) The **Prince of this world**. John 12:31; 16:11. Satan rules a world of unsaved men and fallen angels.
- c) The **Prince of the power of the air**. Ephesians 2:2.
- d) The **Prince of demons, Beelzebub**. Matthew 12:24; Luke 11:15.
- e) The **god of this world**. 2 Corinthians 4:4. His job is to blind the minds of unbelievers, lest they be saved.
- f) **Lucifer**. Isaiah 14:12, son of the morning.
- g) **Satan** means adversary or opposer. Zechariah 3:1; Revelation 12:9. He opposes God, His program and His people. This name occurs 52 times in the Bible.
- h) The **Devil** (35 times used). Luke 4:2,13; Revelation 12:9 means slanderer, one who trips up. He utters maliciously false reports that injure another's reputation. He seeks to slander God, Christ and believers.
- i) The **Old Serpent**, identifies his crafty deception, as with Eve. Revelation 12:9; Genesis 3:1,14
- j) The **Great Dragon**. Revelation 12:3,7,9 portrays him as a terrifying, destructive beast seeking the total devastation of Christians.

- k) The **Evil one**. John 17:15; 1 John 5:18. The Greek noun “ho poneros” shows Satan to be intrinsically wicked and corrupt, who seeks to corrupt others. The Greek article “ho” shows Satan to be a specific person, not just evil as a concept. Christ prayed to keep believers from the power of the evil one (John 17:15) in which the whole world lies (1 John 5:18).
- l) **Destroyer**. Revelation 9:11. Satan destroys physical and spiritual life.
- m) **Deceiver**. Revelation 12:9; 20:3. He continuously deceives the whole world, until Christ returns to defeat him. Too many Christians are ignorant of the “wiles of the devil”. Eph. 6:11.
- n) The **spirit that now works in the children of disobedience**. Ephesians 2:2.
- o) **Murderer**. John 8:44.
- p) **Liar**. John 8:44.
 - He abode not in the truth.
 - There is no truth in him.
 - It is his nature to lie.
 - He is a liar and the father of lies.

2. SATAN'S ACTIVITY AND TACTICS

Satan opposes and attacks God, nations, unbelievers and Christians.

a) GOD:

i) Satan opposes **God's person**. Since Satan desired to be like the Most High, so his power and activities are directed against God. His attack on Adam was really an attack on God's character and control (Genesis 3:1-5). Satan induced Cain to murder Abel, a man of God (1 John 3:12). God is love and promotes love, whereas Satan is hateful and promotes hate (1 John 3:7-15). God is life & creates life, whereas Satan seeks to bring death (Hebrews 2:14).

ii) Satan opposes **God's program**:

1. He introduces counterfeit lying **philosophies**. He may deny God's existence or control of affairs (Psalm 14). To explain the universe, he substitutes evolution for creation, human progress for the need of divine salvation. He substitutes atheism, agnosticism and relativism for God's truth.
2. He introduces counterfeit lying **religions**. Here we find:
 - **False ministers**, Satan's ministers who transform themselves into angels of light (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). Satan may gain control of theological colleges or churches through a board of deacons or a disobedient preacher. He seeks to control and destroy a church's work for God.
 - **False doctrines**, which he spreads through demons “doctrines of devils” (1 Timothy 4:1-3), who teach righteousness by works.
 - **False Christs**. (1 John 2:18,22; 4:3).
 - **False followers**. Matthew 13:38,39. These profess to believe in Christ, but are Satan's counterfeits. These will sow discord among the brethren. Proverbs 6:19.

b) **NATIONS**: He deceives the nations, leading them astray from God's truth. At Christ's return, Satan will be bound for 1,000 years “that he should deceive the nations no more.” (Revelation 20:3). Upon his release he will go out to deceive the nations again. (Revelation 20:7,8-10). “The devil that **deceived** them was cast into the lake of fire...” (Revelation 20:10).

