

THE PROMISED LAND

Pastor Chris Oyakhilome

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The Promised Land

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BELIEVERS' LOVEWORLD INC.

a.k.a Christ Embassy

UNITED KINGDOM:

Christ Embassy Int'l Office
LoveWorld Conference Centre
Cheriton High Street
Folkestone Kent, CT19 4QJ
Tel: +44(0)1303 270970
Fax: 01303 274 372

USA:

Christ Embassy Houston
12400 Westheimer Road,
Houston, Texas 77077
Tel: +1-281-759-5111;
+1-281-759-6218

USA:

Christ Embassy Int'l Office

200 E Arrowhead Drive,

Suite W-3

Charlotte, NC 28213

Tel: +1-972-255-1787;

+1-704-780-4970

CANADA:

600 Clayson North York,

Toronto, M9M 2H2, Canada.

Tel/Fax: +1-416-746 5080

CANADA:

Christ Embassy Int'l Office

50 Weybright Court, Unit 43B

Toronto, ON M1S 5A8

Tel/Fax: +1-647-341-9091

SOUTH AFRICA:

303 Pretoria Avenue

Cnr. Harley and Bram Fischer,

Randburg, Gauteng

South Africa. Tel: + 27 11 3260971;

+27 113260972

NIGERIA:

LoveWorld Conference Center

KudiratAbiola Way,

Oregun, Ikeja, Lagos.

P.O. Box 13563

Ikeja, Lagos.

Tel:+234-802 3324 188,

+234-805 2464 131,

+234-1-892 5724

email: cec@christembassy.org

website: www.christembassy.org

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Chapter 1

The Promise

The Call of Abraham

In Genesis chapter 12, from verse 1, we read that God called Abram (that was his name before it was changed to Abraham).

“Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed”
[Genesis 12:1-3](#)

When you study this portion of Scripture, you’ll find out that the summary of what God said to him was, “Go into a land that I will reveal unto you.” Isn’t that marvellous! Imagine God coming to you tonight and saying, “Get out of this country and go into a land that I will show you.”

God said to Abraham, “Go, I’ll show you the land.” Abraham didn’t remain there asking if he should go south, east or west, he just set out and began his journey. The Bible says in [Hebrews 11:8](#), “When he left he had no idea where he was going” (MSG). He just trusted God to lead him. He was indeed a man of faith; the only thing he knew was what God had told him.

“So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran” [Genesis 12:4](#).

Some people at the age of seventy already begin preparing for death. Even at the age of sixty, some think their time is up. But it doesn’t have to be so. Look at Abraham and learn from his life. God called him when he was 75 years old and Sarah his wife was still very attractive at 65 years of age; attractive enough for the king of Egypt to desire her ([Genesis 20:2](#)).

Abraham went, not knowing where he was going, except for what God had promised him, “...I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” ([Genesis 12:2-3](#)). This was the initial message God brought to him, but from time to time He expanded it and made Abraham understand more of what was in the promise. It was a great promise, but there was also another part to it. When God spoke to Joshua in [Joshua 1:3-5](#), He was actually referring to the promise.

[Joshua 1:3-5](#): *“Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as*

I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

So when God told Abraham to come out of his father's house, and his country, and go to a place He was going to show him, it was only the beginning of the promise. Many more things happened afterwards. You can read the story in the book of Genesis: Abraham journeyed and by the power of God gave birth to his son Isaac; Isaac gave birth to Jacob, and Jacob gave birth to the twelve patriarchs, who became the fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel.

The Journey of Faith

Abraham's obedience to God's call is one of those recorded in Faith's Hall of Fame in [Hebrews 11](#).

"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:"
[Hebrews 11:8-9](#)

For Abraham to have sojourned in the land of promise, it means he must have actually gotten there. But verse 10 records that "...he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." This indicates that he lived his life in a special way, because he was on the look-out for a city. How come he got to the land of promise, sojourned there and still looked for a city?

The Bible lets us know that Abraham was a prophet of God, and being a prophet he knew of the days of Christ to come, because the Bible says, all of God's prophets since the world began spoke of the coming of Christ ([Acts 3:21](#)). So he had enough spiritual insight to know that God was not just referring to the land he stood upon. The Promised Land was beyond the land on which he stood and Abraham knew the difference.

In Hebrews chapter 11, we read of other men of faith who also looked forward to the promise but "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (verse 13). This Scripture never ceases to inspire me. These men and women knew of the promise of God and they looked forward to it. They knew that whatever it was they had could not be compared to what God had in mind for them. So they were not attached to the things of this world; they looked forward to a better place. And they went further than just looking forward to it, they acted like those looking for a better place and they confessed it. They confessed they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

How many Christians live with the consciousness that they're strangers and pilgrims on the earth, and that this present world is just a passing phase? If only the people of God will learn to live with this kind of consciousness and set their minds on spiritual things.

God knows the things we have need of ever before we ask Him. But the Lord Jesus said, "... seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" ([Matthew 6:33](#)). He knows that these are the things

the Gentiles seek after and He also knows we have need of them. However, He wants us to set our hearts and affections on things above and not on the things of this world ([Colossians 3:2](#)). He wants us to mind His business, so He can mind our business. This is why in [Psalm 115:12](#), the Bible says, God is mindful of us so He can bless us.

If some people are told today that they're going to die in 5 years, they'd say, "Well, since I've got only 5 years, I might as well enjoy my life as much as I can for the next 5 years," and they'll try to get all the fun they can and leave the most vital issues of life unattended to. This is nothing but great emptiness!

Somebody once said the angels look at the world of men with wondering eyes and say, "You have many mansions in a temporary world, but in your eternal home, you have laid no stone of foundation."

God doesn't want His children to live like this; He wants us to focus our attention on eternal things.

The men of faith in [Hebrews 11:13](#) all died in faith. Understand this: it is far better to die believing than to live doubting; better to die believing than to live a life full of doubt, sin and unbelief. Better to die believing than to live a wasted life, filled with all of the world's goods. Jesus asked, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" ([Mark 8:36](#)). Nothing!

[Hebrew 11:13-15](#): "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned."

Can you see that if they had their minds on the place from where they came, they could easily have gone back? But thank God they didn't! And today we have them as our examples.

There are people today who draw back after giving their lives to Christ. They start out being born again, and the next thing they turn around and go back to the world; in a sense they went back to Egypt. And the sad thing is that most of the time they don't blame themselves. They would rather blame a minister who behaved in a way they did not expect or church leaders, or even some brethren in the church. These people allow themselves to be deceived of the devil into thinking they are okay and every other person is not as good. Don't be like this. Let your mind be made up for Christ, once and for all. He is all you need and if you seek Him in His Word, you will be firmly established upon the truth.

[Verse 16, 37](#): "But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city...They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;"

But all these things did not dissuade them from going after the real thing: a city prepared for them by God. And God was not ashamed to be called their God,

because He had actually prepared for them a city!

These men believed they had something better in store for them; they were going somewhere. They had a country to which they had been called. What's more? They believed it to the point they died believing it. The Bible says, they had faith and lived by faith. Listen! The reason they had faith was because they heard the Word of God, for *"...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* ([Romans 10:17](#)). The Word that had been given to their father Abraham was passed down through different generations, and continued to produce an expectation in them, for that which they had not seen.

Until you hear, you cannot believe. These men had so much faith because God had spoken to them. The Word of God brings faith!

The Movement to Egypt

When there arose a famine in Canaan, Jacob and his sons moved to Egypt to live with Joseph. And while they were there, Joseph nourished them and helped them, and they became strong and multiplied greatly. They were about seventy when they first entered Egypt, but they prospered and multiplied greatly, until there arose a Pharaoh in Egypt that did not know Joseph. All the other Pharaohs had blessed them because they knew Joseph; how that by his interpretation of dreams and wisdom Egypt had been preserved during a terrible period of famine that came over the world.

But this other Pharaoh did not know Joseph; he had no regard for Joseph and did not reckon with his story. He soon became jealous because the Hebrews were multiplying in the land, and decided he was going to annihilate them completely. He didn't want them in existence because they were a blessed people and had multiplied greatly.

And this is just like the devil. When the children of God begin to prosper, he takes notice of them and seeks to destroy them. As long as the Church is "meek, quiet and humble", the world does not take notice of them. The world does not mind them being around. But watch it! Let the Church stand up and begin to call herself what God calls her; let Christians arise and declare they are the sons of God; let them declare they are more than conquerors, that they are prosperous in the Name of Jesus. Let them wake up to their responsibility in Christ, and begin to bear witness to the saving and healing power of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Then the world begins to take notice of them, and call them names.

For declaring they are more than conquerors in Christ they are called boasters. For declaring their healing they are branded liars and for declaring their faith in the One true God they are persecuted. Why? The world would rather have the Church poor, weak, timid and small. But whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world! Glory to God! This is the victory that overcomes the world even our faith! ([1 John 5:4](#)) Halleluyah! We are unstoppable! The world cannot limit us. The Church of these last days is one which cannot be stopped, because this is the time for the revelation and manifestation of the sons of God ([Romans 8:19](#)).

That was what happened to the children of Israel. And Pharaoh took notice of them, because they were great and prosperous. At that time they lived in the land of Goshen, being cattle rearers. The Egyptians had asked them to stay in the land of Goshen because they were dairy farmers and the Egyptians didn't like that. The

Pharaoh became jealous of them and declared he was going to destroy them. He turned the adults to slaves and commanded their new born male babies to be destroyed. Isn't that just like Hitler? Hitler set out to destroy the Jews, and you know that that was not the first time someone was going to rise against the Jews. It had happened several times. Pharaoh of Egypt did it, Nebuchadnezzar did it and Herod tried it too. That is not the end because in these last days someone is going to try it again. This time it would be worse than the world ever knew but God will rise to the defence of His people.

So the Hebrews were forced into slavery in Egypt. Pharaoh was afraid they would grow and one day take over his empire. But you see God was not asleep, He had revealed to Abraham centuries before what would happen to his seed in Egypt ([Genesis 15:13-16](#)), but He also had told him how He was going to deliver them.

God raised up a man and Moses was his name. Through the hands of Moses, God delivered the children of Israel out of Egypt. He reiterated the promise He had made to their fathers years before. The promise He had made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He made them realize there was a land to which He was taking them. He encouraged Moses to go to Pharaoh and demand for the release of Israel to go and worship their God in the wilderness. At first Pharaoh blatantly refused and derided the God of Israel, asking who He was. But sign after sign, wonder after wonder and miracle after miracle, Pharaoh had to bow and the Egyptian empire was brought to its knees; they had to let the Israelites go.

Journey to the Promised Land - The Death of Moses

Moses was a hundred and twenty years old, when God spoke to him, and told him to go up to the mountain and die. Nothing killed him neither was he bent and his eyes were still functioning well. He went, laid hands on Joshua, and blessed him to become the next leader in his place, and then he bade the people farewell. He had enough time to speak to the people. Isn't it better to die like that than to die through an accident? Christians are not meant to die through sickness or accidents. There are more examples in the Bible.

Moses knew this; he knew that his forbears did not die through sickness or accidents. Abraham set his house in order and divided his wealth amongst his children ([Genesis 25:5-8](#)). Jacob in his own time called his children together, and blessed them one after the other. Then he said, "Goodbye, I am through with you now", gathered himself up in the bed and died. Joseph had enough time to tell the children of Israel about their future exodus from the land of Egypt, and instructed them to carry his bones with them from Egypt ([Genesis 50:24-25](#)). Read about David, the great king of Israel. He had enough time to crown his own successor before he died. He was the only king who did that. That's the best way, no sickness or demon killed them.

And the biggest, incomparable of them all, our Lord Jesus said, "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father" ([John 10:17-18](#)).

Joshua Continues the Journey

The man Joshua took over from Moses and he had a visitation from God. This was

a turning point in his life.

Joshua 1:1-6: *“Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.”*

God came to Joshua and told him to carry on with the job. So the children of Israel continued the journey to the Promised Land with Joshua. But we read from the beginning that the promise of the land came when God talked to the man Abraham.

The Abrahamic Covenant

In the 15th chapter of the book of Genesis, God made a very remarkable covenant with Abraham. It was a Blood Covenant; the strongest and the most binding covenant there is. That was the kind of covenant God made with Abraham. In all of human history, this is the greatest covenant that was ever made with any human being, because through that covenant, God was actually saying to Abraham, “Everything I own belongs to you, and everything you own belongs to me”.

God swore by Himself, because as the Bible says, *“...He could swear by no greater...”* ([Hebrews 6:13](#)). He pledged Himself and everything that His Name represents to the man Abraham. And so Abraham was called the friend of God. He was the covenant friend of God.

A Blood Covenant means a life covenant and this is why the Jews have suffered so badly. Throughout their history, they have gone through the best of times, seen the greatest of miracles, yet they are the ones who have experienced the worst sufferings. This is because of the Blood Covenant; they are covenant people. And if you break a Blood Covenant, it is blood for blood, life for life. There could be no limit to their suffering. It is the worst thing that could happen to anybody, that is why they have gone through a lot of suffering; because they broke this covenant.

Knowledge of the life of Abraham and God’s dealings with him is very vital because the entire Christian life is based on this. In Genesis 12, God called Abraham and later on made a very important covenant with him.

Genesis 15:1: *“After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.”*

God came to Abraham (at this time his name was Abram), and told him, *“...I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward.”* But because his wife was barren he asked, *“...Lord God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless,*

and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?" ([Verse2](#)).

Abraham at this time was already an old man, and was naturally bothered about his childless condition. So he complained to God saying,

"... Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. And, behold, the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness" ([verse 3-6](#)).

God asked Abraham to look up and count the stars, so it must have been in the nighttime. God said, *"...So shall thy seed be..."* This is marvellous! This is the first time it is written how Abraham believed God. This was not the first time God was going to tell him this, but this was the first time the man truly believed. And God counted it to him for righteousness, and said unto him, *"And he said unto him, I am the Lord that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it" ([Genesis 15:7](#)).* He was then in Canaan, and he asked, *"... Lord God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?" ([Genesis 15:8](#)).*

Listen, when God comes to you, He doesn't come to scare you. Abraham knew this, and he was not afraid to talk to God but he didn't talk to Him irreverently. There is a difference between asking a question with reverence and respect, and asking a question irreverently and foolishly in unbelief. God gives us the privilege to talk to Him as children talk to their father and He also gives us the freedom to express ourselves.

Abraham simply wanted to know how he was going to inherit the land. You need to understand this, if someone you did not know before walks up to you, and promises he is going to give you something, you have every right to question what he is talking about. And even in situations where you already have a relationship with the person, the extent of the relationship will determine what you can expect from him. You need to understand what Abraham was talking about. Let's look at verse 8 again, *"And he (Abraham) said, Lord God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?"* I want you to note God's response.

The Cutting of the Covenant

From verse 9, something very significant happened. God gave Abraham some instructions that would shape the course of human history; instructions that introduced a new realm of God's dealings with man.

[Genesis 15: 9-10:](#) *"And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not."*

To divide in the midst means to cut into two, so Abraham dissected them. But the birds were not divided like this.

[Genesis 15:11-16:](#) *"And when the fowls came down upon the*

carcasses, Abram drove them away. And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full."

God talked to Abraham in a vision and while Abraham was there in the presence of God, a deep sleep fell upon him, and a horror of great darkness fell upon him. God began to give to him a vision of things that would happen to his seed after him. Being God, He was looking forward for He knows everything from the dateless past unto all eternity; for the Bible says from everlasting to everlasting He is God ([Psalm 90:2](#)). He knows all things. It is very important to note that all these things happened as God was about to cut a covenant with Abram.

[Genesis 15:17-18](#): "And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. [18] In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:"

The smoking furnace and the burning lamp represented the presence of God. And by passing between the pieces of those animals, God made a covenant with Abram. The actual word is "cut" a covenant. In this particular covenant it was God who was cutting this covenant with Abraham; He was the one who passed between the pieces of the animals. Therefore He was declaring Himself the administrator of this covenant, and took upon Himself the responsibility of ensuring that it was fulfilled. In [Jeremiah 34:18](#), God talked about men of Israel who had cut a covenant with Him in this way, but had refused to fulfill that which they had initiated. *"And I will give the men that have transgressed my covenant, which have not performed the words of the covenant which they had made before me, when they cut the calf in twain, and passed between the parts thereof,"* These men made a covenant with God when they cut the calf in twain and passed between the parts. That is the way a Blood Covenant is cut.

In [Genesis 15](#), God was the one who cut a covenant with Abram, and in [Genesis 17:7](#) God said, *"And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee."*

This is marvelous. You ought to notice that God did not say "thy seeds" referring to many, but *"THY SEED"*, referring to one. The promises God made to Abraham in the covenant were not made to him alone, but to him and his seed in their generations. This lets us know there is going to be more than one generation for Abraham's seed and in these different generations, God is going to administer the "everlasting covenant."

The Promise Was Made To Abraham and His Seed

In [Genesis 17:7](#), God established His covenant with Abraham, and his seed. God said *"And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and THY SEED after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to THY SEED after thee."* In his epistles to the Galatians, the Apostle Paul by the Holy Ghost threw more light on this and revealed the identity of this Seed of Abraham.

[Galatians 3: 16](#): *"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ."*

There is a great difference between "seeds" and "seed." So whatever promise God made to Abraham was actually for his seed after him, and Paul brings out a revelation that when God spoke to Abraham, He did not say, "to your seeds" referring to many seeds. In effect God was not talking about Isaac, Jacob and all the sons of Israel. He was not talking about all those ones but rather that the promises which were made to Abraham were actually made to Christ.

Paul also revealed that, *"the promises were made to Christ."* He could have said Jesus and that would have meant something else, but what he said has a technical significance. This is very important, when the Bible talks about Jesus, it refers to the man Jesus, but when He is referred to as Christ; the body of Christ is also being referred to. This is not mere semantics; we are the seed of Jesus. The seed and Himself (Jesus) form one whole body, and He is the head of the whole body, which is the Church. You need to follow this, it is no mere human logic. [1 Corinthians 12:27](#), *"Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."* Also in [Ephesians 1:19-23](#), the Bible says,

"And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all."

In [Galatians 3:27, 29](#) the Bible says: *"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ...And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."*

Oh Halleluyah! This is beautiful; we who are born-again have automatically become Abraham's seed and heirs of the promises that were made to Abraham.

The Promise had a Spiritual Aspect

The promise of a land to Abraham was beyond the physical land of Canaan. We need to understand that God was talking to a man who was not born-again, and therefore did not have the capacity or ability to enjoy spiritual things. Abraham was a man of faith, but he was also a man of the flesh. When I say of the flesh, I mean of the human body; he was not born-again. He lived in the sense realm, and God had to appeal to his senses to communicate faith. At the beginning when God told Abraham he was going to have a child, he found it difficult to believe God. His wife

Sarah actually laughed when she heard God. So God took him out one night, and said, *"Look at the stars and count them; if you can count them then it will be possible to count the children I will give you"* ([Genesis 15:5](#)). He actually started counting, but after a time it dawned on him that the stars were uncountable, and he turned to God and said, "They are too many, I can't finish counting them. "And God pronounced, *"So shall thy seed be."*

Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness. He didn't believe until that time, and it was only after he believed that God changed his name from Abram to Abraham. Do you understand now? God appealed to his senses to communicate faith to him from the Word of God. The promises that were made to Abraham included all spiritual, physical and material blessings. But Abraham could only enjoy the physical and the material but not the spiritual.

Even the people of the Old Covenant could not enjoy the spiritual benefits of the Abrahamic Covenant. They could not have the Holy Spirit of God come and dwell in them; it had to take another generation of Abraham to enjoy this. We who are of the New Covenant are those walking in the spiritual blessing of the Abrahamic Covenant.

The Significance Of God's Test

God wanted to prove Abraham, and He said to him,

"... Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of" ([Genesis 22:2](#)).

It is possible for God to test you, though He will never tempt anyone with evil ([James 1:13](#)). At this time Abraham had the son of promise by the name Isaac. Abraham obeyed God, and took Isaac up to the mountains of Moriah. When they got there he bound the boy, and put him on the wood, and was ready to slay him when God spoke out of heaven, calling out to Abraham to stop. God said, *now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me*" (verse 12), and provided a ram for him for the sacrifice.

God saved the boy and the Bible declares that in the mind of Justice, Abraham actually offered his son and got him back in a figure representing the resurrection of Christ.

[Hebrews 11: 17-19](#): "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure."

Do you know that in the same way Abraham was willing to give his only son, his best to God, God gave His best, His Son Jesus for the world ([John 3:16](#)). The mountains of Moriah upon which God told Abraham to offer his son up, are the same mountains upon which the Lord Jesus was crucified for the sins of the world. That is how significant God's test of Abraham was.

There are some things that God may ask you to give as an act of faith. Some

people will proclaim their willingness to do anything for God, that is, until He actually asks them to do it. Some will make pledges and will not fulfill them. And when a preacher talks about money they turn around to say, "I don't like preachers who talk about money." Well in case you don't know, Jesus talked about money. God talked a lot about money in the Bible.

As a result of Abraham's obedience, God said to him, *"But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,"* ([Hebrews11:16-17](#)).

Isaac was the son of his old age; he was not an adopted son. Unlike a lot of people, Abraham was not trying to give second best, or give a worthless thing. It is only this type of giving that receives a reward. Abraham trusted God. And God said, *"And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice".* ([Genesis22:18](#)).

Different Generations Of Men

At the beginning, after the recreation of the world, God made Adam and Eve, who began to have children after their fall, their first being Cain and Abel. Adam was made in the image and likeness of God. But he fell and took upon him the likeness of Satan. And after his fall he gave birth to children in his own image and likeness.

So Cain, Abel and Seth were born in the image and likeness of Adam, not in the likeness of God. When you study the books of 1 John and Hebrews, you will find a record of Cain and Abel in the Bible; that Cain was of the devil, because he slew his brother out of jealousy. But Abel was a man who loved God, and sought to serve him the right way. Both of them represented two different generations of men. Abel's works were righteous and Cain hated him for it.

1 John 3:12: "Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."

So Cain who was of the devil slew Abel, and the righteous seed was cut off. Adam and Eve were left with this Cain of the devil. Eve later gave birth to Seth, whose lineage became that of the righteous seed.

You are always going to find two different generations in the Bible. Why? Satan always tries to pollute the righteous generations. And you will find that he will come in and try to destroy one, but God just goes right ahead and raises up another. This is actually what happened back there in the Garden of Eden. And it was the same purpose the devil had, when fallen angels came to marry the daughters of men. The fruit of the union were unnatural men giants ([Genesis6:1-4](#)).

Different Generations From Abraham

Apart from the different generations of men that evolved from Adam, different generations of men came from Abraham as well. God had made a promise to Abraham that he was going to have a son, but he was moved of the flesh to have a child of the flesh, by the name of Ishmael. Isaac, the child of promise was later born of Sarah, Abraham's wife. Isaac was born as a child of promise, after the

power of the Word of God. So he was different from Ishmael; he was a different species for Isaac was born according to the Spirit. And so you find two generations coming out of Abraham; one born after the flesh and the other born after the Spirit.

