



God's

Full

Circle

Rev. Charles E. Darnell, PhD

God's True Rainbow

This picture was taken by pilot Lloyd J. Ferraro at an altitude of 30,000 feet. A true rainbow is a full circle, however, we only see half of the rainbow, as an arc, from earth's surface.

Those who are of the PRIDE group have no idea of the meaning, or the beauty, of God's true rainbow! Their symbol is a counterfeit of God's true rainbow!

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Scripture quotations

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Published by
VisionQuest Publishing
Campbellsville, Kentucky 42718-7416



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The Publication Manual presents explicit style requirements but acknowledges that alternatives are sometimes necessary; authors should balance the rules of the Publication Manual with good judgment. Preface: p. xx.

God's Full Circle

Usually when we speak of a full circle as when telling a story, we have a beginning, the material that covers a certain length of time and then a summary of how the ending returns to the beginning. For the moment, it seems that there is so much going on around the world that the factor of time is moot. Do we, as a race of people, have any idea what is happening around the world? Do we stop to look at the history of six thousand years ago or what happened yesterday in the current war between Hamas and Israel? Why is it that the peoples of earth are having rallies around the globe to denounce Israel as an oppressive nation? Why are people shouting slogans of, "From the river to the sea!", indicating a desire to eradicate all the Jews in Israel? Has the Islamic religion made such inroads of expansion that the world is now Islamic and desires to kill all the Jews around the world? Do those who are marching and shouting really understand what these words and actions really mean?

Let's go a little deeper. How many of those who are marching and shouting these statements also claim to be New Testament Christians? Is this some form of social club of society that has no regard for truth, history, brotherly love or any other expression of thought that gives testimony to what they are proclaiming? Yet, as all of this is unfolding on any media outlet, there is the opposite that is also occurring at the same time. Look at the world as a whole! There are revivals occurring in South America, in Africa, and even in the Middle East in Iran and other countries in Asia. How do we explain what is happening, and what should we be doing to understand these things and to help, where we can, to have truth prevail as the accepted standard?

As a student of the religions of the world, there is only one Creator of the universe, His name is Yahweh and not Allah. The fact remains that these two are not twins, nor brothers, nor even first cousins two times removed. To my knowledge, Muhammad never proclaimed to be anything, or anyone, other than the one true prophet of Allah. The thought, that I don't seem to understand, is why Mohammad was not born until the year 570 CE? Is this to fulfill the statement that Muhammad was supposedly the last prophet? If that is correct, then why is it that the teachings of Muhammad do not connect to, nor continue to follow, the historical records already established by this date in the annals of the world. Even within Christianity, there is the recorded event that Emperor Constantine, and not God, changed the day for worship from Saturday to Sunday in the year 321 CE. If we take the birth of Muhammad and add 30 years for him to mature, then say that his ministry of the teaching of the Qur-án began in 600 CE, I have a very basic, but very big, question. Why didn't Muhammad, as the last prophet of god correct the change initiated by Emperor Constantine and have Saturday reinstated as the true day of worship commanded by God?

Now, we have, in a very small manner, placed two of the three religions that go back to Abraham as their legacy point into our discussion. Those two religions are Islam and Christian. The Hebrew people are the third portion of those who go back to the recorded annals of history and identify Abraham as their patriarch. When we look at the factor of time, we see Abraham being born at about 1921 BCE. Here is the major item of consideration that must be made. If Abraham was born in 1921 BCE, we must take into consideration that Yahweh established Abraham as the head of Yahweh's earthly family. The recorded history from this point, and going forward, must connect to established truth. If there is no connection, how can you claim that truth has moved along a line of continuation? Of these three religions, we can place three books as the guidebook for each religion. The Hebrew people have the Torah as their guidebook, Christians have the Bible as their guidebook and the Muslims have the Qur-án as their guidebook. Does the oldest of these guidebooks continue to carry the truth forward from one to the other. The answer is yes and no. All three contain similar stories in certain areas. There is the story of the flood of Noah in all three of these books. From that point on, we must view specific stories to understand whether the truth went forward or not!

Take for example, the story of the birth of the sons of Abraham. It is Ishmael that is taken into the wilderness to be sacrificed in the Qur-án. It is Isaac that becomes the one to be sacrificed in the Torah. This view is carried forward to the New Testament and we see that it is Isaac that was to be sacrificed. We can find the story of Noah in all three guidebooks. But, on the other hand, you will only find the story of Daniel and the lions den in two of these guidebooks. On the other side of this, you will find Mary and Yeshua recorded in the two guidebooks written after the BCE-CE break point.

Does any of this take us back to the beginning of creation? Once again, we must say yes and no. The Old Testament, or Torah, will provide the five books of Moses along with the Prophets and the Psalms. This would carry over to the New Testament as the result of prophecies recorded in the Old Testament. These things are not necessarily recorded in the Qur-án. But that only leads us to the point of understanding that to view Yahweh's plan at creation, we must go through the book called Genesis. We can only find Genesis in two of the guidebooks, the Qur-án does not establish the creation as a work conducted by Yahweh. The sad part of this is that many New Testament believers have never heard the stories in the Old Testament, nor have they read the Old Testament to seek the truth for the basis of what they do believe. In fact, in many points, current modern day Christians of the z-generation have no real basis for what they believe. It is more or less an adaptation of humanistic factors that this generation believes, and it has very little to do with what Yeshua taught in the New Testament. We must remember, that to be a true New Testament believer, we are to follow the modeling of Yeshua as our example for living out our life.

How do we get back to the beginning? We are speaking about a time when nothing was written as a record. Yet, there are those snippets of history that provide us the situation from the creation of Adam to the time of Abraham. We will use the sons of Abraham as our tie point by which all three of these religions, that we are viewing, converge at Abraham. Therefore, we must, out of necessity, begin our writings with the creation story as recorded in Genesis. So we begin!

Genesis 1:1, ¹*In the beginning, Yahweh created the heavens and the earth.* So much has been written about this one verse. Resting within this verse is a major conflict. Were all things created by Yahweh as stated here in this verse, or was it the process of evolution as stated by humans? The English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible provides very lengthy commentaries to define and explain many different viewpoints as recorded in the text. This is the first verse of the Bible and there is a lengthy commentary to provide knowledge to what this one verse might mean. Yes! In many things in life, a person is given two different views, and the decision must be made by the individual as to which view a person accepts as truth.

Please Recall my rule for this work: Certain modifications have been made within my writings in this work. If the text happens to be in the form of a commentary explanation, or as an emphasis in a selected passage, they will be inside of brackets [and in Arial typeface]. If the passage is a direct quote from the Bible, the quoted material will be in blue text, italicized and Times New Roman typeface. If inserted in an explanation, the Biblical passage will be inside of parenthesis (Gen 1:1, ¹*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*). All uses of the word God will be changed to Yahweh as God's true name, and the name Jesus will be changed to Yeshua, His Hebrew name. All pronouns, i.e., he, him, etc. used to denote God or Christ, will be capitalized, He, Him, etc.

[1:1 *In the beginning, Yahweh created.* The writer, assumed to be Moses, uses the phrase, "In the beginning," with the definite purpose of drawing attention to the fact that all things had a real beginning. Other ancient religions refer to things being created from something else that was already existing. But the Bible reveals Yahweh as the One who created everything out of nothing.] This can be shown by a verse from the book of Job. Job 26:7-8, ⁷*He stretches out the*

*north over the void and hangs the earth on nothing.*⁸ *He binds up the waters in his thick clouds, and the cloud is not split open under them.* [Yahweh is the One and only true and eternal, self-existing God (having forever existed in Himself) who reveals Himself in the first verse of the Bible as the Creator of heaven and earth. The full nature of Yahweh is explained as one continues through the Bible. The Scriptures reveal the primary concepts that help us know the nature of God. They reveal that He is all powerful. He is everywhere present. He is all-knowing. Yahweh communicates His moral qualities in addition to His full nature. He is good, holy and righteous. Other religions view history as an endless series of cycles. But the Bible presents history in a linear way, or with a definite beginning and a Yahweh inspired goal. Yahweh had a plan in creation, and He will carry it out.]

The first verse of the Bible contains several important truths. (1) Since Yahweh is the source of all that exists, human beings and nature are not self-existent, but rather owe their ability to live and exist to Him. (2) Everything that exists is good if it is in right relationship to Yahweh and dependent on Him for its highest purpose. (3) All life and creation can have eternal meaning and purpose. (4) As the Creator, Yahweh has sovereign rights, such as complete authority and control over all creation. That is, He can do whatever He desires in relation to all He has made. In a fallen, or damaged world, one in which people have chosen to defy Yahweh and go their own way, Yahweh exercises His rights by offering redemption. Redemption refers to Yahweh's plan to "reclaim" or "restore" individuals from a state of rebellion against Him and bring them back into right relation with Him.]

(Since there is another viewpoint existing, and held by many, we must also look at and review the theory of evolution. The ESV contains a very lengthy commentary identifying the difference between these two viewpoints. I am inserting the full commentary from the ESV for the theory of evolution.)

[The God of Creation: (1) Yahweh is revealed in the Bible as an infinite, eternal, self-existent Being, without beginning or ending, who is the First Cause (i.e., the original Source, Initiator and Creator) of all that is. A more simple way to think of this reality is that there has never been a moment when Yahweh did not exist. As Moses testifies, "*Yahweh, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*" (Psalms 90:1-2, with my emphasis from the NIV translation) Moses is saying that Yahweh existed eternally and infinitely. Yahweh is independent of and existed before all that was created in heaven and on earth. (2) Yahweh is revealed as a personal Being who created Adam and Eve "in His own image." Yahweh created man and woman like Himself so that they could respond to and have a relationship with Yahweh that reflected His love and other character traits. This is a picture of how Yahweh and humans can walk together in Godly unity. (3) Yahweh is also revealed as a moral Being who created everything good and without sin. After Yahweh had finished creating, He looked at what He had made and saw that it was "very good." Since Adam and Eve were created in Yahweh's likeness, they were also without sin. Sin entered human existence when Eve chose to respond to temptation. Satan used deception to entice Eve to do that which would not please Yahweh. That is yielding to temptation and rebellion against Yahweh. Therefore, she and Adam both made a choice to defy, or stand against, Yahweh's rule.

The Activity of Creation: (1) Yahweh created all things in "the heavens and the earth." The word "created" is used to describe activity that only Yahweh could perform and accomplish! This means that at a certain point in time each thing was not, then Yahweh spoke and it was!

(2) The Bible describes Yahweh's creation as being without any form or shape, empty and covered with darkness. At that time, the universe and the world did not have the order we see now. The earth was empty, lifeless and completely dark, but then, Yahweh created light. He gave orderly form to the universe, then He filled the earth with living things. (3) The method Yahweh used was the power of His word. Over and over the Bible states, "**And Yahweh said.**" That is to say, until Yahweh spoke the heavens and the earth into being, they did not exist in any form. (4) The term "Trinity" refers to the Three-in-Oneness of Yahweh the Father, Yeshua the Son of Yahweh and the Holy Spirit. All, that is the Oneness of Yahweh, had a role in creation. (a) Yeshua is the powerful Word through whom Yahweh created all things. The beginning of John's Gospel reveals Christ as the eternal Word of Yahweh (John 1:1-5, ¹ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Yahweh, and the Word was Yahweh.* ² *He was in the beginning with Yahweh.* ³ *All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.* ⁴ *In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.* ⁵ *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.* The apostle Paul writes that by Christ "*all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible ... all things were created through Him and for Him*", (Col. 1:16). The author of the letter to the Hebrews emphasizes that by His Son, Yahweh made the universe. (Heb. 1:1-14, ¹ *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, Yahweh spoke to our fathers by the prophets,* ² *but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the Heir of all things, through whom also He created the world.* ³ *He is the radiance of the Glory of Yahweh and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the Word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,* ⁴ *having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs.* ⁵ *For to which of the angels did Yahweh ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten You"? Or again, "I will be to Him a father, and He shall be to Me a Son"? ⁶ And again, when He brings the Firstborn into the world, He says, "Let all Yahweh's angels worship Him."* ⁷ *Of the angels He says, "He makes His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire."* ⁸ *But of the Son He says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.* ⁹ *You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore Yahweh, your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions."* ¹⁰ *And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of Your hands; ¹¹ they will perish, but You remain; they will all wear out like a garment, ¹² like a robe You will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will have no end."* ¹³ *And to which of the angels has He ever said, "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet"? ¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?") (b) The Holy Spirit also had an active role in creation. He is pictured as "hovering," or resting His presence over creation, preserving and preparing it for when Yahweh would speak things into existence. The Hebrew word for "Spirit" (ruah) may also be translated "wind" and "breath." This is how the writer of one of the psalms describes the Holy Spirit's part in creation: (Ps. 33:6, ⁶ *By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath (ruah) of His mouth all their host.*) The Holy Spirit continues to be involved in keeping creation as Yahweh spoke it into being.*

The Purpose and Goal of Creation: Yahweh had specific reasons for creating the world. (1) Yahweh created the heavens and the earth as a visible expression of His Glory, beauty, majesty and power. King David says, (Ps. 19:1, ¹ *The heavens declare the Gory of Yahweh, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.*) By looking at the entire created cosmos (from the very great size and various parts of the universe to the beauty and order of nature), we cannot deny the sense of awe or wonder for Yahweh, our Creator. (2) Yahweh created the heavens

and the earth in order to receive the Glory and honor He deserves. All the elements of nature show God's creative presence. The sun and moon, rocks and trees, rain and snow, rivers and streams, hills and mountains, animals and birds are all an expression of praise to His honor, to the God who made them. But Yahweh desires and expects to receive Glory and praise from human beings even more! (3) Yahweh created the earth to provide a place where His purpose and goals for humankind could be fulfilled. (a) Yahweh created Adam and Eve in His own image so that He could have a loving, personal relationship with people for all eternity. Yahweh designed people as triune, three-faceted beings (body, soul and spirit). Some have described the soul as the part of humankind that includes the mind, emotions and free will. With this part, we can choose to worship and serve Yahweh out of faith, love, loyalty and gratitude, or deny Yahweh and be disobedient. The spirit is a person's true God-given part of us that exists beyond death. This part of us will live forever either in heaven or hell. Once again, it is our personal choice where our spirit will spend eternity. Make it a wise choice! Sometimes we will find one of these three parts used in place of the other. (b) Yahweh desires this intimate relationship with humankind to continue. So He promised to send a Savior to redeem humankind from sin's consequences (results of our own sinful choices). In this way, Yahweh would have people who would enjoy and honor Him by living righteous and holy lives as He planned from the beginning. The book of Revelation records the culmination, or ultimate fulfillment, of Yahweh's purpose in creation. In it, the apostle John describes the end of history with these words: (Rev. 21:3-4, ³ *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of Yahweh is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and Yahweh Himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*)

Creation and Evolution: In much of the scientific and educational community today, evolution is the main view given for the origin of life and the universe. Bible-believing Christians should consider these four observations about evolution. (1) Evolution is a naturalistic effort (without any supernatural activity or element) to explain the origin and development of the universe. This view assumes that there is no personal, divine Creator who designed the world. Evolutionists believe that everything came into existence by a series of chance happenings, or random events that occurred over billions of years. Proponents, those who believe the idea of evolution, claim to have scientific evidence that supports their hypothesis. (2) The teaching of evolution is not truly scientific. According to the scientific method, all conclusions must be based on indisputable (unquestionable) evidence. That is evidence that cannot be denied by personal ideas or argument. The evidence must come from experiments that can be duplicated, or repeated over and over, with the same end results. However, no experiments could test and prove assumptions like the "big bang" theory about how the present universe started. Nor can it be proven that living beings developed gradually from the simplest to the most complex forms. This last point defies the second law of thermodynamics, which describes how physical matter tends toward disorder, not higher order, as it changes. Evolution is a hypothesis without scientific "evidence." Any hypothesis is a well-stated idea that can lead to more study in the search for proven, testable facts. But in science, a hypothesis is not evidence for offering something as fact. Accepting evolution requires faith in a human theory. In contrast, Yahweh's people put their faith in Yahweh's inspired and time-tested Word. Yahweh's Word reveals that He is the One who made all things out of nothing. (3) Change and development will occur within various species. For example, some species are becoming extinct. In fact, some species

no longer exist at all. On the other hand, we occasionally see new developments or mutations with species. But there is no evidence, not even in earth history or fossil records, which supports the theory that one kind of living thing ever evolved from a different species. Existing evidence supports the Bible, which says that Yahweh created each living creature “*according to its kind*”. (Gen 1:25, ²⁵ *And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.*) (4) Bible-believing Christians must also reject the theory called theistic evolution. This belief accepts most of the conclusions of naturalistic evolution, which is a belief in the development of the species from the first living cell to the present diversity of plant and animal species without intervention from Yahweh. Theistic evolution only adds that Yahweh actually started the evolutionary process. The problem for the Christian is that this theory contradicts the Biblical revelation of Yahweh’s active role in all aspects of creation, not just that He started the process. For example, Yahweh is the subject of every action verb in Genesis 1, except Genesis 1:12, which fulfills Yahweh’s command from verse 11, and the repeated phrase (“*there was evening and there was morning.*”) Therefore, the Bible teaches that Yahweh is not an uninvolved or passive supervisor of an evolutionary process. Yahweh is the active Creator of all things.]

(With that said and done, we have completed the ESV commentary pertaining to creation. However, that does not complete our study of the book of Genesis, and the stated fact that we must view the Biblical record until we arrive at the story of Abraham.

We will continue with Genesis in the following manner. We can pick up our Bible and read the story of creation through the various verses, but that will not give us the benefit of the explanation that may go along with the verse. I’ll let you read your Bible for the verse and will only place the examples, illustrations or explanations provided in the ESV. If there is something important, or needs further information, I’ll provide the verse(s) that we need to study.)

[1:2 ***Earth was without form and void.*** This verse begins to describe the process of Yahweh’s creation and introduces the Holy Spirit’s role in creation.

1:3 ***Let there be light.*** The Hebrew word for “light” is (**or**), and it refers to the first waves of light energy that came on the earth. Later, Yahweh placed “lights” (Hebrew *ma`or*, literally, light-bearers, v. 14) in the heavens. Some were to produce light, and others were to reflect light. The primary purpose of these light-bearers was to mark seasons, days and years (vs. 5, 14).

1:5 ***There was evening and there was morning, the first day.*** This phrase is repeated six times in this chapter (vs. 5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31). The Hebrew word for day is *yom*, which normally means a twenty-four hour period, or the daylight portion of the twenty-four hours (“day” as distinct from “night”). But, it can also refer to a time period of undetermined length (e.g. “harvest time”). Many believe the creation days were twenty-four hour days because each had an “evening” and a “morning”. Others believe that “evening” and “morning” simply means that each evening marked an end to that stage of creation and the next morning indicated a new beginning.] (These three references refer to commentary explanations that were given in *The Activity of Creation* on pages 3 and 4.)

[1:10 ***It was good.*** Seven times Yahweh states that what He created was “good”. Each part of Yahweh’s creation was exactly as He intended. Yahweh created the world to reflect His

glory, beauty, splendor, wonder and greatness. It was also His plan for the world to be a place where humankind could experience life and joy and have a relationship with Him for all eternity.

1:14 **Be for signs and for seasons and for days and years.** Yahweh intended for the sun, moon and stars to be signs drawing humankind's attention to Him. They also marked days, seasons and years. Astrology, the study of stars and things in heaven, and their influence on human activity, has twisted these intended purposes with the false theory that the stars and planets guide individuals' lives.] (With this last statement, we arrive at the beginning of Satan's influence upon humankind and the beginning of pagan worship. Not only was there the belief that the stars and planets could foretell a person's fate for a day, there was the belief that the sun and the moon should be worshiped as gods. **At this point we begin the circle of fate that we are now viewing.**)

1:22 **Yahweh blessed them.** Yahweh blessed all living creatures and declared nature and animals to be good. (1) Yahweh took great pleasure in His work and viewed it as very precious. In the same way, those who follow Yahweh should look at nature and all creation as beautiful and extremely valuable, something to be enjoyed. (2) Although the perfection of nature is now spoiled by sin, because of the acts and results of humanity's rebellion against Yahweh. It still expresses Yahweh's wonder, greatness and love for all people. In Yahweh's time, creation will be completely set free from the effects of sin and decay. Yahweh's people should continue to pray for this to occur.] (Rom. 8:18-30, ¹⁸ *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.* ¹⁹ *For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.* ²⁰ *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope* ²¹ *that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of Yahweh.* ²² *For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.* ²³ *And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.* ²⁴ *For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?* ²⁵ *But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

²⁶ *Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.* ²⁷ *And He who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of Yahweh.* ²⁸ *And we know that for those who love Yahweh all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.* ²⁹ *For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers.* ³⁰ *And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified.* Also, Rev. 21:1-2, ¹ *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.* ² *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from Yahweh, prepared as a bride adorned for her Husband.)*

[1:26 **Let Us make man.** In vs. 26-28, we read about the creation of human beings. More specific details about their creation and environment are found in 2:4-25. These two accounts work together to teach several things: (1) Both man and woman are Yahweh's special creation, not products of evolution. (2) Man and woman were both created in Yahweh's "image" and "likeness," which means they could respond to a unique personal relationship with Yahweh that reflects His love and character. Each person was created to know and obey Yahweh

willingly. (a) They possessed a moral likeness to Yahweh as sinless and holy creations, with wise minds, loving hearts and the desire to do what was right. Their personal relationship with Yahweh involved moral obedience and intimate spiritual union. When Adam and Eve sinned, by virtue of their disobedience to Yahweh's instructions, that moral likeness to Yahweh was corrupted, or made impure and was broken. Yahweh renews that original moral likeness in those who turn from their own sinful ways and trust Him to lead their lives through the blood of Christ and acceptance of Yeshua as their Lord and Savior. Yahweh foresaw the rebellion of Lucifer and laid down the plan for the renewing of the original moral likeness through the sacrifice of His Son, Yeshua. Yeshua willingly gave His perfect life through death to pay the penalty for our rebellion against Yahweh. (b) Adam and Eve possessed a natural likeness to Yahweh. They were created as personal beings with spirit, mind, emotions, self-awareness and power of choice. (c) Man and woman's physical characteristics also reflect Yahweh's image in a manner that is not true of animals. Yahweh gave humankind the same form in which He would appear to them. This is the form in which His Son, Yeshua, came to earth. (For a full explanation of the manner of form that Yeshua came to earth, read my booklet, *The Mystery That Satan Doesn't Want You to Know*. Available as a free download from my website, www.vqpub.org. Click on the *Our Booklets* button) (3) Being made in Yahweh's image does not mean that humans are divine beings. They have been created on a lower level than Yahweh and are dependent on Him. (4) All human life has continued through Yahweh's first created man (Adam) and woman (Eve). We should notice two things from this passage. First, notice that there are only two genders, male and female. Yahweh did not create any other genders, and He did not make a mistake when He created any particular individual. To think, or even to accept, anything beyond these two genders of creation is a deception tactic of Satan and demonic in its very nature! For our second point, notice also what it says, there is one man and one woman. Yahweh desired for humankind to have a family relationship, and this may only be achieved through one man and one woman. It cannot be achieved through two men or through two women. Both of these are an unnatural relationship which Yahweh calls an abomination. Our next entry will fully explain the family relationship.

1:28 **Be fruitful and multiply.** Yahweh commanded man and woman to reproduce and to rule over the earth and the animal kingdom. (1) The union of a man and a woman was to form family relationships. Yahweh stated this specific purpose and gave priority to the role of a godly family and the nurturing, or bringing up, of godly children in a world that turns from Him. It was also expected that this man and woman relationship would only be through a marriage between the man and the woman. This can be seen when we get to verse 24 of chapter 2. (2) Yahweh expected them to consecrate (to set apart, commit or reserve) everything on earth to Him. He expected Adam and Eve to take care of the earth in a way that would honor Him. (3) Yahweh placed the earth's future under their authority. When they defied Yahweh and rejected His instructions, they brought ruin, hardship and suffering to all creation. (4) Yeshua, the Christ, alone will restore the earth to its perfect purpose when He returns at the close of history.

This brings to a close our study of chapter 1, and we begin again with a review of chapter 2's notes and explanations.

2:3 **God blessed the seventh day.** Yahweh blessed the seventh day for both physical and spiritual reasons. It is to be a special day of rest and a memorial, or occasion for reflection and praise to Him, for the completion of His created work. Yahweh did not rest on the seventh

day of creation for His own sake, but as an example for us to follow. Rest is necessary for our spiritual, physical, mental and emotional well-being. Our Creator provided the Sabbath] (the seventh day of creation, which is our current day of Saturday and not Sunday.) [as a special blessing for His people, to renew and refresh themselves on a regular basis. He designed it as a day of rest, worship and fellowship with Him. Could this be a reference to a direct ancestral down line from Abraham to the many different peoples that are his offspring. (2) The other route could be the spiritual side. When you answer Yahweh's call and accept Yeshua as Christ, you become a part of the spiritually adopted children of Abraham. Did you happen to notice that Yahweh felt so strongly about the Sabbath that He included it in the Ten Commandments as Commandment number 4.] (Exodus chapter 20). Did you know that Yahweh even went so far that, eleven chapters later, when He gave the tablets of stone to Moses, He made a second covenant with the Hebrew people that was a specific test of their faith? This second covenant only involved the Sabbath: You can find this in Exodus 31:12-17, ¹² *And Yahweh said to Moses,* ¹³ *“You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, ‘Above all you shall keep My Sabbaths, for this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, Yahweh, sanctify you.’* ¹⁴ *You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death. Whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.* ¹⁵ *Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to Yahweh. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death.* ¹⁶ *Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever.* ¹⁷ *It is a sign forever between Me and the people of Israel that in six days I, Yahweh, made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day I rested and was refreshed.’ ”* Allow me to add three things to this passage. First, I believe that the statement “shall be put to death” is made by Yahweh, in the same manner as, the “you shall surely die” statement made to Adam in chapter 2, verse 17, as a spiritual death. Secondly, the term “Israel” used in verses 13, 16 and 17 was intended for the people of the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, however, in the New Testament when you accept Yeshua as Messiah you become part of spiritual Israel. This is not replacement theology where the church has replaced Israel. We must remember, as Christians, that we were the grafted in wild branch and Israel is the root stock. Thirdly, look very closely at verse 17, are you aware that this is a sign forever between Yahweh and all the people who have accepted Yeshua as Messiah. This sign (Yahweh’s sign) is the counter sign to the mark of the beast that is stated in the Revelation. Are you aware that the Roman church has rejected this commandment and removed it from their teachings? In fact, they went so far as to pressure Emperor Constantine to change the day of worship from the Sabbath to Sunday (the day of the sun, effectively changing the day of worship, established by Yahweh, to the pagan day of sun god worship) in 321 CE. This change is not supported by any text in the entire Bible. This change is not from Yahweh, but from man. There is no wonder that humankind is experiencing the havoc, devastation, confusion and disorderliness that is happening in the world at this date and time.)

[2:4 **The generations.** This second account of creation (2:4-25) does not contradict 1:1-2:3. It explains in greater detail the creation of man and woman, their environment and the results of their sin and rebellion against Yahweh. Chapter 2 gives details in a topical fashion, whereas chapter 1 gives the chronological details, or the specific order in which things occurred.

2:4 **The Lord God.** Another name for God is introduced in 2:4, the name “LORD” (Heb. YHWH, “Yahweh”. Elohim, the general name given in 1:1, emphasizes God’s greatness and power. But “LORD” is the personal name God uses to reveal Himself to His own covenant people. The name reflects His love and concern for the human race. It is used in situations where He is seen in direct relationship to His people or to nature. The words “LORD God”

coupled together point to Yahweh as the all-powerful Creator who has entered into a loving covenant relationship with humankind.] (While we are observing the name of God and the structure of creation, there is another interesting observation I've made in my collection of various Bibles. In the Interlinear Bible, containing Hebrew, Greek and English, the fourth word in Hebrew in Genesis 1:1 is Aleph Tav and it is not translated and carried forward to English Bibles. This is equivalent to the Alpha and Omega in the Greek or Latin versions. What this truly indicates is that Yeshua, the Word and creator force of Yahweh, was there at the beginning of creation. This could be translated as: "In the beginning Yahweh, through His Son Yeshua, created the heavens and the earth.")

[2:7 **A living creature.** Yahweh gave life to human beings in a special way that was different from all other living things. He specifically gave His life and breath to the first man, making human life higher than, and in a different category from all other forms of life. There is a unique relationship between supremely holy God and human life. Yahweh is the ultimate source of human life.] (There is one other interesting fact that is not stated in the Genesis account. Yahweh gave blood, as the other life giving ingredient, to all animal and human life. This was the mystery that Satan did not want mankind to understand. This is fully explained in my booklet, *The Mystery That Satan Doesn't Want You to Know!*, once again, freely available on my website: www.vqpub.org and click on the button "Our Booklets". Without blood humankind cannot exist in a living and breathing manner. This is also why Yeshua was sent to earth as a humanly born person, and the reason why it is by the blood of Christ that provides full payment for mankind's sins. The hidden secret is that Satan cannot counterfeit the blood of Christ, no matter what he does or what lies he tells. All spirits, good or bad, do not have blood, and it is only by the blood that repentance is possible. Satan, and all demonic spirits do not have blood and cannot be forgiven because they cannot repent.)

[2:8 **Garden in Eden, in the east.** The garden was located near the flood plain of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Some believe it was located in what is now known as southern Iraq. Others feel that the Bible does not give enough information to determine a specific location.] (I've always had a different idea about where the location of the Garden of Eden was. Please read verses 10-14, ¹⁰ *A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.* ¹¹ *The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.* ¹² *And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there.* ¹³ *The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush.* ¹⁴ *And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.* In verse 10, there is a river that flows out of Eden. Verse 8 states that Eden was in the east. We are also told that this river divided and became four rivers. These four rivers are named in verses 11-14: the first is the Pishon, the second is the Gihon, the third is the Tigris and the fourth is the Euphrates. We have three other hints mentioned. First, Eden is in the east, why not what we call today the "Middle East"? Secondly, the Pishon flows around the land of Havilah, and the third is that the Gihon flows around the land of Cush. We know that the Tigris and Euphrates are located east of present day Israel and that Havilah is represented on the Table of Nations as two different sections of Arabia, and finally, Cush is now known as Ethiopia. Let's name the country of Israel as Eden and the two rivers on the east of Eden are the Tigris and the Euphrates. The two rivers on the west of Eden are now known as the Nile River and the Red Sea. My theory is: The Garden of Eden lies within the middle of this vast landmass and is known today as Jerusalem. Wouldn't that explain a lot of things pertaining to Yahweh and Zion as His holy city? I fully understand that this is my opinion based on the clarity of these verses.)

