

Abundant Life Rest Assured

Book Three in the Abundant Life Series



Rev. Charles E. Darnell, Ph.D.



Book Three

of

The Abundant Life Series

Rest Assured

Fulfillment of the promises



Rev. Charles E. Darnell, PhD



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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.

Cover: The Annunciation by Robert Campin, 1425-28, New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, Cloisters Collection

Note the circle on the left side (my emphasis via the circle) as the Cherub enters the room carrying the small cross to Mary.

Introduction

As I observe people and ask them about their relationship with God, I seem to hear a lot about how they could, or would, believe more if they were assured that what they believe is true. It seems each of us desires the same thing in some degree. We want to be assured that the decisions we make are correct. We want to know what we believe is accurate, and, it seems, more and more, we want to know that the choice we have made in believing Jesus is without a question the way to get to heaven!

It is not for me to tell you if the decisions you have made are right or wrong. Heaven only knows, I have made some pretty stupid decisions in my lifetime. I must live with my decisions, just as you must live with yours. In like manner, I cannot judge what you believe, or tell you whether it is correct. I can say for a fact that your decisions are correct for you, otherwise, why else would you have made them?

However, I can tell you without any reservation that your choice to believe in Jesus as Christ and Lord is the correct one to make! Now, let me tell you, up front, that this is not a theological viewpoint from some form of training, for it isn't! This is the assured knowledge that what I know is true, when it comes to knowing that **Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of the World, and God's only Son!**

That's easy for me to say, but that is not the reason for this work. What do I think I know, that I can show you, and to assure you that every word in the Bible is based on truth? Yes, I can tell you even now there are verses in the Bible that are truly stated, but are not statements of truth. Have I confused you? I haven't intended to do so, however, I do need to tell you there are some things written in the Bible that came from inspired men. We must remember, even though they were inspired, they were still men, and capable of making an error in what they thought and in what they wrote! Yet, the plan God intended for mankind to have and to understand will come through every error individuals may find in this wonderful work we call the Bible.

When you accepted Jesus as Savior, you were given a measure of faith! Romans 12:3, *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.* It is up to us to work with this gift so we may increase our faith.

Look at the following verses to see that faith can be increased. In this first series of verses, Paul is speaking about Abraham. Romans 4:10-25, *How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised. And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised.*

For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect, because the

law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.

Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all (as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, “So shall your descendants be.”

And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.” Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

*In this second series of verses Paul is again speaking about Abraham and the subject of our faith. Notice in verse one that Paul writes this to the Galatians, but for emphasis I'm going to change one word. My insert is in parens. Galatians 3:1-14, *O foolish Galatians (believers)! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.” So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.**

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.” But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.” Yet the law is not of faith, but “the man who does them shall live by them.” Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Hopefully you are beginning to see where our journey will take us. Yes! We are going to look at Abraham, Moses, Paul and Jesus to find assurance in what the Bible says. Lastly, I want you to understand that the Bible is a very large puzzle that takes years to master. I cannot give you everything you may desire to know, but I can give you the benefit of all my years as a Christian (since 1957) and the concentrated effort of the last 25 years of study within the Bible. This material is a view for all laypeople who desire to know more about God's Word.



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The Whole Truth, Nothing More, Nothing Less!

The purpose of this chapter is to get you, the reader, to think. We attempt to do this with the pure simple truth contained in the Bible. NOTE: When I use the plural in this chapter, I am speaking of three men who have worked together on the genealogy of Jesus: Royce Burns, Robert McMullan, Sr. and myself. We do not interject dogma, spirituality or theology into this. We are simply giving you the words of the Bible in a manner we hope you understand.

In our view, the key to understanding the Bible rests in the genealogy recorded therein. By, and through this genealogy, the reality of history becomes a matter of fact. Once this is achieved, the reality that these are real people, who lived real lives on the earth becomes the next step. When this is realized, the final step is that the stories of the Bible are true.

However, we have also understood there are stumbling blocks in the way to understanding the Bible and we believe we have been shown how to remove some of them. That is our goal, the things we will show you are in the Bible and not from us. It is the history of the Hebrew people from the Bible and nothing more. Before we begin, there is one other point we would like to make. Interpretations of the Bible are like rumors, everyone wants to hear the story, but once told, it seems to get changed when told to another. Everyone is an individual, with the ability to interpret the Bible as they see it as a free moral agent of God.

Once again, we are not attempting to interpret anything. We are using the Bible as the verses of the New King James Version are written to show you these keys. In a statement above, we indicated the key to understanding the Bible rests in understanding the genealogy in the Bible. We really must clarify even this statement. There are many genealogies in the Bible, but there is only one that needs to be fully understood, the genealogy of Jesus.

Who is this man named Jesus? Is He a real person and are the stories in the Bible real history? Yes! In both cases, the Bible is the early history of God's chosen people as a whole, and the facts recorded should lead one to understand that the man we know as Jesus was a real, living, breathing person.

Over the course of many years, we have seen other genealogies presented as being the genealogy of Jesus. It seems interesting to Mr. Burns, Mr. McMullan and myself that each of us have worked on our own version of the genealogy of Jesus. When we finally met one another, it was these genealogies that opened the door to our understanding. Our genealogies about Jesus were different from all the rest, and we immediately realized we had something different in our understanding.

We have studied each other's material and have drawn certain conclusions that we now desire to share with others. First, and foremost, we ask that you set your traditions aside. Traditions have their place, but when they read contrary to what is recorded in the Bible, we feel they become very misleading and represent one of the stumbling blocks.

Our first stumbling block is the various spellings of a name for the same person in different translations. The fact is you may even find different spellings for the same individual in different verses in the same Bible. For an example take the name Zerubbabel, as spelled in the NKJV. In another translation you may find the spelling as Zorobabel, and yet, the verse location is the same, only the translated version is changed. An example of the name being spelled differently and still be the same person can be Salmon in Matthew 1:4

(NKJV). Now turn to 1 Chronicles 2:11 (NKJV) and the same person is there spelled as Salma. These are one and the same person.

Illustration 1 on the next page contains the genealogy of Jesus. The names go from Adam to Jesus. Please turn there now. There are several things we would like for you to understand. These are only names, and by themselves they make little sense, and contain nothing with which to relate. That was what we thought when we began our own discovery. There are several places in the King James Bible that has this person begetting another, who begat another, and so forth. There is no wonder there are so few people who have taken the time to break the seal on this hidden knowledge and study what is there. Old English is not easy to understand and we certainly feel it becomes a work of love to even attempt to understand the vernacular of the time the King James Bible was translated. Thus, we have taken the New King James Version (NKJV) as our source of information for this study. Even so, there remains stumbling blocks that seem to come into this that only cause confusion. For the moment, let us explain more of *Illustration 1*. The top portion of the vertical is the lineage (or genealogy) down to King David.

It is at this point we find another stumbling block. There is a genealogy for Jesus in both Matthew and in Luke, but they do not match. Do you understand why these two genealogies of Jesus do not contain the same information? What is the answer? There are several answers we have found.

First, the Bible tells us that Jesus was born of a virgin, that he must be in the line from King David, and of the house of Judah. We know from the top portion of this vertical lineage that King David was from the house of Judah, therefore that portion of the prophecy is already fulfilled. The question becomes: How was Jesus born of a virgin and still in the lineage of King David?

We find the answer in the text itself. In the Matthew lineage we read in verse 1:16 the following,

And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

From this statement we have understood that the Matthew account is the genealogy of Joseph and we see that Joseph's line goes back to King David in verse 6:

And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias;

We still have a problem! If this is the line of Joseph, how does Jesus fit into it to get back to King David? We saw in verse 16 above that it says, "*Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.*" However, if God's Word is true, we have to find another way for Jesus to be in the lineage back to King David. The only way for that to be, is through Mary, the mother of Christ and a virgin. It is at this point we have two other stumbling blocks to enter the picture.

In our study of multiple charts prepared and presented as the genealogy of Jesus, we see many who tie the lines of Matthew and Luke together and indicate both are the genealogy of Joseph. We feel we must show you from where this comes and then challenge your thinking. In the verses of the Gospel of Luke, we find the following recorded in 3:23.

And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli.

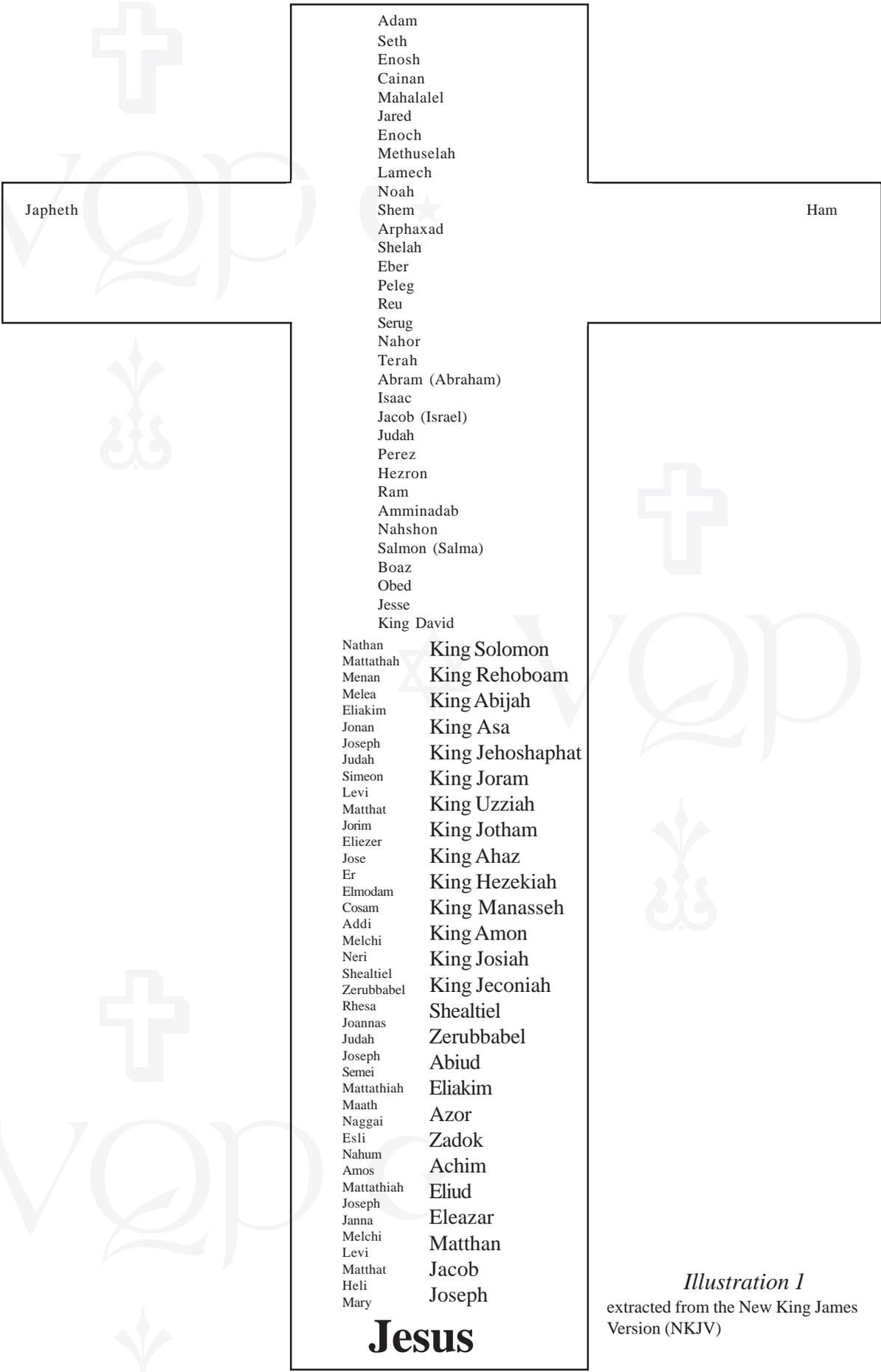


Illustration 1
extracted from the New King James
Version (NKJV)

The problem and the solution both rest in this one verse. We see that it reads, “*being the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli.*” That is how the stumbling block has been placed in this verse because that is how many people read this verse. It is in the manner of this reading that there are many who tie this lineage and the lineage in the Gospel of Matthew together, and say they both represent the lineage of Joseph. Now, go back and read this verse the way it is recorded, “*being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli.*”

When you read the verse as it is written, there is a question that should come to everyone’s mind. What does, “as was supposed,” mean? Does that tell you the normal thinking is that Joseph is the father of Jesus? However, that is not the case, thus, the insertion of the word supposed. Therefore, can this really be the lineage for Joseph?

There is another answer for this question. What about common sense? Can you say you have two natural fathers? Then why have we permitted traditions to tell us this about Jesus? Every person, and every chart on the genealogy of Jesus, who ties these two lines together, is saying Joseph had two different natural fathers, one being Jacob and the other being Heli. Are you still confused?

If you still don’t think that is what is being said, then go back and look at the two verses we are talking about in Matthew 1:16 and Luke 3:23. Matthew 1:16 tells you the father of Joseph is Jacob and Luke 3:23 tells you the father of Joseph is Heli? How can this be? Either we have the greatest of all miracles of the Bible, that a man can have two natural fathers, or we are seeing two different lineages presented. Mr. Burns, Mr. McMullan and myself have concluded that the latter statement is the correct thought.

There is another stumbling block inserted at this point. For failure to understand the separation of the two lineages, and the traditional creation that Joseph had two natural fathers, we have even a more pressing question presented in some denominations and on some genealogy charts for the lineage of Jesus. Who are Anna and Joachin? Since the separation of the lineages is not accepted, by some denominations, there are those who have injected parents for Mary, the mother of Jesus, and name them Anna and Joachin. Strangely, there is no mention of these two persons in any verse in Scripture, and it is even stranger that these two names did not come into the vogue of tradition until the 600s CE.

This being the case, we must once again use our common sense. Is tradition now trying to say that for six hundred years Mary did not have parents? Wouldn’t these traditions also be saying that Jesus’ birth did not fulfill prophecy? We ask this because, if the lineages recorded in Matthew and Luke are for Joseph, how does Jesus tie back to King David through his mother? To assign parents for Mary would only make the Messiah a lie, as there would be no lineage for Jesus through the virgin birth on his mother’s side.

Once again, the answer rests in those three little words in Luke 3:23, “... (as was supposed)...” The account in Luke represents the lineage of Mary and this line goes back to Nathan, Solomon’s brother. Scripture is true because both of these sons, Solomon and Nathan, are the sons of David and Bathsheba!

That answers our first step in understanding. As we stressed earlier we are not injecting our own theology into this work. In fact, Mr. Burns, Mr. McMullan and myself do not feel that way, however, it seems to sound that we are, because we are interpreting verses from the Bible. We are only asking you to read what is there, in total, and then to think and interpret for yourselves with common sense and not listening to traditions. The next step is

to understand that the names recorded on *Illustration 1* are taken directly from the Bible. We have only recorded what is there and have not changed anything!

We would like to make note of the only emphasis we made on *Illustration 1*. If we go back to the point where you find Noah, we see the direct line for Jesus' genealogy is through Shem, however, when we add the other two sons of Noah, we should be able to understand that all the peoples of the earth had to be blessed at this point. God blessed Noah and his sons in Genesis 9:1, *So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth."* Once we draw an outline around these names, you should have a pretty good understanding of what the final answer for God's blessing upon mankind really is.

Illustration 2, on the next page, is the same list of names you will find on *Illustration 1*, with the following changes. First, we removed the outline, removed Japheth and Ham and finally spread out the bottom so we could add other information. Now behind each name, there is a Bible verse reference given so you may confirm that each and every name we are using does indeed come from the Bible. In so doing, we come to another stumbling block in the understanding of the genealogy of Jesus. There are two names that appear in both lineages, the Matthew account and the Luke account. Notice as you read the Matthew account in verse 12 the following: *And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel.*

Now, turn over to Luke and read in Luke 3:27 the following: *The son of Joannas, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri.*

In every work we have seen, outside of our own, we find the writer, and/or researcher, has tied the lineages together at the name Zerubbabel. Once again, we must ask if the possibility exists for a man to have two natural fathers? In this case, the situation is not even in agreement with the traditional presentation. The person who would have to have two natural fathers is not Zerubbabel, but his father, Shealtiel.

Look at the verses we are referencing and note carefully what each verse says. In Matthew the verse, again reads, *And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel.*

Once again, turn over to Luke and read in Luke 3:27 the following: *The son of Joannas, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri.*

Wouldn't the two fathers of Shealtiel be Jeconiah in the Matthew account and Neri in the Luke account? We are going to say this again! That is what tradition, and/or those who present the information in this manner, are saying. **There is no way these two people are one and the same!** Here is the reason why! Historians of the very early church did not understand that the lineage given in Matthew was for Joseph and the lineage given in Luke was for Mary. They had to define something someplace to permit the prophecy to be correct. They knew there had to be a virgin birth and the fact that Jesus had to be a descendant of King David. One flaw was to try and establish that both the Matthew account and the Luke account pertained to Joseph. Prophecy lost in that presentation and something else had to be found. Therefore, the names of Shealtiel and Zerubbabel became the connection point to connect the Luke account with the Matthew account. Thus Zerubbabel, the signet, became the person that tied Jesus back to King David through the lineage of the kings of Judah. **WRONG ANSWER!** Now we have two thousand years of tradition stating a lie, or a deception, and the truth is lost. How are we three going to get you to understand and accept the truth? Only by faith and the guidance of the Holy Spirit toward you. What would common sense tell you if you were researching your own ancestry

Abbreviations

G=Genesis

1 Ch=1 Chronicles

Mt=Matthew

Lk=Luke

Adam G 5:1
Seth G 5:3
Enosh G 5:6
Cainan G 5:9
Mahalalel G 5:12
Jared G 5:15
Enoch G 5:18
Methuselah G 5:21
Lamech G 5:25
Noah G 5:29
Shem G 5:32
Arphaxad 1 Ch 1:17, 24
Shelah 1 Ch 1:24
Eber 1 Ch 1:25
Peleg 1 Ch 1:25
Reu 1 Ch 1:25
Serug 1 Ch 1:26
Nahor 1 Ch 1:26
Terah 1 Ch 1:26
Abram (Abraham) 1 Ch 1:26; Mt 1:2
Isaac Mt 1:2
Jacob (Israel) Mt 1:2
Judah Mt 1:2
Perez Mt 1:3
Hezron Mt 1:3
Ram Mt 1:3
Amminadab Mt 1:4
Nahshon Mt 1:4
Salmon (Salma) Mt 1:4
Boaz Mt 1:5
Obed Mt 1:5
Jesse Mt 1:5
King David Mt 1:6

Nathan Lk 3:31
Mattathah Lk 3:31
Menan Lk 3:31
Melea Lk 3:31
Eliakim Lk 3:30
Jonan Lk 3:30
Joseph Lk 3:30
Judah Lk 3:30
Simeon Lk 3:30
Levi Lk 3:29
Matthat Lk 3:29
Jorim Lk 3:29
Eliezer Lk 3:29
Jose Lk 3:29
Er Lk 3:28
Elmodam Lk 3:28
Cosam Lk 3:28
Addi Lk 3:28
Melchi Lk 3:28
Neri Lk 3:27
Shealtiel Lk 3:27
Zerubbabel Lk 3:27
Rhesa Lk 3:27
Joannas Lk 3:27
Judah Lk 3:26
Joseph Lk 3:26
Semei Lk 3:26
Mattathiah Lk 3:26
Maath Lk 3:26
Naggai Lk 3:25
Eslie Lk 3:25
Nahum Lk 3:25
Amos Lk 3:25
Mattathiah Lk 3:25
JosEphesians Lk 3:24
Janna Lk 3:24
Melchi Lk 3:24
Levi Lk 3:24
Matthat Lk 3:24
Heli Lk 3:23
Mary (wife of Joseph)

Lk 3:23

King Solomon Mt 1:6
King Rehoboam Mt 1:7
King Abijah Mt 1:7
King Asa Mt 1:7
King Jehoshaphat Mt 1:8
King Joram Mt 1:8
King Uzziah Mt 1:8
King Jotham Mt 1:9
King Ahaz Mt 1:9
King Hezekiah Mt 1:10
King Manasseh Mt 1:10
King Amon Mt 1:10
King Josiah Mt 1:10
King Jeconiah Mt 1:11
Shealtiel Mt 1:12
Zerubbabel Mt 1:12
Abiud Mt 1:13
Eliakim Mt 1:13
Azor Mt 1:13
Zadok Mt 1:14
Achim Mt 1:14
Eliud Mt 1:14
Eleazar Mt 1:15
Matthan Mt 1:15
Jacob Mt 1:16
Joseph Mt 1:16

Jesus Mt 1:16

Illustration 2

extracted from the New King James
Version (NKJV)

and you found in both your mother's line and your father's line that there is a person named John? Do you jump to the conclusion that John is the same person and is in both your mother and father's line even though the father for one John is named differently from the other John? In like manner, why do you accept the presentation handed down by tradition without even a question? How can a person have two separate and distinct natural fathers?

The joke on those who accept tradition is the tie point established because of the word, signet that doesn't even refer to the person who would have to be the miracle person. The tie person in the traditional presentation is Zerubbabel and not his father Shealtiel. Once again, there must be an answer in the text itself, and we feel there is in the Matthew account. Read, once again, Matthew 1:12, "*And after they were brought to Babylon,...*" This doesn't read the same in the Luke account. If we are speaking of the same person, wouldn't this clause either be a good identifier, or a means to distinguish between two different people? With the addition of the reference verses, we hope you are starting to see these are real people who lived real lives upon the earth.

There is still one part missing that mankind plays with so much, and yet, they have not taken the time to add this one factor to the words of the Bible. Where is the factor of time? We should understand this is not an issue to God. Time is an issue to mankind! Yet, we do not want to see that when time is added to our illustration, the rest of history starts to fall into its proper place.

We will admit, even before we present *Illustration 3*, there is yet another stumbling block that even we are not sure how to answer. When mankind speaks of time, what dating system are we to use? We can find different dates for different events in different reference works. What may appear in one encyclopedia may not appear in another, and what may appear in the history studied in one part of the world may differ in another. What is the truth and what is to be the standard? We must also state that there were periods of time when there were co-heirs reigning over Judah and some dates overlap.

After many hours of research we have come together with a common thought that the standard we desire to use is the Bible itself, with the birth of Abraham, 2166 BCE, as defined by many sources (see *Illustration 3*). We now have a starting point that represents a distinct point upon the time line of history that allows us to move both forward and backward from this point. When we do this we can clearly see the connection between the people of the Bible and the events of history. We understand the occurrence of civilized man in the Indus Valley after the Tower of Babel. We can also visualize the Maya and the Inca civilizations in South America. We can recognize the time of the flood and the history of God's people after that date. Once we added our three pieces of information, the Bible became clear in its presentation of the history of God's chosen people. We understood these were real stories, about real people who lived real lives, and the final character that all these stories were leading to was the man we call Jesus.

We also had to come to the reality that the names listed in Matthew do not include the names of all those who reigned as king or queen over Judah. There are seven individuals that are not in the Matthew account and we have made a note to identify them on *Illustration 3*. Our findings indicate that the reason for this difference is because those left out have nothing to do with the direct lineage of Jesus. Those left out of Matthew's account may be a brother, nephew, wife or uncle of a predecessor and not in the direct ancestral lineage.

Extracted from:
 The Bible Almanac
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This information is from the best sources we could find and we can only show you what we know. The fact is we may never know the full history until we get to heaven.

The left list may be royal, however, they are not kingly, thus their life span is shorter and there are more generations to Christ.

Nathan 1000 BCE
 Mattathah
 Menan
 Melea
 Eliakim
 Jonan
 Joseph
 Judah
 Simeon
 Levi
 Matthat
 Jorim
 Eliezer
 Jose
 Er
 Elmodam
 Cosam
 Addi
 Melchi
 Neri
 Shealtiel
 Zerubbabel
 Rhesa
 Joannas
 Judah
 Joseph
 Semei
 Mattathiah
 Maath
 Naggai
 Esli
 Nahum
 Amos
 Mattathiah
 JosEphesians
 Janna
 Melchi
 Levi
 Matthat
 Heli Approx. 50 BCE
 Mary Approx. 20 BCE

Illustration 3

Adam 4112 - 3182 BCE
 Seth 3982 - 3070
 Enosh 3877 - 2972
 Cainan 3787 - 2877
 Mahalalel 3717 - 2822
 Jared 3652 - 2690
 Enoch 3490 - 3125
 Methuselah 3425 - 2456 Died in the year of the flood
 Lamech 3238 - 2461
 Noah 3056 - 2106 Flood occurred 2456.
 Shem 2556 - 1956
 Arphaxad 2453 - 2015
 Shelah 2421 - 1988
 Eber 2391 - 1927
 Peleg 2357 - 2118
 Reu 2327 - 2088
 Serug 2295 - 2065
 Nahor 2265 - 2117
 Terah 2236 - 2031
 Abram (Abraham) 2166 - 1886
 Isaac 2066 - 1886
 Jacob (Israel) 2006 - 1859
 Judah 1935 ?
 Perez
 Hezron
 Ram
 Amminadab
 Nahshon
 Salmon (Salma)
 Boaz
 Obed
 Jesse
 King David 1041 - 971 Reigned 1011 - 971

NOTE: All dates are shown in BCE!

The right list is the kingly line and as pampered people they lived longer, thus fewer generations to Christ.