Isaac became the one on whom the blessings of Abraham rested; the promises of God to Abraham and the covenant that God made with Abraham were now passed on to Isaac. Isaac married and had two sons; Jacob and Esau. And the same thing happens in their lives. Esau takes after the devil and he is called a profane person ([Hebrews 12:16](#)). A profane person is one who does not value spiritual things. Esau did not value his birthright, and in his profanity he sold it. He did not become profane because he sold his birthright; rather he sold his birthright because he was profane.

Jacob takes up after God, and he continues the righteous lineage. Esau was profane, and some of the greatest problems that Israel ever had came from the descendants of Esau the Edomites.

But down through the line from Abel you find that God always protected and preserved His own breed; His own generation, that is, He kept His righteous generation. Jacob, who was now the beneficiary and custodian of the promises and covenant, went on to have his own children from which the nation of Israel was born.

But Israel broke the covenant of God and God has come up with another generation, that is, the generation of Christ of which we are! Praise the Lord! So Christ is a different generation from Israel, but He also is a descendant of Abraham.

The covenant of God with Abraham is an everlasting covenant, so in [Genesis 17:7](#) when God told Abraham, "And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations..." He was referring to the children of Israel; the natural descendants and the Church; the sons of Abraham according to the spirit. But the Church does not replace the nation of Israel today. The Church and Israel are different generations of Abraham, that is, the Church makes up the generation of Christ. The children of Israel are the natural seed of Abraham, but the Church is his seed according to the Spirit. *"And if ye be Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise"* ([Galatians 3:29](#)).

Signs of the Covenant

Every time God establishes a covenant, He gives a sign for it. For Abraham it was the sign of circumcision, which was to be in their bodies. With the children of Israel it was also the sign of circumcision in their bodies, though they also had to keep the Sabbath Day.

When God made a covenant with Noah, He left a sign in the sky, and it is still there. It is the sign of the rainbow ([Genesis 9:12-16](#)). When you see the rainbow, realise it is not there by chance. It is because of the evil of the world. The world is worth destroying, but instead of destroying it God set the rainbow there to remind Himself of His covenant with Noah and it stays His hand. Praise God!

For us in the New Testament, it is also the sign of circumcision. That may shock you, but indeed the sign of our covenant with God is circumcision, but it is different

from that of the children of Israel, because ours is the circumcision of the heart in the spirit which is carried out by God and not men. While that of the children of Israel was in the flesh. We have a new heart, because the stony heart of flesh was removed when we came to Christ.

Romans 2:28-29: *“For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.”*

Colossians 2:11-12: *“In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”*

Philippians 3:3: *“For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”*

Chapter 2

The Promised Land

When God called Abraham to go into a city, He would show him, he obeyed and started moving though he did not know where he was going. But where is this Promised Land? Did it only refer to the physical land of Canaan? It is so important for us to find out where or what this Promised Land really is.

The Promised Land Is Not Canaan!

Hebrews 11:8-9: *“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:”*

Abraham actually got to the land of promise and sojourned there, and for him to have sojourned there means he actually got there. But verse 10 records that, “For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” This first of all indicates he lived his life in a special way, because he was on the look-out for a city.

Canaan Was An Allegory

So if Canaan was not the Promised Land, what was it then since the children of Israel looked forward to it as their Promised Land? Also God referred to it several times as the land of promise, which flowed with milk and honey.

For the children of Israel in the Old Testament, Canaan was the land of promise; the land of their inheritance. But it would do us good to always remember that Israel is also referred to in the Bible as the “Church in the wilderness” ([Acts 7:38](#)), meaning that Israel in the Old Testament was a type of the Church of Christ to come, which we are.

We are the spiritual Israel, and the physical Israel came to typify the spiritual. Therefore, the whole story of the children of Israel from Abraham, to Isaac and Jacob, and unto the patriarchs; from their movement into Egypt, and exodus from Egypt towards Canaan is an allegory. Glory to God! It’s all an allegory that means their Promised Land which they got to is also an allegory of the real Promised Land. This we can also see in Hebrews chapter 12, where a comparison is made.

Hebrews 12:18-21: *“For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard entreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)”*

This is talking about Mount Sinai, where the children of Israel came to worship God.

When God came and stepped on this mountain, it went up in flames, and the children of Israel saw blackness, darkness and tempest. By the time God began to speak to them they could not take it any longer.

The darkness and tempest coupled with the voice of words caused them to cry out to Moses to tell God to stop talking. They said, "Let Him talk to you Moses, and then when He is through with you, you come and talk to us. We would listen to you." They were afraid because of what they saw. Even Moses was shaken in his shoes. He said, "...I exceedingly fear and quake" It was indeed a sight to behold.

But for us in the New Testament, it is a completely different story altogether. We have not come to that mountain that burned with blackness and tempest. Look at the description the scripture gives to where we have come to.

Hebrews 12:22-24: *"But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."*

Glory to God! Like the Church in the wilderness, we have come to a city, but unlike them, we have not come to a mountain that burns with blackness and a tempest. We have come unto Mount Zion, the city of the living God.

Canaan was an allegory of this city. This is the city that has foundations whose builder and maker is God. This is the city that Papa Abraham and all the patriarchs were looking for. You know, they got to Canaan, but when they got there, they said, "There must be something better than this. This is not where we are going; we are still on a journey." They saw a vision of this heavenly city of God and were persuaded of it. They embraced it and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims in Canaan. By so doing they declared plainly that they were seeking a better country.

And you know what? God was not ashamed of their desires; He was not ashamed to be called their God, for indeed He had prepared for them a city, not Canaan which they came to, but a heavenly one and this is Zion to which we have now come. Oh Halleluyah!

Hebrews 11:13-16: *"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."*

The Promised Land Not A Type of Heaven

Some Christians though accepting that Canaan is a type of the Promised Land still think that this Promised Land is heaven. And because the children of Israel moved from Egypt into their land of promise, Canaan, they also believe that we have moved from Egypt (which is a type of the world) to go to heaven. But this is not so because Canaan is not a type of heaven and the Promised Land is not heaven. This is why a lot of Christians like to sing the song, "We are marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion, We are marching to Zion today." In their minds when they sing about Zion like this, they are actually thinking of heaven, which is where they are expecting to get to in future. But this also is not true because the Promised Land, which is Zion, is not a type of heaven.

Promised Land Not Paradise

Some others think that the Promised Land must definitely refer to Paradise. And this is because in their imagination they think of the Promised Land as a form of paradise; a place with food, laughter, joy, no pain or sorrow, where we will live happily ever after.

Jesus at his crucifixion, turned to the repentant thief who was being crucified with Him, and said, "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" ([Luke 23:43](#)). So where is Paradise? Maybe the question really should be, where did Jesus go to immediately He gave up the ghost?

When Jesus ascended into heaven, we are told that He led captivity captive.

[Ephesians 4:8](#): "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men."

These were the old saints whom Satan had kept captive in Hades. Hades is the place where the dead are taken to. It was formerly divided by a great gulf into two sections; Hell and Abraham's bosom. The saints of the Old Testament were all taken captive by Satan upon their death, though they could only be taken into Abraham's bosom. Lazarus, the righteous beggar whom Jesus spoke about in [Luke 16:19-31](#) was taken there, so were all the righteous saints before him. But after the death of Jesus on the Cross, He first went to Hades, that is, to Abraham's bosom to set them free. These are the captives He took to heaven referred to in [Ephesians 4:8](#).

[Ephesians 4:8](#): "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men."

So this answers our question, Jesus first went to Abraham's bosom after his death, to liberate the saints that had been taken captive by the devil all along. He did not go straight to heaven, because after His resurrection when Mary Magdalene tried to touch Him, He stopped her and said, "... *Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father...*" ([John 20:17](#)). That means at this time He had not yet gone into the presence of God to offer His blood. He first went to Hades, to satisfy the claims of Justice for the sins that were past, and those to come, and also to free these Old Testament saints.

That means we can safely conclude that when Jesus told the repentant thief that, "...*To day shalt thou be with me in paradise*" ([Luke 23:43](#)), He was referring to Abraham's bosom.

So, the Promised Land is not Paradise. It is not Abraham's bosom, neither is it a purgatory, because some people claim that Abraham's bosom is purgatory.

Zion - The Promised Land

We have already concluded that the journey of the Israelites from Egypt into Canaan was an allegory. For us to know where the Promised Land is, we need to understand [Hebrews 12:18-24](#).

Hebrews 12:18-24: "For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:) But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."

The children of Israel came unto Mount Sinai, but we have come to Mount Zion! Mount Zion is the city of the living God, this is the city that Abraham and the rest of those men of faith of Hebrews 11 were looking forward to, a city whose builder and maker is God!

The children of Israel came to darkness, tempest and judgement, but look at where we have come to; we have come to God, we have come to meet an innumerable company of angels in the heavenly Jerusalem, we have come to Jesus and the spirits of just men made perfect. Glory! The Promised Land is where God is; Zion is the Promised Land.

Abraham did not get there at the beginning, but now he also has entered into Zion because after the resurrection of Jesus, He led the captives in his train. He led all the saints who were in the bosom of Abraham and ascended with them. Do you know that He actually brought them out of Hades and took them into Zion? Heaven is part of Zion! (We will see more on this later).

The first man to get into this city was Enoch. Enoch disappeared from the earth one day, and just went to be with God; he did not come back. The Bible says that he was translated that he should not see death ([Hebrews 11:5](#)). Another man that went into that city without dying is Elijah; he was taken away alive by a chariot of fire ([2 Kings 2:11](#)). Before him was Moses, though Moses died, God did not allow the devil to take his body to Abraham's bosom in Hades where the rest of the Old Testament saints had been taken to. The archangel Michael prevailed against Lucifer and took his body to heaven ([Jude 1:9](#)), which explains why during the transfiguration of Jesus on the mount, Moses and Elijah appeared with Him. Moses did not come back from the grave to appear with Jesus, he was already in Zion.

This is why in Old Testament prophecies Zion refers more to the Church than it does to Israel. [Psalm 50:2](#) says, "Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined."

This is not a physical Zion, but the spiritual Zion, the Church of God.

We Are In Zion Now!

Zion is the city of the living God, and that is where we have come. Let's read [Hebrews 12:22](#) again.

Hebrews 12:22: "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,"

Can you see that the Bible did not say, we are going to mount Zion or we are trying to get there. Neither does it indicate that God is trying to get us there. No! He says, "YE ARE COME." Glory! We are not trying to get into Mount Zion, neither are we getting into Mount Zion after the rapture, we are already there now! Not tomorrow, not yesterday but today, we are in Zion! Praise the Lord!

Look at the facts: Though Abraham and the rest of them did not get to the city they were looking for; they looked for the city that God built ([Hebrews 11:16](#)), but they did not get there. But, we are not looking for a city; when we were born-again, we were born into that city!

We are already in Zion. We are not headed for the Promised Land; we are already in the Promised Land. There is no need for us to sing again, "I will come into His gates with thanksgiving, I will enter His courts with praise." Jesus said, "...*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me*" ([John 14:6](#)).

We have already entered into His gates and that is where we reside now, in His courts. The truth is that the moment you start singing you are marching to Zion, you are actually marching out of Zion, because Zion is where you are in Christ.

When Jesus came and gave Himself as a sacrifice for us, that great sacrifice He made on the Cross went backwards to pay for the sins of people that were in the Old Testament and those of people afterwards. This is what qualified Abraham and the other saints to be brought out of Hades and taken to heaven.

Paradise was a waiting place for them; Paradise is not a purgatory, you can never read of any purgatory in the Bible. The sins that were committed under the Old Testament were wiped away by the blood of Christ. When Jesus went into hell, He went as our representative; He was man's representative before the Father. When He hung on the cross, He was man's representative before the world and there in hell He became man's representative before the demons and devils of hell. Praise the Lord!

[Romans 3:24-25](#): "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;"

Also in [Hebrews 9:15](#) the Bible says,

"And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that

were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance."

And when Jesus defeated Satan, we were the ones who defeated Satan because we were in Him when He did it. Jesus got the keys of hell and of death, and brought all those dear saints; Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the rest of the Old Testament saints out of Hades. At the resurrection of Jesus, the Bible records that the graves opened and the saints came out of their graves, and He took them to heaven with Him.

Matthew 27:51-52: *"And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,"*

So they are also in Zion now, He took them from hell and transported them into Zion.

Heaven Is A Place In Zion

We are in the Promised Land now but we are not yet in heaven. Zion is a place and heaven is a place in Zion. Our spiritual location is Zion, though terrestrially we could be in different parts of the world. But celestially we are in Zion and not everywhere in the celestial world is Zion.

We have said that Abraham and all the other saints are in Zion right now, though their specific location is heaven. The kingdom of God is a vast one; the family consists of saints both in heaven and on earth but it is all one family and the whole family is in Zion.

Ephesians 3:14-15: *"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,"*

The whole family is named after God, the Father of us all. So part of the family of God is in heaven, while some are on earth but we are all in Zion.

The Kingdom of God is not heaven; heaven is a place in the Kingdom of God, just like Lagos is not Nigeria and Washington is not the United States of America. You could be in the United States and not be in Washington and there are also other geographical areas in Nigeria apart from Lagos.

Heaven is a geographical place in the Kingdom of God. So we are not now in heaven, though we are in the kingdom of God. And one day, we are going to travel from where we are right now in God's Kingdom to heaven, which is another place in the Kingdom of God.

When we get there, you are just going to be like someone who traveled from one part of a country to another, but this would be more glorious. And when you get to heaven, you will still be the same person you have been since you were born-again, that means we will be able to recognize ourselves. The Bible says, *"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality"* (**1Corinthians 15:52-53**).

So heaven is a place in the Kingdom of God; though we are not physically there now, we are already citizens of heaven, being citizens of the Kingdom of God. The Bible says in [Philippians 3:20](#), *“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ”* (NIV).

We are already citizens of heaven; we are not going to be neither are we hoping to be, we are citizens now! In the King James Version of the Bible, the word “conversation” includes three synonyms: conversation, manner of life and citizenship. It should actually read citizenship; conversation is not the right synonym for the Greek word from which it was translated in the KJV. Our citizenship is in heaven because “...now are we the sons of God...” ([1 John 3:2](#)), for this is what the Bible says.

[1 John 3:1-2](#): *“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”*

Outwardly, in appearance we do not know what we shall be like, the world also does not know. However, one thing we know is that one day very soon, these corruptible bodies of ours shall put on incorruption and mortality shall be swallowed up in life.

Principles of the Promised Land

There is a life to be lived in this city. Abraham looked for a city that had foundations.

[Hebrews 11:10](#): *“For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”*

We have arrived in this city with foundations. Foundations here refer to principles. This city has principles; principles for us to live by. We are going to have to learn the principles of the Kingdom so we can know how to live and talk in Zion.

God gave the children of Israel laws and He told them, “When you come into that land where you are going to possess it, you shall read these laws to their hearing, that they should obey all these laws.” When were they given the commandments? On the way; they got the commandments in the wilderness while they were headed for the Promised Land. Of course they were to read the law and abide by it in the Promised Land. This was mandatory for them; if they were to walk in a way that was pleasing to God and make their way prosperous, then it was in their own interest to read the law in the Promised Land, and abide by it.

They got these laws on their way to the Promised Land and it is the same thing for us in the New Testament; we also got our commandments on the way. When you study the Bible from the 13th chapter to the 15th chapter of St. John’s gospel, you will discover this.

The Lord Jesus was on His way in all these chapters, and He was preparing his disciples for His death that was to come. In the 16th chapter, He told them about the Day that was coming. He told them how they were going to pray in that Day and in the 17th chapter He began to pray to God in their presence; He prayed for

the Church, and while praying He said, *“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word”* ([John 17:20](#)). It was on the way He also said, *“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another”* ([John 13:34](#)). He said this to them on the way, when He was preparing them for the Promised Land.

We have to learn the principles of this city so that we can live by them. For by them only can we make our way prosperous and be productive for God. Our fruitfulness in Zion is dependent on the amount of God’s Word we have in us.

The General Assembly Of God.

There is a general assembly of God. Those in the House of Assembly of earthly countries are representatives of different localities in the country, and the Assembly cannot be convened without them.

God has a general assembly and we the Church, make up the general assembly of God.

Hebrew 12:22-23a: *“But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven...”*

This is great! In this particular assembly, we are all representatives. Nobody represents another; you represent yourself. That means we all matter, and the assembly is not complete without you. This should get you excited.

Our names are written in heaven. Another translation says, “Which are enrolled in heaven” (ASV). We all matter in the kingdom of God.

Chapter 3

The Two Covenants

From the everlasting covenant God made with Abraham came two covenants; the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. The life we Christians are living today; our salvation from Jesus Christ and the benefits of our salvation are based on the covenant God made with Abraham. The two covenants did not come together. One came before the other, and the latter annulled the former.

Galatians 4:22-26: “For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.”

We know from the scriptures that Abraham had more sons than these two. He married another woman named Keturah, who had some other sons for him. But Paul by the Spirit led us into something which is very significant, when in verse 24 he refers to the birth of Isaac and Ishmael as an allegory of the two covenants God made with man.

Verse 24-28: “Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.”

Can you see that we are the children of promise? The Church was born after the similitude of Isaac, so we are called the children of promise. God made the first covenant with the children of Israel and Moses was the mediator of this covenant. The Law which was given to them to guide their manner of life was based on the covenant which God had with them.

Verse 29- 31: “But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the free woman. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.”

The Old Covenant

The first covenant is referred to as the Old Covenant; it can also be called the Old Contract. Every time we say the Old Testament, we are not only referring to the Books of the Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi, but more importantly the covenant upon which all those books are based.

Jeremiah 31:31-32: *“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord:”*

God made the covenant with the children of Israel, as they came out of Egypt, at Mount Sinai. All the laws of the Old Testament came as a result of this covenant God had with the children of Israel.

Let us look at the nature of the covenant God made with them when He brought them out of Egypt, and observe certain facts about it.

1. This Covenant did not supersede the covenant of God with Abraham. It is always very important to note this.

Galatians 3:15-18: *“Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man’s covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.”*

We already said that the covenant God made with the children of Israel was based on the covenant He cut with Abraham. And the Law of Moses was given as a result of the covenant God cut with the children of Israel. The promise to Abraham was to him and his seed after him in their generations, meaning that different generations would come from Abraham, and God’s promise to Abraham would extend to them.

The Law came four hundred and thirty years after the promise was given, and in the scripture above we are told that the Law did not cancel the promise, that is, the Law of Moses did not cancel the promise God made to Abraham- this is very important because if it had cancelled it, there would not have been provision made for grace, and other nations would not have been able to come to God.

Why then was the Law given?

Galatians 3:19: *“Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.”*

The Law was not given as a replacement of the promise, rather it was given till the seed to whom the promise was made should come. The Law was not against the promises of God; it served to bring the Jews unto Christ, and made the promise available to anyone that would believe.

Galatians 3: 21-22: *"Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe."*

The summary is this: the Law did not make the promise of God to Abraham and his seed of none effect, and so this promise is available to all who believe.

2. Blessings Based On Obedience

Deuteronomy 11:26-28: *"Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known."*

Also in **Exodus 19:5-6:** *"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation..."*

The issue of obedience is quite striking here. Their becoming a peculiar treasure unto God was conditional, being based upon their obedience. If they were obedient they would become a peculiar treasure unto God, and if they were not obedient they would not become to God a peculiar treasure. They had to try and obey God in order to enjoy the benefits of the covenant; their continued fellowship with Him was conditional.

The summary of what God told those of the Old Covenant is this, "Now, I put before you a blessing and a curse; obey and be blessed, disobey and be cursed." You may never have thought about it like this, but this is really the summary of **Deuteronomy 11:26-28** and **Exodus 19:5-6**.

God Addresses The New Covenant Differently

Jeremiah 31:33: *"But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people."*

Right from the time of the Old Testament God had hinted that He was going to establish a New Covenant with the people of Israel. The difference with this covenant was that it would extend to other nations.

This new covenant came to replace the Old Covenant which was to be abolished and this covenant was to be based on grace and truth, and not on the Law like the first covenant.

John 1:17: *"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."*

Hebrews 8:7, 13: *“For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second...In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.”*

Obedience Not A Condition Now!

Obedience to the Law was the condition for the children of Israel to enjoy the benefits of the first covenant. But for us in the new covenant, it is different. Halleluyah! We do not have to try and obey God so we can enjoy the benefits of our covenant with Him. No, we don't have to because we of the New Covenant have a different deal altogether.

Romans 5:18-19: *“Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”*

Oh Halleluyah! This is the reason we don't have to try and obey God. We are not asked to obey Him, because somebody obeyed Him for us, and that person is Jesus!. Nowhere in the New Testament do you find God cajoling us to obey Him. Rather we are called, “obedient children.”

1 Peter 1:14: *“As OBEDIENT CHILDREN, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:”*

But a lot of Christians and ministers do not want to accept this. They find it difficult to accept because they have always told people to obey God or else suffer His wrath. Do you know that really, it is very easy to preach condemnation? This is because to preach condemnation you don't need to study and it could be hard and time-consuming to study. So in a way it could be hard work to study and not every minister wants to do this hard work. They would rather sleep throughout the night, wake up and go preach condemnation down the throat of unsuspecting Christians, who themselves are too lazy to take time out to study and find out what God is really saying.

It is so easy to go and shout, “Repent and be saved” or “only believe” to people. It is easy because you don't have to prove it to them because they already know. So they will just go right ahead and agree with you. But when you study the scriptures and you will find God is not interested in condemning His children. There is no need for Him to do so because Jesus was condemned for us.

Of course He told those under the Old Testament they had to obey Him; their continued fellowship with Him was conditional.

We Are Already Obedient Children

Under the New Covenant we are not told to obey God. Our covenant is not based on obedience to laws and commandments. In **Romans 5:19** we are told, *“For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”* We were made righteous by the obedience of one - Jesus Christ. Not at any time are we told in the whole of the New Testament to obey God. That may surprise you. We have preached this all our

lives, but we did not get it from the Bible. We got it from tradition, what others preached before us.

You may then ask, "Does this then give us the license to disobey?" For people who ask this type of question I have this to say, you disobeyed even when you were not given the license, so even if you were handed a license, you wouldn't be any worse; you are already as bad as you could be. You are already down for the count, so you don't even need anyone to come along and give you the permission to sin. You would only be looking for someone to blame for your fault.

But for records purposes, I want to reiterate that we are not told to obey God. Compare [Deuteronomy 11:26-28](#), and [Exodus 19:5-6](#) with [1 Peter 1:13](#).

Deuteronomy 11:26-28: "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known."

Exodus 19:5-6:"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel."