[2:9 **Tree of life.** Two trees in the garden had special importance. (1) The “tree of life” was probably intended to make physical death impossible. It is related, and has reference, to eternal life in Gen. 3:22 and in Rev. 2:7. Yahweh’s people will have access to the tree of life in the new heaven and the new earth. (2) The “tree of the knowledge of good and evil” was designed to test Adam’s faith and obedience to Yahweh and His commands. Yahweh created humans as moral beings with the ability to freely choose. We choose whether to love and obey our Creator, or to disobey and rebel against His commands, guidelines and instructions.

2:15 **Put him in the garden of Eden.** Yahweh created the first man holy. He was pure and reserved for God’s purposes. He was free from sin and in perfect relationship with Yahweh. Adam was the peak of Yahweh’s creation and was given the responsibility of working under Yahweh’s direction. His work was to care for creation. This perfect relationship was lost when Adam and Eve disobeyed Yahweh’s instruction.

2:16 **Yahweh Commanded the man.** From the beginning of the history of the human race, Yahweh has expected obedience and acceptance of His Word as absolute truth. (1) Faith and obedience were the principles that would govern Adam’s relationship to Yahweh in Eden. Yahweh warned Adam that he would die if he rebelled against the will of Yahweh. Yahweh spoke specifically about not partaking from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam had to trust Yahweh’s commands because he did not yet know the reality of human death. (2) Yahweh gave this command as a moral test. It gave Adam a definite and intentional choice to believe and obey, or to doubt and defy his Creator’s will. (3) As long as Adam believed Yahweh and obeyed, he would enjoy eternal life and fellowship with Yahweh. But if he sinned by disobeying, he would experience moral disaster and suffer the tragic consequences of death.

2:18 **Helper fit for him.** Woman was created to be a loving companion for man and a helper for him. She was to share his responsibility and cooperate with him in fulfilling Yahweh’s purposes

2:24 **Leave his father and his mother.** Yahweh originally ordained marriage and the family unit as the first and most important institution on earth. Yahweh’s plan for marriage consists of one male and one female who become “one flesh,” united physically and spiritually. This instruction rules out adultery, polygamy, homosexuality, immoral living and unbiblical divorce. That concludes the notes and commentary of chapter 2.

3:1 **The serpent.** The “serpent” is later identified as Satan, or the devil. Satan evidently used his majestic shining appearance to deceive Eve into accepting a temptation.] (Observe the description of Satan in Ezek. 28:12-19, ¹² ... *Thus says Yahweh: “You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of Yahweh; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings.* (Lucifer means bright, shining (i.e., a morning star), yet, he was a walking musical instrument by virtue of his timbrels and pipes. Every time he opened his mouth a tone would come out. Now, in his rebellious state, he attempts to turn music into noise or a statement of sinning. I know that there are those who do not believe what I just said about Lucifer. Try this on for size, the morning stars also sang. Job 38:7, ⁷ *When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?* (NKJV) Lucifer, Satan, was a dazzling being.

Can you imagine either Adam or Eve looking at this being as he spoke the statement that they would not surely die. Actually, because of his pipes, he most likely sang this statement to God's created people. Satan's desire, at this time, was to defy God, to have God's creation also disobey God's rule.) *On the day that you were created they were prepared.* ¹⁴ *You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on My holy mountain; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.* ¹⁵ *You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you.* ¹⁶ *In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from My mountain, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.* ¹⁷ *Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you.* ¹⁸ *By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries; so I brought fire out from your midst; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth in the sight of all who saw you.* ¹⁹ *All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have come to a dreadful end and shall be no more forever."*) [Satan used the situation with Eve to attack Yahweh through His creation. He raised questions about Yahweh's motives and the truth of His Word. Adam and Eve believed Satan's deception and acted upon it. As a result, the curse of sin came upon humanity and Yahweh pronounced severe consequences on His creation, including the entire human race.

3:4 You will not surely die. Yahweh expects obedience to Him and acceptance of His Word as absolute truth. (1) Satan knew this and tried to destroy the woman's faith in Yahweh and His Word by raising doubts about His motives and instructions. Satan suggested that Yahweh did not really mean what He said. Here we have the first lie Satan proposed to a human being: denial of the judgment of death for committing sin. (2) One of the primary sins of people is unbelief in Yahweh's Word. It is doubting that He really means what He says about salvation, righteousness, sin, judgment and death. Satan's first persistent lie is that choosing to sin and rebel against Yahweh will not necessarily lead to separation from Yahweh and eternal punishment.

3:5 You will be like Yahweh. Satan has always tempted individuals to believe that they can be like Yahweh and decide for themselves what is good and what is evil, what is right and what is wrong. We see this over the daily newscast where secular humanism leads people to change Yahweh's rules, that good has become evil and evil has become good, and they can do as they please. (1) An unexpected result of trying to be "like Yahweh" was the reality that Adam and Eve separated themselves from Yahweh and became false gods to themselves. People still try to gain moral knowledge and make ethical judgments using their own reasoning rather than Yahweh's Word. But Yahweh is still the ultimate judge of what is right and wrong. (2) Scripture says that all who act like they are their own gods "shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens. This will also be the fate of the antichrist, who will claim "to be God".

3:6 The woman ... partook, and ... her husband ... with her. When Adam and Eve sinned, moral and spiritual death came immediately. Physical death came later. (1) Yahweh had said, "for in the day that you partake of it you shall surely die". Morally, Yahweh's life died in them, and their nature became sinful. They became morally corrupt and impure in contrast to Yahweh's perfect and pure nature. Spiritually, their former relationship with Yahweh was destroyed. Their former innocence was replaced by guilt and fear of judgment. Since then, every person born comes into the world with a sinful nature. This corruption of human nature

involves an innate desire and strong pull toward choosing the way that seeks satisfaction for self without concern for Yahweh or others. The sinful nature is passed on to all human beings. (2) The Bible does not teach that all sinned when Adam sinned, or that his personal guilt was placed on the whole human race. It does teach that Adam introduced the law of sin and death to the whole human race, and since then every person has chosen to go his or her own way. That is free will choice!

3:7 *They knew that they were naked.* When Adam and Eve lived in moral innocence, before their rebellion, nakedness was not wrong or shameful. However, after they sinned, the awareness of nakedness became related to sin and the corrupt condition of humanity. That is, this new awareness would lead to ungodly desires (i.e., the temptation to use Yahweh's given desires in ways that contradict His perfect plans for men and women). Because of the evil and immorality that nakedness and temptation would cause in the world, Yahweh decided that Adam and Eve should be covered. So, He made garments and clothed Adam and Eve. Now He commands all people to dress modestly. (1 Tim 2:9 notes, *Respectable apparel, with modesty.*) (1) Modesty involves dressing, in such a way, as not to draw attention to the body. It means presenting one's purity and honor. This principle is relevant in all situations and circumstances, but especially in worship and ministry settings that are meant to draw people's attention to Yahweh, not to each other. This principle applies to both men and women. (2) The fashion industry designs many items of clothing deliberately to accentuate the body sensually and sexually. It is a sad commentary on the church when Christians feel free to ignore Biblical standards for modest dress, and to embrace the world's fashion fads even though they are sensually designed in a day of sexual permissiveness. The church should act and dress in a distinctly different manner than a corrupt society that throws aside and ridicules Yahweh's desire for modesty, purity and restraint. How we dress is a significant part of the image we convey to others! A Christian's image should be immersed in their relationship with Yahweh; it should not be dictated by fashion trends or media images.)

3:8 *The man and his wife hid.* The awareness and guilt of sin caused Adam and Eve to avoid Yahweh. They were now afraid and uncomfortable in His presence. They realized that they had displeased Yahweh by defying His will. This sinful condition robbed them of the confidence to be close to Yahweh. In our sinful condition, we too are like Adam and Eve. However, Yahweh has provided a way to cleanse out guilty consciences, free us from sin and restore our relationship with Him. This "Way" to a renewed relationship with Yahweh is through His Son, Yeshua. Now, Yeshua came to earth and eventually gave His perfect life to pay the full penalty for our sins. Because of what Yeshua did for us, we do not have to turn away or hide from Yahweh. Instead, we can come to Him with the confidence that we will receive love, mercy, grace and help in times of need.

3:13 *Satan deceived me.* Satan used deception to cause the downfall of the human race. This is one of his main methods for leading people away from Yahweh and the truth. (1) The Bible teaches that Satan deceives and blinds the minds of those who do not believe Yahweh so that they may not understand the Gospel, which is the true message about Christ. (2) Satan deceives some people within the church who think they can live immoral lives and still maintain their relationship with Yahweh. They are spiritually blind in thinking that they still have a place in Yahweh's kingdom. Actually, in thinking in this manner, those who are deceived have shifted their alliance from Yahweh's kingdom of heaven to Satan's kingdom of hell,

which was created when Adam and Eve made the choice to defy Yahweh's will for them! Remember, Satan is ruler of this earth! (3) Deception will be Satan's primary means of leading many to rebel against Yahweh at the end of history. (4) All Christians must be committed through ongoing life-and-death struggles against Satan's deception. He will work to destroy their personal lives, marriages, families, schools, churches and work.

3:15 **He shall bruise Your head, and you shall bruise his heel.** This verse is the first hope of Yahweh's plan to defeat evil and restore His relationship with humankind. It predicts the full victory of Yahweh over Satan. It is the prophecy of a spiritual conflict between the woman's seed (i.e., Yeshua, the Christ) and Satan's seed (evil forces). Yahweh promised that Christ would be born of a woman and would be "bruised" by His unjust death on the cross. Yet, He would rise from the dead to completely "bruise" Satan, as He overcame sin and death in order to save the human race.] (At this junction, I must make a side trip for a moment. I have never heard a minister fully explain what the verses between verse 8 and 16 fully mean. I have been told that this is not spoken of because it might offend some of the members and they would give up their support for the church, or perhaps even withdraw from the church because they didn't like the thoughts that these verses might cause. Here are those verses with my added emphasis or explanation, verses 8-16, ⁸ *And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Yahweh among the trees of the garden.* ⁹ *But Yahweh called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"* ¹⁰ *And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."* ¹¹ *He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you taken of the tree of which I commanded you not to touch?"* ¹² *The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me some, and I did take."* ¹³ *Then Yahweh said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent beguiled (Strong's Hebrew 5377, (mentally, to lead astray), (morally, to seduce—beguile, deceive, X greatly, X utterly) me, and I did take."* ¹⁴ *Yahweh said to Satan, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly (Strong's Hebrew 1512, the external abdomen, belly (as the source of the fetus—belly) you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.* ¹⁵ *I will put enmity (Strong's Hebrew 342, from 340, hostility—hatred; 340, to hate (as one of an opposite tribe or party) hence to be hostile—be an enemy) between you and the woman, and between your seed (offspring) and her seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."* ¹⁶ *To the woman He said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."* In this day and age, there seems to be far too many women who rule over men, and far too many men whose rule is extremely harsh toward women. Both need to mutually respect one another, and both need to have a personal relationship with Christ.) If you have a problem with the concept that Satan had sexual relations with Eve, please explain why there are two genealogies in chapters 4 and 5? Cain's genealogy (as the seed of Satan) is given in chapter 4 and Adam's genealogy, through Seth, is given in chapter 5. Notice what is said in chapter 5, verse 3, ³ *When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.* Look carefully at the statements given in chapters 3 and 5. Cain is Satan's seed, Abel is Eve's seed and Seth is Adam's seed.)

[3:16-19 **I will surely multiply your pain.** The punishment placed on man and woman, as well as sin's effect on nature, was meant to remind people of the terrible costs resulting from sin and cause them to trust, obey and rely on Yahweh. The consequence Yahweh declared on humans, was meant to lead them back to dependence on Yahweh. (1) Eve's attempt to be independent from Yahweh and her husband would be turned into the opposite direction in an

even stronger desire to please her husband. This desire and dependence would bring a mix of suffering and joy, trouble and blessing. (2) Because of Yahweh's curse on nature, Adam and Eve would experience physical hardships and struggles. Eventually, physical death would come to them and all their offspring.

3:20 **Called his wife's name Eve.** There are some who do not realize that up to this point both the man and the woman were called Adam. It is here where Adam first called his wife "Eve," meaning "living," because she is the mother of all humanity for all generations.

3:22 **Knowing good and evil.** Adam and Eve had attempted to act and think on an equal level with Yahweh. They tried to set their own standards for life. To some extent, they did become independent of Yahweh and were able to decide what was good or evil. (1) Among humanity, those who do not know and trust in Yahweh, their human judgment is that which is far from what Yahweh intended, and they often decide what is good or evil for themselves. This was never Yahweh's will because He intended for us to know only good as we depended on Him and His Word. (2) All who accept Christ's forgiveness and confess Him as Lord, the loving Leader and Authority of their lives, will return to Yahweh's original purpose for their lives. They rely on Yahweh's Word to determine what is good, right and true. A moral compass is restored.

3:24. **He drove out the man.** Adam lost his perfect relationship with Yahweh and was banished from the garden. He would now have to depend on Yahweh to help him through a life of difficulties. In addition, Satan did gain a degree of power over the world through Adam and Eve's rebellion against Yahweh. The New Testament describes Satan as "the ruler of this world" (John 14:30; 2 Cor. 4:4; 1 John 5:19).] (John 14:30, ³⁰ *I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me.* 2 Cor. 4:4, ⁴ *In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of Yahweh.* 1 John 5:19-20, ¹⁹ *We know that we are from Yahweh, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.* ²⁰ *And we know that the Son of Yahweh has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Yeshua, the Christ. He is the true God and Eternal Life.* I would like to add two additional comments to these passages. First, Satan masquerades as an angel of light, 2 Cor. 11:14, ¹⁴ *And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.* Secondly, there are false teachers, ministers and prophets who teach a different gospel from that proclaimed by Paul, and the other Apostles. We can see this in Paul's writings before and after verse 14 of 2nd Corinthians, 11:12-13, 15, ¹² *And what I do I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do.* ¹³ *For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ...* ¹⁵ *So it is no surprise if his servants (Satan's), also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.)* [But Yahweh loved the human race so much that He determined to conquer Satan and evil. Yahweh's love acted by restoring His relationship with individuals and the authority over the world at the cost of His Son's (Yeshua's) earthly life.] (If Satan had understood Yahweh's plan for salvation, Satan would never have pushed the Jewish rulers into having Christ crucified. Yeshua paid the price for our sins by His blood. Satan cannot duplicate, nor counterfeit, the blood of Christ that was spilled for us, because of Yahweh's love for the human race that He created. Within chapter three of Genesis, we see the fall of man and the cost of rebellion. At the same time, we see Yahweh's hope and love for us in

the restoration of the original, intended relationship.) [That completes the notes and commentary for chapter 3.

4:1 **Adam knew Eve his wife.** The Hebrew word *yada'* (“to know”) that is used here is translated “knew.” The term is commonly used in the Bible when referring to marital and sexual intimacy. Notice that when Eve gave birth to her first son (Cain) she sincerely praised Yahweh for the child. Eve wanted to be sure to express gratitude to Yahweh for His love, forgiveness and help. This son, Cain, is the seed of Satan that is spoken of in chapter 3, verse 15. My understanding tells me that these are twins born. Abel, who is called her seed in verse 15, is the second son born.

4:3-5 **Brought to Yahweh an offering.** Yahweh accepted Abel’s offering because he presented it in true faith and dedication to God. Abel gave his best, and did so in the manner Yahweh had instructed.] (It is interesting to me that the full story about Cain and Abel was not commented on in the ESV notes. For the sake of explanation I’m inserting verses 2-6 from chapter 4. ² *And again, she bore his brother Abel* (Indicating twins to me). *Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground.* ³ *In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground,* ⁴ *and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering,* ⁵ *but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.* ⁶ *The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?”* There is a connection between this passage and verse 3:21, ²¹ *And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.* Please consider what this says and answer this question: How did Yahweh get skins from animals without causing the shedding of blood? It is this shedding of blood that was the reason Abel chose to present the fat portions of his flock to Yahweh as a portion of his offering. You normally do not get fat from an animal without the shedding of blood. Abel gave the firstborn of his flock, thus he was obedient to the rule of firstborn that Yahweh has expressed in so many ways (i.e., Passover and Yeshua as Firstfruit). He also repaid the blood that was shed for his parents to have garments. Recall, Yahweh made garments for Adam and Eve. I will have to say this about Cain and his offering: He brought it first, before Abel brought his offering.) [But Yahweh rejected Cain’s offering because He saw a heart that lacked faith as well as a selfish will. Therefore, Cain chose not to do what was right (he was Satan’s seed). Yahweh is pleased with our giving and gratitude only when we are committed to doing what is right according to His plans.

4:7 **Its desire is for you.** Yahweh describes sin as a tempting force or power that, like a wild beast or demon, is ready to attack and devour. But Yahweh graciously gives those who trust Him the ability to resist and overcome sin by submitting to His plans and power, and by relying on His Word. It is our choice whether we will yield to sin or overcome.

I am going to pass over the notes for 4:10, 4:11 and 4:15. These deal with the killing of Abel by his brother Cain, along with the curse that Yahweh placed on Cain and the mark on Cain.

4:16 **Cain went away from the presence of Yahweh.** Cain and his descendants were the pioneers (i.e., the first) of human civilization that lived as strangers to Yahweh. Humanistic societies imitate this kind of existence. They determine their own values and standards with no recognition of Yahweh or His Word. They attempt to overcome the curse, find pleasure and regain “paradise” (their utopia) apart from Yahweh. This system of the world is trying to save

itself by its own efforts rather than with Yahweh's help.] (Within this ideology, we are beginning to see the origin of pagan practices, with their own gods made by their hands and not by Yahweh's hands. They begin to worship the heavenly bodies, the sun, moon and stars. The worship practices often have sexual overtones with their ceremonies and feast days. Between this point and the flood of Noah, we shall see more and more of paganism coming into vogue among the descendants of both Cain and Seth. This occurred due to the intermarriage between these two half brothers' families and the influence of Satan and his demons. I feel certain that there are many who are reading this work and have thrown up their hands saying that this is all hogwash to them. Their mindset tells them that the Bible is all myth and that presumed fact can be determined by the vary fact that Moses, who wrote the first five books of the Torah (Christian's Old Testament) wasn't even alive when the stories of Genesis even happened. However, there is another viewpoint that many have never thought about. In those days of long ago, it was common for each family to have a storyteller in the family. These storytellers had great memories and had listened to the story of the family multiple times. They were then responsible to tell the next generation storyteller. Many of those who claim the stories in the Bible are myths will have to admit that they might have a storyteller in their family, and they know that this statement is true. Okay, let's go back to long ago when the stories of Genesis were actually happening. When we begin to read chapter 5 of Genesis, we see that life expectancy could be upward of 900 years. If a storyteller was in Adam's direct line and that line went to Noah, and that one of Noah's sons was also a storyteller, we could very easily see how Moses received the Genesis account, as well as other things that happened along the historical road of man's existence upon the face of this planet. Well, what if I can prove to you that this actually happened? Would you believe that there are only six people in the line between Adam and Moses to carry the stories of creation all the way to Moses? Even so, Yahweh spoke to Moses on the mountain and confirmed the stories that Moses had been told. Watch this: Adam lived 687 years and told the story to Methuselah (first pass), Methuselah lived 628 years and told the stories to Shem (Noah's son as second pass), Shem lived 452 years and told the stories to Isaac (Abraham's son and third pass), Isaac lived 77 years and told the stories to Levi (Judah's son and fourth pass), Levi lived 70 years and told the stories to his daughter, Jochebed, the wife of Amram (Moses' parents counted together as the fifth pass), Amram lived 61 years and told the stories to Moses (sixth pass). The line is not broken and was passed down through a total of 1975 years.

The Story Tellers: We are the chosen! Our feelings are that in each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. Those who are the story tellers put flesh on the bones of the ancestors and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow the ancestors know and approve. To us, doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but, instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the story tellers of the tribe! All tribes have one. We have been called, as it were, by our genes. Those who have gone before cry out to us: "Tell our story." So, we do! In finding them, we somehow find ourselves. How many graves have we stood before and cried? We have lost count! How many times have we told our ancestors they have a wonderful family and they would be proud of us? How many times have we told the descendants of our ancestors that they come from hardy stock of well educated people in many prominent positions. How many times have we walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was love there for us? We cannot say. Genealogy goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to who we are and why we do the things we do? It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference, and saying we can't let this happen. The bones here are bones of my bones and flesh of my flesh. It goes to doing something about the situation. It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish, and how they contributed to what we are today. It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, their never giving in or giving up, their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family. It goes to deep pride that they fought to make and keep us a free,

God-fearing Nation. It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us. That we might be born who we are. That we might remember them. So we do! With love, caring and recording of each fact of their existence, because we are them and they are us. So, as a scribe who is called, we tell the story of our family. It is up to the one called in the next generation to answer the call and take our place in the long line of family storytellers. That is why we seek our family genealogy, and that is what calls those young and old to step up and put flesh on the bones of the ancestors.

We do have an awesome God, He loves us and watches over us. If we will only accept His Son Yeshua as our Lord and be obedient to Him as our Lord, Yahweh will be there to help us in difficult times and He will be our Heavenly Father throughout eternity.)

[4:19 **Took two wives.** Lamech, the descendent of Cain, was the first to reject Yahweh's principle of monogamy, marriage to one spouse of the opposite sex. The effects of sin and immorality were becoming more evident in the home and family.

4:26 **Call upon the name of the Lord.** Apparently, Enosh (a son of Seth, a son of Adam) was a pioneer for public prayer and worship, Cain's ungodly family increased their self-reliance and started to center their lives around the secular arts and business. In contrast, Seth's family called "upon the name Yahweh" in order to express their dependence on Him. Two completely different family groups were developing on the earth: the godly and the ungodly (going back to the two seeds in 3:15). This completes chapter 4 notes.

5:1 **Book of the generations of Adam.** This chapter gives a list of Adam's descendants up to the time of the flood (which destroyed the earth during Noah's time). These names reflect those who stood for Yahweh in increasingly corrupt times. (1) Hebrews 11 mentions two of these individuals (Abel and Enoch) who pleased Yahweh by their faith. Each one refused to go his own way and defy Yahweh like Cain did. By the time of the flood, nearly everyone on the earth was wicked. Only eight individuals were saved from this overwhelming disaster. (2) There will always be some, at times only a few, who will worship Yahweh, remain faithful to Him, obey His Word and patiently trust His promises. They will be a minority. Yet Yahweh recognizes their names as He did the people in this chapter. Today, if we feel we are standing alone in our faith and obedience to Yahweh, we must remember that we are never truly alone. There are still thousands throughout the earth who remain faithful to Yahweh and His cause.

5:5 **All the days that Adam lived were 930 years.** The reason that people lived so long during Adam's time may have been because sin's corrupting influence had just started to affect the health of the earth and the physical bodies of all human beings. By Abraham's time, it was normal to live only about two hundred years.

5:6 **Seth ... fathered Enosh.** "Father" may mean "ancestor", not necessarily the immediate father. These genealogies, like other family histories in the Bible, were not intended to name every individual in the family line.

5:22 **Enoch walked with Yahweh.** Enoch (Sixth in line from Adam, if you count the downline, thus Enoch is the sixth generation from Adam. However, if you include Adam, as stated in Jude 14, Enoch is the seventh generation.) lived in godliness far more than anyone else previously. Notice what the Bible says about him. (1) He "walked with Yahweh." That means he lived by faith in Yahweh, trusted in His promises and made every effort to live a holy life. Because of

his “faith walk,” he enjoyed a deep and ongoing relationship with Yahweh. (2) Enoch’s lifestyle was a standard and challenge to the ungodly. Jude 14-15 tells us that Enoch actually spoke out against ungodliness and immorality. He kept warning people of Yahweh’s ultimate judgment on them for their ungodly conversation and behavior. (3) Enoch pleased Yahweh so much that Yahweh gave him a most unusual honor. Yahweh took him directly into His presence without going through the natural experience of death.

We should consider Enoch’s life as an example of how to live when surrounded by ungodliness. Believers should live in such a way, that it becomes clear to those around us, that we have a deep relationship with Yahweh and live to please Him. Yahweh’s love within us should make us speak out with boldness and compassion against sin and warn the ungodly so that they can escape Yahweh’s judgment against sinfulness. Most of all, we should be looking for Christ’s return to take us to be with Him forever.

5:24 **God took him.** Enoch’s entrance into heaven without experiencing death is evidence that righteous men and women, before Abraham’s time, also had the hope for a future life with Yahweh. This completes the notes for chapter 5.

6:2 **The sons of Yahweh.** The theory that the “sons of Yahweh” were angels is unlikely because Yeshua said that angels do not marry. Hold it, let’s back up and see what the Bible really says. We know that this is another area that most ministers will not touch with a ten foot pole. If the concept of sex enters the text, most ministers will not preach on that subject. Please answer this question: If Yahweh didn’t want you to know these things, and the sinfulness of mankind, why is it in His Word to be an example for us to avoid? What does the Bible say? The author of the ESV commentary notes makes the statement that Yeshua said that angels do not marry and gives two references. Here are those two references, Matt. 22:30 and Mark 12:25.] (First, Matt. 22:29-32, ²⁹ *But Jesus (Yeshua) answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God (Yahweh). ³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ³¹ And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ³² ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.”* Second, Mark 12:25, ²⁵ *For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.* Now let’s look at Jude 6-16, ⁶ *And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, He has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— ⁷ just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.*

⁸ *Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. ⁹ But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.” ¹⁰ But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. ¹¹ Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam’s error and perished in Korah’s rebellion. ¹² These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; ¹³ wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.*

¹⁴ It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His holy ones, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.” ¹⁶ These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage. Now, let’s look at one more passage from 2nd Peter 2:4-10, ⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; ⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; ⁶ if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes He condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; ⁷ and if He rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked ⁸ (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); ⁹ then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, ¹⁰ and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.

Before we continue, let me share that my ministry is not in a verbal format while standing in a pulpit. My ministry is in written form and I do not accept donations, nor do I seek any approval other than Yahweh’s. I can be bold and explain what Yahweh gives me to write. I attempt to show to those who will, at least, take the time to read some of my material, Yahweh’s desires for you to obey. He is only asking that you repent and accept His Son, Yeshua, as your Lord and Savior. There really is a judgment for disobedience, and I think, we can show this by looking at the “sons of God (Yahweh)” statement in Genesis 6:1-4, ¹ When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, ² the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. ³ Then the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.” ⁴ The Nephilim (the giants of old) were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

First, notice that these sons of Yahweh (angels) were attracted to the daughters of men. Second, they took as their wives any they chose. Now, the ESV commentary says that angels do not marry. We have already seen that the seed of Satan (Cain’s descendant Lamech) had rejected Yahweh’s direction of marriage by having two wives. Who said that angels who chose to reject their first abode and come to earth for the pleasure of sex with the daughters of men ever married any as their wives? The two statements from the New Testament indicates that angels do not marry in heaven. Let’s understand this statement in plain language, Earth is not heaven! Angels do not marry in heaven and the Biblical text reads, that neither will believers who are raised and transcend to heaven. The passage from Jude indicates that there were angels who left their proper dwelling and came to earth. The passage from 2nd Peter reads that Yahweh did not spare the angels who sinned and kept them in gloomy darkness. Finally, verse 4 of Genesis 6 reads, The Nephilim (the giants of old) were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. It seems to me that there were angels, aside from those who rebelled against Yahweh, who joined with Lucifer to reject Yahweh’s authority and became Satan and his band of demons. These are the angels who are being kept in Tartarus for judgment and they are different from Satan’s demons who roam freely about the earth.

Please look around you with open eyes. Do you see the mess that mankind has created in their rebellion against a living, loving Creator? Yahweh loves you and desires you to repent and change your ways prior to the coming wrath of judgment against a sinful world. For now we need to continue our study.)

[6:5 ***Wickedness of man was great.*** In Noah's day, sin was extremely evident in two ways: sexual lust and violence. Human wickedness and corruption have not changed. Evil that we once could not have imagined, including sexual sins of all kinds as well as violence, is evident throughout the world.] (As a believer of Yahweh and His Son Yeshua, my eyes and ears hear and see, however I cannot believe what is happening in the world at the moment. It seems that the COVID-19 pandemic has created a different mindset among people. With mandatory lockdowns and government checks being sent to everyone, the new mindset is to sit on your backside, demand more free money to keep you fed and your car full of gas. If that wasn't enough, look around you. What all can we even bring into this discussion? Billionaires have this mindset that they can establish a one world government (Utopia) and they will be in charge. The United Nations appears to agree with this and desires this one world government to be in effect by 2035. **This would be within the next eleven years!** The woke left is doing everything it can to change the concepts of a democratic God fearing society. They are destroying our history, our constitution and our way of life. The PRIDE folks have jumped out of the closet, and into main stream society even to the point, of having an entire month designated as a celebration of their life style. Have you seen any state, or the federal government establish a CHRISTIAN month to celebrate Yahweh's creation of the heavens, the earth and mankind? We are also seeing some parents, some school psychologists and some children who are now in an absolute confused state as to what gender they are. Additionally, some even feel or think that Yahweh made a mistake when He created them. I'm sorry, but this is Frankensteinian mutilation of children's bodies, and another means for Big Pharma to sell more drugs to modify these poor children's hormones. There are also those who have become so grateful that they received free money from the government that now they don't have to work. But, with the freebies gone, they have taken to organized gangs of thieves who attack stores, in force, with the entire group taking whatever they can get their hands on as quickly as they can, then run to make a getaway. Stores are losing thousands of dollars worth of merchandise on, what currently appears to be, a monthly basis. What will the corporations, the police and the government do to restore some sanity to our society? Or, will this become a daily occurrence throughout our land? It is time to refresh your memory. Yeshua told His apostles what signs to look for at the time of His second coming to earth. That answer is found in Matthew 24:36-39, ³⁶ *"But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.* ³⁷ **For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.** ³⁸ **For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark,** ³⁹ **and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.**

I am a messenger therefore I am doing all that I can to alert mankind through a warning concerning what is about to happen. Yahweh sends an angel to press me to write what Yahweh wants me to say. If those reading this work get to this point and don't like what I am recording, please take the matter up with Yahweh and not with me. **This is Yahweh's message!** Yahweh will send His Son back to earth just prior to what could be the entire destruction of all mankind. Look at the Middle East today. Israel and Hamas are at war and there is death on both sides of this battle. This will increase with the next war that Israel will face, Ezekiel 38-39. The war after that will be World War III, which appears to begin as a conventional war, but will escalate into a nuclear conflict. It would be very wise for a lot of people to read and understand how Yahweh uses a remnant to continue His righteous people. The Old Testament is full of situations where only a remnant of Israel remains. It will be a remnant of earth's peoples that will be alive at Yeshua's second coming. Will you be counted as a child of Yahweh and be allowed to enter Yeshua's kingdom of Heaven? It is mankind's choice concerning where their soul will spend eternity! Make it a wise choice!)