He is the “god of this world”, including unsaved men and evil angels. (2 Corinthians 4:4). He offered the nations to Christ in the wilderness temptation. Christ did not dispute Satan's right to make this offer, but Christ refused Satan's quick way of

obtaining rule of the earth. (Matthew 4:8-10). Satan influences nations to oppose Israel and Christians (Daniel 10:13,20; “but Satan hindered us” 1 Thess. 2:18), and the spread of the gospel. During the tribulation, he will control the world through the Antichrist.

c) **UNBELIEVERS**: Satan prevents people from accepting God's truth by:

- i) **Snatching away the gospel** (Luke 8:12). Some people who hear the gospel are prevented from understanding it, lest they believe it and are saved.
- ii) **Blinding people's minds to the gospel** (2 Corinthians 4:3,4). He puts a barrier in people's minds to understanding the gospel. Perishing sinners hence think that the gospel sounds foolish and irrelevant (1 Corinthians 1:18).
- iii) **Building false religions** (1 Timothy 4:1-3). He uses men who preach lies of salvation by human works, or he persuades men that there is no need of salvation, only progress.
- iv) **Promoting a false lifestyle** (Ephesians 2:1-4) “In time past ye walked according to the course of this world....fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind”. The philosophy of the age or “course of this world” is self-centred and self-promoting. It is based on pleasure, possessions and position. “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world....” (1 John 2:15-17). Satan energises the “sons of disobedience” to follow the world. Unbelievers being satisfied with the things of this world and materialism are kept from desiring a relationship with the living God.

d) **SATAN'S OPPOSITION TO CHRISTIANS**: He seeks to defeat believers in their personal life and service to Christ. The wise Christian will be aware of Satan's tactics and guard against them (2 Corinthians 2:11), some of which are:

- i) **Warring** against Christians. What appears to be human opposition may really be Satan's attacks. We are not wrestling against “flesh and blood”, but against spiritual forces of wickedness in high places (heavens). We must put on the whole armour of God to counter these attacks. Ephesians 6:10-18.
- ii) **Accusing and slandering** Christians. Revelation 12:10. As the “devil” means slanderer, so he accuses us before God for our sins and imperfections. He slanders one believer against another, causing break in fellowship due to imagined wrongs of another believer. This is done to get believers out of good, soul-winning, missionary-minded churches, and hence to weaken the gospel outreach in the world. He also works on Christians with **untaught consciences** to engulf them in continual guilt and fear in order to cause them to hate the preacher for preaching against sin, when all they need to do is to confess and forsake their sins to remove their guilt.
- iii) **Planting doubts**. Satan seeks to get us to:
 - Doubt God's goodness.
 - Doubt God's Word.
 - Doubt God's concern for us.
 - He emphasises God's restrictions as unjust (Genesis 3:1).
 - He claims that God's warnings and Word are untrue. (3:4).
 - He claims God's interests as selfish, and limiting to man's development. (3:5).
 Hence, he maligns God's character and challenges God's authority.

iv) **Tempting us to sin**:

- a) To **lie** (Acts 5:3). Satan is the father of lies, and he tempts others to lie. To lie is to tell a falsehood in whole or in part for personal gain, and to the loss and hurt of another.

- b) To **sex sins**. (1 Corinthians 7:5; 6:13-20). Satan presents a philosophy of the priority of bodily satisfaction. Fornication, adultery, homosexuality or masturbation comes from a preoccupation with bodily needs. These are based on false self-gratification. God has provided marriage for the normal expression of sexual needs.
- c) To **occupation with this world**. (1 John 2:15-17; 5:19). The world is Satan's system built on self-promotion. Its philosophy and practice are anti-God. Satan seeks to influence and defeat us through "the lusts of the flesh" (pleasures), "the lusts of the eyes" (possessions), and the boastful "pride of life" (self-promotion). These attitudes affect all of us to some extent, knowingly or unknowingly. Some, such as Demas (2 Timothy 4:10) have fallen for it.
- v) To **relying on human strength and wisdom**. (1 Chronicles 21:1-8). Satan tempted David to have confidence in the number of His soldiers, and Peter to resist Jesus on the basis of his human wisdom. He moved the Corinthians to judge Paul's message and ministry according to human wisdom as being foolish and weak (1 Corinthians 1:18-25). Satan tries to get us to rely on our strength and wisdom because he can easily defeat what is purely human, since it is not based on God's word or power.
- vi) To **pride in spiritual matters**. (1 Timothy 3:6). Satan attacks church leaders in order to destroy congregations. Hence Paul urged novices not to be pastors, lest being lifted up in pride, they fall. Any spiritual ability carries with it the danger of self-satisfaction and self-confidence which gives Satan an opportunity.
- vii) To **discouragement**. (1 Peter 5:6-10). Satan would have us occupied with our difficulties and overcome with our cares. Peter tells us to cast all our cares upon Christ, for He cares for us. He then tells us to beware of Satan walking about as a roaring lion seeking to devour us. (1 Peter 5:7-8). Persecution, rejection, lack of appreciation, physical and spiritual difficulties may lead us to discouragement, despair and to defeat.
- viii) **Persecution**. (Revelation 2:10).
- ix) **Preventing service** (1 Thessalonians 2:18). Satan once thwarted Paul from coming to help the Thessalonians.
- x) **Infiltrating local churches** through:
 - a) false teachers – we must test all things by God's Word.
 - b) false disciples - Satan sows evil seed.
- xi) **Promoting division**. Strife and anger give the devil a chance to promote division (Ephesians 4:26,27).
- xii) **Counterfeiting**. When Satan said, "I will be like God," he meant that he wanted to be worshipped as God. Thus he set up a rival religion, a complete imitation of all that God does, as seen in this list of counterfeiters:
 - Satan has a throne (Revelation 2:13).
 - Satan has doctrines of devils (1 Timothy 4:1).
 - Satan has a synagogue (Revelation 2:9 and 3:9).
 - Satan has a cup of devils and a communion table of devils (1 Corinthians 10:21).
 - Satan has a counterfeit fellowship with devils (1 Corinthians 10:20).
 - Satan transforms himself into an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14).
 - Satan has ministers that appear as ministers of righteousness (2 Cor.11:15).
 - Satan has false apostles (2 Cor.s 11:13), and false prophets (2 Peter 2:1).
 - Satan has a Kingdom (Matthew 12:26).