1 Peter 1:13-14: "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:"

Let me tell you what this scripture means. We came in obedience to God through the gospel, and we were born-again as obedient children of God. It is now our nature to obey God; we don't have to ask for help to obey God. We obey God because we were born to do so. Halleluyah! We were born that way when we got born again. We are not struggling to obey God; we don't experience any struggle in trying to obey God. It is not difficult for us, it is natural. I am talking to you if you are born-again, this is for you, and it is not something fashioned in men's mind; it is in the Bible.

The devil will never want you to know that it is easy for you to live as God would want you to live; it is only God who wants you to know. If you are a bona-fide Christian this applies to you. In the Old Testament, it was inheritance by obedience of the law but here in the New Testament it is a birthright.

The Bible says, "...*knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing*" ([1 Peter 3:9](#)). There is a great difference between when you are in Zion, and when you are out of Zion. When you are out of Zion, you are not born-again and you will of necessity struggle to obey God, and this is hard work. A dog barks because he is a dog, you would not be surprised to hear a dog bark, because it is perfectly natural. In fact you would be amazed to meet a dog that does not bark. That would more likely get your attention. Of course you would even be more greatly amazed when you see a man bark. You would think something must have gone wrong. It is the same thing that happens to you when you become

born-again; you acquire God's kind of nature, and this makes you want to do right.

This is what God was talking about in the book of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 36:26-27: "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."

The reason it will be easy to walk in the statutes of God, according to this scripture is that the stony heart has been removed and God's Spirit within you gives the ability and the capacity to walk in the judgments of God.

No struggling!

So it is natural, perfectly natural for the Christian to live right in the presence of God. It is not possible for one who is truly born-again to consistently do wrong. It is possible to commit a sin when you remove your eyes from the Word of God and you refuse to walk in love. But to consistently do wrong will cast a shadow of doubt on your Christianity.

As a Christian, when you do something that is wrong, you know inside of you that something has gone wrong, because at that time there is a break in fellowship with God. There is a check within you; in your spirit. You don't get a check when you do something right. But for the ungodly it is the other way round. When they do something right, they get a check. It is true, for example someone who is not born-again will find it really strange if you told him to turn his other cheek if slapped. He would wonder if there was something wrong with you. And when he unconsciously does so, he would ask himself later if there was something wrong with him. It may sound funny but he would actually have a check in himself that something went wrong and he had acted like a "fool."

It is natural to feel like this in the world. But if you are born-again, the Bible says you should "... *count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations*" ([James 1:2](#)). Why? Because you are a peculiar people. Glory to God!

Chapter 4

War In the Promised Land

We are in the Promised Land now, where we have entered into the rest of God. But this is not the end of it; we have to possess our possessions and live the victorious life that God has called us to live. Jesus has won the victory for us, but there is still a fight for those in the Promised Land to fight. Paul writing to Timothy encouraged him to, *“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses”* ([1 Timothy 6:12](#)). When Paul wrote this to Timothy he did not say, “Fight with the devil, or fight the good fight with demons.” Rather he exhorted him to lay hold on eternal life, that is, cling to eternal life, hold onto it, and this is very important.

Looking at their example back in the Old Testament we can find out how they fought when they got to their Promised Land, because the fight of faith takes place in the Promised Land after you have got there.

Joshua the son of Nun was the man who took over from Moses. Moses brought the children of Israel out of Egypt, but Joshua took them into the Promised Land; the land which God told them was flowing with milk and honey. But right inside that land were giants. They did not get to the land to find it empty; there were people living inside of it and these were not ordinary men. Therefore they had adversaries they had to fight to get the land.

Was the land then really theirs? I mean they got to the land God had promised to them and found people living inside of it. That means it was legally theirs by God’s Word, but not vitally experienced or enjoyed, they still had to do something to get into it and make it theirs.

God had given His Word, and the Word of God is forever settled in heaven, but they still had a part to play in ensuring it was theirs. This means whenever God says something concerning us we have a part to play in ensuring that it comes to pass in our lives.

Yes! The land was theirs, but there was still something left to be done.

An Angel or the Holy Ghost

Joshua 5:13: *“And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?”*

Joshua at this time was standing close to Jericho. Jericho was one of the places that God had given to Israel, and it was a great city. Being strategically located, it always gave the inhabitants an advantage in times of war and a lot of nations sought to control it. So it is not really surprising that it was walled round about with great walls, one of the thickest walls ever to be mentioned in history; the walls were so thick that houses were built on top of them.

So we find Joshua in chapter 5 of the book of Joshua meditating on the best way to

capture Jericho. While he was there meditating, the Angel of the Lord came to him with His sword drawn. Joshua challenged the man that he saw, though He appeared to Joshua as a man, the Bible describes him as the Captain of the host of the Lord. Joshua asked him "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" And the man answered "No, I have come as the captain of the host of the Lord."

God has an army and this is the captain of God's army. This was not an ordinary angel because for one thing no angel will accept worship from man.

Revelations 22:8-9: *"And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God."*

"Worship God only and not angels" was what the angel told the Apostle John, when he had given him the message of the book of Revelation. The gospel does not support the worship of angels.

Colossians 2:18: *"Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,"*

Looking at [Joshua 5:13-15](#), we observe that this particular angel did accept worship from Joshua and did not rebuke him. Secondly in verse 15 he went further to instruct him to, *"And the captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so."* The only other place where this instruction was given to a man in scripture was from God to Moses, not from an angel to a man.

Exodus 3:4-5: *"And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."*

The point is that the man that appeared to Joshua could not have been just another angel from God but a member of the God-head. This is the Holy Spirit who in several other portions of scripture appeared as the "Angel of the Lord." But He is always distinguished from any other angel by the unique operations of His manifestations like the one above.

God's Strategies for Joshua's Fight of faith at Jericho

The angel had come to communicate to Joshua God's strategy for taking Jericho. The inhabitants of Jericho had heard a lot about the children of Israel and this had shaken them. They had heard of the signs and wonders the Lord had done for them and through them. Their hearts could not comprehend how the great Red Sea could have been divided into two for the children of Israel to pass through, while the

army of Egypt drowned in the sea, the wonder of the water from the Rock and manna from heaven; all these made their hearts to fail them for fear. So everyone was afraid from the king down to the least of the inhabitants and they shut up the gates of Jericho, so that nobody went out or came in.

"And the Lord said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour" ([Joshua 6:2](#)). This was the beginning of the message the Lord brought to Joshua and I want you to observe it carefully; understand here the past tense of God's Word.

When you study the scriptures carefully, you come to realize there are promises and there are statements of fact.

A promise is for the future and whenever you need it you can draw on it. But a statement of fact is that which has been established already; it has been done already.

That means there are certain things which God promises us, but there are those He has done already. So in our study of His Word, we have to take our time to note that which has been accomplished and that which is being expected.

When God sends forth His Word it goes with the divine ability to come to pass; the Word of God contains enough power to cause it to come to pass, no matter what the circumstance may be and that is the principle operated here in Joshua 6:2. When God made a covenant with Abraham He told him He had given to him and his seed after him all the land of Canaan.

[Genesis 15:18-21](#): "In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

So in the mind of God all these lands already belonged to Abraham and his seed, and in [Joshua 6:2](#) the angel of the Lord repeated the same thing God had said centuries before saying, "...I have given into thine hand Jericho..." Note that He didn't say, "I shall give, or I am trying my best to give." He said, "I have done it." Halleluyah! In the realm of the spirit it was done; this is a statement of fact.

Subsequent verses contain further instructions from God.

"And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him" ([Joshua 6:3-5](#)).

God gave them the strategy for the capture of Jericho. He told them to go round the city once for six days, that is, once each day for six days, but on the seventh day seven times and at the seventh time the priests were to make a long blast with

the ram's horn, at the sound of which all of the people were to make a noise of victory with a great shout. If they did as they were told: at the sound of this shout of victory, the wall of the city would fall down. What an interesting way to fight a war, no sword, shield or spear, just simple steps of obedience and the walls of Jericho would come tumbling down flat.

These were walls so high and so big, and if they fell down it would still have been difficult to go over them. All the stones would make a great heap, yet God said they were going to fall down flat. This was another miracle on its own! They did as they were instructed; they went round the city for the specified number of days.

But there is a very important point I want you to mark at this time of their history. This was the first battle Joshua would have as the leader of the children of Israel, and it was a decisive one at that. He instructed the people and commanded them on how they were going to behave during the next few days.

"And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout" ([Joshua6:10](#)).

Nobody was to say anything during the time they were to compass the walls of the city. No noise, no whispering, no shouting or talking, until the day he would tell them to shout.

The Significance of the Walls of Jericho

This was going to be Joshua's first battle as the leader of Israel. They had just moved into the Promised Land on this side of Jordan, and the first encounter they had was with walls. These walls acted as fortresses; walls are meant to control or hinder movement. In this case, walls stand for anything that seeks to hinder or hinders us from moving into our inheritance. It is anything that stops, hinders or deters us from moving into our inheritance. This is the first point you must note about this fight at Jericho.

Secondly I want us to observe the strategies for pulling down the walls.

They Had To Hear The Word From God

Firstly, they had to hear the Word of God and God told them, "See, I have given into thine hand Jericho" I love this! You see they had to have faith. But for them to have faith they needed to hear the Word of God; they needed to know what God had said concerning them and the land.

When the Word of God comes to you, it comes with energy that empowers you to do what it talks about. It brings to you the ability and the capacity to be or do what it says. So firstly and importantly they needed to know what God had to say. And God, who knew the importance of this, sent them a message by His angel.

They Needed to Meditate on the Word

God sent them the Word, and they knew they would have to compass the subject in question in quietness, in other words, they had to understand the message and this would have to be through meditation. So they were told to keep quiet throughout their movement round Jericho. God said, "I have given the land to you, but for the

next seven days you don't talk till I ask you to shout."

So the only thing they heard was the Word of God, and the only thing they had to meditate upon was the Word from God; not any other person's opinion. This is really important because nobody was going to be allowed to sow doubt in their minds by saying anything contrary like, "Are you sure this wall is going to come down? These walls are so thick; I have never seen anything like this in all my life!" Nobody was going to talk like that. Joshua had instructed them, "Don't talk, just be quiet." He knew if they talked they sure were going to say a lot of funny things; "Does Joshua really expect this wall to come down? We don't have bulldozers, nothing at all to hit the wall with. What does he think we are? Fools? Telling us to move around these walls all these seven days."

They Had To Give The Note of Victory

The third point I want to make is from verse 10, and this is the note of victory.

Joshua 6:10: "And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout."

He told them to shout when the priests sounded the trumpets with a long blast. This strategy can be summarized and applied to the Christian in a simple way: At the note of victory coming forth during your priestly ministry, the walls will fall down flat. You just shout the shout of victory and circumstances will change. You will need to remember this as you go along in your Christian walk.

Fight of Faith

This was just the first fight they had to fight and it had to do with them entering into the land. This was just the beginning, because they had other fights to fight when they got into the land. Joshua had to defeat 31 kings, that is, 31 kingdoms.

"Now these are the kings of the land, which the children of Israel smote, and possessed their land on the other side Jordan toward the rising of the sun...The king of Tirzah, one: all the kings thirty and one" (Joshua 12:1, 24).

Joshua fought wars for a long time in his life. The first one was a fight of faith for the walls to come down. The next series of fight was to take the lands, and even after these, they still had to fight to keep the lands. They had to fight to take what had actually been given to them; this was a fight for their rights. God had given them the land but they still had to go and fight for it.

Jehoshaphat's Battle With 3 kings

This was one of the battles the children of Israel had to fight to keep their land after they had gotten into it.

2 Chronicles 20:1-4: "It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other

beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle. Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be Hazazon-tamar, which is En-gedi. And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the Lord: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord."

Let us pause here for a moment: I would like you to note that at this particular time in their history, the Israelites had split themselves into two nations: Judah and Israel, but they were all Israelites. At this time Jehoshaphat was the king of Judah, and 3 kings rose up together against him.

When he heard, the first step he took was to set himself to seek the Lord ([2 Chronicles 20:3](#)). Isn't this wonderful? The man was told he was completely outnumbered, and he being moved by a great fear, the first thing he did was not to get on the telephone and call all the big shots around him for help. No! He set himself to seek God, and ask Him for help. That is the first thing you should do when trouble strikes.

He prayed to God and said,

"Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit. O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee. And all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children" ([2 Chronicles 20: 11-13](#)).

Immediately, God answered their prayers and spoke through one of the members of the congregation.

"Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the Lord in the midst of the congregation; And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel. Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you" ([2 Chronicles 20: 14 -17](#)). Halleluyah!

The Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel in the midst of the congregation, and he began to prophesy, I love the gift of prophecy. Though we are not dealing specifically in this study with the gift of prophecy, I want to mention that the real reason for the gift of prophecy is for edification, comfort and exhortation. When it goes beyond these, it ceases to be the gift of prophecy.

More Strategies for fighting the Fight of faith

2 Chronicles 20:16: “To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.”

This scripture is not a prophecy, but a word of knowledge, and here by the Spirit of God Jahaziel was able to give exact information on the specific location of the enemy. Though God told them they would not need to fight, He still showed them they had a part to play in winning the battle. So when He said, “Stand still and see the salvation of God”, He did not mean they should stand and fold their hands.

This is the same thing that happened at the crossing of the Red Sea much earlier in their history ([Exodus 14](#)), Moses told them to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. But really this was figurative, because he did not mean they should stand where they were without doing anything.

When God tells you to stand still, it means it is time for you to take a step of faith. Stand still does not mean, “Stay here, fold your hands and watch what I am going to do.” It does not work like that; there must be a step of faith and this is what happened in the case of Jehoshaphat and the rest of Judah. They were told, “...to morrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you” (Verse 17), this was their step of faith.

God is called the Lord of Host; the Lord of war ([Exodus 15:3](#)). He was about to go to war for His kids, but He also told them to be there. He was going to be there Himself, but He told them, “Go out against them.”

Verse 18-19: “And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshipping the Lord. And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with a loud voice on high.”

It is profitable to believe God’s prophecies and act on them, for they bring strength, encouragement and comfort.

Verse 20-21: “And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth for ever.”

Jehoshaphat got his army together and put singers ahead of them. We could have thought he should look for the strongest men to stay at the head; after all, they were going to the battle field. But he put singers at the head because he was not warring with the strategies of men, but of God.

Verse 22-25: “And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were

smitten. For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another. And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped. And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much."

I like this! God set the 3 kingdoms against one another; they helped to destroy themselves. They had come together as one against Judah, but they ended up wasting one another. So what were God's strategies for this fight of faith. He told them:

1. Believe in God and you shall be established (verse 20).
2. Believe His prophets and you shall prosper (verse 20). What did he mean by believe His prophets? Believe the words of the prophet, which he brings from God and you shall prosper.
3. Go! They were to take a step of faith, and they went. And as they took that step of faith, they went worshipping God, with an attitude of joy.

The same strategy applies to us in the New Testament. It is great to praise God with a loud voice, because at that time you do not hear words of doubts.

The Fight of Faith in the New Testament

Now, consider what I am about to say: These accounts we have just read are in the Old Testament, and the Holy Spirit told them the battle was not theirs but God's. That should tell you something; if God took upon Himself the battle of the folks in the Old Testament, why should our case in the New Testament be any different? Why should we fight our battles ourselves? The Bible says, the new covenant is far better than the old covenant, for it has been established upon better promises ([Hebrews 8:6](#)).

And in spite of all the 31 or more kings Joshua defeated, he could still not give the people complete rest from wars. They still had quite a number of kingdoms to conquer.

[Joshua 13:1](#): "Now Joshua was old and stricken in years; and the Lord said unto him, Thou art old and stricken in years, and there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed."

This man was already old but there was still a lot of land remaining, that means there were still a lot of adversaries to conquer. And God said to Joshua, *"You are an old man now, but divide the land for an inheritance for the children of Israel"* ([Joshua 13:1](#), [7](#)).

This means Joshua did not give the people all the Promised Land. He took them in, but they did not get it all. Even as you go forward in the future of Israel, you discover that up to the time of the prophet Obadiah, God still said, "...the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions...And saviours shall come up on mount Zion..." ([Obadiah 17, 21](#)). This brings out another important point, because when the Bible talks about Zion, it refers to the church, showing that the Promised Land was far beyond what Israel alone could possess; it had to do with Zion. Glory to God! And this brings us to the New Testament, where God has given us complete rest.

The Rest Of God

Hebrews 4:7-10: "Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his."

Verse 7 is actually a quotation of [Psalms 95:7-8](#). And when he talks about Jesus in verse 8 he is not talking about Jesus the Christ but Joshua. The Greek rendering of Joshua is Jesus. So it is the same name that Joshua was bearing back then in the Old Testament that the Lord Jesus bore in the New Testament. If you study the book of Acts chapter 7, you find a reference to Joshua, and because it is written in the New Testament in Greek, Stephen called the Hebrew name Joshua - Jesus. Some translations of the Bible actually use the name Joshua.

He said if back in the Old Testament, Joshua actually gave the people rest, then God would not have talked about another rest coming, verse 10 is very vital: If you have entered into the rest of God, then you have ceased from your own struggles, from your own works as God did from His. God created the world and made all the things in it. He then made man on the sixth day, and rested on the seventh day, that means the seventh day was the first day man saw. Glory to God! The first day man would open his eyes; it was to the rest of God. Oh Halleluyah! This is very significant and should tell us something: God never made man to suffer. He did not create him so he could work, sweat and struggle for living. God never made man for that! This came as a result of sin.

God did not even curse Adam after his sin, He only cursed the ground. He cursed the serpent, but to Adam he only said, "...*cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life*" ([Genesis 3:17](#)). Of course if the ground was cursed, man would then have to work hard on it to get food from it, meaning he would eat of it in sorrow. Don't you understand? God never cursed man. Even when He told Adam that he would die the day he ate of the tree in the midst of the garden, it still was not a curse. It is just like you telling a child, "don't touch that live wire, it will harm you." You are not cursing the child. You are only warning him of possible danger ahead.

So why did God put the tree in the midst of the garden? Somebody said God put it there to test Adam and Eve. No! God did not put it there to test or tempt them because God never tempts anybody with evil ([James 1:13](#)). No matter how you put it, God did not put the tree there to test them. So why was the tree there? It was there for a specific purpose. God actually intended for them to eat of that tree, but it was not time yet; the day had not yet come.

There are days in the calendar of God, for example, we are presently in the day of the Church, It is called the Lord's day, also there is a Judgement Day coming. This does not refer to a 24 hour day, but a period of time in the calendar of God, during which God would deal with men on specific terms. The Judgement Day is the time all of God's children would sit on their thrones with Jesus and judge the rest of the world. That would have been the time when God would have asked man to eat of that tree, because that tree would have given him the knowledge of good and evil, which is what would have given man adequate understanding to judge the rest of the world.

Before Adam's transgression, there was no sin in the world, and the judgement was planned for only those fallen angels who joined Lucifer in his rebellion against God. But we know what happened. Satan, who knew that man had been created to judge him, moved and tempted man to eat of that tree. Man fell and became a partaker of the nature of the devil. In this state God had to drive him from the Garden of Eden. If he had eaten from the tree of life, he would have lived forever in his fallen state, and there would have been no place for a plan of redemption for man. His end would have been destruction, like that reserved for the fallen angels.

But thanks be to God, the second Adam, Jesus has come. Halleluyah! And He has given us insight and as we study the Word of God, our human spirit is built up. And our spiritual senses are exercised to discern between good and evil, so we can really judge. Glory to God! Paul, writing to Timothy (and by the way to you also), said, *"Study (the Word) to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* ([2 Timothy 2:15](#)).

So Joshua did not give the children of Israel rest from wars, and battles back there in Canaan. But thank God, in Zion, we have complete rest. This is the Day of the Church of which it was spoken; that God has set aside another day where people could come into His rest.

[Hebrews 4: 7-9](#) *"Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."*

Coming back to our theme scripture, [1 Timothy 6:12](#), *"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."* This was the kind of fight Joshua and Jehoshaphat fought, though theirs were in the Old Testament. We need to see what kind of fight of faith we are fighting in the New Testament.

Pulling Down Strongholds

We need to understand properly our warfare in Zion. Ours is a battle that has been won already. In Zion, we don't have to fight like those who are not sure of the outcome of the battle. In Zion, we have come into the rest of God, and we are reigning with a mission to ensure that the kingdom of God expands. Unfortunately there are so many misconceptions about the fight of faith.

Many Christians behave as though we are in a battle with demons and so we have to fight them in prayers. When Paul told Timothy to fight the good fight of faith, and

lay hold on eternal life ([1 Timothy 6:12](#)), he did not mean that Timothy should fight with the devils or demons. Today, you hear Christians say different things concerning spiritual warfare which are basically wrong interpretations of scriptures. For example, the issue of pulling down strongholds.

2 Corinthians 10: 3-5: “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”

I want you to note that verse 4 is in parenthesis, which means we could actually just go from verse 3 into verse 5, and still understand what the writer is saying. But it is unfortunate, that a lot of people have made a doctrine out of verse 4, which is only there to explain verse 3, and connect us to verse 5 so that we can understand what is being said. So we cannot isolate verse 4, and make a doctrine out of it, it would be wrong to do that.

Reading from verse 3 straight into verse 5, *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”* The “things” we have to cast down are not demons, like a lot of people have thought, but thoughts, theories and doctrines of men. These are imaginations and reasonings, which are “missiles” sent against our minds.

The strongholds we have to pull down are thoughts and theories of men that are not aligned with the gospel of Christ. Doctrines and ideas that are not consistent with God’s Word. In other words, all of what he says to us in verse 5 has to do with the mind, and we can understand when in verse 4 we are told, *“the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.”*

Paul was not trying to tell us about spiritual warfare; he was letting us know how we are to do it, because he says, *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh, for our weapons are not carnal...”* to let us know that the weapons we use in our spiritual warfare are not carnal (man made).

These weapons are mighty through God, to the pulling down of strongholds. These strongholds as I said earlier are imaginations, thoughts, theories, doctrines and ideas of men that stop them from advancing to their inheritance in Christ Jesus. The kind of things that we have built into our thinking; ideas that have built up our thinking process, probably as a result of what we have read or heard as we grew up, or as a result of the kind of experiences we’ve had through the years. These are the strongholds Paul is referring to; they stop us from advancing into our inheritance and enjoying our benefits in Christ Jesus.

And do you know what? These thoughts, imaginations and doctrines can be properly dealt with, because in verse 5 he said, “Casting down imaginations.” That means they can be destroyed! Glory! And just in case you are one of the people who have thought that the way to cast down imaginations is by praying and fasting, I am going to show you from the scriptures that this is not so. Nowhere in the Bible are we told to fast or pray about strongholds, you can’t destroy thoughts by fasting. No

you can't. There is a scriptural way to cast down imaginations and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

Jesus Pulled Down Strongholds By Teaching

In the 6th chapter of the Gospel according to St. Mark, we read of how Jesus went into Nazareth, His native country to preach. He went there to preach and proclaim God's kingdom to the people there but they would not believe Him. They were offended at Him to the point that Jesus marvelled at their unbelief. In fact He could not perform mighty miracles there because of their unbelief.