[6:6 **Yahweh regretted.** Yahweh is revealed in the Bible's early chapters as a God who deals with people personally and is capable of emotion, disappointment and reaction against people's willful rebellion (1) The word "regretted" implies that because of humanity's sin, Yahweh's attitude and outlook toward them changed, from mercy and patience, to judgment. (2) Still, Yahweh's character and ultimate purposes do not change; therefore, He remains open and responsive to people who seek Him. Yahweh's feelings, attitudes or actions do change whenever He finds a favorable response to His will and direction. (3) The fact that Yahweh can feel regret and grief makes it clear that He maintains a personal and intimate relationship with His creation. He loves people deeply, knows them completely and is fully aware of their circumstances.

6:9 **Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation.** While everyone else in those days lived wickedly, Yahweh found that Noah still worshiped, obeyed and depended upon Him. (1) "Blameless in his generation" makes it clear that he was not influenced by the immorality that surrounded him. Because he was a righteous man with a deep and holy respect for Yahweh and **a bold resistance to popular opinion and behavior**, Noah found favor with Yahweh. (2) Noah's right standing with Yahweh was the result of Yahweh's grace, His undeserved favor, and Noah's faith in Yahweh. Salvation today is also the result of Yahweh's mercy and undeserved favor. We receive it only by faith, demonstrated by a sincere effort to follow Yahweh and avoid sin. (3) The New Testament also states that Noah was "a herald of righteousness" (2 Peter 2:5-10, *⁵ if He did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; ⁶ if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes He condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; ⁷ and if He rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked ⁸ (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); ⁹ then Yahweh knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, ¹⁰ and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.) This must be the constant testimony (i.e., one's word of witness as a believer) of anyone who speaks for Yahweh. (I am a messenger!)*

6:14 **An ark.** The Hebrew word for "ark" means a vessel for floating, and occurs only here, and in Exodus 2:3, 5, where it is used to describe the basket in which baby Moses was placed. The vessel resembled a barge, but not necessarily with square corners. It could carry a tremendous amount of cargo. In fact, it is calculated that the ark could hold about 7,000 kinds of animals. Hebrews 11:7 suggests that the ark is a type (Type is a person or thing symbolizing or exemplifying the ideal (i.e., God (Yahweh)) or defining characteristics of something, a prophetic symbol, of Christ, the one who saves from judgment and death for those who trust Him.

6:18 **I will establish my covenant with you.** Yahweh promised to save Noah from the judgment that would come through the flood. Noah responded to Yahweh's covenant by taking Him at His word. He showed his faith by responding in "reverent fear" and by building and entering the ark. This concludes the commentary notes for chapter 6.

7:6 The flood of waters came upon the earth. The flood was Yahweh's judgment on the whole earth for humanity's ungodliness, rebellion and unrepentance. In the New Testament, Peter refers to the flood to remind believers that Yahweh will again judge the whole world at the end of time. That judgment will be by fire (and not by water). At that time, Yahweh will unleash His wrath on the ungodly in a way unequalled in history. Yahweh calls believers today, as He did Noah, to warn the ungodly, urging them to repent and turn to Yahweh because He wants to save them. **He is the only one who can save them!**

7:23 Every living thing ... was ... blotted out ... only Noah was left. The description of the flood reveals both judgment and salvation. (1) The total destruction of all human life outside the ark was necessary in order to wipe out the extreme moral corruption, and to give the human race a new chance for a right relationship with Yahweh. (2) The apostle Peter uses Noah's salvation through the floodwaters as a symbol of Christian baptism. These are the only two notes taken from chapter 7.

8:1 But Yahweh remembered Noah. Noah did not hear from Yahweh for 150 days. This was a test of his faith because he had no idea when the waters would dry up or when Yahweh would step in to help him again. But Yahweh had not forgotten Noah and his family. Yahweh's interaction with Noah is recorded to inspire hope and mankind's trust in His ways. If it seems that Yahweh has not acted in your life for a long time, learn from Noah. You can be confident that Yahweh loves you and is still at work in your life. For now, stay close to Yahweh and continue to obey His Word. His Spirit will bring direction to you.

8:21 Heart is evil from his youth. Yahweh is simply stating a fact about the corruption and depravity of human nature. Human beings are born with an inward pull toward evil. We witness (see) the pull of this sinful nature as it is evident from early childhood. These two small notes bring chapter 8 to a close. (However, I'm going to insert from text the verses from 15-22 just so we will have the ark resting on dry ground once again, as well as the dispersion of the animals from the ark. ¹⁵ *Then Yahweh said to Noah,* ¹⁶ *“Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁷ Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.”* ¹⁸ *So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. ¹⁹ Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark.*

²⁰ *Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹ And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. ²² While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”*

With the beginning of chapter 9, I would like to point out several things that Yahweh said to Noah. First, in verse 1, Yahweh blessed Noah and his sons, ¹ *And Yahweh blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.** This is the second time Yahweh told humans to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. Return back to Genesis 1:28, ²⁸ *And Yahweh blessed them. And Yahweh said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth** and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”* Second, in chapter 2 verse 20, Adam names all the animals on the earth, ²⁰ *The**

man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. In chapter 9, we see a change in this relationship with nature, ² *The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered.* Third, in chapter 1, the food for mankind is stated in verse 29, ²⁹ *And Yahweh said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.* In chapter nine, Yahweh increases what mankind may eat and adds meat to mankind’s diet, ³ *Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything.* ⁴ *But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.)*

[9:6 **Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed.** Because of the violent desires within the human heart, Yahweh laid out a plan to guard the sanctity of human life. He did this in two ways. (1) He emphasized that all humans are created in His image and that their lives are sacred to Him. (2) He declared a method of justice for intentionally taking another person’s life.

9:8-11 **I establish my covenant.** These verses speak of Yahweh’s covenant with humanity and nature, in which, He promised never again to destroy the earth and all its creatures with a flood.

9:12-17 **My bow in the cloud.** The bow, or rainbow, was Yahweh’s sign and ongoing reminder of His promise to never again destroy everything on earth by a flood. The bow should remind Christians that Yahweh’s mercy is sure and that He keeps His promises.] (for the sake of discussion, I am inserting verses 12-17 here in bold print, ¹² *And Yahweh said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember My covenant that is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between Myself and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷ Yahweh said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.”*

The PRIDE community, has stolen and hijacked Yahweh’s symbol, and they are now showing their rebellion against Yahweh by their own actions, each time you wear your rainbow colored attire, you slap Yahweh in the face and mock who He is. Yahweh did not establish the rainbow for your perverted sexual practices! The rainbow or Yahweh’s rainbow was established as a sign and promise to all humankind that Yahweh would never again flood the earth in order to rid the earth of ungodliness. Why don’t you act as an adult? If it is your choice to clothe yourself in this manner and to march through town as you do. That is one thing! But, please leave your children outside of your modeling. There is enough evil in the human heart without it being forced on your offspring.

I am skipping the notes for chapter 10. I do not believe it is necessary to go through the Table of Nations.)

[11:2 **A plain in the land of Shinar.** Shinar is the Old Testament name for the territory of ancient Sumer and later of Babylon or Mesopotamia.]

11:4 **Let us build ... and let us make a name.** The sin of the people in Shinar was the desire to reign over the world and determine their own destiny apart from Yahweh. They organized themselves around their own power and skills, but it was a show of pride and rebellion against Yahweh. Yahweh destroyed this effort by multiplying languages among the people, making it impossible to communicate with one another. This may explain the world's varied racial and ethnic groups. During this time, humans increasingly rejected Yahweh and embraced idolatry, sorcery and astrology. The general spiritual condition of those in Shinar is given in full description in Romans. As a result, Yahweh allowed them to follow their own sinful desires. Yahweh then turned to Abram to begin revealing a way of salvation for humanity.] (Because of the reference note pertaining to the book of Romans, I'm inserting Romans 1:8-32, ⁸ *First, I thank Yahweh through Yeshua, the Christ, for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.* ⁹ **For Yahweh is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son,** *that without ceasing I mention you* ¹⁰ *always in my prayers, asking that somehow by Yahweh's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.* ¹¹ *For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—* ¹² *that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.* ¹³ *I want you to know, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.* ¹⁴ *I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.* ¹⁵ *So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.*

¹⁶ *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of Yahweh for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first (Yahweh's chosen people) and also to the Greek (Gentiles—non Jewish).* ¹⁷ *For in it the righteousness of Yahweh is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

¹⁸ **For the wrath of Yahweh is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.** ¹⁹ *For what can be known about Yahweh is plain to them, because Yahweh has shown it to them.* ²⁰ *For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.* ²¹ *For although they knew Yahweh, they did not honor Him as Yahweh or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.* ²² *Claiming to be wise, they became fools,* ²³ *and exchanged the glory of the immortal Yahweh for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things (Idolatry—in violation of the 2nd commandment).*

²⁴ *Therefore Yahweh gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,* ²⁵ *because they exchanged the truth about Yahweh for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator (In violation of the 1st commandment), who is blessed forever! Amen.*

²⁶ *For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;* ²⁷ *and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error (Homosexual perversion—in violation of 7th commandment).*

²⁸ *And since they did not see fit to acknowledge Yahweh, Yahweh gave them up to a debased mind (madness) to do what ought not to be done.* ²⁹ *They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy (Covetousness and envy—in violation of 10th*

commandment), *murder* (Murder—in violation of 6th commandment), *strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,* ³⁰ *slanderers* (Gossips, slanderers—in violation of 9th commandment), *haters of Yahweh* (Haters of Yahweh—in violation of 3rd commandment), *insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil* (Inventors of evil—in violation of 8th commandment), *disobedient to parents* (Disobedient to parents—in violation of 5th commandment), ³¹ *foolish, faithless* (Faithless—in violation of 4th commandment), *heartless, ruthless.*

That's pretty good! Paul managed to define the wickedness of mankind and the violation of all ten commandments within the verses from 23 through 31. Be serious for a moment and dwell on this fact, the heart of man is so hard against Yahweh that it only took nine (**9**) verses of Scripture to reflect the attitude of mankind's true nature. Satan has done his job well to fully deceive the minds of humankind! Do you see in this example, provided by Paul, how much God (Yahweh) really loves you! ³² *Though they know Yahweh's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.* Ministers, preachers, priest, teachers, deacons and church councils all need to perform a little introspection upon themselves to see whether they are supporting any of the actions that Paul outlined in those nine verses. If you find yourself supporting or approving any of these actions, please realize that Yahweh will hold you accountable just as He will hold accountable the ones who are actually acting out in these wicked ways. As humankind travels toward the end of time, we must be bold, proclaim the truth and not continue in these counterfeit religious practices that we have been following since man, and not Yahweh, changed the day of worship from the Sabbath to Sunday, the day of sun god worship, in the year 321 CE. Mankind has been listening to lies for far too long. It is time to return to the true modeling that Yeshua illustrated for all of us while He walked upon this planet. We need to change our church meeting date, the day of Christmas and the day of Easter. We have been celebrating pagan festivals for far too long. Yahweh is not a happy camper with our actions nor the thoughts within our heart and soul.

Actually, I have completed the first section of this work. I have taken the notes and commentary of the ESV through the flood event and the evil, wicked nature of mankind up to that time. Recall, that at that date, there were only eight (8) people remaining on this planet. If mankind had continued to practice righteousness and worship Yahweh, we, all of humankind, would not have been under the influence of Satan and his demons as much as we now are! I feel that I have succeeded in achieving what I feel Yahweh has presented to me to write. This first section was to begin the full circle of Yahweh, as the rainbow on the cover illustrates. After the expulsion from the Garden of Eden, we find the downfall of mankind, the beginning.

In the second section, my intent is to show the many places that we may find examples, warnings and even the wrath from Yahweh toward mankind, and mankind's actions of rebellion against Yahweh or the seeking of Yahweh's grace.

Section Two, A Tale of Kings and Others

We are living in a time when there seems to be more and more of mankind who proclaim to be New Testament Christians. Even with this title, there are few people who have a strong background in what the Bible actually says and how the stories of the Bible are told. In our first section, we went through the beginning period of mankind's existence on planet earth. Let's change the use of the term Yahweh back to the term God. We used Yahweh as the true name of God, but few people know that. Therefore, it was an exercise in teaching the true name of God and the true name of Christ, Yeshua, instead of Jesus. We observed God's creation of the universe and the placement of Adam in the Garden. We saw that there wasn't a suitable helper to aid Adam in maintaining the Garden among the vast number of animals that he named. God decided to correct this situation and created a woman to be his helpmate.

We continued, noted Satan's entry into the Garden, and the presentation of temptation he offered to the woman. From that point onward, we observed the beginning of the sinfulness of mankind's action toward God. We traveled with Noah and his family across the flood, and arrived once again on dry ground to observe the continued path that mankind has traveled. Oops! Let stop and visit the man called Abram, who had his name changed by God to that of Abraham.

[The call of Abraham, Genesis 12:1-3, ¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

God's calling of Abram, later called Abraham, is recorded in Genesis chapter 12. This begins a new chapter in the Old Testament revelation of God's purpose to restore His relationship with humanity. The sin of rebellion had broken that relationship, and God knew that humankind would so desperately need it back. So God looked for a person who could serve Him for this purpose. God wanted a man who would know and trust Him completely. From this man would come a family who would know, teach and follow the Lord's plans. From this family would come a distinct nation of people, made different by their relationship with God. They would reject the ungodly ways of other nations and fulfill God's plans. From this nation would come Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. He is the One that God promised would come from the woman and crush the serpent, Satan. All believers can learn several important principles from Abraham's call.

(1) Abraham's call involved leaving his country, his people and his father's household. God was establishing a primary principle: his people are to separate themselves from all that could keep God from working out His purpose for their lives.

(2) God promised Abraham a special land, a great nation through his descendants and a blessing that would affect all the nations. The New Testament clearly teaches, that the last part of, this promise is being fulfilled as missionaries spread the message of Christ around the world.

(3) Abraham's call involved not only an earthly land, but also a heavenly one. Abraham came to realize that his ultimate home was not on earth but in heaven. In heaven, he would live at peace forever in a city "whose designer and builder is God". Until then, he would be an alien and a stranger on earth.

(4) Abraham's call included both promises and obligations. We must remember that promises are the expectancy of things to come, while obligations are the assured and required commitments of an agreement. God required Abraham's obedience and personal commitment to Him as Lord, the Leader and authority of his life, in order to receive what was promised. This obedience and commitment included: (a) trust in God's word, even when the promises seemed humanly impossible. (b) obedience to God's command to leave his home, and (c) a sincere effort to live according to God's standards and do what God commands us to do.

(5) God's promises to, and blessings upon Abraham go beyond his physical descendants (i.e., believing Jews). The promises include all who accept and follow Jesus Christ, who are the true "offspring" of Abraham. All who have faith like Abraham's are "sons of Abraham" and they are blessed along with him. By faith, they inherit the promise, which includes receiving "the promised Spirit" through Christ Jesus.

(6) Because Abraham's faith resulted in obedience, he is the foremost example of true saving faith, the kind that pleases God and allows a person to have a relationship with Him. [According to the Bible, anyone who claims to believe in Jesus Christ as Savior but refuses to obey Him as Lord, the Leader and authority of one's life, is not demonstrating true saving faith.]

(Here are some Scripture readings that reflect the faith of Abraham: Gen. 15:3-6, ³ *And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir."* ⁴ *And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir."* ⁵ *And He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then He said to him, "So shall your offspring be."* ⁶ *And he believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness. Gen 15:18, ¹⁸ *On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.**

For a moment let's speak in plain language to one another. God has promised to Abram the land from the Nile River in Egypt to the Euphrates River in Iran. That represents a much larger land area than what the nation of Israel is fighting over with Gaza. In fact, it really slaps the leaders in Iran right in the face. If the nations of the Middle East would only stop and view the truth recorded in God's Holy Word, they just might figure out a few things. That is a very large piece of land. But, look very closely at the quoted portion of verse 19. Notice that this land is designated to Abraham's descendants. It does not state which descendants! Are we speaking of the descendants through Isaac only (Jews and the lost ten tribes of Israel); or the descendants of Ishmael (for the most part, the Arab portion of the world); or the descendants of the sons of Keturah (these seven sons were sent by Abraham to the east)? Gen 25:6, ⁶ *But to the sons of his concubines Abraham gave gifts, and while he was still living he sent them away from his son Isaac, eastward to the east country.)* Here is my serious question. Why, oh why, is the entire world throwing all this anti-Semitic hatred toward Israel, when in fact all of these nations in that area of the world are, for the most part, distant cousins? They all descend from Abraham, so why is there so much grief over this fight between family? It wouldn't be the first time that there was a fight between different sides of a family, or a fight between different families. In my mind's eye, if they would all rebuke Satan and get him out of their way, they might be able to settle some family affairs, along with discovering the solution to some of the problems that are happening in the Middle East that create fear and anxiety throughout the world. Up until the 7th of October, 2023 Israel supported so much of the Middle East with many food items that were grown in Israel.

We now have to go back and pick up a few verses that go along with our story. Genesis 16:2-4, ² *And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her."* *And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.* ³ *So,*

after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife.⁴ And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived.

The son born of this union was named Ishmael. There are a couple of other stories to review concerning Abraham, but, for the moment look at what happened to Hagar and Ishmael. Gen. 21:10, this is Sarah, Abraham's wife, who is speaking:¹⁰ *So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac."* Hagar and Ishmael were forced to leave the tent of Abraham and travel into the desert. Abraham was disappointed by Sarah's actions, but, here is what God said to Abraham, Gen. 21:12-13,¹² *But God said to Abraham, "Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named."*¹³ *And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring."* While in the desert Hagar thought she and Ishmael would die, that was not God's plan and here is what God told her, Gen. 21:17-18,¹⁷ *And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is."*¹⁸ *Up! Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into a great nation."* It is so amazing to me that the God of the Jews heard the voice of Hagar and Ishmael and promised Hagar that He (God) would make a great nation through the descendants of Ishmael.

How in the world can the Arab world be so down on the Jewish state of Israel and the Israeli people while, at the same time, the God of the Jews is blessing them and has them as a great nation. Without God's blessing, as recorded in Genesis, for the Arabs, they could have all died, nationally, with Ishmael and Hagar in the desert. It is by the hard heartedness of humankind, and influence of Satan that all of this is playing out as it is. There is no doubt in my mind that Jesus spoke the truth when He spoke, saying, He has but a little flock (a remnant). Luke 12:32,³² *"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."* Mankind's acceptance of Satan's influence has surely caused the hatred between peoples and their religions. Let it be known, Ibrahim and Ishmael are both found in the Qur-án. The Qur-án has the story slightly different, as it was Ishmael that Ibrahim was going to sacrifice.

Let's step back a few pages and look at the kinship between Abram and Lot. We find this is Gen. 12:4-5,⁴ *So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.*⁵ *And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son (his nephew), and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Now, we need to complete the story of Lot and his two daughters while in the cave at Zoar. If you recall the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, or if you would like to read it, it is in Gen. 18:22-19:38. We only need to insert Gen. 19:30-38,³⁰ *Now Lot went up out of Zoar and lived in the hills with his two daughters, for he was afraid to live in Zoar. So he lived in a cave with his two daughters.*³¹ *And the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to us after the manner of all the earth."*³² *Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father."*³³ *So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father. He did not know when she lay down or when she arose.**

³⁴ *The next day, the firstborn said to the younger, "Behold, I lay last night with my father. Let us make him drink wine tonight also. Then you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father."*³⁵ *So they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.*³⁶ *Thus both the daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father.*³⁷ *The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab. He is the father of the Moabites to this day.*³⁸ *The younger also bore a son and called his name Ben-ammi. He is the father of the Ammonites to this day.* Both, the Moabites and the Ammonites are cousins to the twelve

tribes of Jacob (Israel). I have gone through the Bible and shown you the association of the Arabs, the Moabites and the Ammonites in relationship to the Jews. I know, you think I left out the remaining portion of the Islamic world including the lands of Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Indonesia. Look, once again, at what the Bible says about Abraham's sons born of Keturah, Gen. 25:5-6, ⁵ *Abraham gave all he had to Isaac.* ⁶ *But to the sons of his concubines (Hagar and Keturah) Abraham gave gifts, and while he (Abraham) was still living he sent them away from his son Isaac, eastward to the east country.* Abraham provided for all his sons and sent them toward the east. All of the countries I mentioned above are east of present day Israel, yet no specific country is identified. Can you accept that God did bless the entire Islamic world through the actions He took with Abraham, a man of righteousness? Remember, this was all done prior to the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses.

We continue on our journey amongst the words of the book of Genesis. We have seen the creation of the heavens, the creation of man and woman, and the animals of the earth. We have observed Abraham and the righteousness that he displayed as he trusted God concerning what God had promised to him. At the same time, we find that within the pages of Genesis, the descendants of Abraham would be a vast number, such as the number of stars in the night sky, or grains of sand on the shore of the seas. Of the fifty chapters in Genesis, we have only reviewed up to the beginning of chapter 25. We are not even at the half way point for this study of Genesis. Thus, we pick up where we stopped and continue on our journey.

I can only pray, at this moment, that there are many, many young people who are now beginning to question and realize the hatred and indoctrination, via brain washing, that colleges and universities have been teaching to the youth of this nation, as well as any other nations at the same time. The United States of America remains as a God-fearing democratic republic among the nations of this world. If you read and believe what God has had me to write, you would also know that I fully believe that this nation is composed of many descendants of the tribe of Manasseh, a tribe among the lost ten tribes of Israel, and therefore, a distant portion of the nation of Israel. Do you now understand, in part, why the United States stands with Israel and, also why, Iran calls Israel the "little satan" and the United States the "big satan"? God will judge all things when the end of time comes. A sorting of peoples will come along with the judgment. Some will find their soul destined for an eternal heaven, and others will find their soul headed for an eternity of darkness and punishment. It remains for each individual to make the choice as to where they want their soul to reside for eternity. Make it a wise choice. The only way to find the peace and security of heaven, for all of eternity, is to accept Yeshua (Jesus) as your Lord and Savior.

Let's begin with a statement from King Solomon, we find this in Ecclesiastes 1:1-11, ¹ *The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.* ² *Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.* ³ *What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?* ⁴ *A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.* ⁵ *The sun rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises.* ⁶ *The wind blows to the south and goes around to the north; around and around goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns.* ⁷ *All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again.* ⁸ *All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.* ⁹ **What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.** ¹⁰ *Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already in the ages before us.* ¹¹ *There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after.*

We took a breather from Abraham and his descendants. We now return to Isaac, the son of Sarah and Abraham. Isaac was born when Abraham was one hundred years old, Gen. 21:5, ⁵ *Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.* We learn that Isaac was circumcised

when he was eight days old as Abraham had been instructed by God, Gen. 21:4, ⁴ *And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.* There is a strange instruction from God at the beginning of chapter 22, Gen. 22:1-2, ¹ *After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I."* ² *He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."* That would most certainly be a very difficult thing for any man to do who lives by righteousness. But, look at what happened when Abraham was ready to sacrifice Isaac, Gen. 22:10-12, ¹⁰ *Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.* ¹¹ *But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I."* ¹² *He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."*

There are many people, all over the world, that upon reading this passage do not see the underlying truth that is there. By this act, God knew that there are people who fully believe what God says, and they openly trust what God does in their life. In this test, given to Abraham, God finds the trust He has been looking for in mankind. Now, in His way, God reverses the situation when He does not withhold His Son, the Son He loves, His only Son, from the death that He must suffer to pay the price for mankind's sins in all ages past, present and future. Jesus (Yeshua) is the only Way that mankind can use to find eternal peace with Him and His Father. God only used Abraham and Isaac to illustrate and model what He would do to correct the breach between God and man. It is also the means whereby God overcomes Satan forever. I, truthfully, am doing everything God has told me to write for your sake, so that you understand what God has done for humankind. It is up to each of us to understand these things, and make the decision that we must make concerning whether we accept Christ as our own personal Lord and Savior!

Through the course of time and study, I have a few verses that have always bothered me in some small way. One such verse is in the story concerning Isaac and Rebekah. Abraham sends his servant to locate a wife for Isaac among his clansmen. Particular statements had to be made to show the servant whom he should seek for the wife of Isaac. When the servant and the camels returned with Rebekah, we find that Isaac marries Rebekah. Now, here's the question I have, and the thought that has been given to me. Abraham is still alive, we do not see his death until the next chapter, therefore, he should still be alive when Isaac married Rebekah. Why didn't Isaac marry Rebekah in his father's tent? Look at Gen. 24:67, ⁶⁷ *Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.* I have been told that Isaac must have been a mommy's boy, and after Sarah's death, Isaac used his mother's tent as his own and did not stay in his father's tent.

Isaac and Rebekah waited twenty years before they had a child. We can see this by simple math taken from two verses. Gen. 25:20, 25-26, ²⁰ *and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife. ...* ²⁵ *The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau.* ²⁶ *Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.* Our simple math problem was taking 40 from 60 to arrive at 20 years. There is another fact we need to pick up concerning these twins. Gen. 25:22-23, ²² *The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is thus, why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the Lord.* ²³ *And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger."* There are several things that we can learn from this passage. First, we see that there are to be two nations and two groups of people who stand divided. Also, the one will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger. One last tidbit of information, look at Gen. 25:29-34, ²⁹ *Once when Jacob was*

cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. ³⁰ *And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!" (Therefore his name was called Edom.)* (With that stated, we see from whence came the Edomites. Once again a group of cousins to the Jews.) ³¹ *Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now."* ³² *Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?"* ³³ *Jacob said, "Swear to me now." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob.* ³⁴ *Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.* We should understand from this passage, that as the first born, Esau owned the birthright. We should also see a trait that we discussed concerning Isaac, that he was a mommy's boy. Well, what do you know, it appears that Jacob is also. Look at the verse! What is Jacob doing? Cooking stew! We are speaking about the Middle East, a land that considers it a woman's duty to cook. But even so, look at verse 28, ²⁸ *And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.* Doesn't this verse speak loudly of this fact?

Our study remains in the days prior to Moses and the Exodus from Egypt. Therefore, we are still operating under God's rules of righteousness, as in the days of Abraham, and not the Ten Commandments. If we had been under the Law (Torah), how many times would the Ten Commandments have been broken? From this exchange between Isaac and his two sons, we see trouble brewing. Esau threatened to kill his brother Jacob. Rebekah spoke to Isaac, and Isaac called Jacob and instructed him to go to his uncle Laban's house and stay there for a time. Esau heard this conversation and understood that his mother and father were not pleased with the Canaanite women. So, we find the results in Gen. 28:8-9, ⁸ *So when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please Isaac his father,* ⁹ *Esau went to Ishmael and took as his wife, besides the wives he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth.* Wouldn't this marriage make an even stronger bond between the Edomites and the Ishmaelites? However, we should still remember that we are dealing with cousins to the Jews.

In chapter 28, we find one of the most striking passages of Scripture I've ever read. Look, with me at verses 13-14, 16-18 and 22, ¹³ *And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring.* ¹⁴ *Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. ...* ¹⁶ *Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it."* ¹⁷ *And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."*

¹⁸ *So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ...* ²² *and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."* Jacob had obtained his brother's birthright and blessing by deception. However, in this passage God confirms the promise that He had given to Abraham and to Isaac, the number of stars, or sand of the shore, and now the dust of the earth. Jacob sits the stone upright changing it from a pillow to a pillar and anointed it with oil, signifying the presence of the Holy Spirit. This truly is (I say is, because this stone is still used for the coronations of kings and queens of the House of Israel). The most recent was the crowning of Charles III. England represents Ephraim, the brother of Manasseh and birthright holder of the birthright held by his father Joseph. All of this is explained in my book, *The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel*.

Once at the home of his uncle, Jacob greatly enjoyed the beauty of his cousin Rachel, and asked his uncle for her hand in marriage. Laban asked for seven years of work in exchange. Jacob agreed, and the marriage feast was set. Jacob was married, however, in the morning, he discovered that it was not Rachel he had married, instead it was her sister, Leah. Jacob was very hurt that he had been tricked, and he asked his uncle, "Why?" Laban told him that it was a custom of his people to always marry the older daughter first, prior to a younger one. Understanding this, Jacob agreed to work for an additional seven

years to be able to marry the one he wanted. When it was finally done, Jacob had worked for his uncle for a total of twenty years, Gen. 31:38-41, ³⁸ *These twenty years I have been with you. Your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried, and I have not eaten the rams of your flocks.* ³⁹ *What was torn by wild beasts I did not bring to you. I bore the loss of it myself. From my hand you required it, whether stolen by day or stolen by night.* ⁴⁰ *There I was: by day the heat consumed me, and the cold by night, and my sleep fled from my eyes.* ⁴¹ *These twenty years I have been in your house. I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times.*

The last of Jacob's children to be born was Benjamin, son of Rachel who died giving him birth. Genesis 35: 17-18, ¹⁷ *And when her labor was at its hardest, the midwife said to her, "Do not fear, for you have another son."* ¹⁸ *And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name Benoni; but his father called him Benjamin.* Jacob, now called Israel, had twelve sons and one daughter. Joseph, the son of Rachel, was the most loved of all his children, and some of the other sons hated Joseph because of their father's love for him. We see this in Gen. 37:3-4, ³ *Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors.* ⁴ *But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.* In the Biblical story of Joseph, we see that he had two dreams that would indicate that his father, mother and brothers would bow down to him. The first dream was recorded in Gen. 37:6-7, ⁶ *He said to them, "Hear this dream that I have dreamed: ⁷ Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf."* The second dream was recorded in verses 9-10, ⁹ *Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me."* ¹⁰ *But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?"* Needless to say, his father and brothers were not highly impressed with his dreams. In fact, his brothers discussed killing Joseph. One day while tending the flocks, the brothers grabbed Joseph, stripped him of his colorful coat and threw him in a pit. As they were eating a meal, a band of traders came by and they sold Joseph into slavery for twenty shekels of silver.

We are still seeing actions that are under the time of righteousness and not under the Law of Moses. Even so, we see the heart of humankind remains hard and contains wicked and evil thoughts. What Israel (Jacob) and the brothers did not know was that the persecution of Joseph was a prophecy from God to Joseph pertaining to the famine that would soon be over that portion of the earth. Time passed for Joseph in Egypt, and the circumstances had Joseph in a position of slave, and in prison for a total of thirteen years. Pharaoh had a dream that the court magicians could not interpret. Pharaoh's cupbearer had been in prison with Joseph. The cupbearer recalled what Joseph did while they were both in prison and told Pharaoh. Pharaoh called for Joseph to be released and brought to the court of Pharaoh. Pharaoh's dream was told to Joseph. Joseph told Pharaoh that his God, Yahweh, was an interpreter of dreams and, through Joseph, would tell him what the dream meant.