- Satan does counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders (Revelation 16:14).
- Satan has a harlot church, Mystery Babylon to counterfeit the bride of Christ. (Rev. 17:5).
- Satan and his demons seek to be worshipped (1 Corinthians 10:20; Matthew 4:8-10; Revelation 9:20).
- Satan counterfeits the Holy Trinity, with his unholy trinity of Satan, Antichrist and the False Prophet.
- Satan wants to live in human bodies as the Holy Spirit does (John 13:27; 1 Cor. 6:19).
- Satan seals his followers with a name in their forehead which is the counterfeit of God's Name on His peoples' forehead. (Revelation 13:16 with 7:1-3).
- Satan counterfeits believers baptism by immersion with infant sprinkling.

XII. HOW MAY A DEMONICALLY OPPRESSED PERSON RECEIVE DELIVERANCE?

He must:

1. **Receive Christ as Saviour**. In Christ there is the position and power for deliverance.
2. **Confessing sins to God**. A person must judge his personal involvement in occult practices as rebellion against God and as the sin of siding with Satan. (1 John 1:9). They must confess family occult sins even back to grandparents. Daniel 9:4-6; Nehemiah 1:5-6.
3. **Remove occult objects, books, music, images**.
Godly King Asa "took away the **altars** of the strange gods, and the high places, and broke down the **images**, and cut down the **groves**: and commanded Judah to seek the Lord God, and do the law and commandments....the Kingdom was quiet before him." (2 Chronicles 14:4,5). Ephesian converts destroyed their occult books (Acts 19:17-20). Many occult objects have a demon invoked curse on them, and open the door for Satan's influence. Occult friendships should be broken because they will try to pull you back.
4. **Submit to God, resist the devil** and he will flee from you (James 4:7). Christ promises forgiveness and deliverance to those who call upon His name for deliverance from the occult. Be confident about our position and authority in Christ.
5. **Cultivate your Christian life and gospel presentation**. Get busy serving God. The devil finds great opportunity to tempt us if we are doing nothing for God. David gave into temptation when he should have been on the battlefield. (2 Samuel 11:1,2). We must be filled with the Holy Spirit daily. How? By:
 - a) Studying the Word of God daily brings growth and defence against Satan. (1 Peter 2:2)
 - b) Prayer achieves God's purposes as we ask and receive.
 - c) Christian fellowship at church brings encouragement and stability as we learn of God, praise God and encourage each other.
 - d) Sharing the gospel with the unsaved will strengthen our faith and knowledge, as well as actively warring against Satan. Unselfish dedication to God's work will assist in Satan's defeat, as we "love not our lives unto the death." (Rev.12:11).
 - e) We must put on the whole armour of God (Ephesians 6:10,18). When we do these things, we will resist Satan in God's power and take his strongholds in people's lives (2 Corinthians 10:3,4).

People may enter Satan's occult bondage by family heredity, personal experience, or transference from an occultic person.