Mark 6:1-5: "And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him. And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them."

They had their own ideas; they thought they knew Him that was why they did not believe Him. And because they did not believe Him, He could not perform mighty works there. It is the same thing today, if the minds of folks are filled with the wrong ideas and they don't really know God's word, they can't walk by it and receive victories through it. That is why a lot of Christians are still walking in defeat today.

How did Jesus deal with their unbelief? He knew that as long as their minds were like that, they were not going to receive from Him. The answer is in verse 6; He did not go somewhere to fight demons. What He did was to teach them the Word of God.

Mark 6:6: "And he marvelled because of their unbelief. AND HE WENT ROUND ABOUT THE VILLAGES, TEACHING."

By His teaching, Jesus destroyed those unbelieving ideas they had, and great miracles began to happen. The teaching of the Word of God cripples the forces of unbelief, fear and doubt. That is the way to pull down strongholds - BY THE TEACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD.

Paul pulled down Strongholds at Ephesus

Ephesus was a city that was wholly given to idol worship. Of his experience at Ephesus, Paul said, "... I have fought with beasts at Ephesus..." ([1Corinthians 15:32](#)). How did he fight with these beasts? Was he referring to bulls, some ugly animals or was he referring to demons? Not really, because we don't read of him fighting like this anywhere in the scriptures, especially in the Acts of Apostles that contain reports on the missionary endeavours of Paul.

The fights he fought had to do with doctrines of men that sought to keep men in bondage. For example in the city of Ephesus was wholly given to idol worship but

after Paul stayed there and preached the Word of God for two years, miraculous transformations took place. The Word of God grew and prevailed in Ephesus; the Word had so much influence there that magicians brought out their costly occult materials to be burnt.

Acts 19:18-20: "And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed."

Read the whole of chapter 19 for a full account. Paul rented a place and started a church; he got a place so that he could teach the Word of God unhindered and he started a church there. So Paul fought and prevailed in Ephesus BY TEACHING THE WORD OF GOD.

When you teach the Word of God, the mind of the people can be renewed; they are transformed in the spirits of their minds. They can then serve God the way they ought to, and live the life of constant victory.

Battle Tongues - Not Scriptural

I hear today there are Battle Tongues and Warfare Prayers; these are tongues for warring against demons. And amazingly, some people can go as far as describing to you what they sound like; RA-TA-TA-TA-TA; like machine guns. These tongues are supposedly used for doing battle in the spiritual realm.

The Bible does not say anything like this. We are not told to battle demons in tongues; we are only told to fight the good fight of faith. A good example of such a fight is the one the children of Israel "fought" at the walls of Jericho. They did not go there to hit the walls, neither did they pray to God to cause the walls to come down. In our study earlier on, we discovered the strategies God gave to the children of Israel for this war. It is amazing to read how God told them to "quietly" declare war against the walls. They were to quietly march round the walls, once each day for six days; no talking, no singing, not even praying. Then on the seventh day, they were to go round seven times and give the shout of victory at the sound of the trumpet. When they did as they were told the walls of Jericho fell down flat. You always need God's strategies to fight the fight of faith.

Pleading the Blood of Jesus

Another issue that really gets my attention is Pleading the Blood of Jesus. You hear some people say, "I plead the blood of Jesus on the road, I plead the blood of Jesus in my house, I plead the blood of Jesus over my heart, my body and over my food." Have you ever heard this? Well, I have.

The trouble here is this; there is nothing wrong with pleading the blood if it is done the biblical way. If the way to do it was to be declaring every now and then, "I plead the blood of Jesus" Paul would have told us in one of his epistles but that is not how we have been told to do it.

First of all, to genuinely plead the blood does not involve begging. It refers to legal pleading; to plead your case and entreat, to argumentatively present your case based on your rights in Christ that is, standing your ground!

What people generally do is begging, not pleading. What you should do is declare your stand; present your case, insisting on your rights based on the blood.

There is a biblical way for pleading the blood. Saying, "I plead the blood" does not really achieve any purpose; it does not add anything to you. It is as good as reciting, "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little stars." But if you plead the blood the scriptural way, it would certainly yield Bible results.

[Revelations 12:10-11](#): *"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."*

They overcame the devil by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony. Your words are very important in fighting the fight of faith. Jesus taught the Word at Nazareth, Paul taught the Word at Ephesus; you will also need to speak the Word of God in order to prevail. The reference to blood in [Revelations 12:10-11](#), is not pleading the blood of Jesus, and I will show you where this comes in.

Paul says in [1Corinthians 11:23-26](#): *"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."*

When you break the bread and drink the wine during the Holy Communion, you are actually announcing the death of Jesus; this is the best way to preach His death. That means you announce His death as often as you eat the bread, and drink the cup. So, what is so important about announcing it? Anytime you break the bread and drink the cup you are actually saying, "He died for me, so I don't have to die" ([2 Corinthians 5:14](#), [Romans 6:3-5](#)); "He took upon Himself my sicknesses, so I refuse to be sick" ([1 Peter 2:24](#)); "He became poor so that I could become rich, so I am not going to live in lack" ([2 Corinthians 8:9](#)). This is the way to plead the blood of Jesus. Halleluyah!

[Hebrews 9:13-17](#): *"For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth."*

There is a difference between a Testament and a Will. The testament actually refers to what a man gives whereas in a will there are other things usually written. For

example, in the will a man could say, "I want to be buried in my house or collect such a thing for so and so person" all these things are reflected in the will and not in the testament.

Some translations though, use the word "will" for "testament" for example in [Hebrews 9:13-16](#). In the case of a will it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, because a will can only be enforced after the death of the one who wrote it has been certified; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living.

So as often as you take the Communion and declare the Lord's death, you are pleading the testament, which means you are pleading the blood on which the testament is based. And the Lord Jesus said, "...This cup is the new testament in my blood..." ([Luke 22:20](#)).

So there is no use shouting, "I plead the blood of Jesus" over everything, there is the way to do it, as we have shown - The Holy Communion.

Sprinkling the Blood of Jesus

There is also another operation some people carry out, "Sprinkling the blood of Jesus." Have you ever heard people say, "I sprinkle the blood of Jesus," sometimes folks take scriptures from the Old Testament, mix it with one from the New Testament, and make a doctrine out of it. They like to engage themselves in things that appeal to the human senses, which really do not have any impact spiritually. They do these things blindly thinking it could offer them some kind of psychological protection.

Listen, the High Priest of the Old Testament was the only one who went into the Holy of Holies once every year and sprinkled the blood of the bullock on the mercy seat, to purify the things on the altar. According to laid down procedure of God, the High Priest purged everything with the blood of bulls and goats. He had to do this every year for the sins of the people, so that their sins could be covered but every year there was a remembrance of sins. But glory to God! When Jesus came to do something about our sins, it was a once for all time affair ([Hebrews 9:24-26](#)).

In the Old Testament the High Priest had to do this, but in Zion we don't need to sprinkle any blood again. The blood of Jesus was sprinkled once and for all; there is no need to sprinkle any blood again. Oh Halleluyah!

And for those who insist they must sprinkle blood, whose blood will they sprinkle? Is it the blood of Jesus who was offered once and for all time? Or will they sprinkle the blood of bulls and goats, which the scriptures have confirmed could not take away the sins of the people nor its consciousness? No, there is no more need to sprinkle the blood of bulls and goats, or of Jesus, ever again.

Are We Covered By The Blood?

Have you ever heard someone say, "I am covered by the blood of Jesus." Are we covered by the blood? Emphatically NO! Now that may shock some of you, because you always thought you had protection, being covered by the blood of Jesus.

Those in the Old Testament were covered by the blood, so every year there was a remembrance made of sins, because the blood of bulls and goats could only cover their sins (the atonement); it could not wash away their sins (remission). But over

here in Zion things are very different, our sins were washed away. In the KJV translation of [Romans 5:11](#), the word "atonement" is used to describe what the Christian has in Christ, but really the word should have been translated "remission." Atonement is basically a term for what happened in the Old Testament, and it simply means "covering" but remission is different, and in the context of our redemption, it is the right word because it means "washing away." Those of us in Zion received remission of sins and we don't need to be covered any longer.

Many think this way because this is what they have been taught for a long time. They were probably taught that if you had the blood of Jesus on the door post and the lintel of your house, you would be protected and when the death angel comes, he would pass you over, just like he passed over the children of Israel in Egypt. But that is not true! That death angel does not have to pass you over anymore; he does not have to pass over the Christian. We have established that the Christian has come to Zion, and in Zion there is no death angel hovering over anybody's house.

You are not in Egypt anymore. Egypt is symbolic of the world, and you are no longer part of the world. Of course the children of Israel needed that blood on the lintels of their houses because they were still in Egypt at that time. But after they left Egypt there was no Death angel passing over their homes in the Promised Land. Yes, they kept the Passover but that was as a memorial of what God did for them in protecting them when they were still in Egypt.

When they left Egypt they left the Death angel behind. We have come out of Egypt; we have left the death angel behind. Oh glory! We have passed from death to life; we are not having any death angel crossing over us anymore. He cannot come into Zion, the city of the living God. He can only operate in Egypt, so there is no need to be covered by the blood.

Dethroning Devils

Some Christians put a lot of effort into what they call "dethroning devils" because they claim the demons are sitting over certain territories. Devils may act like they are sitting on thrones, but it's all a lie, and it takes a man or woman who knows the truth to put them where they belong.

It is not right for us to tell the devil, "We cast you away from your throne" because he does not have any throne. Satan is running about the place like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour because he does not have a throne. If he had one he would stay there. Don't you think so? We don't need to dethrone any devil because Jesus already defeated the devil and all his demons for us.

Satan is the god of this world, though this is not in the same sense as it was before Jesus came. He became the god of this world when he deceived Adam and took away from him Adamic authority but he has already lost it. Though he is still called the god of this world in 2 Corinthians 4:4, it is not in the same sense as it was prior to the coming of Jesus.

[John 12: 31](#): "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out."

The world here refers to the physical world; the material world, the kingdoms of the world and everything in it, which the devil said he was going to give to Jesus at the temptation ([Matthew 4: 8-9](#)). So Satan was actually the little prince of this world,

running over everything, including man and everything inside it, and he ran it his own way until Jesus came.

But when he is referred to as the god of this world now, it no longer encompasses the kingdoms of the world and its people; rather it refers to the moral and spiritual set up for a given period of time.

When Jesus defeated that Satan, He took from him everything valuable, and what the devil now has left is the system he set up before. He does not have a kingdom anymore, all he has left are the ideas he has out here already. He has no legal claims to the things of this world anymore; the people, the beauty, the order, everything now belongs to Jesus, this shows us what the Bible actually tells us in [Colossians 2:15](#).

Colossians 2:15: "And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."

The word, "spoiled" doesn't refer to the word we commonly use to describe something when it goes bad. For example we may say, "The radio is spoilt, or the food is spoilt." The word "spoiled" used in [Colossians 2:15](#) is not used in this sense, rather it refers to taking a spoil. You need to understand this: When two armies go to war, the victor spoils the vanquished; the victor takes a spoil of their enemy. That means they take everything of value from them. And when this has happened, it is said that you have taken your spoil, in other words, you have spoiled him. So [Colossians 2:15](#) refers to Jesus spoiling principalities and powers. ***"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."***

You can't spoil your enemies until you have completely defeated them and rendered them defenseless and powerless. That is what Jesus did to the enemies, and the same thing Jehoshaphat and all the inhabitants of Judah did to the 3 kings that came out against them, after they had been destroyed([2 Chronicles 20](#)).

So now Jesus is Lord of all and Satan has no claims, so there is no use trying to dethrone him; he is already defeated. But a most important question is why did Jesus do it and who was He doing this for? Another translation of [Colossians 2:15](#) say, "He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it." Jesus triumphed over them.

Jesus and Satan are not fighting. The so-called Church of Jesus Christ of the latter day saints; the Mormons, claim that Jesus and Lucifer were brothers. This is completely untrue; it is a doctrine of devils. These are the kind of people the Bible says we should not receive into our homes or bid farewell ([2 John 1: 10](#)). They are not Christians, don't go in with them to worship. Even if a nice friend of yours invites you, don't go with him so that he can follow you to your church afterwards, No! don't go with him. Would you like to first go to hell with someone, just so you can take him to heaven afterwards?

Jesus made a public spectacle of principalities and powers for us, so there is no more need for us to do battle or try to dethrone demons, because Jesus has completely defeated them; there is no need to defeat a defeated foe! The reason a lot of people do battle is because it makes them feel spiritual and this is just being carnal. I have seen some of these guys after they have "done battle" they feel really cool, because they believe they have really dealt with the demons in that environment and have defeated them. But there is no need for this; they were

defeated 2000 years ago. We don't have any business trying to defeat them.

Standing Against The Devil

Ephesians 6:10-11: *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."*

Most times Christians behave as though what they read here is, "Stand against the devil." But this scripture says, *"...Stand against the wiles of the devil"* and this is very different from standing against the devil. This means standing against the strategies of the devil. Paul wants us to put on the whole armour of God so that we may be able to stand against the strategies of the devil.

Let me say something here, I can stand against you by standing against your word, in that case I would be rebelling against your word by refusing to comply with them. This is different from standing against you by struggling with you in order to prevent you from entering or leaving. The two examples both represent two different sides of standing against you; one is physical side and the other is an attitude.

We are not standing against the devil by physically wrestling with him, rather it is a mental battle because we seek to rebel against his words which he sends as darts to our minds. Always the devil tries to dominate our minds with his depressing thoughts, which of course will be contrary to what God has said about us.

To stand against the wiles of the devil you need to put on the whole armour of God. The armour is for the wiles of the devil, not for the devil himself. The devil has nothing to fight you with any longer; he has been spoilt by Jesus already. That is why it is possible for you not to be scared if the devil were to enter your room physically. We don't fight against Satan. We have the whole armour of God not against Satan because Satan has nothing to fight us with; he can only seek to destroy through his wiles.

His physical presence cannot do anything; he can come inside your bedroom, sit on your bed and stare at you, but he cannot destroy you. Listen, Jesus took the spoil that means everything of value from the devil, principalities and powers.

I read of Smith Wigglesworth. He was lying down in his room one day, and the devil came in making some noise and telling him he was going to destroy him. I read that Smith Wigglesworth woke up, just looked at him, and said, "Oh nothing, is that you?" And just slept off again. He called the devil nothing, and didn't even bother with telling him to get out.

You know several years ago, if we were in a meeting and a person with a devil made any noise, we would just turn the whole service on him. And this really used to take our time. In fact, by the time the devil eventually came out, the service would have ended and we would have spent the whole service time casting out devils, instead of teaching the Word of God. And I would feel glorious after such a meeting, because we would have successfully cast out a devil from someone. We didn't have to do that and thank God, we are doing better. Halleluyah!

These devils are proud things, and they don't like to be disgraced, so they will waste your time. But you don't have to waste so much time on them, you just go ahead and teach the Word of God.

What It Means To Wrestle Against Devils

[Ephesians 6:12](#): "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

The word wrestle means to "struggle with an opponent by grappling and trying to sway or trip him" this is exactly what it means in [Ephesians 6:12](#).

According to this scripture the devil is trying to sway us from the truth of God's word. The devil wants us off track by sending missiles of thoughts and words to our minds, but we have to keep on track and that's where the wrestling comes in!

And God has already done something about this!

[Ephesians 4:11-16](#): *"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."*

God has given to the Church Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers to build the Church in Christ and we are built up by the Word of God. Then we will no longer be tossed to and fro like little children, which is exactly what the devil wants to do; he wants to keep us in ignorance and cause us to stumble. You need the Word! When the devil comes out against you with his thoughts and ideas to try to sway you, you bring out God's Word against him; this is the wrestling!

Sometimes instead of fighting the good fight of faith ourselves, we look around for someone to pray for us, someone we think can really pray, who will be panting like a dog after praying. People generally don't like simple prayers; this does not help them generate faith. Maybe you have been in that position before. You had a serious problem, and you thought you needed very serious prayers; tough prayers that would shake the heavens, that is, what some people call prayers that move mountains. And you went to your pastor, only for him to pray a very simple prayer, and oh boy! You felt so disappointed, because you did not feel spiritual after the prayer, you felt it was too simple for God to hear.

Well, we don't wrestle with our feelings, *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."*

And we have been told, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand" ([Ephesians 6:13](#)).

To be militant as a Christian does not mean you and the devil are digging it out. It does not refer to you being demon conscious, always on the lookout for him. Let me show you the Bible way to be militant.

[Ephesians 6:10-11](#): "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil".

To be militant, you take up the whole armour of God. What is the armour of God?

[Ephesians 6: 14-18](#): "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all supplication for the saints"

Having your loins girt about with truth means knowing the truth; understanding the truth, knowing the Word of God in your inner man and meditating on it. Having on the breastplate of righteousness, means walking in righteousness. The Apostle John writing to Gaius said, *"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth"* ([3 John 1:4](#)). This is walking in righteousness. When you know the truth about righteousness and you are walking in it, then you have on your breastplate of righteousness.

Let me ask you at this point, how militant does what we have described sound? Certainly not like what many think but this is what the Word of God says.

To have your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace means to be actively involved in sharing the Word of God. The Bible says, *"How beautiful upon the mountain are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace"* ([Isaiah 52:7](#)). The good tidings here is the Word of God.

Now you should have a good picture of what this armour is all about. Firstly, you need to have the knowledge of God's word; you need to keep the Word of God inside of you, then you walk in the truth of the Word of God that you have received. Thirdly, and very importantly too, you share the Word of God.

Taking the shield of faith is laying claims to what belongs to you in Christ; declaring who you are in Christ, walking according to the truth of His Word and declaring His Word, even when you don't feel like it. It is taking possession of what belongs to you according to knowledge; this is taking the shield of faith. This shield of faith is used to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen ([Hebrews 11:1](#)); faith in the Word of God.

"Take the helmet of salvation" sums up all of what Christ did for us on the Cross for Salvation is an all-inclusive word of the gospel. And the last one, "the sword of the Spirit" which is the Word of God refers to the Word of God that you speak. And you

know that the sword is not used for the defensive, but the offensive. The shield is the armour used for the defensive. That means the Word of God in your mouth is for the offensive; you speak the Word against the devil, speak it against circumstances that are not favourable to you and watch them change and bow to you.

In summary, we don't have to go into prayer and fasting warfare like a lot of people tell us, we don't need to. To be militant does not require you screaming in prayers and panting after praying. No, what you need to successfully wrestle against the devil in scriptural sense is basically knowledge of the Word of God.

1 Timothy 1:18: *“This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare.*

Paul writing to the young preacher Timothy reveals to him how he could war a good warfare. He did not tell him to build prayer muscles or speak warring tongues. Rather he tells him to do so by the prophecies, that is, the Word of God that had been given concerning him. It pays to know the Word of God; God's word is very important.

Waging a good warfare in Zion is not through strong prayers, though of course we need to pray, neither is it according to the militant screaming and shouting. It is through God's spoken word; God's word concerning us.

Chapter 5

A New Law For A New People (I)

Most of us are acquainted with the laws of the Old Covenant. We were taught the Ten Commandments in Sunday school and charged to keep these laws. But this was not necessary, as they did not belong to us in the first place.

Exodus 20 :1-17: *“And God spake all these words, saying, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long

upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."

I actually went through all the Ten Commandments, for the benefit of those who are still ruled by them, so they will know how best to keep them. But look at the next verse after the giving of the Ten Commandments.

Verse 18-20:*"And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not."*

The people could not stand the thunderings, the darkness and tempest, they were scared stiff. But in spite of this great awe they had, these people broke the law of God several times through their sins.

These laws given to them in chapter 20 were COMMANDMENTS. In chapter 21 we read of how they were given the JUDGEMENTS; thus they had the commandments and the judgements. These two words are synonymous though they have some remarkable differences. These judgements had to do with the social life of the people; they were to guide the way they related to one another. When you read through the chapter, you find that the judgements were based on the law.

Thirdly they had the ORDINANCES; you may just call them the Religious Ordinances. These ordinances governed the religious life of the people. You can read about them from [Exodus 24:12](#) down to chapter 34, about 11 chapters were devoted to these ordinances that governed the religious life of the children of Israel.

These three; that is the COMMANDMENTS, JUDGEMENTS AND ORDINANCES made up the law of the Old Testament.

But the law was not able to make any one perfect, and because of its ineffectiveness, it was abolished. That means the commandments, the judgements and the ordinances have all been abolished, so there is no reason for us to live by them in Zion. But several times, even from the early days of Christianity, there have been people who have tried to put us back to living by the laws of the Old Covenant, which we as Christians have no business doing.

The Women-Trouser Issue

This issue is quite controversial with certain believers claiming that God addressed the issue of women wearing trousers when He gave the laws to the children of Israel. I once met a Christian brother who could have sworn that God actually said this. When I urged him to show me the exact scripture where God was supposed to have given this law, he quoted the same scripture frequently used by others to support this claim.

Deuteronomy 22:5: *"The woman shall not wear that which*

pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God."

A lot of people have taken this to mean that the woman should not wear trousers and that men should not wear wrappers. Those who do so are said to be contravening the law of God. Some claim that men can wear wrappers or robes, because the way the men wear them is different from the way women wear them.

But read the scripture again, carefully and in context, you will find out that God was not referring to a fashion. He did not say a man should not wear a fashion that pertains to a woman or vice versa. If He had said fashion, He could as well have gone ahead to give them tailors.

The word translated "Pertaineth or pertains" means "belongs to". Thus what God told them was that a woman should not wear anything which a man had worn, that is, which belongs to a man. He did not tell them, "Don't wear that which is known to be men's style of dressing" or vice versa. Rather a material or clothing which had been used by a man was not to be used by a woman+. That, He said, would be an abomination.

Change in Culture and Fashion

Fashion changes. Sometimes cultures undergo modifications also. And God would not have tied such a law around the fashion of that day, like some people have done.

For example at the particular time God gave this charge to them, men wore robes as well as women. In fact the garment God specified for the High Priest had a robe-like design with a skirt.

Psalm 133: 1-2: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;"

Can you see that the holy High Priest of God had clothes that resembled that of women? This means that female and male clothes were similar in fashion. But presently, Jews don't dress like they did back then. Today they wear shirts, trousers, suits, jeans like other people around the world. That means their fashion changed. And for those of them who are not born-again, and still follow the Law of Moses, they have still not broken the law if they do not wear clothes already worn by the opposite sex.

So fashion and culture change, and this particular charge was not tied to either. The same thing has happened in other places round the world; fashion, culture, even climate sometimes have changed and brought about a change in the dressing of the people. If we were to agree that women should not wear trousers, how about women in the Western world whose culture changed to accommodate women wearing trousers? How about Scotland, where the men wear skirts? If we are to agree for a moment that this scripture applied to them, would the men be condemned for wearing skirts, which supposedly are for women? Or a place like Warri in Nigeria where men tie wrappers, will the men be condemned? Certainly not! God was not referring to fashion when He gave them this charge.