Pharaoh was so impressed with the interpretation and the wisdom of Joseph that he appointed Joseph the governor over all Egypt. Joseph managed the storage of grain for the next seven years of plenty. He was also the person everyone had to go to for food during the seven year famine. Now, Jacob heard that Egypt had food reserves and sent ten sons to buy food for the entire family in Canaan. When they arrived before Joseph, they bowed down to him and requested he sell them food. They did not recognize him as their brother, but Joseph recognized them. The story of Joseph, Israel (Jacob) and his brothers takes up the remainder of chapter 42, all the way, through chapter 50. This is a remarkable story of God's grace and how God provided for His chosen people. This also includes the story of how the Hebrews, the seventy people of Israel's family, traveled to Egypt, and how it fulfills the dreams of

Joseph. At the same time, this includes the foretelling, by Yahweh, of the period of slavery of the Hebrew people to Abraham. This period will be the four hundred years that Israel is enslaved to Egypt, up to the time of Moses. That prophecy is recorded in Gen. 15:13-16, ¹³ *Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years."* ¹⁴ *But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.* ¹⁵ *As for yourself, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age.* ¹⁶ *And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."*

We have passed over other stories that the inspired Word of God provides to us as examples and for purposes of teaching. One story would have to be how Yahweh established a great nation through both Isaac and Ishmael. Recall that Ishmael was the first son of Abraham through Hagar. God promised Hagar that Ishmael would be the forefather of a great nation. This was fulfilled in Genesis chapter 25, where we find Ishmael having twelve male children and one daughter. We find the counter portion to this one generation later through the children of Jacob. The record, Genesis chapters 29 and 30, reflects that Jacob had twelve male children and one daughter through four women. Yahweh fulfilled His promise to both Abraham and to Hagar.

We also passed over chapter 38 in our storytelling of Joseph's story. Let's return to chapter 38 and illustrate the story of Judah and Tamar. Judah, the fourth son of Israel, and the person for whom the term Jews is derived, has a story of his own. Judah was first married to the daughter of Shua, Gen. 38:2-3, ² *There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua. He took her and went in to her;* ³ *and she conceived and bore a son, and he called his name Er.* Two other sons were born to Judah by the daughter of Shua. The story goes that Judah found a wife for Er and her name was Tamar. Er was wicked in the sight of God and God put him to death. Judah went to his second son and instructed him to marry Tamar and produce children for his deceased brother. This son, named Onan, knew that the children would not really be his, so he spent his semen on the ground, verse 9, ⁹ *But Onan knew that the offspring would not be his. So whenever he went in to his brother's wife he would waste the semen on the ground, so as not to give offspring to his brother.* This was wicked in the sight of God, and God also put Onan to death. The third son was much younger, thus a promise was made to Tamar that the third son, named Shelah, would be her husband when he grew up. Tamar did as Judah requested, and she went to her father's house to remain as a widow until Shelah was grown. In time, the daughter of Shua died, and later, Judah was going to go to Timnah to shear his sheep. Tamar, Judah's daughter-in-law was told this, and she took off her widow's garments, and covered herself with a veil and sat at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah, Gen. 38:13-19, ¹³ *And when Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep,"* ¹⁴ *she took off her widow's garments and covered herself with a veil, wrapping herself up, and sat at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. For she saw that Shelah was grown up, and she had not been given to him in marriage.* ¹⁵ *When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face.* ¹⁶ *He turned to her at the roadside and said, "Come, let me come in to you," for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?"* ¹⁷ *He answered, "I will send you a young goat from the flock."* *And she said, "If you give me a pledge, until you send it—"* ¹⁸ *He said, "What pledge shall I give you?"* *She replied, "Your signet and your cord and your staff that is in your hand."* *So he gave them to her and went in to her, and she conceived by him.* ¹⁹ *Then she arose and went away, and taking off her veil she put on the garments of her widowhood.* Notice the wording in verse 14, that Tamar took off her widow's garments and covered herself with a veil. If all she was wearing was a veil, I can understand why Judah thought she was a prostitute. But, there is more to this story. When Judah was told that Tamar was pregnant, he was going to have her burned. But, Tamar sent word that she had possession of a signet, cord and staff as proof that she was pregnant by the owner of

those items she possessed. Judah had to admit that the items belonged to him, and that she was more righteous than he was in the promise he made to her concerning Shelah. That still doesn't complete our story concerning Tamar. Yes, we know that she is pregnant, ready to deliver and the midwife is there. However, the midwife had a surprise coming, as we read verses 27-30, *27 When the time of her labor came, there were twins in her womb. 28 And when she was in labor, one put out a hand, and the midwife took and tied a scarlet thread on his hand, saying, "This one came out first." 29 But as he drew back his hand, behold, his brother came out. And she said, "What a breach you have made for yourself!" Therefore his name was called Perez. 30 Afterward his brother came out with the scarlet thread on his hand, and his name was called Zerah.* This breach, as it is called, will return as a riddle that the prophet Ezekiel will reveal much later.

The second book in the Old Testament is Exodus, and Exodus records the history of Moses and the three spans of forty year sections in his life. The first forty year period was Moses' birth, his being placed in a basket, shortly after birth, and placed in the reeds of the Nile River. He was found by Pharaoh's daughter and taken into the palace of Pharaoh and raised as an Egyptian. He was taught the mysteries of the Egyptians. Moses finally learned that he was a Hebrew, and when he saw an Egyptian overseer punishing a Hebrew, he killed him and hid the body. The next day, two Hebrews were fighting and he broke it up, and asked one why he was striking the other one. The answer was, "Are you going to kill me like you did the Egyptian?" Moses was afraid and fled into the land of Midian. This action was the end of the first third of Moses' life, and the beginning of the second third. Moses befriended the daughters of the priest of Midian and became a shepherd. He was also married to one of the priest's daughters. Moses spent the next forty years in the land of Midian. One day while Moses was with the flock, he noticed a bush that appeared to be burning, but was not being consumed. He went to see this bush, and the angel of God told him to take off his sandals because it was holy ground. God and Moses spoke to each other. God wanted Moses to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt. Moses was to go and tell, not ask, Pharaoh that he was to let the Hebrew people go, but, God would harden Pharaoh's heart and he would not let the people go.

Through the actions of God, ten plagues were poured out upon the Egyptians. These plagues were: Water turned to blood; frogs; gnats; flies; death of livestock; boils; hail; locusts; darkness; and finally death of the firstborn from Pharaoh to the cattle in the fields. God establishes the Passover as the first of God's feasts for each year. The Passover is to be celebrated every year in each generation. The blood of the Passover lamb was to be put on the doorposts, and the lintel of the houses of all the Hebrews. On the night the death angel went through the land, the firstborn of all the Egyptians, and the first born of their flocks and herds all died. Only the Hebrews who had marked their doorposts with the blood of the lamb were spared! The Hebrews asked for clothes, gold and silver from the Egyptians, and they plundered the Egyptians as they left from Rameses to Succoth. At Succoth, they baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had brought with them. They moved from Succoth to Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. God was watching over them. He went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, and by night in a pillar of fire. It has been said that there was another reason that God led them in this manner. The heat of the day in the wilderness of Sinai could be very hot, therefore, the cloud was like an umbrella to shelter them from the heat. In similar fashion, the night in an arid area could become very cold, so the pillar of fire provided heat to keep them warm.

God instructed the Hebrews to move in an erratic pattern, and Pharaoh and his armies decided to overtake the Hebrews and force them back to Egypt. The people looked at Moses and told him that he had brought them to the edge of the sea to die. Moses sought God for aid, and God told Moses to hold out the staff and the sea would divide. This opened the sea so that the Hebrews went through the sea on dry ground. Moses must have been either the first, or the last person, to cross through the sea. I say this because Moses was told by God to stretch out his hand once again over the sea, and it would

close over the Egyptians. This was done and all the forces of Pharaoh were destroyed on that day. At Marah, there was water, but it was bitter and undrinkable. The people cried to Moses, and Moses sought God for guidance. God showed him a log, and Moses threw the log into the water. The water became sweet. They traveled further to Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, and they encamped there by the water.

The first five books, of the Bible, provide the Torah to the Jews. In the pages of these five books, we find the third, and last, portion of Moses' life as he leads the Hebrew people from Egypt to the land that God promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel). One of the first things, that God did, was establish a covenant, or a legal agreement, between Himself and the Hebrew people. God completed the initial task at Mt. Sinai where He spoke the Ten Commandments to all the people. This was done at Mt. Sinai about three months after the people left Egypt. These commandments are written in Exodus 19 and 20. God began to give them individual laws and rules that they were to follow. God also instructed Moses to build a Tabernacle, and told him how he was to construct a sanctuary where sacrifices would be made. When the Tabernacle was completed, God would come and sit on the Ark of the Covenant. God also gave them various laws pertaining to many facets of life. God laid out the laws for the various offerings. He also established His feast days that were to be conducted throughout the year and followed every year.

God also gave the Hebrews the laws pertaining to forbidden sexual practices, as well as, the punishment for child sacrifice, and sexual immorality. God even went so far as to have Moses write out, in full, the blessings for obedience, and the punishment for disobedience. God continued to provide for the people, yet it seemed that all they did was rebel against God. There is an interesting story to tell as the Hebrews were preparing to enter the promised land. Moses selected one leader from each tribe to go and spy out the land. These twelve men went into Canaan and spent 40 days observing the land and the people living on the land at that time. When they returned, after forty days, they showed the people some of the fruit and grains of the land. After that, they gave a report concerning the people and the cities. Ten of the men gave a report that the men were strong, that the cities were fortified, and that they had even seen giants. Two men, Caleb and Joshua, gave good reports to the people, but the people took the word of the ten and rebelled against God, again.

God proclaimed the outcome of this ordeal in Numbers 14:26-38, ²⁶ *And the Lord spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,* ²⁷ *“How long shall this wicked congregation grumble against Me? I have heard the grumblings of the people of Israel, which they grumble against Me. ²⁸ Say to them, ‘As I live, declares the Lord, what you have said in My hearing I will do to you: ²⁹ your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness, and of all your number, listed in the census from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against Me, ³⁰ not one shall come into the land where I swore that I would make you dwell, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun. ³¹ But your little ones, who you said would become a prey, I will bring in, and they shall know the land that you have rejected. ³² But as for you, your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness. ³³ And your children shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years and shall suffer for your faithlessness, until the last of your dead bodies lies in the wilderness. ³⁴ According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, a year for each day, you shall bear your iniquity forty years, and you shall know My displeasure.’ ³⁵ I, the Lord, have spoken. Surely this will I do to all this wicked congregation who are gathered together against Me: in this wilderness they shall come to a full end, and there they shall die.”*

³⁶ *And the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation grumble against Him by bringing up a bad report about the land— ³⁷ the men who brought up a bad report of the land—died by plague before the Lord. ³⁸ Of those men who went to spy out the land, only Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive.* Through this passage of scripture, we have learned why the Hebrews had to travel in the wilderness for forty years. If they had done what

God wanted them to do and obeyed as He expected them to obey, they would have been in Canaan as their homeland in just over a year from the time they left Egypt. Numbers 9:1-2, ¹ *And the Lord spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying,* ² *“Let the people of Israel keep the Passover at its appointed time. We know that Moses died in the wilderness and never set foot in the “promised land”.*

After Moses’ death Joshua takes over the leadership of the Israelites, and he is responsible for leading them into the land. Some people may know and understand that there is another parting of the water that God performs to get the nation of Israel into their “promised land”. This group of people must cross the Jordan River to get into the land that God had promised to their ancestors. That story can be found in Joshua 3:14-17, ¹⁴ *So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people,* ¹⁵ *and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest),* ¹⁶ *the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho.* ¹⁷ *Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.* That is how the Israelites entered the land promised to them through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel).

There are many other interesting stories to tell you from the Old Testament. That portion of God’s Word, you feel, is not worthy for you to read and study. You think that you are a New Testament believer and, in your mind, the Old Testament was meant for the Jews, therefore it does not apply to you. There is an interesting story in the book of Job. God took delight in Job’s praise and worship to Him. He even challenged Satan to view the faithfulness of Job. Satan told God that He had a hedge around Job, and that Job would curse God if the hedge was removed. God gave permission to Satan to attempt to have Job to change his mind. God told Satan the one thing he could not do was that he could not take Job’s life. Job went through hell, however, he did not curse or rebel against God. There came a point that God went to Job and asked him many things. That entire discussion is laid out in chapters 38-41 of the book of Job. I’m placing chapter 38 here, for you to see what God asked of Job. Please consider what you would say if God asked these things to you. Job 38, ¹ *Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:* ² *“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³ Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to Me.*

⁴ *“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.* ⁵ *Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶ On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, ⁷ when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*

⁸ *“Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, ⁹ when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, ¹⁰ and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, ¹¹ and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed’?*

¹² *“Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, ¹³ that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? ¹⁴ It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment. ¹⁵ From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken.*

¹⁶ *“Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? ¹⁷ Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? ¹⁸ Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this. ¹⁹ “Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and where is the place of darkness, ²⁰ that you may take it to its territory and that you*

may discern the paths to its home? ²¹ You know, for you were born then, and the number of your days is great!

²² “Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or have you seen the storehouses of the hail, ²³ which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war? ²⁴ What is the way to the place where the light is distributed, or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth?

²⁵ “Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain and a way for the thunderbolt, ²⁶ to bring rain on a land where no man is, on the desert in which there is no man, ²⁷ to satisfy the waste and desolate land, and to make the ground sprout with grass?

²⁸ “Has the rain a father, or who has begotten the drops of dew? ²⁹ From whose womb did the ice come forth, and who has given birth to the frost of heaven? ³⁰ The waters become hard like stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. ³¹ “Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion? ³² Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season, or can you guide the Bear with its children? ³³ Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth?

³⁴ “Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, that a flood of waters may cover you? ³⁵ Can you send forth lightnings, that they may go and say to you, ‘Here we are’? ³⁶ Who has put wisdom in the inward parts or given understanding to the mind? ³⁷ Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, ³⁸ when the dust runs into a mass and the clods stick fast together? ³⁹ “Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, ⁴⁰ when they crouch in their dens or lie in wait in their thicket? ⁴¹ Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God for help, and wander about for lack of food? That is just the first of these four chapters when God is asking Job questions concerning God’s creation of the universe. From just this one chapter, do you get an understanding of God’s greatness and of whom He truly is?

Some time after the Israelites had been in the “promised land”, they wanted a king to rule over them like the other nations. The prophet, at that time, was Samuel. Samuel tried to tell them that they would not really like having a king over them. A king would tax them, and he would enlist their children for service in whatever area the king wanted to have servants. It could be anything, from being a cook in the king’s house (palace), to being part of an army. Samuel took the matter to Yahweh and sought an answer. God confirmed that a king would use the people for servitude, and also tax them. Samuel told this to the people, however, they continued to demand a king. Samuel again asked God for guidance. Finally, God told Samuel that He would show him the one He, God, had selected to be king. The first king over Israel was Saul. It is stated in the Bible that Saul was a head taller than most of the men in Israel. My best guess is that Saul was well over six foot tall.

One story, about the time of Saul, was the story of a battle between Israel and the Philistines. The Israelites were afraid of the Philistines because their champion was a giant. No one wanted to fight against this giant. At this time, there was another part that was being prepared by God. A man of Israel named Jesse had eight sons and Samuel was directed to have each to pass before him. God would then show Samuel, which one, God had selected to replace Saul as king. David was the one God had shown Samuel to anoint. As it was, the men of Israel were fighting the Philistines, and the giant Goliath would challenge the Israelites to send their champion. The one who won the challenge would enslave the losers. Jesse, the father of David, had told his son David to take provisions to his three older brothers, who were with Saul. When David arrived at the place of this battle, he heard the challenge spoken by Goliath and asked the men why no one was answering the challenge. They all put David down because he was but a youth and knew nothing of battles and fighting. David again asked the men why they were afraid. He was again called down because of his youth. Saul heard what was going on and called David to him. David said, “send me and I will fight this uncircumcised giant.” Saul did not agree with David. David told him that, in watching his father’s sheep, he had fought lions and bears that came and took a lamb from among the flock. Finally, Saul allowed David to go. David stopped at the stream and picked

up five smooth stones. When he approached the giant, he said come here and I will give your body to the birds. The reply of the giant can be found in 1 Samuel 17:45-51, ⁴⁵ *Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord’s, and He will give you into our hand.”*

⁴⁸ *When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹ And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.*

⁵⁰ *So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David. ⁵¹ Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.*

We can see two things in this story. First, God chooses kings and He can remove kings. Second, we can see the power of God as He watches over and cares for His people when they obey His will. It was the disobedience of Saul that caused God to reject Saul, in the first place. 1 Samuel 15:23-28, ²³ *For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has also rejected you from being king.”*

²⁴ *Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. ²⁵ Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me that I may worship the Lord.” ²⁶ And Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you. For you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.” ²⁷ As Samuel turned to go away, Saul seized the skirt of his robe, and it tore. ²⁸ And Samuel said to him, “The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.*

Through the kingship of David, we find a covenant between God and King David. We have already seen that there are periods when mankind is obedient to God’s rules and His will. We have also seen that there are periods when the people rebel, and go against God and His rules. Here is the verse reference that is stated pertaining to the covenant between God and David, 2 Samuel 7:16, ¹⁶ *And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before Me. Your throne shall be established forever.”*

Here is the nature of the covenant with David. While a contract refers to a legal agreement, a covenant is a “life agreement” between two or more parties. When God makes a covenant, the terms are based on His promises, standards and regulations. The benefits, of such a covenant, are dependent upon people’s obedience, trust and faithfulness to God. (1) Though the word “covenant” does not actually occur in 2 Samuel 7, it is clear that God was establishing a solemn life agreement with David. In Psalms 89:3-4, for example, God says: “I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.” This promise, that the kingship over God’s people, would be established forever through David’s family line, is the same promise that God made to David in the above quoted verse from 2 Samuel, chapter 7. Later, in 2 Samuel, David himself speaks of the “everlasting covenant” that God made with him (2 Sam. 23:5). It is certain that, he is speaking of the occasion in 2 Sam. 7.

(2) The same two principles that apply, in other Old Testament covenants, are also evident here: God, alone, established the promises and obligations of His covenant, and people were expected to accept these terms in obedient faith. (a) In this covenant arrangement with David, God made a promise to establish the kingdom of David’s son, Solomon. Solomon would be the one to build a house, or

temple, for the Lord. (b) At the same time, God's promise that David's house, or dynasty, would endure forever was conditional. It depended on the faithful obedience of David and his descendants. This covenant was everlasting, only in the sense that God intended to always keep a son of David's line on the throne in Jerusalem, as long as these rulers remained faithful and obedient to God.

(3) For the next four centuries, David's family line remained unbroken on Judah's throne. Judah was the southern portion of the kingdom that resulted from the division of Israel, first following the death of King Saul, then again after the death of David's son, Solomon. The kingdom of Judah got its name from the tribe of Judah, which made up most of the southern kingdom. Judah was the tribe through which God would continue to keep His covenant people, establish His eternal kingship and later bring the Messiah. Judah's capital was in Jerusalem. But, when Judah's kings, such as the wicked Manasseh and those who reigned after King Josiah, continued to rebel against God by worshiping idols and disobeying His law, God finally removed them from the throne. He allowed King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to invade the land of Judah, attach the city of Jerusalem and at the end destroy the city, along with its temple, in 586 BCE. That would be the first time, since their slavery in Egypt, that the southern kingdom of God's people came under the control of foreign rulers. We must recall that under King Solomon, the united kingdom was to be torn apart and become two kingdoms, termed the House of Israel, as the northern kingdom, and the House of Judah, as the southern kingdom. This split was actually completed during the reign of Solomon's son, Rehoboam. Jeroboam became the king of Israel while Rehoboam was king of Judah.

There was one part of God's covenant with David that was totally unconditional. God said, that in the end, the kingdom of David would be established forever. (1) The main point of God's promise was that the Messiah, the eternal King, would come from David's family line. This King would be ruler, not only over Israel, but also over God's followers from all the nations. He would come out of the city of Bethlehem, and His reign would reach to the ends of the earth. He would be called "The Lord of righteousness" and would bring salvation from sin. The fulfillment of God's promise to David was the birth of Yeshua as Messiah, that was announced by the angel Gabriel to Mary, a godly daughter from David's family line.

(2) God's promise to David broadened and expanded the promise made in Genesis 3:15, which predicted Satan's defeat through Eve's offspring. Recall what that promise stated, Gen. 3:15, *¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.*" It was also a continuation of the covenant given to Abraham and his descendants.

(3) The fulfillment of this promise involved Christ rising from the dead and being exalted to His rightful place at God's right hand, the place of highest honor in heaven. From this position, He now rules as King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ's first task, as exalted Lord, was to send the Holy Spirit to live within His followers and empower them to spread His message.

(4) As a part of Christ's reign, there is the invitation and call to all people to turn from sin, to accept Christ as Savior and Lord, the Forgiver of their sins and Leader of their lives, and, to then, receive the Holy Spirit.

(5) Christ's eternal kingship includes (a) His present rule over God's kingdom and His leadership over the church, (b) His future millennial reign over the nations on earth, and (c) His eternal kingdom in the new heaven and the new earth.

Since we are dealing with the covenant between God and King David, we really need to view a listing, and the state of affairs, of all the kings of both the House of Israel and the House of Judah. I have placed Israel ahead of Judah because their actions placed them into exile 133 years prior to the exile of Judah. By the actions and leadership of the kings of Israel, their cup of iniquity was full to the brim. Israel was not only cast out of that land, their God-given heritage, that, if God be true, must yet

become their everlasting home. But, Israel was cast off by the Lord and divorced from Him because of her harlotry in forsaking Him, her lawful husband, and for the worship of idols.

Before giving the details of the casting out and the casting off, I feel it advisable to give a complete list of Israel's dynasties. This I will do, together with a list of all the kings who reigned over Israel from the time when the kingdom was taken from Solomon, through his son, Rehoboam, and given to Jeroboam, his servant, until they were finally driven out of the land. I will also illuminate what the Scripture says concerning the sin of each of these kings.

Placed below is the name and number of the king, the number of the dynasty, the length of time each of the kings reigned, and what is said concerning each king's sins. This chart and the casting out of Israel and Judah, both houses, are extracted from my book, "The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel". All scripture used, in this section, is from the New King James Version (NKJV).

Dynasty

Idolatry

I. DYNASTY

1st King, Jeroboam
Reigned 22 years.

And Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom may return to the house of David: If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah."

Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!" And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan. 1 Kings 12:26-30 The original idol worship sin of Israel.

2nd King, Nadab
Reigned 2 years.

And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin. 1 Kings 15:26

II. DYNASTY

3rd King, Baasha.
Reigned 24 years.

And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin. 1 Kings 15:34

4th King, Elah.
Reigned 2 years.

For all the sins of Baasha and the sins of Elah his son, by which they had sinned and by which they made Israel sin, in provoking the Lord God of Israel to anger with their idols. 1 Kings 16:13

III. DYNASTY

5th King, Zimri.
Reigned 1 week.

And it happened, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into the citadel of the king's house and burned the king's house down upon himself with fire, and died, because of the sins which he committed in doing evil in the sight of the Lord, in walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he had committed to make Israel sin. 1 Kings 16:18-19

IV. DYNASTY

6th King, Omri.
Reigned 12 years.

Omri did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and did worse than all who were before him. For he walked in all the ways of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin, provoking the Lord God of Israel to anger with their idols. 1 Kings 16:25-26

7th King, Ahab.
Reigned 22 years.

Very wicked
along with Jezebel

Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all that were before him. And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him. 1 Kings 16:30-33

8th King, Ahaziah.
Reigned 2 years.

He did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother, and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin; for he served Baal and worshiped him, and provoked the Lord God of Israel to anger, according to all that his father had done. 1 Kings 22:52-53

9th King, Jehoram.
Reigned 12 years.

And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, but not like his father and mother; for he put away the sacred pillar of Baal that his father had made. Nevertheless he persisted in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin; he did not depart from them. 2 Kings 3:2-3

V. DYNASTY

10th King, Jehu.
Reigned 28 years.

However Jehu did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin, that is, from the golden calves that were at Bethel and Dan. 2 Kings 10:29

11th King, Jehoahaz.
Reigned 17 years.

And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. He did not depart from them. 2 Kings 13:2

12th King, Joash.
Reigned 16 years.

And he did evil in the sight of the Lord. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, but walked in them. 2 Kings 13:11

13th King, Jeroboam, the 2d
(son of Joash).
Reigned 41 years.

And he did evil in the sight of the Lord; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. 2 Kings 14:24

14th King, Zachariah.
Reigned 6 months.

And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, as his fathers had done; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. 2 Kings 15:9

VI. DYNASTY

15th King, Shallum.
Reigned 1 month.

Sins of Shallum not recorded.

VII. DYNASTY

16th King Menahem.
Reigned 10 years.

And he did evil in the sight of the Lord; he did not depart all his days from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. 2 Kings 15:18

17th King Pekahiah.
Reigned 2 years.

And he did evil in the sight of the Lord; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. 2 Kings 15:24

VIII. DYNASTY

18th King, Pekah.
Reigned 20 years.

And he did evil in the sight of the Lord; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. 2 Kings 15:28

19th King, Hoshea.
Reigned 9 years.

And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, but not as the kings of Israel who were before him. 2 Kings 17:2

After the introduction of Baalism and other idolatries, there were a few feeble attempts at reformation, but they were only a partial attempt, as we may readily see. Take the case of Jehoram, the ninth king of Israel, 2 Kings 3:2-3, *And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, but not like his father and mother; for he put away the sacred pillar of Baal that his father had made. Nevertheless he persisted in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin; he did not depart from them.* It was this slight and hypocritical attempt to purify the worship of the people that so displeased the Lord, and made Elisha, the prophet, give that scathing rebuke to Jehoram in the presence of his kinsman kings. For if he knew enough, concerning the Lord God of his race, to have his consciousness troubled over Baal, he had sufficient light to have made a clean sweep of the whole thing, but he did not do it. And the sequel (continuing story) proves he did not succeed in destroying Baalism from among his people, for they were soon back to it. They even went so far as to offer their own sons and daughters, in living sacrifice, to the idol of Baal.

It was to this kingdom, the people who are Israelites and not Jews, that the Lord sent Elijah, the prophet, to make the fire test, as to whether He of the burning bush, or Baal was God. The Lord answered by fire, not only consuming the sacrifice, but also the stones of the altar, the water in the ditch, and the very dust under the altar. It was these people who shouted loud and long: 1 Kings 18:39, *“The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!”* Albeit, they never gave up the practices established by King Jeroboam, and soon relapsed into the worship of idols worse than they ever had before.

Finally, the Lord raised up Jehu, who destroyed all the house of Ahab, and became the king of Israel. He, upon his ascension: 2 Kings. 10:18-19, *Then Jehu gathered all the people together, and said to them, “Ahab served Baal a little, Jehu will serve him much. Now therefore, call to me all the prophets of Baal, all his servants and all his priests. Let no one be missing, for I have a great sacrifice for Baal. Whoever is missing shall not live.” But Jehu acted deceptively, with the intent of destroying the worshipers of Baal.*

His ruse worked like a charm. They all came, prophets, priests and all the worshipers. 2 Kings 10:21, . . . *so that there was not a man left who did not come*, and the house of Baal was full from one

end to the other. Then he commanded his guards to destroy them, saying the man who let one escape should pay the penalty with his own life. They did their work and did it well. So the record reads: 2 Kings 10:28, *Thus Jehu destroyed Baal from Israel.* But! Note the very next verse. 2 Kings 10:29, *However Jehu did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin, that is, from the golden calves that were at Bethel and Dan.*

It was in regard to Israel, this same northern kingdom, that the Lord spoke through the prophet Hosea 4:16 KJV, *For Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer,* and of whom He said: Hosea 14:4, *“I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely,”* and whom He exhorted, saying: Hosea 14:1, *“O Israel, return to the Lord your God,”* **But Israel would not heed God’s words! Yet! At that same time, the Lord declared the Jews did have power with Him, and they were among the faithful saints.**

In the light of all these facts, can there be any further question as to the real meaning of the expression: Hosea 4:17, *Ephraim is joined to idols,* i.e., Jeroboam’s calves? Need we be surprised, in the reality of these cold, hard facts, that the Lord said: Hosea 4:17, *“Let him alone.”* No! Surely not! The only surprise is: How could we have been so stupid as to have tried to spiritualize Ephraim and his idols.

It is a well-known fact that the Jews also fell into the worship of Baal. For this, they were eventually carried away to Babylon. I deemed it advisable to show the continued dynasty of David so everyone could more readily grasp other facts with which we shall deal. I give a tabulated list of Judah’s kings from the time God broke up the united kingdom until the Jewish people went into the Babylonian captivity. As you will recall in 1 Kings 12:24, *“For this thing is from Me!”* Meaning that God caused the breakup. I will attempt to make this into a similar chart to show the faithfulness or rebellion of each king of Judah. Scripture for this one chart is taken from the English Standard Version (ESV).

KINGDOM OF JUDAH

(Dynasty a continuation of David’s house.)

<u>Number</u>	<u>King</u>	<u>Years Reigned</u>	<u>Righteous or Sinful</u>
1	Rehoboam	17	Evil, 1 K 14:22-24, ²² <i>And Judah did what was <u>evil in the sight of the Lord</u>, and they provoked Him to jealousy with their sins that they committed, more than all that their fathers had done.</i> ²³ <i>For they also built for themselves high places and pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, ²⁴ and there were also <u>male cult prostitutes</u> in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations that the Lord drove out before the people of Israel.</i>
2	Abijah (Abijam)	3	Evil, 1 K 15:1-3, ¹ <i>Now in the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam the son of Nebat, Abijam began to reign over Judah.</i> ² <i>He reigned for three years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Maacah the daughter of Abishalom.</i> ³ <i>And <u>he walked in all the sins that his father did before him</u>, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father.</i>
3	Asa	41	Good, 1 K 15:11-14, ¹¹ <i>And Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as David his father had done.</i> ¹² <i><u>He put away the male cult prostitutes out of the land and removed all the idols that his</u></i>

*fathers had made.*¹³ He also removed Maacah his mother from being queen mother because she had made an abominable image for Asherah. And Asa cut down her image and burned it at the brook Kidron.¹⁴ But the high places were not taken away. Nevertheless, the heart of Asa was wholly true to the Lord all his days.