King Solomon Reign 971 - 931
 King Rehoboam Reign 931 - 914
 King Abijah Reign 914 - 911
 King Asa Reign 911 - 870
 King Jehoshaphat Reign 873 - 848
 King Joram Reign 853 - 841
 *King Uzziah Reign 791 - 739
 King Jotham Reign 750 - 736
 King Ahaz Reign 736 - 716
 King Hezekiah Reign 729 - 687
 King Manasseh Reign 697 - 643
 King Amon Reign 643 - 641
 King Josiah Reign 641 - 610
 **King Jeconiah Reign 598 - 597
 *** Shealtiel lived approx. 586 ?
 Zerubbabel lived approx. 566 - 516
 Abiud * King Ahaziah 843 - 842
 Eliakim Queen Athaliah 842 - 836
 Azor King Joash 836 - 797
 Zadok King Amaziah 797 - 768
 Achim ** King Jehoahaz 3 mos. 609
 Eliud King Jehoiakim 609 - 598
 Eleazar *** King Zedekiah 597 - 586
 Matthan
 Jacob
 Joseph Approx. 50 BCE

Jesus Born approx. 5 BCE

We, finally, understood what was meant by mankind having only one blood type. It's not by race (i.e. black man's blood, or white man's blood, or yellow man's blood, or red man's blood, or even brown man's blood), it is all human blood and that is the significance in a nutshell! We are all human and there is no distinction within God's plan for any specific race!

We understood the original promised covenant between God and Abraham stating that all races would be blessed through Abraham. Look at any of the three illustrations we have presented. There is but one vertical lineage: If we are to say Jesus was an Israelite; King David an Israelite; Abraham an Israelite; then we must say Noah was an Israelite; and Adam was an Israelite. The blessing from God to Abraham pertained to: One direct race! One direct People! One promise from God to Abraham that all the people of the earth would be blessed through him!

The shame of the deception is that, in many quarters, it appears no one wants to be associated with the Israelites because they are thought of as Jews. Yet, we are all blessed by and through the Israelites. That means every Christian, every Moslem, every American, every race, every color and every creed upon the earth. There are none left out! We desire no one to deceive you, yet, we understand this is Satan's mission: To deceive the Church as much as possible. Therefore, **with regard to this chapter**, we make the following statement:

This is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God! (As it pertains to the genealogy of Jesus.)

This is our oath to you. We believe we have been blessed to understand these truths and we desire to make them plain so you may think, read, and draw your own conclusion from Biblical text and not from hidden traditions that have never been proven.



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God's Covenant with Abraham

Let us now look at Abraham, Moses, Paul, and of course, Jesus, as we consider how we are assured of the truth promised in the Bible. First let us look at the covenant made between God and Abraham.

Various peoples in many parts of the world say they are not Hebrew (Israelite). In America, many say they are of European descent, or Afro-American, or Hispanic or Asian-American, and no one, outside the Jewish community, would think to call themselves of Hebrew descent. But, what does the Bible, and history itself, tell us?

Look at the covenant given to Abraham in Genesis 17:4-7, *“As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.”*

The first thing to understand is the word Me in verse 4. This word Me refers to God speaking to Abram. In verse 5 God changes this man's name to Abraham. Again, understand the emphasis God made toward the blessing of all the earth through Abraham. In these verses it will not matter which verse you want to look at, each will tell you the same thing, Abraham shall be a father of many nations. In verse 4, *“..., and you shall be a father of many nations.”* In verse 5, *“...; for I have made you a father of many nations.”* In verse 6, *“...; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.”* However, the greatest assurance comes to us from verse 7, *“And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.”*

Look very carefully at verse 7. First, notice the covenant is between God and Abraham, *“... I will establish My covenant between Me and you ...”* Secondly, notice the covenant is to be passed from generation to generation, *“... and your descendants after you in their generations, ...”* Finally, understand and know this is an everlasting covenant, *“..., for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.”* Do you comprehend what this means to us? The covenant is still in existence and **has not** been revoked. Everyone, who is a descendant of Abraham, has been blessed through this covenant.

There will be many who say this covenant existed or exists only for the Jews. They will say the remaining portion of Chapter 17 of Genesis will show this. Genesis 17:8-27, *“Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”*

And God said to Abraham: “As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your

descendant. He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.”

Then God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her.”

Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” And Abraham said to God, “Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!”

Then God said: “No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him. And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year.” Then He finished talking with him, and God went up from Abraham.

So Abraham took Ishmael his son, all who were born in his house and all who were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham’s house, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very same day, as God had said to him. Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. That very same day Abraham was circumcised, and his son Ishmael; and all the men of his house, born in the house or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

There are many things to be brought out in these verses that complete the 17th chapter of Genesis. With the first word in verse 8 there is a very large stumbling block stated for the entire world to see and understand. This one word also indicates there is another part, or portion, of the covenant! Therefore, we must read further to see what else God gave to Abraham (Abram). *“Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”*

Understand the vastness of the land included in this covenant. Turning back to Genesis chapter 13, Abram is found coming out of Egypt, along with his kinsman Lot. We find the land being divided between them as well as their agreeing about who would go in which direction. However, in verses 14-18 we clearly see the territory of land given to Abram by God. Genesis 13:14-18, *And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: “Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are; northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.”*

Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD.

Even these verses do not illustrate the amount of land that falls under the covenant with Abraham. Look at Genesis 15:18-21, *On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates; the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."*

Let's reverse the order of these two references and consider the second reference in Chapter 15 first. Maybe, by doing this, we can understand how large the land territory given to Abraham really is. The reference in Chapter 15 includes the land belonging to all these identified groups of people. It also indicates that this parcel of land goes from the Nile River to the Euphrates River. Now, turn back to the first reference in Chapter 13 because we have two important verses in the first reference. First, notice in verse 15 that this portion of land represents all the land that Abraham could see northward, southward, eastward and westward. Taking these two verses together I have to admit that God could see further than Abraham and the statement pertaining to all the land between the Nile and Euphrates Rivers becomes significant.

From a geographical viewpoint these two descriptions would cover a territory from the eastern side of Lake Nasser on the border between Egypt and Sudan. The land area continues eastward across the Red Sea and the Northern half of Saudi Arabia into Kuwait to

Warbah Island where the Euphrates River empties into the Persian Gulf. At this point we turn northward and follow along the western bank of the Euphrates River traveling just west of Baghdad in Iraq and continuing northwest toward Halab in Syria. The problem, at this point, is this: Do we turn back toward the southwest to meet with the mouth of the Nile Delta in Egypt or do we continue further north into the modern day country of Turkey to Lake Van and the head waters of the Euphrates River and then turn back to the southwest? Either way we must turn back to the southwest and meet the Nile Delta at Cairo and then travel along the eastern bank of the Nile River back to our starting point at Lake Nasser. That represents a vast amount of land and I feel few people really understand its size or magnitude. Therefore, for the sake of clarification I'm inserting a map of the Middle East showing the vastness of the promise of land God gave to Abram.



The Land Promised to Abram by God

Notice that this land is given to Abraham's descendants forever. In verse 16, we see a reference to the number of descendants to come from Abraham. Biblical text reads, *"And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number*

*the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.” Isn’t that an innumerable number? The question remains: Does this number only represent the descendants of the Jewish lineage? Many people in both the Christian and Moslem communities will say that this only applies to the Jewish people and not to them. They will say I overlooked other verses in Chapter 17, especially in verses 15 and 16, *Then God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her.”* My reply would have to be that common sense tells me there is a problem. Look carefully at verse 16. The text indicates Sarah will be “... *a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her.*” If we are only speaking about the Jewish nation, why is the plural term nations used, and why would it indicate the plural kings of peoples if we were speaking of only one nation (or one race of people)?*

I hear another question about the verses that have been overlooked. Doesn’t it say in verses 19 and 21 this covenant will be established through Isaac? *Then God said: “No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.” . . . “But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year.”* Yes! That is correct! However, in presenting these two verses in this manner, verse 20 becomes the overlooked verse. Text of verse 20 reads, “*And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation*”

I seem to hear a dissenting reply indicating I forgot about the verses in Galatians 4:22-23, 30, *For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, . . . Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.”*

But wait, don’t I hear from the Islamic community that this is not right and they are taught a different view? Yes! They are taught a different view! They are told it was not through Isaac that the promise came to them, it was through Ishmael, and that it was Ishmael who Abraham offered as the sacrifice, and not Isaac. They are told it is the Jews who are wrong and they are right. Really, what does the Bible record, and we must remember that the text for the Bible was written long before the Quran? The text of the Prophets became the basis for both the Quran of the Moslem and the Bible of the Christian.

Once again look at verse 20 of Genesis Chapter 17, “*And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.*” We clearly see God also *blessed* Ishmael. Granted, the blessing comes in a different manner that is not associated with this verse and that God, even in love, can use a nation or a people to fit His plan. We also see that Ishmael is to be a *great nation*.

There are certain things we must clear up! First, in the matter of truth! If a truth is stated, it must be the basis for any additional truth that is added. In the case of the Biblical record, anything recorded in the Old Testament (or Pentateuch) must be accepted as the baseline from which to build any later truth. Therefore, since the Biblical record was

established long before the Quran, logic dictates the Quran must build upon the Biblical record and not attempt to destroy that record. To attempt to change that which is already established only adds confusion to the original, or indicates the previous information was a lie. If that is the case, Islam desires everything documented in the Bible to be thrown out as being false. I really don't think so! The logic of common sense tells me if the record in the Bible came first, that must really be what happened. I must also insert the following text from scriptures: Deuteronomy 4:2, *You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.* Deuteronomy 12:32, *Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.* Proverbs 30:5-6, *Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.*

Here is what the Bible tells me in reference to this challenge. 1 Corinthians 14:33, *For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.* This continues in thought in Hebrews. Hebrews 6:13-20, *For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.*

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. From this I gather God does not cause confusion and He cannot lie, thus His Word stands as the origin of truth, and the Quran must align itself to that truth to be additional, inspired words of God and not the other way around.

Secondly, let us examine just how vast this covenant, given to Abraham, really is. We saw one illustration in Genesis 13:16 that the descendants of Abraham would be like the dust of the earth. Genesis 13:16, *"And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered."*

Not only will these descendants be as the dust of the earth, they will also be like the stars of heaven and the sand of the sea. Genesis 28:14, *"Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

Genesis 15:5 reads, *Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."* Additionally, Genesis 22:17 reads, *"Blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies."* Finally, read Genesis 32:12, *"For You said, 'I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'"*



There are many of mankind who, when reading the Bible, see what they want and miss the rest. Understand the magnitude of what Genesis 28:14 implies, *“Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”* Not only would the descendants of Abraham be as the *dust of the earth*, to be *spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south* but that through Jacob and his seed *all the families of the earth shall be blessed*. (In this verse we are seeing the reference being spoken by God to Jacob, Abraham’s grandson.)

How much more assurance do you need? Tell me, when you see the word **all**, what part is left out? Does that mean the Black people are left out? Does that mean the Arabs are left out? Does that mean those who want to be skinheads, or KKK, or even the Nation of Islam and demonstrate hate and anger, are left out? It would seem to me that **all** means everyone now living and from all the ages past. So who is left out? If I accept this as being a truth in God’s Word, I must accept that to some extent, I have Hebrew (Israelite) blood running through my veins, just as everyone else who is alive today has some part of this same blood running through their veins. Another way to see this blessing is through the blood of Jesus. If I am a Christian I have gone through the new birth of my soul and spirit and the blood of Christ is also within me. Christ was certainly an Israelite and thusly, everyone who is a Christian is an Israelite.

One of the greatest mysteries of the Bible lies in its intertwining plan from God for mankind’s salvation. Looking back, I indicated there is a blessing upon the descendants of Ishmael and said it was from an indirect route. Ishmael is the forefather of the Arab World, or in other words, a great nation. This would certainly go back to Abraham as being part of many nations, however, it would not agree with the Galatians account for Sarah. At this point, many Christians say Moslems cannot have a tie to the promises given to Abraham. Not so! The lack of study on the part of Christians coupled with the deception of Satan is the root source of this concept. One must continue to study the genealogy of the Bible to discern the correct answer for all peoples.

Once again, return to the 17th Chapter of Genesis and reread the following, Genesis 17:19, 21, *Then God said: “No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.” . . . “But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year.”* The covenant is established with Isaac and this is confirmed in Genesis Chapter 26. Genesis 26:1-5, *There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.*



Then the LORD appeared to him and said: “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.”

Additionally, this is further confirmed to Jacob in Genesis 35:10-12, *And God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name.” So He called his name Israel. Also God said to him: “I am God*

Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body. The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land.”

How does these verses have a tie to Moslems? To me, there is a very important consideration overlooked in Genesis 26:3-4 where God is speaking to Isaac that leads toward the answer. Genesis 26:3-4, *“Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.”*

In both verses above, the term descendants is used, indicating more than one, or plural. Remember Isaac and Rebecca had two sons and since that is the case, there must be some form of blessing passed to Esau as the other son. I say the other son because the one son is Jacob who becomes Israel. The other son is Esau and it is through Esau that we find the rest of this story.

We find the following recorded in Genesis 28:1-9, *Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: “You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother’s father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother’s brother. May God Almighty bless you, and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may be an assembly of peoples; and give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and your descendants with you, that you may inherit the land in which you are a stranger, which God gave to Abraham.” So Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Padan Aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.*

Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Padan Aram to take himself a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, “You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan,” and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Padan Aram. Also Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac. So Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham’s son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.

Part of our answer is in the 9th verse, *So Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham’s son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.* In this verse we have now tied the lineage of Isaac to the lineage of Ishmael, however, there is still another part of the mystery.

If you ask any Moslem how they tie back to Abraham, they will surely tell you the tie point is Amalek. Now, we need to see who Amalek’s father is and that answer can be found in Genesis 36, *Now Timna was the concubine of Eliphaz, Esau’s son, and she bore Amalek to Eliphaz. These were the sons of Adah, Esau’s wife.* We find our answer hidden in this verse! Amalek is the son of Eliphaz and Eliphaz is the son of Esau. So now we can clarify some of the misguided mystery.

If we look at the religion of Islam, the tie point back to Abraham is Amalek, Amalek the grandson of Esau, and Esau the grandson of Abraham, therefore fulfilling the requirement from Galatians 4. There are many Christians who want to use the bondwoman to identify the

Moslem tie to Abraham. Not so! Galatians 4:22-23, 30, *For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise. . . . Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."*

We see that as a people (race), the inheritance does not belong to the Arab world, however, by the descendantship from the freewoman, all Moslems tie back to the promise given to Abraham. This would certainly fulfill a portion of the covenant that Abraham would be a father to many nations. From this account we now know how the whole of the Arab and Islamic worlds fit into the context of the covenant.

There is another subject we must state to clarify the inheritance promise and a relationship to the Arab and Islamic world. I indicated that the fulfillment of the promise came through an indirect source. This source is one of conflict, of war, of deception and of attitude. In the history of the descendants of Jacob, we can find numerous instances of the descendants of Jacob being against the descendants of Esau. In fact, we can go so far as to say that the descendants of Jacob were to destroy the descendants of Esau, or at least those born from Amalek. Examine the following verses:

Exodus 17:14, *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven."*

Numbers 24:20, *Then he looked on Amalek, and he took up his oracle and said: "Amalek was first among the nations, but shall be last until he perishes."*

Deuteronomy 25:19, *"Therefore it shall be, when the LORD your God has given you rest from your enemies all around, in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance, that you will blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. You shall not forget."*

1 Samuel 15:2-3, *"Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'*

In fact, it can be said God took away the kingship of Saul because of this: 1 Samuel 28:18, *"Because you did not obey the voice of the LORD nor execute His fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you this day."* Now, let us recall that Amalek is the grandson of Esau, who is known as Edom. The wrath God brings upon the Edomites is devastating. Let's put all this into one statement from the Bible: Malachi 1:1-4, *The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi. "I have loved you," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" Says the LORD. "Yet Jacob I have loved; but Esau I have hated, and laid waste his mountains and his heritage for the jackals of the wilderness."*

Even though Edom has said, "We have been impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places."

Thus says the LORD of hosts: "They may build, but I will throw down; they shall be called the Territory of Wickedness, and the people against whom the LORD will have indignation forever."

I indicated there was a blessing indirectly given to the descendants of Esau. We must

remember we are dealing with Old Testament covenants and promises, and understand that a New Covenant can replace an Old Covenant. God made a covenant with Abraham that was an everlasting covenant. We saw that the descendants of Abraham would be like the dust of the earth, so how does the blessing get passed? The answer to that portion of the mystery is the plan of salvation given through God's Son Jesus. John 3:16 reads in the following manner. John 3:16, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* As many times as I have read that verse, I cannot find any statement indicating that any portion of the world is left out of this promise. That would include the Arab World and the Islamic World and both the New World and the Old World mentioned in history books. I did not find any mention of a participating religion that this goes directly toward. If I read what this says, the whole world is invited to enjoy the benefit of salvation through belief in Jesus, the Christ. That would include the descendants of Esau!

We have seen the line of descent through Isaac and Ishmael, but what about the other six sons of Abraham? There are those believing Christians, who tell me that there are no other sons of Abraham. To prove my point, what does the Bible say?

The 25th chapter of Genesis tells us more of how the covenant given to Abraham will be fulfilled. We read from Genesis 25:1-6, *Abraham again took a wife, and her name was Keturah. And she bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. Jokshan begot Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim. And the sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abidah, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah. And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac. But Abraham gave gifts to the sons of the concubines which Abraham had; and while he was still living he sent them eastward, away from Isaac his son, to the country of the east.* So! There really are six additional sons of Abraham who are named, and we also know there are seven grandsons and three great-grandsons that come from this line.

Within this group we have one son that we find in other places in the Bible as being a believer of the Living God. We don't think about the connection. When we read the story of Moses, while going through the preparation period in the wilderness, he married a daughter of Jethro, the priest of Midian. Exodus 3:1, *Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.*

We fail to associate the Midian of the book of Exodus with the son of Abraham named Midian in the book of Genesis, yet, we are speaking of the same person and the descendants of that person. I must admit, that in the passage from Genesis 25, there is a paradox I'm not sure I can answer. In verse one we are told that Keturah is the wife of Abraham, *Abraham again took a wife, and her name was Keturah.* The paradox to me rests in the usage of the terms wife and concubine.

In the passage above concerning the sons of Abraham through Keturah, we read in verse six, *But Abraham gave gifts to the sons of the concubines which Abraham had; and while he was still living he sent them eastward, away from Isaac his son, to the country of the east.* In reading from verses one through six, there was no change of whom we are studying. This is the story of Keturah and her sons, so, does that mean when we get to verse six that Keturah is a concubine? Let me show you the comparisons, so that we are on the same page. In reading the story about Abraham, there is the association with Hagar, who

is the bondwoman spoken of in the Galatians verses we have used previously. Galatians 4:22-23, 30, *For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, ... Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."*

However, I must include the verses that lead up to the situation with Hagar. The beginning of the story of Hagar is in Genesis chapter 16:1-15, *Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai. Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan. So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes.*

Then Sarai said to Abram, "My wrong be upon you! I gave my maid into your embrace; and when she saw that she had conceived, I became despised in her eyes. The LORD judge between you and me."

So Abram said to Sarai, "Indeed your maid is in your hand; do to her as you please." And when Sarai dealt harshly with her, she fled from her presence.

Now the Angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

She said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai."

The Angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand." Then the Angel of the LORD said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude." And the Angel of the LORD said to her: "Behold, you are with child, And you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, Because the LORD has heard your affliction. He shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."

Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?" Therefore the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; observe, it is between Kadesh and Bered. So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.

Christians should know that Hagar was the maid of Sarah (Sarai) (verse 3), *Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid.* When Abraham went in to her, Hagar became Abraham's concubine (verse 4), *So he went in to Hagar.* However, the paradox is in the latter part of verse 3, *took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.* How can Hagar be the wife of Abram? The English language does not prove to be friendly on this term. Strong's Concordance identifies wife, as used in all three cases, as Hebrew 802 - ishshah, and meaning a woman, each and every woman, and saying the term is often unexpressed in English. That being the case, I could just as easily say the verses read in the following manner:

Genesis 16:1, *Now Sarai, Abram's woman (i.e., wife), had borne him no children. And*

she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar.

Genesis 16:3, Then Sarai, Abram's woman (i.e., wife), took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his woman (i.e., wife).

Genesis 25:1, Abraham again took a woman (i.e., wife), and her name was Keturah.

*Now let's return and take another look at Genesis 25:5-6, **And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac. But Abraham gave gifts to the sons of the concubines which Abraham had; and while he was still living he sent them eastward, away from Isaac his son, to the country of the east.** Out of necessity, we must also look at Genesis 17:19-21, **Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him. And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year."***

The heir of the covenant is Isaac! However, we must not overlook verse 20 in that passage, nor verse 6 in Genesis 25. Finally, if we are to answer Genesis 25:6, the sons of the concubines must be the sons of Hagar and Keturah, therefore, a correct plural usage of the term sons. Even so, there are others who fall into the category of sons and joint heirs to the covenant promise God gave to Abraham.

Heirs by Adoption

Christians have expressed their misunderstanding of how they fit into the covenant between God and Abraham, and history has failed to keep an accurate track of mankind's various races and peoples. To the Christian the tendency seems to be that Christians fall into the category of Gentile, meaning heathen, unclean or non-Jewish. In order to clarify some of the misunderstanding, let's make a vast jump from the Old Testament stories of Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, Jacob and Esau and look at text written from the Apostle to the Gentiles. The Apostle to the Gentiles is Paul, and since half of the New Testament was written by this one man, we need to see what he teaches toward the Gentiles, so all may know the truth:

Romans 11:13, *For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry.*

1 Timothy 2:7, *For which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle; I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying; a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.*

2 Timothy 1:11, *To which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.*

Look at Paul's opening statement in many of the Epistles attributed to him:

Romans 1:1, *Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God.*

1 Corinthians 1:1, *Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother.*

2 Corinthians 1:1, *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia.*

Galatians 1:1, *Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead).*

Ephesians 1:1, *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus.*

Colossians 1:1, *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother.*

1 Timothy 1:1, *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope.*

2 Timothy 1:1, *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus.*

Titus 1:1, *Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness.*

Paul uses the salutation that he is an Apostle of Jesus Christ and/or the Apostle to the Gentiles in each of these opening verses. Now, we need to understand what he taught us about our relationship to Jesus and his kinsmen, the Jews. However, before we do that, let's review an adoption, per se, from the Old Testament.

We should all recall that Jacob had 12 sons, who we normally call the 12 tribes of Israel, however, there is a structural change in this tribal grouping. The tribe of Levi is not counted because they are priests to all the tribes. Also remember there is not a tribe of Joseph normally associated with the 12 tribes, and yet, there are 12 tribes of Israel. How can this be? Two tribes have now been taken away from the count. In order to still have 12 tribes we need to add two to this group and that is done in the 48th chapter of Genesis. Genesis 48:1-6, *Now it came to pass after these things that Joseph said to his father, "Indeed your father is sick"; and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.*

And Jacob was told, "Look, your son Joseph is coming to you"; and Israel strengthened himself and sat up on the bed.

Then Jacob said to Joseph: "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, and said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.' And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine. Your offspring whom you beget after them shall be yours; they will be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance."

In verse 5 Jacob (Israel) claims Ephraim and Manasseh as his own sons. Thus we again have 12 tribes of Israel. God can inspire men to change family relationships in order that things fit into His plan and not so much our own. In many ways, this is what has happened with the Christians. Not all Christians are direct heirs, meaning by race, to the covenant God made with Abraham. Christians are heirs to the promises of the covenant through grace, meaning by adoption, by their belief in Jesus as Lord and Savior. We see this through Paul's writings in three different ways. First, we, as Christians, are grafted as a branch into this Jewish lineage, the same lineage Paul calls his brethren. Romans 11:1-36, *I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, "LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"?*

But what does the divine response say to him? "I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work. What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.

Just as it is written: "God has given them a spirit of stupor, eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear, to this very day."

And David says: "Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a recompense to them. Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, and bow down their back always."

I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!

For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.

You will say then, “Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.” Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either.

Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”

Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! “For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?” For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Secondly, we are the adopted children of God. Romans 8:15, For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

This fact is confirmed in the following verses:

Romans 9:4, Who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises.

Galatians 4:5, To redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Ephesians 1:5, *Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.*

Thirdly, we are joint heirs to the promises of the covenant:

Romans 4:14, *For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect.*

Romans 8:17, *and if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

Galatians 3:29, *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

Ephesians 3:6, *that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel.*

I purposely inserted the entire 11th chapter of Romans to illustrate the three methods through which Christians have a right to the covenant God made with Abraham. How many sermons have you heard that claim Christians are the New Israel, that the Law is removed and we are living by a New Covenant? Do you accept these sermons as foolishness? Maybe you should! Every time I hear the term grafted, I can only think of things that are growing. If they are growing, that means there is a root system. However, there is one thing that hasn't been added to this equation and that is intelligence. If I am a portion of a wild branch, I still have the ability to think and to reason. If I am being grafted into something, I want to know that the root is strong and capable of sustaining me as a branch. What purpose would be served if a strong branch was grafted into a weak trunk with a minimal root system? Would the branch thrive? Would the trunk survive? Would the roots be sucked dry of all nutrients? There's something wrong with that picture.

What was Paul trying to tell us in the 11th chapter of Romans? Romans 11:1-2a, *I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew.* If God had not cast away His people at the time of Paul, do you really believe He has by today's date? The 2nd verse should tell you otherwise because it plainly states *God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew.*

As a born again Christian God foreknew you and your decision to believe in His Son. Even so, look at what is explained next in Paul's writings. Romans 11:2b-5, *Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, "LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"?*

But what does the divine response say to him? "I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

Look very carefully at verse 5. It states, *at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.* Revelation reveals to us that there are 144,000 of the children of Israel who were sealed. Revelation 7:4, *And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed.* Isn't Revelation telling of the end times? If so, there is a remnant elect of Israel right now! Today! This very day! And they will be here tomorrow, and the day after

until the end times are fulfilled!