I answered some people one day in a discussion by asking a question. "Let us suppose someone was on his way somewhere on a very rainy day, and he got to an area where there were only a few sisters, and he mistakenly fell down into a ditch, which also tore his pair of trousers badly. I mean so badly that his body was indecently exposed. If a lady or better still a sister brought a wrapper to him to cover up with, would he take it? They answered by saying that would be regarded as a special occasion. But I insisted that God does not accept excuses for sin. If you want to follow the law, then you must indeed follow it completely.

Some people use shirts that are 35% cotton and 65% polyester. But according to the law, it had to be 100% of either, that is, no mixing. If it is wool, it must be 100% wool. The problem with a lot of Christians is that they isolate some part of the law and seek to enforce it on everyone. But if they are so much in love with the law, they must go ahead and follow every detail.

The Law Was Not for Gentiles

Let us assume for a moment that God was actually referring to the fashion of clothes when He gave this law. The fact still remains that Gentiles were never under any obligation at any point in time to obey the Law of Moses. The law was strictly given to the Jews alone. Actually the giving of the law to the Israelites alone, indicating their separation unto God, spelt condemnation to the other nations of the world. The law separated the peoples of the earth into Jews and Gentiles, of which God has now made a new people unto Himself.

Ephesians 2: 11-12: "Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:"

Romans 3:1-2:"What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way; chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God."

Psalms 147:19- 20: "He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel. HE HATH NOT DEALT SO WITH ANY NATION: AND AS FOR HIS JUDGMENTS, THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN THEM. Praise ye the Lord."

Deuteronomy 4:7-8: "For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?"

So the law was given only to the nation of Israel and not to any other nation. And since the other nations were not given the law, they had no business keeping it. They were not going to be judged for not keeping it. In fact the plan of God was that those who sinned without the law should be judged without the law and as many as sinned in the law should be judged by the law ([Romans 2:12](#)).

[Deuteronomy 22:5](#) was part of the law which the Gentiles had no business keeping. They did not have the covenant with God on which the law was based; neither do

they now. The only way they can enter into a covenant relationship with God now is through Jesus Christ, who has abolished the law and its ordinances.

The Law Has Been Abolished

Let us for another moment assume that the law was meant for all; both Jews and Gentiles. It really would not make any difference because the law with its judgements and ordinances was abolished by the Lord Jesus Christ. So Christians don't have any business going back to the law to try and keep it.

Do you understand? The Law itself made it clear to the Jews that it was not possible to come to God through the keeping of the law.

Ephesians 2: 13-16: "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:"

The law is referred to as the enmity that separated the Jews and the Gentiles and it is this same law Jesus came to abolish. The word "abolish" means purge, eliminate, liquidate, eradicate, obliterate. It also means annul, remove or cancel.

Oh glory! Jesus annulled the law, He eliminated it and canceled it that is, the law that was contained in ordinances. Therefore no Christian should insist on keeping the law, or even judge others by it. In [Romans 6: 14](#), the Apostle Paul said, "... for ye are not under the law, but under grace." The law had to be abolished for its ineffectiveness.

Hebrews 7:18-19: "For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God."

The law made nothing perfect; the Apostle Paul by the Spirit expressly said,

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified" (Galatians 2:16).

The keeping of all those laws could not justify anyone and it is even so today. That means observance of [Deuteronomy 22:5](#) is not going to make you righteous or justified before God. When you are born-again, you become a partaker of God's kind of life which gives you righteousness.

Look at what the scriptures have to say about a righteous man and the law:

1 Timothy 1: 8-11: "But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; Knowing this, that THE LAW IS NOT MADE FOR A RIGHTEOUS MAN, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the

ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust."

You need to understand this! The law was not made for the "righteous", which the Christian is.

Romans 5:17:*"For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)"*

Romans 5:1: *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"*

The law was not given for the Christian; it was made for the lawless and ungodly, for the unholy and the profane, for murderers. It has been abolished; you are not going to be more righteous or acceptable before God by obeying [Deuteronomy 22:5](#). The law of the old covenant is not meant to be observed in Zion!

Based on these three points, we can conclude what the truth is about [Deuteronomy 22:5](#) (The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God.) has no reference to fashion, neither has it any effect on any believer in Christ.

Redemption From The Curse Of The Law - For The Jews Only

The previous subject leads us to another thought along the same lines - Redemption from the curse of the law. Some people say we have all been redeemed from the curse of the law. Who were the scriptures actually referring to? The Gentiles, the Jews or both? Let us study a bit further.

Galatians 3:13:*"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:"*

Who were the people redeemed? Obviously those that were under the curse of the law in the first place. And the Gentiles were never under the curse of the law. If you were not under the law you could not be under the curse of the law. The Gentiles were condemned by the presence of the law; they were not condemned by the law, but by its presence. The very fact that God gave the law to the Jews meant He had condemned the Gentiles in sin. It meant they were estranged from the covenant of promise, alienated from the life of God. The very fact that He chose the Jews, meant He didn't choose the Gentiles, just as He said, "...Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated" ([Romans 9:13](#)).

The curse of the law is a very specific term. So when he says Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, he is not talking about every body, but specifically about the Jews. Paul meant "Christ hath redeemed us Jews from the curse..." because he was also a Jew.

The Jews were redeemed from the curse of the law; Jesus was cursed for them that they might be redeemed from the curse of the law. And on the other hand the Gentiles were set free because the law was abolished because the presence of the law condemned them; the abolishment of the law removed the condemnation, putting both the Jews and the Gentiles on equal grounds.

[Romans 3: 19, 22b-23](#): "Now we know that WHAT THINGS SOEVER THE LAW SAITH, IT SAITH TO THEM WHO ARE UNDER THE LAW: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God...for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

The removal of the curse of the law was thus beneficial to both; it liberated the Jews, and made it possible for the Gentiles to become partakers of the promise.

[Galatians 3:14](#): "THAT THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM MIGHT COME ON THE GENTILES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST; THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH FAITH."

Oh Halleluyah! The promise that was made to Abraham which also belongs to Christ was planned to go beyond the Jewry. Do you understand that Jesus became a curse so that the promise would extend to the Gentiles so that they also may become partakers of God's promise to Abraham, and receive the promise of the Holy Spirit by faith. Amen!

The promise now belongs to us who were formally called Gentiles. No wonder the Bible says that there is neither Jew nor Gentile. Once you belong to Christ you are Abraham's seed and an heir according to the promise.

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

[Romans 3:21-27](#): "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith."

A righteousness that comes without the law has been brought to light, so we don't have to obey the law to be righteous before God. Let us look at Chapter 4 of the same book from [verses 3-5](#), *"For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."*

There is no more need for works; their blessing in the Old Testament depended on their obedience, their works. But now in Zion, we are justified by the operation of the faith of Christ.

Galatians 2:16: “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

You should be glad about this because this refers to all the law put together; the commandments, the judgements and the ordinances.

Galatians 3:10-11, 24-27: “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith...Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

This is amazing! It means that any one today who wants to be justified before God by the works of the law automatically comes under the curse of the law.

Hebrew 10:11-22: “And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”

Halleluyah! God has consecrated for us a new and living way! Nobody should make any sacrifice for sin; it will not be accepted by God! Trying to be justified before God by your works is a form of sacrifice, and it will not be accepted by God.

Chapter 6

A New Law For A New People (II)

Yes, we are in Zion, the city of God, and this city has foundations. There is a new law for the new people of God for the Lord Jesus gave us this new commandment. Breaking the commandments under the old covenant meant breaking the covenant because the law was the condition of the covenant. When they broke the law, they made the covenant ineffective. That was for them under the old covenant.

For us under the new covenant, this also is a covenant of circumcision, though of the heart, and we also have a law. This is what Jesus told His disciples in [John 13:34-35](#).

John 13:34-35: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

This new commandment supersedes the old commandment and when you keep this new commandment, you have fulfilled all of the demand for righteousness of the old commandment for this is what the Bible says.

How do you know when someone is born-again? Is it because he speaks in tongues? Not really, for there are tongues of men and angels. So will you know a man is born-again because he has been baptized, or because he has been going to Church all his life? These are still not enough. It is not even enough to say the sinner's prayer. Let us look at some scriptures.

[1 John 3:14](#): "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."

This is how you know you have passed from death to life when you love the brethren. This is because you cannot love the brethren until your heart is circumcised. When your heart is circumcised, it becomes unified to the heart of God then you begin to love people with God's kind of love. Let me show it to you.

[Romans 5:5](#): "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

God's love finds a home in your heart when you are born-again and this causes you to love other Christians. Of course you love other people too but you cannot be a real Christian if you do not love other Christians. The Lord Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another" ([John 13:34](#)).

In the Law of Moses the people were told, "*Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the Lord*" ([Leviticus 19:18](#)).

This was in the law but we have something better. These laws were for the children of Israel to live by in Canaan. They were commanded that when they come into the Promised Land, they were not to bear grudges or avenge rather they were to love

their neighbour as they loved themselves.

But the Lord Jesus came, and gave us a better law that supersedes this. He said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another" ([John 13:34](#)). If Jesus had said, "That ye love one your neighbour as yourselves" then it would not have been another law. It would have been a repetition of the old but He commanded them to love one another as He loved them. He also told them later, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" ([John 15:13](#)). This means He was telling them, "This is the way I have loved you; this is the way I want you to love others; Lay down your life for someone else."

A New Commandment For A New People

Earlier on the Lord Jesus had told His disciples, *"...ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel"* ([Matthew 19:28](#)).

By this, He meant there was a recreation going on; He was coming out with a new breed of people, a new nation. So they had been working with Him in His plan to establish a new nation. Jesus did not come to establish a new religion. His mission was not to give man a religion. No, not at all, He said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life' ([John 14:6](#)). He came to show us the Way, He came as the reality, to give us life. Halleluyah!

And in [John 13:34-35](#), He gave this new nation a new law to live by.

Circumcision Of The Heart Needed To Walk In This New Law

[Acts 7:8](#): "And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs."

Stephen preaching here called the Abrahamic covenant the covenant of circumcision. When the children of Israel came into this covenant they had to circumcise their bodies; they circumcised their sons on the eighth day as a sign of their covenant with God. Even this was not the true circumcision, it was indicative of a better one to come.

[Romans 2:28-29](#): "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly (that is in the body); neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."

The children of Israel circumcised their bodies, but here we find that true circumcision is that of the heart; in the spirit. And this is what you need to walk in this new law.

You may have been circumcised in your body when you were eight days old, but

that is not the one we are referring to here. There are some countries today that practice circumcision in the body, but true circumcision according to this scripture is that of the heart, that is, in your spirit. And no man can do this for you, only God can. So if you are not born-again, you are not yet circumcised and you are just like Goliath in the Bible, of whom David asked contemptuously, “. . . who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God” ([1 Samuel 17:26](#)).

[Colossians 2:9-12](#): “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”

This is how the circumcision of the Christian takes place and the operation is performed by God Himself.

When Jesus came into the world, it was God in human flesh, when He walked the streets of Galilee; it was God taking those steps. Almighty God was there dwelling in Jesus Christ in the fullest, but they did not know Him. Is that not amazing? That was the same God of Moses the Jews confessed, yet they did not recognize Him when He came. He made the world, yet when He came into the world and the world did not know Him ([John 1:10](#)). The Bible says, *“He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”* ([John 1:11-12](#)).

The Law Of Liberty

In [Romans 3:27](#), two different laws are referred to.

Romans 3:27: “Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.”

There is a law of works and there is another law; the law of faith. The law of works is that of the Old Testament, that is, the Old contract. The law of faith is the law of the New Testament. It is the law of liberty and it is also the law of love.

It is God’s law for free men; it is God’s law for the kingdom He has set up through Jesus Christ. This is the new law, the law for Zion. It is not new in the sense that it was promulgated this year; it is new relative to an old one. It is the new law for God’s new people and this is the law we are supposed to follow.

And if you break this law you commit sin because, *“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law”* ([1 John 3:4](#)). There is therefore now a new definition of sin, because sin cannot be known without the law. The definition of sin was formerly based on the old law, but now that the old law has been abolished, there is of necessity a new standard for defining sin. This is now based on the existing law in the kingdom of God, which is the law of liberty; God’s law for free men.

The Apostle James was actually defining the law of love, when he talked about the law of liberty.

James 2: 11-12: *“For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.”*

He explains further in subsequent verses,

“For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment. What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone...For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also” (verse 13 - 17, 26).

What is he talking about? The body without the spirit is dead but the spirit without the body is not dead being more important than the body. The spirit of man, which is the real man, can exist without the body. But the body without the spirit is dead. And as the body without the spirit is dead, so is faith without works. If the works he is talking about have to do with the law of liberty, which we have said is the same as the law of love, then it means he wants us to know that faith without works is as a body without the spirit - dead. And faith is given life by love.

This is just like Paul, who said the same thing.

Galatians 5:6: *“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”*

Faith works by love; love gives life to faith. Let us look at another scripture in this direction.

1 John 2:3-9:*“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.”*

I want you to know that John was not writing to Jews but to Christians that were scattered abroad Asia, and when he said he was referring to the law they had from the beginning, he meant the beginning of the Church.

That means when he talked about someone hating his brother, the Apostle John was not referring to an unconverted man who probably hates a Christian. He was talking about the Christian who hates his brother. This is a man who is supposed to be born-again but hates his brother. So John says that fellow who hates his brother

is in darkness though he claims to be born-again.

One then wonders, Is it possible for a Christian to be in darkness? Emphatically Yes!

1 John 2:10-11: *“He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.”*

That means a brother may be talking in tongues, and still be in darkness. How? This happens when a Christian breaks the law. There is a new law of the New Testament, and anyone who transgresses this law commits sin, hence becomes a covenant breaker. John is talking about the commandment of the New Testament, not everyone was familiar with the old law and in addition to this it had also been abolished, so he could not have been referring to it.

1 John 3:4-6: *“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.”*

You cannot transgress a law that has been abolished. Therefore a new law is being referred to here.

Verse 7-9: *“Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”*

Also **1John5:17** says, “All unrighteousness is sin...”

What then is sin? Sin is any thought or act that gratifies you and disregards another, be it God or man. This definitely means stepping away from love; for love never seeks its own. Remember, whatever is not of faith is sin and faith works by love. Therefore sin in the New Testament is defined as the transgression of the love law.

1 John 2:1-2: *“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”*

Some people reason that if you are a real Christian, you will never do anything that is wrong, this is not true. If truly you can not do anything wrong once you are a Christian, why then is there provision for forgiveness of sins? And you know forgiveness of sins is not really for the world. This may be a bit surprising, but it is true nonetheless.

What the world has is REMISSION of sins, which means the washing away of sins. FORGIVENESS of sins is a provision for the Church. When you got born-again you received the remission of sins; your sins were blotted out. Now being born-again,

when you do anything that is wrong, it is no longer blotted out. It is a different thing now! You are forgiven your sins.

1 John 1:9: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

John said, “... whosoever is born of God sinneth not...” ([1 John 5:18](#)). That means a person who is born-again does not make a practice of sin; he does not continue in sin.

He made a further explanation in chapter 5, *“If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it”* ([1 John 5:16](#)).

The word used for sin actually denotes making a practice of sin. It does not mean if you see a brother do something wrong, you should go and start praying for him. You don't have to; he can pray for himself. It actually refers to a brother walking disorderly and out of the way; living in sin as it were. When you pray for this type of brother you will give him life, because you will be able to get him back on the right course, through prayer and by the power of the Holy Ghost.

But a born-again child of God will not make a practice of sin, because as the Bible says God's seed remains in him. Therefore he will not continue in sin ([1 John 3:9](#)). Sometimes you need to read scriptures from other translations of the Bible apart from the King James translation in order to get a clearer meaning. I do not mean every translation; it is just that some are better than others. And King James is not the first translation of the Bible; it is about the 14th translation. So unlike what some people have thought, God does not speak King James English.

Living In The Law of Liberty

James 1:25: “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

The Living Bible calls it God's law for free men,

“But if anyone keeps looking steadily into God's law for free men, he will not only remember it but he will do what it says, and God will greatly bless him in everything he does”(James 1:25 TLB).

There is a law for free men. Oh Halleluyah! There is a law for men of the senses; natural men who are controlled by their senses, that is, what they see and what they feel. And that is the law of works but that is not the law for us. Jesus said, “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” ([John 8:36](#)).

So, how different is this law of liberty from the old law?

James 2:8: “If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well.”

When I see scriptures like this about a law in the New Testament, I want to find out which law is actually being referred to. It is obvious here that James is quoting from the Old Testament because he refers to another scripture in the Old

Testament ([Leviticus 19:18](#)). Since we have proved from the Bible that the law with all its commandments and ordinances has been abolished, who is James really addressing? He called it scripture and he quoted it, but why would he address the new creation with a law that has been abolished? That means James was not writing to those who were not familiar with the law but those who were familiar with it. He could not have expected the Gentiles or Christians who were formerly Gentiles in the flesh to understand what he was writing about because, the law was never given to them originally. This proves then that James at the time of his writing did not have all believers in mind and this can be proved by the opening verse of the book of James.

"James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting" ([James 1:1](#)).

So he was writing to the twelve tribes; the Jewish Christians who were familiar with the law. In writing to them, James sought to bring their attention to another truth which he lets them know in subsequent verses.

[James 2: 9-12](#): "But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty."

He lets his readers know that there is a new law; the law of liberty which covers everything in the Old law and this law is the one that will be used to judge them. So he encourages them to live and act as people who will be judged by the law of liberty and not by the law of bondage.

A Law Higher Than The World's System

In Paul's epistle to the Corinthians, it will be observed that chapters 12, 13 & 14 are on the same subject; the subject of spiritual manifestations and how to handle spiritual manifestations in the Church. In the first verse of chapter 12, Paul indicated that he did not want the Christians to be ignorant of spiritual gifts. The word "gifts" is actually in italics, which means it was not in the original manuscripts. So the verse could also read, "Now concerning spirituals, brethren, I would not have you ignorant." The translators decided to put gifts there, there is nothing wrong with that, but they could also have decided to put the word "the" before spiritual to make it "Concerning THE spiritual, brethren, I would not have you ignorant." This would not have destroyed the meaning of the verse.

Paul let the Corinthians know he was dealing with spiritual matters here. We could also say he was dealing with the spiritual life.

You became a new creation when you got born-again ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). You are not trying to be, neither are you hoping to be; you are a new creation now. You may not feel that way or think that you are but the truth is that you are. God's Word is sure and if He says you are a new creation, then it must mean you are.

When you come to God, you begin a new life. The Living Bible puts it this way, ***"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same any more. A new life has begun!"*** (2 Corinthians

5:17 TLB). So you are a new person inside.

There is a different life in the Promised Land, different from that in Egypt. Abraham looked for a city whose builder and maker is God ([Hebrews 11:10](#)); one which had principles established by God. This is a very important point you always have to remember.

That is why I say repeatedly that it is important for us to know that there is a system operating in this world, which is not consistent with the Word of God. Without being aware of it, a Christian can live on this earth with principles based on the system of this world. There are principles that have been established by men and it is possible to allow these standards to influence many things we do; what to eat, what to wear and watch.

“Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh” ([Colossians 2:20-23](#)).

It is so bad sometimes that it affects the way we raise our children. It is important therefore to know that there is a moral system in this world, being run by the god of this world, that is, the devil. And this system is not consistent with the Word of God. The Educational Systems of the nations of the world are founded on the thoughts of men and women of this world. Nowadays, you hardly find anyone being taught in the class that God made the heavens and the earth. When the schools came close to teaching something on this, they taught their students evolution.

And when people want to make clothes, they consult catalogues full of all kinds of models. These models are generally unconverted people who do not know Christ. We should not allow them to set the standards for what we should wear.

Even in the business world, we ought to know by now that the world's system does not work. We ought to know by now that the governmental principles of the world do not last. If they did, they should have made progress and advanced but they have not. If you go down through history you will discover that only those nations where the gospel was nationally received experienced worthwhile civilization. I do not by this mean that these nations are predominantly Christian right now, but if you go back in their history, you will find out that ever before they began to have civilization in the natural world, they first received light spiritually by accepting the gospel.

Trouble came somewhere down the line when they allowed the message of the Church to get watered down. Men and women who did not know Jesus but thought of themselves as Christians because their parents were Christians, got themselves priests that were not born-again, who did not know the scriptures. That was where the trouble started and has gone on until this day.

But the Apostle Jude writing long ago already urged us to do something about situations like this.

[Jude 1:3](#):“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which

was once delivered unto the saints."

When he talks of common salvation I want you to know in what sense he uses the word, "common." He means you have it, I have it, she has it; we have it alike. Salvation is not common in terms of value. Jude exhorted the brethren to earnestly contend for the real faith; honestly contend for the real Word of God. That is what he is saying.

As a child of God, you need to watch your life. What sets your standards? From where do you get your wisdom? The greatest book of success that has ever existed in this world is the Bible; it contains the Word of God. There are Christians who read the Word of God but base their lives on principles established by men; men they believe have succeeded. Most times you actually need to know the end of such stories. When you are told about someone who is a success, find out the end of the story. There are people today who yesterday were thought to be a lot of success. Some of them are in prison today. Some are refugees seeking political asylum or in reality, criminal asylum.

What is success? How can you define success? I tell you, the greatest book in the world on success is still the Bible. The reason is simple: No man can ever be wiser than God. When God tells you what to do, follow Him, stick to Him, you can never be wiser than God. We are told to desire the Word of God, as new born babies desire milk, that we may grow([1 Peter 2:2](#)). Grow in the spirit; desire the Word of God and find out God's standard for doing things.

Find out how God wants you to live and how to talk. There are a lot of things that are said in the world that are not acceptable in Zion. There are things the people of the world will do that are not acceptable in Zion. You are a citizen of Zion, don't forget this, that you are a member of a country whose builder and maker is God.

God has given us a system to live by in Zion, and that is the Love Way!

Two Forces In the World

There are two forces in this world; the force of LOVE and the force of SELFISHNESS. Selfishness is a force and it is the cause of broken homes; it governs broken marriages. Selfishness is the father of all the fights that we have in this world. It gave birth to greed. Man was born with selfishness though he was not naturally created with selfishness.

When God made Adam, it was in His own image and likeness. But after Adam fell to sin, He took upon Himself the nature of Satan and subsequently gave birth to his own children after his own fallen image and likeness. Selfishness is the nature of the devil.

But the law of love is a higher law; it never fails ([1 Corinthians 13: 8](#)). It is stronger than the law of selfishness. It has its origin in God and wherever love comes in, it gains the ascendancy over selfishness. It is a source of life, this is why God wants us to conquer selfishness with love and it's powerful enough to do it.