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|----|----------------------------------|----|---|
| 4 | Jehoshaphat | 25 | Good, 1 K 22:43-44, ⁴³ He walked in all the way of Asa his father. He did not turn aside from it, <u>doing what was right</u> in the sight of the Lord. Yet the high places were not taken away, and the people still sacrificed and made offerings on the high places. ⁴⁴ Jehoshaphat also made peace with the king of Israel. |
| 5 | Jehoram (Joram) | 8 | Evil, 2 K 8:18, ¹⁸ And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife. And he <u>did what was evil</u> in the sight of the Lord. |
| 6 | Ahaziah | 1 | Evil, 2 K 8:27, ²⁷ He also walked in the way of the house of Ahab and <u>did what was evil</u> in the sight of the Lord, as the house of Ahab had done, for he was son-in-law to the house of Ahab. |
| 7 | Athaliah (Only Queen over Judah) | 6 | Evil, 2 K 11:3, ³ And he remained with her six years, hidden in the house of the Lord, <u>while Athaliah reigned</u> over the land. |
| 8 | Jehoash (Joash) | 40 | Good, 2 K 12:2-3, ² And Jehoash <u>did what was right</u> in the eyes of the Lord all his days, because Jehoiada the priest instructed him. ³ Nevertheless, the high places were not taken away; the people continued to sacrifice and make offerings on the high places. |
| 9 | Amaziah | 29 | Good, 2 K 14:3-4, ³ And he <u>did what was right</u> in the eyes of the Lord, yet not like David his father. He did in all things as Joash his father had done. ⁴ But the high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and made offerings on the high places |
| 10 | Azariah (Uzziah) | 52 | Good, 2 K 15:3-4, ³ And he <u>did what was right</u> in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. ⁴ Nevertheless, the high places were not taken away. The people still sacrificed and made offerings on the high places. |
| 11 | Jotham | 16 | Good, 2 K 15:34-35, ³⁴ And he <u>did what was right</u> in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that his father Uzziah had done. ³⁵ Nevertheless, the high places were not removed. The people still sacrificed and made offerings on the high places. He built the upper gate of the house of the Lord. |

- 12 Ahaz (Achaz) 16 Evil, 2 K 16:2-4, ² Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And he did not do what was right in the eyes of the Lord his God, as his father David had done, ³ but he walked in the way of the kings of Israel. **He even burned his son as an offering**, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel. ⁴ And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree.
- 13 Hezekiah 29 Good, 2 K 18:3-5, ³ And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done. ⁴ He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan).
- 14 Manasseh 55 Evil, 2 K 21:2-6, ² And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel. ³ For he rebuilt the high places that Hezekiah his father had destroyed, and he erected altars for Baal and made an Asherah, as Ahab king of Israel had done, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. ⁴ And he built altars in the house of the Lord, of which the Lord had said, "In Jerusalem will I put my name." ⁵ And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord. ⁶ And **he burned his son as an offering** and used fortune-telling and omens and dealt with mediums and with necromancers. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking Him to anger.
- 15 Amon 2 Evil, 2 K 21:20-22, ²⁰ And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, as Manasseh his father had done. ²¹ He walked in all the way in which his father walked and served the idols that his father served and worshiped them. ²² He abandoned the Lord, the God of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the Lord.
- 16 Josiah 31 Good, 2 K 22:2; 23:3-25, ² And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and walked in all the way of David his father, and he did not turn aside to the right or to the left. 2 K 23:3-25, ³ And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people joined in the covenant.
⁴ And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest and the priests of the second order and the keepers of the threshold to bring out of the temple of the Lord all the vessels made for Baal, for Asherah, and for all the host of heaven. He burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron and carried their ashes to Bethel. ⁵ And he deposed the priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to make offerings in the high places at the cities of Judah and around Jerusalem; those also who burned incense to Baal, to the sun and the moon and the constellations and all the host of the heavens. ⁶

And he brought out the Asherah from the house of the Lord, outside Jerusalem, to the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron and beat it to dust and cast the dust of it upon the graves of the common people. ⁷ **And he broke down the houses of the male cult prostitutes who were in the house of the Lord,** where the women wove hangings for the Asherah. ⁸ And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had made offerings, from Geba to Beersheba. And he broke down the high places of the gates that were at the entrance of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on one's left at the gate of the city. ⁹ However, the priests of the high places did not come up to the altar of the Lord in Jerusalem, but they ate unleavened bread among their brothers. ¹⁰ And he defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, that no one might burn his son or his daughter as an offering to Molech. ¹¹ **And he removed the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun,** at the entrance to the house of the Lord, by the chamber of Nathan-melech the chamberlain, which was in the precincts. **And he burned the chariots of the sun with fire.** ¹² And the altars on the roof of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars that Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the Lord, he pulled down and broke in pieces and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron. ¹³ And the king defiled the high places that were east of Jerusalem, to the south of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. ¹⁴ And he broke in pieces the pillars and cut down the Asherim and filled their places with the bones of men.

¹⁵ Moreover, the altar at Bethel, the high place erected by Jeroboam the son of Nebat, **who made Israel to sin,** that altar with the high place he pulled down and burned, reducing it to dust. He also burned the Asherah. ¹⁶ And as Josiah turned, he saw the tombs there on the mount. And he sent and took the bones out of the tombs and burned them on the altar and defiled it, according to the word of the Lord that the man of God proclaimed, who had predicted these things. ¹⁷ Then he said, "What is that monument that I see?" And the men of the city told him, "It is the tomb of the man of God who came from Judah and predicted these things that you have done against the altar at Bethel." ¹⁸ And he said, "Let him be; let no man move his bones." So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet who came out of Samaria. ¹⁹ And Josiah removed all the shrines also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which kings of Israel had made, provoking the Lord to anger. He did to them according to all that he had done at Bethel. ²⁰ And he sacrificed all the priests of the high places who were there, on the altars, and burned human bones on them. Then he returned to Jerusalem.

²¹ And the king commanded all the people, "Keep the Passover to the Lord your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant." ²²

For no such Passover had been kept since the days of the judges who judged Israel, or during all the days of the kings of Israel or of the kings of Judah. ²³ But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this Passover was kept to the Lord in Jerusalem.

²⁴ Moreover, Josiah put away the mediums and the necromancers and the household gods and the idols and all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might establish the words of the law that were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the Lord. ²⁵ Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor did any like him arise after him.

17	Jehoahaz (Johanan)	3 mos	<i>Evil, 2 K 23:32-33, ³² And he <u>did what was evil</u> in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his fathers had done. ³³ And Pharaoh Neco put him in bonds at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem, and laid on the land a tribute of a hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.</i>
18	Jehoiakim (Eliakim)	11	<i>Evil, 2 K 23:37, ³⁷ And he <u>did what was evil</u> in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his fathers had done.</i>
19	Jehoiachin (Coniah)	3 mos	<i>Evil, 2 K 24:9, ⁹ And he <u>did what was evil</u> in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father had done.</i>
20	Zedekiah	11	<i>Evil, 2 K 24:19, ¹⁹ And he <u>did what was evil</u> in the sight of the Lord, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. 2 K 24:17, ¹⁷ And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle, king in his place, and changed his name to Zedekiah.</i> Last King of Judah

In this list, we perceive the same dynasty that commenced when David was made king over the united tribes, and continues throughout this entire list to and including Zedekiah. With the six year exception that Athaliah reigned while Joash was hidden from Athaliah. From Ahaziah to Joash continues the line of King David. While, in the previously given list of Israel's kings, you notice there are no less than eight dynasties. The reason is obvious! Judah's kings are the God-given royal line, along which the swaying scepter passed from father to son (or at least kept in the same family). For the Lord had promised this family that neither the scepter nor a lawgiver should depart from them until Shiloh should come. Such was not the case in the kingdom of Israel, and feudalism prevailed among them!

Surely, you can understand why God was upset with His chosen people. Their kings, for the most part, turned away from their God to all the pagan gods around them in the territories of the tribal groups who were cast out so they could possess the land of Canaan. The House of Israel was dealt with first and was taken into captivity, by the Assyrians, 133 years prior to the House of Judah being taken captive to Babylon. Go through and make a close inspection of the sins that the kings of Israel and Judah committed. Make a note as you go through these two list of the pagan gods that the kings set up before the people.

Israel Cast Out and Cast Off

Concerning the casting out of Israel, it is written: 2 Kings 18:9-12, *Now it came to pass in the fourth year of King Hezekiah (the king of Judah), which was the seventh year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Israel, that Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it. And at the end of three years they took it. In the sixth year of Hezekiah, that is, the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken. Then the king of Assyria carried Israel away captive to Assyria, and put them in Halah and by the Habor the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes, because they did not obey the voice of the Lord their God, but transgressed His covenant and all that Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded; and they would neither hear nor do them. 2 Kings 17:22-24, For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them, until the Lord removed Israel out of His sight (Literally his first and foremost regard, or preeminent favor; such as is expressed in other places by the use of the words face and countenance.), *as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to this day. Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities.**

It is affirmed here, the king of Assyria took this northern kingdom *out of their own land*, the land which was called Samaria. The Assyrian king then placed another people there *instead of the children of Israel. Then Samaria is the lawful home of those pre-Samaritans, THE EGYPTO-ISRAELITES* of Ephraim or the Birthright kingdom, while those mongrel so called Samaritans, who were gathered up from various places, were but strangers and foreigners in that portion of the Abrahamic land grant known as Samaria.

Following this record of the removal of Israel and the placing of these strangers in their former home, we have: 2 Kings 17:25-34, *And it was so, at the beginning of the dwelling there, that they did not fear the Lord; therefore the Lord sent lions among them, which killed some of them. So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, “The nations whom you have removed and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the rituals of the God of the land; therefore He has sent lions among them, and indeed, they are killing them because they do not know the rituals of the God of the land.”*

Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, “Send there one of the priests whom you brought from there; let him go and dwell there, and let him teach them the rituals of the God of the land.”

Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the Lord. However every nation continued to make gods of its own, and put them in the shrines on the high places which the (former) Samaritans (Israelites) had made, every nation in the cities where they dwelt. The men of Babylon made Succoth Benoth (an idol), the men of Cuth made Nergal (another idol), the men of Hamath made Ashima (still another), and the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak (still other idols); and the Sepharvites burned their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharviam. So they feared the Lord, and from every class they appointed for themselves priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places. They feared the Lord, yet served their own gods—according to the rituals of the nations (Joseph-Ephraim-Samaria-Israel) from among whom they were carried away. To this day they continue practicing the former rituals; they do not fear the Lord, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances, or the law and commandment which the Lord had commanded the children of Jacob, whom He named Israel.

Notice this statement from the above text: *After the former rituals.* Aren't these rituals being discussed as those of idolatrous Israel who served their own idols (gods)? Wasn't it Israel who built those same high places (the groves, temples and altars) and in them worshiped the works of their own hands? Wasn't it Israel who rejected the priests of the Lord, and made priests of the lowest of the

people? Here is a perfect flower, produced from the pollen of example, and grown upon the plant of *After the former rituals*. Here is a clear case of gathering thistles when they should have had figs. Yet, that poor priest, who was sent back, was not to blame, for he himself was one of the lowest of his race! The blame lay behind him, to Israel!

The charge against the people of Israel is: Jeremiah 3:20, "*Surely, as a wife treacherously departs from her husband, so have you dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel,*" says the Lord. And the Lord cried out, Hosea 5:3, "*O Ephraim, you commit harlotry; Israel is defiled.*" Hosea is also used by the Lord to declare, Hosea 9:16-17, "*Ephraim is smitten . . . My God will cast them away, because they did not obey Him; and they shall be wanderers among the nations.*" Thus the Lord declares, verse 15, "*I will love them no more.*" But in the bitterness of His disappointment, for this is the same Lord that wept over Jerusalem, He cried out: Hosea 11:8, "*How can I give you up, Ephraim?*"

No! No! The loving God of the Burning Bush did not want to cast them off, but they forsook Him. They would not have Him reign over them. They would no longer ask counsel of Him after the judgment of Urim and Thummim, for the faithful but rejected One declares: Hosea 4:12, *My people ask counsel from their wooden idols* (we saw many of these wooden idols on the previous page), *and their staff* (in this case the meaning is *the sacred pillar of Baal*) *informs them. For the spirit of harlotry has caused them to stray, and they have played the harlot against their God.*

Still He cries after them. Jeremiah 3:14, 22, "*Return, O backsliding children,*" says the Lord; "*for I am married to you. . . . Return, you backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings.*" But they would not! Previous to this, the Lord had said He was a husband to Israel. Now, disappointed, He turns His heart more to the other kingdom, that of Judah. Hosea 4:15, "*Though you, Israel, play the harlot, let not Judah offend.*" As the story unfolds, we find that Judah offended worse than Israel, and one hundred and thirty-three years after the driving out of Israel, they also were carried into captivity, the captivity in Babylon.

Since: Isaiah 7:9, *The head of Ephraim is Samaria, . . .* there should be no difficulty in understanding why the Lord would declare: Hosea 10:5, "*The inhabitants of Samaria fear because of the calf of Beth Aven.*" Beth Aven is defined as *House of Vanities, vain emptiness*. When Jeroboam set up the two calves for Israel to worship, he set one in Bethel, that means *God's house*, and by worshiping those idols, Israel turned the house of God into a house of vanity, or, in other words, of vain, hollow, and unsatisfactory emptiness. 1 Kings 16:13, . . . *in provoking the Lord God of Israel to anger* (passionate suffering) *with their idols*. Hence the wail of the prophet. Isaiah 59:4, ". . . *They trust in empty words and speak lies; they conceive evil and bring forth iniquity.*"

Let us note the following verses carefully because we will gain further understanding concerning the calf question. Hosea 8:3-14, *Israel has rejected the good* (God and His care); *the enemy will pursue him* (because they had cast off the protection of God). *They set up kings, but not by Me* (their own, not the Lord's, choice); *they made princes* (feudal princes, not of the royal line), *but I did not acknowledge them* (Hebrew, *yada*, appoint, recognize). *From their silver and gold they made idols* (calves, etc.) *for themselves, that* (as a result) *they might be cut off.*

Your calf (the cause) *is rejected, O Samaria! My anger* (long-suffering passion) *is aroused against them, how long until they attain to innocence?* In other words, the lack of guilt through the power of the calf to forgive, or take that guilt away.

For from Israel is even this: a workman made it, and it is not God: but the calf of Samaria shall be broken to pieces.

They sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind. The stalk has no bud; it shall never produce meal. If it should produce, aliens (imported post exile Samaritans) *would swallow it up.*

Israel is swallowed up; now they are among the Gentiles like a vessel in which is no pleasure. For they have gone up to Assyria, like a wild donkey alone (without God) *by itself; Ephraim has hired*

lovers, or loves, i.e., having no loving care from the Lord, they hire someone to love them. Yes, though they have hired (lovers) among the nations, now I will gather them; and they shall sorrow a little, because of the burden of the king of princes.

Because Ephraim has made many altars for sin, they have become for him altars for sinning. I have written for him the great things of My law, but they were considered a strange thing. For the sacrifices of My offerings they sacrifice (other) flesh and eat it, but the Lord does not accept them. Now He will remember their iniquity and punish their sins. They shall return to Egypt. (Figurative—to them a period of captivity and bondage.) For Israel has forgotten his Maker. . . .

Isaiah fully explains the expression: *And they shall sorrow a little, Because of the burden of the king of princes*, of Hosea 8:10 in: Isaiah 10:5-8, *Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger and the staff in whose hand is My indignation. I will send him against an ungodly nation, and against the people of My wrath I will give him charge, to seize the spoil, to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. Yet he does not mean so, nor does his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy and cut off not a few nations. For he says, “Are not my princes altogether kings?”*

This last expression was an Assyrian boast. The Assyrian king really expected to destroy Israel and cut them off, but **the Word of God has gone forth that they shall never be destroyed!** In order to punish them, God allowed the Assyrians to *tread them down like the mire of the streets*. And further on, in verse 24, God refers to the Egyptian bondage, and says, *“O My people, who dwell in Zion, do not be afraid of the Assyrian. He shall strike you with a rod and lift up his staff against them, in the manner of Egypt.”*

It is high time for us, those who live in the realm of faith, to throw off our lethargy (state of being lazy or indifferent), and arouse ourselves so that we do not dishonor God through stupidity and ignorance! We must understand that the name Samaria has a prophetic significance, as well as a historic one. Yes! Not only Samaria, but also the names of Ephraim, Joseph, Rachel, Judah, Jacob, Israel and many others have the same significance in the prophecies of the Bible as they have in its historic portions. That is, if the names Israel, Samaria, Ephraim, etc., are used in history to designate the Egypt-Israel Birthright kingdom, then when those names are used prophetically, surely the prophecy involved must refer to the same people. This is also true of the terms Judah and the Jews. True, the name Israel often includes the Jews, because, racially speaking, it is their national name, however, it is used time after time when it has no reference whatsoever to the Jewish people.

The Lord has made an unconditional promise to the Birthright nation in the thirty-first chapter of Jeremiah. This promise is given in clear, definite and unmistakable language. He declares they shall consider this unconditional promise in the last days. He clearly uses the names Jacob in verse 7, Ephraim in verse 6, Israel in verse 1, and Samaria in verse 5, with the name of Rachel in verse 15, the mother of the Birthright family. In this prophecy, and the Lord makes use of the expression: Jeremiah 31:9, “. . . *For I am a Father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.*” In connection with this He says: “. . . *He who scattered Israel will gather him.*” In verse 10, He commands that this be told in the land where Ephraim is living in the last days. **Now is that time to tell this to all of Israel!** “. . . *And declare it in the isles afar off, . . .*” He also says to them, in this same promise in verse 5, “*You shall yet plant vines on the mountains of Samaria, . . .*” and to this He further adds: verse 8 “. . . *A great throng shall return there.*”

“Return there!”

Where? To the place from which they came — Samaria!

Who? Jacob, Rachel, Joseph, Ephraim, Samaria, Israel!!! (All one and the same reference.)

When? When Shiloh comes!

It is a well-known fact that the Jews went into Babylonian captivity. It is much more fully known that they returned from this captivity and dwelt, for a short season, in Judea. However, aside from that, one priest was brought back from among the captives of Israel, and dwelt in Bethel, so he

might teach those mongrel post-Samaritans the manner of the gods of the land. Remember the gods of the land, at that time, were idols and not the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We cannot find one word of history, sacred or profane, to show that any tribe, tribes, or remnants of tribes, of those pre-Samaritans, the children of Israel, who composed the northern kingdom, have ever returned to and dwelt in their former home. Their former home is the portion of the land that the Lord God of heaven and earth promised to their fathers. It is known in Biblical history as Samaria. Samaria is the home of all Israel, in contradistinction from that which is known as all Judea that was the home of the Jews.

Following this discussion, pertaining to the House of Israel, I have given the details of the Babylonian captivity of the Jews, but, at present, I desire to call your attention to the fact that their captivity occurred in 588 BCE (Usher's Chronology, which is incorrect by more than eight years, but is sufficiently correct for our present purpose). The first prophecy uttered concerning the Babylonian captivity was 623 BCE and the last one twenty-three years later, that is 600 BCE. However, the prophet Amos had prophesied concerning the captivity and return from captivity of the northern kingdom one hundred and sixty-four years prior to the first hint that the Jews would ever go into captivity. That was one hundred and ninety-nine years before Israel was carried away into captivity.

The names that Amos used to designate the northern kingdom concerning the captivity of Israel are: **Samaria**, used four times; **Joseph**, used three times; **Isaac**, used twice; **Bethel**, used five times, and **Israel**, used seventeen times.

Amos is the only one of the prophets who applied the name of Isaac to either of the two kingdoms, but there can be no possible doubt that Amos gives the name of Isaac to the northern kingdom. Amos 1:1, *The words of Amos, who was among the sheepbreeders of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel, in the days of Uzziah, king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam (this is Jeroboam the Second) son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.* He uses the title of Isaac: Amos 7:9-15, *"The high places (groves for worship) of Isaac shall be desolate, and the sanctuaries (Bethel and Dan) of Israel shall be laid waste. I will rise with the sword against the house of Jeroboam (king of Israel)."* *Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel (the place where they went to worship the calf) sent to Jeroboam, king of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said, 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall surely be led away captive from their own land.'"*

Then Amaziah said to Amos: "Go you seer! Flee to the land of Judah (the Jews). There eat bread, And there prophesy. But never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is the royal residence."

In the days of Joshua, when the land of Canaan was divided by lot, Bethel fell to the house of Joseph. Thus, we find Bethel in possession of the Birthright kingdom and used as the sanctuary of this idolatrous king, for Jeroboam the first had polluted it with one of the calves.

While it is true that this people was taken from Samaria to Assyria, and they were given a promise that they shall eventually return to their home, there is something else that must first occur. The Lord has told us what He would do after they were cast out. Amos 9:9, *"For surely I will command, and will sift the house of Israel among all nations, as grain is sifted in a sieve; yet not the smallest grain shall fall to the ground."*

Then, after giving this prophecy concerning the sifting of the house of Israel among all nations, Amos prophesies concerning their return. Amos 9:14-15, *"I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink the wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them," says the Lord your God.*

In spite of this, the fact is this prophecy was written two centuries before the Jews of Judah were sent into captivity in Babylon, while they were yet counted among the faithful saints. This proph-

ecy when fulfilled, will bring Israel back home and they SHALL NO MORE BE PULLED UP out of their land. There are theory bound men who are so determined that everything Israeli shall be Jewish, and these men have the audacity to tell us this prophecy was fulfilled when the Jews returned from the Babylonian captivity.

At the same time, historians of the twentieth century declare this was fulfilled when World War II was over and the modern country of Israel was created in 1948. Once again, educated men and women do not desire to understand the prophecies God has laid down in His book. The coming together of the Zionist at the end of World War II to form the present day country of Israel pertains to Judah or the Jews. **Not Lost Israel!** The Jews had been dispersed into the world by the Romans at the destruction of the Temple along with the province of Judea at approximately 72 CE.

Judah Goes to Babylon and Returns

The twenty-third chapter of Ezekiel contains a short story that seems somewhat veiled, but a knowledge of the two houses, Israel and Judah, and their respective capitals lifts the veil and quickly sweeps it aside. It is of interest to us all, or should be. Ezekiel 23:2-4, *“Son of man, there were two women, the daughters of one mother. They committed harlotry in Egypt, they committed harlotry in their youth; their breasts were there embraced, their virgin bosom was there pressed. Their names: Oholah the elder and Oholibah her sister; they were Mine, and they bore sons and daughters. As for their names, Samaria is Oholah (Israel), and Jerusalem is Oholibah (Judah).”* Then the story continues with the fact that Oholah, the elder, played the harlot, and was followed into that sin by her sister Oholibah, who was more corrupt than Oholah had been. So God said: Ezekiel 16:38, *“I will judge you as women who break wedlock or shed blood are judged; I will bring blood upon you in fury and jealousy.”* Before the story ended, the history of Israel’s captivity to the Assyrians is told, together with prophecies concerning the captivity of Judah in Babylon.

The Lord further says to the Jews: Ezekiel 16:46, 51-52, *“Your elder sister is Samaria (Israel), who dwells with her daughters to the north of you; and your younger sister, who dwells to the south of you, is Sodom and her daughters. You did not walk in their ways, nor act according to their abominations; but, as if that were too little, you became more corrupt than they in all thy ways. . . . Samaria (Israel) did not commit half of your sins; but you have multiplied your abominations more than they, and have justified (by comparison) your sisters by all the abominations which you have done. You who judged your sisters, bear your own shame also, because the sins which you committed were more abominable than theirs; they are more righteous than you. Yes, be disgraced also, and bear your own shame, because you justified your sisters.”*

The verses above are in harmony with the record of Judah, as given by Jeremiah 3:8, 11, *“Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also.”* . . . Then the Lord said to me, *“Backsliding Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah.”*

2 Kings 23:27, *And the Lord said, “I will also remove Judah from My sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, ‘My name shall be there.’”* So Jeremiah was commanded to stand in the gate of the Lord’s house and proclaim the word of the Lord unto all the men of Judah, and among other things say unto them: Jeremiah 7:12-15, *“But go now to My place, which was in Shiloh (one of the cities of Joseph), where I set My name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of My people Israel. And now, because you have done all these works,” says the Lord, “and I spoke to you, rising up early and speaking, but you did not hear, and I called you, but you did not answer, therefore I will do to the house,*

which is called by My name, in which you trust, and to this place which I gave to you and your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh. And I will cast you out of My sight, as I have cast out all your brethren—the whole posterity of Ephraim.”

The above is the prophecy pertaining to Judah. Following is a part of the historical record of the fact after it was fulfilled. Jeremiah 52:27b-30, *Thus Judah was carried away captive from its own land. These are the people whom Nebuchadnezzar carried away captive: in the seventh year (of his reign) three thousand and twenty-three Jews; in the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar he carried away captive from Jerusalem eight hundred and thirty-two persons; in the twenty-third year of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive of the Jews seven hundred and forty-five persons. All the persons were four thousand six hundred.*

Jeremiah does teach that it was the Jews, or the people composing the kingdom of Judah, who were carried into Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar. It was only the Jewish people, or, in other words, the people of Judah, who returned from that captivity. I cite the following. Ezra 2:1, *Now these are the people of the province* (Judea had been a province to Babylon twenty years before Nebuchadnezzar robbed and burned the temple, destroyed Jerusalem, and took the Jews to Babylon.) *who came back from the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away into Babylon, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his own city.* Compare this passage in Ezra with Nehemiah 7:6, *These are the people of the province who came back from the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his city.*

The books of Ezra and Nehemiah are the only books of the Bible dealing with the history of that return from Babylon. Jeremiah had prophesied that the Jews should remain captives in the Chaldean Empire (Babylon was the capital of that empire) for seventy years. Just as the seventy years came to an end, the empire was taken by the Medes and Persians, and it became known in history as the Medo-Persian Empire.

Ezra begins his record: Ezra 1:1-5, *Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, “Thus said Cyrus king of Persia: ‘All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem. And whoever is left in any place (throughout Cyrus’ kingdom) where he dwells, let the men of his place help him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, besides the freewill offerings for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.’”*

Then the heads of the fathers’ houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, with all whose spirits God had moved, arose to go up to build the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem.

Did you notice it was only the men of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi who are mentioned as responding to this call? Also, you will remember that those three tribes are the three that compose the kingdom of Judah who went into Babylonian captivity. The northern kingdom, house of Israel, was carried away into the Assyrian captivity about one hundred and thirty-three years prior to this captivity of Judah, house of Judah or the southern kingdom.

Also notice, it was not all the fathers, nor all of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi that rose up to this call, but *the heads* (chiefs) *of the fathers’ houses*, and all the people in those tribes mentioned whose spirit the Lord had made willing. So these willing ones went to work, gathering silver, gold, goods, livestock and other precious things. And Cyrus, the king, brought out of the house one of the idols, where Nebuchadnezzar had put them, all of the vessels belonging to the house of the Lord, and through his treasurer: Ezra 1:8-11, *“And counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah. This is the*

number of them: Thirty gold platters, one thousand silver platters, twenty-nine knives, thirty gold basins, four hundred and ten silver basins of a similar kind, and one thousand other articles. All the articles of gold and silver were five thousand four hundred. All these Sheshbazzar took with the captives who were brought from Babylon to Jerusalem.

Notice there is no mention of the Ark of the Covenant among these things belonging to the house of God. The reason is that the Ark was with the Birthright people (Israel), or in Heaven. Since there is no record of what happened to the Ark of the Covenant, we have to take the clues that are left. One such clue is found in Jeremiah 3:16: *Then it shall come to pass, when you are multiplied and increased in the land in those days," says the Lord, "that they will say no more, 'The ark of the covenant of the Lord.' It shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they visit it, nor shall it be made anymore.*" That's one clue that might suggest the Ark is someplace among the Birthright people. There is one other clue that needs to be included here. Prof. Totten indicates that Jeremiah, his scribe and the king's daughters traveled by ship, piloted by Danites to Ireland, and they took the Ark to Tara where it is buried in the hills of Tara. The only other clue is found in Revelation 11:19, *Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.* With this verse, we may have to accept that God took the Ark of the Covenant back to Heaven and it is not on the Earth.

Some presume to teach that the house of Israel returned to Palestine with the Jews when they left Babylon. When we get to that phase of our subject, I will prove, by both the Old and New Testaments, that they did not! However, that proof is located in my book, *The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel* and not in this work. But, for here, I need to say that in the books that deal with the history of this return, there is not the slightest mention, directly or indirectly, of the other kingdom or house of Israel.

There is a mention of the army of Samaria by Nehemiah, but you will find that they belonged to the post-Samaritans, who with others, opposed and hindered the Jews in their work, until finally they forced them to cease work on the temple. Here is that record. Nehemiah 4:1-2, *But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews. And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish, stones that are burned?"* In the companion book: Ezra 4:1, *Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the descendants of the captivity were building the temple of the Lord God of Israel.*

Following these statements is the account of a prolonged persecution of the Jews by those mongrel nations of post-Samaritans. They hired counselors, wrote letters of protest, resorted to trickery and hypocrisy. A letter of protest was written to Artaxerxes, king of Persia, that was signed by many, together with Ezra. Ezra 4:10, *The rest of the nations whom the great and noble Osnapper took captive and settled in the cities of Samaria.* This had the effect of stopping the work on the temple, and it did not begin again until during the second year of Darius, when these imported Samaritans again tried to hinder the progress. The account of this is given by the historian Josephus, as follows: When the Samaritans, who were still enemies to the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, heard the sound of trumpets, they came running together, and desired to know what was the occasion of the tumult. When they perceived that it was the Jews who had been carried captive to Babylon and were rebuilding the temple, then they came to Zerubbabel, and to Jeshua, and to the heads of the families, and desired that they would give them leave to build the temple with them, and to be partners with them in building it. They said, "We worship your God, and especially pray to him, and are desirous of your religious settlement, and this ever since Shalmaneser, the king of Assyria, transplanted us out of Cuthah and Medea to this place."

When they said this, Zerubbabel and Jeshua, the high priest, and the heads of the families of the

Israelites, replied to them, “It was impossible for them to permit the Samaritans to be their partners, while they only had been appointed to build that temple at first by Cyrus, and now by Darius, although it was lawful for them to come and worship there if they pleased. They could allow them nothing but that in common with them, which was common to them with all other men, to come to their temple, and worship there.” When the Cutheans heard this, for the Samaritans have that appellation (title), they were indignant, and persuaded the nations of Assyria to desire the governors to put a stop to the building of the temple. They endeavored to delay and distract the Jews in their zeal, in the same manner as they had done formerly in the days of Cyrus, and again in the days of Cambyses afterwards.

This delayed matters for some time, but finally Darius ordered a search among the royal records, that resulted in the finding of the record of Cyrus concerning the restoration of the Jews, the building of the temple, and what the Lord commanded him in reference to them. The contents of this proclamation is given by Josephus, as follows: Cyrus, the king, in the first year of his reign, commanded that the temple should be built in Jerusalem. The altar in height should be threescore cubits, and its breadth of the same, with three edifices of polished stone, and one edifice of stone of their own country. He ordained that the expenses of it should be paid out of the king’s revenue. He also commanded that the vessels, which Nebuchadnezzar had pillaged out of the temple and carried to Babylon, should be restored to the people of Jerusalem, and the care of these things should belong to Sanadassar, the governor and president of Syria and Phoenicia, and to his associates. They were not to meddle with that place, but to permit the servants of God, the Jews and their rulers, to build the temple. He also ordained that they should assist them in that work. They were to pay to the Jews, out of the tribute of the country where they were governors, because of the sacrifices made by the Jews, bulls and rams, and lambs and kids of goats, and fine flour, and oil, and wine, and all other things that the priests should suggest to them. They should pray for the preservation of the king, and of the Persians, and for such as had transgressed any of these orders thus sent to them. Cyrus commanded that anyone transgressing these orders should be caught and hung upon a cross, and their substance confiscated for the king’s use. He also prayed to God against anyone attempting to hinder the building of the temple, asking God to strike him dead, and thereby restrain their wickedness.