Paul continues in Romans 11:7, *Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.* Judah sought a king to defeat the Romans, but they did not obtain a king in the manner they wished. They wanted an earthly king, but obtained a spiritual King. Through this King the elect sought eternal life, which was offered, and they obtained eternal life. What does the next clause indicate — *and the rest were blinded.*

Paul shows us the reason for their blindness in verses 8-15, *Just as it is written: “God has given them a spirit of stupor, eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear, to this very day.”*

And David says: “Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a recompense to them. Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, and bow down their back always.”

I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!

For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

Paul’s heart bled for his kinsmen. He wanted so much for them to believe in Christ Jesus, but at the same time, he opened his ministry to the Gentiles, to you, to me, and to our children that we should have a tie back to God’s grace through the salvation of the Cross. However, Paul gave all Gentiles a warning in verses 17-22, *And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.*

You will say then, “Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.” Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

Yes! I did leave verse 16 out for the simple reason I want to emphasize what it says with verses 17 and 18, *For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.* In these verses lies the support I was seeking. We are told that if the *root is holy, so are the branches* and also *that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.* Somehow the picture I receive in my head provides the idea that if I’m the branch, and there is a root system that supports me, I want to know all I can to understand the root system. Otherwise, the branch becomes weak and must be pruned so as not to weaken the root. In other words,

Christians had better understand the history of the Jewish people and support them as brothers. Contrary to popular belief, the New Covenant did not do away with all things of the Old Covenant, or of the Law. There is good reason to study and understand the Old Testament portion of the Bible.

Paul concludes the chapter with warnings to both groups, Jews and Gentiles (Christians) in verses 23-36, *And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?*

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins."

Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?" For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Once again I want to state that those hate groups who teach and preach a message of anti-Semitism are going against the word of God. They, as a group, will certainly be cast into the fire and destroyed as an unproductive branch.

Direct Heirs as Descendants

The most difficult portion of this work to understand is the direct descendantship of various races of mankind as being the offspring of Abraham. History did not do any of us justice when it failed to explain where a group of people came from to become who they were. Of course, this is understandable if you accept that Satan wants to distort the truth and will do everything in his power to do just that. If you are unable to identify from where a group of people came, you do not have to show the truth, you only pass forward what you want and leave out the rest. If we look at the Bible as a history book of a given people (the Hebrew nation), we have some idea of what happens to them and what results are there. Many of us are familiar with the two great periods of captivity the Hebrew people went through: the four hundred and thirty years in Egypt; and the seventy years in Babylon. But, what about all the other periods of captivity the Hebrews went through? There are other periods of captivity that are not in mainstream Bible reading that most people undertake and therefore they are overlooked. Being overlooked does not make them go away, it only means information is missing that may result in a different viewpoint of understanding.

My references for this statement are primarily from the Book of Judges. I say what I have said because there are many who have never read the Book of Judges. In turning through the chapters, we can find the following. Judges 3:5-6, *Thus the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons; and they served their gods.* We can see by these two verses that the mixing of Hebrew blood with other peoples (tribal groups or races) has already begun. I mentioned that the Hebrews were taken into other periods of captivity.

Where, and for how long were the Hebrews in a period of captivity? Judges 3:8, *Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and He sold them into the hand of Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia; and the children of Israel served Cushan-Rishathaim eight years.* We can now see the mixing of Hebrew blood with the people of Northwest Mesopotamia (Assyria).

Moving on we see the next period of captivity was across the Jordan in the land of Moab. Judges 3:12-14, *And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD strengthened Eglon king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD. Then he gathered to himself the people of Ammon and Amalek, went and defeated Israel, and took possession of the City of Palms (Jericho). So the children of Israel served Eglon king of Moab eighteen years.* Periods of Hebrew captivity could also be considered within the land they possessed.

Looking at the next judge we find the story of Deborah and this as recorded in Judges 4:1-4, *When Ehud was dead, the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who dwelt in Harosheth Hagoyim. And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD; for Jabin had nine hundred chariots of iron, and for twenty years he harshly oppressed the children of Israel. Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time.*

Reviewing the names discussed as sons of Abraham, we observe a twist in the historical story. Turn, once again, to the 6th chapter of Judges to find a son of Abraham: Judges 6:1-4, *Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years, and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves the dens, the caves, and the strongholds which are in the mountains. So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. Then they would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey.*

Here we see the Midianites coming against the children of Israel along with Amalekites and other people of the East. We found the beginning of all this in Genesis 25:1-4, *Abraham again took a wife, and her name was Keturah. And she bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. Jokshan begot Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim. And the sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abidah, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah.*

Genesis 36:12, *Now Timna was the concubine of Eliphaz, Esau's son, and she bore Amalek to Eliphaz. These were the sons of Adah, Esau's wife.*

Genesis 25:5-6, *And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac. But Abraham gave gifts to the sons of the concubines which Abraham had; and while he was still living he sent them eastward, away from Isaac his son, to the country of the east.*

The oppression of the Hebrews continues because of their unbelief in God and their disobedience to His commandments. Judges 10:6-8, *Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the LORD and did not serve Him. So the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and into the hands of the people of Ammon. From that year they harassed and oppressed the children of Israel for eighteen years; all the children of Israel who were on the other side of the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, in Gilead.*

The identity of other mixed groups of people (part Hebrew) such as the Gileadites is recorded in Judges 12:4, *Now Jephthah gathered together all the men of Gilead and fought against Ephraim. And the men of Gilead defeated Ephraim, because they said, "You Gileadites are fugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites and among the Manassites."* Another situation is found in Judges 12:8-9, *After him, Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel. He had thirty sons. And he gave away thirty daughters in marriage, and brought in thirty daughters from elsewhere for his sons. He judged Israel seven years.*

The story of Samson can be found in one of these periods of captivity, Judges 13:1-2, 24, *Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years. Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children. ...So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.*

As we close out the chapters of the Book of Judges, we find the story of how the tribe of Benjamin is almost eliminated from the children of Israel. Judges 21:17-18, 23-24,

And they said, “There must be an inheritance for the survivors of Benjamin, that a tribe may not be destroyed from Israel. However, we cannot give them wives from our daughters, for the children of Israel have sworn an oath, saying, ‘Cursed be the one who gives a wife to Benjamin.’” . . . And the children of Benjamin did so; they took enough wives for their number from those who danced, whom they caught. Then they went and returned to their inheritance, and they rebuilt the cities and dwelt in them. So the children of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and family; they went out from there, every man to his inheritance.

I find my Thompson Chain-Reference Bible (NIV)¹ to be full of information. One of the tidbits that excites me is the various dates the books of the Bible were written. If we go through the Old Testament and review the books, and the dates, there is revealing information with quite a lot of material to digest. Look at the following:

- Ruth is about a Moab woman in 1322 BCE. One of the great love stories of the Bible. A tale of trial and tragedy sprinkled with God’s grace. Ruth becomes one of the ancestors of the Messiah.

- Ezra is about part of the exile in Babylon and the return of the people of Judah to build the temple at Jerusalem in 536 BCE. Renewed emphasis on a relationship with God and reverence for His Law.

- Nehemiah is about the exile in Babylon and written in 446 BCE.

- Esther is about a Jewess becoming the queen of Xerxes, time frame 521 BCE.

- Job is written about a man living in the land of Uz (among the people of the East) in 1520 BCE.

- Ezekiel was among the exiles of Israel on the Kebar River, time frame 595 BCE.

- Daniel was in Babylon and his name there was Belteshazzar and the time was 607 BCE.

In every case of presenting a new entry, there is something underlining that many people miss. The tribes of Israel are either in captivity or the text plainly indicates they were intermarrying with the local people they were among. What I desire for you to understand is that this continues as a part of the covenant God gave to Abraham. There is a mixing of Abraham’s descendants from his time forward. If we use the standard date for Abraham of 2166 BCE and come forward, we would have the following information available to us (We must go back and pick up Moses and Joshua for this portion, however, we will go back to Moses in a later chapter):

BCE	NAME or BOOK	BCE	NAME or BOOK
2166	Abraham	607	Daniel
1706	Book of Exodus - Moses	595	Ezekiel
1520	Job	458	Ezra
1451	Joshua	521	Esther
1425	Book of Judges	446	Nehemiah
1322	Ruth		

Why do we need to add dates? These stories of the Bible don’t seem to relate as being about real people without them. However, people begin to see these stories as real and I can begin

¹ Thompson Chain Reference Bible, NIV, ©1983, B.B. Kirkbride Co., Inc, Indianapolis and The Zondervan Corp, Grand Rapids.

adding other information if I include dates. There are many historical books outside the Bible. I feel that I must use them to assist me to show you what is really there pertaining to the covenant of Abraham. Though I dislike using other books outside the Bible, some may contain useful information (dates), but may be inaccurate. I could easily say the next hundred pages would be full of historical text about different peoples if I included information about each name change of people. What I have attempted to show is that Israel (Hebrew people) was already intermixed with other people by the time of the captivity period in Babylon. In those periods of captivity, you can rest assured they intermarried, children were born and new generations, of what some would care to call half-breeds, replaced the old.

One of the most interesting books I have read on this subject concerns the stories of Robert the Bruce, Edward Longshanks and his son Edward II and the document known as the Declaration of Arbroath². What this document is can be stated as, *The Scottish Declaration of Independence*, dated April 6, 1320 and attested by the signature of twenty-five Scottish nobles and sent to Pope John XXII. I am about to record the words of that document. There are those who are going to be amazed at the statement revealed to the Pope from Robert the Bruce. Furthermore, they are going to be even more amazed to understand they are of Hebrew descent, if they claim to have Scottish blood flowing through their veins.

² Robert Bruce, Declaration of Arbroath, *The Scottish Declaration of Independence*, April 6, 1320

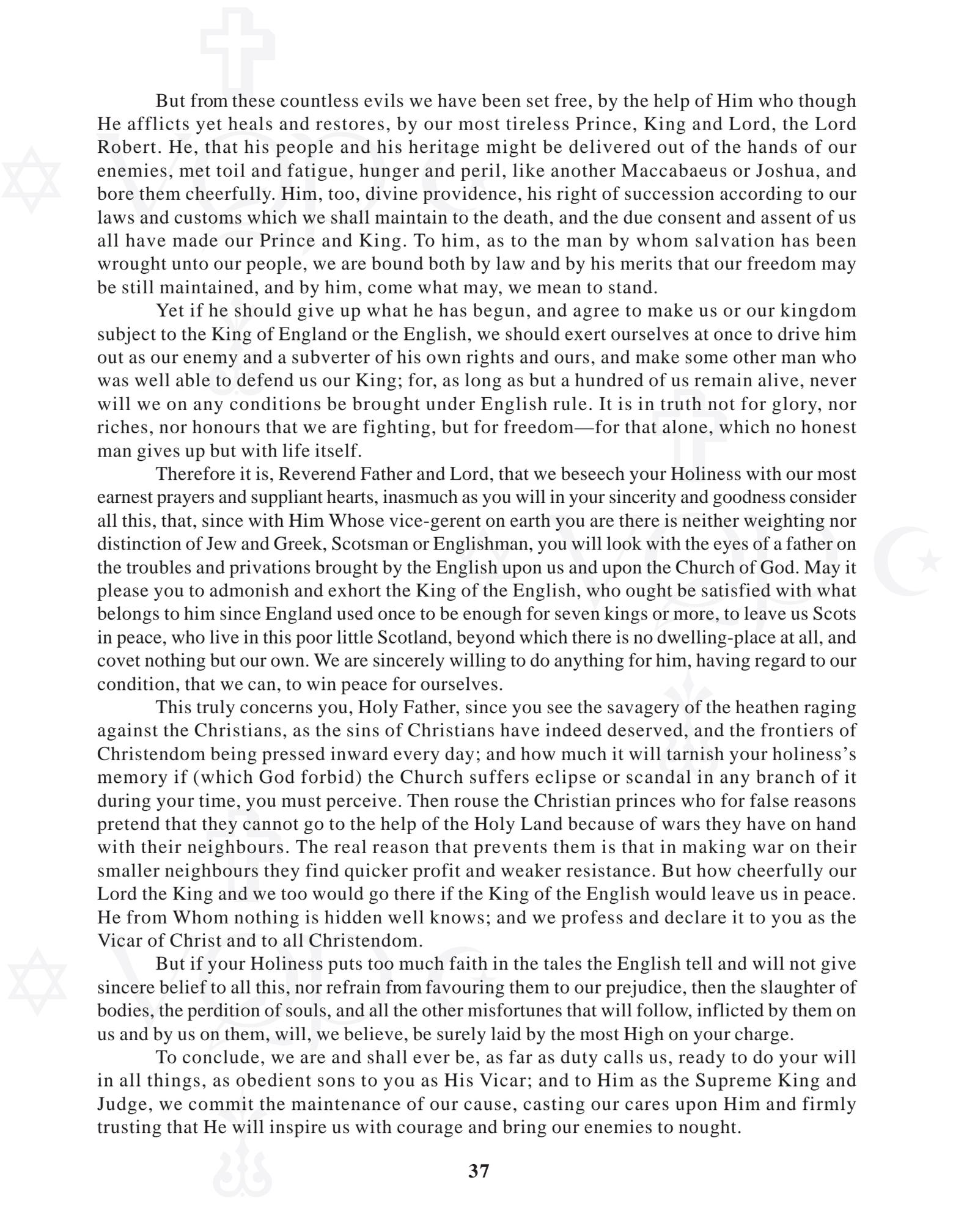
Declaration of Arbroath

To the Most Holy Father in Christ and Lord, the Lord John by divine providence Supreme Pontiff of the Holy Roman and Universal Church, his humble and devout sons Duncan, Earl of Fife, Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, Lord of Man and of Annandale, Patrick Dunbar, Earl of March, Malise, Earl of Strathearn, Malcolm, Earl of Lennox, William, Earl of Ross, Magnus, Earl of Caithness and Orkney, and William, Earl of Sutherland; Walter, Stewart of Scotland, William Soules, Butler of Scotland, James, Lord of Douglas, Roger Mowbray, David, Lord of Brechin, David Graham, Ingram Umfraville, John Menteith, guardian of the earldom of Menteith, Alexander Fraser, Gilbert Hay, Constable of Scotland, Robert Keith, Marischal of Scotland, Henry St. Clair, John Fenton, William Abernathy, David Wemyss, William Mushet, Fergus of Ardrossan, Eustance Maxwell, William Ramsay, William Mowat, Alan Murray, Donald Campbell, John Cameron, Reginald Cheyne, Alexander Seton, Andrew Leslie, and Alexander Straiton, and the other barons and freeholders and the whole community of the realm of Scotland send all manner of filial reverence, with devout kisses of his blessed feet.

Most Holy Father and Lord, we know and from the chronicles and books of the ancients we find that among other famous nations our own, the Scots, has been graced with widespread renown. They journeyed from Greater Scythia by way of the Tyrrhenian Sea and the Pillars of Hercules, and dwelt for a long course of time in Spain among the most savage tribes, but nowhere could they be subdued by any race, however barbarous. Thence they came, twelve hundred years after the people of Israel crossed the Red Sea, to their home in the west where they still live today. The Britons they first drove out, the Picts they utterly destroyed, and even though very often assailed by the Norwegians, the Danes and the English, they took possession of that home with many victories and untold efforts; and, as the historians of old time bear witness, they have held it free of all bondage ever since. In their kingdom there have reigned one hundred and thirteen kings of their own royal stock, the line unbroken by a single foreigner.

The high qualities and deserts of these people, were they not otherwise manifest, gain glory enough from this: that the King of kings and Lord of lords, our Lord Jesus Christ, after His Passion and Resurrection, called them, even though settled in the uttermost parts of the earth, almost the first to His most holy faith. Nor would He have them confirmed in that faith by merely anyone but by the first of His Apostles by calling—though second or third in rank—the most gentle Saint Andrew, the Blessed Peter's brother, and desired him to keep them under his protection as their patron for ever.

The Most Holy Fathers, your predecessors, gave careful heed to these things and bestowed many favours and numerous privileges on this same kingdom and people, as being the special charge of the Blessed Peter's brother. Thus our nation under their protection did indeed live in freedom and peace up to the time when that mighty prince the King of the English, Edward, the father of the one who reigns today, when our kingdom had no head and our people harboured no malice or treachery and were then unused to wars or invasions, came in the guise of a friend and ally to harass them as an enemy. The deeds of cruelty, massacre, violence, pillage, arson, imprisoning prelates, burning down monasteries, robbing and killing monks and nuns, and yet other outrages without number which he committed against our people, sparing neither age nor sex, religion nor rank, no one could describe nor fully imagine unless he had seen them with his own eyes.



But from these countless evils we have been set free, by the help of Him who though He afflicts yet heals and restores, by our most tireless Prince, King and Lord, the Lord Robert. He, that his people and his heritage might be delivered out of the hands of our enemies, met toil and fatigue, hunger and peril, like another Maccabaeus or Joshua, and bore them cheerfully. Him, too, divine providence, his right of succession according to our laws and customs which we shall maintain to the death, and the due consent and assent of us all have made our Prince and King. To him, as to the man by whom salvation has been wrought unto our people, we are bound both by law and by his merits that our freedom may be still maintained, and by him, come what may, we mean to stand.

Yet if he should give up what he has begun, and agree to make us or our kingdom subject to the King of England or the English, we should exert ourselves at once to drive him out as our enemy and a subverter of his own rights and ours, and make some other man who was well able to defend us our King; for, as long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be brought under English rule. It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom—for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself.

Therefore it is, Reverend Father and Lord, that we beseech your Holiness with our most earnest prayers and suppliant hearts, inasmuch as you will in your sincerity and goodness consider all this, that, since with Him Whose vice-gerent on earth you are there is neither weighting nor distinction of Jew and Greek, Scotsman or Englishman, you will look with the eyes of a father on the troubles and privations brought by the English upon us and upon the Church of God. May it please you to admonish and exhort the King of the English, who ought be satisfied with what belongs to him since England used once to be enough for seven kings or more, to leave us Scots in peace, who live in this poor little Scotland, beyond which there is no dwelling-place at all, and covet nothing but our own. We are sincerely willing to do anything for him, having regard to our condition, that we can, to win peace for ourselves.

This truly concerns you, Holy Father, since you see the savagery of the heathen raging against the Christians, as the sins of Christians have indeed deserved, and the frontiers of Christendom being pressed inward every day; and how much it will tarnish your holiness's memory if (which God forbid) the Church suffers eclipse or scandal in any branch of it during your time, you must perceive. Then rouse the Christian princes who for false reasons pretend that they cannot go to the help of the Holy Land because of wars they have on hand with their neighbours. The real reason that prevents them is that in making war on their smaller neighbours they find quicker profit and weaker resistance. But how cheerfully our Lord the King and we too would go there if the King of the English would leave us in peace. He from Whom nothing is hidden well knows; and we profess and declare it to you as the Vicar of Christ and to all Christendom.

But if your Holiness puts too much faith in the tales the English tell and will not give sincere belief to all this, nor refrain from favouring them to our prejudice, then the slaughter of bodies, the perdition of souls, and all the other misfortunes that will follow, inflicted by them on us and by us on them, will, we believe, be surely laid by the most High on your charge.

To conclude, we are and shall ever be, as far as duty calls us, ready to do your will in all things, as obedient sons to you as His Vicar; and to Him as the Supreme King and Judge, we commit the maintenance of our cause, casting our cares upon Him and firmly trusting that He will inspire us with courage and bring our enemies to nought.

May the Most High preserve you to His Holy Church in holiness and health and grant you length of days.

Given at the monastery of Arbroath in Scotland on the sixth day of the month of April in the year of grace thirteen hundred and twenty and the fifteenth year of the reign of our King aforesaid.

I have several sources of material to read from at this point. My greatest library is in the form of an electronic one stored on my home computer. Text from the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (electronic database), © Biblesoft³, provided information for various groups and races. Having gathered well over one hundred pages I decided the information was too much for the purpose intended in this chapter. However, in another source the following excerpts are made.

Contained in the Declaration of Arbroath⁴, we discover Robert the Bruce and the nobles whose seals are affixed, date their beginnings as a nation one thousand two hundred years after the Exodus of the people of Israel. Thus, they claim descent from the Israelites in Egypt. The validity of this claim is supported by many historians who point to an Israelite presence (particularly of the tribes of Dan and Judah) in the British Isles at a very early date, even before the Exodus.

All the Israelites in Egypt did not accompany Moses into the Wilderness, and later into the Promised Land. Hecataeus of Abdera, a sixth century BCE historian who was quoted by the Greek historian Diodorus Siculus⁵ in 50 BCE, pp 1, 27, 46, 55, states: “The most distinguished of the expelled foreigners, from Egypt, followed Danaus and Cadmus into Greece; but the greater number were led by Moses into Judea”. According to Petavius⁶, *History of the World*, Danaus was the son of Bela (Belus), a sojourner in Egypt. According to legend, an oracle informed Danaus that his brother would slay him, he fled, taking his daughters with him and went to Greece three years after the death of Joseph. That would be about 148 years before the Exodus.

The *History of Ireland* by Moore⁷, states that the ancient Irish, at that time called the Danai or Danes, separated from Israel around the time of the Exodus, crossed into Greece, and then invaded Ireland. Historians call these people the Tuatha De Danaan (Tribe of Dan). The Leabha Gabhala or Book of Conquests of Ireland⁸ gave their earlier name as Tuatha De, meaning People of God.

On Ptolemy's⁹ ancient map of Ireland, we find in the northeastern corner of the island such names as Dan Sowar (Dan's Resting Place) and Dan Sobairse (Dan's Habitation). Gladstone's¹⁰ *Juventus Mundi* and the *Old Psalter of Cashel*¹¹ both state some of the

³ Orr, James (1915), *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* (electronic database © Biblesoft), www.internationalstandard.com

⁴ Declaration of Arbroath, op.cit

⁵ Siculus, D. (50 BCE), Greek philosopher, wrote *History of the World* in 40 Books, Agira, Italy

⁶ Peravius Dionysius (1757), *History of the World*, Fr Jesuit theologian, Dogmata Theologica

⁷ Moore, Thomas (1838), *History of Ireland*, London, Longman, et al

⁸ Leabha Gabhala or *Book of Conquests of Ireland* (1941), written in 8th or 9th century, Dublin, edited by Mccalister, RAS

⁹ Ptolemy, Claudius (150 CE), *Ancient Map of Ireland*

¹⁰ Gladstone, William (1869), *Juventus Mundii, The Gods and Men of the Historic Age*

¹¹ *Old Psalter of Cashel*, 11th century, Irish Cyclopedia

Grecian Danai left Greece and invaded Ireland. Petanius¹², in sixth century BCE, speaks of the Danai as being Hebrew people, originally from Egypt, who colonized Ireland.

The Milesians, who invaded Ireland circa 1000 BCE and subjugated the Tuatha De Danaan, were also a branch of the Hebrew stem. It was from a later group of Milesians, in about the 5th century BCE, that Ireland received one of its earliest names, **Scota**. The early Latin Historians and poets, in general, commonly called the Milesians, Scotti or Scots. Legend indicates that the name Scots came from Scota, a daughter of a far eastern king who married Gathelus, a Milesian prince. It was from this union that the kings of Tara (Ireland) were descended.

The Chronicles of Scotland¹³ records the story of their ancestor Gathelus leaving Egypt with his wife Scota and friends in the following manner. Rather than “to abyde ye manifest wengenace of goddis” (reference to God’s judgement on the remnant that had fled to Egypt to escape Nebuchadnezzar) and travel by the Mediterranean Sea, after, “lang tyme he landit in ane part of Spayne callit Lusitan.” (later called Partungall) After this he built the city of Brigance (in Spain) and “callit his subdittis (subjects) Scottis in honour and affeccoun of his wyiff.”

Many historians today erroneously refer to the Milesians as Celts and Gaels. Actually, they were only the forerunners of the Celtic tribes that wound their way across Europe from the east, turbulently meeting and, finally, blending in amity, and flowing onward in one great Gaelic stream into the island of Britain. The Celts were kinsmen but mainly of the later westward migrations of the Israelites as they left the regions of Gozan, part of the Assyrian captivity, by way of the upper Euphrates gorge. The source of information for this statement comes from the Apocrypha¹⁴ in 2 Esdras 13:43-46, *And they entered into Euphrates by the narrow passages of the river. For the most High then shewed signs for them, and held still the flood, till they were passed over. For through that country there was a great way to go, namely, of a year and a half: and the same region is called Arsareth. Then dwelt they there until the latter time; and now when they shall begin to come.*

Most of these early predecessors of the Celts crossed the Black Sea to the Carpathian Mountains, called Arsareth in the Apocrypha¹⁵. From there they migrated up the Danube into Central Europe and became known as Celts and Gauls. Archaeological evidence in the form of clay cuneiform tablets of the *Royal Correspondence of the Assyrian Empire*¹⁶ have established the fact that the Celts are the Cimmerian-Israelites called Gimira or Gamera by the Assyrians during their captivity.

The bedrock of the British race was formed between 400-100 BCE as the Celts poured into Britain. One group of Celts, located in Spain and known as Iberes, the Gaelic name for Hebrews, moved into Ireland. They named the island Hibernia, a name that still exists today. It was from Hibernia the high kings of Tara ruled Ireland for several centuries.

About 500 CE, the Scottish King Fergus Mor Mc Erc of the Gaelic Kingdom of Dalriada, in Ireland, left his Irish palace at Dunseverick and invaded the southwestern part of the Pictish Kingdom in northern Britain. The Picts, a confederation of Celtic tribes, who

¹² Petanius, 6th century BCE, no info found

¹³ Boece (1526), *Chronicles of Scotland*

¹⁴ *Apocrypha* (KJV), Grand Rapids, World Bible Publishers, Inc.