The More Excellent Way

[1 Corinthians 12:31](#):*"But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way."*

There is a more excellent way to live and that excellent way is love. What is this all important love? 1 John 4: 8 says, "...God is love." What are the characteristics of this love? From a description of what it is not, we can understand what it is.

1 Corinthians 13: 4-8 (Amplified Bible): "Love endures long, and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. Love never fails[never fades out or become obsolete or comes to an end]."

For how long should one endure? Peter asked Jesus one day, "...Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?" ([Matthew 18:21](#)). But the Master answered, "not seven times, but seventy times seven times" ([Matthew 18:22 NIV](#)).

God does not expect you to count a particular offence someone commits against you until it gets to seventy times seven times. Actually you would not be working in love for you to keep such a record. Don't threaten anyone with, "This is the last time I am going to take this from you!" No, "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; [2] And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour" ([Ephesians 5:1-2](#)).

Love is patient, and kind. When you go to Church you sure have the right to sit where you want, but when an usher tells you to move, you've got to move, otherwise you will not be acting in love.

1 John 3:10-15: "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."

"Hate" is a strong word. So many Christians can easily say, "I do not hate anyone." But what is it to hate? It means having strong aversion to another; It means strong resentment for another's presence or person."

1 John 3:23: "And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment."

God's commandment is this, Believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ. Secondly, love one another. These are the commandments of the New Testament.

1 John 3:24: "And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us."

1 John 4:10-11: "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

Love Must Grow

As a child of God, you have faith imparted unto you. You received faith when you received the Word of God. The Bible says, "...*God hath dealt to every man (In Christ) the measure of faith*" ([Romans 12:3](#)).

So we have faith in Christ Jesus; we do not lack faith. But that measure of faith that was given to you must be developed. It must grow; you must develop it! When you use your faith it grows. Your faith grows by your studying the Word of God and acting on the Word of God that is how your faith grows.

But as we have seen from the Bible, faith works by love. So what about love? God's nature is love and when you got born-again, God imparted His very nature into your spirit.

1 John 4:7- 8: "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

[Romans 5:5](#) says, "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

When you got born-again, you received the very nature of God into your spirit and your heart was flooded with love.

There is something beautiful in [2 Corinthians 5:14-15](#), "*For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.*" Have you come to the point in your life, when you can say the love of Christ constrains you? Can the love of Christ in you cause you to act in a particular way? Can it cause you to think or talk in a particular way? Has the love of Christ gained dominion over your heart?

Love has been given to you and it must grow. Your Christian maturity is based on the growth of love in your life. You have to come to a point in your life when your actions and reactions become guided by the love of God. And you do things differently from how any other person in your position would have, because of the love of Christ that constrains you; it compels you to act like God. Love does not make anyone stupid, I can forgive you of an offence against me but that does not mean I do not recognize what you did as wrong. Though you are a miserable

offender I chose to forgive you.

Christians must learn forgiveness; God's children must not bear grudges. I tell people I know the cause of cancer, it is bearing grudges against other people. No one causes it. Grudges and resentments top the list, and others include depression. You have a lot of God's people who get sick, with this affecting their homes, businesses and finances. If you do not let the love of God gain the ascendancy in your home or in your personal life, you will surely be affected adversely. The love way is a decision that you make.

Make A Quality Decision To Walk In Love

You've got to make a quality decision to walk in love and in order to walk in love towards others; you've got to love yourself first. You cannot make anyone else happy if you are not happy. If you make yourself happy, you will make other people happy. But, if something makes you happy and gets others sad, you need to watch it. If someone wrongs you, don't hold it against him, otherwise you will soon be walking out of love and hence break your fellowship with God. God is not going to hold the person who wronged you responsible, because God deals with you to the exclusion of everybody else.

In other words, you don't come to God and question Him or complain to Him about others. I will give you a good example: after Jesus had been raised from the dead, and His disciples had gone back to fishing, He appeared unto them ([John 21](#)). After He had made a meal for them, He turned round and spoke to Peter, asking him if he loved him more than "these." Three times He asked Peter this question. Finally Jesus told him what kind of death with which he would glorify God.

But John had been following all this while, and Jesus had not said anything about him. So Peter asked, "what about this man? What will this man do." Read the answer for yourself in [John 21: 22](#). Jesus did not tell Peter what would happen to John. In fact what He said was the same as telling Peter, "It's none of your business." He deals with you as you, so leave others alone. If someone annoys you, leave him alone. You settle your heart with God.

Jesus - An Example

Hebrews 12:2-6: "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."

Jesus endured such contradiction against Himself when He was on the Cross; the people for whom He was dying spat at Him yet He endured it.

1 Peter 2:21-23: "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow

his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously."

Jesus has given us an example to follow therefore make Him your choice and follow Him. Two wrongs can never make a right so you don't have to react negatively when someone commits an offence against you. You will be wrong to do so because then you will be walking in darkness.

This is the reason some Christians don't experience answers to prayers. Though their prayers have already been answered long ago, their faith cannot release the answer, because they are not walking in love. Without faith it is impossible to please God ([Hebrews 11:6](#)), but this faith can only work by love. There are different kinds of faith; the one in the New Testament is that which works by love.

[Galatians 5:6](#): "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love."

In Christ Jesus the only faith that is acceptable is that which works by love. If without faith it is impossible to please God, it means you can not please Him without love, since your faith needs to be operated by love. If your faith is not mixed with love, it becomes unacceptable in Christ Jesus because you cannot be pleasing to God without love.

Have you ever heard a Christian say, "I know myself, I am not patient." It really is a shame when Christians pride themselves in the wrong things. It means they are still in darkness, and are as bad as the guy that says, "It is so easy for me to take 24 bottles of beer." Yes, this guy is boasting in something wrong, and should be ashamed of himself. But there is no difference between him and a Christian who says, "I know myself, I know that I cannot endure for long, I am not patient."

When you say things like this, you reject the Holy Spirit. You may be talking in tongues and demonstrating great works of faith, but you are still a babe, because the real measure of your faith is love.

Love Is Not For Weak People!

Love is not for weak people. Tell me, how weak is God? For we have the testimony of the scriptures that, "...God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"([John 3:16](#)).

Love can never be for weak people, because the greatest and most consistent demonstration of love has been from God. Jesus was not weak when He came and died on the Cross, enduring great suffering.

Love is not for weak people and patience is strong, and everyone who is born-again has patience in himself. That means you have the ability to demonstrate this desirable quality against which there is no law.

Do you get jealous sometimes? Maybe there is a new guy in your office, who seems to be getting all the promotions and all the nice things, whereas you don't seem to be moving. To make matters worse, you seem to be getting all the dirty jobs in the office. Maybe you wish he would just die or get sacked. That is jealousy. Love is not

jealous, neither is it arrogant.

There are people who cannot be controlled. No one can talk to them in the office or even in church. Don't be like this for love is not haughty or arrogant; it is not puffed up.

Learn to say a happy "Good Morning" to people; greet others first, don't wait for them to greet you first. Love is not arrogant and does not act unbecomingly. God's love in us does not insist on its own rights, for it is not self-seeking. Love is not touchy or resentful. Some people claim they are touchy or to make it seem decent, they say they are emotional. Don't say that, who is not emotional? We are all emotional. Even God is emotional. The Bible says, "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh..." ([Psalm 2:4](#)). That is an emotion; "Jesus wept" ([John 11:35](#)), Talk about being emotional!

Love; God's kind of love takes no account of evil done to it. Some people never forget and if I may say this, women are worse culprits of this than men. Some can tell you when a particular thing which was supposed to have been long forgotten happened. Have you ever heard someone say, "He did it in 1958, right after the Wedding" They just can't forget, they write the incident on the tablet of their heart. This is not God's kind of love because love does not keep a record of evil done to it. Glory!

It's great to be born-again. When you are born-again you walk freely, you don't keep all these kinds of records. Where will you keep the Word of God, if you store this kind of trash in your heart? Don't make yourself a dumping ground. Don't allow the devil to keep those things in you rather desire to be filled with the Word of God. Store the Word of God in you, and you will not have a place for trash. The Bible says, "Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?" ([James 3:11](#)). What you store in your heart is what you will say or do, so store the Word of God and you will find yourself walking in love at all times.

Paul's Example

Once, the Apostle Paul while facing the council to defend himself declared that he had lived in a good conscience before God all his life. The High Priest obviously got angry with him, and instructed someone close by to smite him on his mouth. The person did, and Paul in anger turned to the High Priest, and said, "...God shall smite thee, thou whited wall..." ([Acts 23:3](#)). But they that stood by queried Paul for reviling God's High Priest.

Paul could easily have answered that the High Priest did wrong first, by instructing someone to smite him contrary to the law. But he did not! And that is very remarkable. Do you know that if he had actually said that, some people there would have supported him, because he was right and the High Priest was wrong? The High Priest should not have asked that a man be smitten in a way that was contrary to the law while he was sitting in judgement after the law.

But Paul was not going to act that way; he would not insist on his own right. He apologized because he did not know he was the High Priest. He knew that it was written in the law that, "Thou shalt not...curse the ruler of thy people" ([Exodus 22:28](#)). Isn't that a good Christian character? Paul based his reaction on the Word of God.

See, he left the High Priest and his action and all his evil intentions to God. He made up his own mind to act right and walk in love. There are some Christians who will not forgive.

You must make the quality decision to walk in love. You do not need someone to constantly bring this to your attention. If you are not walking in love, you are not in step with God and you are in darkness, being a law breaker. If you are not walking in love you are as bad as someone who has committed murder, fornication, theft or idolatry. It makes no difference to God if the other fellow is the one who wronged you, he would answer to God for himself. The point is you have been commanded to walk in love. Yes, it is not an advice but a commandment.

Walking Out of Love Causes Sickness

A lot of Christians get sick and die prematurely, and people wonder why such should happen. Things like these will happen when Christians are not walking in love.

1 Corinthians 11:27: "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord."

Note he did not say, "Being unworthy", because everyone of us is worthy to eat that bread and drink that cup, that is, for those of us who are born-again. Years ago when it was time for the Communion, I remember the minister holding the cup of communion in his trembling hands saying, "This is the blood of the Lord, examine yourself, if you know there is sin in your life you cannot take this communion" I was a kid then, and this was always the time to know those who were walking right and those who were not, because every sinner in the congregation would not touch the cup but that was wrong; it was the wrong approach.

If someone had been in sin, that was the right time to take that cup and say, "My God, I take this bread in remembrance of the body that was broken for me. I take this cup remembering the blood of Jesus that was shed for me, for the remission of sin. And I want to thank you because I am born-again and I reject sin. Sin has no control over me anymore."

That is the right time to take it, not the time to put it off. Glory! Drinking the cup unworthily refers to an attitude; it means partaking of the communion in a manner that is unbecoming of a child of God.

Verse 28-30: "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep."

He did not say, "not discerning the Lord's body and blood" he only refers to the body. This immediately tells us he is no longer talking about the Communion, because all the time before this he was talking about the body and the blood. But here in verse 29, he says, "not discerning the Lord's body", and for this reason many were weak, and sickly among them and many died. They were sickly and died, for not having the revelation of the Body of Christ.

In the previous chapter, that is chapter 10, Paul had asked, "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we

break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread" ([1 Corinthians 10:16-17](#)). When he said we are one bread and one body, he was declaring the unity of the faith and the unity of the Church.

We are in a covenant relationship with Jesus Christ and with one another. And a covenant relationship is a sacred covenant, one which must not be broken. This is why the Master commanded us to walk in love. We walk in love, because we are one; the blood of Jesus makes us one.

A lot of people think the only reason the blood of Jesus makes us one is because the same blood was shed for the remission of our sins. People only think like this because they are sin-conscious. But Jesus did not only shed His blood because of sin, He also did it to establish the new covenant.

At the last supper with His disciples, He said, "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" ([Matthew 26:28](#)). The shedding of blood was for two reasons; it established a new covenant and secondly, it washed away the sins of the world. The first thing we ought to consider is that the blood makes us one by covenant. So I must protect you and you must protect me. You are now under obligation to take care of me, and I you. And you may get into trouble for not doing so. The members of the Church, the body of Christ are in a covenant relationship. Many who do not realize this get sick and die, because they do not discern the Lord's body. Oh! You need to realize that walking in love has no option neither is it an advice. If you are in Zion, it is compulsory for you to walk in love, it is the new law for free men.

John told us by the Holy Ghost that anyone who would not walk in love is in darkness and cannot see because the darkness has blinded his eyes. There are Christians who do not walk in love.

Love is not self-seeking ([1 Corinthians 13:5](#)). You have to make up your mind as a child of God to walk in love and not to be self-seeking. When people seek their own, they cannot serve God. 1 Corinthians 13 explains what love is not, so you can know what it is. And every child of God has the capacity to give it but not everybody wants to give it.

You parents, do you know that beating your children just because you are angry is seeking your own? The Bible says, "We have had fathers of our flesh...which chastised (beat) us after their own pleasure..." ([Hebrews 12:9-10](#)).

There is judgement for those who will not walk in love. Not walking in love means you are out of the cover because when you refuse to walk in love, you open up your life to satanic attack, and in situations like this you cannot win.

There are husbands who do not walk in love towards their wives, and wives who refuse to walk in love towards their husbands. These are people who are supposed to be born-again; God's people! You ought to know that you both are heirs together of the grace of life. You ought to know that you cannot take each other for granted. Amazingly, there are people who find it easier to walk in love towards those outside the body of Christ and they leave those inside out of it.

Sometimes we tend to be more courteous and respectful when we meet visitors and strangers, and turn round to treat those of the household of faith disrespectfully. It is not supposed to be so. The Bible says in [Galatians 6:10](#),

[Galatians 6:10](#): "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

We should not talk to one another in a way that would hurt for that is not Christianity. Don't get yourself into a mess by talking bad about your brother.

There is a more excellent way of living, and that is living in love towards one another. It is the new law for a new people.

Chapter 7

A Kingdom of Priests

When God gave the children of Israel the law, He also established the Priesthood. When He called the children of Israel out of Egypt, He had an idea of what He wanted them to be like.

[Exodus 19:5-6](#): “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.”

God wanted them to be to Him a kingdom of priests; men, women, old and young. But we also know that God established the priesthood to minister to this kingdom of priests ([Exodus 28](#), [29](#)). Unfortunately, they did not come up to become priests because they broke the covenant several times. Their breaking the law meant breaking the covenant, and eventually God abolished it through Jesus Christ. So, because they did not continue to obey God’s voice, they did not develop into the kingdom of priests God had wanted them to be.

But this gives us the idea of what God really planned for them. Right from the very onset God wanted each of them to have His Word in their lips, as [Malachi 2:7](#) described it.

[Malachi 2:7](#): “For the priest’s lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.”

To be the messenger of the Lord meant that the priest had to know the Word of God, which at that time was the law.

[Leviticus 10:11](#): “And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.”

The Aaronic priesthood was established to minister in things pertaining to God. They brought the gifts of the people and offered them to God. In effect God wanted the whole nation to be a kingdom of priests, though He also established the Aaronic priesthood to minister to this kingdom of priests. The responsibility of this priesthood was first to God, and then to the people. The priests were therefore to teach the people the Word of God and also offer gifts and sacrifices.

[Hebrews 8:3a](#): “For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices...”

Priesthood In The New Testament

The children of Israel did not become a kingdom of priests, and several times in the Old Testament, God spoke through His prophets of a kingdom of people that would be to Him the kingdom of priests He planned for originally.

[Isaiah 61:1-3](#): “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted...To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of

joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified."

Everywhere in scripture you find Zion, there is frequently a double application; first to the nation of Israel and then to the Church. In a few places you are going to find a clear application to only the nation of Israel. In [Luke 4:18](#), the Lord Jesus lets us know that this scripture referred to Himself and not to Isaiah. This means something had been planned to happen at the coming of Christ, which would cause those in Zion to be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord that He might be glorified. We know from the scriptures that Israel as a nation was never called the Kingdom of the trees of righteousness up until the time the Old Covenant was abolished, because they did not walk in the law as they were supposed to. So Isaiah 61:3 has a direct application to the Church and verses 4-6 also applies to the Church.

[Isaiah 61: 4-6](#): "And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. But ye shall be named the Priests of the Lord: men shall call you the Ministers of our God..."

Halleluyah! In Isaiah 60 we find another beautiful thing God said about those in Zion.

[Isaiah 60: 1-3](#): "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising."

There is going to be light in Zion and the people of other nations shall come to this light, and kings to the brightness of our rising. In other words, when Zion is risen, there is going to be a manifestation of the glory of God. And when this glory of God is manifested, the nations of the earth will come to the brightness of the rising of Zion. When is Zion going to rise? NOW! Halleluyah, because this is the time the anointing and the glory of the Lord has come upon Zion.

So you can understand the mind of God. His plan was that Israel would be a nation and that the nations of the earth would come to their light.

Still on the priesthood in Zion, let me show you another beautiful scripture.

[Isaiah 2:1-2](#): "The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it."

This is one of the most beautiful scriptures in all of the Word of God. This scripture has two applications; when you study the word of prophecy in the Bible, you will know that during the millennium, which is the 1000 years of peace, the different nations referred to are going to make pilgrimages to Israel. So the scripture has a direct application to Israel when they return to God, but this time they are not going to operate under the old covenant, they will come to serve God under the new

covenant.

Concerning the power of the Lord's house, it will be pertinent to remember that when Isaiah prophesied about the birth of Jesus in [Isaiah 9:6](#) he said, *"...the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."*

Jesus is the head of the Church, which is His body. And we know that a body begins from the shoulders down. So if the government or the authority as the case may be, would be upon His shoulders, it refers directly to the Church. So when Isaiah prophesied that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the mountains, it means it would be established above all other nations and shall be exalted above the hills.

[Isaiah 2:3](#): *"And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."*

Out of Zion shall go forth the law and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem. This brings to mind what Paul said about the Church that Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all ([Galatians 4:26](#)). Let us look at one more scripture.

[Isaiah 8:18](#): "Behold, I and the children whom the Lord hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the Lord of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion."

Later on in the New Testament, the Lord Jesus applied this scripture to Himself and to the Church. ([Hebrews 2:13](#)).

Jesus is in Zion, and so are we. He is in heaven, and heaven is in Zion. Zion does not refer to the whole universe, but to the kingdom of God.

We Are A Kingdom Of Priests!

In the New Testament, we come to realize that God fulfilled His plan for a kingdom of priests.

[1 Peter 2:5, 9](#): *"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"*

Glory! God has fulfilled in Zion the things which He dreamt of. His dream of the Old Testament has become a reality in Zion. We are a holy and royal priesthood, both kingly and priestly. In the Old Testament, there were basically three offices; the Prophet, the Priest and the King. Under the new covenant; in Zion, God has not only made us priests, we are royal priests because we are also kings.

[Revelations 1:6](#): *"And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."*

He has made us KINGS AND PRIESTS! He is not planning to, He has already made us. Glory! Zion is a kingdom of priests. The moment you were born-again, you became a priest and a priest is the messenger of God. He has already made us priests of the kingdom of God for every Christian is a priest therefore you need to live and function as one.

In the Old Testament, Aaron was the High Priest and his sons were the priests. Over here in Zion, Jesus is the High Priest and we are the priests. Halleluyah! It is us and Jesus who form the priesthood; the priesthood that has been established after the order of Melchizedec.

Hebrews 3:1: *“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;”*

Hebrews 5:10: *“Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.”*

Hebrews 7: 11-12: *“If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.”*

He is the High Priest, and we are the priests. And just as the priests in the Old Testament had specified responsibilities, we also in the new have duties to perform to God.

Priests: To Offer Sacrifices

The priests under the old covenant were ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices to God, particularly on behalf of the people.

Hebrews 5: 1: *“For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:”*

We also have sacrifices and gifts to offer, but not like the priests of the Old Testament who offered to God the blood of bulls and goats. Jesus, our High Priest offered the ultimate sacrifice, when He offered Himself as a sacrifice for us.

Hebrews 7:26-27: *“For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people’s: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.”*

Jesus offered Himself for us so we don’t need to offer the blood of bulls and goats any longer, but we still have sacrifices to make to God. And we are also taught how to do it.

Firstly, we offer to God the sacrifice of praise.

Hebrews 13:15: *“By him (Jesus) therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving*

thanks to his name."

We give God the sacrifice of the fruit of our lips by worshipping and praising Him. This is what we are supposed to be doing in Zion.

Psalm 141:2: *"Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice."*

This is the first of our responsibilities as priests. We no longer offer blood but praise instead we lift up our hands, not because we are being punished, our lifting up of hands is like going into the house of God carrying blood before Him; It is a holy sacrifice to God. Keep your hands lifted before Him and say, "Father, I worship you." When you do that there is an understanding He gives to you.

Let us offer to God the fruit of our lips and this is from the recreated human spirit. Anyone that is not born-again cannot experience this because to truly worship God, it has to be from your spirit.

John 4: 23- 24: *"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."*

In Jeremiah chapter 34, we read of how the men of Israel cut a covenant but they broke this covenant and through the prophet Hosea, God called them to repentance. What I want you to see is how they were supposed to come and register their repentance before God.

Hosea 14: 1-2: *"O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words, and turn to the Lord: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips."*

What He told them to do was actually beyond the old covenant, for then only could He receive them lawfully but not graciously. That means when He told them this, it was in preparation for them to repent under a new covenant. Though what I find really interesting is how they would ask for pardon. The prophet told them, "...TAKE WITH YOU WORDS...SO WILL WE RENDER THE CALVES OF OUR LIPS."

The calf is animal used for sacrifices, so in effect we could say, "so will we come to render the sheep or the ram of our lips." This is really enlightening! It means that when we begin to praise Him like that, we are offering to Him something better than what the Old Testament priests offered when they killed the calves and offered them to God.

Apart from the praises you offer to God, your prayer of intercession is also a sacrifice. Intercession is not praying for yourself, real intercession is praying for others. For yourself you can make petitions or make demands, but for others you stand in their place and make requests on their behalf.

So as a priest, you are to stand in the gap for other people. The more you grow spiritually, and the longer you stay in the presence of God, the less you pray for yourself. Rather you spend more of your time praying for others. Learn from the life of Paul; he spent a lot of time to pray for the churches and people he had reached with the gospel. He also prayed for cities that he hoped to reach with the gospel. When you pray like this, you won't have time to pray wrong prayers full of

complaints or unnecessary demands for things God has already given to you.

Priests: To Teach The Word of God

Our second responsibility as priests of God is to teach the Word of God. Right from the beginning God intended for the children of Israel to teach other nations His Word. But unfortunately they sought to keep the Word of God to themselves alone. Even after the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, it took a while before the gospel was taken to the Gentiles for it had to take a divine intervention, that is, through a trance to Peter ([Acts 10](#)).

People should seek the Word of God from you. When they want to know what God has said, you are the one they should come to. [Malachi 2:7](#) says, *“For the priest’s lips should keep knowledge...”*

Jesus said, “... what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops” ([Matthew 10:27](#)). You have people around you; people you work with and live with. Do you know you are a priest in their midst? If they want to know something about the kingdom of God, you are the first person they should consult. Those are the people in your world. You are the priest right there and you are responsible for teaching them the Word of God and interceding for them.