Josephus also relates another trick of these Cuthean Samaritans as follows:

When Shalmaneser, the king of Assyria, had been told that Hoshea, the king of Israel, had sent privately to So, the king of Egypt, desiring his assistance against him, he was very angry. He then made an expedition against Samaria, in the seventh year of the reign of Hoshea. When he was not admitted into the city by the king, he besieged Samaria for three years, and took it by force in the ninth year of the reign of Hoshea, in the seventh year of Hezekiah, king of Jerusalem, and quite demolished the government of the Israelites. He then transplanted all the people into Medea and Persia, along with King Hoshea, alive. When he had removed these people out of their land, he relocated other nations out of Cutha, a place so called, (for there is still a river of that name in Persia,) into Samaria, and into the country of the Israelites. So the northern kingdom of the Israelites was removed.

The Cutheans, who had been moved into Samaria, (now called in the Hebrew tongue Cutheans, but in the Greek tongue Samaritans) saw the Jews in prosperity. Thus they pretended they were changed, allied to the Jews, and called them kinsmen, as though they were derived from Joseph.

My object in inserting these quotations is threefold:

First. To show that not only the sacred writers, but also the secular historian, and the rulers, both friendly and unfriendly, who had to do with those Israelites who went into and came out of the Babylonian captivity, called them Jews.

Second. To show how the bitter feeling was engendered among the Jews against those Cutheans (Samaritans), whom they called Dogs, and of whom they never forgave, and with whom they never had any dealings. When Christ spoke to the woman of Samaria at the well, she was so surprised her first

words were: John 4:9, “*How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman? For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.*”

Third. To show that neither Josephus, who writes on the Antiquities of the Jews, nor their enemies, the Cutheans (Samaritans), ever mix the northern nation Israelites with the Jewish Israelites.

Oh, how I thank God that He inspired Josephus to write concerning those imported nations in Samaria. Those living in that land that had been the home of the Birthright kingdom, would sidle up to (become cozy with) the Jews, and claim kinship, **AS THOUGH THEY WERE DERIVED FROM JOSEPH**, when advantageous to them. What impudence! Think of the audacity of these imported mongrels claiming to be a portion of the Abrahamic birthright holders. It is most fitting that the Jews should dub such a race of fawners (a false flattering manner) by the appropriate name of Dogs!

Both Ezra and Nehemiah, the Biblical historians of the return of the Jews from Babylon to Judea, give the genealogy and exact numbers of all who returned. The total is summed up in Ezra 2:64-65, *The whole assembly together was forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty, besides their male and female servants, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred and thirty-seven; and they had two hundred men and women singers.* Ezra says there were two hundred singing men and women, but Nehemiah puts the number of singers at two hundred and forty-five. This could easily have been the case by the time Nehemiah got there, for the return which he led was the second one, and did not take place until fourteen and a half years after the return led by Ezra. Yet in the genealogical records of this **whole assembly** of forty-nine thousand, eight hundred and ninety-seven Jews, there is not a tribal name mentioned except those of Judah, Benjamin and Levi.

Please remember it is the people of these three tribes who compose the mass of the kingdom of Judah, who are called Jews!

Josephus tells us of an epistle written by Xerxes, the son of Darius, at the time when the Jews were getting ready to leave Babylon, and sent to Esdras (Ezra) which was why there was great rejoicing among them. He speaks of the effect it had upon them. So he read the epistle at Babylon to those Jews who went there, but he kept the epistle itself, and sent a copy of it to all those of his own nation that were in Medea. And when these Israelites had understood what piety the king had toward God, and what kindness he had for Esdras, they were all greatly pleased. Some of them were so moved that they took their belongings with them, and came to Babylon, very desirous of going to Jerusalem. However, **the major portion of the people of Israel remained in that distant country.** Therefore, there are but two tribes in Asia subject to the Romans, while the northern kingdom is beyond the Euphrates until now (CE 95, or at the time of Josephus' writing), and are an immense multitude, and not to be estimated by numbers.

We note First and Second Kings, the Chronicles, Josephus, Ezra and Nehemiah, all speak of the kingdom of Judah at times, as **Judah and Benjamin**. This is why Josephus says, there were only two tribes under the authority of the Romans. The reason for this is supposed to be the fact that the Levites were priests who served in the temple, and did not count for anything when it came to the political and fighting strength of the Jewish people. The Levites were undoubtedly with Judah and Benjamin, as part of the Kingdom of Judah.

Aside from the mention of the tribal name of Asher, as the name of the tribe to which Anna, the prophetess, belonged, Luke 2:36, there is not a tribal name used in any historic portion of the New Testament. With the exception of, the three tribal names of the Jewish people, Judah, Levi, and Benjamin, the ancestors of Anna could easily have belonged to one of those scattered families who returned from Israel to the kingdom of Judah, because they would not serve Jeroboam's calves.

Most of my material, up to this point, has been the building blocks to illustrate the magnitude of sinfulness the Israelites, both the house of Israel and the house of Judah, have been practicing ever since they left Egypt under the leadership of Moses. We have seen that the mass of the Hebrews would

proclaim their willingness to accept the instructions Yahweh gave to Moses and Moses gave to the people. We have even seen where Yahweh spoke to the people directly, and the people were so fearful that they told Moses that they would accept what Yahweh was saying to them, but for Moses to speak to God and come tell them. They did not have a desire to hear directly from God.

We have seen what happened to them in their disbelief. When the twelve were sent out to spy the land, 10 came back and gave a poor report. The people took their word that they could not overtake the people living in Canaan at that time. Only two men, Caleb and Joshua, gave a good report saying that with Yahweh with them, they could take the land. As a result, Yahweh punished them by having them to wander in the wilderness for 40 years, and all the older generation of men, except Caleb and Joshua, died in the wilderness and never saw the “promised land”.

Time moved forward, and we see the people demanding a king be over them. The prophet Samuel told them what that would mean to their freedom, and how they would have to serve the king, but they wanted a king anyway. Yahweh told Samuel to anoint Saul as their king. Saul failed to follow the instructions of Yahweh, therefore, the kingdom was taken from him and given to David. David did many things during his reign, but God enjoyed His relationship with David, and only held one sin against David, the killing of Uriah. We have also seen the covenant that God established between David and Himself pertaining to the longevity of David’s descendants to have the possession of the throne.

I then presented the split between the two houses of united Israel into the house of Israel and the house of Judah. This split was at the time of the reign of Rehoboam, the son of King Solomon. Even to this day, there are many ministers, pastors and priest who have no idea what I am speaking about when I begin mentioning the house of Israel and the house of Judah. They continue to hold the belief that anything spoken of pertaining to the house of Israel is Jewish and not simply Israelite. Only the house of Judah are Jews, even though they are also Israelite, but while the house of Israel are Israelite, they are not Jews. Most Christians follow what they are taught in their denomination, and if their pastor does not understand the difference, neither do the parishioners.

In my next presentation, I went through the listing of Kings for both the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Everyone should be able to see the plain truth from scripture. It is clearly evident that most of the 39 kings, both houses, did evil in the sight of God. Is there any wonder that God cast both houses off because of their disbelief? But who are all of these pagan gods that are mentioned in the Bible? I used a portion of Scripture in the discussion of the casting out of the house of Israel (2 K 17:27-34 NKJV). The following gives more details from 2 Kings 17:27-41 ESV, ²⁷ *Then the king of Assyria commanded, “Send there one of the priests whom you carried away from there, and let him go and dwell there and teach them the law of the god of the land.”* ²⁸ *So one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and lived in Bethel and taught them how they should fear the Lord.*

²⁹ *But every nation still made gods of its own and put them in the shrines of the high places that the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities in which they lived.* ³⁰ *The men of Babylon made Succoth-benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima,* ³¹ *and the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.* ³² *They also feared the Lord and appointed from among themselves all sorts of people as priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places.* ³³ *So they feared the Lord but also served their own gods, after the manner of the nations from among whom they had been carried away.*

³⁴ ***To this day they do according to the former manner. They do not fear the Lord, and they do not follow the statutes or the rules or the law or the commandment that the Lord commanded the children of Jacob, whom He named Israel.*** ³⁵ *The Lord made a covenant with them and commanded them, “You shall not fear other gods or bow yourselves to them or serve them or sacrifice to them,”* ³⁶ *but*

you shall fear the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt with great power and with an outstretched arm. You shall bow yourselves to Him, and to Him you shall sacrifice. ³⁷ And the statutes and the rules and the law and the commandment that He wrote for you, you shall always be careful to do. You shall not fear other gods, ³⁸ and you shall not forget the covenant that I have made with you. You shall not fear other gods, ³⁹ but you shall fear the Lord your God, and He will deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies.” ⁴⁰ However, they would not listen, but they did according to their former manner.

⁴¹ So these nations feared the Lord and also served their carved images. Their children did likewise, and their children’s children, as their fathers did, so they do to this day.

How did all of this come about? How did the two houses, the house of Israel, and the house of Judah, stray so far from the covenant that their forefathers agreed to with Yahweh in the wilderness? We know from reading Exodus, Deuteronomy and Leviticus that those Hebrews who prepared the Passover, under the direction of Moses, were the beginning factor of God’s people. These are the people who left Egypt, crossed through the sea on dry land and entered the wilderness. Facts show us that this massive group of about two million people could have entered the “promised land” after about a year of preparation in the wilderness. Yahweh had spoken to them and told them what He would do for them. He would go before them and drive out the sinful people who were in the land. What Yahweh asked in return was for them to be His people, to obey His instructions, feasts and commandments. They were to construct the Tabernacle while in the wilderness, learn how to erect it, how to take it down, how to come together and learn from Yahweh, but most of all learn how to honor and worship Yahweh. Additionally, they had to learn what days were feast days, and how they were to act on those feast days, what were the healthy foods and just what they shouldn’t eat. Additionally they had to learn how to heal an illness if it came upon them. God was preparing them to act as His honored people before the known world of that time. God blessed them, even in the wilderness. He cared for them and they were prosperous, their flocks and herds grew even larger. However, even with all that God did for them, they did not accept all things in the manner that Yahweh expected them to act. The sinful nature of the pagan world, from the time prior to the flood of Noah, had passed over the flood event. Therefore, their hearts were not completely free of the influence of Satan and of sin.

We know that the time, the situation and the conduct of the people led to the splitting of the united kingdom after only three kings, Saul, David and Solomon. There were factors building, even during the reign of these three kings, leading to the wrath of God being called into play with punishment doled out for unbelief and complete sinfulness. The splitting of the united kingdom did occur. We can see, in 1st Kings 12:22-24, that the split actually came from God. Verses 22-24, ²² *But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God: ²³ “Say to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, ²⁴ ‘Thus says the Lord, You shall not go up or fight against your relatives the people of Israel. Every man return to his home, for this thing is from me.’ ”* So they listened to the word of the Lord and went home again, according to the word of the Lord. At that moment, there were two kingdoms or two houses, the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Rehoboam, Solomon’s son was king over the house of Judah and Jeroboam I became king over the house of Israel. In turning to this 12th chapter of 1st Kings, we see what Jeroboam did just after the split. He was prideful of his new position and thought in his heart that if the people went to Jerusalem to worship, they would return to King Rehoboam. Here is what King Jeroboam did, 1 Kings 12:28-33, ²⁸ *So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” ²⁹ And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. ³⁰ Then this thing became a sin, for the people went as far as Dan to be before one. ³¹ He also made temples on high places and*

appointed priests from among all the people, who were not of the Levites.³² And Jeroboam appointed a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month like the feast that was in Judah, and he offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made.³³ He went up to the altar that he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, in the month that he had devised from his own heart. And he instituted a feast for the people of Israel and went up to the altar to make offerings.

This religion of Israel began with a man, Jeroboam I, who changed the true worship of Yahweh, into a man-made religion of idol worship. Any religion with such a beginning was doomed to fail, bringing the house of Israel down with it.

When religion is ungodly, its power is destructive and every institution in the nation suffers. Take, for instance, the judgment upon both Judah and Israel as stated in Amos 2:4-11,⁴ *Thus says the Lord: 4 “For three transgressions of Judah, (judgment against Judah) and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have rejected the law of the Lord, and have not kept his statutes, but their lies have led them astray, those after which their fathers walked. 5 So I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the strongholds of Jerusalem.” 6 Thus says the Lord: “For three transgressions of Israel, (judgment against Israel) and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals— 7 those who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth and turn aside the way of the afflicted; a man and his father go in to the same girl, so that my holy name is profaned; 8 they lay themselves down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge, and in the house of their God they drink the wine of those who have been fined. 9 “Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars and who was as strong as the oaks; I destroyed his fruit above and his roots beneath. 10 Also it was I who brought you up out of the land of Egypt and led you forty years in the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite. 11 And I raised up some of your sons for prophets, and some of your young men for Nazirites. Is it not indeed so, O people of Israel?”* Notice verse 7. What was the rationale behind this perverse, immoral act? It appears this was being done in the temple. Not only do we see this in Israel, look at the statement made in 1 Kings 14:23-24,²³ *For they also built for themselves high places and pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree,*²⁴ *and there were also male cult prostitutes in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations that the Lord drove out before the people of Israel.* This perversion was stated against Judah.

Many of the practices, of both the house of Israel and the house of Judah, were derived from Baal worship. Now, because Baal was neither alive nor a moral force, his worshippers felt they could communicate with him only by ritual actions that portrayed what they were asking him to do. Since Baal, like almost all ancient deities, was a fertility god, the human act of intercourse demonstrated that they wanted Baal to prosper them. But, what was its real effect on the participants and the nation? Ritual prostitution only served to erode the family, eventually leading to the destruction of the nation.

Baal was different from his adherents, merely in that, he was above them in the spirit realm. God's difference from us is that, He is holy. He is moral and we are immoral. After we accept His calling, through His son, Yeshua, He commands us to become moral as He is.

Let's catalog some more of the sins of Israel. We find these sins listed in 2nd Kings 17:6-23,⁶ *In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. 7 And **this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God**, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods⁸ and walked in the customs of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced. 9 And the people of Israel did secretly against the Lord their God things that were not right. They built for themselves high places in*

all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city. ¹⁰ They set up for themselves pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, ¹¹ and there they made offerings on all the high places, as the nations did whom the Lord carried away before them. And they did wicked things, provoking the Lord to anger, ¹² and they served idols, of which the Lord had said to them, “You shall not do this.” ¹³ Yet the Lord warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes, in accordance with all the Law that I commanded your fathers, and that I sent to you by my servants the prophets.”

*¹⁴ But they would not listen, but were stubborn, as their fathers had been, who did not believe in the Lord their God. ¹⁵ They despised His statutes and His covenant that He made with their fathers and the warnings that He gave them. They went after false idols and became false, and they followed the nations that were around them, concerning whom the Lord had commanded them that they should not do like them. ¹⁶ And they abandoned all the commandments of the Lord their God, and made for themselves metal images of two calves; and they made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven **and served Baal.** ¹⁷ And they burned their sons and their daughters as offerings and used divination and omens and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking Him to anger. ¹⁸ Therefore **the Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them out of His sight.** None was left but the tribe of Judah only.*

¹⁹ Judah also did not keep the commandments of the Lord their God, but walked in the customs that Israel had introduced. ²⁰ And the Lord rejected all the descendants of Israel and afflicted them and gave them into the hand of plunderers, until He had cast them out of His sight.

*²¹ When He had torn Israel from the house of David, they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. And Jeroboam drove Israel from following the Lord and made them commit great sin. ²² The people of Israel walked in all the sins that Jeroboam did. They did not depart from them, ²³ until the Lord removed Israel out of His sight, as He had spoken by all His servants the prophets. **So Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria until this day.**)*

Assyria conquered the Kingdom of Israel in 718 BCE. So it was that, about 250 years after it was established, the ten tribe northern kingdom became extinct as a sovereign nation. The Assyrians deported the population *en masse* from its homeland in Canaan, transplanting it virtually *in toto* to the southern shores of the Caspian Sea. The Kingdom of Israel fell below the historian’s radar.

Let us review some of the period of the reign of Ahab, the 7th king to rule over Israel. We find this in the tales of Ahab and Jezebel. Ahab’s reign begins in Chapter 16 of 1st Kings, verse 29 and goes to chapter 22, verse 40. Elijah is quite instructive within this segment of scripture. He began to prophesy in a time of immediate crisis, one that would become far worse before it ever improved. There was tremendous evil to overcome. His ministry took place about 150 years before Israel was to fall, becoming the Lost Ten Tribes, so God was beginning to make a powerful witness to them. Elijah’s work was to reveal the true God to Israel in a time of growing national crisis. Elijah prepared the way for Elisha, who had a double portion of Elijah’s spirit and did many more miracles. In this regard, Elijah was a type of John the Baptist, and Elisha, a type of Christ. God’s pattern is being established. He sends someone long before the real crisis reaches its peak, while the crisis is building.

Elijah says disturbing things. This is a prophet’s job, a hallmark of a prophet of God. People like to feel comfortable. The only trouble is that people like to feel comfortable in moral mediocrity. They become “settled on their lees,” as it says in [Zephaniah 1:12](#). The prophet comes along and troubles people by awakening them to their sins, making them feel guilty about their relationships with God and each other. He awakens them to their spiritual and moral responsibilities. These Israelites were lethargic in terms of true, spiritual matters.

When a person is freezing to death, he feels a pleasant numbness that he does not want to end. He just goes to sleep as he is freezing to death. But when heat is applied, and the blood begins rushing into the affected areas, pain immediately occurs. Though it hurts, the pain is indicative of rescue and cure. God sends a prophet to people who are cold in their relationship with God, spiritually freezing to death, though they want to stay that way. The prophet turns the heat on, and they become angry with him when he is actually working to make them better. He is often accused of causing their pain.

A prophet's life is not a happy situation. Perhaps the clearest example of this is Jeremiah, who moaned and complained to God, "This is more difficult than You ever told me it would be. You tricked me." He did not like the position in which God put him. He wanted people to like him, which is understandable. Nevertheless, he was still faithful, and he did his job. Yet, from his teenage years on he was in trouble his whole life.

There are several ideas as to exactly what Elijah meant by "How long will you falter between two opinions?" One idea is that he means, "How long are you going to hop from branch to branch?", like a bird in a tree. The bird cannot make up its mind where it wants to settle down, so it just keeps hopping around. Another idea is that, it pictures a person shifting his weight from one foot to the other, indicating a degree of lameness. A third is that, he is describing somebody teetering on a tightrope and trying to maintain his balance. Whatever the case, there is no doubt about Elijah's intent: "How long will you keep shifting from one opinion to the other?" Their spiritual lethargy for the true God made them uncommitted. Their commitment went one way, and then it went the other way.

Once Elijah began preaching, their conscience pricked them, and it encouraged them to worship the true God. However, their carnality, and their fear of men, persuaded them to worship Baal because they wanted to be friends with their fellow Israelites. They were straddling the fence in a precarious state of imbalance, attempting to combine the worship of God with the more popular worship of Baal and Asherah. This is typical Israelitish syncretism (the fusion of two different forms or practices.), but it will not work.

When Elijah preached his message, it put the people in a bind because they knew their conscience was telling them that they had to commit themselves to God or to Baal. It disturbed them. Only the individual could decide which side he would be on, because Elijah made it clear, "God does not want you the way you are. Either you are going to be committed to Him or you are not. If you will not be committed to Him, you are going to die."

Baal, of course, could not talk to them, but if he could, he would probably have said basically the same thing, so the people were in a very uncomfortable situation. The lesson for us becomes clear, because Jesus says basically the same thing in Matthew 6:24, ²⁴ *"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.* Also, in Matthew 12:25-32, ²⁵ *Knowing their thoughts, He said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. ²⁶ And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? ²⁷ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁸ But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. ³⁰ Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. ³¹ Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.* The Sovereign Creator is not a God who allows His favor to be bought with crumbs. He is a loving Master who only is to be obeyed and served, and only on His terms.

Fulfilling his responsibility as a prophet, Elijah was sent by God to prod the people to whom he was sent concerning their responsibilities. He was to be an aid in getting them from their state of being merely “churched” to that of being truly religious, as well as, servants of the Most High God.

Today, there are some who have become discouraged with the church because we are always being told, to some measure anyway, disturbing things about ourselves. But, church should be where we go to have our minds stretched and measured against Christ’s standard. It is an erosion of character for one to keep on coming to services and leaving, like a theatergoer, without his options, opinions, or decisions resolved, but instead deferred. “Whatever is not of faith is sin” Review Romans 14:13-23, ¹³ *Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.* ¹⁴ *I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.* ¹⁵ *For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died.* ¹⁶ *So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil.* ¹⁷ *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.* ¹⁸ *Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.* ¹⁹ *So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.* ²⁰ *Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats.* ²¹ *It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.* ²² *The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves.* ²³ *But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith.* **For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.**

The sum of what Elijah said is actually spiritually dangerous, the fact is that God is judging all things at all times. Christ’s purpose is to cure, not merely to comfort, so pain will often be involved when dealing with a prophet. Recall that Yeshua (Christ) was also called a prophet. We have seen some of what Yahweh led Elijah to do and say to the Israelites. Let’s go a little further, through the Old Testament, and find what Hosea has to say about the actions of the Israelites.

Hosea exposes the problem between God and Israel. He describes Israel as a luxuriant grape vine sending runners in every direction, indicating a bountiful crop. It indeed produces great material prosperity, but it is consumed through self-indulgent gorging. This is God’s way of showing that Israel abused its prosperity. It used its prosperity for the purposes of idolatry. Its prosperity played a part in corrupting the Israelites’ hearts, which is why Hosea mentions the divided or disloyal heart in context with its bountiful fruit.

A large part of this world’s appeal is its offer of financial security. However, God shows that there is a possible harmful, secondary effect. As people become financially secure, their attention is diverted from His purpose to vain and unimportant things. In other words, prosperity turns people’s heads. There is no doubt that prosperity is good, but unless one is properly focused and disciplined, it can also be a demanding master because of its power to distract one into idolatry. Recall God’s prophecy in the book of Deuteronomy when Moses spoke to the people, predicting that when Israel prospered, then it would rebel. Deuteronomy 32:1-47, ¹ *“Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak, and let the earth hear the words of my mouth.* ² *May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers upon the herb.* ³ *For I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God!* ⁴ *“The Rock, His work is perfect, for all His ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is He.* ⁵ *They have dealt corruptly with Him; they are no longer His children because they are blemished; they are a crooked and twisted generation.* ⁶ *Do you thus repay the Lord, you foolish and senseless people? Is not He your father, who created you, who made you and established you?* ⁷ *Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you.* ⁸ *When the Most High gave*

to the nations their inheritance, when He divided mankind, He fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God. ⁹ But the Lord's portion is His people, Jacob His allotted heritage. ¹⁰ "He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; He encircled him, He cared for him, He kept him as the apple of His eye. ¹¹ Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions, ¹² the Lord alone guided him, no foreign god was with him. ¹³ He made him ride on the high places of the land, and he ate the produce of the field, and he suckled him with honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock. ¹⁴ Curds from the herd, and milk from the flock, with fat of lambs, rams of Bashan and goats, with the very finest of the wheat, and you drank foaming wine made from the blood of the grape. ¹⁵ "But Jeshurun grew fat, and kicked; you grew fat, stout, and sleek; then he forsook God who made him and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation. ¹⁶ They stirred Him to jealousy with strange gods; with abominations they provoked Him to anger. ¹⁷ They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded. ¹⁸ You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you, and you forgot the God who gave you birth. ¹⁹ "The Lord saw it and spurned them, because of the provocation of His sons and His daughters. ²⁰ And He said, 'I will hide My face from them; I will see what their end will be, for they are a perverse generation, children in whom is no faithfulness. ²¹ They have made Me jealous with what is no god; they have provoked Me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are no people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation. ²² For a fire is kindled by My anger, and it burns to the depths of Sheol, devours the earth and its increase, and sets on fire the foundations of the mountains. ²³ " 'And I will heap disasters upon them; I will spend My arrows on them; ²⁴ they shall be wasted with hunger, and devoured by plague and poisonous pestilence; I will send the teeth of beasts against them, with the venom of things that crawl in the dust. ²⁵ Outdoors the sword shall bereave, and indoors terror, for young man and woman alike, the nursing child with the man of gray hairs. ²⁶ I would have said, "I will cut them to pieces; I will wipe them from human memory," ²⁷ had I not feared provocation by the enemy, lest their adversaries should misunderstand, lest they should say, "Our hand is triumphant, it was not the Lord who did all this." ²⁸ "For they are a nation void of counsel, and there is no understanding in them. ²⁹ If they were wise, they would understand this; they would discern their latter end! ³⁰ How could one have chased a thousand, and two have put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had given them up? ³¹ For their rock is not as our Rock; our enemies are by themselves. ³² For their vine comes from the vine of Sodom and from the fields of Gomorrah; their grapes are grapes of poison; their clusters are bitter; ³³ their wine is the poison of serpents and the cruel venom of asps. ³⁴ " 'Is not this laid up in store with Me, sealed up in My treasuries? ³⁵ Vengeance is Mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly. ³⁶ For the Lord will vindicate His people and have compassion on His servants, when He sees that their power is gone and there is none remaining, bond or free. ³⁷ Then He will say, 'Where are their gods, the rock in which they took refuge, ³⁸ who ate the fat of their sacrifices and drank the wine of their drink offering? Let them rise up and help you; let them be your protection! ³⁹ " 'See now that I, even I, am He, and there is no god beside Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of My hand. ⁴⁰ For I lift up My hand to heaven and swear, As I live forever, ⁴¹ if I sharpen My flashing sword and My hand takes hold on judgment, I will take vengeance on My adversaries and will repay those who hate Me. ⁴² I will make My arrows drunk with blood, and My sword shall devour flesh, with the blood of the slain and the captives, from the long-haired heads of the enemy.' ⁴³ "Rejoice with Him, O heavens; bow down to Him, all gods, for He avenges the blood of His children and takes vengeance on His adversaries. He repays those who hate Him and cleanses His people's land." ⁴⁴ Moses came and recited all the words of this song in the hearing of the people, he and Joshua the son of Nun. ⁴⁵ And when Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel, ⁴⁶ he said to them, "Take

to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law. ⁴⁷ For it is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.”

This connects with the curse on the Laodiceans in the 3rd chapter of Revelation. Yeshua spoke to John, as he wrote, about what could happen spiritually as people increased materially. Because such people are drunk through riches’ deceptive promise, their judgment is in danger of being radically altered. The Laodicean evaluates himself, saying, “I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing”. He is deceived into thinking that his material prosperity proves that God approves of his conduct and attitudes. His overall conduct may not be too bad, but his poor self-analysis persuades him that he has no urgent need to seek God any further. He then merely floats, going through the motions, even feeling good about himself, as he neglects so great a salvation. His opinion of his holiness as compared with God’s judgment is so far off base, it causes Christ to regurgitate him from His body. Revelation 3:15-22, ¹⁵ “ *I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!* ¹⁶ *So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.* ¹⁷ *For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.* ¹⁸ *I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.* ¹⁹ *Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.* ²⁰ *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me.* ²¹ *The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with Me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on His throne.* ²² *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’ ”*

There is one more area pertaining to false statements, doctrine or beliefs that I would like to clear up. How is it that the Body of Christ, his church, has gotten so far from the truth as to accept incorrect information for the two most important dates on a Christian’s calendar? The two dates I am referring to are the birth and the death of Yeshua. Believe me, and I will show you by scripture itself, that Yeshua was not born on the 25th day of December, nor were there bunny rabbits and baby chicks running around at the foot of the cross on which Yeshua died.

Let’s begin with the day that is now called Christmas. Are you aware of the pagan symbols and story that goes along with this day? Believe me, this is not the day that Yeshua was born.

Two key figures in the origin of Christmas are Nimrod, a great grandson of Noah, and Nimrod’s mother and wife, Semiramis, also known as Ishtar and Isis. Nimrod, known in Egypt as Osiris, was the founder of the first world empire at Babel, later known as Babylon. From ancient sources such as the “Epic of Gilgamesh” and other records unearthed by archeologists from long ago ruined Mesopotamian and Egyptian cities, we can reconstruct subsequent events.

After Nimrod’s death (c. 2167 BCE), Semiramis promoted the belief that he was a god. She claimed that she saw a full-grown evergreen tree spring out of the roots of a dead tree stump, symbolizing the springing forth of new life for Nimrod. On the anniversary of his birth, she said that Nimrod would visit the evergreen tree and leave gifts under it. His birthday fell on the winter solstice at the end of December.

A few years later, Semiramis bore a son, Horus or Gilgamesh. She declared that she had been visited by the spirit of Nimrod, who left her pregnant with the boy. Horus, she maintained, was Nimrod reincarnated. Thus a perverted trinity was formed with a father, mother, and son deified, albeit, a deceptive and false trinity.

Semiramis and Horus were worshiped as “Madonna and child.” As the generations passed, they were worshiped under other names in different countries and languages. Many of these are recognizable: Fortuna and Jupiter in Rome; Aphrodite and Adonis in Greece; and Ashtoreth/Astarte and Molech/

Baal in Canaan.

During the time between Babel and Christ, pagans developed the belief that the days grew shorter in early winter because their sun god was leaving them. When they saw the length of the day increasing, they celebrated by riotous, unrestrained feasting and orgies. This celebration, known as *Saturnalia*, was named after Saturn, another name for Nimrod.

Easter is the other day on our calendar that we need to understand. Plain and simple, this is not the appropriate title for the day of the resurrection of Yeshua. First, the crucifixion of Yeshua did not occur on a Friday, nor did He rise from the dead on a Sunday morning. You have been led to suppose the word means “resurrection of Christ.” For 1600 years, the Western world has been taught that Christ rose from the dead on Sunday morning. But, that is merely one of the fables that the apostle Paul warned readers of the New Testament to expect. The resurrection did not occur on Sunday! The name “Easter,” which is merely the slightly changed English spelling of the name of the ancient Assyrian and Babylonian goddess Ishtar, comes to us from old Teutonic mythology where she is known as Ostern. The Phoenician name of this goddess was Astarte, consort of Baal, the sun god, whose worship is denounced by the Almighty in the Bible as the most abominable of all pagan idolatry. Look up the word “Easter” in Webster’s dictionary. You will find it clearly reveals the pagan origin of the name.

Easter, as Alexander Hislop says (*The Two Babylons*, p. 103), “bears its Chaldean origin on its very forehead. Easter is nothing other than Astarte, one of the titles of Beltis, the queen of heaven. . . .” The ancient gods of the pagans had many different names. While this goddess was called Astarte by the Phoenicians, it appears as Ishtar on Assyrian monuments found by Layard in excavations at Nineveh (Austen H. Layard, *Nineveh and Babylon*, Vol. II, p. 629). Both were pronounced “Easter.” In similar manner, Bel (referred to in the Old Testament) was also called Molech. Molech was the ancient established for child sacrifice (I Kings 11:1-11, especially verse 7, where Molech is called an abomination). Solomon did not follow the ways of his father, David. He allowed his many wives to pull him away from God and serve many pagan gods. Because of this, God condemned Solomon of sin, and rendered the Kingdom of Israel away from his son, Rehoboam. In the ancient Chaldean idolatrous sun worship, as practiced by the Phoenicians, Baal was the sun god; Astarte, his consort or wife. Astarte is the same as Ishtar, or the English “Easter.”