¹⁵ *Apocrypha*, Ibid

¹⁶ Waterman, Leroy (1930), *Royal Correspondence of the Assyrian Empire*, Ann Arbor, Univ of Michigan Press

were called Cruithne in Gaelic, the name meaning Pictured Men, because they painted themselves, spoke a slightly different language than Celtic and had different customs from the Gaels of the west and the Britains of Strathclyde, in the south.

The Scots, from Ireland, were successful in driving the Picts north, out of Argyllshire. They set up their new capital inside the ramparts of an old Pictish fort on the hill of Dunadd. From there, Fergus ruled both halves of his kingdom, one in Ireland and the other in Scotland. For a time, the Scottish kingdom of Dalriada appears to have been dependent upon Irish Dalriada. About 575 CE Aidan, son of King Gabran, secured its independence and was crowned King of Scotland upon the Stone Lia Fail, commonly known as the Stone of Destiny. One of Aidan's successors, Kenneth, became king of the Picts about 843 CE, and gradually the name Dalraida, both in Ireland and Scotland, fell into disuse. Many of the Scottish and Irish legends, as well as the Declaration of Arbroath¹⁷, claim the remote ancestors of the Scots came from Scythia. This was an ancient name for a portion of south Russia. This had led some authorities to believe they were derived from the Scythian branch of the Gamera (Israelites). However, this is not the case. What is now Scythia was once inhabited by Cimmerians and there are still traces of the Cimmerians in Scythia.

Language also indicates the Cimmerians (Celts) did not originate from the Scythians. The Anglo-Saxon descendants of the Scythians have a totally different language from the Gaelic and Welsh languages of the Celts. Although both languages can be traced to the Hebrew, their complete separation for centuries and their totally different contacts account for the differences.

Thus, we find from historical records and archaeological evidence, there were several migrations of Hebrew peoples arriving in Ireland at different times and under different names. They came as the Tuatha De Danaan, called Milesians and Celts, and apparently assimilated into one tribal grouping. The migrations of these early people from Ireland to northern Britain, around the 6th century CE, established the Celtic kingdom of the Scots. It was here five centuries later, that their descendants founded the nation of Scotland and Robert the Bruce used these facts when he wrote the Pope in the Declaration of Arbroath¹⁸ (pages 36-38).

Another source provides the following sequence of dates for the Hebrews from captivity to various peoples of the world:

- 732-700 BCE Israel taken into exile by the Assyrians who called them Khumri, later corrupted to Gimira.
- 710-590 BCE Israelites called Gimira by the Assyrians and Cimmerians by the Greeks established a reign of terror in Asia Minor. They finally migrated to Europe to a place they called Arsareth.
- 650-600 BCE Israelites in Media become known as Scythians.
- 600-500 BCE Following the collapse of their Assyrian allies, the Scythians were driven north through the Caucasus by the Medes, and they settled in south Russia.
- 650-500 BCE Cimmerians in Europe moved up the Danube and became known as Celts.

¹⁷ Declaration of Arbroath, op cit

¹⁸ Declaration of Arbroath, Ibid

- 525-300 BCE Others driven out of south Russia by the Scythians moved north-west between the rivers Oder and Vistula to the Baltic, where they later became known as Cimbri.
- 400-100 BCE The Celtic expansion from central Europe: Some attacked Rome in 390 BCE and settled for 200 years in northern Italy. Others known as Galatians, after invading Greece in 279 BCE, migrated to Asia Minor. However, most of them moved west into France and later to Britain.
- 250-100 BCE South Russia was invaded from the east by the Sarmatians, who drove the Scythians north-west through Poland into Germany.
- 450-1100 CE The Romans renamed the Scythians, Germans. Some of these came to Britain as Anglo-Saxons, 450-600 CE. Others, after moving north through Jutland, became known as Danes and Vikings. Some of these came directly to England, but others settled for a time in France and were called Normans.

The covenant between God and Abraham was fulfilled in many ways! There is the direct lineage route, the adoptive route or the descendant route. No matter the route, the covenant stands and is fulfilled to this very day!

There is another statement to be made! It doesn't matter if you call yourself Hebrew, Scot, Irish, German, Dane or even Russia. The fact is that the lineage of all having ties back to the very early Celts go back to one point. It is time for everyone to understand what that one point is. Wait, I hear another voice. Oh yes, dear children! It may seem I'm only writing to those of white descent but that is not true. While this information ties mainly to the historical trail left by the descendants of the Hebrews along a northern route, there is much the Black man can learn about the same history for themselves. The lineage of Ishmael is certainly one point where the tie is made for blacks to retrace steps back to Abraham. One of the most overlooked ties between blacks and Hebrews is the period of captivity in Egypt.

Consider the following Biblical fact that seventy Hebrews went into Egypt. Genesis 46:26-27, *All the persons who went with Jacob to Egypt, who came from his body, besides Jacob's sons' wives, were sixty-six persons in all. And the sons of Joseph who were born to him in Egypt were two persons. All the persons of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were seventy.* At the time of the Exodus, 430 years later, there were most probably over a million to come out of Egypt.

Exodus 12:37, *Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children.* Notice that the number given for those who left Egypt is only for men on foot. This does not include the elderly, women, or the actual number of children. Exodus 12:40, *Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years.*

Did you see the obvious? Where do you think the original mates came from to cause a population explosion from seventy individuals to over a million? They had to be Egyptians, Hebrew and of mixed race people and the Table of Nations¹⁹ will tell you that Mizraim, another name for Egypt, was a son of Ham, the forefather of the black skin nations. Therefore, the tie is made between the descendants of Ham and the descendants of Shem. Those

¹⁹ Table of Nations, Holy Bible, Genesis 10, list of patriarchal founders of 70 nations descended from Noah.

who left Egypt were most probably not a pure Shemite race, yet, they were each and every one, Hebrew. So, while I may follow peoples along a northern route, rest assured we are all under the same covenant.

Let us remember, we are all descendants of Adam, God's created son, and heirs to the promise of the covenant with Abraham through the Hebrew people. It does not matter the color of your skin, or the heritage of your ancestors. They all lead back to one point and we are all of one race, the **HUMAN RACE**.

**Be proud in knowing these things
and trust God in everything you do!**

The Law Given to Moses

It is now time to take a serious look at the contribution Moses gave to mankind as a whole. There have been previous discussions in this book that would allow us to understand that everyone of the Hebrew nation was not happy with Moses. We actually could take Abraham Lincoln's quote about pleasing people and apply it to Moses, the people were just not pleased all the time. There is one great item that God gave to Moses and we need to understand what information that story provides to us. Read what Exodus 19:20 and 24:12 tells us. 19:20, *Then the Lord came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.* 24:12, *Then the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them."*

These *tablets of stone* are the articles Moses carried off the mountain and we need to look at these to find more information. The words recorded on these *tablets of stone* are recorded in Exodus 20 and in Deuteronomy 5.

First, Exodus 20:1-17. *And God spoke all these words, saying: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

You shall have no other gods before Me.

You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

Second, and stated slightly different, we find the following in Deuteronomy 5:1-22, *And Moses called all Israel, and said to them: "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and*

judgments which I speak in your hearing today, that you may learn them and be careful to observe them. The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive. The LORD talked with you face to face on the mountain from the midst of the fire. I stood between the LORD and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the LORD; for you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up the mountain. He said:

'I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

You shall have no other gods before Me.

You shall not make for yourself a carved image; any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.'

These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me."

Either way, we normally call these commands the *Ten Commandments*. It is shameful Americans have permitted Satan to blind us to the point where we allow groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)²⁰ to challenge the posting of this document in schools,

²⁰ American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), founded 1920, Hdqts New York, www.aclu.org

courts and on monuments upon government owned entities. Somehow we have become confused in our interpretation of the laws of separation between church and state. How did we lose sight of what this document really is?

First, and foremost, this is not a religious document nor a religious doctrine! Period! **This is a moral document and nothing more!** Why have these words suddenly become a religious document? Just because these words are found in the Bible does not make this a religious document. The instructions on how to construct the Tabernacle, the Temple or the observances performed by the priests would be religious by their very nature. But how is it we call this a religious document, when most of the wording in the *Ten Commandments* could be easily found in the statues of every state and commonwealth in the union? We have laws that say stealing, lying and adultery are punishable crimes! We have state agencies that protect our youngest and oldest members of society! And, if you really get down to those commands pertaining to the observance of the Sabbath, you did not find anything that says you must be of one particular faith or that the observance must be on such and such a day.

I've heard the ACLU state in open court that this is a religious document because it is supported by the Christian faith and no other. **That's a hoot!** The document wasn't even given to those of the Christian faith when it was given. I'd be willing to say you could take over a million people off on a one-on-one discussion concerning this document and they wouldn't know what you were asking questions about. The Hebrew people did not see these instructions as being part and parcel a portion of their religious ceremonies. They saw them as being moral instructions from God! Are you now going to tell me that anything that implies it is an instruction from a deity is religious? Somehow, I would say, there would be exceedingly more confusion among mankind if that were the case. Every instruction from any one deity would not be considered binding upon another group who did not adhere to the teaching of that deity. Thus, for the sake of sanity, within any moral society these are not religious teachings, they are moral teachings.

There is another question I must address. Why do Christians seem to have this idea that they are not to live by God's Law handed down through Moses? How many times have you heard a Christian say, *I'm a New Testament believer, that doesn't apply to me, or We're a New Testament church and the old covenant doesn't apply to us.* Once again, I'm led to believe there are many who missed the point. Christians may be under the New Covenant given by Jesus, but that does not exempt them from the principles of the Ten Commandments. Understand this statement, Jesus Himself uttered five of the commandments of Moses verbatim, as recorded by the Gospel writers! If the principles of the law do not apply under the new covenant, I have several verses to show you to provoke thought.

Let us look at the statement of Jesus in Matthew 5:17, *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.* How does an individual fulfill any law? The law is fulfilled by the observance of that law? Our society has many laws, which we call statutes, written at town, city, county, state and federal level. As citizens of that town, city, county, state or country, we fulfill the law by respecting the law, observing the law and by obeying the law! **We break the law when we do not obey the law!** That is exactly what Moses gave to the Hebrews at Mt. Sinai? That is what Jesus meant when He said He came *not to destroy, but to fulfill.* Seriously, is this a religious instruction or a moral instruction? It is time mankind figured out that to be righteous in God's eye is to be moral in man's eye by following the laws that have been handed down.

Stop and think. If mankind had followed the laws given through Moses, there would have been no reason to issue further laws. Jesus did not come to set up a religion, He came, as heir to the throne, to illustrate to mankind how to worship God the Father by being obedient to the law and to the teachings of the prophets.

Let's go through the teachings of Jesus to see which of the Ten Commandments He taught. The first commandment is, *You shall have no other gods before Me*. For these illustrations I'll show you the two verses that give the Ten Commandments from Exodus and Deuteronomy in the Old Testament and the verse or verses Jesus taught. For those commandments Jesus spoke verbatim, I'll underline the commandment number.

Commandment One: Exodus 20:3, *"You shall have no other gods before Me.* Deuteronomy 5:7, *'You shall have no other gods before Me.* Jesus used, thus taught, this commandment in the following manner; Matthew 4:10, *Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'*"

Commandment Two: Exodus 20:4, *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:* Deuteronomy 5:8, *Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth:* Jesus never used this statement directly, according to the Gospels, and the one verse I can come up with is the same one He spoke to Satan, Matthew 4:10, *Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"* Jesus also taught the following in Matthew 22:20-21, *And he saith unto them, "Whose is this image and superscription?"*

They say unto him, "Caesar's."

Then saith he unto them, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."

Commandment Three: Exodus 20:7, *"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain."* Deuteronomy 5:11, *'You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.'* Once again, we have one of the commandments Jesus did not speak verbatim, however, Jesus did teach the following: Matthew 5:33-37, *"Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."* Additionally in Matthew 23:16-22, *"Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it.' Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold? And, 'Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever*

swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it.’ Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it.” And in Matthew 26:63-64, But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, “I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!”

Jesus said to him, “It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Commandment Four: Exodus 20:8, *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”* Deuteronomy 5:12, *“Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.”* In reading the Gospels one finds Jesus did many things on the Sabbath, in fact, it was one of the major reasons the Jews wanted to kill Jesus. Jesus spoke the following in Mark 2:27, *And He said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.”* The Jewish rulers viewed Jesus’ actions in the following manner. Luke 13:14, *But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, “There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day.”* Today, we see great conflict among mankind over the Sabbath. Is it Friday, Saturday, or is it Sunday that makes the Sabbath? What if we observed the statement that there are six days to work and one day to honor God? If we followed the instructions as they are given, we must honor the Sabbath as being our Saturday.

Commandment Five: Exodus 20:12, *“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”* Deuteronomy 5:16, *“Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”* This one commandment was quoted more by Jesus than any other and can be found verbatim in five different verses: Matthew 15:4, *“For God commanded, saying, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’”* Matthew 19:19, *“‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”* Mark 7:10, *“For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’”* Mark 10:19, *“You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and your mother.’”* Luke 18:20, *“You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and your mother.’”*

Commandment Six: Exodus 20:13, *“You shall not murder.”* Deuteronomy 5:17, *‘You shall not murder.’* Jesus spoke the following. Matthew 5:21, *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’”* Matthew 19:18, *He said to Him, “Which ones?”*

*Jesus said, “‘You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,’” Paul also spoke about this commandment in the following: Romans 13:9, *For the commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, You shall not covet, and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*”*

I must ask another question: Why does mankind have so much confusion over this one commandment? One can find division between people, between denominations and certainly between church and state over this one command. You don't think so? Explain to me why there is so much said on both sides of the capital punishment issue or over abortion rights. If you take the stand that both are murder and against the commandment, I have to raise another question. Why did God direct the Hebrews to kill, murder, if you will, complete groups of people?

There is a great problem in the argument! Either God does not follow His own laws and He is a liar or there is another answer. Let's reverse the statement and answer the second point first. In the following two verses the statement is made that God cannot lie, Titus 1:2, *In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.* and Hebrews 6:18, *That by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.*

Now, let's address the other point. There are different translations of the Bible and different words used in both Greek and Hebrew that can mean kill. If you view the NIV, NRSV or the NKJV the word used in this command is murder. If you view the KJV verse for this command, the word used is kill. To further explain the differences look at Strong's Concordance. In looking under the word kill there are no less than 14 different words that translate kill, 8 in the Hebrew and 6 in the Greek. Under the word murder there is one additional word that is not identified under kill. Understandably, when there are 14 various words translated kill, it would seem this is the more correct translation as used in the King James, however, by so doing this, the verses where God directs the Hebrews to kill, places a conflict of viewpoint in the minds of men.

We can even see that this was the cause of King Saul being removed from the throne, 1 Samuel 15:16-23, *Then Samuel said to Saul, “Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night.”*

And he said to him, “Speak on.”

So Samuel said, “When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel? Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, ‘Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’ Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?”

And Saul said to Samuel, “But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal.”

Then Samuel said: “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.”

Understand that God does cleanse sin from what is His and that may include the death of the sinner. That does not violate the law, for it is directed destruction and is not murder. Murder has the implied intent to do harm. Therefore, there is a difference between someone killing in a time of war, and, on the other side of the fence, the intent to do harm against another individual because you think you have been wronged and must make amends. You may say, God is a loving God and wouldn't do this, however God may be a loving God, but even more so, God is a righteous God. Out of righteousness one can find love. Out of deception, led by Satan, one can find the change of thought to lead many astray from being righteous to being what they perceive to be is right. Every one of us should take time to read and study this one command to see if our personal thoughts are in accord with the intent of the Bible or if they are in accord with tradition that may lead us away from what the Bible actually teaches.

Commandment Seven: Exodus 20:14, *“You shall not commit adultery.”* Deuteronomy 5:18, *“You shall not commit adultery.”* Jesus spoke this commandment in the following, Matthew 5:27, *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not commit adultery.”* Matthew 19:18, *He said to Him, “Which ones?”*

Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,” Paul continued the teaching in the following verse, Romans 13:9, *For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, you shall not covet, and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Commandment Eight: Exodus 20:15, *“You shall not steal.”* Deuteronomy 5:19, *“You shall not steal.”* Jesus spoke these words in the following: Matthew 19:18, *He said to Him, “Which ones?”*

Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,” Paul spoke them in Romans 13:9, *For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, you shall not covet, and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Commandment Nine: Exodus 20:16, *“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”* Deuteronomy 5:20, *‘You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.’* Jesus spoke this commandment in Matthew 19:18, *He said to Him, “Which ones?”*

Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,” Mark 10:19, *“You know the commandments:*

Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and your mother.” Luke 18:20, “You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and your mother.” Paul taught in Romans 13:9, For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, you shall not covet, and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Commandment Ten: Exodus 20:17, *“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.”* Deuteronomy 5:21, *‘You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor’s house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.’* Jesus did not speak this commandment directly. Furthermore, there are many who do not understand what this commandment means. We don’t use the word covet that much anymore, but if you associate the act of envy in this commandment, you should have something on the order of: “You shall not be envious about your neighbor’s house; you shall not be envious over your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his car, or his boat or anything that is your neighbor’s.” To see this in a Biblical verse look at the following. Deuteronomy 7:25, *“You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire; you shall not covet the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be snared by it; for it is an abomination to the LORD your God.”*

To observe how Jesus used this command, look at the following. In this first verse we see the overall intent that covetousness, or envy, may cause. Luke 12:15, *And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”* In another verse we can see the desire of lust, even for your neighbor’s wife, illustrated by Jesus. Matthew 5:28, *“But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”* Paul spoke more about this commandment in the following. Romans 7:7, *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.”* Romans 13:9, *For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, you shall not covet, and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

If one really wants to see the intent of the principles of the Ten Commandments and the righteousness of obedience to God, it is easy to find in the following verses: Deuteronomy 28:1-14, *“Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God.”*

“Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.”

“The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you. The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways.”

“Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you. And the LORD will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you. The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand.”

“You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them. So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them.”

I hear some say this does not apply to them because they are not Jewish, or even Hebrew? Better go back and review how your line of descent ties you into the covenant God gave to Abraham. So you understand the results of disobedience, here are the remaining verses from Deuteronomy 28:15-68, *“But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country. Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.”*

“The LORD will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, because of the wickedness of your doings in which you have forsaken Me. The LORD will make the plague cling to you until He has consumed you from the land which you are going to possess. The LORD will strike you with consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever, with the sword, with scorching, and with mildew; they shall pursue you until you perish. And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron. The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed.”

“The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them; and you shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth. Your carcasses shall be food for all the

birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and no one shall frighten them away. The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed. The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of heart. And you shall grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness; you shall not prosper in your ways; you shall be only oppressed and plundered continually, and no one shall save you.”

“You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall lie with her; you shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it; you shall plant a vineyard, but shall not gather its grapes. Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat of it; your donkey shall be violently taken away from before you, and shall not be restored to you; your sheep shall be given to your enemies, and you shall have no one to rescue them. Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, and your eyes shall look and fail with longing for them all day long; and there shall be no strength in your hand. A nation whom you have not known shall eat the fruit of your land and the produce of your labor, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually. So you shall be driven mad because of the sight which your eyes see. The LORD will strike you in the knees and on the legs with severe boils which cannot be healed, and from the sole of your foot to the top of your head.”

“The LORD will bring you and the king whom you set over you to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods; wood and stone. And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD will drive you.”

“You shall carry much seed out to the field but gather little in, for the locust shall consume it. You shall plant vineyards and tend them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them. You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil; for your olives shall drop off. You shall beget sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours; for they shall go into captivity. Locusts shall consume all your trees and the produce of your land.

The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail.”

“Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you. And they shall be upon you for a sign and a wonder, and on your descendants forever.”

“Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you. The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand, a nation of fierce countenance, which does not respect the elderly nor show favor to the young. And they shall eat the increase of your livestock and the produce of your land, until you are destroyed; they shall not leave you grain or new wine or oil, or the increase of your cattle or the offspring of your flocks, until they have destroyed you.”



“They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the LORD your God has given you. You shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and your daughters whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you. The sensitive and very refined man among you will be hostile toward his brother, toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the rest of his children whom he leaves behind, so that he will not give any of them the flesh of his children whom he will eat, because he has nothing left in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates. The tender and delicate woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because of her delicateness and sensitivity, will refuse to the husband of her bosom, and to her son and her daughter, her placenta which comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears; for she will eat them secretly for lack of everything in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates.”

“If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD YOUR GOD, then the LORD will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues; great and prolonged plagues; and serious and prolonged sicknesses. Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in this Book of the Law, will the LORD bring upon you until you are destroyed. You shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven in multitude, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God. And it shall be, that just as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess.”

“Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known; wood and stone. And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul. Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life. In the morning you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were evening!’ And at evening you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were morning!’ because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see.”

“And the LORD will take you back to Egypt in ships, by the way of which I said to you, ‘You shall never see it again.’ And there you shall be offered for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you.”

As I look at these verses from Deuteronomy I find it interesting that there are 14 verses pertaining to the blessings God grants for obedience and there are 54 verses toward the curses God causes for disobedience. It seems to me that mankind does have a choice in most things, abundant life or existence, freedom or slave, lender or borrower and it is all up to each of us to make our own choice whether we will be obedient to God’s commands or not. Each of us will make a choice and each will see the results of that choice. What will yours be, abundant life through obedience or existence through disobedience? Still not assured of the promises? In the next chapter you will learn more about Jesus.

The Greatest Teacher

My quest has driven me to find all the verses needed to write this chapter. Oh sure! I could easily sit down at the computer and do a word search on bread, or life, or living water or even light, and come up with verses that could go here. I could run a search on all the miracles or on all the healings and there would be pages of information to discuss. But that wee small voice called to me and said KIS (Keep It Simple). God's way is not complex, it's simple. We, being mankind, are the cause of the complexity of the will of God. In all my journeys, in all of my study and research, there are a handful of Bible verses that state the truth beyond comparison.

First, and foremost, these statements, made by God, are recorded about Jesus:

Matthew 3:17 *And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

Matthew 17:5, *While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"*

Mark 1:11, *Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

Luke 3:22, *And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."*

You can study all the great religions on the earth and this is the only case, and the only person, where you can find the above statements being made. There are two other situations that need to be added to these verses. Jesus admitted to only two people, other than the disciples, that He was the Messiah. One was a woman and the other was a man. In the case of the woman, you will find it in the story of the woman at the well in John 4:25-26, *The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things."*

Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

In the case of the man, it's in the story of the blind man who was healed on the Sabbath in John 9:34-37, *They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.*

Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."

No other prophet, no other religious leader, has ever been so bold as to admit they were the promised Messiah, the Son of God, and the Savior of the World and have it backed up by a voice from Heaven, but yet, Jesus did.

Surely, I could go on and on to provide verses to show that the promises made about Jesus are real. You can rest assured they are all true! Instead, I'll give you the only additional command Jesus left with us to understand. John 13:34, *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."*

Only one command to live our lives by! I've said on several occasions, only one new rule is given by Jesus. Stop and think about what is said in this one rule. If every person would only live by this rule, there would be no reason to have any other rules, because they would all be answered and obeyed in this one simple rule. Rest assured that everything Jesus said He would do for us will be done.

Letters to the Church

Jesus taught that love was the greatest of commandments and Paul continues to add to the teachings of Jesus. As the Apostle to the Gentiles, Paul wrote to the early Church, and it is these teachings, along with the other letters written to the early church that flow across every denominational creed. Everyone who professes to be a Christian should understand that Paul's teachings are universal to every denomination that claims to fall under the authority of the bride of Christ, the Church. Since the greatest theme presented by Jesus was love, how did Paul express this teaching? Turn with me to 1 Corinthians 13 and allow me to show you what it says in the Living Bible (TLB) paraphrased version.

(TLB) If I had the gift of being able to speak in other languages without learning them, and could speak in every language there is in all of heaven and earth, but didn't love others, I would only be making noise. If I had the gift of prophecy and knew all about what is going to happen in the future, knew everything about everything, but didn't love others, what good would it do? Even if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, I would still be worth nothing at all without love. If I gave everything I have to the poor people, and if I were burned alive for preaching the Gospel but didn't love others, it would be of no value whatever.

Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him. (Emphasis added)

All the special gifts and powers from God will someday come to an end, but love goes on forever. Someday prophecy, and speaking in unknown languages, and special knowledge—these gifts will disappear. Now we know so little, even with our special gifts, and the preaching of those most gifted is still so poor. But when we have been made perfect and complete, then the need for these inadequate special gifts will come to an end, and they will disappear.

It's like this: when I was a child I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child does. But when I became a man my thoughts grew far beyond those of my childhood, and now I have put away the childish things. In the same way, we can see and understand only a little about God now, as if we were peering at his reflection in a poor mirror; but someday we are going to see him in his completeness, face to face. Now all that I know is hazy and blurred, but then I will see everything clearly, just as clearly as God sees into my heart right now.

There are three things that remain—hope, faith, and love—and the greatest of these is love. Notice that after all else has faded away these three things remain. It is these three things that you will take forward into the next phase of life.

Love is the important point of this chapter! Wasn't love the great teaching of Jesus? Then Paul must be adding additional information to this teaching and providing the Church

instructions that apply across all denominations. There are many who preach and teach in an old style manner that places God as a God of judgment, a God of wrath and a God that punishes. These things are true, but the greater joy is to know the God of faith, the God of hope and, more than all else, the God of love.

The goal of this work is, and always has been, to show you truth. However, there is a problem. The truth is simple, not complex, as many would have you believe. Take, as an example, a study pertaining to the law. Which law, you may ask? Truly, I tell you it does not matter. If you say the Law of Moses, I say no, for the fulfillment of that law has been completed. You may say the remaining laws of the Bible, and again, I say no, for they are only regulations and principles. You say the law of man and of the land, and I say no, for they are the manner of government within any particular sovereignty or society.