There are a lot of Christians who have perfect understanding of every other subject or field except the Word of God. This should not be the case instead make up your mind to be an expert in the Word of God. When you know it, you will teach it. But before you know it, you must study it.

There’s something more; People will not come to you until you go to them first. You will have to preach the Word of God first before they see you as someone who has knowledge of it. And when they have a problem they would look for you. If you stand up and arise in Zion, the Gentiles will come to the brightness of your light. That is what the Bible says in [Isaiah 60:1-2](#). The Gentiles did not look for the Levites, because the Levites were called to minister to the nation of Israel, not the Gentiles. But we have been called to minister to the world, not just other Christians.

The Apostles, Evangelists and Pastors are not the only ones called to minister the Word of God. Their ministry is primarily to the Church. Their ministry to the world is actually just like that of any other Christian. When you study the Bible, you will find there is no place that indicates an Evangelist is a priest to the world. It is amazing how people have given their own interpretation to mean that the Evangelist is the one called to preach the Word of God. They preach the Word of God, but we have already explained why they must.

The same goes for the Apostle. He also is not primarily called to minister to the world. He is equipped specially so he can establish Christians, but he cannot come to your office, your family or relations; he may not come to your circle of friends. That is your responsibility. He may be reaching a lot of people and more, preaching to large crowds, yes, he has an anointing to help him do that. But you have your role to play in witnessing for Christ and winning souls. No one can do that for you, not an Evangelist or an Apostle. You must be involved in bringing others up in the faith, send the devil out of the territory and claim everywhere you go for Jesus.

In the Old Testament God established three offices; the King, the Priest and the Prophet. And you will observe that these three offices were established for the

people not for the rest of the world. For example Isaiah was a prophet but he was sent to minister to Israel only. He brought the Word of God to Israel but he did not take it to Egypt. The King also was for Israel and the Priesthood was established for Israel. But the whole of Israel to God was to be a kingdom of priests to the Gentiles.

The World Needs The Gospel From You

We ought to be shining the light of God and teaching other people His Word. If you are not preaching the Gospel and telling those in your world, that is, your sphere of contact about Jesus, you are not fulfilling your office as a priest of God. I am not talking about accidental opportunities. You have to plan for it; you should not wait until arguments come up before you share the Word of God. Neither should you wait until somebody talks about it. It is your responsibility to perform your individual role as a priest of God.

[Zechariah 8:23](#): *“Thus saith the Lord of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.”*

He did not say they would take hold of a Levite, but they shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew ([Romans 2: 28-29](#)), this refers to every child of God. Every child of God should be able to divide the Word of truth rightly, so that they will not be ashamed, when it comes to the things of God.

[2 Timothy 2: 15](#): *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

The Bible says darkness will cover the nations and gross darkness the people, but to us, it says light has come to us and the Gentiles shall come to the brightness of our light. Are you shining today? Is your light on? John Wesley said if a minister would burn, people will come to the fire so it's up to you to burn and have your flame up.

There is a power with which you are filled, that power ought to be burning in your life. You should not be the one looking for help. Rather you should be the one lifting others up. Many people are in the valley of decision and the Lord Jesus is looking up to you to preach the gospel. If you open your mouth He will fill it with what to say because the Word is in you.

When you want to preach, you can start with your testimony; share your testimony boldly, God has given you the Spirit of power, of love and of a sound mind ([2Timothy 1:7](#)). Don't be ashamed to testify of Jesus. If you are ashamed, you are not fit to be a priest and you should be out of Zion, because Zion is a nation of priests.

In addition to offering to God a sacrifice of praise, the souls you win are a sacrifice. Paul was sent to the Gentiles as an Apostle and in [Romans 15:16](#), he referred to the “offering up of the Gentiles.” He was offering them as a sacrifice to God, to be sanctified by the Holy Ghost and the same goes for you. Be a soul winner in your world, every where you go, in your office and where you live. Never forget this.

Even As Priests, We Have To Live By God's

Principles

Jesus once told the Jews, “...*Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures...*” ([Mark12:24](#)).

The only way to know if something is right or wrong is through the scriptures; it is the standard for truth. So what should matter to you is, “What does the Bible say?”

There are a lot of things people do which God is against. Surprisingly though, there are other things which many think are wrong but are not necessarily so. People only bind themselves with their own laws. Your life becomes more glorious, and exciting when you know the Word of God and live by it. Ignorance is not an excuse in the things of God. For example the two sons of Aaron; Nadab and Abihu, who offered strange fire to God, thinking they would be accepted because they were priests and they were offering something to Him. Although they were priests, they were killed instantly ([Leviticus10:1-2](#)).

God has got principles, and when you choose to walk with God other than how He has specified, there is a break in fellowship and as long as you are in that position God cannot move with you. There is going to be limited blessing in your life, not because God is withholding, but because you are not living according to the principles of the kingdom of God. If you want to walk with God, you are going to have to do it in the light of His Word and not with your brains. God has principles and we need to live by them, especially as we are His priests.

Don't reduce your prayer time and your study time just because you need time for some other things. This is tantamount to victimizing God. You can't take time off God for other things instead it should be the other way round. This is the main trouble with a lot of people, but the devil never allows them to know what the real problem is. Some even stop coming to church in order to have more time for their work. When you do make decisions like this, the work only becomes more difficult. If you want more time never cut out of your worship time or your study time because the Bible can change your life forever. God is the one who blesses the work of your hands; one idea from Him will save you a lot of troubles and struggles. Live a principled life for in Zion there are principles for living. Isaac sowed in a time of famine and he reaped a hundred fold in that season. The folks around him began to wonder, but the Bible says it was God who made him great ([Genesis26](#)).

God has made us His priests and has established principles in the Promised Land; we not only should teach His principles, we should also live by them. Then we will make our ways prosperous and enjoy the good of the land.

THE PROMISED LAND

This book is a classic exposition of the Christian life. It provides Bible-based answers to a lot of questions, and provides explanations needed to live a constantly victorious life.

Joshua brought the children of Israel into a land flowing with milk and honey; yet the Bible says they did not enter the rest of God.

We have been brought into this rest of God, and every Christian needs to be acquainted with life in "The Promised Land."

Every page is filled with divine truths. You will need to read "The Promised Land" again and again. It is a must for every Christian, every minister and every serious student of the Bible.

SCRIPTURES

Genesis 12:1-3

12 Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Hebrews 11:8

8-10 By an act of faith, Abraham said yes to God's call to travel to an unknown place that would become his home. When he left he had no idea where he was going. By an act of faith he lived in the country promised him, lived as a stranger camping in tents. Isaac and Jacob did the same, living under the same promise. Abraham did it by keeping his eye on an unseen city with real, eternal foundations—the City designed and built by God.

Genesis 12:4

4 So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Genesis 20:2

2 Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.

Genesis 12:2-3

2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Joshua 1:3-5

3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. 5 No man shall be able to stand before you

all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

Hebrews 11

11 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; [a] for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.
9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child[b] when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them,[c] embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called,"[d] 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.

24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in[e] Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.

31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. 36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted,[f] were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, 40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Hebrews 11:8-9

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

Acts 3:21

21 whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

Matthew 6:33

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Colossians 3:2

2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Psalms 115:12

12 The Lord has been mindful of us; He will bless us; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron.

Hebrews 11:13

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them,[a] embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Mark 8:36

36 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

Romans 10:17

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1 John 5:4

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our[a] faith.

Romans 8:19

19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

Genesis 15:13-16

13 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. 14 And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

Genesis 25:5-8

5 And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac. 6 But Abraham gave gifts to the sons of the concubines which Abraham had; and while he was still living he sent them eastward, away from Isaac his son, to the country of the east.

7 This is the sum of the years of Abraham's life which he lived: one hundred and seventy-five years. 8 Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.

Genesis 50:24-25

24 And Joseph said to his brethren, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." 25 Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here."

John 10:17-18

17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

Joshua 1:1-6

1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: 2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall

be your territory. 5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

Hebrews 6:13

13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,

Genesis 15:1

15 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

Genesis 15:2

2 But Abram said, "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

Genesis 15:3-6

3 Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!"

4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." 5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

6 And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

Genesis 15:7

7 Then He said to him, "I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it."

Genesis 15:8

8 And he said, "Lord God, how shall I know that I will inherit it?"

Genesis 15:9

9 So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

Genesis 15:9-10

9 So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." 10 Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.

Genesis 15:11-16

11 And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

12 Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. 13 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. 14 And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

Psalms 90:2

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

Genesis 15:17-18

17 And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. 18 On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—

Jeremiah 34:18

18 And I will give the men who have transgressed My covenant, who have not performed the words of the covenant which they made before Me, when they cut the calf in two and passed between the parts of it—

Genesis 15

1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

2 But Abram said, "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!"

4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." 5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

6 And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

7 Then He said to him, "I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it."

8 And he said, "Lord God, how shall I know that I will inherit it?"

9 So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." 10 Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. 11 And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

12 Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. 13 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. 14 And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

17 And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. 18 On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates— 19 the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

Genesis 17:7

7 And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.

Galatians 3:16

16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed,"[a] who is Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:27

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Ephesians 1:19-23

19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Galatians 3:27

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Galatians 3:29

29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Genesis 15:5

5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

Genesis 22:2

2 Then He said, "Take now 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.

James 1:13

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

Genesis 15:12

12 Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him.

Hebrews 11:17-19

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called,"[a] 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Hebrews 11:16-17

16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

Genesis 22:18

18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Ephesians 4:8

8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."[a]

Luke 16:19-31

19 "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and

fared sumptuously every day. 20 But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, 21 desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell[a] from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. 26 And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'

27 "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, 28 for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' 29 Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' 30 And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' 31 But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

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.'"

Hebrews 12:18-24

18 For you have not come to the mountain that[a] may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness[b] and tempest, 19 and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. 20 (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned[c] or shot with an arrow."[d] 21 And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling."[e])

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

Hebrews 11:5

5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; [a] for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

2 Kings 2:11

11 Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Jude 1:9

9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Psalms 50:2

2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth.

Hebrews 12:22

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,

Hebrews 11:16

16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

John 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Romans 3:24-25

24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

Hebrews 9:15

15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Matthew 27:51-52

51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, 52 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;

Ephesians 3:14-15

14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,[a] 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

1 Corinthians 15:52-53

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

1 John 3:2

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

1 John 3:1-2

3 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God![a] Therefore the world does not know us,[b] because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

John 17:20

20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will[a] believe in Me through their word;

John 13:34

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Galatians 4:22-26

22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. 23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, 24 which things are symbolic. For these are the[a] two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar— 25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children— 26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

Galatians 4:24-28

24 which things are symbolic. For these are the[a] two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar— 25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children— 26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. 27 For it is written:

“Rejoice, O barren, You who do not bear! Break forth and shout, You who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children Than she who has a husband.”[b]

28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise.

Galatians 4:29-31

29 But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. 30 Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.”[a] 31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

Jeremiah 31:31-32

31 “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them,[a] says the Lord.

Galatians 3:15-18

15 Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. 16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed,"[a] who is Christ. 17 And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ,[b] that it should make the promise of no effect. 18 For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

Galatians 3:19

19 What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

Galatians 3:21-22

21 Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. 22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Deuteronomy 11:26-28

26 "Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: 27 the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you today; 28 and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.

Exodus 19:5-6

5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

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Jeremiah 31:33

33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

John 1:17

17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 8:7

7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.

Hebrews 8:13

13 In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Romans 5:18-19

18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

1 Peter 1:14

14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;

Romans 5:19

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1 Peter 1:13

13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

1 Peter 1:13-14

13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;

Joshua 6:10

10 Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout."

Joshua 12:1

12 These are the kings of the land whom the children of Israel defeated, and whose land they possessed on the other side of the Jordan toward the rising of the sun, from the River Arnon to Mount Hermon, and all the eastern Jordan plain:

Joshua 12:24

24 the king of Tirzah, one—all the kings, thirty-one.

2 Chronicles 20:1-4

1 It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites,[a] came to battle against Jehoshaphat. 2

Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria;^[b] and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which is En Gedi). 3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. 4 So Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.

2 Chronicles 20:3

3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

2 Chronicles 20:11-13

11 here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit.

12 O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."

13 Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the Lord.

2 Chronicles 20:14-17

14 Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. 15 And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the Lord to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. 16 Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. 17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you."

2 Chronicles 20:16

16 Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel.

Exodus 14

1 Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea. 3 For Pharaoh will say of the children

of Israel, 'They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.' 4 Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord." And they did so.

5 Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, "Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" 6 So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. 7 Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. 8 And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness. 9 So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon.

10 And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord. 11 Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? 12 Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness."

13 And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. 14 The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."

15 And the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. 16 But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. 17 And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. 18 Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

19 And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. 20 So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. 22 So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. 23 And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

24 Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the Lord looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. 25 And He took off[a] their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for

the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.”

26 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen.” 27 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. 28 Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. 29 But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

30 So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 31 Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses.

Exodus 15:3

3 The Lord is a man of war; The Lord is His name.

2 Chronicles 20:20-21

20 So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.” 21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: “Praise the Lord, For His mercy endures forever.”[a]

2 Chronicles 20:22-25

22 Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. 23 For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

24 So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there were their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped.

25 When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away their spoil, they found among them an abundance of valuables on the dead bodies,[a] and precious jewelry, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away; and they were three days gathering the spoil because there was so much.

2 Chronicles 20:20

20 So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."

Hebrews 8:6

6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.

Joshua 13:1

1 Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the Lord said to him: "You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed.

Joshua 13:1

1 Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the Lord said to him: "You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed.

Joshua 13:7

7 Now therefore, divide this land as an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh."

Obadiah 1:17

17 "But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance, And there shall be holiness; The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.

Obadiah 1:21

21 Then saviors[a] shall come to Mount Zion To judge the mountains of Esau, And the kingdom shall be the Lord's.

Hebrews 4:7-10

7 again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts."^[a]

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day.

9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.

10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.

Psalms 95:7-8

7 For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice:

8 "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion,^[a] As in the day of trial^[b] in the wilderness,

Genesis 3:17

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.

2 Timothy 2:15

15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Hebrews 4:7-9

7 again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts."^[a]

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day.

9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.

Isaiah 61:1-3

1 "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are

bound;

2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."

Luke 4:18

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

Isaiah 61:3

3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."

Isaiah 61:4-6

4 And they shall rebuild the old ruins, They shall raise up the former desolations, And they shall repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations.

5 Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, And the sons of the foreigner Shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers.

6 But you shall be named the priests of the Lord, They shall call you the servants of our God. You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, And in their glory you shall boast.

Isaiah 60

1 Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people;

But the Lord will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.

3 The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

4 "Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side.

5 Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy;

Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.

6 The multitude of camels shall cover your land, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the Lord.

7 All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, The rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; They shall ascend with acceptance on My altar, And I will glorify the house of My glory.

8 "Who are these who fly like a cloud, And like doves to their roosts?

9 Surely the coastlands shall wait for Me; And the ships of Tarshish will come first, To bring your sons from afar, Their silver and their gold with them, To the name of the Lord your God, And to the Holy One of Israel, Because He has glorified you.

10 "The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, And their kings shall minister to you; For in My wrath I struck you, But in My favor I have had mercy on you.

11 Therefore your gates shall be open continually; They shall not be shut day or night, That men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles, And their kings in procession.

12 For the nation and kingdom which will not serve you shall perish, And those nations shall be utterly ruined.

13 "The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, The cypress, the pine, and the box tree together, To beautify the place of My sanctuary; And I will make the place of My feet glorious.

14 Also the sons of those who afflicted you Shall come bowing to you, And all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet; And they shall call you The City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

15 "Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, So that no one went through you, I will make you an eternal excellence, A joy of many generations.

16 You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles, And milk the breast of kings; You shall know that I, the Lord, am your Savior And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

17 "Instead of bronze I will bring gold, Instead of iron I will bring silver, Instead of wood, bronze, And instead of stones, iron. I will also make your officers peace, And your magistrates righteousness.

18 Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, Neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; But you shall call your walls Salvation, And your gates Praise. God the Glory of His People

19 "The sun shall no longer be your light by day, Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But the Lord will be to you an everlasting light, And your God your glory.

20 Your sun shall no longer go down, Nor shall your moon withdraw itself; For the Lord will be your everlasting light, And the days of your mourning shall be ended.

21 Also your people shall all be righteous; They shall inherit the land forever, The branch of My planting, The work of My hands, That I may be glorified.

22 A little one shall become a thousand, And a small one a strong nation. I, the Lord, will hasten it in its time."

Isaiah 60:1-3

1 Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.

3 The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

Isaiah 2:1-2

1 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the Lord's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it.

Isaiah 2:3

3 Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Galatians 4:26

26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

Isaiah 8:18

18 Here am I and the children whom the Lord has given me! We are for signs and wonders in Israel From the Lord of hosts, Who dwells in Mount Zion.

Hebrews 2:13

13 And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children

whom God has given Me.”

1 Peter 2:5

5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Revelation 1:6

6 and has made us kings[a] and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 3:1

1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

Hebrews 5:10

10 called by God as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek,”

Hebrews 7:11-12

11 Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?

12 For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law.

Psalms 141:2

2 Let my prayer be set before You as incense, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Hebrews 13:15

15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

Hebrews 7:26-27

26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; 27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

Hebrews 5:1

1 For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

Psalms 141:2

2 Let my prayer be set before You as incense,
The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

John 4:23-24

4 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Jeremiah 34

1 The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army, all the kingdoms of the earth under his dominion, and all the people, fought against Jerusalem and all its cities, saying, 2 "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: 'Go and speak to Zedekiah king of Judah and tell him, "Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire. 3 And you shall not escape from his hand, but shall surely be taken and delivered into his hand; your eyes shall see the eyes of the king of Babylon, he shall speak with you face to face,[a] and you shall go to Babylon.'" 4 Yet hear the word of the Lord, O Zedekiah king of Judah! Thus says the Lord concerning you: 'You shall not die by the sword. 5 You shall die in peace; as in the ceremonies of your fathers, the former kings who were before you, so they shall burn incense for you and lament for you, saying, "Alas, lord!" For I have pronounced the word, says the Lord.'"

6 Then Jeremiah the prophet spoke all these words to Zedekiah king of Judah in

Jerusalem, 7 when the king of Babylon's army fought against Jerusalem and all the cities of Judah that were left, against Lachish and Azekah; for only these fortified cities remained of the cities of Judah.

8 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people who were at Jerusalem to proclaim liberty to them: 9 that every man should set free his male and female slave—a Hebrew man or woman—that no one should keep a Jewish brother in bondage. 10 Now when all the princes and all the people, who had entered into the covenant, heard that everyone should set free his male and female slaves, that no one should keep them in bondage anymore, they obeyed and let them go. 11 But afterward they changed their minds and made the male and female slaves return, whom they had set free, and brought them into subjection as male and female slaves.

12 Therefore the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, 13 "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: 'I made a covenant with your fathers in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, saying, 14 "At the end of seven years let every man set free his Hebrew brother, who has been sold to him; and when he has served you six years, you shall let him go free from you." But your fathers did not obey Me nor incline their ear. 15 Then you recently turned and did what was right in My sight—every man proclaiming liberty to his neighbor; and you made a covenant before Me in the house which is called by My name. 16 Then you turned around and profaned My name, and every one of you brought back his male and female slaves, whom you had set at liberty, at their pleasure, and brought them back into subjection, to be your male and female slaves.'

17 "Therefore thus says the Lord: 'You have not obeyed Me in proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother and every one to his neighbor. Behold, I proclaim liberty to you,' says the Lord—to the sword, to pestilence, and to famine! And I will deliver you to trouble among all the kingdoms of the earth. 18 And I will give the men who have transgressed My covenant, who have not performed the words of the covenant which they made before Me, when they cut the calf in two and passed between the parts of it— 19 the princes of Judah, the princes of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, the priests, and all the people of the land who passed between the parts of the calf— 20 I will give them into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those who seek their life. Their dead bodies shall be for meat for the birds of the heaven and the beasts of the earth. 21 And I will give Zedekiah king of Judah and his princes into the hand of their enemies, into the hand of those who seek their life, and into the hand of the king of Babylon's army which has gone back from you. 22 Behold, I will command,' says the Lord, 'and cause them to return to this city. They will fight against it and take it and burn it with fire; and I will make the cities of Judah a desolation without inhabitant.'"

Matthew 18:21

21 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

Matthew 18:21

21 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

1 John 3:10-15

10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. 11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, 12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother[a] abides in death. 15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

1 John 3:23

23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us[a] commandment.

1 John 3:24

24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

1 John 4:10-11

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Romans 12:3

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

1 John 4:7-8

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Romans 5:5

5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

John 21

21 After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. 3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately[a] got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. 4 But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No."

6 And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. 8 But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. 9 Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught."

11 Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"—knowing that it was the Lord. 13 Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.

14 This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of

Jonah,[b] do you love Me more than these?"

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah,[c] do you love Me?"

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah,[d] do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?"

And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You."

Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep. 18 Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." 19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

20 Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" 21 Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?"

22 Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."

23 Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?"

24 This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.

25 And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

John 21:22

22 Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."

Hebrews 12:2-6

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was

set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

1 Peter 2:21-23

21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us,[a] leaving us[b] an example, that you should follow His steps:

22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; [c]

23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

Hebrews 11:6

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

John 11:35

35 Jesus wept.

Psalms 2:4

4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.

James 3:11

11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?

Acts 23:3

3 Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! For you sit to

judge me according to the law, and do you command me to be struck contrary to the law?"

Exodus 22:28

28 "You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people.

1 Corinthians 11:27

27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood[a] of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? 17 For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

Matthew 26:28

28 For this is My blood of the new[a] covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

1 Corinthians 13:5

5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

Hebrews 12:9-10

9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

Exodus 21

21 "Now these are the judgments which you shall set before them: 2 If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing. 3 If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. 4 If his master has given him

a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself. 5 But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' 6 then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

7 "And if a man sells his daughter to be a female slave, she shall not go out as the male slaves do. 8 If she does not please her master, who has betrothed her to himself, then he shall let her be redeemed. He shall have no right to sell her to a foreign people, since he has dealt deceitfully with her. 9 And if he has betrothed her to his son, he shall deal with her according to the custom of daughters. 10 If he takes another wife, he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, and her marriage rights. 11 And if he does not do these three for her, then she shall go out free, without paying money.

12 "He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death. 13 However, if he did not lie in wait, but God delivered him into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place where he may flee.

14 "But if a man acts with premeditation against his neighbor, to kill him by treachery, you shall take him from My altar, that he may die.

15 "And he who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.

16 "He who kidnaps a man and sells him, or if he is found in his hand, shall surely be put to death.

17 "And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.