According to Hislop: The festival that we read about in Church history, under the name of Easter, at the time of the third or fourth centuries, was quite a different festival from that now observed in the Roman and Protestant Churches. At that time it was not known by any such name as Easter. It was called Pascha, or the Passover, and was very early observed by many professing Christians. That festival agreed originally with the time of the Jewish Passover, when Christ was crucified. . . . That festival was not idolatrous, and it was not preceded by Lent. (*The Two Babylons*, p. 104)

I indicated at the beginning of this little section, of the two days every Christian should have on their calendar, that I would provide proof that Yeshua was not born in the month of December and give you the full story of how He spent three full days in the tomb as He said. I will also provide additional information that will explain how Easter was set up by the Catholic church. Additionally, I am including information pertaining to the festival called First fruits that is a part of the three spring feasts. My final insert will be the structure of the Ten Commandments in the Catholic bible.

The Birth of Christ

The two important dates for those who believe in the Son of God should be the day He was born and the day He arose, yet the traditions of mankind have clouded the truth of both events. There is no wonder that Christ warned the disciples, and indirectly through the teachings of the Bible the rest of mankind, that we are to be deceived by no man. No man means your grandfather, your mother, your pastor, your Sunday School teacher, the TV story of these events, or some commercial for a product that masks these events as something causing you to run out and spend money. I must tell you that most sources used for Christmas themes are not intentionally lying, but merely repeating what they have been taught. We have lost sight of exactly what we are celebrating, and we have lost sight of the written record to give us the keys to understanding. Have you read carefully God's Word to see what clues the Bible gives us as to when the birth of Jesus occurred?

We know up front that many men who have studied to be ministers and teachers of the Bible have searched the book to find out when Christ was born. They lose sight of one thing, they want to use this calendar, or that calendar, or perhaps they have failed to take into consideration how many days changed when people of earlier generations went from one calendar system to another. They have become so engrossed with these changes that they lost sight of the simple truth. **Hebrew!** This is the only word needed to understand the whole thing. We do not have to understand the Roman calendar at the time of the birth. We do not have to question how many days were lost or gained when this system was changed to that system.

The only calendar we need is the one contained in the Bible and given by God to the Hebrew people through Moses. That calendar from the Bible, and no other, is the simple answer to identify which calendar was in effect when the Christ child was born. Now let's look at verses in the Bible to find our true answers. First, notice in Luke 2:8 the following: *Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night*. Any person, who has ever studied about the Middle East at the time of the birth of Christ, will tell you shepherds did not have sheep in the field during winter. During winter, the flocks are brought from the hill country and placed in pens around the house of the shepherd. So, by virtue of this one verse alone, we should know that Christ was not born in winter but, there are verses that could lead us to a better understanding of the time of year when Christ was born! To show you this, we will begin our search in the book of Luke. I will tell you up-front, there are many verses that we are going to use in this study in order to show you these things. Bear with me!

Luke 1:1-80, *Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, (you can put your name here and it will mean the same thing) that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.*

There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

And Zacharias said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.”

And the angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.”

And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple. But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless.

And so it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, “Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!”

But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?”

And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore also that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible.”

Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.”

And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me

blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.”

And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

Now Elizabeth’s full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son. When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her.

So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. His mother answered and said, “No; he shall be called John.”

But they said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name.”

So they made signs to his father; what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, “His name is John.” So they all marveled. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God.

Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea. And all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, “What kind of child will this be?” And the hand of the Lord was with him.

Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: “Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David, as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, to perform the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant, the oath which He swore to our father Abraham: To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.”

“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

Okay, we now have the verses to begin the search to learn when the Christ child was born. Are there really keys to unlock this secret in these verses? Well, follow along and you be the judge. Notice verse 5 because it contains our **first key**: *There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.* We learn that Zacharias was a Hebrew priest of the tribe of Levi. It would also appear Elizabeth was of the tribe of Levi, *daughters of Aaron*. So here we have a Hebrew couple both of the tribe of Levi. Now, if they are both of the tribe of Levi and Zacharias is a priest, wouldn't you believe that they would be following the structure of feasts that God established through Moses? Wouldn't it make perfectly good sense that this priest would be serving under the calendar in relationship to the feasts of God, and not to some man-made calendar, such as of the Romans at this time? In fact, we really have confirmation of exactly that in verse six: *And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.* Doesn't it say, *walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless?*

All right, I said there was a key in this verse. Look at the order to which Zacharias belonged. It's right there in the words *of the division of Abijah*. These words, believe it or not, establish the time of

year Zacharias was serving at the temple. We can confirm this in verses 8 and 9, *So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, according to the custom of the priesthood.* The temple of the Lord was at Jerusalem, so this is the location of Zacharias at this time. We now have to establish the meaning of the term *division of Abijah*. To find this meaning, we turn to 1st Chronicles and find the following:

1 Chronicles 28:13, *also for the division of the priests and the Levites, for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and for all the articles of service in the house of the LORD.* In this first verse, we see that there was a division of the priests and the Levites. 1 Chronicles 27:15 *The twelfth captain for the twelfth month was Heldai the Netophathite, of Othniel; in his division were twenty-four thousand.* It is very important to see, in this second verse, that there were twelve months used as in our calendar today. Remember, we are using the Hebrew system and their calendar is set up according to the feasts set down by God.

So now, where do we find the division of Abijah? Turn back three chapters and read in 1 Chronicles 24:5-19 the following: *Thus they were divided by lot, one group as another, for there were officials of the sanctuary and officials of the house of God, from the sons of Eleazar and from the sons of Ithamar. And the scribe, Shemaiah the son of Nethanel, one of the Levites, wrote them down before the king, the leaders, Zadok the priest, Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, and the heads of the fathers' houses of the priests and Levites, one father's house taken for Eleazar and one for Ithamar. Now the first lot fell to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah, the third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim, the fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin, the seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah, the ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah, the eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim, the thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab, the fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer, the seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Happizez, the nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezkel, the twenty-first to Jachin, the twenty-second to Gamul, the twenty-third to Delaiah, the twenty-fourth to Maaziah. This was the schedule of their service for coming into the house of the LORD according to their ordinance by the hand of Aaron their father, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him.*

We see that the division of Abijah is the eighth division, and there are twenty-four divisions of priests to serve over the twelve months of the year. Now common sense will have to enter, and it shouldn't take a rocket scientist to determine each division was one-half of a month or roughly two weeks in length of service. We also need to see how the Hebrew calendar is laid out. According to importance, what is the first month? This is not the easiest of tasks to do using Biblical text. There is no single place in the Bible that states each month by its Hebrew name, however there are several verses that identify the first month of their calendar. Here are some of those verses, notice how the answer is still hidden:

Exodus 12:2, *"This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you."*

Exodus 12:18, *"In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening."*

Exodus 40:2, *"On the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting."*

Exodus 40:17, *And it came to pass in the first month of the second year, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was raised up.*

Leviticus 23:5, *"On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord's Passover."*

Numbers 9:1, *Now the LORD spoke to Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying:*

Numbers 9:5, *And they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month, at twilight, in the Wilderness of Sinai; according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so the children of Israel*

did.

Numbers 28:16, “*On the fourteenth day of the first month is the Passover of the LORD.*”

Numbers 33:3, *They departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the day after the Passover the children of Israel went out with boldness in the sight of all the Egyptians.*

We see in all of these verses the importance of the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Now watch when we add the following:

Exodus 13:4, “*On this day you are going out, in the month Abib.*”

Exodus 23:15, “*You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread (you shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt; none shall appear before Me empty)*”

Exodus 34:18, “*The Feast of Unleavened Bread you shall keep. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, in the appointed time of the month of Abib; for in the month of Abib you came out from Egypt.*”

Deuteronomy 16:1, “*Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover to the LORD your God, for in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night.*”

We see the month Abib is the first month on the Hebrew calendar. The Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread and First Fruits are in this month. Now if we know what each month is called, we have the information we need to see when Zacharias was serving at the temple. Many good Bibles give extra information in the appendix and the Thompson Chain-reference Bible is no different. In it we find the names of the months on the Hebrew calendar.

Month	Reference	Division
1. Abib, or Nisan, <u>April</u>	Exodus 13:4	1 and 2
2. Ziv, <u>May</u>	1 Kings 6:1	3 and 4
3. Sivan, <u>June</u>	Esther 8:9	5 and 6
4. Tammuz, <u>July</u>	Jeremiah 39:2; Zechariah 8:19	7 and 8
5. Ab, <u>August</u>	Numbers 33:38; Zechariah 7:3	9 and 10
6. Elul, <u>September</u>	Nehemiah 6:15	11 and 12
7. Ethanim, or Tisri, <u>October</u>	1 Kings 8:2	13 and 14
8. Bul, <u>November</u>	1 Kings 6:38	15 and 16
9. Chisleu, or Kislev, <u>December</u>	Ezra 10:9	17 and 18
10. Tebeth, <u>January</u>	Esther 2:16	19 and 20
11. Shebat, <u>February</u>	Zechariah 1:7	21 and 22
12. Adar, <u>March</u>	Esther 3:7	23 and 24

Okay, time for all rocket scientists to rally so we can figure this out. If the first month is Abib, or Nisan, and there are two divisions per month, the eighth division should come during the second half of July. So, the end of the time Zacharias was serving at the temple would be the last of July or the first of August. The next question we have to ask is: How far did he travel to get home when his service was over? We get a portion of our answer a little further in the story from Luke. Look at verses 39 and 40 in our Luke reference: *Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.* Let’s turn one chapter and look at chapter 2 of Luke. Luke 2:4, *Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David.* For the sake of our discussion, let us say that the city Mary went to and the city that Mary and Joseph went

to are one and the same, or very close to each other. That being the case, Zacharias would have to travel about 5 miles, about an hour's walk, to get home from the temple. We see in verses 23 and 24 that he went home immediately after his service and Elizabeth became pregnant just after that, *And so it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying.* Notice it says *after those days*, meaning after the days of Zacharias' service at the temple, so once again, we can say Elizabeth became pregnant sometime around the first part of August.

Now, we need our second key verse. Look at verses 26 and 27, *Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.* Notice the term *in the sixth month*, we are not speaking of the sixth month of the year, we are speaking of the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy. We continue with our story from Luke and we find the following verses confirming Mary has conceived and traveled to see Elizabeth. *"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren."*

Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" Finally, we see Mary returned home just before Elizabeth was to deliver John the Baptist in verse 56, *And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.*

We are now ready to continue searching for what we can learn about the birth of Christ. We have already discovered that the first month on the Hebrew calendar equals our month of April and we have deduced that the eighth division of service at the temple would be in the last half of July. Knowing these things, we can safely say Elizabeth became pregnant about the first week in August and verse 26 shows us that John the Baptist would be six months older than Christ. So, if this is the case, nine months after August would be the first part of April. If this is so, we can also add the following statements: Mary conceives the Christ child in January and the Christ child will be born 6 months after John the Baptist, or in the month of October.

My question is: Why are learned men who have studied for years and have made a life long commitment to theology, been unable to see these things? Why does God enlighten me to understand these things? Furthermore, let's look at the significance there is in the two months these births take place. To begin, go back and review the verses we used to find the first month of the Hebrew calendar, Abib. April equates to Abib. Remember, April contains the Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread and First Fruits. I find it so strange to see the simple truth God left for us. April is the first month, the month John the Baptist was born and the month the Christ will be crucified. To me, the simple truth is John the Baptist is representing the Feast of Unleavened Bread that we are to honor before God and **Christ is our Holy Passover.** It is the death of Christ, as the only acceptable sacrifice before God, that gives us eternal life. Even John introduced Christ in this manner: John 1:29, *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"* This is the sacrificial Lamb of God to be sacrificed on that one fateful Passover about two thousand years ago. Christ is also the First Fruits of the resurrection, who must present Himself before God, the Father, before any of the remaining harvest can be gathered. See the explanation of First Fruits later in this book.

But, what about October? What are the God Ordained festival days that occur in the month of October? What are the festival days that should have meaning to everyone who says they follow His Son? Look in the book of Leviticus at the following: Leviticus 23:23-44, *Then the LORD spoke to*

Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.”

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God. For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people. And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. You shall do no manner of work; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath.”

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD. On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it. For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It is a sacred assembly, and you shall do no customary work on it.

These are the feasts of the LORD which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering and a grain offering, a sacrifice and drink offerings, everything on its day; besides the Sabbaths of the LORD, besides your gifts, besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill offerings which you give to the LORD.

Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the LORD for seven days; on the first day there shall be a sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest. And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. You shall keep it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month. You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths, that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.”

So Moses declared to the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.

In verse 24, we see the first day of the seventh month (October) is a Holy day and is the Feast of Trumpets. What better way to announce the coming of the Christ child than the blowing of trumpets to call attention to what is to come? Notice the next Holy day! In verse 27, we find the tenth of the month is the Day of Atonement. Now, consider by these calculations, Christ is born during the second week of October, on the tenth to be exact! Is there a more fitting day before the Lord for His Son to be born? **Doesn't Christ represent our atonement for sin before God?** Do you now understand that it would be appropriate for Christ to be born on this day? But wait! We are not finished with the feasts during this month. In verse 34, we see the Feast of Tabernacles is to begin on the 15th of the month.

If you go back and review all you can find about the Feast of Tabernacles, you will find a twofold reason for this feast. It represents a memorial for the time God dwelt with the Hebrews and also a memorial to the time when God had the Hebrews living in tents after He brought them out of Egypt. These two memorials represent two milestones in the history of the Hebrew people. Now, if the Day of Atonement isn't the appropriate time for the birth of Christ, it would seem any time during the Feast of Tabernacles could be a good time to commemorate the relationship between God the Creator, and we, His creation. Either way, I see the simple truth that tells me October is the most appropriate

time for the birth of Christ. **The day of the tenth would stand out, head and shoulders, above all other dates on the Hebrew calendar for Christ to be born!**

With respect to the birth of Christ, there are Old Testament prophecies that reveal who Christ actually is and what He must fulfill to answer all of the prophecies. Okay, in my theory, the tenth of October will be the actual birth date of Christ, and if so, we should be able to find verses in the Bible that gives us information about atonement, which could be represented in a very Special Man. Read the following:

Numbers 35:33, *“So you shall not pollute the land where you are; for blood defiles the land, and no atonement can be made for the land, for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it.”*

Deuteronomy 32:43, *“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people; for He will avenge the blood of His servants, and render vengeance to His adversaries; He will provide atonement for His land and His people.”*

Psalms 79:9, *Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name; and deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, for Your name’s sake!*

Proverbs 16:6, *In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; and by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil.*

I indicated in the beginning of this work that I would show you the truth and let you decide what you are going to believe. Remember, God created us as free will spirits who have the right to choose. Few will choose a path of righteousness, but most will choose a path toward destruction. Only you can decide what you will do with what I have shown you! **You will be that which your free will chooses you to be!** God did not create losers! He did not create sinners! He did create mankind as male and female! He did not create gays, lesbians or any other genders beyond the two stated in the last sentence! I have tried to show you only one thing about deception, and to guide you through the various passages of the Bible to come to a logical conclusion of when Christ was born. There are many deceptions now accepted as tradition in the church as a whole. The birth of Christ is, only one point, where I find great difference between what the Bible says and what man says.

At this point, I will use a couple more examples from the story of the birth of Christ to demonstrate what I mean. Look at angels for a moment. We are taught angels are God’s messengers and we, for the most part, look at them as being good. Look back at the reference verses pertaining to the story of Zacharias. Notice something in verses 20 and 64; (20) *“But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.”* (64) *Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God.* The angel Gabriel was the one who caused Zacharias to be mute and this condition lasted until the child (John the Baptist) was born. Pretty powerful stuff coming from an angel, wasn’t it? Think about it! An angel spoke a command and that command could cause you to become unable to speak for nine whole months. There are some who now want to worship angels because they are God’s special messengers. Contrary to this, we should all remember that the angels are created beings, just as we are created beings. God the Father was, and is, the one who created both and He did not create the one so it could be worshiped by the other. Creation is to give honor and praise to God only!

Finally, let’s investigate one more item from the birth story of Christ. When did the wise men come to see Christ? Tradition now has it that the wise men are at the manger scene. That’s untrue by the Biblical account! In Luke 2:8-20, we see the shepherds who have been called by angels to be aware of the birth of Christ and they go to the inn to find the child. In fact, we don’t even find the wise men in the Luke account. We have to turn to the Matthew account to see when the wise men came to see Christ. Matthew 2:1 should give us a clue right off the bat: Matthew 2:1, *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem.* However, it is verse 16 that really gives us a good idea of when the wise men came to see Christ: Matthew 2:16,

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. With this information, we determine that the wise men did not come to see the Christ Child until He was almost two years of age. While we are looking at this verse, notice something. In the Luke account, we saw that Mary traveled from Nazareth to the hill country of Judea to see Elizabeth. At the actual birth of Christ, Mary and Joseph are at Bethlehem, and it would seem from the Matthew account that they stayed in this area after the birth of Christ until the angel told them to flee to Egypt. It would seem that it isn't until after they return from Egypt that they return back to Galilee and Nazareth. Okay! We have now seen the circumstances surrounding the birth of Christ. What about His death? Would you believe that we have also managed to mess up the facts of the death of Christ? Continue with your reading to find out how.

The Three Days Christ Was In The Tomb

The following is a study to encourage thought! It is not meant to cause doubt or for you to change your ideas about Good Friday or the day now called Easter Sunday. However, as Americans we normally do not follow other nations' holidays, and yet, we are dealing with the Hebrew holidays: Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. These holidays take place in conjunction with the crucifixion of Christ. Tradition has now entered and surrounds the term *sabbath* as used in the crucifixion account, without taking into consideration of the Hebrew customs. Using the Old Testament, the history and manner for following Hebrew customs on these holidays should be available for us to study. In doing this, there would also be information whereby there can be a full three days that Jesus was in the tomb.

Here's the Biblical text to support Christ's own statement in Matthew 12:40. The first thing to look at is that there must be a full three days to account for within text. The following four references show that the mention of three days Christ must be in the tomb can be found in more than one place.

Matthew 12:40 KJV, *"For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."*

Matthew 16:21 KJV, *From that time forth began Jesus to show unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.*

Matthew 27:62-63 KJV, *Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.*

Mark 8:31 KJV, *And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.*

Biblical text that you can understand is actually fulfilled by Biblical accounts and I can show you the text in plain black and white statements taken from the Bible itself! I find it so terribly strange that men have now placed their religion over and above Christ's own words, and have dared to take the truth away from the statement. Look very carefully at Matthew 12:40! If you have a red-letter edition of the Bible, you will see, these words are spoken by Christ.

Now, let's ask a very serious question. Do you think the Son of God knew what was going to happen to Him? Don't you think He knew the truth and He was going to speak the truth for mankind to understand? Then why, when He says He must spend three days and three nights in the tomb, does mankind seem to think they know more than God, or His Son, and they tell us Friday to Sunday makes three days and three nights? I have been told, and told again, that in the Jewish tradition they use

intuitive reckoning to fulfill time, and that any part of a day constitutes a full day. I don't believe it and I continue to maintain, and to think otherwise, anything less calls Jesus a liar. Sorry, but not by my lips will I call Jesus a liar! If Jesus said He must spend three days and three nights in the tomb, as Jonah spent three days and three nights in the great fish, that must be completed as stated, and by no other means! All I can say is someone surely failed in math class and the rest, who say they follow the Son, just want to go along for the ride, because they are not saying anything either. In my opinion, there seems to be great confusion over the use of the term Sabbath which is used for the resurrection of Christ. Let's first look at the account leading to Christ's crucifixion.

Mark 15:42 KJV, *And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath.*

John 19:14 KJV, *And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!*

John 19:31 KJV, *The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.*

Notice in these three verses, the use of the term preparation and also in verse 31, this was a high Sabbath day. In reading Matthew, Mark, Luke and John there is no mention of the weekly sabbath as being a high day or that there is a preparation day before the weekly sabbath, therefore, this must be a different Sabbath day, and if so, must be supportable by Biblical text. Consider what is customary in our time. We do not call every day a holiday. A holiday is a special day. Look again at verse 31 above, at the use of the term **high day**, in this case meaning that this Sabbath is different from the normal sabbath occurring every week, thus, a special holiday Sabbath! Let's look at text that supports different days, other than the weekly sabbath, that are called Sabbath days.

Numbers 28:16-18 KJV, *And in the fourteenth day of the first month is the passover of the LORD. And in the fifteenth day of this month is the feast: seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten. In the first day shall be an holy convocation; ye shall do no manner of servile work therein:*

Leviticus 23:3-8 KJV, *Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings. These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord's passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread. In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.*

In verse three of Leviticus 23, the day of rest is called a sabbath, this is the weekly sabbath. Please understand the terms sabbath and holy convocation are synonymous, or mean the same thing. Notice in verse five, the fourteenth day of the first month. Now, go back to Numbers 28:18, and if Sabbath was inserted, instead of Holy Convocation, the meaning would remain the same.

Leviticus 23:24 KJV, *“Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.”*

Leviticus 23:27 KJV, *“Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.”*

Leviticus 23:32 KJV, *“It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.”*

Leviticus 23:32 is one of the keys that will help define the day Christ was crucified. Notice the day, or Sabbath, goes from even unto even, that would be from twilight (dusk) until twilight the next

day, or in present day terms from 6:00 PM until 6:00 PM the next day.

Leviticus 23:34-37 KJV, *Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, "The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD. On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein. These are the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day."*

You should now understand that a high day would be a feast day, a Holy Convocation or a Sabbath day. In Numbers 28:16 and Leviticus 23:5, there is the term fourteenth day of the first month. Let's show what day this is in a different manner. The text above identifies the fourteenth as the LORD's Passover. Where does this come from, and how do we identify the Hebrew month? This actually goes back to the same search that we went through to find the first month, so we could identify when Christ was born.

Exodus 12:1-6 KJV, *And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, "This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening."*

Notice the time the lamb was killed . . . in the evening. The following verse will identify the specific Hebrew month that we are talking about.

Esther 3:7 KJV, *In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, . . .*

Most any good concordance will transpose Nisan into the month we call April. In the account from Exodus, we have a lamb that is to be sacrificed. Look at what John the Baptist says about Jesus in the following verse.

John 1:29 KJV, *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."*

Here we have the true sacrifice God sent to correct the error caused by Adam. We also know the sacrifice had to take place on the preparation day, or fourteenth of Nisan, before the first Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and remembering that a Hebrew day went from evening to evening. Therefore, it would seem to me the crucifixion and burial of Christ had to take place on Wednesday prior to twilight. You would then have Wednesday night (**night 1**), Thursday day (**day 1**) (also please note this first night and day would make up the High Holy Sabbath of the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread), Thursday night (night 2), Friday day (day 2), Friday night (night 3) and Saturday day (day 3) (now, make note the Friday night and Saturday (the night/day components of the third day) would make up the weekly Sabbath—the second Sabbath during this week) which would make up three days and three nights before the beginning of the first day of the week which would be Saturday at evening (twilight or about 6:00 PM). Then the following verse would be correct to complete the Biblical account.

Matthew 28:1-6 KJV, *In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from*

the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, "Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."

We read in Leviticus 23:32, the day started at evening and went until the next evening. The actual resurrection of Christ occurred sometime between three in the afternoon (three full days from the time that Jesus died) and twilight on Saturday (end of the Sabbath and beginning of the first day), and not at the coming of dawn on Sunday. The reason the stone was rolled away was, not to let Christ out, but to let the others into the tomb. Christ was already resurrected by the time the two Marys arrived at dawn. *Remember it is not the death of Christ that gives the free gift from God, it is His resurrection that provides this gift.*

Where did tradition enter to change the meaning? Historically, we tend to forget common man did not have the Holy Bible until 1611 when the King James version (KJV) was printed. Up to that date the Bible remained, for the most part, in the hands of the church and the nobility. It is so very important that you understand who this historical church is at that time, however, I am not here to upset anyone over the name of a denomination, history verifies this. Go and look yourself to see who the church really was at that time. The church, or the influence from the nobility upon the church at that time in history, could establish any number of ideas that would become tradition. There was no check made by common man to see if that which was being said, instructed or told to the common man was true, or even scriptural. One such tradition is Easter. It seems, we have also forgotten the term **Easter** does not mean **Passover**. It is derived from the word *Astarte*, the goddess of fertility. This is where the easter bunny, baby chicks and eggs come into the enactment of this holiday, and all the other pagan traditions now associated with the crucifixion of Christ.

If you understand the structure of the Hebrew holidays given to Moses, there will never be a **Passover** prior to, or after, the 14th day of April, and yet, we celebrate Easter whenever it appears on the calendar. Please go and look on your calendar to see the day on which you celebrated the resurrection of your Lord in any given year. You might even find it more confusing if you look to see when the calendar says Passover is celebrated. I do not know why the Bible says Passover is on the 14th of Nisan, normally, about the time of April, and yet the calendar shows it on another date. Well, that isn't actually correct either. The Jews also want to play with a calendar, and they use some old statements that cause the day of Passover to change from the 14th of April. All I can say is, the influence of men has caused this date to be changed to meet with some hidden agenda. If mankind would only accept the simple truth and leave other things alone, we would be worshipping God on His feast days as He instructed, plain and simple.

The Folly of Easter — March 20th to as late as April 24th

Because of the misunderstanding between the term sabbath and Sabbath, Satan found an opening to change what God said and what Jesus did. When we find sabbath spelled with a lower case *s*, it indicates the weekly sabbath of Saturday. When we find Sabbath spelled with an upper case *S* or termed a sacred assembly or a holy convocation, this is a high holy day. We must also remove this foolishness of Jewish reckoning. Jesus said He had to spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish. Matthew 12:40: *"For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."*

To not accept this as truth, and with full understanding, means we are calling Jesus a liar who did not mean what He said! I'm sorry, but I prefer to accept Jesus' own words, not those of men identifying the number of days and nights He would be in the grave. Besides, there is no possible way

that Friday to Sunday completes three days and three nights. This totals only about forty hours, or not even a two day period. Along with this fact, there is one other fact to aid in our understanding. The chief priest and the Pharisees went to Pilate to ask that a guard detail be stationed at the tomb for three days. Matthew 27:62-66: ⁶² *The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate* ⁶³ *and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.'* ⁶⁴ *Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first."* ⁶⁵ *Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can."* ⁶⁶ *So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.*

Recall the order of the feast. Passover is the 14th, the high holy day or the 1st day of Unleavened Bread is on the 15th. Firstfruits is the first sabbath after Passover. There is to be no work on the high holy day of the 15th. If Jesus is crucified on Passover, the 14th as a Friday, then the high holy day of the 15th is Saturday. The priest could not go to Pilate and perform work at that time to have the tomb sealed because they would violate their own rule of law. Text tells us that the tomb was opened by early the morning of the first day of the week, Sunday. Look and read! The priest and the Pharisees understood what Jesus said about spending three days in the grave. Why don't we understand this today? Read my book, *Jesus, the Life of Christ*, if you desire to see the full truth explained. In the account just presented above, we clearly see the preparation day and how the guard for the tomb was requested of Pilate. Pilate instructs the chief priest to place his temple guard at the tomb. Continue with this thought and review the scripture passage from Matthew 28:4 *And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men*. The women left the tomb to go and tell the disciples. The guards left the tomb to go and tell the chief priest. I know you don't recall that portion of the story. The proof of that statement is in Matthew 28:11-15: ¹¹ *While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place.* ¹² *And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers* ¹³ *and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.'* ¹⁴ *And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble."* ¹⁵ *So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.*

Any person who has ever served as a guard in the military will tell you, if you go to sleep while on duty, you are subject to disciplinary action. It is hoped that this grouping of scripture will illustrate for you the truth from preparation day to resurrection day. Now, allow me to explain how we get this false date to celebrate what is called Easter. The church had divided into several different viewpoints, with different dates for feast and festival by the time of Constantine. There was the Catholic viewpoint, along with the Greek, Syrian and Russian Orthodox viewpoint. Constantine charged the bishops at Alexandria to determine a fixed date for Easter at the Council of Nicea in 325.

This date was a movable date, based upon a lunar cycle by Constantine's decree. **Therefore, Easter is the first Sunday after the full moon after the Spring Equinox!** Even this has some variance for the date. The Spring Equinox may be on the 19th, 20th or 21st of March, in the Northern Hemisphere, or in September in the Southern Hemisphere. What I desire for you to understand is, that mankind has set a date for a feast to be equivalent to Passover. But, it is not according to the dates ordained by God and quoted in the Bible. If we use the structure given here, we should all see that if the Spring Equinox was on the 19th of March, a full moon was that night and the next day was Sunday, thus the parameters are met. We can see that the earliest Easter could be is the 20th of March. On the other end of this equation, we should see that **if** the full moon was the night before the Spring Equinox and the Spring Equinox was the 21st, we must add 28 days for the lunar cycle to get to the next full moon. If at that point, we find the full moon occurring on a Sunday, we must also add another week to get the first

Sunday after the full moon. Therefore the latter date for Easter could be as late as April 24th. Here is my question. Do you find any of this foolishness in the instructions ordained by God? Plainly and absolutely, I do not! My God said **Passover was the 14th of April (Nisan)** and that it is to be such in all of mankind's generations. A full explanation for First Fruits is given in the following review. Why have we allowed ourselves to listen to men and not to God?

Feasts and Festivals of Israel

The Feast of Firstfruits

I. Introduction and review:

A. We have been considering the feasts and festivals of God.

1. We saw that they were considered to be two things:
 - a. They were appointments with God.
 - b. They were rehearsals of some event or action God was going to bring to pass in the future.
2. Some have already occurred and we can examine them with hindsight.
3. Others have not yet occurred and we can only look at them prospectively, that is without the precision of hindsight.

B. We began by looking at the first of the Spring feasts, that is Passover:

1. The Passover requirements:
 - a. Preparation for the Passover begins on the tenth of Nisan when each family takes into their home a yearling, unblemished, male lamb (or goat).
 - b. It has to be without spot or blemish.
 - c. On the 14th day of Nisan, the lamb is killed and his blood painted on the door posts and the lintel of the family's home.
 - d. There is a Passover meal served to the family which is administered by the father.
 - e. The lamb is the main course.
 - f. This feast is a dress rehearsal of the death and burial of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. The second Spring feast is the Feast of Unleavened Bread:

- a. On the day of Passover, there is a search for leaven in the home.
- b. All leaven found of the home is burned and for the next seven days no leaven is used in the home.
- c. All of the bread that is baked and consumed by the family during this festival is unleavened.
- d. Leaven represents sin.
- e. This seven day feast represents the new life of the believer after accepting the substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross.

II. The next feast is the Feast of Firstfruits; Leviticus 23:10-14 (NKJV):

*”Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. ¹¹ He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; **on the day after the Sabbath** the priest shall wave it. ¹² And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD. ¹³ Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin. ¹⁴ You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; **it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.***

A. When it started:

1. The Passover was first celebrated when the last plague befell Egypt.
2. Thereafter Israel left Egypt.
3. The feast of unleavened bread followed the first Passover.
4. But when was the first feast of firstfruits held?
5. After they entered the promised land and not until the first harvest.

B. How the Feast would work:

1. This feast is commenced on the day after the Sabbath following Passover.
2. So **the feast of firstfruits would always be on a Sunday**, that is the first day of the week.
3. The first of the **barley crop** would be bound into a sheaf.
4. You would then take this sheaf to the priest.

5. This sheaf was called the sheaf of firstfruits.
6. The priest would then take this sheaf into the place of worship and waive it before the Lord.
7. There were other proscribed offerings to be presented along with the sheaf of firstfruits.

C. Background information:

1. The word 'sheaf' in Hebrew is omer.
 - a. omer {o'-mer} **Meaning:** 1) a dry measure of 1/10 ephah (about 2 liters); 2) sheaf.
 - b. **Exodus 16:36** (NKJV): *Now an omer is one-tenth of an ephah.*
2. This feast was a harvest festival:
 - a. It was the first harvest festival in the year.
 - b. Just as the Feast of Pentecost (wheat harvest).
 - c. The Feast of Tabernacles (fruit harvest):
 - (1) important fruits
 - (2) olives
 - (3) grapes
3. The harvest of the barley:
 - a. Barley, unlike wheat does not stand up straight but hangs over.
 - (1) Barley is a relatively soft grain unlike wheat.
 - (2) Therefore Barley is winnowed and not threshed.
 - b. The barley doesn't always sprout up at the same time.
 - c. The fields are watched and the earliest grain to emerge is marked, usually with a red cord.
 - d. When these first emerges ripen and mature, enough of them are cut to make an omer (sheaf).

- e. This sheaf was then taken to the priests so that they could offer it to God as a wave offering.
- f. Thereafter you would make the other offerings prescribed in Leviticus.
- g. Once that process was completed, then the barley could be harvested, but it could not be touched before the offering of the firstfruits is accepted.

D. This Feast is about a picture of resurrection and salvation. Consider some of the events that took place on this day:

1. Israel eats the firstfruits of the promised land; Joshua 5:10-12 (NKJV): *Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. ¹² Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.*

- a. And the next day, the day after Passover, they ate from the produce of the promised land.

- b. The Manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land.

2. Jesus of Nazareth has risen from the dead. Jesus is the firstfruit of the resurrection and had to present Himself to the Father for acceptance as the firstfruit. As the barley could not be touched and harvested until after the sheaf wave offering was accepted. Jesus told this to Mary in different words. John 20:17, ¹⁷ *Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’”*(NKJV)

3. Consider 1st Corinthians 15:20-26 (NKJV):

²⁰*But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.*

E. Jesus is the firstfruits.

1. First born son – Matthew 1:22-25 (NKJV):

²²*So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” ²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.*

2. First begotten – Hebrews 1:6 (KJV):

For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? ⁶ And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

3. First born of every creature – Colossians 1:15 (NKJV):

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

4. First begotten from the dead – Revelation 1:5 (NKJV):

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

5. First born of many brethren – Romans 8:29 (NKJV):

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

6. First fruits of the resurrected ones – 1st Corinthians 15:20 (NKJV):

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

7. Beginning of the creation of God – Revelation 3:14 (NKJV):

”And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

8. Preeminent One – Colossians 1:18 (NKJV):

And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

III. Now we know the questions to go with the answers:

A. Consider John 20:11-12 (NKJV):

¹¹But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. ¹²And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

1. Did God know that Mary was coming?

2. Did He have those two angels remain there for her to see?

3. What did Mary see?

a. The slab on which Jesus’ body had been placed.

b. An angel sitting at the foot of the slab.

c. And an angel sitting at the head of the slab.

4. She saw a living display of the Mercy Seat.

B. Consider also John 20:17 (NKJV):

Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.' "

1. John 20:17 (KJV):

Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

2. Haptomai {hap'-tom-ahēe}, Greek reference 680 in Strong's Concordance — **Meaning:** to fasten one's self to, adhere to, cling to, or to touch.

3. Flavius Josephus wrote that the Jews would not touch their barley crop, that is to harvest it, until their firstfruits had been accepted.

4. Jesus now tells Mary that she should not touch Him until He goes first to the Father for acceptance and approval of His "sheaf" and wave offering.

5. Thereafter Jesus was fine with others touching Him, see John 20:27 (NKJV): *Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."*

C. Why can't the Jews see these things? Here is an even larger question: Why can't Christians see these things? Why have Christians continued for over 2000 years to call Jesus a liar? Oh, yes you have! By not accepting Jesus at His word that He must spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish, you are calling Jesus a liar!

1. They have been blinded to some extent. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, ³ *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,* ⁴ *whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.* (NKJV)

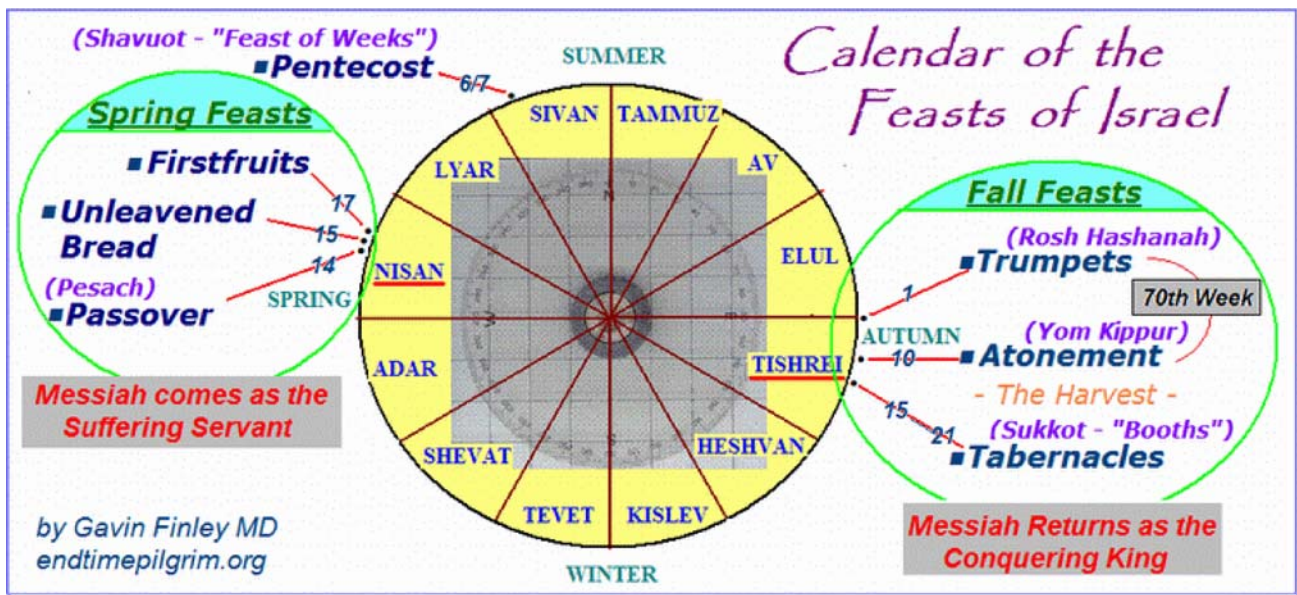
2. Consider Zechariah 12:10 (NKJV):

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

3. That will happen at the second coming of Jesus, at the end of the Great Tribulation.

D. The giving of the firstfruits to God, demonstrated the faith of the covenant people in their God.

1. Do we exercise this same kind of faith today? I don't think so! As Bible Believers following the example of our LORD and Savior Jesus, why don't we exhibit this kind of faith today?



This is a good example of God's feast days, but even with this illustration, I have a problem. Once again, Jesus said he had to spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish. This presentation would reflect a more accurate illustration of a Maundy Thursday viewpoint. However, that would still **not fulfill** all that Jesus said. If Passover is the 14th (Wednesday), Unleavened Bread on the 15th (Thursday), Friday would be the 16th, the weekly sabbath on the 17th (Saturday) and finally, Firstfruits on the 18th (Sunday). The three nights are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The three days are Thursday, Friday and Saturday and Firstfruits is on the day after the sabbath.

We need to make our final transition from all these pagan practices to the days in which we are presently living. There is a means to find the proper answer, however, of late, it is becoming more and more difficult to find that proper answer in America. Our truthful answer lies in the New Testament.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS of The Catholic Church

1. I AM THE LORD THY GOD: THOU SHALT NOT HAVE STRANGE GODS BEFORE ME.

COMMANDS: faith, hope, love, and worship of God; reverence for holy things; prayer.

FORBIDS: idolatry; superstition; spiritism; tempting God; sacrilege; attendance at false worship.

2. THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN.

COMMANDS: reverence in speaking about God and holy things; the keeping of oaths and vows.

FORBIDS: blasphemy; the irreverent use of God's name; speaking disrespectfully of holy things; false oaths and the breaking of vows.

3. KEEP THE SABBATH HOLY.

COMMANDS: going to church on Sundays and holy days of obligation.

FORBIDS: missing church through one's own fault; unnecessary servile work on Sunday and holy days of obligation.

4. HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER.

COMMANDS: love; respect; obedience on the part of children; care on the part of parents for the spiritual and temporal welfare of their children; obedience to civil and religious superiors.

FORBIDS: hatred of parents and superiors; disrespect; disobedience.

5. THOU SHALT NOT KILL.

COMMANDS: safeguarding of one's own life and bodily welfare and that of others.

FORBIDS: unjust killing; suicide; abortion; sterilization; dueling; endangering life and limb of self or others.

6. THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.

COMMANDS: chastity in word and deed.

FORBIDS: obscene speech; impure actions alone or with others.

7. THOU SHALT NOT STEAL.

COMMANDS: respect for the property of rights and others; the paying of just debts; paying just wages to employees; integrity in public office.

FORBIDS: theft; damage to the property of others; not paying just debts; not returning found or borrowed articles; giving unjust measure or weight in selling; not paying just wages; bribery; graft; cheating; fraud; accepting stolen property; not giving an honest day's work for wages received; breach of contract.

8. THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST THY NEIGHBOR.

COMMANDS: truthfulness; respect for the good name of others; the observance of secrecy when required.

FORBIDS: lying; injury to the good name of others; slander; talebearing; rash judgment; contemptuous speech and the violation of secrecy.

9. THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOR'S WIFE.

COMMANDS: purity in thought.

FORBIDS: wilful impure thought and desires.

10. THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOR'S GOODS.

COMMANDS: respect for the rights of others.

FORBIDS: the desire to take, to keep, or damage the property of others.

Do you see anything different between what this reads and what the Bible actually says? Everyone should know that the translations given in just about every translation is truthfully transcribed from the original Hebrew and Greek transcriptions. This is a counterfeit presentation made by the church at Rome!



Overcoming the Pagan Gods—Coming Full Circle

There is a word contained in the Bible that defines the answer to our present day situation. That word could be stated as Christ, Messiah, by His Greek name Jesus or His true Hebrew name Yeshua. Throughout all of the pagan names, there are three that stand out, Baal, Istar and Molech. The Apostle Paul provided for us the true answer to this situation. Turn to Ephesians 6:10-20, ¹⁰ *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.* ¹¹ *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.* ¹² *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.* ¹³ *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.* ¹⁴ *Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,* ¹⁵ *and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.* ¹⁶ *In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;* ¹⁷ *and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,* ¹⁸ *praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,* ¹⁹ *and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,* ²⁰ *for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.*

From the beginning of creation, there was a plan that God established from the end of time back to the beginning. God always worked in this manner through His all knowing view of His time. By starting at the end, God is able to fit all things as they are to be at His appointed time and place. He knew, before it happened, that Adam and Eve would disobey. He knew that the only proper way to heal the breach between Himself and mankind was to send His Son, Yeshua, His only Son, as the healer of the breach. God held the answer through the mystery hidden at creation. Remember, Lucifer was a “morning star” placed as the leader over one third of the angels of heaven. As such, Lucifer, who became Satan, knows the activity of Heaven, the order of things and who has what authority, and in what order of position. God had to retain a certain mystery from ever being spoken in Heaven because it was His means of keeping Satan from overthrowing God, as Lucifer declared he intended to do. By not speaking about the total truth of sending Yeshua to earth as the Messiah, Satan would be overcome and thrown into the place of separation from God named or called that place of eternal damnation. We normally call that place Hell. God, had to send His Son in a human form because the human form contains blood. Now, that may sound a little crazy, but think about it. God could not send Yeshua to earth in His Godly form because that form is the same as that of Yahweh, a Spirit. Spirits, in all forms, from God, Yeshua, Holy Spirit, or angels (called sons of God and morning stars) do not have blood. Spirits also live forever and cannot die. Put those two facts together, now you should understand that, if Yahweh sent Yeshua to earth in His spirit form, He could not die. Since He could not die, He could not model for us a redemptive side so that we would be able to repent from any committed sin. It is only by the fact that Yeshua’s body contained blood that there was a means of payment for mankind’s sins. It is this fact that had to be hidden from Satan. Satan can duplicate many things, but he cannot counterfeit the blood of Christ. Only Christ paid the price for mankind’s sins, and only the Godhead proper contains authority and power over Satan. Think about this: If Satan knew the mind of God, and understood how He was going to heal the breach between Mankind and God Himself, then Satan would never, under any circumstances, allow the Jews to crucify Yeshua. Yeshua had to die and be in the grave for three full days and then be resurrected to life. Satan may have the capability to take life, but he cannot resurrect life. The only one to ever accomplish that feat was Christ Himself. It is also by the

blood that Satan and all of his demon followers cannot repent and be forgiven for their many sins. They do not have blood, as they are spirits only. It takes blood to be able to repent.

Paul also gave us the following instruction in Colossians 2:1-23, ¹ *For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face,* ² *that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,* ³ *in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.* ⁴ *I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.* ⁵ *For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.*

⁶ *Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,* ⁷ *rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*

⁸ *See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.* ⁹ *For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,* ¹⁰ *and you have been filled in Him, who is the Head of all rule and authority.* ¹¹ *In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,* ¹² *having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead.* ¹³ *And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,* ¹⁴ *by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross.* ¹⁵ *He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.*

¹⁶ *Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.* ¹⁷ *These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.* ¹⁸ *Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind,* ¹⁹ *and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.*

²⁰ *If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—* ²¹ *“Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch”* ²² *(referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings?* ²³ *These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.*

Paul provided another powerful statement that we should be aware of, look at 2 Corinthians 11:12-15, ¹² *And what I do I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do.* ¹³ *For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.* ¹⁴ *And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.* ¹⁵ *So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.*

There is also a story told by Yeshua and recorded in two different places. We must remember that there is a cardinal rule that testifies to the fact that to prove a truth you need, by God's rules, to have two or three witnesses. If Christ is the first to testify, there needs to be at least one or two others. How about Matthew as the second and Luke is the third. First, Christ establishes the fact, these two passages are in red letters, establishing that these are truly the words of Yeshua. Second, recorded by Matthew, in Matthew 12:43-45, ⁴³ *“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none.* ⁴⁴ *Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order.* ⁴⁵ *Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is*

worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation.” Third, recorded by Luke, in Luke 11:24-26, ²⁴ “When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ ²⁵ And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. ²⁶ Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.”

Consider this: We are dealing with spirits that are pagan spirits from thousands of years ago. Even so, as they began to influence the people at that time, they rose in authority and position of control over the human spirit to cause a tremendous amount of sin among mankind. We have already read about the three principal spirits of Baal, Istar and Molech. Understand that pagan culture was a possessed culture. It centered around practices of orgies and sexual rites and rituals as their main form of worship. Yeshua overcame their authority and pushed them into a minority position within the realm of man. Because, we have surely entered the end times, and, with the actions of mankind, we see that mankind is once again rebelling against God in a tremendous and similar manner. This has been a slow-moving take over through the last 60 years. America took prayer out of the schools in the 1960’s. We made it a law of the land that an abortion was legal. We took down the written Ten Commandments from our government buildings. Of more recent slaps to the face of Almighty God, we have made same-sex marriages legal under the disguise of equal rights for all. We brought the LBGTQ community out into the open with the same kind of change of mindset as same-sex marriage. The LBGTQ community pushed so hard, and the legislators were so compliant, that they enacted a law to establish the month of June as PRIDE month and as party time for all the degenerates to have an orgy. With all these changes, don’t you feel even the smallest amount of shame for your actions? America is following in the same exact pathways as the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Don’t you realize that God will punish, all your sinful nature, in the same manner as He has other groups of people? We now have the Woke left who are distorting truth in any manner they can! Everything from college classroom to kindergarten has been effected by the sins of many.

Don’t you see that the story concerning the evil spirit is being fulfilled. Through the power of the blood of Yeshua, the breach was healed. That was the casting out of that spirit, however, with the lackadaisical mindset of the people in America, the spirit found the house empty, went and found seven other evil spirits to fill the house. God’s wrath will be profound when it begins. Oh, by the way, we haven’t even mentioned the worst, of the worst, of all this evil. They overturned the law of the land permitting abortions and the entire land went off in a pout declaring it was a harm to women’s health. How indignant can you become? That act alone is the shedding of innocent blood for which God demands a repayment. From the blood of Abel to the 3 million plus babies killed for the sake of women to act foolishly in declaring that an abortion is a health condition. God will extract a repayment. Wait and see!

I have given three entities as the demonic trio of evil who were cast out of the house that was swept clean, given order and reason by the authority of the blood of Yeshua. They are back! Let’s look at these three spirits that make up the dark trinity:

1) Baal, the possessor, chief god of the Canaanites. First time recorded in the Bible, Numbers 22:41. Baal is the ancient sun god! As such, he is the father of the Woke agenda. He pushes the joining of animals and man together in DNA splicing and other surgery tricks. He is the master image of all idols. Since he is the possessor, he has taken charge of our technology as a source of idol worship. Our smart phones and computers are now the house of AI, holograms, killing games and pornography.

2) Istar, the enchantress, consort or wife to Baal. She is the Goddess of sexual desires. As the Mistress of prostitutes, she has moved sex out of marriage and into the market place. On the darker side she is a gender changer, mimicking her shape shifting ability as a spirit. She is the emasculator

of men, the Queen of “Drag” having men dress as women and women dress as men. She is the goddess of PRIDE month and the fairy of all orgies.

3) Molech, the destroyer. He is the orchestrator of Child sacrifices. He assists Istar in gender changes. He is the abuser of children and the poor. He assists Baal in the world sex trade. He is the Master of abortions! He is the destroyer of families and marriages.

America is losing its greatness! God is just about ready to take away His blessing from this land. Our forefathers left Europe to find a place that they could practice religious freedom away from a religion controlled by the state. Our forefathers took their guidance directly from God’s Holy Word and put those traits into our constitution. This nation, along with the nation of Israel are the only two nations that have a covenant with a Holy God. It is by and through this framework that this nation has received the blessings of Almighty God and granted to us the prosperity that we have enjoyed. However, in the last seventy plus years, we have slid further and further away from God’s guidance. Once again, I feel the need to recall what God’s Word says in the Old Testament. There are two places that God instructed Moses to record the manner that mankind is to obey God to receive God’s blessings. There is a much longer section that gives the curses for disobedience to God’s rules. The first place this is found is in Leviticus 26. The first 13 verses give the blessings for obedience, and the verses from 14 to 46 illustrate the punishment for disobedience. The second place to find this counter distinction is in Deuteronomy 28. The verse count is slightly different. In Deuteronomy, the first 14 verses provide the blessings, and the verses from 15 forward through 68 list the curses for disobedience. Notice that there is a four to one ratio on the verses for blessings and the curses.

In days gone by, a person living in the United States could hear these instruction taught in our schools and in our churches. In either place, school or church, the teacher or the minister was providing, as well as modeling, guidance to those under their leadership. The teacher could, and did, use the Bible as teaching material. The Bible was the major guidebook for the forming of our constitution. It was the guidance used by Presidents for many of their speeches. Those of faith were not afraid to be bold and defend our right to use words from the Bible in our daily life endeavors. The same was true with our ministers, pastors and elders. We went to church to be instructed in God’s Word. It wasn’t because of laziness that we listened to our church leaders instead of reading for ourselves. It was more in line with our work ethic. The major portion of our forefathers left Europe as educated people. When they arrived on these shores, things changed very quickly. These men and women had to roll up their sleeves and begin the hard task of clearing the land to raise crops and cut trees to build homes. Have you ever had to clear land including tree roots without present day machinery? There was hard work ahead and little time for school and the education of their children. Schooling was having the children to help with the work. It may be girls helping their mother in cleaning and cooking. For the boys, it was the work of felling trees or plowing the fields. Attendance at a local church was a necessary obligation for all the members of the family. It was their minister who led them in the knowledge and understanding of God’s Word that they had modeled for them.

It was those early days of this nation when God blessed our endeavors and we grew strong as a nation. At that time our great colleges and universities were dedicated to the enrichment of God’s Word upon those attending these schools of higher learning. Even our politicians worked toward a Godly society across our land. They did not take up the position of representative with the idea of politics being a lifework profession. Our elected leaders went to the state houses and our nation’s leadership house with the idea of serving their fellow man for a term in office and returning home after the completion of that duty for the benefit of their neighbors.

The concept of work and faith went together for the benefit of family, neighbor and nation. Our forefathers did not get carried away with worshiping anything beside a fair and loving God. This nation

grew to the point of being the premier nation throughout the world. Why? Because of God's grace and the relationship that the people had with their God. The fact that the authority of the Blood of Christ was sure and real, and lived and believed by most of society. The nation went through periods of war, drought and pestilence. Even so, God watched over what we did and how we lived, at that time, we were obedient to His laws, feasts and commandments.

What happened? It seems that as we prospered, we allowed our thinking to also change. We became like the pompous societies of past civilizations that their wealth placed them into a mindset that their way, their belief and their work was what got them to the place they were. They slowly turned away from God and turned toward themselves. "I" became the prominent word, not us, not we, not the nation, and most of all not God as the reason for our prosperity. Temptation is a subtle thing. Once the door latch is lifted, we begin to allow those little things to enter in that we most likely didn't need in the first place. But, you say, look at my wealth, my position, my greatness. I need to have others to see what I have done and they can follow my lead. They do not need to listen to others, only to me.

The next thing you do is to flatter yourself with your indulgences. You need to have a new and bigger car to be chauffeured around town. You need a cute little dog to carry with you as your nearest companion. Why, you even kiss it on the mouth and have it lick your face. Maybe, you have become so wealthy that you need a new and bigger house. Maybe you worship a sports team, or even your computer system. Whatever you now worship has become your god. It doesn't have to be something that is physically tangible. It may be that your mental need is someone of the same sex or some other distorted perception of what constitutes life for you.

Your way of life becomes the only things that are acceptable to you. You also need to have as many as possible to believe that your way is right so that they want to follow you. You are now powerful enough that you can influence those politicians who have taken on the idea that their position is their life's work and they can be bought for a campaign pledge. With their help, you can now change laws to suit your particular needs.

What your ultimate task now seems to be is the destruction of all things that you don't like. You don't like the constitution of the land. You don't want the term God to be used unless that entity meets with your description. You desire to pit the races against one another in order to destroy society. You must have the rich against the poor, the left against the right, your race against all others, or at least the other races must serve your thoughts.

You use Big Pharma and Big Business as your personal puppets yielding to your wants and desires. You have become as god and you are in charge. You have followed the ways of the god of this world and listen to all the false teachings presented by his false ministers and false prophets!

In our present society within the borders of this land, the thought and the law has become:

Man can do as he wants and pleases!

My desire is for you to understand:

God will have the last word!

Turn with me to those verses in the Old Testament in Deuteronomy, chapter 28. Here are the verses for obedience, 1-14,¹ *"And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful*

to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God. ³ Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. ⁴ Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. ⁵ Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ⁶ Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

⁷ “The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. ⁸ The Lord will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ⁹ The Lord will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in his ways. ¹⁰ And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you. ¹¹ And the Lord will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your livestock and in the fruit of your ground, within the land that the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. ¹² The Lord will open to you his good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. ¹³ And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail, and you shall only go up and not down, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, being careful to do them, ¹⁴ and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I command you today, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

That explains what a living and loving God is prepared to do for us. Yes! I know that this was written in the Old Testament for the benefit of the Hebrews who were selected to become God’s chosen people. I’ve now written over 40 books or booklets attempting to do what my God has assigned to me to explain many things within His Word to a generation that calls themselves New Testament believers. Within those books and booklets, I have taken the time to research how the people of Great Britain and the United States are the holders of the birthright of the house of Israel as a part of the lost ten tribes of Israel. You really need to understand the Old Testament in order to understand what Yeshua did for mankind as a whole and how the New Testament answers the questions of prophecy. Without the basics, you really don’t understand the fulfillment of those early prophecies.

Now, here are the remaining verses of chapter 28. In this case, I will underline particular verses to illustrate what is about to happen to the United States for their unbelief and rebellion against their God. Verses 15-68, ¹⁵ “*But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.* ¹⁶ *Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field.* ¹⁷ *Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.* ¹⁸ *Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock.* ¹⁹ *Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.*

²⁰ “The Lord will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in all that you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and perish quickly on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken me. ²¹ The Lord will make the pestilence stick to you until he has consumed you off the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ²² The Lord will strike you with wasting disease and with fever, inflammation and fiery heat, and with drought and with blight and with mildew. They shall pursue you until you perish. ²³ And the heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron. ²⁴ The Lord will make the rain of your land powder. From heaven dust shall come down on you until you are destroyed.

²⁵ “The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them. And you shall be a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. ²⁶ And

your dead body shall be food for all birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten them away. ²⁷ The Lord will strike you with the boils of Egypt, and with tumors and scabs and itch, of which you cannot be healed. ²⁸ The Lord will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of mind, ²⁹ and you shall grope at noonday, as the blind grope in darkness, and you shall not prosper in your ways. And you shall be only oppressed and robbed continually, and there shall be no one to help you. ³⁰ You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall ravish her. You shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it. You shall plant a vineyard, but you shall not enjoy its fruit. ³¹ Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat any of it. Your donkey shall be seized before your face, but shall not be restored to you. Your sheep shall be given to your enemies, but there shall be no one to help you. ³² Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, while your eyes look on and fail with longing for them all day long, but you shall be helpless. ³³ A nation that you have not known shall eat up the fruit of your ground and of all your labors, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually, ³⁴ so that you are driven mad by the sights that your eyes see. ³⁵ The Lord will strike you on the knees and on the legs with grievous boils of which you cannot be healed, from the sole of your foot to the crown of your head.

³⁶ "The Lord will bring you and your king whom you set over you to a nation that neither you nor your fathers have known. And there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone. ³⁷ And you shall become a horror, a proverb, and a byword among all the peoples where the Lord will lead you away. ³⁸ You shall carry much seed into the field and shall gather in little, for the locust shall consume it. ³⁹ You shall plant vineyards and dress them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes, for the worm shall eat them. ⁴⁰ You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil, for your olives shall drop off. ⁴¹ **You shall father sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours, for they shall go into captivity.** ⁴² The cricket shall possess all your trees and the fruit of your ground. ⁴³ **The sojourner who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower.** ⁴⁴ He shall lend to you, and you shall not lend to him. He shall be the head, and you shall be the tail.

⁴⁵ "All these curses shall come upon you and pursue you and overtake you till you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that he commanded you. ⁴⁶ They shall be a sign and a wonder against you and your offspring forever. ⁴⁷ Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things, ⁴⁸ therefore **you shall serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything.** And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you. ⁴⁹ The Lord will bring a nation against you from far away, from the end of the earth, swooping down like the eagle, a nation whose language you do not understand, ⁵⁰ a hard-faced nation who shall not respect the old or show mercy to the young. ⁵¹ It shall eat the offspring of your cattle and the fruit of your ground, until you are destroyed; it also shall not leave you grain, wine, or oil, the increase of your herds or the young of your flock, until they have caused you to perish.

⁵² "They shall besiege you in all your towns, until your high and fortified walls, in which you trusted, come down throughout all your land. And they shall besiege you in all your towns throughout all your land, which the Lord your God has given you. ⁵³ And you shall eat the fruit of your womb, the flesh of your sons and daughters, whom the Lord your God has given you, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemies shall distress you. ⁵⁴ The man who is the most tender and refined among you will begrudge food to his brother, to the wife he embraces, and to the last of the children whom he has left, ⁵⁵ so that he will not give to any of them any of the flesh of his children whom he is eating, because he has nothing else left, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemy shall distress you in all your towns. ⁵⁶ The most tender and refined woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because she is so delicate and tender, will begrudge to

the husband she embraces, to her son and to her daughter,⁵⁷ her afterbirth that comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears, because lacking everything she will eat them secretly, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemy shall distress you in your towns.

⁵⁸ *“If you are not careful to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, the Lord your God,⁵⁹ then the Lord will bring on you and your offspring extraordinary afflictions, afflictions severe and lasting, and sicknesses grievous and lasting.⁶⁰ And he will bring upon you again all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you.⁶¹ Every sickness also and every affliction that is not recorded in the book of this law, the Lord will bring upon you, until you are destroyed.⁶² Whereas you were as numerous as the stars of heaven, you shall be left few in number, because you did not obey the voice of the Lord your God.⁶³ **And as the Lord took delight in doing you good and multiplying you, so the Lord will take delight in bringing ruin upon you and destroying you.** And you shall be plucked off the land that you are entering to take possession of it.*

⁶⁴ *“And the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.⁶⁵ And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot, but the Lord will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul.⁶⁶ Your life shall hang in doubt before you. Night and day you shall be in dread and have no assurance of your life.⁶⁷ In the morning you shall say, ‘If only it were evening!’ and at evening you shall say, ‘If only it were morning!’ because of the dread that your heart shall feel, and the sights that your eyes shall see.⁶⁸ And the Lord will bring you back in ships to Egypt, a journey that I promised that you should never make again; and there you shall offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but there will be no buyer.”* What is going to happen to our generation if mankind continues on the path we are now traveling?

Well, there it is! Do you see mankind’s ability of having free will choice? Do you see the Israel-Hamas war and the marching and chastising of Israel for defending themselves? Do you see the potential buildup of aliens across our southern border? Do you see the wars and the siege that is in these words as a curse? Do you see that for you to live, you will eat your sons and daughters? Do you see that our armies will not be able to win a war or defend this nation? Do you see the wealth of food is being taken away and this nation will be in a state of famine? Do you see that the monetary wealth of this nation is gone and society is slave to other lands?

Do you see all of this?

Is this what you want?

If this is not what you want, you better change your ways, repent and turn your mind and your heart back to your God, Yahweh!

Remember, mankind has a spirit that does not die! Where do you want your spirit to spend eternity? Man has freewill choice, and you must make that choice! No one else can make that choice for you!

Choose Wisely!

Maranatha