Look closely at the love chapter from 1st Corinthians. What are the three things that will remain? They are **hope, faith** and **love**. Did you read law or wealth in any of those three things? Let me share something with you. As an electronic technician, it was necessary for me to have a thorough knowledge of Ohm's Law, whereby, resistance, voltage and current are all an interactive part to have electricity perform work. In a similar fashion, as a believer, it is necessary for me to understand the principle of the three residuals mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13. How are these three things residuals? They remain after all else passes. You were born into this world with nothing and, in the material sense, will take nothing when you die. But, in the spirit world, you will be able to take something out. Remember, God is a spirit who operates by faith. We are travelers upon this plain, to train and improve ourselves in preparation for the next life and we have the choice of where we will live that life. The three things identified above will be carried on into the next life.

In my studies of electronics, the laws of electricity indicated that to perform work resistance was the component the work was to be applied toward. Voltage was the force to cause the work and current was the energy of the force. Now, in similar manner, look at the three residuals of Corinthians 13: Hope represents the goal, the objective that we are striving for (or that which the work will be performed upon); faith represents the force with which to reach that goal; and love is the energy which excites or increases the force of faith.

God made it simple for mankind! In Genesis you will find the only rule that God gave to mankind. It was stated in Genesis 2:16-17 KJV, *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

Only one rule! To get any simpler would mean there were no rules for mankind to follow. Now, how many laws can you find in this one rule? The rules were placed there as additional guidance because man did not choose to follow the first rule! God did not make it complex. He asked for obedience by the following of only one rule. It was mankind's choice to become disobedient and cause the introduction of additional rules. To take this work through the varied thoughts, rules and disobedience of mankind would be a process that would seemingly go on forever. The truth shall remain that the manner of how to worship God is simple. It has been made complex by the desires of man and not by God. Complexity is not always the answer, even here in the United States. We have added so many laws and rules that to enforce them all is literally an impossibility! How does one keep this simple? Easy! Be obedient to God and serve Him!

I cannot, or will not, go into every issue before mankind. We should touch upon some of these thoughts that seem to be of importance to mankind in their day-to-day discussions.

First, let's look at ourselves. We are black, white, red, yellow, brown and various hues between any two of these colors. Some people have round eyes and some slanted eyes. Some are tall and some are short. Some are blond and blue eyed and others may be black headed with green eyes. However, all are spirits created in the image of God who possess a soul and live in a body. Our transitional home is the planet Earth and our true home should be considered Heaven, however, on that last part we were given the choice to make. If we are obedient we will live in Heaven, but if we are disobedient we will live in Hell. Mankind will convolute the issue and through any number of reasons make the simple more complex. There are, and will be, those who will attempt to place themselves in a better position than God and tell others that the white race is superior, or that the black race is oppressed. Neither is the truth! Do not be so foolish as to say that since I did not state otherwise, that therefore, the black race is superior and the white race is oppressed. How absurd and foolish is your thought.

God told Abraham that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through him. Yes! God said that, and each and every person on the face of the earth has a blessing going back to Abraham. Notice that none of the descriptive adjectives are stated in this verse. It does not say that only the white man from a European descendantship will be blessed, neither does it say that only the Arab living in downtown Damascus will be blessed. We seem to forget about all the sons of Abraham. The two principle sons were Ishmael and Isaac, however, there are six more sons that we normally do not include in any of our discussions about the children of Abraham. These six sons are given gifts by Abraham and sent into the countries of the east. Listen to this fact! It has been said there is no person on earth who is more distantly related to any other person than 50th cousin. Let's go one better. Use natural doubling and watch what happens. You are a person and you have two parents. They in turn have their two parents, and so on, and so on. If you multiple this out to the 33rd power the resultant number is 8,589,934,592, yet, the population of the earth just passed six billion. At the 39th power, the figure would be 549,755,813,888. Therefore, anyone on this planet would truly be less than 50th cousin, and that would include all who have passed on before going all the way back to Adam and Eve. So answer this question: Why do you feel a hatred for your cousin?

What was the first principle given to mankind? It was to have dominion over the earth. Mankind was to be master of this planet. Mankind is the one who must care for it and tend the planet. This is not saying that mankind must be some type of environmental fanatic. To have dominion would mean to reign over, not destroy this planet's ability to sustain our body's need for food, or fresh air to breathe. In like manner, we also are not to reign by restricting growth that would meet the needs of all people. The cardinal concern should be that we, as the keepers, do not become greedy in our use of the dominion. Remember, God does not want mankind to worship the sun, moon or anything God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven.

We hear the issue of one race being superior over another. Not so! While there are teachings in most religions to keep the religious line pure by marrying inside that belief only, the teaching does not say anything about race, color, or creed. Again, it is mankind that

places this as a stumbling block, and not God. There are two cardinal rules given in the holy books that seem to be overlooked. First, there is unity. While we are diverse in our body's home, we should be united in our spiritual oneness. Genesis shows the unity of God even during the creation of man. It says let Us make man. Who is this Us if it is not more than one? The point is not to discuss the difference between thought that God is God and does not need any other to reign, used as a point of contention between Christians and Moslems. The point in the illustration is there is a unity demonstrated within the Godhead. We are to be unified in the spirit.

Secondly, there is greatness. Mankind seems to get this one backward in most instances. We think greatness rests in position, title, wealth, kind of car driven, or amount of square footage in our residence. Greatness is obtained when we serve others. Those who serve others are the great ones. Rarely does society, in any nation, award greatness to those who lust for personal power or seek to exalt themselves. On those occasions when an individual, such as the ones described, rises to a position of prominence, it will not take long before they will fall.

I have observed there are four states of contentment among mankind:

1. **Godly without contentment.** Representing those who believe in God and have spoken those words, who say they profess, with their own mouth, that God is the one true God and there is no other God, yet, at the same time, not finding any happiness to serve God. These people seem to go out of their way to always be searching for happiness somewhere else other than with God.
2. **Content but not Godly.** Represent those who are happy to live in their bodily form and have no belief that there is another experience that will take place after this life. The Budweiser commercial, *You only go around once*, should be their slogan.
3. **Neither Godly nor content.** Illustrated by those who are discontent with everything. Their entire life is negative and they find fault with everything. When the word from God is spoken to them, they are annoyed and ask you to not preach to them. They do not need to hear those words.
4. The final group represents those who are both **Godly and content.** They have concluded in their growth with God that each experience in life has a reason and they are happy to learn from their experiences and look forward to the next. They are happy in the knowledge that God is with them. Answer this, *If God be for us, then who can be against us?* We should remember God is on our side and we should be content to understand this and be on His side by serving, obeying and worshipping Him.

A truth could be stated that we, being mankind in general, all want to be recognized, noticed and loved. If that is not true, why are there hate groups in this country? Why are there skinheads or punk rockers that do strange things to their hair and their bodies? Why is the younger generation spending hundreds of dollars on their car's music system? What about tatoos, nose rings or other body ornaments? All these things say, Hey look at me! I'm someone! I want to be noticed!

There are numerous people who see a psychologist for depression, and many other problems. In searching the holy books of God, I have reached the conclusion that if any person would sit down and read the word of God, there is no possible way for the human species to have problems with depression, low self esteem, or any disorder that deals with a person feeling sorry for themselves.

Allow me to explain why this should be taken as a true statement. Paul left the inspired Epistles to the Church as instructions for every Christian. In those letters from Paul mankind needs to find all occurrences of you are, you can or you have to see the assurances that have been given to everyone who believes in the name of Jesus. Understand one thing before we get stated. Sometimes the you may be we, us, them or even I. Sometimes the words *are*, *can* or *have* are in a sentence but there is nothing in the sentence that presents a promise to mankind, and in some places you need to read the verses before and after a reference to understand the full meaning of the verse. For this section, the King James was used for the search instead of the New King James Version. Finally, in those verses where there is both an *are*, along with either *can* or *have*, only the are reference will be used for our search. However, the other reference word is underlined.

Just one short note of additional information. In going through the holy books, it appears to me there is about a one to four ratio of verses that give the gifts, and the opposing punishments, of God. Look at Deuteronomy chapter 28 as our example. In this chapter, there are 68 verses with the first 14 verses covering the blessings for obedience and 54 verses showing the curses for disobedience. What I've seen in the course of my readings is this is carried throughout the holy books. There seems to be about three to four times the amount of teaching to show the result for disobedience. Maybe this is why there is so much emphasis on the negative that occurs in life. The truth of the matter is that concentration should be on the smaller portion written about the positive. I think it is because at this time of writing the scriptures mankind was becoming evil again (remember the flood) and not following what God had intended.

Remember God loves all mankind and wants all of us to obey him! The promises made are great! The gifts for obedience are wonderful! You can be prosperous by following God's desire instead of your own desires! The holy books tell us God cannot lie. Then, why do we, as the whole of mankind, try to make Him out to be a liar? In every instance, there is the infamous two-letter word IF that separates the gift and the punishment. When you do that which is instructed and obey God, the gift is given and when you do not, the curse is granted.

It seems that mankind, once again, has the right to make a choice. God does not stand there and force mankind to worship Him. We have to make that choice on our own. I've been asked why a loving, forgiving God has not forgiven Satan for everything he has done. My answer is easy. Satan has not been forgiven because Satan has not repented of his sins and has not asked God the Father to forgive him. I believe God could, and would, forgive Satan, if Satan would only repent of his sins and ask for forgiveness. The problem is that Satan has hardened his heart and doesn't want to repent, or be forgiven. He believes he is as good as, or better than, God. Sounds like a lot of what many people believe. Humankind does have the ability to make a choice and should understand both sides of the matter before their choice is made.

It is time to show you the assurance that Paul left to the entire Church. These verses apply to every Christian, no matter whether you call yourself a Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Lutheran, or any other named denomination that goes back to the original The Way.

Our First Search Word is ARE: You Are, We Are, or They Are

Romans 1:6 KJV, *Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:*

All have been called to be a part of Jesus. If you are not a believer you can be. The gift is open to everyone.

Romans 4:7 KJV, *Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.*

Christian believer, your past sins have been forgiven. This does not say you may continue to sin.

Romans 6:4 KJV, *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

This verse illustrates the previous verse. I indicated that Romans 4:7 does not say you may continue to sin, therefore, you are walking in newness of life.

Romans 6:14 KJV, *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

The law here is that of Moses. Jesus did not remove the law, remember Jesus removed the curse of the law. This does not indicate that we should be lawless and not follow the law of society. Look at these next three verses:

Romans 6:16 KJV, *Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

Romans 7:4 KJV, *Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.*

Romans 7:6 KJV, *But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.*

Verses 4 and 6 repeat the removal from the curse of the law. However, once again, we must remember that this does not indicate we are to be lawless within society. Thus, the true indication would be that to fulfill the law means to live by the law and be an example to others.

Romans 8:1 KJV, *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

Again, our sins are forgiven, and there is no condemnation, through our belief in Jesus. Our model is Christ and not the manner of the world.

Romans 8:9 KJV, *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*

Notice that the Spirit of God, should live in us, and, that the Spirit of Jesus should guide us. Those who have not found this truth are not a part of the body of Christ.

Romans 8:12 KJV, *Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. Or, in the NIV, *Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it.**

Romans 8:14 KJV, *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

In a previous chapter Christians were adopted into the family of God and are co-heirs with Christ. Therefore, you are a child of God and this verse confirms this for all who believe.

Romans 8:28 KJV, *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

There are some who will try to confuse what is said in the second half of this verse. The verse does not indicate there is a predestined selection of people. All are called, however, only a few will listen and answer the call. The purpose at the end of the sentence is again, not predestination, but to obey God, according to His purpose.

Romans 8:37 KJV, *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.* Read verses 36 through 39 from the NIV for a better translation.

Romans 8:36-39 NIV, *As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

This is one of those places where several verses are needed to understand its full meaning. To show the depth of the statement, I have put four verses here from the NIV. Notice in verse 37, it begins by making a statement. Understand verse 37 is an answer to verse 36 because we are more than sheep to be slaughtered. Verses 38 and 39 tell us of our value and that we are more than sheep and Jesus is our shepherd.

Romans 9:7 KJV, *Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, in Isaac shall thy seed be called.*

Romans 9:8 KJV, *That is, they which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.*

Romans 9:8 NIV, *In other words, it is not the natural children who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring.*

There are two important points recorded here. First, the children of the promise are called through Isaac. When we went through the children of Abraham, I showed how all three religions: Judaism, Islam and Christianity all go back through Sarah to the promises given to Abraham. The second point is answered by the point itself, it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring. As we have seen previously, the promise goes through Isaac.

Romans 12:5 KJV, *So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.*

We see the unity that we should understand. This is not to say the truth is in the Holy Roman Catholic Church, instead that the Church should be catholic, or universal, in its understanding of **The Way**.

Romans 14:4 KJV, *Who art thou that judgest another man’s servant? To his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.*

This verse does not fall into our normal search. The word used here is *art*, being another form of the word *are*. The point is the question about judging. I am not here to judge you. In like manner, do not judge me. My purpose is to show you the truth that has been recorded in God's instructions to humankind.

Romans 14:8 KJV, *For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.*

Once again, we are reassured that we are God's children and it does not matter if we are currently living or if we have died, as long as we have accepted Jesus as Lord..

Romans 14:20 KJV, *For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence. Romans 14:20-21 NIV, *Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.**

The illustration here is speaking about food, however, the illustration can go on much further and apply to anything. What one person understands as being good by God, should not be flaunted before another person who believes the same thing to be wrong. Look at verse 21 NIV to see the example.

Romans 15:27 KJV, *It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.*

Notice the verse reads Gentiles, it does not say Christians nor does it say Moslems. It reads Gentiles! Gentiles means non-Jewish. Again, the blessing identified above through Isaac goes out to all the world. The duty therefore, is to share, and minister, to the nation of Israel as God's chosen people.

Romans 16:18 KJV, *For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. Romans 16:18 NIV, *For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.**

This is an illustration of the negative. Observe in the NIV the phrase, *are not serving*. Notice these people used smooth talk and flattery to deceive the minds of naive people.

1 Corinthians 1:2 KJV, *Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.*

Notice the truth! We are sanctified by our belief in Jesus, not by a ritual, or by a special mass, or by any other means.

1 Corinthians 1:18 KJV, *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*

Here rests a truth pertaining to the teachings about Jesus. To the believer, we find in the Cross the power of God, and to the wicked, we find that the Cross is foolishness. Everyone makes his or her own choice.

1 Corinthians 1:26 KJV, *For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.*

This chapter began with an illustration showing who was called through Christ. This verse illustrates that there are those who do not hear the call being made by God the Father. Were you called?

1 Corinthians 1:28 KJV, *And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:*

This verse again states the truth? We are called, yet despised. We have a mission to go forth and teach the entire world to nullify the things of the flesh.

1 Corinthians 3:2 KJV, *I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.*

Here is another one of those verses that has our search word but it is presented in a negative manner. We now have almost two thousand years of Christian history and heritage, and yet, it could be said that many are still not ready. The promises are there, the truth is there, but, our fathers have not taught us the correct manner of understanding. We teach our children laws and principles of math and science but many will not teach them the laws and principles pertaining to, or about, God.

1 Corinthians 3:9 KJV,) *For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.*

How much stronger must the Word be revealed to you? You are part of God and God is part of you.

1 Corinthians 3:16 KJV, *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*

1 Corinthians 3:17 KJV, *If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.*

Look at verses 16 and 17 together. Here are two verses that show both sides of a truth. Verse 16 states that **you are** the temple of God. Verse 17 says if you destroy this temple (meaning yourself), God will do likewise to you.

1 Corinthians 3:20 KJV, *And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.*

1 Corinthians 3:21 KJV, *Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours.*

1 Corinthians 3:22 KJV, *Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours.*

1 Corinthians 3:23 KJV, *And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.*

Look at verses 20 through 23. The important word in verses 21 and 22 is all. This doesn't say some! It doesn't say part! It doesn't state few or many nor does it imply anything done in the past. Verse 23 shows the relationship between mankind, Jesus and God. Why does mankind want to ruin this relationship? It is not God who makes this choice.

1 Corinthians 4:8 KJV, *Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you.*

1 Corinthians 4:9 KJV, *For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.*

1 Corinthians 4:10 KJV, *We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised.*

Review verses 8, 9, and 10 together. Verse 8 states a positive for all of us. Verse 9 gives a negative toward the apostles, and verse 10 gives a comparison between the apostles, and ourselves, the saints.

1 Corinthians 6:2 KJV, *Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?*

This verse is questioning our greatness as believers in Christ. If we are to judge the world with Christ, then why is it we can not justly judge small matters between ourselves?

1 Corinthians 6:11 KJV, *And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

Look at the extent this goes, not only are you washed, you are sanctified, and justified by the Spirit of our God, that is the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:12 KJV, *All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.*

I went slightly outside the search of you are in this verse. The search word, being are, is there, but, it does not have the you, we, they or I in front of it. However, look at the first word in the verse. It says all, not some, many, or most, it says **all**. I could sit here and offend most everyone reading by giving examples of what this says. The point is there are far too many who claim to believe in God who are in bondage because they listen to leaders of religion instead of listening to the Word.

1 Corinthians 6:19 KJV, *What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

1 Corinthians 6:20 KJV, *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

I underlined four references in these two verses. Notice that as a Christian, the Holy Spirit is in you. One of our other search words also appears and we are assured we have received the Spirit from God. Finally, understand we are not our own. We belonged to God prior to our birth on earth and upon our accepting Jesus as Lord when we gave our life back to God to be the master of our destiny. We have understood that when we choose our own destiny, we inject sin into the equation and the glory of God does not come through. This even goes to our body where the spirit of God resides while we transverse this plain. Look at verse 20. It states we were bought with a price. The price mentioned is the blood of Jesus. In this review of the gifts God has granted to mankind, there is no record that says mankind must make a sacrifice, which is required by God. Under the old covenant, there was a sacrifice required by man when man disobeyed. When man was obedient, there was no requirement for a sacrifice. This verse gives the hint of the real sacrifice. God gave the real sacrifice to mankind, not the other way around.

1 Corinthians 7:23 KJV, *Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.*

Continuing with thoughts from the verse above and 1 Corinthians 6:20 we should once again understand that Jesus paid the price for our salvation. Remember what you read in 1 Corinthians 6:11. We have been washed by the blood of Jesus, we are sanctified, and also justified. Understand what is meant by the terms sanctified and justified.

Look at the following Bible verses:

Sanctified: John 17:17 NIV, *Sanctify them by the truth: your word is truth.* Romans 15:16 NIV, *So that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.*

Justified: Romans 5:1 NIV, *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.* Galatians 3:24 NIV, *So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.*

Therefore, sanctification comes from truth through the Holy Spirit and justification through faith. Now, how can one increase their faith? The answer lies in Romans 10:17 NIV. *Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.* Anyone who wants to increase his or her faith needs to study God's Holy Word.

1 Corinthians 10:13 KJV, *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

Three things are important in this verse. First, notice that temptation is common to man. Secondly, notice that it does not say you will not be tempted, it says when you are tempted, God will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. If you are weak in the spiritual realm, your temptation will be small. If you are strong, your temptation will be greater. Thirdly, notice that God will always provide an escape route so you do not have to go through the sin, ***understand you will have to live through the temptation.*** Remember, it is still up to us to CHOOSE the escape route.

Why would God allow us to be tempted? It is a test so God can observe our obedience. But make no mistake, it is not God who tempts us! It is Satan who tempts us. Mankind has an example for better understanding of temptation. Yes! Jesus is again our example! Matthew, Mark and Luke all record the forty day period Jesus spent in the desert being tempted by the devil. The truth we need to look at is in two other verses of Scripture. First, notice in Hebrews 4:15 that Jesus was tempted in all points KJV and in another translation one who in every respect has been tempted as we are RS. I said that there were two verses. Our second example should be this group of verses that make a paragraph statement. James 1:12-15 KJV, *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

1 Corinthians 10:17 KJV, *For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.*

We have another illustration of how we are all joined together through Christ. In other verses, we are all members of one body. Here, we are part of one loaf of bread. The illustrations made here show us that we are all part of a higher order. The illustrations do not go to the point of showing pain. Consider as a parent, your own children, and of your children, you have one rebellious child who will listen to absolutely nothing. You, as the parent, are held accountable for the child's actions. It is important to remember that your other children will listen to you, understand responsibility and accept its meaning. They respect others. You are in court time and time again because of this one child and society currently believes the parent should be held accountable for the child's actions.

Society says, in many cases, that the child does not understand what they are doing. Society today wants to place blame on the parents and overlook the conditions placed on children. Our children are bombarded with data on a daily basis. It may come from television, a smart phone or tablet. Today's children are intelligent and if we accept that most learning takes place before age 5 the question should be: Are we to accept that a child's reasoning ability does not come into the picture until after the age of 21? Oh! What foolishness! A child's reasoning ability matures just as our's did when we were that age.

In like manner, God watches over all of His children and it causes Him great pain to see one go astray. Likewise, it causes the human family great pain to see a child go astray, but, it is the child's choice to refuse to obey the parent, or the law of society. Granted, in both cases, the offending child must have been shown the truth, the penalty and know the desire of the parent. In either case, the pain is there. Society must understand the influence Satan has over this domain, just as we must understand that God's only request is for mankind to be obedient.

God desires and requests us to be obedient to Him and in similar manner we human parents desire our children to be obedient to us. God will not demand every individual to become a child of His. That choice is still left up to mankind at the individual level. Likewise, I find it very foolish to believe that society can enact a law that holds a parent accountable for the behavior of a child. I find it foolish for two reasons. First, no nation can call itself a democratic society and enact a law demanding that all children respect their parents and do everything in a manner others find more desirable. Secondly, I find it foolish to think there are people who believe children do not come into an understanding of what is going on around them at different stages in life. Some children seem very knowledgeable at a very early age, while others may not leave their innocence until a later point in life. Those parents who understand the hierarchal order from God, through the family to the child, are exposed to deep pain if they have a child who is rebellious in nature and does not want to listen. Finally, understand that children do have a guardian angel assigned over them until the age of accountability. This can be shown in two verses: Matthew 18:10 NIV, *"See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."* Psalms 91:11 NIV, *For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.*

1 Corinthians 12:4 KJV, *Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.*
1 Corinthians 12:5 KJV, *And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.*
1 Corinthians 12:6 KJV, *And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.*

In these verses, there are different illustrations tying all of us together (i.e., being different parts of one body). As our human body has different parts, these various parts have different functions. Each of us has different functions to perform. Some are to be the leaders, some are to be preachers, some are to be teachers, some are to be followers and at the same time, we are all a part of the same spirit and under the leadership of the same Lord, all being the adopted children of one God.

1 Corinthians 12:12 KJV, *For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.*

And, here is the verse confirming what was just stated above. We are all the working cells that make up the believing body.

1 Corinthians 12:27 KJV, *Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*

And here is another confirmation.

1 Corinthians 12:29 KJV, *Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?*

This verse is a rhetorical question of that stated for verses 4 through 6.

1 Corinthians 14:12 KJV, *Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.*

Notice this verse. It seems we all have a hidden desire to have some type of spiritual gift. The second portion of the sentence tells us to excel in those gifts that build up the church. Wouldn't teaching and being of service to your family, to your neighbors, and to your local church be a gift to you and be of help to build the church?

1 Corinthians 14:37 KJV, *If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.*

Amen! I align myself in agreement with this verse and what it says. I do not believe I am a prophet, however, I do believe a spiritual gift has been given to me, and in its use I pray that it glorifies my Lord Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:2 KJV, *By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.*

This verse assures us we are saved, but, it goes further and tells us we are to hold firmly to the Word. Otherwise, we have believed in vain, or in other words, your faith is irreverent or extremely weak and you have just called God a liar. That, my friend, is an example of the unpardonable sin where you have blasphemed the Holy Spirit. You may ask, how did I get, from this verse, to the unpardonable sin? The key is the word vain. When you take something in vain, you are actually saying it is of no real value, that the thing, item, subject or whatever being offered, is worthless or futile.

That being the case, we need to understand the unpardonable sin. Turn to Matthew 12:31-32 KJV and let us read, *Wherefore I say unto you, all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.* Notice in these two verses that you may and can speak against Jesus, as the Son of man in v 32. Notice that this unforgivable sin will remain, not only in this life, but in the next. Do you really want to carry this baggage with you to heaven? Now, what about this word blasphemy? What does it mean? Blaspheme itself means to speak of, or address, with irreverence. The Greek word used in this verse is blasphemia, which means vilification (or to blacken the character of or to defame or slander), evil speaking, and/or railing (which means to mock, to complain angrily against or to scold).

We are mocking the Holy Spirit when we believe in vain. The question is again made for your sake: Do you really want to believe that God is a liar and think you can do as you please without any retribution? You do have choices to make. You can side step some things on some days (if you keep your repentance sheet balanced). You can even get by with a few godly names taken in vain, but this is the one thing you do not want to do. God is all knowing, so you are automatically caught!

1 Corinthians 15:23 KJV, *But every man in his own order: Christ the First Fruit; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.*

Understand, it is the blood of Jesus that saves us, but even then we have a responsibility. We are to behave and act as a brother to Christ. Take a moment to think about the things you do on a day-to-day basis. Would Jesus be caught doing those types of things? If you said, No! Then why are you doing them? Yes, ask yourself What Would Jesus Do?

1 Corinthians 15:27 KJV, *For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.*

Consider your own values. Within each one of us there is that small portion that says the values our society, our parents, our religion, and our environment has taught us are correct, and we know the truth concerning the things going on around us. We all believe that what we were taught pertaining to our God is true. However, there may be a day or two every once in a great while, when you ask yourself: What if this isn't correct? I've been there, asked that same question. Then I began to read again what the Holy books have recorded for us. If you go through the Old Testament of the Bible, there is no record where, and through the law, Moses was placed in a position when all things were under his control. In like manner there is no ayat in the Quran indicating Mohammad was granted control over everything. It is only in the New Testament account of Jesus where there is an indication that He, Jesus of Nazareth, holds such control and power. Why is there a doubt that He is the Son of God?

2 Corinthians 1:4 KJV, *Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*

This verse is about using our gifts in God's service. This verse indicates the Christian is to comfort those in trouble as we are comforted by Christ. The context of the verse should lead all of us to think how we have been assisted in our times of trouble by others, and we are in turn to assist those around us in their trouble. There is a movie with a title of *Pay it Forward*²¹, that is what we are doing by obeying this verse. Sharing personal experiences is a great example of paying it forward. Interesting.

However, there are far too many members, of many churches, who feel they do not need to go to church or pay it forward. They will tell us they have God in their heart! They will tell us they do not agree with organized religion! They will tell us they can pray anywhere and they know God hears their prayers. Look at this just a little differently and let's see what you think. It is Sunday, and you are a member of XYZ church. Your relationship to your God is in the manner described above and you go to play ball on Sunday morning, or you go to the lake and enjoy your boat, or go fishing. Who do you pray to if there is a problem and you are in trouble? Isn't the first thing out of your mouth: Oh God! Let me get through this and I'll promise to _____. Why don't you pray to the ball in your hand, or the fish you just caught, or the boat deck on which you are standing? Isn't it these things you are worshipping? It is not God, otherwise you would be trying to do the simple things He asked you to do, and yet, you expect Him to be there for you at any time, and for anything. Don't you think you're being just a little bit selfish? I know I'm now preaching and not teaching. One must evaluate the truth of their situation and their relationship to their God.

2 Corinthians 1:7 KJV, *And our hope of you is stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation.*

Through Jesus, we have gone through the suffering, and as such, we are also to share in the comfort and knowledge of heaven.

²¹ *Pay It Forward*, Book — Catherine Ryan Hyde (1999), New York, Simon & Schuster (reprint 2010)

Movie — Leslie Dixon (2000), Burbank, Warner Brothers Pictures, Bel Air Entertainment, Tapestry Films

2 Corinthians 2:15 KJV, *For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:*

As long as we obey, we perform God's work and it is pleasant incense to God. He knows we perform this work between those who will accept Jesus and those who will not.

2 Corinthians 4:8 KJV, *We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;*

I said at the beginning of this chapter that it is impossible for a Christian to be depressed. This verse confirms that statement. While we may have to live through times of trouble, we are not distressed or crushed. We may be bothered by a situation, but are not in despair. The world is full of troubles, however, our troubles last but a moment compared to eternity in Heaven!

2 Corinthians 4:18 KJV, *While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

I retained this verse because of the two different subject areas identified. We will go into more detail in a later chapter. We should fix our eyes on God, the eternal, instead of the world, the temporal.

2 Corinthians 5:6 KJV, *Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:*

For many people, this verse seems to contradict everything said up to this point. How could anyone in the body be absent or away from the Lord? The difference is in the meaning or interpretation of the word, body. In this verse, it means our human body and not the body of Christ, meaning the church. As long as we are in the human body, we are away from our Father, our Brother and more importantly, our home in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:18 KJV, *And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.*

Everything is from God. Did you ever notice how worldly people chase after jewels and gold? Isn't it funny that these people chase after the building material of God? Notice that the ministry of reconciliation would agree with the great commission.

2 Corinthians 6:16 KJV, *And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

Understand what is being said here, as I illustrate this verse in another way. God tells us in Scripture that our bodies are His temple. Have you asked God if He wants to smoke, drink, or see perverted scenes, or lay with a prostitute, or take drugs? Every time you do one of these acts, you are doing it to God through His temple in which you are living.

Galatians 3:3 KJV, *Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*

Here is another verse in which an illustration would be helpful. As Christians, we should understand that the image of God in which we are created, is in the form of a spirit. The spirit entered into us at birth and will depart at death. Upon death, our spirit will return to our heavenly home from which we came. We should be more concerned with our spiritual welfare than our worldly welfare.

Galatians 3:7 KJV, *Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.*

Here is another verse confirming our adoption into the family of Abraham, therefore, being entitled to have a claim to the covenant God made with Abraham and to be an heir to those promises.

Galatians 3:9 KJV, *So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.*

Do you see the importance of faith? Faith is the substance we should have increased so we can get away from nursing milk, and eat of substantial spiritual food. We are all included in the blessing, if we, like Abraham, are faithful.

Galatians 3:26 KJV, *For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.*
Galatians 3:28 KJV, *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Galatians 3:29 KJV, *And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

These three verses confirm what was said for verse 7 above.

Galatians 4:6 KJV, *And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.*

We are still seeing verses that confirm our relationship to God.

Galatians 4:28 KJV, *Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.*

This verse confirms our entitlements to the promises given by Jesus and the prophets, all the way back to the covenant God made with Abraham.

Galatians 4:31 KJV, *So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.*

The illustration being used here in Galatians pertains to the sons of Abraham. Ishmael's mother was Hagar, who is represented as the slave woman (or bondwoman), and Isaac's mother is Sarah, who is the free woman (or the married wife of Abraham). This continues in various verses trying to show that we, as the believing church, have been adopted into the family of Abraham. Now, let's understand the difference between a creation of God and the children of God. God created us all. When you go through the Bible from cover to cover, try to find even one verse illustrating that anyone who attends church on a regular basis, or anyone who does good works, is the adopted child of God. It is only those who believe in Jesus who are the adopted children.

Galatians 5:4 KJV, *Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.*

Let us remember that Jesus came to fulfill the law and to demonstrate that the law could be followed. However, weak-willed people could not seem to follow the law, and the curse of the law was removed when Jesus was crucified.

Galatians 5:18 KJV, *But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.*

This verse answers the one above. It is not the law we are to serve. It is God whom we are to obey, and He saw fit to put aside the requirements of the law, because mankind was not living under its rules and obligations. Through the sacrifice given by God, the law was replaced. There is now only one rule and we, who believe and abide by that rule, understand it is the Spirit who leads.

Ephesians 2:8 KJV, *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.*

Look once more at the quality that causes us to be saved. Yes, we are saved by grace but what causes that grace to be bestowed upon us? Does it not say you are saved through faith? Isn't the important principle the requirement of faith? Salvation is through God's grace and not our good works.

Ephesians 2:19 KJV, *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.*

Again, we have an illustration of the unity of all believers. There is absolutely nothing in this verse, or any other for that matter, identifying one denomination, one sex, or one race as holding the key to heaven.

Ephesians 2:22 KJV, *In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*

We have already seen verses that define and illustrate our body as the temple of God, and tell us that His Spirit resides in us. All this verse tells us is we are being built for that purpose. Remember, everything recorded between Romans chapter one and the last chapter of Jude represents the letters to the Church. This is our operation manual, our marching orders, our orders for engagement, and our quality control check for accurately following the true plan. It defines the family unit, the shepherd leader, the deacon helper and the interaction that each plays upon the others. We also learn the strength of our faith and the unity of ourselves as a member of the living body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:4 KJV, *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling.*

The book of Ephesians is a wonderful book for understanding what it is to be a Christian. It tells us how to talk the talk, walk the walk and prepare for battle as a Christian. Notice again you were called. Understand what it says to be called to one hope, that hope being Christ. Our hope is Christ and we, who answered the call, give our service to Him. Everything we do should have Christ stamped all over it. Our every move should be as Jesus led by His example, from the time we get up in the morning to the time we go to bed at night.

Ephesians 4:25 KJV, *Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.*

This verse names two things you are to change when you become a new person in Christ. Lying and criticism do not belong as a part of a Christian.

Ephesians 4:30 KJV, *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

We are again told of our glorious salvation, that has been sealed and awaiting the day of redemption. How do you redeem a coupon? You present it to the clerk so you can have the discount or the special privilege that goes with the coupon. We have the greatest coupon that can be possessed by mankind. We can present our coupon and have immediate access into all of heaven. That's better than having a GET OUT OF JAIL card in Monopoly®. Oh! What a gift it is to be marked by the Spirit as belonging to Christ.

Ephesians 5:8 KJV, *For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.*

Our very nature has been changed. We have transcended from darkness to light. Through Jesus, we have gone from bad to good, from ugly to beautiful, from sour to sweet, from dead to alive.

Ephesians 5:30 KJV, *For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.*

Just plain, short and simple! That is all the Bible ever said. We are members of His body. Do I dare ask if anybody needs to know of whose body we are talking?

Philippians 1:7 KJV, *Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.*

Paul verified for the Philippians that not only was he a part of the body, but they were also. Even today, so are we, and so will those who come to understand the call and become a part after we have returned to our heavenly Father and given up the presence of this human body.

Philippians 4:8 KJV, *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

Isn't this a different wording of the famous statement of Norman Vincent Peale, *The Power of Positive Thinking*? Peale's writings emphasizes these virtues.

Colossians 1:16 KJV, *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.*

I want to tell you about dominions but I must complete this chapter before I start another. All things were created by God and for God, what else is there to say.

Colossians 2:10 KJV, *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.*

Through Jesus we have been given fulness of life. As part of the head then we cannot be part of the tail. We are to be leaders and not followers. We are to be prosperous and not poor. We are not in bondage, so why do you allow someone to tell you that you are? Every time you listen to someone tell you things will be better over there, or that we are to wait till the sweet by and by, etc., you are only defeating your rightful place in life. By listening to these statements you are allowing Satan to knock you down a peg or two. Remember, you are better, you can win and you can be prosperous! I want to add one more thing. Notice there is no statement about sex, race, color or creed!

Colossians 2:12 KJV, *Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*

I, as an old sergeant, understood the operation, or power, illustrated in this verse. Did you? If God is running the whole show, what do we have to worry about? We have been told to obey and adhere to the lead freely given through Jesus for us to follow. Jesus performed the operation for us. He was crucified, died in our place, and when He arose we all were made joint heirs with Him in the next portion of life.

Colossians 3:1 KJV, *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

We are to be controlled by the virtues of Christ, in other words, live your life as if you have returned to your heavenly home and obey and praise God continually.

Colossians 3:15 KJV, *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to that which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*

I feel God is leading this chapter of this book. It seems every answer I give for the verse we are considering seems to lead to the next verse that contains our search word. If

you are thankful, are you praising God?

1 Thessalonians 5:4 KJV, *But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.*

1 Thessalonians 5:5 KJV, *Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*

In Ephesians we saw another verse that told us we are children of the light and not of darkness. Jesus is our light and Satan is darkness. We truly are children of light.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 KJV, *Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.*

At the beginning of this chapter, I tried to give an illustration of the ratio of verses containing the promises and the verses that contain a curse. Here is an example containing the search word (**are**) where a warning is given. Please do not lose sight of the noble goal you saw, and set your eyes on that time you accepted Jesus as your Savior.

2 Thessalonians 1:7 KJV, *And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,*

Jesus promised that his yoke was not heavy and there would be rest and comfort. Doesn't the poem *Footsteps* illustrate the loving care Jesus gives to all of us when our load gets too much for us?

2 Thessalonians 2:13 KJV, *But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:*

This is Paul speaking for those who are the leaders of the churches he started and nurtured. Notice once again, we are told that we are sanctified and reminded of the importance of believing in truth.

2 Timothy 2:19 KJV, *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

2 Timothy 2:19 NIV, *Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."*

Please read the inscription in the NIV translation. Those who genuinely confess their sins turn from evil.

Titus 3:8 KJV, *This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.*

Notice this is a faithful, or trustworthy, saying. We are instructed once again to perform good deeds in the manner of Jesus.

Hebrews 2:11 KJV, *For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren.*

Jesus wants us all to be holy and to consider each other to be brothers, or meaning close family members.

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

God is the CEO of this great and glorious company. Jesus is the Operations Manager who oversees the day-to-day activities. We, through the spirit within us, are part of the

overall organization. We are assured that our position is forever and the only one who can deny that is ourselves. Christians are to be strong in faith and continue in service for God. We are the workers.

Hebrews 3:14 KJV, *For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end.*

Hebrews 3:14 NIV, *We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.*

Read the NIV translation. When we first accepted Jesus as Savior, we were nervous, happy, and felt so warm inside. We had a passion for our belief and wanted to tell everyone what we had done and how good it made us feel. But, as our lives progressed, we seemed to put Jesus more and more on the back burner. Our lives have so many other things that require our attention. We are so pressed to get everything taken care of in our busy schedules, and there just isn't enough hours in the day to tell God we thank Him or that we appreciate Him being near us when we make those decisions we make every day. Let's get back to the basics.

Hebrews 4:15 KJV, *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

I can attest to the validity of this verse. Not only can I attest to it, I can gather a large audience who can make the same claim. Jesus has stood by me in those moments of weakness, those moments when I failed Him. Yet, He assured me He remained there and was patient with my growth, experiences, and manner of change within myself. It is only ourselves over whom we have the control of change. We cannot easily change our spouses, our children or our friends. We can take control and change ourselves. When we ask, Jesus will be there to help us. But, we must live through the changes, in ourselves, for it to make a difference.

Hebrews 5:14 KJV, *But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

The writers of the letters to the Church, that means to us, use the illustration in several places that we are to grow and mature so that we can get away from milk and start eating solid food. My quest is to help you enjoy steak. If you can understand and begin to practice the principles given us then everyone of you can enjoy spiritual steak. Just for an illustration, how many of you can walk on water? Oh? How many people have walked on water? I considered that would be your answer. Please read Matthew 14:29. Now, how many have walked on the sea?

Hebrews 9:15 KJV, *And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.*

All should understand some things concerning the differences between the old and the new covenants. Under the old covenant, the sacrifice offerings were, for the most part, to atone for a sin committed. Through obedience, there wasn't a requirement for a sacrifice. Now understand that a peace offering, meaning strictly because you wanted to provide an offering, was not required. It was only because of disobedience that offerings were provided. Under the new covenant, God provided the acceptable offering and only one was required for all ages. This offering was Jesus, and He became the mediator over this new covenant,

therefore, setting us free from sin.

Hebrews 10:10 KJV, *By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

Hebrews 10:14 KJV, *For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

Verses 10 and 14 only amplify what was indicated in verse 9:15 above.

Hebrews 12:1 KJV, *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

Again we are admonished to live by a new standard measured by the example given by Jesus.

Hebrews 12:18 KJV, *For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,*

We are reminded again that our fate is not toward darkness, meaning hell. Now look at the next verse in our search.

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

This verse is the opposite of verse 18 and reassures us that we are going to heaven.

Hebrews 12:23 KJV, *To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.*

We are part of the firstborn, meaning having the birthright, and our names are recorded in heaven.

1 Peter 1:5 KJV, *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

By our faith we have an armor shielding us from the powers of the evil one. It is only by our granting ability to Satan that he can function. God does not defeat us. We defeat ourselves.

1 Peter 1:6 KJV, *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations.*

Instead of this verse sounding negative, look at it slightly differently. We have been told there will be no temptation presented that we cannot get through, however, we must remember that we will have to live, or pass through, these trials or temptations.

1 Peter 2:5 KJV, *Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

1 Peter 2:9 KJV, *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.*

I put verses 5 and 9 together because of some common things in their meaning. Notice that we are 1) living stones, 2) a holy priesthood, 3) a chosen generation, 4) a holy nation, 5) a peculiar people, 6) we are a living offering, or spiritual sacrifice, to God, and 7) we have been called out of darkness and into light. Do you know who you are and what you are as a Christian?

1 Peter 2:10 KJV, *Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

Here is the culmination statement from all of that listed in verses 5 and 9. We are now the people of God who have received mercy.

1 Peter 3:6 KJV, *Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.*

Ladies, here is a verse just for you. It does not say anything about you being a slave to your husband. The illustration is used that Sarah obeyed Abraham, adding if you do what is right. That's all it says and we should understand that in a Christian home, there is a correct order that places things in harmony. Again, the overtone the woman must be somehow the servant to the man, is completely wrong.

1 Peter 3:9 KJV, *Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.*

We could go into the repaying of evil with evil or insult with insult but I'd rather wait until a later session. Our search word is in this verse and again we see we are called.

1 Peter 3:12 KJV, *For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.*

Look at the two search words in this verse. The eyes and ears of the Lord are open to us. More importantly, notice the last part of the verse. If you reverse the statement it says the face of the Lord is upon those who do good. Jesus does watch over us and does hear our prayers.

1 Peter 3:14 KJV, *But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled.*

Stay true to doing right! For even if you are called names and insulted, our Lord is with us and there is no reason to fear. It is the unbeliever who should have fear.

1 Peter 4:13 KJV, *But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.*

Every time someone says we share in Jesus' sufferings, my human side cringes. I really do not like to envision the pain and suffering of crucifixion. However, I do rejoice, for I know where my Lord now sits and am persuaded He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.

1 Peter 4:14 KJV, *If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.*

Peter illustrated this statement in a slightly different manner in verse 3:9 above. We can interchange the words reproached, railing and insulted as being rebuked.

1 Peter 5:9 KJV, *Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

Restated: Keep your faith, all the believers of Christianity are enduring the same types of persecution as you are.

2 Peter 1:4 KJV, *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

All the promises are assured to us. Our nature is to be that of Jesus and through the threefold assurance, the Word, the water and the blood, we know we can escape evil.

1 John 2:5 KJV, *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

Look at the structure of the sentence and the meaning there. 1) His word, this is God's word, that's the Bible. 2) In Him, meaning the person who is obeying the word of God, us. 3) Verily is the love of God perfected, the NIV explains this rather well by saying that God's love is truly made complete.

Now, it is time to start giving you meat instead of milk. Look carefully at the true meaning of this verse. If you obey God's word, the love of Jesus is made complete within you. How many times have you heard that we cannot be completely perfect like Jesus because of our sinful nature? The evil one has you listening to another error and believing in something that was never actually said. Show me in Scripture where it says a Christian believer can never reach perfection. I do not want to see verses that imply: Because we were born in sin we cannot reach this. By making these types of statements, mankind is already doomed to fail. Let's really look at what the Word has to say about all this. Granted, mankind has a curse of sin inherent upon him because of Adam. However, there are other indications and examples given that mankind fails to understand, and preaching does not give us the full value of teaching:

1) Abraham was righteous and God even walked and talked with him. Is that true? Isn't righteousness being obedient? Didn't Abraham have the faith that God would do what He said He would do? Let us stop for a moment and see exactly what righteousness means:

Righteousness is a theological concept in Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. It is an attribute that implies that a person's actions are justified, and can have the connotation that the person has been judged or reckoned as leading a life that is pleasing to God.

Righteousness is one of the chief attributes of God as portrayed in the Hebrew Bible. Its chief meaning concerns ethical conduct (for example, Leviticus 19:36 NKJV, "*You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length, weight, or volume.*"; Deuteronomy 25:1 NKJV, "*If there is a dispute between men, and they come to court, that the judges may judge them, and they justify the righteous and condemn the wicked.*"; Psalm 1:6 NKJV, "*For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.*"; Proverbs 8:20 NKJV, "*I traverse the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice.*") In the Book of Job the title character is introduced to us as a person who is perfect in righteousness.

2) Moses was righteous and God spoke to him from the burning bush and on the mountain. Isn't that true? Didn't God give Moses the commandments and enter into the covenant of the law with Moses?

3) What about the men of the Bible who are called perfect? No! I'm not speaking about Jesus.

Look at Genesis 6:9 KJV. It says: ... *Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.* In Noah's time he was perfect, other translations read blameless. Now, turn to Job 1:1 KJV. It reads: *There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job: and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.* Job was perfect in the eyes of God. There you have two men who were perfect according to the Word. There is the record of a person who only had one sin charged against him. We all should know about King David and some of the things he did in his life. King David committed sins before God. Turn to 1 Kings 15:5 and read. Doesn't it say the only sin held against David was the death of Uriah, the Hittite?

4) We must also look at the life of our Lord Jesus. Even the celebration of his birth at Christmas has been convoluted to the point that errors in the birth story are now accepted

as being true. Maybe you are like Paul said, not even now ready for meat, and must still be fed milk. Why? Can you not read? Can you not think? Must everything be given to you on a platter? Can't you even find one thing on your own? Must you believe every word spoken to you without questioning it's truth? Where can you check to see if it is true? The things I am telling you are the truth! Test them to see if they are not! The test procedures were given to you, so test these words to see if they are the truth!

Jesus was born of a woman. We can check things to see if they are true in Matthew, and Luke. These two books will confirm this fact. However, the important point is being overlooked. First, is there anything said about Jesus being born perfect? The answer is no! The second question is, if Jesus was born of woman: He set aside his Godly raiment and entered into the dominion of the physical, where sin exists! I did not say, nor imply, that Jesus is sin. God help us all if you think I'm trying to lead you in that direction. What I want you to understand, is Jesus entered into this domain in the same manner that we all did. He was born from a woman and born into innocence. Innocence is not perfection, so do not get the two confused.

The angels who announced Jesus' birth did not call him the Son of God. They made the announcement to shepherds and said; Luke 2:11 KJV, *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.*

By this acclaim, we know Jesus is the promised Christ. However, it is not until Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist, that Jesus is proclaimed to be the Son of God.

Luke 3:22 KJV, *And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, "Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased."*

Notice several things about these verses. First, notice that Jesus played as a child, grew as a child, and acted as a child until he was grown and ready for His ministry. Yes, there is a record of Jesus in the temple at the age of twelve demonstrating his knowledge, and showing his independence to perform the tasks that stood before him. No! Parents you have it wrong. I am not saying you are not to teach your children, nor am I saying your children are not to learn from you. The Bible vividly teaches that the parents must teach their children and the children have the responsibility to honor their parents. However, upon reaching the age of accountability, the child must make up his own mind. Parents do not, nor cannot, answer for their children at that point. If the parent has performed their job in the manner God expects, the child will know in which direction they should go when they get to that point.

Second, notice that the shape of the Holy Spirit was in bodily form. The Spirit of God fits us like a glove. Paul tells us repeatedly that we are to throw off our old manner and walk in our new image, the image of Jesus. Jesus' image was that of the Holy Spirit. Jesus did know the power of the Father and, through faith, obeyed as no other person has done. Jesus tried to convey to us that we, as His believers, could do all the miracles He did and even more. The only way we can do that is through God's power source of faith and love. What I'm trying to get you to understand is that we have an example to follow. Jesus was born into innocence and transcended into perfection. We can do likewise! Our sins are forgiven the moment we accept Jesus as Savior and by walking in obedience, with the Holy Spirit leading, we can transcend into near perfection. That is what we must be striving for, otherwise, we are all living a lie and telling God we do not believe everything of the promises

as being truth. Each of us should live our lives as Abraham, Noah, Job, or King David, and especially as Jesus, lived theirs.

Jesus was tempted by every temptation that we are. Stop and think about the Bible as a whole and the implication of the verses that proclaim this statement. There are some pretty serious sins by which mankind is tempted.

Earlier, I said the Christmas story was portrayed in error and did not agree with the Biblical account. When we celebrate Christmas, people, businesses and churches set out the Nativity scene. Why do we include three wise men? The wise men are not part of the birth of Jesus. The wise men, stated as plural with no mention of the number three, arrived in Jerusalem and asked Herod, the king, where they might find the Christ child. After the wise men find the child, give gifts they depart by another route. We find that Jesus must be close to two years old and not just born. The reason is recorded in Matthew 2:16 where Herod ordered all male children two and under, in the region surrounding Bethlehem, killed.

It makes for a nice touch, but it is in fact an error. If we are going to continue to praise God with little errors here and there, we have become as the Israel of old who was punished for their unbelief. Let's keep the story straight by biblical record, and not by smart marketing.

The search we are currently going through identifies all the verses that read you are, we are and they are, meaning all of us. This implies that as a Christian, we can rest assured that where we read these terms we know these are true statements. Then tell me, if all these verses are true, and many of them state we are members of Christ's body, haven't we come into His perfection because of the crucifixion, the resurrection, the sanctification and the justification that is repeatedly stated by these verses? I am not marching to some odd drummer. I am not reading something that isn't there. I have not been fooled by the evil one. I do know of what I'm speaking. This entire discussion is given because of what the Word says. It tells us when we, you and I, keep the word, meaning to obey, that we are made perfect or complete in God's love. The love of God is in us and we are in Him, meaning Christ. Why is it so hard to get people to understand? Is it because people don't want to change, or are they even afraid of change? Maybe, it is stubborn pride that gets in our way!

1 John 2:12 KJV, *I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.*

The term children is not indicative of age. It implies we are all in line to receive the inheritance that has been promised. This verse only reassures what I just said pertaining to all the verses that make up this search. Notice it says, your sins have been forgiven on account of Jesus' name. Our sins are not forgiven on account of us. There is nothing we ourselves can do to correct our sins. To try and correct our own sins, places us back under the law and the order of sacrifices and its purification. Jesus took us from under all that. He is the acceptable sacrifice, and only by His name are we forgiven our sins.

Forgiveness is an act that has three parts, and all three parts must be completed to have forgiveness. First, you must repent of your sin and ask God to forgive you. At that very instant, your sin is forgiven by God. Second, you must ask the person you have sinned against to forgive you. If they forgive you, all is well, if they do not, it is their problem and not yours. Finally, you must forgive yourself. God forgave you the moment you asked in repentance. Through your repentance, you are sorry for the wrong you have committed. You asked the other party to forgive you. Do not permit them to cause you to fall because

they did not come back with a positive answer that they forgave you. They may be a person who travels through life with a grudge stone around their neck, and do not understand how to take it off. Even by your love and your example of requesting forgiveness, they can only place the error on their grudge stone and bear it. You can tell them, show them, even beg them, to let you help them get rid of the burden, but they will refuse and continue to carry the weight as if it were a crown. Forgive yourself and pray for the other person. Ask God to have the other person's eyes opened to the truth. But, do not begin to start carrying their stone as if it were your own, because they would not forgive you. Remember you should be in obedience to God and your repentance slate, before Him, should be clean.

1 John 2:14 KJV, *I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.*

Look at this verse a little differently. Study this verse in the manner of a parent. The parent should have already been taught the principles from their parents. As generations go, it is now time for you to teach your children. Consider that portion of this verse addressing the fathers, meaning earthly parents, that they know Christ. It addresses young men, children, telling them that they are strong. The conclusion is that the word of God lives in both father and child, and both have overcome the evil one. How did the parents teach the children if they themselves did not know truth? How were the children called strong if they did not know what made them strong? If the child is not taught that the word of God lives in them, how can they overcome the evil one? If the reciprocal of this verse were stated, wouldn't it say: *I have written to you fathers because you have not known the way. I have written to you children, who are weak, because you do not know the love of God and have that joy within you. You are under the power of the evil one.*

1 John 3:2 KJV, *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

Look at the glory statement in the NIV. On the second coming, we will receive our glorified bodies and be like Jesus.

1 John 3:19 KJV, *And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.*

We are of the truth. What I am teaching you is of the truth. Test me by the Word given to see if I am telling you the truth.

1 John 3:22 KJV, *And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.*

Look at the magnitude of the statement. Whatsoever, or anything, means that there is nothing kept from us. However, you have got to understand the conditional portion of the statement to get the power to go to work for you. You have to ask. If you don't ask, it isn't given, or we don't receive the item for which we asked. The reason that makes it work, is because we are obedient and believe in faith. Remember God is a God of faith. If your faith is weak your gifts are few, because you did not exercise the power given to you. You allowed the evil one to kick your butt and beat you.

1 John 4:4 KJV, *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.*

This verse reassures what I just said. You are of God, therefore, act as such, and fulfill

the manifestation of Jesus' holy grace and allow the greater power to be in you. Stop serving the one who is in the world. It's the evil one who takes away your power.

1 John 4:6 KJV, *We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.*

I will listen to this verse, by God's grace, and His call, I hear that which He wants me to show you. Those who know God will be happy to hear these words. Those who do not know God will find fault with what I am telling you. In this manner I know who recognizes the Spirit of truth and those who operate under the spirit of falsehood. You can go ahead and call me a liar, for what harm can I bring upon you, but, do not call God a liar, because you will pile great amounts of burning coal upon your own head.

1 John 4:17 KJV, *Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.*

Oh, what a powerful verse. There are multitudes of sermons in this verse alone. Through the Word, our love is made perfect. Love is the energy of the force of faith that accomplishes work on the objective of hope. In rephrasing the verse, could we say that by reading God's word, and practicing the practical application of love, we are made complete, or perfect? In doing so, we have a confidence or boldness on the Day of Judgment.

Understand this is the first judgment, reserved for the body of believers. The Great White Throne Judgment is the second judgment and reserved for the wicked. Understand among yourselves that this does not tell you to be arrogant. The two terms used are bold and confident. Know within your innermost being that you are a child of God and you are in Christ's image. The reason for the confidence is because, in this world, we are like Him. That's a responsibility and not a burden. We are to act as an ambassador representing our King who resides in another land. The position requires us to represent our King in a glorious manner indicative of his own image.

1 John 5:19-20 KJV, *And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.*

John once again closes one of his books with a very strong, positive statement. In recording the Revelation, not of John but of Jesus as told to John. John shows Christians the great joy that the end of the Church era will bring. Here he shows the great joy that should be with us in thought, and knowledge to understand we are of God and members of the body of Jesus Christ. That is truth and eternal.

That concludes all the verses that contain the positive implication of **you are**. Our search did not include all of the verses containing *are*. There is a reason. It seems our society operates in the negative and not the positive. The media doesn't tell stories about the good things of life. They tell about the bad things that occur to people. Good doesn't sell television airtime or newspapers. We even have tabloids that tell more about sheer gossip and make believe than any one thought about truth. And it sells. The question should be why? Our churches, in the greater occurrences, do not teach the positive aspects and the power granted to us. They preach how we must repent and if, if and if. If is a negative connotation! If already means you have failed. If says the curse is upon you and not the joy of forgiveness. If removes the image of Jesus and places the evil one in His rightful place. Remember, **YOU ARE!** Therefore, throw off the if and **BE** obedient as you have said. Stand

behind your promise to God, which is your acceptance of Jesus as your Savior. God stands behind His promises to you. Test Him and see if I am not telling you the truth. Walk in faith and believe in the living God. Perform all things in love and I will guarantee there is no power granted unto men that you will not have control over. You can cast out demons, heal the sick, raise the dead, walk on water and even move mountains.

In Search of What We CAN Do

It seems our search for the word can left something to be desired, however, look carefully at the five verses here. The statements made are very encouraging and forceful.

Romans 8:31 KJV, *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

Of the verses that show us the power given to Christians, this one verse is one of the strongest for us to understand. We have God on our side. The Creator of everything wants us to be assured that Satan and all of his minions cannot affect us when we obey God's desired will.

1 Corinthians 2:14 KJV, *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

Turn to John 4:9. This is the familiar story of the woman at the well. Understand that the Jews looked differently from a Samaritan. This is understood in verse 9 where the woman asks Jesus, "*How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?*" In a similar manner, we as Christians, understand the ways and manner of the Holy Spirit, in other words, we should look differently and we should understand spiritual things. The unsaved think the things of the Spirit to be foolishness. This isn't what God desires, for He would like all to answer His call. Who is the fool? Is the fool you, because you believe, or the unsaved because they will not even listen?

1 Corinthians 12:3 KJV, *Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.*

In this chapter I challenged everyone to test me to see if what I am telling you is the truth. I said that there was a test. Here is part of the answer for that test. I tell you and show you the truth because of the Holy Spirit and not by any other means.

2 Corinthians 13:8 KJV, *For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.*

Praise the Lord! Amen! I am only trying to ease your search of the truth. My journey has taken me to many places and through many sources to read and study. By God's grace, I can only show you what knowledge has been granted to me. I'm trying to lead you through a compiled resource, that will shorten the individual journey that you should make.

Philippians 4:13 KJV, *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Philippians 4:13 NKJV, *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

This principle verse tells every Christian they can do all things. It does not say some things, or even many things. **It says all!** What a delightful and encouraging thought. Have you let this penetrate and truly considered the power in this verse? Why do we allow Satan to defeat us? Mankind so gladly gives away the gift that God has given him! Every time we disbelieve, every time we do not repent, every time we do not try to reach out in the name of love, we defeat ourselves and the promises given to us.

That concludes the verses that contain the word can. Again, we are only looking at certain verses that confirm the blessed assurance given to us from God. We have limited this search to the church letters, which means that these blessings are for all of us who are of the Body of Christ.

The Search of What We HAVE Been Granted

In our search, we started with what **we are**. We are assured of our inheritance to the promises. We are assured of forgiveness of our sins. We are assured of the promises made to Abraham and to all of the saints who have gone before us.

In our search of **can**, we should see that we can do all things we have the authority to perform. We see there is really nothing that can be against us. I will tell you again. The authority of God's grace upon you is through the name of Jesus. Use the authority given to you. Do not let others steal your authority from you by telling you that you can't do such and such. Learn what it is you have the authority over, and exercise that authority. A child does not learn to play ball, or a musical instrument overnight. They must practice, or exercise the muscles which cause the action to be completed.

When you do not exercise the authority granted to you, you cannot make it work correctly. This could have been stated with **if** being the first word, but, again, that gives an implied incapability. The Body does have the capability. It is we, the members of the Body, who cause it to move, or to lie down, or to take a rest from its assigned mission. We are the element of **IF** or the element of **WHEN**.

There is another truth that rests here. We, the Body, are what causes the present body of Christ to perform an action. When we do not obey as we should, the action is weak and so is the Body. When we are strong in our actions, so is the Body. It could be stated: If you obey, but then there is the manner of already indicating weakness by saying there is no harmony among the Body and it fails. If will always mean a choice, even concerning the things herein recorded, implies a choice. As long as we, the Body, make choices not aligned with love for Jesus, we are only defeating ourselves, taking away the authority given to the Body and causing the work of the Body to be weak. Yet, at the same time, the letters to the church, the Body, assure us that we are to put aside the manner of this domain and enter into a new life-style following the example presented to us by Jesus.

We have one more word to study so we can understand the full authority granted to us. What do we have? Do you know? Let's see by going through the verses looking for the joy of knowing what **WE HAVE**.

Romans 1:5 KJV, *By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name.*

I have tried to show you truth and here it is again. Who is this **we**, stated here? No! It is not Paul and some of his helpers. It is the Body, you and I, the members of the church, the saints who have received grace and apostleship. We receive this grace, through Jesus and in His name's sake! We do not receive this as a prize in a box of Cracker Jacks. It is not granted through the envisioned authority of an edifice church official. It is not the results of good preaching, or teaching, or even by certain church works. It is granted by Jesus, and is the authority we are given by using His name. We are to call people from among all the Gentiles. This does not say to stop with a particular people, race, or creed, but, the King James version says among all nations. That would not indicate a race, color or creed and any person who is preaching or teaching differently is telling you a lie, causing you to be defeated and is a false prophet. The last part of the sentence concerning obedience, is again referring to the Body of the church.

How can you call anyone to obedience if you have never been shown yourself? How do you, and those who you call to obedience, improve in obedience? By faith! We all need to increase our individual faith. Our churches do not teach the members of the Body how to understand the authority granted unto us. Personal biases, doctrine, egos and pride come in many times and in many places, and play a part of what we hear taught during services. Many of us do not ask the Holy Spirit to fill us and give us understanding. We do not study the Word to learn what we really have, once we believe and accept Jesus as our Savior. We let people of position, or with a title, lead us in what we believe and accept. We should all get on our knees and pray to God that we may learn, in many ways on our own, what we need to know and not be led by a Judas goat to a false shepherd.

Romans 3:23 KJV, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

Here is the reason the Body is weak. We, as members, have all sinned. What is sin? It is the simple disobedience of God's desired will when we are not obeying God. When we obey God, we have the authority already granted. Understand this is past tense. I didn't say it will be, I said it is already granted. By, and through, obedience, we have the full glory of God. Now, let us go back to some of the verses in our search for are. We are given the assurance that we have been forgiven of our sins. We are assured we are members of the Body. When we do not obey, we break the assurance, defeating ourselves, and we do not see the glory of God. When we do obey, we are assured that the victory is ours!

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

We saw earlier in the search for are that we have been sanctified and are justified. This verse tells us that we have been justified through faith. We are assured we have peace with God. The authority for this is through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:2 KJV, *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

This verse confirms verses 1:5 and 5:1. We do have access, or an entryway, to stand, with grace, in the presence of God. It's by faith this access is granted. Remember when we went over the love chapter of 1 Corinthians 13 and discussed the values of hope, faith and love that we may take into Heaven. Hope was the objective that work was applied toward. Here we are told to rejoice in hope. Rejoice that the objective of the glory of God shall be fulfilled.

Romans 5:11 KJV, *And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.*

Look again at the functional relationship of the Holy Trinity. God the Son is the function of God that permits us to stand before the Father. Consider that under the old covenant, mankind had to obey all aspects of the law to be righteous. To be otherwise, places us into a sin relationship. Sin is darkness and God the Father does not, nor will not, look at or listen to darkness. God does not listen to Satan as he stands before Him and accuses us, and He will not permit us to stand before Him if we are in darkness. There is an example of what I'm trying to show you. During the crucifixion of Jesus, the sky became dark from the 6th to the 9th hour, because Jesus had taken on the sin of the world and at that point in time, God the Father could not stand to look at His own Son.

Jesus himself even cried out, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" Translated, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Again the answer should be obvious. At that moment, Jesus was the entire representation of darkness. The weight of the world's sin, being past,

present at that time, and in all time to come, was piled upon Jesus. God the Father could not bear to look at Jesus because of the depth of darkness that was there. When we pray, we call out to God the Father, yet, the authority to do so rests with the Son. We are assured and we do have the joy to know that it is through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that we have received atonement, or reconciliation. We are once again joined, in a spiritual means by faith, to our heavenly home and to our Heavenly Father.

Romans 5:12 KJV, *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*

Again, we see why we have this curse upon us, it is through sin. If you go to the text and read to the end of chapter 5, you will see the opposite verse in verse 15. Verse 15 shows that by one man, Adam, death occurred to many, and by the free gift of one man, our Lord Jesus Christ, the gift of grace is given to many.

Romans 6:5 KJV, *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.*

By the promise of the gifts, which we have received, we shared in the suffering of Jesus by virtue that He carried the burden of our sins to the cross. In like manner, we are assured that we will share in the glory of His resurrection.

Romans 6:22 KJV, *But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

Here again, is another verse that shows us the object of our belief. We are the servants of our Lord Jesus Christ. By the benefit of the free gift, we have the capability to find holiness. The example of His transformation from innocence to perfection is there for us to follow.

Romans 8:15 KJV, *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

We are no longer tied to sin and sin is no longer our master. We have received a Spirit of light and present our petitions to the Father by the authority of the name of Jesus.

Romans 12:4 KJV, *For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office.*

People, and not God, seem to determine that there is some type of hidden meaning in verses like this. They think the verse is just vague enough to allow them to hide their own personal ego and dark desires to claim that some members of the church body are leaders and others are followers. That God somehow gave special consideration for one race, or one denomination. Not so! We may have different functions, but we are all part of the same body.

1 Corinthians 2:16 KJV, *For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

When we study the Word and align ourselves in obedience with God's desire, we certainly do know the mind of Christ. As the adopted children of God, we are the brothers of Jesus. We share with Him through the Body.

1 Corinthians 7:2 KJV, *Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.*

I understand this verse does not actually fall into the parameters of our search, however, the importance of God's rules for marriage seems to be rather straightforward. This verse does not say that a man's wife is another male, and continuing with the verse, that a woman's

husband is another female. Same sex marriages remain as an abomination before God! Here is what the Word of God has to say about the subject:

Leviticus 18:22-23 NKJV, *You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion.*

Leviticus 20:13 NKJV, *If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them.*

Romans 1:26-28 NKJV, *For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;*

Enough said! It is not a question about being happy or even of love! Homosexuality is not right in the sight of God! These are not my words these are the words of God from His Holy Book!

2 Corinthians 5:1 KJV, *For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

Our earthly house is our human body; however, upon death, this house is destroyed, but instead of nothing, we have a glorified body and an eternal home in heaven with God.

2 Corinthians 6:2 KJV, *For he saith, "I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."*

Paul is telling more about the age of the Church. The He (above) is God and He heard us in a time accepted, the NIV reads, a time of His favor. God was pleased with mankind once more when Jesus provided the only acceptable sacrifice. We have salvation available to us as a free gift through the Cross of Jesus. Those of us who make up the church body will meet with Jesus, when this age closes, at the second coming of Jesus. There will be a change in the rules at that point and the leadership role for the church will change back to Israel. Remember that after the tribulation period, there is the 1000 year millennium when Jesus will reign as King of kings, and Lord of lords. There will be people who will accept Jesus as Savior during that period, however, as always, there is the right of free will choice and there will be many who will not believe in Jesus. These events will set up the final battle at the end of the earth age.

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

Through the search of are, I found many verses that explained the faith we are to have in Jesus. This verse puts that belief into a past tense statement. We have believed in Jesus Christ!

Galatians 3:21 KJV, *Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.*

The effect of the law is shown. We are not under the covenant of the old law. We are righteous because of our belief in Jesus.

Galatians 3:27 KJV, *For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

This is a slightly different statement from one we have already seen. When we accepted Jesus as Savior, we were to put off our sinful nature and take on the appearance of Christ. That is what this verse is again telling us.

Galatians 4:9 KJV, *But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?*

On several occasions in going through our search word verses, I have shown that religion and some society leaders want to keep the believer in bondage so they have power and control over others. I have said repeatedly that the only way they have that power is because we give it to them. Here is one of the many verses that will confirm what I am trying to get you to understand. Look at the last sentence in the verse. Do you want to be in bondage all over again? If you don't, then live as you should and take command of the authority given to you. Use the full force of the authority and put the evil one over in a corner and out of your life.

Galatians 5:13 KJV, *For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*

Look at an NIV translation. First, see the difference in translations for the word liberty. There are forces in the liberal influence of our society that would have you believe any opinion of thought outside their own is mean spirited, or evil, or against liberty. Every one of these false statements is to once again place you into bondage. The second sentence tells us to use our freedom to serve one another. How do we serve one another when we are at odds over a political statement? Politics belong to those who do not believe. Being right in political statements does not make the truth. In truth there is a right thing to do and all parties understand that which is right.

The government of the United States felt it necessary to address the issue of what constitutes a legal marriage in this nation. There is no occurrence in any Holy book that identifies two parties of the same sex as a marriage. There are many verses that identify such perversion as an abomination before the Lord. If it's an abomination before the Lord, then it should be an abomination before man. Now, let's understand two things. There are those situations in any society when a particular thought, or persuasion, is outside the norm. Those who want to belong to that persuasion, or embrace some different thought, do not have the same entitlements as others who do not accept their ideas.

Take a business, for example. The CEO and other department leaders have perks because of their position. This can be carried over to the government, and we see the President and members of the Senate have perks that everyone else in our society do not have. During those days when I served in the military, I had the same coverage under the constitution as everyone else, yet, I also had the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) over me and the written rules of regulation that were established as a standard for me to follow. In those regulations, I was permitted to attend political gatherings and speeches, but I could not do so in uniform. Why? Because it could give the image that I was trying to serve one political party or the other. That would not be of service to everyone.

In like manner, God made a regulation that said a marriage was between one man and one woman. It did not say two persons of the same sex constitutes a marriage, even if

they state they love each other. The second thought on this matter deals directly with Jesus. Isn't it recorded that Jesus was tempted by every temptation of mankind? I know you think my line of thought is going in the wrong direction, but let us continue to the conclusion.

If Jesus was tempted by every temptation of mankind, was he tempted to perform an act of same sex perversion? Yes! I believe he was. Look at the story in Genesis 18 and 19. There were three men stated in verse 18:2. One is the Lord, being the Father. Who do you think the other two are? I say one represents Jesus. Abraham pleads for Sodom in the later portion of Chapter 18 and the Lord grants that if 10 were found, He would not destroy the city. Notice in verse 33 that it says the Lord went His way. Chapter 19 opens in verse 1 that two angels came to Sodom. Would it not be correct that if God, the Father, went His way, there would be two who remain? Since we are dealing with Jesus, who has not been introduced to mankind, wouldn't He be in His glorified body and appear as an angel?

Now, to find the point of temptation! Look at verses 3-11. In verse 4 the men of the city wanted the two visitors so they could rape them. Wouldn't that be the point of temptation that Jesus was requested to participate in an act of perversion? Notice in verse 11 what happened to these men outside the door. There is no verse in the Bible that says Christians are not to love these people. We are to accept them in our churches, and, through faith, some may enter into the body of the church. However, they, at that point in time, are to put off their sinful nature and take on the image of Christ just as any other member of the body. That does not say the law of society should be changed for the sake of perversion. It says we are to love these poor souls and to welcome them as a brother when they accept Jesus as Savior and they, in turn, put aside their sinful nature, meaning they put aside their perversion or abomination before God.

Ephesians 1:7 KJV, *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.*

Throughout our search for are, we continued to see the assurance that we are the members of the Body. In the search for have we seem to be running across the assurance that we have been redeemed.

Ephesians 1:11 KJV, *In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.*

In like manner, we continue to see the assurance that we are entitled to an inheritance. This can only be done by being the adopted children in the family of God.

Ephesians 2:18 KJV, *For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.*

Paul includes everyone in the usage of both to have access to God's throne by the authority of the name Jesus.

Ephesians 3:2 KJV, *If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward.*

Ephesians 3:2 NKJV, *If indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you.*

Paul was the called apostle to the gentiles. By preaching the Word and the truth about Jesus the gentiles have heard, and received, God's grace.

Philippians 4:9 KJV, *Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*

Let's put this in its proper order. We have heard, received and learned. Look at what we are to receive. The God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:11 KJV, *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

Here is a principle rule for all Christians to observe. Be content whatever the circumstance. Remember those circumstances will have to be lived through, but God is with us no matter what, and there is no temptation we cannot get through. The companion verse for this is in 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

Colossians 1:14 KJV, *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.*

Once again, we see we have forgiveness of our sins.

Colossians 1:18 KJV, *And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*

Now, here is another verse of importance to Christians. Answer this: If Jesus is the head aren't we also? We have already seen verses that show we are children adopted into God's family! Then, we are the brothers and sisters entitled to the inheritance. Jesus is the head of the body, He is not the tail and it is the head that leads! Why do you let religion, that's the practice of following tradition and doctrine, beat you into thinking you are part of the tail being wagged?

Colossians 1:23 KJV, *If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.*

Make this a command and not a question. When the sentence starts with IF, there is a choice. Normally, an if phrase causes us to make a decision! Are you going to triumph or fail? Start the sentence with a positive command statement: Continue in your faith... Then you're a winner because you've done what was necessary to be obedient. God will bless you if you follow His will! The choice was IF you would or would not follow God's will!

Colossians 2:6 KJV, *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.*

In all of the letters to the church, the body is repeatedly told to act in the image of Jesus. We are told to be obedient!

Colossians 3:9 KJV, ***Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds.***

Stop for a moment and think about television ads. Most likely the people at the television studios and network say they are Christian, the companies producing the ads say they are Christian and by all means the company selling a product will say they are Christian. If this is the correct idea why does it appear that television ads, especially political ads, will do what ever it takes to get you to buy or accept their product or candidate, even to the point of lying.

Colossians 3:10 KJV, *And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.*

Paul, again, reminds Christians to put down the old self and walk in the image of Jesus.

Colossians 3:13 KJV, *Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*

Two principles are contained in this verse. First, there is the portion that we are to

bear with each other. Remember we will still have to live through all the tests and temptations that come our way. At those times when a brother is going through one of these tests encourage him or her, stand by them, and give them love. The second principle pertains to forgiveness. Remember there are three parts to forgiveness. All three parts are illustrated in this verse. The first part of forgiveness is to ask God for forgiveness. The second thing is to forgive others, and the third part is to forgive yourself. In this verse, we see that God forgave us and that is the answer to asking for forgiveness. We are to forgive others! The answer to the third part is that we are to forgive one another, which includes ones own self.

1 Thessalonians 2:14 KJV, *For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews.*

Look at present day political situations. Currently, if you state you are a Christian, you are automatically tagged as being part of the religious right. No matter what political party you belong to or what position you may take. As a part of the religious right you are labeled as being mean spirited, starving kids, taking Medicare and social security from older citizens and blocking liberty and justice for all Americans. Christians are enduring persecution today and they are criticized for their strong support of socially conservative policies, programs, and, yes, even candidates.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 KJV, *Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.*

Understand the teachings God has left for us to follow, then rest assured in your faith that the promises are true. Believe!

2 Thessalonians 3:2 KJV, *And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.*

Use the test given in the Bible to test all things, especially of what I say to you, to insure it is truth. I have repeated my statement that there are portions in the religions of man that place mankind into bondage. Test the statements by reading the Word and asking the Holy Spirit to fill you with truth and knowledge.

1 Timothy 2:4 KJV, *Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*

To every person who wants to believe God has predestined that only certain people will be saved, look at this verse. How can this be done if God wants all men to be saved, and come to a knowledge of the truth? The key word is all and not the word some! Carefully read the verse again

2 Timothy 1:12 KJV, *For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*

Praise the Lord that this verse is in our search. This verse is so wonderful there's even the song that uses this as its theme. The lyrics for the song, *I Know Whom I Have Believed*, by Daniel W. Whittle can be found on the Internet at www.hymnsite.com/lyrics/umh714.sht²². How much stronger does a verse of assurance have to be to get you to understand the truth?

Hebrews 1:5 KJV, *For unto which of the angels said He at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten Thee? And again, I will be to Him a Father, and He shall*

²² *I Know Whom I Have Believed*, by Daniel W. Whittle can be found on the Internet at www.hymnsite.com/lyrics/umh714.sht

be to Me a Son?

Take this just a little further and ask yourself this question: To which prophet did God call and say he was His Son? That wasn't said of Moses, or Abraham, or Muhammad, or Buddha. This has only been said about Jesus!

Hebrews 2:1 KJV, *Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.*

Believe in the Word. The times are here when the body will be challenged in ways it has never been challenged before. Liberals want you to believe only they have enough sense to get you from cradle to grave and their opinion is the only way to go. Fundamentalists want you to believe without question. Keep drinking your milk, and forget about eating meat. Ask God to have the Holy Spirit show you the truth in the Word.

Hebrews 4:14 KJV, *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

Once more, it seems I answer one verse, and the answer leads directly into the next verse. We must follow our High Priest, who has led the way for us. Strengthen your faith because the evil one is angry and is challenging every Christian to see if they are weak. Trust that you know how to beat Satan, by binding him with the authority of the name of Jesus.

Hebrews 5:12 KJV, *For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.*

You answered the call. Tell me, are you in need of solid food or do you need more milk?

Hebrews 6:4 KJV, *For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost.*

Hebrews 6:5 KJV, *And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come.*

Don't lose sight of what caused you to feel so good when you accepted Jesus as your Savior. The joy in your heart should still be there. Don't fall into the trap of the evil one and turn toward the worldly crowd as they call your name and say, "Come on, do what we are doing." When they tell you that what is written here is the same old stuff, and times have changed, don't believe it. Listen not to me, but listen to your heart. Hasn't every age said the same thing? What the younger generation is seeing and doing is different from that of their fathers and yet God, and His Word, do not change.

Who are the ones changing? We teach our children the things of this world. We ask them to master one subject before we increase the difficulty of the task being taught. We should do the same thing pertaining to the living Word of God. Is there even one subject you have mastered of God's principles and laws? If you say you have mastered these things, then why must they be taught again? Why is the evil one beating you and getting the best of you, leaving you crying to God for help? You have the authority already granted to you. Why don't you use it?

Hebrews 6:10 KJV, *For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shown toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*

Remember! Faith is the force that causes the action in the heavenly realm, not works. God will recall your works and reward you for it. It is through faith that you are going to have permission to have your works rewarded. At many points and places in the letters to

the Church, we are continually reminded that it is through Jesus that we have been washed and sanctified.

Hebrews 6:19 KJV, *Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;*

When you made a choice to follow Jesus, your hope was to answer a call you heard inside yourself. Since that time, the arrows of the evil one has been hurled at you, and you have questioned your faith. Rest assured that your soul has been called, and your hope is sure and steadfast that your soul shall go to the most holy place of God.

Hebrews 8:1 KJV, *Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.*

Once again, we see the assurance of what we have heard, what we have read, and what we have believed, is true. We have a High Priest who goes before the Father on our behalf. When Satan enters heaven, and accuses the saints, Jesus is there sitting next to the Father and defending us.

Hebrews 8:3 KJV, *For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.*

Read chapter 8 of Hebrews in its entirety. Understand the meaning of our High Priest (Jesus) over the high priest under the law.

Hebr 10:36 KJV, *For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.*

Here is another principle recorded for us. Notice we must have patience, or perseverance. There are three parts to this principle.

- 1) We need patience.
- 2) We must do God's desire, or will.
- 3) God will flood us with all He has promised.

Have you ever really thought about our fast paced society? We have fast food, minute printing, and overnight mail service. Everything is quick, quick, quick! We have instantaneous communications to all points of the world via the Internet. Here we have the recorded answer to unlock the promises we are assured to receive.

The first thing stated is that we need patience, yet, how many people do you know who are patient? It is amazing to me to understand these things and to watch the actions of others. Some days, it seems there is absolutely no sense remaining in the common thought of mankind. The second item tells us we must obey the will of God. Nowadays, it seems everyone is out for himself or herself. There is very little tolerance and patience.

We say our society is in moral decline. Who created this moral decline? God didn't! Who does that leave? It is time for this nation to have a revival of the body of which we are all members. Finally, observe the third item in this principle. How many people do you know who have the faith to believe they will receive the answers to their prayers? This verse tells us, if we are patient and obey God, then He will flood us with all He has promised.

Hebrews 12:4 KJV, *Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.*

What a powerful statement, Jesus went to the point of shedding His blood for us! Look at John 15:13 NIV, *"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."* In all those years I served in the military, I was prepared to defend the ideas of democracy and the Constitution of the United States from all enemies both foreign

and domestic. I would have given my blood so others may enjoy the manner of lifestyle that we thoroughly enjoy in this nation. It did not matter what people of this nation thought, maybe even stupid things, I still would defend their right to freely believe their thoughts. Now, understand there was a clause in my commitment to that defense that said I would protect this nation from domestic enemies. Those who want to destroy this nation from within are as much an enemy as a foreign military power.

Look at the National Guard for example to understand this. The governor of a state can call the National Guard of that state for assistance in times of disaster or rioting to maintain order. There is a key word, order. God calls for order by our being obedient to His desire. The sovereign authority of the nation calls for order, and not the call for, *It's my right!* Those who are running around shouting, *It's my right,* have no more understanding of the constitution than those who are running around shouting, *God is dead* and, *We need a new revelation.* These people do not understand the Word of God. In some ways, they are not even capable of nursing milk. Yet, our Lord was prepared to go to the point of suffering with His blood for all of us. Who is showing the greater love?

Hebrews 12:5 KJV, *And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him.*

These verses, that show our search word have, continue to demonstrate the importance of our inheritance. We, the adopted sons, or children, should accept the guidance and love of our Father. Yet, we are still in human form and seem to allow our society to dictate that any form of discipline is now labeled as child abuse.

I suppose when God rebukes you or disciplines you, that is also child abuse and you do not have to accept it. Shame on all of humankind who think in this manner! There is a distinct difference between the two. When a rebuke is combined with love, it is discipline. When rebuke is combined with anger, it is abuse. A parent who spanks a child under the control of love, is only getting the attention of the child to say the child did wrong. That is not child abuse! However, the parent who begins the same way, but loses control and allows the evil one to send in the minion of anger, then starts to beat a child, that is child abuse. There is a distinct difference and love must be a working part of discipline.

Hebrews 12:9 KJV, *Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh who corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?*

Notice when discipline is administered in the correct manner, there is respect, and not hatred. There is a proper action to discipline and a proper response to the action. It is when the initial action is not proper that there are problems. Let me say this. There is no nation on this globe that can legislate a proper conduct for people. It has been tried time and time again and all it does is cause mankind to rebel against laws. Proper moral fiber must come from within and from the knowledge of truth. If truth is not taught, and nations try to dictate what will be done, and how it is to be done, the evil one wins another nation. The next step is the prince of darkness placing a spirit over the sovereign power, and the people follow along in darkness not knowing the difference or that there is light. The light they see is that of day, and no other.

Hebrews 12:28 KJV, *Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.*

Look at the NIV translation. First, notice the word have has changed and it reads, ...let us be thankful. Secondly, notice that ...godly fear was changed to awe. Put in the word respect and you should understand what is meant by Godly fear. When we respect God, we are demonstrating Godly fear.

Hebrews 13:2 KJV, *Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*

You will never know when God sends an angel to speak with you and check on your obedience. If you live by the one rule of Jesus found in John 13:34, you will show the angel love, respect and encouragement. Please, remember one thing. God can send an angel in any color of mankind, therefore the more you want to feel prejudice toward another race or creed, remember you may be showing your misunderstanding and ungodliness to an angel.

Hebrews 13:5 KJV, *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

The verse says the love of money in the NIV and without covetousness in the KJV. What about all the other things mankind allows to enter and serve as their god. The boat on the lake, the basketball game, the TV set, the car in the driveway, the looks of another, and even another person's spouse. Any of these are coveting something that is making you envious. Envy only destroys you, because you start to worship the false god of mankind's creation and not the God who created you. Notice once again the assurance that we are given by the statement from God, "*Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.*" (NIV)

Hebrews 13:7 KJV, *Remember them who have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.*

There is a powerful message contained in this verse. First, notice the ones who have the rule over you are not in reference to either the government or to a master. There is nothing in this verse that says to remember the leaders of the government. There is nothing in this verse that says to remember the master over you. The leader you are to remember is a spiritual leader, the ones who taught you the truth. This verse says to remember the ones who have spoken to you from the Word of God.

The second portion of this verse gives a principle concerning life-styles. The verse does not say to mimic the leaders of the government nor a master. It says to mimic, or follow, the life-style of the spiritual leader and imitate their faith. The spiritual leader must have a strong faith and an understanding of its principles. Faith is the activator that causes action to occur.

Notice that the term belief is not the action you are to imitate. You can believe all day long that something will happen, but until you have the faith that it will be done, nothing will happen. If you go outside your house right now, this very minute, and believe your car will take you to work, you will never get there. You can believe all you want, and you are correct, until you get in the car and have the faith that the engine will start when you turn the key, nothing will happen. All the belief in the world will not get you to work. You have to have the faith that an action will occur and you must start the action through the activator of faith. Turning the key in the car is the action! Believing the car will get you to work is the motivation!

Hebrews 13:17 KJV, *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

Those given the gift from the spirit to be a shepherd are there to teach you the truth. Test them to ensure what they are teaching is the truth, and, if you find them true, listen to their counsel and follow their lead.

James 1:4 KJV, *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

Here is another principle. It has to do with patience and persistence. Add a third term endurance. Listen to me. Have you watched athletic events and marveled at the ability of the athletes? They did not develop the endurance to perform their skills overnight. They started just like a child taking one step at a time to build up their skills, their stamina and their endurance. As members of the body of Christ, we must also build up our endurance. We do that by having patience to allow the action of faith to be completed. Through persistence, we learn to build up the endurance to get through the trials that test our faith.

Now, remember it is not God who sends these trials. Why would God need to test our faith? When we accepted Jesus as our Savior, God forgave our sins and adopted us into His family. Do you give your children tests to see if they are loyal to you and will obey your rules? No! They will test your rules to see if you really mean what you have said. Isn't our relationship with God in a similar manner? It is the evil one who gives you the tests and trials that you go through to see if your faith can be broken. When your faith is broken, you listen to the evil one. The evil one does not have any power over you when your faith is strong. Notice the result of patience in this verse. Patience leads to maturity and completeness and we lack nothing.

James 4:2 KJV, *Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.*

Look at what James is telling us. It is not through the actions of the world that we are rewarded. We covet, fight, wage war and kill, and are not satisfied. Surely, it is not these actions that cause the grace of God to be granted. Look very carefully at the final sentence in the NIV translation. It says, "*You do not have,...*". Why would this verse say this if God did not intend for His children to have? The simple answer is because you did not ask! These verses have shown that the promise has been given, that we are assured of the promise and that we are the adopted children to the inheritance.

I will ask again. Why would a father lie to his own child? You, as a parent, would not promise something to your child if you had no intention of granting the promise? Do you really believe God has lied to mankind and the promises He made are not true? Then let me ask you this. If God has granted these things to you, why do you not have them? The answer is in the next verse in James 4:3 TLB, *And even when you do ask you don't get it because your whole aim is wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.*

In other words you are envious and covet what another person has. Instead of getting your life-style condition straight, you want to fight and take it away to satisfy your own selfish desire. We see our children doing this in our schools, where some who have a fad item will be beaten and the fad item taken away. Where do you think our children see the example? And we wonder about the moral condition of this nation. Is there really any wonder? The condition shown is the result of the seeds sown! We have several things to do in order to turn this condition around. We must repent! We should all pray for revival within our nation and ask God to forgive us! We must strengthen our personal inner faith to stand up to the evil one.

James 5:15 KJV, *And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.*

Here rests another promise and the rule to follow to get the promise granted. The promise given here pertains to the sick. If anyone can show me a verse in the Bible that clearly shows it is God's perfect will for mankind to be sick, please show it to me because my search has not found such a verse. To obtain the result of the promise, the rules must be followed. A prayer is offered and it must be done in faith. If you will go through the Word and understand how faith operates, you will understand that when you offer this prayer you must believe, in faith, that the action is already completed. I know you just said, *Wait a minute, how can that be?* Faith must couple with the other law of giving. If you do not give, you will not receive. You are giving the prayer to receive the result. There is always a giving first to cause a result. Once again, we see that the activator of the result is faith.

1 Peter 1:22 KJV, *Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.*

This verse gives the principle of unity of the body. Now I fully realize, as a spirit, the human form does not want to obey this principle. Who are your brothers? Are they not the others, along with you, who make up the Bride of Jesus? Then why do you listen to religion tell you that only your denomination will make it to heaven? Why do you listen to the hate mongers tell you that your race is being oppressed, or that those of another race are below you and your kind? Show me the verse that identifies what you are proclaiming! We, all mankind, no matter the skin color are brothers in God's family. We, no matter the denomination, Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, Coptic and most probably others make up the faith. In this usage the term faith means denominations and not faith as associated with belief.

1 Peter 2:3 KJV, *If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*

Listen to the statement being made. You have tasted, or experienced, that God is good. Take the good, and carry your faith forward. Share your testimony of God's goodness with those around you.

1 Peter 4:8 KJV, *And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.*

One of the major themes of the Bible is love. Unfortunately, the English language limits the meaning of the term. Our society has taken its moral values to such a point that it seems, if you use the word love, you are meaning sex. That, surely, is not what the Bible is trying to teach us. Isn't there a mutual understanding and acceptance of each other that is meant within the word love? Then wouldn't that carry over to tolerance of each other?

Stop and consider the only command Jesus left, where He states what He is saying is a command, in John 13:34 KJV, *A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.* Now really! Tell me! Is the truth of God complex or is it simple? Jesus left us with only one new command by which to live. If every adopted child of God would live their life by this commandment, there would be no moral decline, there would be little crime and there would be little hate between our races and creeds. Remember that love represents the motivator for obedience and faith is the activator.

1 Peter 5:10 KJV, *But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*

Everything I am trying to show you is condensed in this one verse. You have been called, justified and sanctified by, and through, your belief in Jesus Christ! As such, our faith has been, and will be, tested by the evil one. Even so, we are assured we will be granted the ability to endure the test. Other verses show the principles and the rules for activating the principles as our perseverance is built. All this is based on the law of the three values stated in Corinthians. Remember hope, faith and love will always remain. These truths are there to strengthen us, so we may stand against the evil one!

2 Peter 1:15 KJV, *Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.*

Isn't that what the written Word of God does for us? The problem is, we have to go back and read these things so we do remember. I think it's called studying.

2 Peter 1:16 KJV, *For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

The written record presented by the apostles, along with documents by Strabo and Josephus, present a first person account of the wonders and majesty of our Lord. There is no hocus-pocus trick that a magician can use to deceive you. Yet, there are laws and rules we all can use to test that which we are given as truth to see if it really is such.

2 Peter 1:19 KJV, *We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.*

Look at the Bible in a slightly different view. The Old Testament gives us examples and illustrations of right and wrong. The Gospels show us the life of Christ. The Book of Acts illuminates the acts of the Apostles. Romans through Jude are the letters to the Church, the body or the Bride of Christ. Revelation is the culmination of everything mankind has been promised and illustrates the glory of God at the end of time.

1 John 1:1 KJV, *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life.*

Every reference John gives here represents Jesus. Who was, from the beginning, of whom the apostles saw and touched, and whom they are now proclaiming the greatness of, because He is **the way**, the Lord of lords and King of kings.

1 John 1:2 KJV, *For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us.*

The greatness of God the Father is shown by His care for mankind, God's creation, who has done everything except obey Him. Even so, God the Father provided the means for mankind to have eternal life. He did this by providing the living sacrifice, the only one acceptable to Him, as the Son of Man, who lived and walked among mankind and left a means for everyone to have a doorway to enter into heaven.

1 John 1:3 KJV, *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with*

his Son Jesus Christ.

Think about what the apostles are really trying to get mankind to understand. Faith is the key to this understanding. There were only twelve who Jesus taught to go forth and minister to the world. They had seen him, knew him, prayed with him, ate with him, fished with him and taught with him. These twelve are attesting to the fact of what they saw. They are the witnesses for all generations to come after them. We must believe in what we cannot see and accept that which is recorded here as a fact. To do otherwise only ensures that mankind will pass on, to another generation, the teaching of disobedience.

1 John 1:5 KJV, *This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

1 John 1:6 KJV, *If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

1 John 1:7 KJV, *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

These three verses continue with the assurance that the Apostles are trying to get mankind to understand. This time it is not Peter who is acclaiming the fact, it is now John. The claim remains that the Apostles are eyewitnesses to what Jesus did while on earth.

1 John 1:8 KJV, *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

A very careful review of the letters to the Church will reveal that as Christians, we are to live our lives by the example set before us by Jesus and the apostles. Even so, we will still be tempted and we most probably will commit additional sins.

1 John 1:10 KJV, *If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

The Word causes us to view ourselves as sinners and we have a just reason to stop doing the things God doesn't want us to do.

1 John 2:1 KJV, *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

The evil one will rush before the throne of God and accuse us for these additional sins. It is through Jesus that we have a witness who stands in for our defense and pleads our case.

1 John 2:13 KJV, *I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.*

1 John 2:13 NIV, *I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father.*

John is addressing parents (fathers), young adults (young men) and children. Notice that each group has a you have statement pertaining to that group.

1 John 2:18 KJV, *Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.*

Notice the warning given. Remember the armor given to you in Ephesians 6 and the assurance of your strength in faith. Also, remember there is a test to show if the one who is presenting information and teaching you is from God or is an antichrist teaching you an

incorrect lesson.

1 John 2:20 KJV, *But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.*

In applying the laws and principles of the Kingdom, every member of the Church has the authority to use Jesus' name and the need to call upon the Holy Spirit to fill them with understanding. The word unction will be an odd word for many: it means an anointing with oil or a symbol of investiture as a monarch. Through the filling of the Holy Spirit, you are connecting into God's computer network and have the ability to be like-minded with Jesus.

1 John 2:21 KJV, *I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.*

In the same manner and same thought, I am doing likewise. You were called to receive this teaching and understanding. Through your faith, the truth is being taught to you. Challenge me on this, use the test to see if what I present to you is correct.

1 John 2:24 KJV, *Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.*

We could get into a very big discussion on falling from grace, or being a back sliding Christian. That is not the point of this particular lesson. This lesson is to show you the truth of what you are, what you can do and what you have, by being a Christian. In holding on to those verses, that teach you these facts, you truly have heard and are a part of the Son and the Father.

1 John 2:26 KJV, *These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.*

Once again, I can only reiterate what John has stated here. Our society seems to operate at such a maddening pace that few will take the time to read the material necessary to find the truth. If I, and others, take the time to find the truth for you, why won't you at least test us to see if what we have taught is correct? By our teaching, we present to you the information so you will know the truth, and not be led astray.

1 John 2:27 KJV, *But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.*

Read the verse and listen to what the Holy Spirit teaches you. I can give you a commentary on each verse, but when I start providing you with interpretations and tell you that you need both that which I am teaching and the Bible, then I have crossed the line and started teaching you false doctrine. Mankind is not to add to or take away from the Word. Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV, *You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.* You have been sanctified and also justified. God's Holy Word will teach you, but it will not come overnight. You must work to read, and read, and read, to have the Holy Spirit show you the links, the connections and the hidden meanings presented in God's Holy book for operating our lives. When you understand the truth pertaining to God, and not pertaining to the dogma, rituals and rhetoric of mankind, you will most assuredly remain in him.

1 John 3:14 KJV, *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.*

Every minister, every group, every denomination that teaches you that you are oppressed, or need something given by the government or that your race is superior, is keeping you in the dark and binding you to a spiritual death.

1 John 3:21 KJV, *Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.*

There are so many things in life that can be used for both good and for evil. Television, the Internet and many other time saving and useful devices of mankind, can be used either way. The computer has been the greatest means for me to seek truth in God's Word. Your heart can also do the same thing. Consider that you are attuned to the Word and the Holy Spirit dwells within you. Then your heart will not condemn you. But consider that you have been taught an untruth, your heart believes you have been provided with the correct information, and by this, your heart will certainly not condemn you. In both cases, the heart has not condemned you, so you stand with confidence before God. Now, the question is will God recognize you and feel confident in you?

1 John 4:3 KJV, *And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*

Every spirit! Notice two things about this, first, the word spirit is not capitalized, meaning this is not the Holy Spirit. Second, I have told you that I am a spirit, that I have a soul and live in a body. The spirits mentioned here may be either of two types. They may be spirits residing in the earthly domain or they may be spirits following the evil one in the spiritual domain. This is part of the testing that is recorded to see if what is being taught is the truth. Notice that Jesus must be acknowledged. Even Satan and his minions will speak of Jesus, in acknowledgment, and this can be illustrated in the differences between Mark 5:1-13 and Acts 19:11-20. In the account in Acts, the evil spirits said they knew Jesus and Paul and asked those trying to bind them, "*But who are you?*" The acknowledgment that must be made is not only that Jesus is the Son of God, but also that the resurrection occurred.

1 John 4:14 KJV, *And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.*

This verse actually confirms what I'm telling you about the previously discussed verse. The testimony that Jesus is the Son of God and the Savior of the world.

1 John 4:21 KJV, *And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also.*

John basically rewrites that which he recorded in John 13:34, that gives the commandment of Jesus telling us we are to love one another as He has loved us.

1 John 5:13 KJV, *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

There seems to be several thoughts concerning the security of the believer and the matter of falling from grace. This verse would certainly assure the security of the believer. The other side of the coin can be seen in 2 Peter 2:1-10. Notice especially verse 4 where it says, *...God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell....*

1 John 5:14 KJV, *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us.*

1 John 5:15 KJV, *And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*

Oh, what grand verses to bring this to a conclusion! Notice in verse 14 that we may ask anything. That doesn't say some things, or most things, it says any thing. Notice that in order to do this, the request must be according to God's will. There are laws, rules and principles within the kingdom of God. When we understand these standards, we are in accord with God's will. Then notice in verse 15 the result. Knowing that God hears us, we may ask for anything and we know that we have it. Take special care, that in order to make the whole thing work, there are three major parts to this principle.

First, when we ask, we must be in accord with His will. Second, we may ask anything. Finally, we must believe in faith that what we asked for has already been granted. You think otherwise. Tell me why this is written in present tense. It does not say ask and we will have, which would be future tense. It does not say asked and we know we had, which would be past tense. It must be in the present tense! Why? Because God is a present state God! He will deal with your petition when it is received. He's not going to say, well I heard your prayer and I don't think you need it today so I'll put your request over in the to-be answered pile. The only way our prayers get put in a to-be answered pile is because of our own disbelief.

We have seen the assurances that we are, that we can and that we have. Some of these promises have conditional clauses with them. Together, they assure us that what we believe is true and the promises will be fulfilled.

Rest Assured in your belief that Jesus is the Christ. Read your Bible, practice what is taught, keep your repentance request up to date, and eat steak at God's banquet table.

What Is Abundant Life?

This series of books all have Abundant Life in the title of each book. Just what is Abundant Life?

Many have the idea that abundant life is riches, yet the Bible shows time and again that riches, by itself, will not produce an abundant life. In fact, spiritually, the person possessing riches may actually be poor, in regard to abundant life.

We need to notice that these book titles do not refer to religious rituals. One of the greatest deceptions created by Satan, and placed in the hearts of mankind, is religion. This even goes to the extreme thought that if it involves God, in any manner, it must be religious. That's not abundant life. That's servitude to particular thoughts of men for the sake of power, influence and monetary gain.

It seems to this author that mankind continues to seek truth in their relationship to God, and yet they have the answer but don't seem to understand how to recognize it, or how to use it. I say this as a matter of fact, because mankind had three denominations of Christian religion in 1600. Now there are over 22,000 church denominations in the World Council of Churches. Surely we have not found truth and are not satisfied with what is there.

Let's ask the question again, What is Abundant Life? It is attitude, and not religion that is necessary to get mankind started in understanding how to have an abundant life. Genesis should clearly show us this attitude and I think it does. Read the following. Genesis 2:18-19, *And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.* Notice in verse 19 that God brought each created creature to Adam. I take this to mean that God was physically there, along with Adam, as the names were given.

To further prove that God had a physical, personal relationship with Adam, look at the following verses. Genesis 3:8-23, *And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"*

So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return."

And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"; therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

In verse 8, we see God was walking in the Garden and was heard by Adam and his wife. She wasn't named Eve until verse 20. In verses 9-19, we have a running conversation among the four individuals who were in the Garden, God, Satan, Adam and his wife.

In verse 21, we see that God, Himself, made tunics of skin to clothe Adam and Eve.

I conclude that Abundant Life is a personal relationship with God. Worship is being obedient, it is not religion! Jesus came to reestablish the lost communion between mankind and God the Father. This was done by our believing that Jesus is the Son of God and our being obedient to God's will.

WEALTH

The Bible tells us that we are lenders and not borrowers. Deuteronomy 15:6, *For the LORD thy God blesseth thee, as he promised thee: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow; and thou shalt reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over thee.* How do we become lenders? Surely it can't be by running up every credit card we can obtain, to the maximum limit of credit. Bank CEOs want you to do this. They know you can never pay off all that credit debt by making the minimum required payment. Being a lender requires discipline! Discipline yourself to the point that you know you don't have to keep up with the Jones, nor use all those credit cards to impress everyone with the material things you have. Americans have been so deceived with materialism that they've lost sight of how to manage their finances.

Consider the requirements to obtain a Conventional Mortgage Loan. Ratios become the driving force for such a loan, but have you considered why such seemingly conservative ratios are used as basis for the loan? Why is there an established rule that your monthly housing expense/total monthly income ration can be no higher than 28%? Why the rule that total monthly debt payment/total monthly income ration can be up to 38%? The simple reason is that mortgage companies do not want you to get into financial trouble and know these ratios will keep you in safe territory. We are now seeing more and more people obtaining sub-prime mortgage loans and find themselves having to refinance every three to four years to keep pace with their personal debt.

In understanding these mortgage ratios, and using your own income, you can establish a viable working budget that will make you a lender and not a borrower. Consider the following:

- 28%** Housing Expense (mortgage, rent, taxes, utilities, maintenance, etc.)
- 10%** All Other Debt Payments (including car payment)
- 10%** Tithe to God (Represents 10% of the increase, not 10% of everything you earn, and most certainly not necessarily given to the church)
- 10%** Savings (also stocks, bonds, IRA and 401K)
- 5%** Car Expenses (maintenance items and gasoline)
- 25%** Food (both eat at home and eating out)
- 12%** Clothes/Entertainment

If you do not live within your means, you will find yourself in such outlandish debt that you have to consider filing for bankruptcy just to break even and start over. Statistically, over 50% of those filing for bankruptcy will have to file for bankruptcy again, because of personal mismanagement of finances.

HEALTH

Within the pages of the books in the Abundant Life Series, there are no less than four Biblical verses indicating Jesus took our afflictions upon the Cross along with our sins. Also, there are no less than twelve verses in the Bible to initiate healing. So why are we sick and dependent upon so many drugs? Once again, it's caused by deception and misunderstanding. The pharmaceutical companies want you to use their products. Why else would we have all the ads for multiple types of drugs? Read very carefully the list of side affects associated with some of these drugs. I think I'd rather take my chances without the drug. I wonder, would the pharmaceutical companies be screaming UNFAIR if there were television ads teaching mankind the truth in the Bible?

Through God's grace, this writer has come to understand God's love for mankind and the power He has given to each one of us. We do possess the power to live life more abundantly. We must understand that life is so much more than wealth. It is love and giving! It is health, strength and wisdom! It is study, learning and teaching! It is obedience to God's Will and discipline of one's own life! It is the mastery of these things and once mastered, there is nothing that cannot be obtained or done!

Abundant life is the power within yourself! Learn to us it!

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