18 "If men contend with each other, and one strikes the other with a stone or with his fist, and he does not die but is confined to his bed, 19 if he rises again and walks about outside with his staff, then he who struck him shall be acquitted. He shall only pay for the loss of his time, and shall provide for him to be thoroughly healed.

20 "And if a man beats his male or female servant with a rod, so that he dies under his hand, he shall surely be punished. 21 Notwithstanding, if he remains alive a day or two, he shall not be punished; for he is his property.

22 "If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. 23 But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

26 "If a man strikes the eye of his male or female servant, and destroys it, he shall let him go free for the sake of his eye. 27 And if he knocks out the tooth of his male or female servant, he shall let him go free for the sake of his tooth.

28 "If an ox gores a man or a woman to death, then the ox shall surely be stoned, and its flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox shall be acquitted. 29 But if the ox tended to thrust with its horn in times past, and it has been made known to his owner, and he has not kept it confined, so that it has killed a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned and its owner also shall be put to death. 30 If there is imposed on him a sum of money, then he shall pay to redeem his life, whatever is

imposed on him. 31 Whether it has gored a son or gored a daughter, according to this judgment it shall be done to him. 32 If the ox gores a male or female servant, he shall give to their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.

33 "And if a man opens a pit, or if a man digs a pit and does not cover it, and an ox or a donkey falls in it, 34 the owner of the pit shall make it good; he shall give money to their owner, but the dead animal shall be his.

35 "If one man's ox hurts another's, so that it dies, then they shall sell the live ox and divide the money from it; and the dead ox they shall also divide. 36 Or if it was known that the ox tended to thrust in time past, and its owner has not kept it confined, he shall surely pay ox for ox, and the dead animal shall be his own.

Exodus 24:12

12 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them."

Deuteronomy 22:5

5 "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God.

Psalms 133:1-2

1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!

2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.

Ephesians 2:11-12

11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Romans 3:1-2

3 What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision?

2 Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.

Deuteronomy 4:7-8

7 "For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him?

8 And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?

Romans 2:12

12 For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law

Ephesians 2:13-16

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

Romans 6:14

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Hebrews 7:18-19

18 For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, 19 for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

Galatians 2:16

16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

1 Timothy 1:8-11

8 But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, 9 knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, 11 according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.

Romans 5:17

17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

Romans 5:1

5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have[a] peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Galatians 3:13

13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"[a]),

Romans 9:13

13 As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."[a]

Romans 3:19

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Romans 3:22-23

22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all[a] who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Galatians 3:14

14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that

we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Romans 3:21-27

21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all[a] who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith.

Romans 4:3-5

3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." 4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

Galatians 3:10-11

10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." [a] 11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith." [b]

2 Corinthians 4:4

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.

John 12:31

31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

Matthew 4:8-9

8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

Colossians 2:15

15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

2 Chronicles 20

20 It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites,[a] came to battle against Jehoshaphat. 2 Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria;[b] and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which is En Gedi). 3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. 4 So Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.

5 Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, 6 and said: "O Lord God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? 7 Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? 8 And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying, 9 'If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.' 10 And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir—whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them — 11 here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit. 12 O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."

13 Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the Lord.

14 Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. 15 And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the Lord to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. 16 Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. 17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you."

18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and

the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the Lord, worshiping the Lord. 19 Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with voices loud and high.

20 So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper." 21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the Lord, For His mercy endures forever." [c]

22 Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. 23 For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

24 So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there were their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped.

25 When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away their spoil, they found among them an abundance of valuables on the dead bodies, [d] and precious jewelry, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away; and they were three days gathering the spoil because there was so much. 26 And on the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berachah, for there they blessed the Lord; therefore the name of that place was called The Valley of Berachah [e] until this day. 27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat in front of them, to go back to Jerusalem with joy, for the Lord had made them rejoice over their enemies. 28 So they came to Jerusalem, with stringed instruments and harps and trumpets, to the house of the Lord. 29 And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries when they heard that the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel. 30 Then the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around. The End of Jehoshaphat's Reign

31 So Jehoshaphat was king over Judah. He was thirty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi. 32 And he walked in the way of his father Asa, and did not turn aside from it, doing what was right in the sight of the Lord. 33 Nevertheless the high places were not taken away, for as yet the people had not directed their hearts to the God of their fathers.

34 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first and last, indeed they are written in the book of Jehu the son of Hanani, which is mentioned in the book of the kings of Israel.

35 After this Jehoshaphat king of Judah allied himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who acted very wickedly. 36 And he allied himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish, and they made the ships in Ezion Geber. 37 But Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, "Because you have allied yourself with Ahaziah, the Lord has destroyed your works." Then the ships were wrecked, so that they were not able to go to Tarshish.

2 John 1:10

10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;

Ephesians 6:10-11

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:12

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age,[a] against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 4:11-16

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Ephesians 6:13

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.

Genesis 12:1-3

1 Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And

you shall be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 12:4

4 So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Genesis 20:2

2 Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.

Genesis 12:2-3

2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Joshua 1:3-5

3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. 5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

Hebrews 11

11 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; [a] for before he was taken he had this testimony,

that he pleased God. 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child[b] when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them,[c] embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called,"[d] 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.

24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in[e] Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians,

attempting to do so, were drowned.

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.

31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. 36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted,[f] were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, 40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Acts 3:21

21 whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

Colossians 3:2

2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Psalms 115:12

12 The Lord has been mindful of us; He will bless us; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron.

Hebrews 11:13

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them,[a] embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Mark 8:36

36 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

Romans 10:17

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1 John 5:4

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our[a] faith.

Romans 8:19

19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

Genesis 15:13-16

13 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. 14 And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

Genesis 25:5-8

5 And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac. 6 But Abraham gave gifts to the sons of the concubines which Abraham had; and while he was still living he sent them eastward, away from Isaac his son, to the country of the east.

7 This is the sum of the years of Abraham's life which he lived: one hundred and seventy-five years. 8 Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.

Genesis 50:24-25

24 And Joseph said to his brethren, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." 25 Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here."

John 10:17-18

17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

Joshua 1:1-6

1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: 2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. 5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

Hebrews 6:13

13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,

Galatians 3:16

16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed,"[a] who is Christ.

Ephesians 4:8

8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."[a]

1 Peter 2:9

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Revelation 1:6

6 and has made us kings[a] and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Colossians 2:15

15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Ephesians 6:14-18

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

3 John 1:4

4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. [a]

Isaiah 52:7

7 How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Hebrews 11:1

11 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

1 Timothy 1:18

18 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,

Exodus 20:1-17

1 And God spoke all these words, saying:

2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.

4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

7 "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

13 "You shall not murder.

14 "You shall not commit adultery.

15 "You shall not steal.

16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

Exodus 20:18-20

18 Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off.

19 Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die."

20 And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin."

Philippians 3:20

20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

1 John 3:12

12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

Genesis 6:1-4

1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

3 And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

4 There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

Hebrews 12:16

16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

Genesis 9:12-16

12 And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:

13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

14 And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:

15 And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

16 And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is

upon the earth.

Romans 2:28-29

28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Colossians 2:11-12

"In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."

Philippians 3:3

"For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh."

Acts 7:38

38 This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mountSina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

Hebrews 12:18-21

18 For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,

19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:

20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:

21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)

Hebrews 12:22-24

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Hebrews 11:13-16

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Luke 23:43

43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Hebrews 11:10

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Hebrews 12:22-23

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

1 Peter 3:9

9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

James 1:2

2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

1 Timothy 6:12

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses".

Joshua 5:13:

"And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?"

Revelations 22:8-9:

"And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God."

Joshua 5:13-15

13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?

14 And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, Whataith my Lord unto his servant?

15 And the captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

Joshua 6:2

"And the Lord said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour".

Exodus 3:4-5:

"And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."

Colossians 2:18:

"Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,"

Genesis 15:18-21:

"In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

Joshua 6:3-5

"And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him".

2 Chronicles 20:18-19

"And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshipping the Lord. And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with a loud voice on high."

2 Corinthians 10: 3-5

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"

Mark 6:1-5:

"And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him. And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them."

Mark 6:6:

"And he marvelled because of their unbelief. AND HE WENT ROUND ABOUT THE VILLAGES, TEACHING."

1 Corinthians 15:32

32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

Acts 19:18-20

"And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed."

Revelations 12:10-11:

"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

1Corinthians 11:23-26

"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

Romans 6:3-5

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

1 Peter 2:24

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

2 Corinthians 8:9

9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Hebrews 9:13-17:

"For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth."

Luke 22:20

20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

Hebrews 9:24-26

24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Romans 5:11

11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Psalms 147:19-20:

"hesheweth his word unto jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto israel. he hath not dealt so with any nation: and as for his judgments, they have not known them. praise ye the lord."

Hebrew 10:11-22:

"And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."

1 John 3:14

"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."

Leviticus 19:18

"Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the Lord".

John 15:13

13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Matthew 19:28

28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Acts 7:8

"And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs."

1 Samuel 17:26

26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

Colossians 2:9-12

"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."

John 1:10

10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him

not.

John 1:11-12

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name".

Romans 3:27

"Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith."

1 John 3:4

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law".

James 2: 11-12

"For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty."

Galatians 5:6

"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love."

1 John 2:3-9:

"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now."

1 John 2:10-11

"He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."

1 John 5:17

17 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

1 John 2:1-2

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 5:18

18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

1 John 5:16

"If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it".

James 1:25

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

James 2:8

"If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as

thyself, ye do well.”

James 1:1

“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting”.

James 2: 9-12

“But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.”

Colossians 2:20-23

20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,

21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not;

22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?

23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body: not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

John 8:36

36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

1 John 3:9

9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Jude 1:3

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

1 Peter 2:2

2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

1 Corinthians 13:8

8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

1 Corinthians 12:31

“But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.”

I Corinthians 13: 4-8 (Amplified Bible)

“Love endures long, and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God’s love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. Love never fails[never fades out or become obsolete or comes to an end].”

Matthew 18:22 New International Version (NIV)

22 Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Ephesians 5:1-2

5 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmellingsavour.

1Corinthians 11:28-30

“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to

himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep."

Galatians 6:10

10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Exodus 28

1 And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.

2 And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty.

3 And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

4 And these are the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a broidered coat, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

5 And they shall take gold, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen.

6 And they shall make the ephod of gold, of blue, and of purple, of scarlet, and fine twined linen, with cunning work.

7 It shall have the two shoulderpieces thereof joined at the two edges thereof; and so it shall be joined together.

8 And the curious girdle of the ephod, which is upon it, shall be of the same, according to the work thereof; even of gold, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen.

9 And thou shalt take two onyx stones, and grave on them the names of the children of Israel:

10 Six of their names on one stone, and the other six names of the rest on the other stone, according to their birth.

11 With the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a signet, shalt thou engrave the two stones with the names of the children of Israel: thou shalt make them to be set in ouches of gold.

12 And thou shalt put the two stones upon the shoulders of the ephod for stones of memorial unto the children of Israel: and Aaron shall bear their names before the Lord upon his two shoulders for a memorial.

13 And thou shalt make ouches of gold;

14 And two chains of pure gold at the ends; of wreathen work shalt thou make them, and fasten the wreathen chains to the ouches.

15 And thou shalt make the breastplate of judgment with cunning work; after the work of the ephod thou shalt make it; of gold, of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine twined linen, shalt thou make it.

16 Foursquare it shall be being doubled; a span shall be the length thereof, and a span shall be the breadth thereof.

17 And thou shalt set in it settings of stones, even four rows of stones: the first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this shall be the first row.

18 And the second row shall be an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond.

19 And the third row a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst.

20 And the fourth row a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper: they shall be set in gold in their inclosings.

21 And the stones shall be with the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names, like the engravings of a signet; every one with his name shall they be according to the twelve tribes.

22 And thou shalt make upon the breastplate chains at the ends of wreathen work of pure gold.

23 And thou shalt make upon the breastplate two rings of gold, and shalt put the two rings on the two ends of the breastplate.

24 And thou shalt put the two wreathen chains of gold in the two rings which are on the ends of the breastplate.

25 And the other two ends of the two wreathen chains thou shalt fasten in the two ouches, and put them on the shoulderpieces of the ephod before it.

26 And thou shalt make two rings of gold, and thou shalt put them upon the two ends of the breastplate in the border thereof, which is in the side of the ephod inward.

27 And two other rings of gold thou shalt make, and shalt put them on the two sides of the ephod underneath, toward the forepart thereof, over against the other coupling thereof, above the curious girdle of the ephod.

28 And they shall bind the breastplate by the rings thereof unto the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, that it may be above the curious girdle of the ephod, and that the breastplate be not loosed from the ephod.

29 And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goeth in unto the holy place, for a memorial before the Lord continually.

30 And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the Lord: and Aaron

shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the Lord continually.

31 And thou shalt make the robe of the ephod all of blue.

32 And there shall be an hole in the top of it, in the midst thereof: it shall have a binding of woven work round about the hole of it, as it were the hole of an habergeon, that it be not rent.

33 And beneath upon the hem of it thou shalt make pomegranates of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, round about the hem thereof; and bells of gold between them round about:

34 A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, upon the hem of the robe round about.

35 And it shall be upon Aaron to minister: and his sound shall be heard when he goeth in unto the holy place before the Lord, and when he cometh out, that he die not

36 And thou shalt make a plate of pure gold, and grave upon it, like the engravings of a signet, Holiness To The Lord.

37 And thou shalt put it on a blue lace, that it may be upon the mitre; upon the forefront of the mitre it shall be.

38 And it shall be upon Aaron's forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things, which the children of Israel shall hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall be always upon his forehead, that they may be accepted before the Lord.

39 And thou shalt embroider the coat of fine linen, and thou shalt make the mitre of fine linen, and thou shalt make the girdle of needlework.

40 And for Aaron's sons thou shalt make coats, and thou shalt make for them girdles, and bonnets shalt thou make for them, for glory and for beauty.

41 And thou shalt put them upon Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him; and shalt anoint them, and consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office.

42 And thou shalt make them linen breeches to cover their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach:

43 And they shall be upon Aaron, and upon his sons, when they come in unto the tabernacle of the congregation, or when they come near unto the altar to minister in the holy place; that they bear not iniquity, and die: it shall be a statute for ever unto him and his seed after him.

Exodus 29

1 And this is the thing that thou shalt do unto them to hallow them, to minister unto me in the priest's office: Take one young bullock, and two rams without blemish,

2 And unleavened bread, and cakes unleavened tempered with oil, and wafers

unleavened anointed with oil: of wheaten flour shalt thou make them.

3 And thou shalt put them into one basket, and bring them in the basket, with the bullock and the two rams.

4 And Aaron and his sons thou shalt bring unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shalt wash them with water.

5 And thou shalt take the garments, and put upon Aaron the coat, and the robe of the ephod, and the ephod, and the breastplate, and gird him with the curious girdle of the ephod:

6 And thou shalt put the mitre upon his head, and put the holy crown upon the mitre.

7 Then shalt thou take the anointing oil, and pour it upon his head, and anoint him.

8 And thou shalt bring his sons, and put coats upon them.

9 And thou shalt gird them with girdles, Aaron and his sons, and put the bonnets on them: and the priest's office shall be theirs for a perpetual statute: and thou shalt consecrate Aaron and his sons.

10 And thou shalt cause a bullock to be brought before the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands upon the head of the bullock.

11 And thou shalt kill the bullock before the Lord, by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

12 And thou shalt take of the blood of the bullock, and put it upon the horns of the altar with thy finger, and pour all the blood beside the bottom of the altar.

13 And thou shalt take all the fat that covereth the inwards, and the caul that is above the liver, and the two kidneys, and the fat that is upon them, and burn them upon the altar.

14 But the flesh of the bullock, and his skin, and his dung, shalt thou burn with fire without the camp: it is a sin offering.

15 Thou shalt also take one ram; and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands upon the head of the ram.

16 And thou shalt slay the ram, and thou shalt take his blood, and sprinkle it round about upon the altar.

17 And thou shalt cut the ram in pieces, and wash the inwards of him, and his legs, and put them unto his pieces, and unto his head.

18 And thou shalt burn the whole ram upon the altar: it is a burnt offering unto the Lord: it is a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the Lord.

19 And thou shalt take the other ram; and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands upon the head of the ram.

20 Then shalt thou kill the ram, and take of his blood, and put it upon the tip of the

right ear of Aaron, and upon the tip of the right ear of his sons, and upon the thumb of their right hand, and upon the great toe of their right foot, and sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about.

21 And thou shalt take of the blood that is upon the altar, and of the anointing oil, and sprinkle it upon Aaron, and upon his garments, and upon his sons, and upon the garments of his sons with him: and he shall be hallowed, and his garments, and his sons, and his sons' garments with him.

22 Also thou shalt take of the ram the fat and the rump, and the fat that covereth the inwards, and the caul above the liver, and the two kidneys, and the fat that is upon them, and the right shoulder; for it is a ram of consecration:

23 And one loaf of bread, and one cake of oiled bread, and one wafer out of the basket of the unleavened bread that is before the Lord:

24 And thou shalt put all in the hands of Aaron, and in the hands of his sons; and shalt wave them for a wave offering before the Lord.

25 And thou shalt receive them of their hands, and burn them upon the altar for a burnt offering, for a sweet savour before the Lord: it is an offering made by fire unto the Lord.

26 And thou shalt take the breast of the ram of Aaron's consecration, and wave it for a wave offering before the Lord: and it shall be thy part.

27 And thou shalt sanctify the breast of the wave offering, and the shoulder of the heave offering, which is waved, and which is heaved up, of the ram of the consecration, even of that which is for Aaron, and of that which is for his sons:

28 And it shall be Aaron's and his sons' by a statute for ever from the children of Israel: for it is an heave offering: and it shall be an heave offering from the children of Israel of the sacrifice of their peace offerings, even their heave offering unto the Lord.

29 And the holy garments of Aaron shall be his sons' after him, to be anointed therein, and to be consecrated in them.

30 And that son that is priest in his stead shall put them on seven days, when he cometh into the tabernacle of the congregation to minister in the holy place.

31 And thou shalt take the ram of the consecration, and seethe his flesh in the holy place.

32 And Aaron and his sons shall eat the flesh of the ram, and the bread that is in the basket by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

33 And they shall eat those things wherewith the atonement was made, to consecrate and to sanctify them: but a stranger shall not eat thereof, because they are holy.

34 And if ought of the flesh of the consecrations, or of the bread, remain unto the morning, then thou shalt burn the remainder with fire: it shall not be eaten, because it is holy.

35 And thus shalt thou do unto Aaron, and to his sons, according to all things which

I have commanded thee: seven days shalt thou consecrate them.

36 And thou shalt offer every day a bullock for a sin offering for atonement: and thou shalt cleanse the altar, when thou hast made an atonement for it, and thou shalt anoint it, to sanctify it.

37 Seven days thou shalt make an atonement for the altar, and sanctify it; and it shall be an altar most holy: whatsoever toucheth the altar shall be holy.

38 Now this is that which thou shalt offer upon the altar; two lambs of the first year day by day continually.

39 The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even:

40 And with the one lamb a tenth deal of flour mingled with the fourth part of an hin of beaten oil; and the fourth part of an hin of wine for a drink offering.

41 And the other lamb thou shalt offer at even, and shalt do thereto according to the meat offering of the morning, and according to the drink offering thereof, for a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the Lord.

42 This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the Lord: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee.

43 And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory.

44 And I will sanctify the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar: I will sanctify also both Aaron and his sons, to minister to me in the priest's office.

45 And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God.

46 And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I am the Lord their God.

Malachi 2:7

7 For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.

Leviticus 10:11:

"And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses."

Hebrews 8:3

3 For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of

necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.

Isaiah 9:6

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Hosea 14: 1-2

“O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words, and turn to the Lord: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.”

Acts 10

1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

5 And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:

6 He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

7 And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually;

8 And when he had declared all these things unto them, he sent them to Joppa.

9 On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:

10 And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,

11 And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending upon him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

12 Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

13 And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.

15 And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

16 This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

17 Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,

18 And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.

19 While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

20 Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

21 Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come?

22 And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

23 Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

24 And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and he had called together his kinsmen and near friends.

25 And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.

26 But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.

27 And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.

28 And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

29 Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me?

30 And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,

31 And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.

32 Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of one Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee.

33 Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.

34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

37 That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;

38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;

41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Matthew 10:27

27 What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.

Zechariah 8:23

“Thus saith the Lord of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.”

2 Timothy 1:7

7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Romans 15:16

16 That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

Mark 12:24

24 And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?

Leviticus 10:1-2

10 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not.

2 And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.

Genesis 26

1 And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar.

2 And the Lord appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:

3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee,

and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father;

4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;

5 Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

6 And Isaac dwelt in Gerar:

7 And the men of the place asked him of his wife; and he said, She is my sister: for he feared to say, She is my wife; lest, said he, the men of the place should kill me for Rebekah; because she was fair to look upon.

8 And it came to pass, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out at a window, and saw, and, behold, Isaac was sporting with Rebekah his wife.

9 And Abimelech called Isaac, and said, Behold, of a surety she is thy wife; and how saidst thou, She is my sister? And Isaac said unto him, Because I said, Lest I die for her.

10 And Abimelech said, What is this thou hast done unto us? one of the people might lightly have lien with thy wife, and thou shouldest have brought guiltiness upon us.

11 And Abimelech charged all his people, saying, He that toucheth this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.

12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him.

13 And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great:

14 For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him.

15 For all the wells which his father's servants had digged in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines had stopped them, and filled them with earth.

16 And Abimelech said unto Isaac, Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we.

17 And Isaac departed thence, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there.

18 And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham: and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them.

19 And Isaac's servants digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water.

20 And the herdmen of Gerar did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, The water is ours: and he called the name of the well Esek; because they strove with him.

21 And they digged another well, and strove for that also: and he called the name of it Sitnah.

22 And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, For now the Lord hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.

23 And he went up from thence to Beersheba.

24 And the Lord appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake.

25 And he builded an altar there, and called upon the name of the Lord, and pitched his tent there: and there Isaac's servants digged a well.

26 Then Abimelech went to him from Gerar, and Ahuzzath one of his friends, and Phichol the chief captain of his army.

27 And Isaac said unto them, Wherefore come ye to me, seeing ye hate me, and have sent me away from you?

28 And they said, We saw certainly that the Lord was with thee: and we said, Let there be now an oath betwixt us, even betwixt us and thee, and let us make a covenant with thee;

29 That thou wilt do us no hurt, as we have not touched thee, and as we have done unto thee nothing but good, and have sent thee away in peace: thou art now the blessed of the Lord.

30 And he made them a feast, and they did eat and drink.

31 And they rose up betimes in the morning, and sware one to another: and Isaac sent them away, and they departed from him in peace.

32 And it came to pass the same day, that Isaac's servants came, and told him concerning the well which they had digged, and said unto him, We have found water.

33 And he called it Shebah: therefore the name of the city is Beersheba unto this day.

34 And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite:

35 Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah.