

# Left Turn



*Rev. Charles E. Darnell*



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*Rev. Charles E. Darnell, PhD*

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Edited with the assistance of Teresa Spurling (my wife), PhD, NBCT

Published by  
VisionQuest Publishing  
Campbellsville, Kentucky 42718-7416



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



## It Is Time For A Change!

There are many people these days that seem to be highly confused. They don't seem to know if they are a Christian or not! Their lips say one thing, but their actions illustrate a different answer. There is the overly tolerant church that says it is okay for you to do the things you are doing because you attend a New Covenant Church, and it is okay for you to be the master over your body and have control over matters of health and welfare. Let me make this statement as clear as I can: What you are following and believing is a counterfeit religion and the doctrine message being sent and received by you will destroy you. Allow me to show you a recent media announcement. Our current president went to Italy and had an audience with the Pope. The Pope declared and announced that our president was a good Catholic. Notice, the Pope did not indicate that our president was a good Christian, instead, he was, and is, a good Catholic. No wonder he can support all those on the left side of the aisle that desire Roe vs Wade reinstated. When those of this New Covenant viewpoint claim that the Ten Commandments do not apply to the generation living today, they are wrong. The Ten Commandments are not a religious document or some form of religious ceremony. These are moral instructions to be used as a guideline for living. When many of today's believers open their Bible, they open it to the book called Matthew and turn right and go toward the book called Revelation. They usually do not get all the way to Revelation for the simple reason, they do not understand what Revelation says or what it means. Effectively, they have already eliminated about two-thirds of the words in the Bible because they do not understand or agree with what those words say.

My writings have always been identified with the idea that I should include the verses of reference from the Bible, so you, the reader, knows that I am not kidding and what I am saying is supported by text from the Bible. I do this by having Biblical text in blue and italicized. With that said, it is time we open the Bible, find the book of Matthew, and make a **LEFT HAND TURN**, instead of a right hand turn. In the Old Covenant teachings there is the minor prophet Hosea who recorded the following in Hosea 4:6-14, *<sup>6</sup> My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children. <sup>7</sup> The more they increased, the more they sinned against me; I will change their glory into shame. <sup>8</sup> They feed on the sin of my people; they are greedy for their iniquity. <sup>9</sup> And it shall be like people, like priest; I will punish them for their ways and repay them for their deeds. <sup>10</sup> They shall eat, but not be satisfied; they shall play the whore, but not multiply, because they have forsaken the Lord to cherish <sup>11</sup> whoredom, wine, and new wine, which take away the understanding. <sup>12</sup> My people inquire of a piece of wood, and their walking staff gives them oracles. For a spirit of whoredom has led them astray, and they have left their God to play the whore. <sup>13</sup> They sacrifice on the tops of the mountains and burn offerings on the hills, under oak, poplar, and terebinth, because their shade is good. Therefore your daughters play the whore, and your brides commit adultery. <sup>14</sup> I will not punish your daughters when they play the whore, nor your brides when they commit adultery; for the men themselves go aside with prostitutes and sacrifice with cult prostitutes, and a people without understanding shall come to ruin.*

To my point of view, it has become necessary to provide an understanding of history and the reasons that the Old Testament is even a part of the Bible. God, in His ultimate wisdom had a plan and through His Holy Spirit, left inspirations with those He made Prophets to teach the rest of humanity how to be observant, faithful and obedient to His instructions. God had several purposes for mankind. One, we, that's us humans, represent the image of God! Two, we are to obey His instructions and, by so doing, we are blessed by the grace of God. It was not in God's plan for mankind to be sinful and disobedient in their nature, but that was lost by an act that was conducted in the Garden of Eden about six thousand years ago. Third, mankind has a purpose to reproduce. I know, you just threw up your

hands and said, look here, this man is saying to have free sexual relations. I think you once again have missed the point and the intent of this teaching. Let's go back and look at some things that have already been said.

In the passage from Hosea, the scripture begins with the verses from chapter 4. Chapter 4 has a title identified as "*The Charge Against Israel*". This charge is like a criminal charge being made by a prosecuting attorney in a court of law. In this case, God is the prosecuting attorney and this charge is being brought against God's chosen people. Today's Christians are considered a portion of that chosen people. No! Neither Christians nor the church, have replaced the Israelites as God's chosen people. Christians need to remember that we are the wild olive branch that has been grafted into the original olive tree. We have not replaced that tree, but instead, need to understand that the original tree contains the root system which gives us our substance for a God filled and blessed life. In verse 6, it starts out, *my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge*. Something is missing in our lives today. Many who should know history, know nothing. These people cannot tell you the history of the Hebrew people, nor even the history of the United States. In fact, it has become a favorite pastime to put down Israel with an anti-Zionist ideology and to mock the constitution of this nation as something that is out-dated. Many people today have thrown the history of their religious ideas and of their nation out the window. Verse 6 continues with *because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me..* Because of the lax teachings in many churches, today's so-called Christians have never learned that they are priest for God. What do you think being a disciple of Jesus means? What do you think is meant by the statement in Matthew 28:18-20, <sup>18</sup> *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."* <sup>19</sup> *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,* <sup>20</sup> *teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.* We continue, *And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.* The law spoken of here is the Ten Commandments and the ordained Feasts of God appointed throughout the year. Because parents should teach their children, God says fine, since you are not teaching your children, I'll forget them also.

This changes slightly and we find in verse 7, <sup>7</sup> *The more they increased, the more they sinned against me; I will change their glory into shame.* Once again, the Bible is teaching the blessings for obedience and the wrath for disobedience. When we are obedient there is **glory**, but with sin there is **shame**. This teaching comes from Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28. Challenge yourself and go read both of these chapters. Verses 8 and 9, <sup>8</sup> *They feed on the sin of my people; they are greedy for their iniquity.* <sup>9</sup> *And it shall be like people, like priest; I will punish them for their ways and repay them for their deeds.* It seems to me that God is also making His charge against priests as well as the people. In other words, the teachers have become as sinful as the people and collectively their sin is multiplying.

Verses 10-14 covers a vast amount of idolatry, mind altering drugs or alcohol, and immoral sexual activity. <sup>10</sup> *They shall eat, but not be satisfied; they shall play the whore, but not multiply,* (immoral sexual activity) *because they have forsaken the Lord to cherish* <sup>11</sup> *whoredom, wine, and new wine, which take away the understanding* (mind altering habits). <sup>12</sup> *My people inquire of a piece of wood, and their walking staff gives them oracles* (idolatry). *For a spirit of whoredom has led them astray, and they have left their God to play the whore* (immoral sexual activity). <sup>13</sup> *They sacrifice on the tops of the mountains and burn offerings on the hills, under oak, poplar, and terebinth, because their shade is good* (idolatry). *Therefore your daughters play the whore, and your brides commit adultery.* <sup>14</sup> *I will not punish your daughters when they play the whore, nor your brides when they commit adultery; for the men themselves go aside with prostitutes and sacrifice with cult prostitutes* (immoral sexual activity), *and a people without understanding shall come to ruin.* Ever since the fall in the Garden God has been trying to inform His people to obey his rules and His ways. To do otherwise brings ruin and destruction. Remember, the Old Testament is the history of God's people and is there in

its entirety for us to learn from, so that we do not have to go through the slavery and wrath that Israel has had to go through.

There is another group that has gone out of its way to get its celebrity status within society. This community has pushed, and threatened to cause great havoc within society if it does not get its way. They have gone so far as to steal the symbol of **God's sign to not destroy** the earth again by flood (rainbow). They now have the entire month of June designated as their month to celebrate their lifestyle. Somehow they have convinced politicians that under our constitution the majority loses and the minority wins. Go back and reread verses 10-14 of Hosea once again. All the whoring is not just an expression of mingling with false gods in the practice of idolatry. There is immoral sexual practices within most pagan religions and every bit of it is an immoral sin against God the creator of all things. Recall what I said early in this study, that one of the purposes of mankind was to reproduce. That is stated in the following manner in Genesis chapter 1, verses 27-28, *<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."* Do you see where God told the man and the woman to be fruitful and multiply? That is the purpose of mankind! But you have to take into consideration what else God told this couple. Read Genesis 2:24, *<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.* In other words there is a marriage between a male and a female in order to have the capability for mankind to fulfill this task and multiply as God instructed. You must notice that two males or two females cannot produce an offspring no matter what they do by natural means. God warns of this unnatural act as a sin and calls it an abomination. There will, most likely, be many who ask where is my tolerance under a loving Savior named Jesus? I will tell you! My tolerance is the same as that of Jesus when He turned over the money changers tables in His Father's House, and the same tolerance when He called the Pharisees hypocrites and false teachers. God Himself warned Israel through His prophets time and time again that when His cup got full, the wrath would come. Each warning was an attempt to bring Israel back to Him through an act of humble submission and repentance. Pray tell, what do you think God is trying to do with, not only, the United States but the entire world at this moment?

Through fake media, there is little information given as it pertains to global news. However, there are those sources that provide clear, truthful telecast of what is happening in the Christian communities around the globe. There are many millions of people who are finding Jesus and accepting Him as their Lord and Savior. Nations like Iran, Iraq, China, the Stan nations, those nations along the southern border of Russia, all have a growing Christian community. What about the United States? Well that is a different story. The fellowship of the Christian community in the United States is declining and leaning more and more into this society trend of tolerance toward this radical idolatry and immoral sexual activity that is increasing in this nation. Humanism, health, global warming, and artificial intelligence are the new gods in this nation. People in this nation need to understand that all these things happening across our land are only attempts by God to get our attention and have us to humbly return to a state of obedience before God. The floods, fires, and droughts are only a small portion of the storms, tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanoes that can, and will, increase if this nation does not repent. It could happen and God promises it will happen if there is no repentance.

I began this work as a study of the Old Testament portion of the Bible to get many people to turn over to that side of the Bible and read. For the purposes of this work, I'm using the English Standard Version (ESV) or FireBible as my exclusive source for scripture, unless marked otherwise. I am doing this in this manner because I recently became aware of the ESV Bible and the running commentary contained in this Bible is the clearest, most thought provoking Bible I've ever seen and this translation has been around for about 30 years. Everyone who would like to understand more of the Bible, needs to read this version of the Bible.

# You are a spirit, you have a soul and you live in a body!

Who are you? Do you know and understand the above statement? Have you ever really been shown how we, the human race, are made? Allow me to take you on an adventure through scripture.

## You Are A Spirit

Genesis 1:26-27, <sup>26</sup> *Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”* <sup>27</sup> *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.* (ESV)

Since we are created in the image of God, it makes perfectly good sense that, since God is spirit — we are also spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:15-24, <sup>15</sup> *See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.* <sup>16</sup> *Rejoice always,* <sup>17</sup> *pray without ceasing,* <sup>18</sup> *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* <sup>19</sup> *Do not quench the Spirit.* <sup>20</sup> *Do not despise prophecies,* <sup>21</sup> *but test everything; hold fast what is good.* <sup>22</sup> *Abstain from every form of evil.* <sup>23</sup> *Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.* <sup>24</sup> *He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.* (ESV)

According to Scripture, mankind has 3 parts: spirit, soul, and body. (Notice that the spirit and soul are not the same.) To say it as clearly as I can, you are a spirit-being, you have a soul (mind and emotions), and you live in a body.

Romans 12:1-2, <sup>1</sup> *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.* <sup>2</sup> *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.* (ESV)

Notice two things in this passage of scripture. First, note that YOU are to do something with your body. Therefore, your body is not the real you, but something that you possess. Secondly, you are not to accept the sinful nature of this world, instead YOU are to renew your mind. You are not told directly to do anything about your spirit in this passage because your spirit is the part that is born again with new life from God when you receive Jesus. Where the spirit comes into play in this passage is when you test and learn to discern what God’s will is for you.

John 3:6-7, <sup>6</sup> *That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.* <sup>7</sup> *Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’* (ESV)

John 4:24, <sup>24</sup> *God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”* (ESV)

From these two references in John’s gospel, we see that when you are born again, the part that is born again is your spirit — not your mind, and not your body. The real and true you is your spirit — which must be born again to be made right with God, and to be filled with His life. You are to control your



body, and to control what is taken into your mind (your soul), so that it can be renewed by the Word of God to know the truth. Then your life will be changed, and conformed to the will of God.

Make this your statement: According to the Bible, I am a spirit being. I have a soul, and I live in a body.

Contained in the previous page is a short outline of what makes you, a person with a spirit, soul and body. At the same time, I desire for you to understand that God loves all of His creation and He has a desire that none of His creation should perish and spend eternity in the lake of fire. Look at the following two passages of scripture to see this fact. 2 Peter 3:8-9, <sup>8</sup> *But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.* <sup>9</sup> *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.* (ESV) John 3:16-18, <sup>16</sup> *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.* <sup>17</sup> *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.* <sup>18</sup> *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.* (ESV)

Recently, the highest court in our land made a monumental decision and overturned an enacted law that had been on the books for 50 years. With this decision, the reaction by society, as a whole, has been just as monumental. As with most things, there are always two sides, or two viewpoints, that can be made, and there are supporters on both sides. If I’m bold enough to say this, here is my statement. This is not a fight between the conservative right and the liberal left, this is not a fight between pro-life and pro-choice supporters. This is a fight between God and Satan, between eternal life or eternal damnation! As a Bible believer, I will do my best to show you, from the inspired Word of God, that there is a truthful answer to this question, and the high court did a tremendous justice to humanity in its decision. I know those on the liberal left do not agree with me, but if you will allow me the courtesy to show you the words of scripture, you might go away with a new and different viewpoint.

I began this section, in an attempt, to show you that you are a three part entity made up of spirit, soul and body. The current disagreement seems to be over the body portion of this three part created being. Who has control over a person’s body? Isn’t it the spirit and soul that has the ultimate control over the body? Then wouldn’t it be the mind-set of each individual that has this control? Who is controlling that mind-set? Is it God, with a heart felt love for His creation, or is it Satan, with an, “I will win and I don’t care what I destroy in order to do that” mind-set? You are only a player in this cosmic battle, and the final decision and choice must be made by you. Look at the following two passages to confirm what I’m trying to get you to understand. 1 Peter 5:8-9, <sup>8</sup> *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.* <sup>9</sup> *Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.* (ESV) The second passage is from Proverbs 28:14-17, <sup>14</sup> *Blessed is the one who fears the Lord always, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity.* <sup>15</sup> *Like a roaring lion or a charging bear is a wicked ruler over a poor people.* <sup>16</sup> *A ruler who lacks understanding is a cruel oppressor, but he who hates unjust gain will prolong his days.* <sup>17</sup> *If one is burdened with the blood of another, he will be a fugitive until death; let no one help him.* (ESV) Go back to the lead-in for this work and read once again the verse from Hosea 4:6, *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.* My spirit does have a connection to the Holy Spirit of God and I feel that there are those words within scripture that tells me, teaches me that God loves all of His creation. God knows the spirit and soul of an individual before conception is even made in a woman’s body. Foreknowledge of what is to be in the future is an ability of God and His angels and it is God’s angels that are messengers for Him. Yes, Satan led one third of the angels to follow him and to be his agents in this cosmic battle. They represent the

evil, mean spirited, hateful spirits and demons who destroy life by misleading the thoughts of mankind into turning away from God and rebelling against his rules and guidance. But, it is YOU in your spirit and soul that must make the stand and be firm in the decisions that you make. You can either be strong and resist Satan or you can be devoured by Satan and his agents. Notice in the two passages that I just used, one is from the Old Testament and one is from the New Testament. It is your choice but you should understand that the entire Bible should be used as your guide through life. Let's look at some verses that will show us this foreknowledge before conception and when the spirit actually enters the body being formed in a mother's womb.

Let us first look at the prophet Jeremiah. God gave a statement of knowledge to Jeremiah as He gave Jeremiah his assignment as a prophet. Read with me Jeremiah 1:5, <sup>5</sup> *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."* (ESV) Do you see the absolute statement on when God appointed Jeremiah to be a prophet? Do you understand that Jeremiah wasn't even conceived yet when this was done? Okay, what about King David and his knowledge concerning his being formed and the statement he made back to God? Read the following from David's psalm, Psalms 139:13-16, <sup>13</sup> *For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.* <sup>14</sup> *I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.* <sup>15</sup> *My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.* <sup>16</sup> *Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.* (ESV) Because of the manner that this last segment reads in these verses I'm inserting the New King James verses to show a slightly different translation. <sup>13</sup> *For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.* <sup>14</sup> *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.* <sup>15</sup> *My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.* <sup>16</sup> *Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, **The days fashioned for me. When as yet there were none of them.*** (NKJV) Do you understand what David is saying about his life? David says that he knows that God's plan for his life was already written in God's record book prior to him being conceived.

Records of foreknowledge contained in the Bible even goes to the point of giving the sex of the child and in some cases the child's name. Look at the story of Samson in the book of Judges for an example of providing the sex of the child prior to conception and the results at birth. Judges 13:3, <sup>3</sup> *And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son."* (ESV) In this verse, we have the foretelling of the sex of the child, notice that this is said prior to the child being conceived. Now, look at verse 24 in chapter 13, <sup>24</sup> *And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew, and the LORD blessed him.* (ESV) That's only one example of foretelling the sex of the child prior to it being conceived. But, I said there were examples of foretelling the sex and the name of the child prior to conception. Look at the following concerning Abraham in Genesis 17:17-21, <sup>17</sup> *Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"* <sup>18</sup> *And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!"* <sup>19</sup> *God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him."* <sup>20</sup> *As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation.* <sup>21</sup> *But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year."* (ESV) There are two things to notice in these verses: First, God tells this to Abraham a year before the child is born. That's before the child is conceived. Secondly, notice that the foreknowledge is told to Abraham

on the number of sons (princes) that Ishmael will father and that they will be a great nation. The descendants of Ishmael is the present day Arab peoples.

The other two children who were named in the Bible prior to their conception are John (the Baptist) and Jesus. I know and understand that John will be born six months before Jesus is born but there are two different passages of scripture concerning the birth of Jesus. I'm placing the account from Matthew before the verses from Luke. Matthew 1:18-22, <sup>18</sup> *Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.* <sup>19</sup> *And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.* <sup>20</sup> *But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."* <sup>21</sup> *She will bear a son, and you shall call his name **Jesus**, for he will save his people from their sins.* <sup>22</sup> *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: (ESV) More of the birth of Jesus is told in the book of Luke, as it also tells of the birth of John (the Baptist). Here are those verses, Luke 1:13-17, <sup>13</sup> *But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name **John**."* <sup>14</sup> *And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth,* <sup>15</sup> *for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.* <sup>16</sup> *And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God,* <sup>17</sup> *and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."* (ESV) Now look at verses 31-38 in Luke chapter 1, <sup>31</sup> *And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name **Jesus**.* <sup>32</sup> ***He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,*** <sup>33</sup> ***and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.*** <sup>34</sup> *And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"* <sup>35</sup> *And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.* <sup>36</sup> *And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.* <sup>37</sup> *For nothing will be impossible with God.* <sup>38</sup> *And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."* And the angel departed from her. (ESV) I pray that you read and understood that all this was told to Mary by the angel Gabriel (this is said in verse 26 that I did not carry forward) prior to her conceiving the Christ child. Notice in verse 35 that even before conception the child is called a child, not a fetus nor an infant, but a child. Continuing, we pick up with verses 39-45, <sup>39</sup> *In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah,* <sup>40</sup> *and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.* <sup>41</sup> *And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,* <sup>42</sup> *and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"* <sup>43</sup> *And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?* <sup>44</sup> *For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.* <sup>45</sup> *And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."* (ESV)*

From these verses in Luke, we have gone back and forth from Zechariah to Mary and from Mary back to Elizabeth, and it is now time for Elizabeth to give birth. The rest of the story is in the verses from 57-80 of Luke chapter 1, <sup>57</sup> *Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.* <sup>58</sup> *And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.* <sup>59</sup> *And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father,* <sup>60</sup> *but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called **John**."* <sup>61</sup> *And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name."* <sup>62</sup> *And they made signs to his*



father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. <sup>63</sup> And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. <sup>64</sup> And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. <sup>65</sup> And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, <sup>66</sup> and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him. <sup>67</sup> And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, <sup>68</sup> “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people <sup>69</sup> and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, <sup>70</sup> as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, <sup>71</sup> that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; <sup>72</sup> to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us <sup>74</sup> that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. <sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, <sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, <sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high <sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” <sup>80</sup> And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel. (ESV)

We saw in the verses used to illustrate the naming of Isaac as a child of Abraham that the covenant that God made with the children of Israel would be made through Isaac. Let’s look at a couple of other facts that revolve around Abraham and his children. First, let’s look at Isaac and his offspring. Turn with me back to Genesis 25:21-26, <sup>21</sup> And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived. <sup>22</sup> The children struggled together within her, and she said, “If it is thus, why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the LORD. <sup>23</sup> And the LORD said to her, “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.” <sup>24</sup> When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb. <sup>25</sup> The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. <sup>26</sup> Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau’s heel, so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. (ESV) Are you beginning to see that God calls the baby a child or children and has some of these children even named prior to conception, or made a prophet, or has their days numbered and the plan for the child’s life already recorded within the books of heaven. Let me add one more story concerning Abraham. Turn to Hebrews 7:1-10. Oh! By the way have you noticed that some of this is in the Old Testament and some of it is in the New Testament. So, if you call yourself a New Covenant believer you should begin to pick up the fact that God’s Word works back and forth between the two sections of God’s Holy Bible. But now for our verses from Hebrews, <sup>1</sup> For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, <sup>2</sup> and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. ( 3 ) **He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.** <sup>4</sup> See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils! <sup>5</sup> And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham. <sup>6</sup> But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. <sup>7</sup> It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. <sup>8</sup> In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. <sup>9</sup> One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, <sup>10</sup> for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. (ESV)



Within these verses the foreknowledge makes a four generation jump in what is written and said. Look at the progenitor (Abraham) and the descendants. There is Abraham as generation one, Isaac as generation two, Jacob (Israel) as generation three and finally Levi as generation four. Do you also understand that verse three (*above*) clearly identifies this person as a pre-New Testament visit of Jesus, Himself.

I'd like to add two more passages of scripture before I bring this section to a close. The first is from Romans 14:10-11, <sup>10</sup> *Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; <sup>11</sup> for it is written,* (ESV) The second verse is from 1 Corinthians 5:10, <sup>10</sup> *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.* (ESV) Every person on the face of this planet should have some understanding that upon death, we will, at some point, be before the judgment seat of either God, at the Great White Throne Judgment, or before Jesus at the bema judgment. I do not know what questions might be asked at either judgment, I do know that the books of heaven will be opened and **the records of every person's life will be recalled** and reviewed at one or the other of these two judgments. Allow me to stimulate your thinking with the following sequence of events.

A certain young lady finds herself pregnant. It could be for a multitude of reasons. This could be because of a wild party and she got drunk, it could be because of an emotional feeling for a young man, it could be on the evil side and caused by a rape or incest in the home. For whatever the reason may be, the choice was made to have an abortion to resolve the problem. Time goes by and life goes on and this young lady feels remorseful and she finds it in her spirit the need to seek Jesus to become her Lord. She accepts Christ, asks to be forgiven of her choice for an abortion, and once again time goes by. Now, quite aged, she passes and finds herself before the bema seat of Jesus and Jesus is going over her life and reviewing everything she ever did. The abortion comes up and Jesus asked her to explain why she made the abort the child. While this discussion is taking place, there is a child standing next to this lady and she explains to Jesus the reason why, at that time, she had the abortion. Jesus tells her the record shows that she was forgiven and that He would like for her to meet the child that she had aborted. Together, mother and child live for eternity knowing and sharing the love of Christ.

But, we could also view the other side of this coin. This young lady only saw this as a solution to a problem. The party was fun, or the young man was cute, or the crime was taken care of. There never was a reason to actually stop and think about what was done and there never was any remorse felt and she died. The rapture occurs, the tribulation happens and the thousand year reign of Christ is completed. She finds herself standing before the Great White Throne of God and it is her turn to have her record reviewed. God opens the books and begins His review. As God is reviewing the life of this lady there are several little ones standing around this lady. God looks at her and says, "It is recorded that you are a murderer, what do you have to say?" She replies that she is no murderer, that she never killed anyone. God says, "It says abortion — taking of innocent blood!" She says, "That was my choice for my body and I did not kill anyone!" God says, "Fine, tell that to your children who you murdered and explain to them why you killed them, they are all standing around you!" God then looked at His son and asked if this person's name was recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life, and Jesus replies, "NO!" Satan only smiles and says, "One of mine."

Think about it, over three million children aborted in this country and the concept is that it is your body, your right, and your health issues that count and nothing else. That child you murdered could have been an outstanding individual who had been adopted by someone who wanted a child but couldn't have a baby. Don't get mad at me, I'm only the messenger. You have a choice to make and you have the chance to change which judgment seat you stand before. I will guarantee you that you will stand before one or the other. I have already given you the scriptures that tells you and promises you that there will be a judgment made concerning your life, and the actions you make through your life.

If you happen to be a male and are supporting a female to have an abortion you shared in the taking of innocent blood and you will have to face your own review of the records and have to explain your reasons for supporting an abortion to either Jesus or God. Will Satan also say, “One of mine” for you? Remember what scripture says, murderers are not permitted to enter heaven. In the example I gave above the difference was that in the first illustration the young lady found Christ, asked to be forgiven, and forgiveness was granted. The blood to pay for the sin was that of Jesus’ when He went on the cross at Calvary.

Read Revelation 21:8, 8 *But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.*” (ESV)

## It Is Not Your Sign!

A portion of the liberal left felt the ruling by the Supreme Court over abortion rights gave them a warning. They felt they were to be next. If we were still a God fearing Judo-Christian based society who believed in the Bible and in the Constitution that our forefathers drafted for us, we would stand up as a unified front and say, "Yes! Do it!" Once again let's use the Bible as the basis for our discussion, or is it my presentation? I am not going to present to you the entire 18th chapter of Leviticus as scripture references. I have written on many occasions that the Ten Commandments, God's Feast Days and some of His other rules are laid out in His Word for mankind to follow. Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 illustrate for us how to be obedient and what will happen if we are disobedient. Likewise, in general, Leviticus chapter 18 gives all the rules pertaining to sexual practices for mankind to live by. God is specific in Leviticus 18:22 whereby He establishes the rule that a male is not to lie with a male. Leviticus 18:22, <sup>22</sup> *You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.* (ESV) This verse has left the feminine side to make the statement that there is nothing said about same sex acts between women. I guess the thought is that women are not a part of the makeup of mankind as a whole. As a human race what is directed toward the male is also directed toward the female, even if it is not plainly stated as such. Then we also have the New Covenant crowd that says the Old Testament rules and laws do not apply to them. I guess my God has a sense of humor and provided instructions for the females in the New Covenant along with the repeating of His instructions toward males. I know you don't believe me unless I show you. Okay, look at the teaching of Paul in Romans 1:18-32, <sup>18</sup> *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.* <sup>19</sup> *For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.* <sup>20</sup> *For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.* <sup>21</sup> *For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.* <sup>22</sup> *Claiming to be wise, they became fools,* <sup>23</sup> *and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.* <sup>24</sup> *Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,* <sup>25</sup> *because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.* <sup>26</sup> *For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;* <sup>27</sup> *and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.* <sup>28</sup> *And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.* <sup>29</sup> *They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,* <sup>30</sup> *slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,* <sup>31</sup> *foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.* <sup>32</sup> *Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.* (ESV) In verse 18 the term 'of men' means mankind in both male and female form. Oh, and by the way, there are only two genders, MALE and FEMALE and God did not make a mistake when He created you. YOU made a mistake when you allowed an unclean spirit to enter you and take control of your spirit, soul and body. I will address the various unnatural spirits shortly, for the moment please accept the fact that you allowed an unclean spirit to take over your spirit. Then this unclean spirit led you to believe such lies as you are: a different gender, that you have a split plural gender or that God made a mistake when He created you. The unclean spirit influenced your mind-set, meaning your emotions or your soul, to accept that you are a different gender. Finally, the

unclean spirit convinced you that it was okay to use your body in unnatural, pagan sexual practices.

The title for this section is "It Is Not Your Sign!" What do I mean by this statement, for that is what it truly is, a statement. It is plain and simple, God gave to mankind, as a whole, a sign, a symbol if you want, for all mankind in all generations to have as a covenant bond. It all goes back to the record in the book of Genesis and the story of Noah. I'm going to go to the tail end of that story and provide you an insight to the meaning of the rainbow. Turn over to Genesis 8:20-22, <sup>20</sup> *Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.* <sup>21</sup> *And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done."* <sup>22</sup> *While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."* (ESV) First, observe that God states that the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Second, God makes a vow that He will never again strike down every living creature on the earth. Third, God declares that this vow shall be in existence for as long as the earth remains. At this moment in time there are only eight people on the face of this planet. They are Noah and his wife and his three sons and their respective wives.

At this point in the story of Noah God is ready for mankind to begin once again and the following blessing is made. Genesis 9:1-17, <sup>1</sup> *And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth."* <sup>2</sup> *The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered.* <sup>3</sup> *Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything.* <sup>4</sup> *But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.* <sup>5</sup> *And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.* <sup>6</sup> *"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image."* <sup>7</sup> *And you, be fruitful and multiply, teem on the earth and multiply in it."* <sup>8</sup> *Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him,* <sup>9</sup> *"Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you,"* <sup>10</sup> *and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth.* <sup>11</sup> *I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."* <sup>12</sup> *And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations."* <sup>13</sup> *I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.* <sup>14</sup> *When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds,* <sup>15</sup> *I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.* <sup>16</sup> *When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."* <sup>17</sup> *God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."* (ESV)

Those who desire to use this symbol for their own agenda are only demonstrating their contempt and rebellion against God. Your group never made a bond with mankind to stand in all generations. Your group cannot prevent a flood, a fire, a windstorm or even a rain. All you are doing by parading around, half clothed and mocking God is bringing God's wrath upon this nation as a whole. Why the nation as a whole, because those who say they are believers will not stand up and make a stand as the Supreme Court did over the abortion issue, and should for the same sex marriage issue. A marriage is one man and one woman. The sexual act should be reserved for a legitimate husband and wife. All other sexual activity is ungodly and rebellion against God. Remember, you did not create God, God created you and it was in His image that you were created.



There are several things that we can take from the statements made in this scripture passage. Did you notice that after the flood that fear of mankind shall be upon every beast, bird and fowl? Did you know that in the Garden of Eden that Adam could talk with the animals? Another thing that we should notice is that mankind can now eat meat. Up to this time there were two different food sources for mankind. Adam and Eve could eat of the fruit of the trees that produced seed bearing fruit. Fruit and nuts were about the only thing Adam and Eve could eat. When they were expelled from the Garden they were given the grains of the field to add to their food source. It wasn't until after the flood event that mankind could eat meat.

Contained within a portion of the story of Noah and his sons is the part that Ham had a curse placed upon him by his father because of something he did. Wherever this statement came from it is completely wrong. Noah did not place a curse upon Ham! Yes! There was an incident and there was a curse placed upon Ham's son Canaan. Let's try to clear this misconception up. We need to establish the fact that God had blessed Noah and his three sons. That was done in Genesis 9:1, <sup>1</sup> *And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.* (ESV) Noah, no matter what his son had done, understood that he could not curse Ham because God had blessed him along with his brothers. The second thing we need to do is look at the incident itself. Genesis 9:20-25, <sup>20</sup> *Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. <sup>21</sup> He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent. <sup>22</sup> And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. <sup>23</sup> Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backward, and they did not see their father's nakedness. <sup>24</sup> When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, <sup>25</sup> he said, "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers."* (ESV) To assist in providing an explanation of the incident and the resultant curse I'm going to use the footnote commentary in the ESV Bible to show you a meaning related to the actions and also an example of the depth the ESV commentary goes to in order to provide understanding. **9:21 Drank of the wine and became drunk.** This first mention of wine in Scripture is connected with drunkenness, sin, shame and a curse. Throughout the Bible, drunkenness caused disasters and poor judgment. The sin of drunkenness destroys the individual and affects all his relationships. **9:22 Ham.** Ham's sin resulted from his failure to honor and respect his father. Rather than covering Noah, he exposed his father's shameful condition.

For the moment, I'm going to make a slight detour. I have previously indicated that Leviticus chapter 18 gives the guidance for what is unlawful sexual practices. There remains a mystery as to what actually did Ham do to his father. There are those who indicate the act was an unnatural act upon Noah himself. To some extent this will be shown in the next footnote from the ESV for the verses in Genesis. There are those who also use verses from Leviticus to indicate that the act was made upon Noah's wife, who is Noah's nakedness. Let me show you these verses. Leviticus 18:7-8, 16, <sup>7</sup> *You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, which is the nakedness of your mother; she is your mother, you shall not uncover her nakedness. <sup>8</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness. . . . <sup>16</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness.* (ESV) If the uncovering of nakedness was the exposing of the genitals the act of Ham would be something shameful and nothing more. However, if this is identifying an act of sodomy upon Noah, as some suggest, or having sexual relations with his mother while his father was passed out, as others suggest, either identifies a very sinful act and the reason for the curse being placed. If the commentary footnote for verse 25 is correct we may have another clue. Here is the footnote for verse 25. **9:25 Cursed be Canaan.** When Noah learned of Ham's shameful action, he pronounced a curse on Ham's son Canaan (not on Ham himself). (1) Perhaps Canaan was somehow involved in Ham's sin or had the same character faults as his father. Perhaps, since Ham had brought open shame upon his

father, he himself would be humiliated through his son. The curse indicated that Canaan's descendants would be oppressed by other nations. In contrast, God would bless Shem's and Japheth's descendants. (2) However, Noah's prophecy was conditional for everyone involved. Any of Canaan's descendants who turned to God would also receive blessings. Also, any descendants of Shem and Japheth who rejected God would experience the curse made on Canaan. Within this footnote there is the idea that the curse involved a character flaw in Canaan's descendants. Let's see what we can find out in what is called, the 'Table of Nations,' or the listing of the descendants of Noah's sons. Here is the listing for the descendants of Canaan. Genesis 10:15-20, <sup>15</sup> *Canaan fathered Sidon his firstborn and Heth,* <sup>16</sup> *and the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites,* <sup>17</sup> *the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites,* <sup>18</sup> *the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites. Afterward the clans of the Canaanites dispersed.* <sup>19</sup> *And the territory of the Canaanites extended from Sidon in the direction of Gerar as far as Gaza, and in the direction of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.* <sup>20</sup> *These are the sons of Ham, by their clans, their languages, their lands, and their nations.* (ESV) If you are not familiar with the five cities underlined you need to go to Genesis and read the story of Abraham, Lot, and the destruction of the cities on the plain. Sodom and Gomorrah were the two principal cities destroyed because of the sex acts openly practiced in those cities. It really isn't your symbol, it is God's symbol and your group is only mocking God by using it as your banner.

Within this discussion I said I would show you the verses identifying familiar, unclean and evil spirits. It is time to do that. These are provided to show you how these spirits take control over you mind (soul). For purposes of understanding I am providing scripture from both the ESV and the NKJV (in one case the KJV) versions of the Bible in this section on spirits.

### Familiar Spirits

Leviticus 19:31, <sup>31</sup> *"Do not turn to mediums or necromancers; do not seek them out, and so make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God.* (ESV)

<sup>31</sup> *'Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.* (NKJV)

Leviticus 20:6, <sup>6</sup> *"If a person turns to mediums and necromancers, whoring after them, I will set my face against that person and will cut him off from among his people.* (ESV) <sup>6</sup> *And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.* (KJV)

Deuteronomy 18:10-12, <sup>10</sup> *There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer* <sup>11</sup> *or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead,* <sup>12</sup> *for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD.* And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you. (ESV) <sup>10</sup> *There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer,* <sup>11</sup> *or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.* <sup>12</sup> *For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you.* (NKJV) Sacrificing children in scripture is the same as having an abortion in today's society. Either way you are taking the life of innocent blood.

The following verse from 2nd Kings is telling about the reign of king Manasseh, an evil king, the son of king Hezekiah, a Godly king.

2 Kings 21:6, <sup>6</sup> *And he burned his son as an offering and used fortune-telling and omens and dealt with mediums and with necromancers. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger.* (ESV) <sup>6</sup> *Also he made his son pass through the fire, practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft, and consulted spiritists and mediums. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.* (NKJV)

The following verse tells of king Josiah, a Godly king.

2 Kings 23:24, <sup>24</sup> *Moreover, Josiah put away the mediums and the necromancers and the household gods and the idols and all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might establish the words of the law that were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD.* (ESV) <sup>24</sup> *Moreover Josiah put away those who consulted mediums and spiritists, the household gods and idols, all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD.* (NKJV)

Isaiah 8:19, <sup>19</sup> *And when they say to you, “Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter,” should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living?* (ESV) <sup>19</sup> *And when they say to you, “Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,” should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living?* (NKJV)

Isaiah 19:3, <sup>3</sup> *and the spirit of the Egyptians within them will be emptied out, and I will confound their counsel; and they will inquire of the idols and the sorcerers, and the mediums and the necromancers;* (ESV) <sup>3</sup> *The spirit of Egypt will fail in its midst; I will destroy their counsel, And they will consult the idols and the charmers, The mediums and the sorcerers* (NKJV)

## Unclean Spirits

In the following verses that we find the mention of unclean spirits the association is either with Jesus, or His disciples that have authority over these spirits.

Matthew 10:1, <sup>1</sup> *And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.* (ESV)

Mark 1:21-27, <sup>21</sup> *And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. <sup>22</sup> And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup> And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, <sup>24</sup> “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.”* (ESV)

Mark 3:11-12, <sup>11</sup> *And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.” <sup>12</sup> And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.* (ESV)

Mark 6:7, <sup>7</sup> *And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.* Mark 6:7 (ESV)

This is Luke's version of what happened at the synagogue in Mark 1:21-27 (previous page).

Luke 4:33-35, <sup>33</sup> *And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, <sup>34</sup> "Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God." <sup>35</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm.* (ESV)

Luke 6:18, <sup>18</sup> *who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.* (ESV)

The next two references illustrate the authority that had been given to the disciples to cast out unclean spirits.

Acts 5:14-16, <sup>14</sup> *And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, <sup>15</sup> so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup> The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.* (ESV)

Acts 8:7, <sup>7</sup> *For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed.* (ESV)

We can clearly see from this last verse on unclean spirits that they are demonic spirits.

Rev 16:13-14, <sup>13</sup> *And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. <sup>14</sup> For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.* (ESV)

## Evil Spirits

Once again we see the power of Jesus over wicked spirits.

Luke 7:21, <sup>21</sup> *In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight.* (ESV)

Luke 8:2, <sup>2</sup> *and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out,* (ESV)

Acts 19:11-20, <sup>11</sup> *And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, <sup>12</sup> so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. <sup>13</sup> Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." <sup>14</sup> Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. <sup>15</sup> But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" <sup>16</sup> And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. <sup>17</sup> And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both*



*Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. <sup>18</sup> Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. <sup>19</sup> And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. <sup>20</sup> So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily. (ESV)* We can see by these verses that the name and authority of Jesus must be spoken and used in the proper order or the speaker may find out the power of evil or unclean spirits.

### **Deceitful Spirit**

1 Timothy 4:1-5, <sup>1</sup> *Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, <sup>2</sup> through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, <sup>3</sup> who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. <sup>4</sup> For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, <sup>5</sup> for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer. (ESV)* <sup>1</sup> *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, <sup>2</sup> speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, <sup>3</sup> forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. <sup>4</sup> For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; <sup>5</sup> for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. (NKJV)*

### **Good Spirits**

Hebrews 1:13-14, <sup>13</sup> *And to which of the angels has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”?* <sup>14</sup> *Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? (ESV)*

Revelation 1:4, <sup>4</sup> *John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, (ESV)*

Revelation 3:1, <sup>1</sup> *”And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. “ ‘I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. (ESV)*

Revelation 4:5, <sup>5</sup> *From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, (ESV)* <sup>5</sup> *And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. (NKJV)*

Revelation 5:6, <sup>6</sup> *And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. (ESV)* <sup>6</sup> *And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. (NKJV)* The answer to who, or what, are the seven Spirits of God is found in Isaiah 11:2 <sup>2</sup> *And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. (ESV)*

## Test the Spirits

1 John 4:1-6, <sup>1</sup> *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.* <sup>2</sup> *By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,* <sup>3</sup> *and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.* <sup>4</sup> *Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.* <sup>5</sup> *They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.* <sup>6</sup> *We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.* (ESV)

Paul gave mankind many wonderful truths pertaining to Jesus and a Christian life. But even Paul had to put up with a menacing spirit. At the same time he showed the rest of us that we are a part of this battle between good and evil. We must also make our own personal stand to keep all unclean spirits at bay by the authority of the name of Jesus. Read the following on what Paul says about the thorn in his side. 2 Corinthians 12:5-10, <sup>5</sup> *On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses.* <sup>6</sup> *Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me.* <sup>7</sup> *So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.* <sup>8</sup> *Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.* <sup>9</sup> *But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.* <sup>10</sup> *For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.* (ESV) Paul also gave us some very useful truths in 2 Corinthians 5:5-10, <sup>5</sup> *He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.* <sup>6</sup> *So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord,* <sup>7</sup> *for we walk by faith, not by sight.* <sup>8</sup> *Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.* <sup>9</sup> *So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.* <sup>10</sup> ***For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*** (ESV)

While we are testing and observing good things of the Spirit of God we most certainly should view a few things pertaining to death itself. We all know that we are assigned a number of days that will be our life on earth and we know that God has a plan for our life. Our choices in life are left up to us because we were created a free will entity and will choose to follow either good or evil. We must also understand that there will be a reckoning at some point in the future at either the bema of Christ or the Great White Throne of God. Solomon, the son of king David, was wise and recorded many things in Ecclesiastes, read what he says in chapter 12, verses 6-14, <sup>6</sup> *before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern,* <sup>7</sup> *and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.* <sup>8</sup> *Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity. **Fear God and Keep His Commandments*** <sup>9</sup> *Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care.* <sup>10</sup> *The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth.* <sup>11</sup> *The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd.* <sup>12</sup> *My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.* <sup>13</sup> *The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.* <sup>14</sup> *For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.* (ESV)

## Fun Facts

Isaiah 5:14, Therefore Sheol has enlarged its appetite and opened its mouth beyond measure, and the nobility of Jerusalem and her multitude will go down, her revelers and he who exults in her. (ESV) That is to say, in other words, that hell is enlarged because of mankind's own actions of sin against God.

2 Peter 2:4-11, <sup>4</sup> For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; <sup>5</sup> if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; <sup>6</sup> if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; <sup>7</sup> and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked <sup>8</sup> (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); <sup>9</sup> then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, <sup>10</sup> and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, <sup>11</sup> whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. (ESV)

Matthew 10:28, And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (ESV)

Matthew 25:41, "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. (ESV) This is Jesus speaking.

Jude 1:7, Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. (ESV)

Romans 6:23, For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Revelation 21:8, But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." (ESV)

Revelation 20:13-14, And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (ESV)

2 Thessalonians 1:9, They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, (ESV)

Proverbs 27:20, Just as Death and Destruction are never satisfied, so human desire is never satisfied. (NLT) Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied. (KJV) Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, and never satisfied are the eyes of man. (ESV)

Psalms 9:15-17, <sup>15</sup> The nations have sunk in the pit that they made; in the net that they hid, their own foot has been caught. <sup>16</sup> The LORD has made himself known; he has executed judgment; the wicked are

snared in the work of their own hands. Higgaion. Selah " The wicked shall return to Sheol, all the nations that forget God. (ESV)

Revelation 19:20, And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. (ESV)

Revelation 20:10, And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (ESV)

Through many years of study I have run across a few statements that have been interesting to know, but they have not been proven by a scientific study. One such statement has to do with the silver thread spoken of in verse 6 of Ecclesiastes. I have heard that the silver cord is a connection between the physical body and the spiritual body. There are those times when the spiritual body leaves the physical body and floats. It is said that the spiritual body can reenter the physical body as long as the silver cord is not broken. When the cord snaps you have died and the two bodies are separated. Another statement made has been that at the moment the sperm enters the egg there is a small burst of energy at the connection and it is said, that is the moment that the spirit enters the new life form. Finally, there were experiments made in 1907 with patients on very delicate measuring devices and the very moment of death that 21 grams of body weight suddenly disappeared. This, it was said, was the moment that the spirit left the body when it died. All I can tell you is that you are a spirit, you have a soul and you live in a body. As Solomon said, "Fear God and keep His commandments."

I have attempted to give you a very conservative viewpoint on the abortion issue and the same sex marriage issue. I have not attempted to upset you, if you are upset, I fully believe that you need to look at that familiar or unclean spirit issue that I've covered over the last nineteen pages. Once again, don't get mad at me, I'm only the messenger. I've been writing what God has told me to write for well over the last 40 years. I'm not new to the rodeo, so if you want to get mad at someone speak to God about your issues. Thank you — Maranatha

I have said that I am not a prophet, however, I do believe that God has given me enough common sense to foresee the possibility of what this country may face this fall and winter. There have now been over 2 million people from Central America, Africa and parts of Europe to travel across our southern border and come into this nation without any type of test for drug activity, terrorist intent or gang control. Not only that, but you have no idea what inoculations they have received and what diseases they have no protection against. To top this off, once they crossed the border they went through limited processing, then were placed on buses or planes in the middle of the night, and sent to cities throughout our nation. Our government nor policy makers, can tell you where these millions of people are or what they are doing.

Consider this just in the arena of disease: The polio virus has been detected in waste water in both New York city and in Los Angeles. One case of paralysis has already occurred in New York. Over this fall and winter a polio outbreak could occur and spreads like the Coronavirus or monkey pox. The childhood diseases of measles, mumps and whooping cough may all have outbreaks and we begin to see children dying from the measles. These things haven't happened in our nation in years. Americans have inoculated everyone prior to reaching school age against these diseases. Polio and most childhood diseases have been brought under complete control in our land. However, we have no idea about those who have crossed over our southern border. Could we ever find all those people and inoculate them for these diseases? I seriously doubt it!



Here are four segments of scriptures that should give you some idea of what I'm trying to tell you and get you to understand. The first comes from Ezekiel 7:23-27, <sup>23</sup> "Forge a chain! For the land is full of bloody crimes and the city is full of violence. <sup>24</sup> I will bring the worst of the nations to take possession of their houses. I will put an end to the pride of the strong, and their holy places shall be profaned. <sup>25</sup> When anguish comes, they will seek peace, but there shall be none. <sup>26</sup> Disaster comes upon disaster; rumor follows rumor. They seek a vision from the prophet, while the law perishes from the priest and counsel from the elders. <sup>27</sup> The king mourns, the prince is wrapped in despair, and the hands of the people of the land are paralyzed by terror. According to their way I will do to them, and according to their judgments I will judge them, and they shall know that I am the Lord." (ESV)

Don't we see this happening all over our nation today? We discussed the issue of abortion earlier in this work, isn't that bloody crimes? Don't we see the hate and rioting from many on the left over the abortion and same sex marriage issues? Isn't God bringing the worst of the nations to our land to take over what we had? Doesn't God say, through the prophet, that He will put an end to pride of the strong? Doesn't God continue and say that He will profane their holy places? Those are not churches that God is speaking about. Those are the false new gods that mankind has set up to take the place of a Holy God. Doesn't it say that disaster comes upon disaster and rumor follows rumor?

Our next scripture passage is Matthew 24:21-27, <sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. <sup>22</sup> And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. <sup>23</sup> Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. <sup>24</sup> For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. <sup>25</sup> See, I have told you beforehand. <sup>26</sup> So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. <sup>27</sup> For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (ESV) Follow that passage with the passage from 2 Peter 3:3-7, <sup>3</sup> knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. <sup>4</sup> They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." <sup>5</sup> For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, <sup>6</sup> and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. <sup>7</sup> But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. (ESV) Now return back to Ezekiel and view chapter 12, verses 26-28, <sup>26</sup> And the word of the Lord came to me: <sup>27</sup> "Son of man, behold, they of the house of Israel say, 'The vision that he sees is for many days from now, and he prophesies of times far off.' <sup>28</sup> Therefore say to them, Thus says the Lord God: None of my words will be delayed any longer, but the word that I speak will be performed, declares the Lord God." (ESV)

I will now start another portion of this work and show you some of the running commentary that is recorded in the ESV Bible. This is a teaching project to show you a little more of the Old Testament. Read on, you might find knowledge, history, prophecy and truth in what is said. This will begin on the next right hand page (page 23).



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In an attempt to get you to understand the need to know the Bible, on the Old Testament side, I'm using the book of Job as my illustration. I choose Job because I can show history, knowledge of the running commentary writer for the ESV, and understanding of prophecy in its fulfillment in the New Testament. The first article will provide the **Purpose** for the book of Job.

The book of Job looks at every side of the age-old question, "If God is fair and loving, why does He allow truly righteous people—like Job—to suffer so deeply?" In his search, the author reveals the following truths. (1) As an enemy of God, Satan had to receive permission to test the true nature of a godly man's faith by bringing terrible trouble upon him. However, God's grace triumphed over suffering because Job remained faithful, even when he saw no reason to remain committed to God since there appeared to be no benefit based on the condition of his health and his wealth. (2) God's actions and reasons are far beyond what the human mind can fully understand. Because we do not see things from God's complete and perfect point of view, we have a need for God to reveal Himself and His purposes to us. (3) The true foundation for our faith in God is not built on His blessings, our circumstances or the answers that we can understand with our minds. It is built on complete dependence on God and trust in how He has revealed Himself to us (which He does mostly through His Word). (4) God sometimes permits Satan to test godly people with great trials in order to strengthen their faith and purify their lives. This is similar to how fire makes gold pure and beautiful. This kind of spiritual testing builds integrity (i.e., moral character) and humility in God's people. (5) Though God's actions may at times seem dark and cruel (as Job himself thought), in the end God's compassion and mercy are made clear.

The second article provides an understanding of the **Special Features** of the book of Job. Seven major features characterize the book of Job. (1) Job, a native of northern Arabia, was a righteous and God-honoring non-Israelite, living perhaps before Israel's founding family (Abraham) even existed. (2) It is the deepest and most insightful book ever written dealing with the mystery of suffering. As dramatic poetry, the book's drama contains heartbreaking tragedy, stimulating and intellectual dialogue and joyous acknowledgment that God is supreme above all things and is working out His purpose for our lives. (3) It is this: while Satan attempts to destroy people's faith, God is at work to prove, deepen and strengthen it. Because of Job's determined faith, no matter how hopeless things seemed, God's purpose triumphed over Satan's persecution. (4) It adds valuable insight into the Biblical explanation of subjects such as God, humankind, creation, Satan, sin, righteousness, suffering, justice, repentance and faith. (5) A large portion of the book records the faulty reasoning and misjudgment of Job's friends about his character and suffering. Their imperfect, human reasoning about why Job suffered is repeated often in this book. Perhaps God wants believers (and all of humankind) to see this mirror of our own thoughts as we misjudge difficult circumstances and the reasons for them. Perhaps this is where we can start adjusting our views about the reason for suffering. (6) Satan's role as "accuser" of the righteous is revealed in the book of Job more than in any other Old Testament book. Of the 19 times Satan is referred to by name in the Old Testament, 14 of these occur in Job. (7) Job dramatically presents the Biblical principle that people are completely changed by God's revelation, not people's information.

The third article will demonstrate the **New Testament Fulfillment** of the term "Redeemer" as brought out in the book of Job. The "Redeemer" whom Job confesses, the mediator he desires and the answers to his deepest questions all point prophetically to Jesus Christ. As God's appointed Redeemer (i.e., Savior, Rescuer, Restorer), mediator and healer, Jesus identified with human suffering. A prophecy about Christ's coming and final victory over suffering and death is found in 19:25-27. Job is referred to twice in the New Testament: (1) a portion of the book of Job is quoted in 1 Cor. 3:19; and (2) Job is held up as an example of patience and perseverance through suffering that finally revealed God's merciful purposes. Job is the clearest Old Testament picture of the New Testament truth illustrating that when Christians experience suffering or persecution, they must stay strong in faith and keep trusting God to

work through their situations, just as Jesus relied on His Father when He suffered. Job 1:6-2:10 is perhaps the best picture of our enemy, Satan, and how he seeks to destroy us as described in 1 Peter 5:8-9.

Just for the purpose of information: the ESV (FireBible) contains 2297 pages to present the entire Bible through the book of Revelation. After Revelation there is a table of weights and measures, a subject index, a themefinder™ index, a read the Bible in a year guide, a concordance and 16 maps. I'm impressed with the layout and the ease of reading the Bible through a more contemporary English translation. If you are looking for a new Bible, or have never had a Bible you may want to check out this one.

I can only pray that what God has sent to me to record for you is meaningful and that these words give you a better understanding of the mercy and love that God has for all of His creation. God, nor I as a writer, intend to harm you in any way. Satan desires to destroy and to kill and that means your very soul. God wants you to repent of your humanistic ideas and ways and return to His plan for your life. I will attempt to make one more point before I close this work. If the society in the United States pushes for the reinstatement of the Roe vs Wade abortion law, I can almost guarantee that God will declare His cup is full and the punishment for disobedience, as outlined in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28, will come into play and you can count on these seven curses to happen to this nation:

- 1) Terrorist attacks
- 2) More Diseases
- 3) Famine and Hunger
- 4) Default in the National Debt
- 5) Defeat of Our Military
- 6) Cities Devastated
- 7) Slavery Under Other Nations

There is a choice! This nation can repent and return to a God fearing nation that our forefathers established, or we can continue in our marching to hell by our own choice and this will be the results. It is up to us. Make a good choice!





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