

Why the Flesh?

By

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(Emphasis added)

God made humans in His image, (see Genesis 1:26-27). He created and formed Adam, which means 'red earth', from the ground and put His spirit into him, (see Genesis 2:7). Everything that God does in the earth is symbolic. All things of the earth are based on thirds. This is because of the triune nature of God, (i.e., Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and the fact that when Satan rebelled and was cast from heaven to the earth, he brought a third of the angels down with him, (see Luke 10:17-18 and Revelation 12:3-4 and Vv. 7-9). In this teaching we will examine why God created humans as fleshly, mortal creatures, what the flesh represents and how we overcome the weakness of the flesh.

Genesis 1:26-27 -

²⁶Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.¹

Genesis 2:7 -

⁷And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.²

Luke 10:17-18 -

¹⁷Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." ¹⁸And He said to them, "**I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.**³

Revelation 12: 3-4 and 7-9 -

³And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴His tail drew a third of the stars of

¹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

²*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

³*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.⁴

⁷And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.⁵

Before Satan was cast out of heaven and down to the earth, he convinced one third of God's angels to rebel with him. Since God lost these members of His 'family', He wanted to replace them. Because these angels did not keep their place in heaven, they were cast out with Satan and condemned to 'hell', (which in this case is translated from the Greek word 'tartaroo' - Strong's 5020 - which is from Tartaros, or the deepest abyss of Hades, see II Peter 2:4 and Jude 6), and will eventually end up in the lake of fire to be tormented forever, (see Revelation 20:10).

II Peter 2:4 -

⁴For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;⁶

Jude 6 -

⁶And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;⁷

Revelation 20:10 -

¹⁰The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.⁸

God wanted to be certain that the 'replacements' for the fallen angels would NOT make the same mistake that Satan, (formerly known before his fall as Lucifer, which means

⁴*The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.*

⁵*The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.*

⁶*The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.*

⁷*The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.*

⁸*The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.*

'morning star') made when he was God's covering cherub or angel. Lucifer was one of the three arch, (pronounced 'arc') or leader angels, that are mentioned in the Bible, (Michael and Gabriel are the other two). He was created perfect and was in charge of the earth in the original Garden of Eden, many years before God created Adam, but Lucifer sinned when he wanted to take God's place, (see Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:11-19). This was pride, which can be defined as stealing God's glory.

The glory of God is His essence, but is also in one sense His knowledge, (see the handout, 'KNOWLEDGE - The Key to Perfection'). Therefore, God had Lucifer cast from heaven along with his fallen angels. They were cast down to the earth and their character was changed from beauty to disgusting evil because they were burned with the fire of God. They were from then on referred to as the devil and his demons. That is why the test for Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden was whether in PRIDE they would 'steal' the glory or knowledge of God as Lucifer had done, or they would choose to obey God and refrain. They failed as Lucifer had failed and they ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It was a sin to eat of the forbidden fruit because they did not yet have the wisdom and understanding of God from Jesus and the Holy Spirit in order to properly use the knowledge of the Father. Thus when they ate the fruit that gave them that knowledge, it was out of God's order.

To God, ORDER is the most important thing in the earth. When Satan fell, it created a state of disorder and chaos in the perfect earth that God had previously created and it burned the surface of the earth from legions of lightning strikes. God had to flood the earth long before Noah in order to put the fire out. Then God had to begin re-establishing order during what is known as 'creation week'. He began on the first 'day' of that week by calling the kingdom of light of the spirit realm, (which was the Word, the Holy Spirit and the remaining two thirds good angels) into action and separating it from the kingdom of darkness, (which was Satan and his demons), (see Genesis 1:1-5, Proverbs 3:19-20, 24:3-4, Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:11-19, I Corinthians 14:33 and v.40).

Genesis 1:1-5 -

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.⁹

Proverbs 3:19-20 -

¹⁹ The LORD by wisdom founded the earth;

⁹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

20 By understanding He established the heavens;
By His knowledge the depths were broken up,
And clouds drop down the dew.¹⁰

Proverbs 24:3-4 -

3 Through wisdom a house is built,
And by understanding it is established;
4 By knowledge the rooms are filled
With all precious and pleasant riches.¹¹

Isaiah 14:12-15 -

12 “How you are fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground,
You who weakened the nations!
13 For you have said in your heart:
‘I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation
On the farthest sides of the north;
14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High.’
15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,
To the lowest depths of the Pit.¹²

Ezekiel 28:11-19 -

¹¹Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ¹²“Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD:

“You *were* the seal of perfection,
Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
13 You were in Eden, the garden of God;
Every precious stone *was* your covering:
The sardius, topaz, and diamond,
Beryl, onyx, and jasper,
Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold.
The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes

¹⁰*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

¹¹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

¹²*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

Was prepared for you on the day you were created.
 14 “You *were* the anointed cherub who covers;
 I established you;
 You were on the holy mountain of God;
 You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.
 15 You *were* perfect in your ways from the day you were created,
 Till iniquity was found in you.
 16 “By the abundance of your trading
 You became filled with violence within,
 And you sinned;
 Therefore I cast you as a profane thing
 Out of the mountain of God;
 And I destroyed you, O covering cherub,
 From the midst of the fiery stones.
 17 “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;
 You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor;
 I cast you to the ground,
 I laid you before kings,
 That they might gaze at you.
 18 “You defiled your sanctuaries
 By the multitude of your iniquities,
 By the iniquity of your trading;
 Therefore I brought fire from your midst;
 It devoured you,
 And I turned you to ashes upon the earth
 In the sight of all who saw you.
 19 All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you;
 You have become a horror,
 And *shall be* no more forever.” ’ ’ 13

I Corinthians 14:33 and 40 -

³³For God is not *the author* of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.
14

⁴⁰Let all things be done decently and in order.15

God decided to create humans mortal and lower than the angels, but with the potential to become as the angels whom He lost in the rebellion, even to judge the angels. God also

13*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

14*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

15*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

created humans mortal so that He could test them and see if they would obey Him BEFORE He granted them eternal life, so that they would not make the same mistake as Lucifer and his followers after He granted them immortality. This would also silence God's enemy Satan forever, (see Psalm chapter 8, Matthew 22:23-33, Mark 12:18-27, John 20:11-18, I Corinthians 6:3, Hebrews chapter 2 and Revelation 19:9-10).

Psalm Chapter 8 -

Psalm 8

To the Chief Musician. On the instrument of Gath. A Psalm of David.

¹ O LORD, our Lord,
 How excellent *is* Your name in all the earth,
 Who have set Your glory above the heavens!
² Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants
 You have ordained strength,
 Because of Your enemies,
 That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.
³ When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
 The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,
⁴ **What is man that You are mindful of him,
 And the son of man that You visit him?**
⁵ **For You have made him a little lower than the angels,
 And You have crowned him with glory and honor.**
⁶ **You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your
 hands;
 You have put all *things* under his feet,**
⁷ All sheep and oxen—
 Even the beasts of the field,
⁸ The birds of the air,
 And the fish of the sea
 That pass through the paths of the seas.
⁹ O LORD, our Lord,
 How excellent *is* Your name in all the earth! 16

Matthew 22:23-33 -

²³The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, ²⁴saying: "Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁵"Now there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother. ²⁶"Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh. ²⁷"Last of all the woman died also. ²⁸"Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her." ²⁹Jesus answered and said to them, "**You are**

¹⁶*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰**“For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.** ³¹“But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, ³²‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.” ³³And when the multitudes heard *this*, they were astonished at His teaching.¹⁷

Mark 12:18-27 -

¹⁸Then *some* Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him; and they asked Him, saying: ¹⁹“Teacher, Moses wrote to us that if a man’s brother dies, and leaves *his* wife behind, and leaves no children, his brother should take his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁰“Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife; and dying, he left no offspring. ²¹“And the second took her, and he died; nor did he leave any offspring. And the third likewise. ²²“So the seven had her and left no offspring. Last of all the woman died also. ²³“Therefore, in the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be? For all seven had her as wife.” ²⁴Jesus answered and said to them, **“Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God? ²⁵“For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.** ²⁶“But concerning the dead, that they rise, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the *burning bush passage*, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘*I am* the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? ²⁷“He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living. You are therefore greatly mistaken.”¹⁸

John 20:11-18 -

¹¹But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down *and looked* into the tomb. ¹²And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. ¹³Then they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.” ¹⁴Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, **“Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?”** She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, **“Mary!”** She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher). ¹⁷**Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and *to My God and your God.*’ ”**

¹⁷*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

¹⁸*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

¹⁸Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* He had spoken these things to her.¹⁹

I Corinthians 6:3 -

³**Do you not know that we shall judge angels?** How much more, things that pertain to this life?²⁰

Hebrews Chapter 2 -

Chapter 2

¹Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. ²For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, ³how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*, ⁴God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

⁵**For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. ⁶But one testified in a certain place, saying:**

**“What is man that You are mindful of him,
Or the son of man that You take care of him?
⁷ You have made him a little lower than the angels;
You have crowned him with glory and honor,
And set him over the works of Your hands.
⁸ You have put all things in subjection under his feet.”**

For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing *that is* not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. ⁹But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, ¹²saying:

**“I will declare Your name to My brethren;
In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.”**

¹³And again:

“I will put My trust in Him.”

And again:

¹⁹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

²⁰*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

“Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.”

¹⁴Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. ¹⁶For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.²¹

Revelation 19:9-10 - (John was speaking with an angel)

⁹Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’ ” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.” ¹⁰**And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See *that you do not do that!* I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”**²²

Because of disobedience and disorder, Eve, then Adam ate of the forbidden fruit, (which is commonly said to be an apple, but the Bible does not say what type of fruit it was) and God therefore cursed them. Humans would from that point forward have to work hard for their gain and the women would suffer with menstruation and labor in childbirth. The women would also have a desire and jealousy for their husbands as a part of that curse. These curses are still in effect today and the only way that these, or any other curse, can be broken is through Jesus, (see Genesis chapter 3 and Galatians 3:10-14).

Genesis Chapter 3 -

Chapter 3

¹Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” ²And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³“but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” ⁴Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵“For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. ⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day,

²¹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

²²*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where *are* you?” ¹⁰So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” ¹¹And 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?” ¹²Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³And the LORD God said to the woman, “What *is* this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” ¹⁴So 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.

¹⁵ 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.”

¹⁶To 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.”

¹⁷Then 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.

¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,
And you shall eat the herb of the field.

¹⁹ 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.”

²⁰And Adam called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

²¹Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

²²Then 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”— ²³therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴So He drove out the man; and He placed

cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.²³

Galatians 3:10-14 -

¹⁰For 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.” ¹¹But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.” ¹²Yet the law is not of faith, but “the man who does them shall live by them.” ¹³**Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”),** ¹⁴**that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**²⁴

God knew that Adam and Eve would fail and sin. It was in the plan of God. If they did not sin, then the human race would not need God’s Son, Jesus, to come as the Christ or Messiah, in order to save us from that sin. Also, God wanted His ‘replacement children’ to learn to overcome the tendency to sin BEFORE they would be granted eternal life. In effect, God wanted us to ‘get the sin out of the way’ so that we would not repeat the failure of the fallen angels that we were meant to replace. Therefore, God created humans in the weak fleshly state in order that He could destroy them if they refused to do what He wanted them to do.

God knew that MANY of the people who would live on the earth would NOT obey Him and therefore would NOT make it into His kingdom to live forever in His presence. Since He gave them a free will and instructed that they should obey Him, the burden was on humans to make the right choice. Because God wanted humans to replace the disobedient angels, He wanted them to be able to overcome the PRIDE that led Lucifer and his followers into sin. This ability to overcome the tendency to walk in pride would require suffering. Humans would need to suffer in this life in order to learn obedience to God. Even Jesus would learn obedience through His suffering and it would lead Him into perfection. The same path to perfection would be necessary for everyone who would be called into the kingdom of God. People who suffered enough would, with the help of God, cease from sinning.

This world was made for many, but the next life is for a few. God has a set number of replacement ‘children’ that He wants to make it into His kingdom. When that number is complete and they are perfected, then the end will come, (see the handouts ‘The Path to Perfection’ and ‘SUFFERING - The Key to Obedience’, Deuteronomy 30:11-20, Matthew 7:13-14, 20:1-16 and 22:1-14, Luke 13:23-30, Hebrews 5:5-10 and 10:14, I Peter 4:1-6, II Peter 3:10-18 and Revelation 21:1; Apocrypha of the Old Testament, II Esdras 6:55-7:61 and 7:116-9:22).

²³*The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.*

²⁴*The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.*

Deuteronomy 30:11-20 -

¹¹“For this commandment which I command you today *is not too* mysterious for you, nor *is* it far off. ¹²“It *is* not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ ¹³“Nor *is* it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ ¹⁴“But the word *is* very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, ¹⁶“in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. ¹⁷“But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸“I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong *your* days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. ¹⁹“**I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;*** ²⁰“that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He *is* your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”²⁵

Matthew 7:13-14 -

¹³“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴“**Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.**²⁶

Matthew 20:1-16 -

¹“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²“Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³“And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴“and said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. ⁵“Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. ⁶“And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’ ⁷“They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.’ ⁸“So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers and give them *their*

²⁵*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

²⁶*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

wages, beginning with the last to the first.’⁹ “And when those came who *were hired* about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius.¹⁰ “But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius.¹¹ “And when they had received *it*, they complained against the landowner,¹² “saying, ‘These last *men* have worked *only* one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.’¹³ “But he answered one of them and said, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’¹⁴ “Take *what is yours* and go your way. I wish to give to this last man *the same* as to you.¹⁵ “Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?’¹⁶ “So the last will be first, and the first last. **For many are called, but few chosen.**”²⁷

Matthew 22:1-14 -

¹And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said:² “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son,³ “and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.⁴ “Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle *are* killed, and all things *are* ready. Come to the wedding.”’⁵ “But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.⁶ “And the rest seized his servants, treated *them* spitefully, and killed *them*.⁷ “But when the king heard *about it*, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.⁸ “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.⁹ “Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’¹⁰ “So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding *hall* was filled with guests.¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.¹² “So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless.¹³ “Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’¹⁴ “**For many are called, but few *are* chosen.**”²⁸

Luke 13:23-30 -

²³Then one said to Him, “Lord, are there few who are saved?” And He said to them,²⁴ “**Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.**²⁵ “When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open for us,’ and He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know you, where you are from,’²⁶ “then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.’

²⁷*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

²⁸*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

²⁷“But He will say, ‘I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.’ ²⁸“There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. ²⁹“They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. ³⁰“And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last.”²⁹

Hebrews 5:5-10 -

⁵So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, *but it was He who said to Him:*

“You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.”

⁶As *He also says in another place:*

“You *are* a priest forever
According to the order of Melchizedek”;

⁷who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, ⁸**though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.** ⁹**And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,** ¹⁰called by God as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek,”³⁰

Hebrews 10:14 -

¹⁴For by one offering **He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.**³¹

I Peter 4:1-6 -

¹**Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,** ²that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. ³For we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. ⁴In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with *them* in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of *you*. ⁵They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶For this reason the gospel was

²⁹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

³⁰*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

³¹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.³²

II Peter 3:10-18 -

¹⁰**But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.** ¹¹Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹²looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; ¹⁵and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, ¹⁶as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures. ¹⁷You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; ¹⁸but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.³³

Revelation 21:1 -

¹Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.³⁴

II Esdras 6:55-7:61 -

Why Do God's People Suffer?

⁵⁵“All this I have spoken before you, O Lord, because you have said that it was for us that you created this world. ⁵⁶As for the other nations that have descended from Adam, you have said that they are nothing, and that they are like spittle, and you have compared their abundance to a drop from a bucket. ⁵⁷And now, O Lord, these nations, which are reputed to be as nothing, domineer over us and devour us. ⁵⁸But we your people, whom you have called your firstborn, only begotten, zealous for you, and most dear, have been given into their hands. ⁵⁹If the world has indeed been created for us, why do we not possess our world as an inheritance? How long will this be so?”

³²*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

³³*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

³⁴*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

Response to Ezra's Questions

7 When I had finished speaking these words, the angel who had been sent to me on the former nights was sent to me again. ² He said to me, "Rise, Ezra, and listen to the words that I have come to speak to you."

³ I said, "Speak, my lord." And he said to me, "There is a sea set in a wide expanse so that it is deep and vast, ⁴ but it has an entrance set in a narrow place, so that it is like a river. ⁵ If there are those who wish to reach the sea, to look at it or to navigate it, how can they come to the broad part unless they pass through the narrow part? ⁶ Another example: There is a city built and set on a plain, and it is full of all good things; ⁷ but the entrance to it is narrow and set in a precipitous place, so that there is fire on the right hand and deep water on the left. ⁸ There is only one path lying between them, that is, between the fire and the water, so that only one person can walk on the path. ⁹ If now the city is given to someone as an inheritance, how will the heir receive the inheritance unless by passing through the appointed danger?"

¹⁰ I said, "That is right, lord." **He said to me, "So also is Israel's portion. ¹¹ For I made the world for their sake, and when Adam transgressed my statutes, what had been made was judged. ¹² And so the entrances of this world were made narrow and sorrowful and toilsome; they are few and evil, full of dangers and involved in great hardships. ¹³ But the entrances of the greater world are broad and safe, and yield the fruit of immortality. ¹⁴ Therefore unless the living pass through the difficult and futile experiences, they can never receive those things that have been reserved for them. ¹⁵ Now therefore why are you disturbed, seeing that you are to perish? Why are you moved, seeing that you are mortal? ¹⁶ Why have you not considered in your mind what is to come, rather than what is now present?"**

The Fate of the Ungodly

¹⁷ Then I answered and said, "O sovereign Lord, you have ordained in your law that the righteous shall inherit these things, but that the ungodly shall perish. ¹⁸ The righteous, therefore, can endure difficult circumstances while hoping for easier ones; but those who have done wickedly have suffered the difficult circumstances and will never see the easier ones."

¹⁹ **He said to me, "You are not a better judge than the Lord, or wiser than the Most High! ²⁰ Let many perish who are now living, rather than that the law of God that is set before them be disregarded! ²¹ For the Lord strictly commanded those who came into the world, when they came, what they should do to live, and what they should observe to avoid punishment. ²² Nevertheless they were not obedient, and spoke against him;**

they devised for themselves vain thoughts,
²³ **and proposed to themselves wicked frauds;**
they even declared that the Most High does not exist,
and they ignored his ways.

²⁴ **They scorned his law,**
and denied his covenants;
they have been unfaithful to his statutes,
and have not performed his works.

²⁵ That is the reason, Ezra, that empty things are for the empty, and full things are for the full.

The Temporary Messianic Kingdom

²⁶ “For indeed the time will come, when the signs that I have foretold to you will come to pass, that the city that now is not seen shall appear, and the land that now is hidden shall be disclosed. ²⁷ Everyone who has been delivered from the evils that I have foretold shall see my wonders. ²⁸ For my son the Messiah shall be revealed with those who are with him, and those who remain shall rejoice four hundred years. ²⁹ After those years my son the Messiah shall die, and all who draw human breath. ³⁰ Then the world shall be turned back to primeval silence for seven days, as it was at the first beginnings, so that no one shall be left. ³¹ After seven days the world that is not yet awake shall be roused, and that which is corruptible shall perish. ³² **The earth shall give up those who are asleep in it, and the dust those who rest there in silence; and the chambers shall give up the souls that have been committed to them.** ³³ **The Most High shall be revealed on the seat of judgment, and compassion shall pass away, and patience shall be withdrawn.** ³⁴ **Only judgment shall remain, truth shall stand, and faithfulness shall grow strong.** ³⁵ **Recompense shall follow, and the reward shall be manifested; righteous deeds shall awake, and unrighteous deeds shall not sleep.** ³⁶ **The pit of torment shall appear, and opposite it shall be the place of rest; and the furnace of hell shall be disclosed, and opposite it the paradise of delight.** ³⁷ **Then the Most High will say to the nations that have been raised from the dead, ‘Look now, and understand whom you have denied, whom you have not served, whose commandments you have despised.** ³⁸ **Look on this side and on that; here are delight and rest, and there are fire and torments.’ Thus he will speak to them on the day of judgment—** ³⁹ **a day that has no sun or moon or stars,** ⁴⁰ **or cloud or thunder or lightning, or wind or water or air, or darkness or evening or morning,** ⁴¹ **or summer or spring or heat or winter or frost or cold, or hail or rain or dew,** ⁴² **or noon or night, or dawn or shining or brightness or light, but only the splendor of the glory of the Most High, by which all shall see what has been destined.** ⁴³ **It will last as though for a week of years.** ⁴⁴ **This is my judgment and its prescribed order; and to you alone I have shown these things.”**

Only a Few Will Be Saved

⁴⁵ I answered and said, “O sovereign Lord, I said then and I say now: Blessed are those who are alive and keep your commandments! ⁴⁶ But what of those for whom I prayed? For who among the living is there that has not sinned, or who is there among mortals that has not transgressed your covenant? ⁴⁷ And now I see that the world to come will bring delight to few, but torments to many. ⁴⁸ For an evil heart has grown up in us, which has alienated us from God, and has brought us into corruption and the ways of death, and has shown us the paths of perdition and removed us far from life—and that not merely for a few but for almost all who have been created.”

⁴⁹ He answered me and said, “Listen to me, Ezra, and I will instruct you, and will admonish you once more. ⁵⁰ For this reason the Most High has made not one world but two. ⁵¹ Inasmuch as you have said that the righteous are not many but few, while the ungodly abound, hear the explanation for this.

52 “If you have just a few precious stones, will you add to them lead and clay?” ⁵³ I said, “Lord, how could that be?” ⁵⁴ And he said to me, “Not only that, but ask the earth and she will tell you; defer to her, and she will declare it to you. ⁵⁵ Say to her, ‘You produce gold and silver and bronze, and also iron and lead and clay; ⁵⁶ but silver is more abundant than gold, and bronze than silver, and iron than bronze, and lead than iron, and clay than lead.’ ⁵⁷ Judge therefore which things are precious and desirable, those that are abundant or those that are rare?”

58 I said, “O sovereign Lord, what is plentiful is of less worth, for what is more rare is more precious.”

59 He answered me and said, “Consider within yourself what you have thought, for the person who has what is hard to get rejoices more than the person who has what is plentiful. ⁶⁰ So also will be the judgment that I have promised; for I will rejoice over the few who shall be saved, because it is they who have made my glory to prevail now, and through them my name has now been honored. ⁶¹ I will not grieve over the great number of those who perish; for it is they who are now like a mist, and are similar to a flame and smoke—they are set on fire and burn hotly, and are extinguished.”³⁵

II Esdras 7:116-9:22 -

Lamentation over the Fate of Most People
(Cp Deut 30.15—20)

46 ¹¹⁶ I answered and said, “This is my first and last comment: it would have been better if the earth had not produced Adam, or else, when it had produced him, had restrained him from sinning. ⁴⁷ ¹¹⁷ For what good is it to all that they live in sorrow now and expect punishment after death? ⁴⁸ ¹¹⁸ O Adam, what have you done? For though it was you who sinned, the fall was not yours alone, but ours also who are your descendants. ⁴⁹ ¹¹⁹ For what good is it to us, if an immortal time has been promised to us, but we have done deeds that bring death? ⁵⁰ ¹²⁰ And what good is it that an everlasting hope has been promised to us, but we have miserably failed? ⁵¹ ¹²¹ Or that safe and healthful habitations have been reserved for us, but we have lived wickedly? ⁵² ¹²² Or that the glory of the Most High will defend those who have led a pure life, but we have walked in the most wicked ways? ⁵³ ¹²³ Or that a paradise shall be revealed, whose fruit remains unspoiled and in which are abundance and healing, but we shall not enter it ⁵⁴ ¹²⁴ because we have lived in perverse ways? ⁵⁵ ¹²⁵ Or that the faces of those who practiced self-control shall shine more than the stars, but our faces shall be blacker than darkness? ⁵⁶ ¹²⁶ For while we lived and committed iniquity we did not consider what we should suffer after death.”

57 ¹²⁷ He answered and said, “This is the significance of the contest that all who are born on earth shall wage: **58** ¹²⁸ if they are defeated they shall suffer what you have said, but if they are victorious they shall receive what I have said. **59** ¹²⁹ For this is the way of which Moses, while he was alive, spoke to the people, saying, ‘Choose life for yourself, so that you may live!’ **60** ¹³⁰ But they did not believe him or the prophets after him, or even myself who have spoken to them. **61** ¹³¹ Therefore

³⁵The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

there shall not be grief at their destruction, so much as joy over those to whom salvation is assured.”

Ezra Appeals to God’s Mercy

62 ¹³² I answered and said, “I know, O Lord, that the Most High is now called merciful, because he has mercy on those who have not yet come into the world; 63 ¹³³ and gracious, because he is gracious to those who turn in repentance to his law; 64 ¹³⁴ and patient, because he shows patience toward those who have sinned, since they are his own creatures; 65 ¹³⁵ and bountiful, because he would rather give than take away; 66 ¹³⁶ and abundant in compassion, because he makes his compassions abound more and more to those now living and to those who are gone and to those yet to come— 67 ¹³⁷ for if he did not make them abound, the world with those who inhabit it would not have life— 68 ¹³⁸ and he is called the giver, because if he did not give out of his goodness so that those who have committed iniquities might be relieved of them, not one ten-thousandth of humankind could have life; 69 ¹³⁹ and the judge, because if he did not pardon those who were created by his word and blot out the multitude of their sins, 70 ¹⁴⁰ there would probably be left only very few of the innumerable multitude.”

8 He answered me and said, “The Most High made this world for the sake of many, but the world to come for the sake of only a few. ² But I tell you a parable, Ezra. Just as, when you ask the earth, it will tell you that it provides a large amount of clay from which earthenware is made, but only a little dust from which gold comes, so is the course of the present world. ³ Many have been created, but only a few shall be saved.”

Ezra Again Appeals to God’s Mercy

⁴ I answered and said, “Then drink your fill of understanding, O my soul, and drink wisdom, O my heart. ⁵ For not of your own will did you come into the world, and against your will you depart, for you have been given only a short time to live. ⁶ O Lord above us, grant to your servant that we may pray before you, and give us a seed for our heart and cultivation of our understanding so that fruit may be produced, by which every mortal who bears the likeness of a human being may be able to live. ⁷ For you alone exist, and we are a work of your hands, as you have declared. ⁸ And because you give life to the body that is now fashioned in the womb, and furnish it with members, what you have created is preserved amid fire and water, and for nine months the womb endures your creature that has been created in it. ⁹ But that which keeps and that which is kept shall both be kept by your keeping. And when the womb gives up again what has been created in it, ¹⁰ you have commanded that from the members themselves (that is, from the breasts) milk, the fruit of the breasts, should be supplied, ¹¹ so that what has been fashioned may be nourished for a time; and afterwards you will still guide it in your mercy. ¹² You have nurtured it in your righteousness, and instructed it in your law, and reproved it in your wisdom. ¹³ You put it to death as your creation, and make it live as your work. ¹⁴ If then you will suddenly and quickly destroy what with so great labor was fashioned by your command, to what purpose was it made? ¹⁵ And now I will speak out: About all humankind you know best; but I will speak about your people, for whom I am grieved, ¹⁶ and about your inheritance, for whom I lament, and about Israel, for whom I am sad, and about the seed of Jacob, for whom I am troubled. ¹⁷ Therefore I will pray before you for

myself and for them, for I see the failings of us who inhabit the earth;¹⁸ and now also I have heard of the swiftness of the judgment that is to come.¹⁹ Therefore hear my voice and understand my words, and I will speak before you.”

Ezra's Prayer

The beginning of the words of Ezra's prayer, before he was taken up. He said:²⁰ “O Lord, you who inhabit eternity, whose eyes are exalted and whose upper chambers are in the air,²¹ whose throne is beyond measure and whose glory is beyond comprehension, before whom the hosts of angels stand trembling²² and at whose command they are changed to wind and fire, whose word is sure and whose utterances are certain, whose command is strong and whose ordinance is terrible,²³ whose look dries up the depths and whose indignation makes the mountains melt away, and whose truth is established forever—²⁴ hear, O Lord, the prayer of your servant, and give ear to the petition of your creature; attend to my words.²⁵ For as long as I live I will speak, and as long as I have understanding I will answer.²⁶ O do not look on the sins of your people, but on those who serve you in truth.²⁷ Do not take note of the endeavors of those who act wickedly, but of the endeavors of those who have kept your covenants amid afflictions.²⁸ Do not think of those who have lived wickedly in your sight, but remember those who have willingly acknowledged that you are to be feared.²⁹ Do not will the destruction of those who have the ways of cattle, but regard those who have gloriously taught your law.³⁰ Do not be angry with those who are deemed worse than wild animals, but love those who have always put their trust in your glory.³¹ For we and our ancestors have passed our lives in ways that bring death; but it is because of us sinners that you are called merciful.³² For if you have desired to have pity on us, who have no works of righteousness, then you will be called merciful.³³ For the righteous, who have many works laid up with you, shall receive their reward in consequence of their own deeds.³⁴ But what are mortals, that you are angry with them; or what is a corruptible race, that you are so bitter against it?³⁵ For in truth there is no one among those who have been born who has not acted wickedly; among those who have existed there is no one who has not done wrong.³⁶ For in this, O Lord, your righteousness and goodness will be declared, when you are merciful to those who have no store of good works.”

Response to Ezra's Prayer

³⁷ He answered me and said, “Some things you have spoken rightly, and it will turn out according to your words. ³⁸ For indeed I will not concern myself about the fashioning of those who have sinned, or about their death, their judgment, or their destruction; ³⁹ but I will rejoice over the creation of the righteous, over their pilgrimage also, and their salvation, and their receiving their reward. ⁴⁰ As I have spoken, therefore, so it shall be.

⁴¹ “For just as the farmer sows many seeds in the ground and plants a multitude of seedlings, and yet not all that have been sown will come up in due season, and not all that were planted will take root; so also those who have been sown in the world will not all be saved.”

⁴² I answered and said, “If I have found favor in your sight, let me speak.⁴³ If the farmer's seed does not come up, because it has not received your rain in due season, or if it has been ruined by too much rain, it perishes.⁴⁴ But people, who have been formed by your hands and are called your own image because they are made like you, and for whose

sake you have formed all things—have you also made them like the farmer’s seed? ⁴⁵ Surely not, O Lord above! But spare your people and have mercy on your inheritance, for you have mercy on your own creation.”

Ezra’s Final Appeal for Mercy

⁴⁶ He answered me and said, “Things that are present are for those who live now, and things that are future are for those who will live hereafter. ⁴⁷ For you come far short of being able to love my creation more than I love it. But you have often compared yourself to the unrighteous. Never do so! ⁴⁸ But even in this respect you will be praiseworthy before the Most High, ⁴⁹ because you have humbled yourself, as is becoming for you, and have not considered yourself to be among the righteous. You will receive the greatest glory, ⁵⁰ for many miseries will affect those who inhabit the world in the last times, because they have walked in great pride. ⁵¹ But think of your own case, and inquire concerning the glory of those who are like yourself, ⁵² because it is for you that paradise is opened, the tree of life is planted, the age to come is prepared, plenty is provided, a city is built, rest is appointed, goodness is established and wisdom perfected beforehand. ⁵³ The root of evil is sealed up from you, illness is banished from you, and death is hidden; Hades has fled and corruption has been forgotten; ⁵⁴ sorrows have passed away, and in the end the treasure of immortality is made manifest. ⁵⁵ **Therefore do not ask any more questions about the great number of those who perish. ⁵⁶ For when they had opportunity to choose, they despised the Most High, and were contemptuous of his law, and abandoned his ways. ⁵⁷ Moreover, they have even trampled on his righteous ones, ⁵⁸ and said in their hearts that there is no God—though they knew well that they must die. ⁵⁹ For just as the things that I have predicted await you, so the thirst and torment that are prepared await them. For the Most High did not intend that anyone should be destroyed; ⁶⁰ but those who were created have themselves defiled the name of him who made them, and have been ungrateful to him who prepared life for them now. ⁶¹ Therefore my judgment is now drawing near; ⁶² I have not shown this to all people, but only to you and a few like you.”**

Then I answered and said, ⁶³ “O Lord, you have already shown me a great number of the signs that you will do in the last times, but you have not shown me when you will do them.”

More about the Signs of the End

9 He answered me and said, “Measure carefully in your mind, and when you see that some of the predicted signs have occurred, ² then you will know that it is the very time when the Most High is about to visit the world that he has made. ³ So when there shall appear in the world earthquakes, tumult of peoples, intrigues of nations, wavering of leaders, confusion of princes, ⁴ then you will know that it was of these that the Most High spoke from the days that were of old, from the beginning. ⁵ For just as with everything that has occurred in the world, the beginning is evident, and the end manifest; ⁶ so also are the times of the Most High: the beginnings are manifest in wonders and mighty works, and the end in penalties and in signs.

⁷ **“It shall be that all who will be saved and will be able to escape on account of their works, or on account of the faith by which they have believed, ⁸ will survive the dangers that have been predicted, and will see my salvation in my land and within**

my borders, which I have sanctified for myself from the beginning.⁹ Then those who have now abused my ways shall be amazed, and those who have rejected them with contempt shall live in torments.¹⁰ For as many as did not acknowledge me in their lifetime, though they received my benefits,¹¹ and as many as scorned my law while they still had freedom, and did not understand but despised it while an opportunity of repentance was still open to them,¹² these must in torment acknowledge it after death.¹³ Therefore, do not continue to be curious about how the ungodly will be punished; but inquire how the righteous will be saved, those to whom the age belongs and for whose sake the age was made.”

The Argument Recapitulated

¹⁴ I answered and said, ¹⁵ “I said before, and I say now, and will say it again: there are more who perish than those who will be saved, ¹⁶ as a wave is greater than a drop of water.”

¹⁷ He answered me and said, “As is the field, so is the seed; and as are the flowers, so are the colors; and as is the work, so is the product; and as is the farmer, so is the threshing floor.¹⁸ For there was a time in this age when I was preparing for those who now exist, before the world was made for them to live in, and no one opposed me then, for no one existed;¹⁹ but now those who have been created in this world, which is supplied both with an unfailing table and an inexhaustible pasture, have become corrupt in their ways.²⁰ So I considered my world, and saw that it was lost. I saw that my earth was in peril because of the devices of those who had come into it.²¹ And I saw and spared some with great difficulty, and saved for myself one grape out of a cluster, and one plant out of a great forest.²² So let the multitude perish that has been born in vain, but let my grape and my plant be saved, because with much labor I have perfected them.³⁶

The fleshly body that God gives each person when they come into the earth has a symbolic meaning in and of itself. The earth is made in thirds; it is 2/3 water and 1/3 soil. The soil or ground represents the flesh. This is why God created Adam from the ground. The water represents Jesus, who is also known as the Word of God, (see John 1:1-5 and Ephesians 5:25-27).

John 1:1-5 -

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.³⁷

Ephesians 5:25-27 -

³⁶*The New Revised Standard Version*, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

³⁷*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the **washing of water by the word**, ²⁷that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ³⁸

The atmosphere represents the Holy Spirit, but the Spirit of God is also represented by the water. The 2/3 of the earth covered with water represents Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the 2/3 remaining good angels, (i.e., the kingdom of light). The one third of the earth that is soil represents Satan and the one third fallen angels, now called demons, (i.e., the kingdom of darkness). At any given time, there are roughly one third of the earth's populations that are led directly by the devil. This is exemplified in the fact that Adam and Eve had three sons, Cain, Abel and Seth. Cain was the evil one. After God destroyed sin from the earth with the flood of Noah, (i.e., baptism of the earth) one of Noah's three sons was evil, (i.e., Ham). All the descendents of Ham are cursed through the curse of Noah. Again, the only way to come out from that curse is to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. From Ham came the dark races. Even today the dark races are subservient to the Caucasian and yellow races, UNLESS they become Christian and come out from under the curse of Noah, (see Genesis chapter 4, 9:18-12:9 and I John chapter 3).

Genesis Chapter 4 -

Chapter 4

¹Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD." ²Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. ³And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. ⁴Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, ⁵but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. ⁶So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?" ⁷"If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." ⁸Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground." ¹¹"So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²"When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth." ¹³And Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear!" ¹⁴"Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me." ¹⁵And the LORD said to

³⁸*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

him, “Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

¹⁶Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden. ¹⁷And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son—Enoch. ¹⁸To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad begot Mehujael, and Mehujael begot Methushael, and Methushael begot Lamech.

¹⁹Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one *was* Adah, and the name of the second *was* Zillah. ²⁰And Adah bore Jubal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. ²¹His brother’s name *was* Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute. ²²And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain *was* Naamah. ²³Then Lamech said to his wives:

“Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech!
For I have killed a man for wounding me,
Even a young man for hurting me.
²⁴ If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold,
Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.”

²⁵**And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, “For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.”** ²⁶**And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then *men* began to call on the name of the LORD.**³⁹

Genesis 9:18-12:9 -

¹⁸Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham *was* the father of Canaan. ¹⁹These three *were* the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.

²⁰And Noah began *to be* a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. ²²And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. ²³But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid *it* on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces *were* turned away, and they did not see their father’s nakedness.

²⁴So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him. ²⁵Then he said:

“Cursed *be* Canaan;
A servant of servants
He shall be to his brethren.”

²⁶And he said:

“Blessed *be* the LORD,

³⁹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

**The God of Shem,
And may Canaan be his servant.**
27 **May God enlarge Japheth,
And may he dwell in the tents of Shem;
And may Canaan be his servant.”**

²⁸And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. ²⁹So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died.

Chapter 10

¹Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood.

²The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. ³The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. ⁴The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. ⁵From these the coastland peoples of the Gentiles were separated into their lands, everyone according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.

⁶The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan. ⁷The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechah; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan. ⁸Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. ⁹He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.” ¹⁰And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. ¹¹From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, ¹²and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city). ¹³Mizraim begot Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, ¹⁴Pathrusim, and Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines and Caphtorim).

¹⁵Canaan begot Sidon his firstborn, and Heth; ¹⁶the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Girgashite; ¹⁷the Hivite, the Arkite, and the Sinite; ¹⁸the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite. Afterward the families of the Canaanites were dispersed. ¹⁹And the border of the Canaanites was from Sidon as you go toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; then as you go toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha. ²⁰These were the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands and in their nations.

²¹And children were born also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder. ²²The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram. ²³The sons of Aram were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash. ²⁴Arphaxad begot Salah, and Salah begot Eber. ²⁵To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother’s name was Joktan. ²⁶Joktan begot Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, ²⁷Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, ²⁸Obal, Abimael, Sheba, ²⁹Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were the sons of Joktan. ³⁰And their dwelling place was from Mesha as you go toward Sephar, the mountain of the east. ³¹These were the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands, according to their nations.

³²These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood.

Chapter 11

¹Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. ²And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. ³Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. ⁴And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." ⁵But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. ⁶And the LORD said, "Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. ⁷"Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." ⁸So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. ⁹Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

¹⁰This *is* the genealogy of Shem: Shem *was* one hundred years old, and begot Arphaxad two years after the flood. ¹¹After he begot Arphaxad, Shem lived five hundred years, and begot sons and daughters.

¹²Arphaxad lived thirty-five years, and begot Salah. ¹³After he begot Salah, Arphaxad lived four hundred and three years, and begot sons and daughters.

¹⁴Salah lived thirty years, and begot Eber. ¹⁵After he begot Eber, Salah lived four hundred and three years, and begot sons and daughters.

¹⁶Eber lived thirty-four years, and begot Peleg. ¹⁷After he begot Peleg, Eber lived four hundred and thirty years, and begot sons and daughters.

¹⁸Peleg lived thirty years, and begot Reu. ¹⁹After he begot Reu, Peleg lived two hundred and nine years, and begot sons and daughters.

²⁰Reu lived thirty-two years, and begot Serug. ²¹After he begot Serug, Reu lived two hundred and seven years, and begot sons and daughters.

²²Serug lived thirty years, and begot Nahor. ²³After he begot Nahor, Serug lived two hundred years, and begot sons and daughters.

²⁴Nahor lived twenty-nine years, and begot Terah. ²⁵After he begot Terah, Nahor lived one hundred and nineteen years, and begot sons and daughters.

²⁶Now Terah lived seventy years, and begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

²⁷This *is* the genealogy of Terah: Terah begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran begot Lot. ²⁸And Haran died before his father Terah in his native land, in Ur of the Chaldeans.

²⁹Then Abram and Nahor took wives: the name of Abram's wife *was* Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and the father of Iscah. ³⁰But Sarai was barren; she had no child.

³¹And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there. ³²So the days of Terah were two hundred and five years, and Terah died in Haran.

Chapter 12

¹Now the LORD had said to Abram:

**“Get out of your country,
 From your family
 And from your father’s house,
 To a land that I will show you.
 2 I will make you a great nation;
 I will bless you
 And make your name great;
 And you shall be a blessing.
 3 I will bless those who bless you,
 And I will curse him who curses you;
 And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”**

⁴So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram *was* seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan. ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites *were* then in the land. ⁷**Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.”** And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent *with* Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. ⁹So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.⁴⁰

I John Chapter 3 -

Chapter 3

¹Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ²Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

⁴Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. ⁵And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. ⁶Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. ⁸He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. ⁹Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

¹⁰**In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.** ¹¹**For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,** ¹²**not as Cain *who* was of the wicked one and murdered his**

⁴⁰*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. ¹⁴We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love *his* brother abides in death. ¹⁵Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

¹⁶By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. ¹⁷But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. ²⁰For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. ²²And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. ²³And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

²⁴Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.⁴¹

The dark color of the skin of the people who descended from Ham is symbolic of the kingdom of darkness. However, it is ONLY SYMBOLIC. It has NO ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE if the individual person comes out from under the curse of Noah by accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior. There is NO ROOM for racism in the kingdom of God. Anyone who accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and is BORN AGAIN, becomes a child of Abraham, (who descended from one of Noah's good sons - Seth) and their former fleshly state has NO significance. Once someone becomes a TRUE Christian and they are water baptized, (since we were not around for the flood of Noah) their 'old man dies' and they become a new creation. However, they must continue to be obedient to God in order to STAY SAVED, (see Matthew 10:22, II Corinthians 5:12-21, Galatians 3:26-29, Hebrews 6:4-8, 10:26-39 and I Peter 3:18-22).

Matthew 10:22 -

²²**“And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.”⁴²**

II Corinthians 5:12-21 -

¹²For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have *an answer* for those who boast in appearance and not in heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, *it is* for God; or if we are of sound mind, *it is* for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all,

⁴¹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁴²*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

then all died; ¹⁵and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. ¹⁶Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.⁴³

Galatians 3:26-29 -

²⁶For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.⁴⁴

Hebrews 6:4-8 -

⁴For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put *Him* to an open shame. ⁷For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; ⁸but if it bears thorns and briars, *it is* rejected and near to being cursed, whose end *is* to be burned.⁴⁵

Hebrews 10:26-39 -

²⁶For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. ²⁸Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought

⁴³*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁴⁴*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁴⁵*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. And again, “The LORD will judge His people.” ³¹It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. ³²But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: ³³partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; ³⁴for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. ³⁵Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

³⁷ “For yet a little while,
And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.
³⁸ Now the just shall live by faith;
But if *anyone* draws back,
My soul has no pleasure in him.”

³⁹But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.⁴⁶

I Peter 3:18-22 -

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, ¹⁹by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. ²¹**There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,** ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.⁴⁷

Nimrod was a descendent of Ham and was a black man. He was also an evil man. He started the kingdom of Babel and the mystery religion of Babylon. Babylon represents ALL that is counter to God and it represents the kingdom of darkness. All the perverse traditions of Babylon that have been handed down through the ages, such as sex outside of marriage, (especially with the desire to become pregnant in order to ‘prove’ fertility), gay sex, worshipping false gods, speaking to dead ancestors, witchcraft, use of illicit drugs, excess alcohol consumption, lying, cheating others, violence, borrowing money and so forth, are part of Satan’s attempt to keep Jesus from coming back. Though these practices started in the dark races, they have since permeated every society of the world.

⁴⁶*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁴⁷*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

However, the dark races still hold tight to these traditions. Even when the natural descendents of Ham become Christian, they still have difficulty coming out from under these time-honored, perverted traditions. This is why the dark races suffer so much poverty and sickness, such as HIV/AIDS. These things are judgments from God, but these people will for the most part NOT receive this truth, and therefore they will on the whole never be able to come out from under these curses.

It is high time that these things be brought to light and those who are the called into the kingdom of God to make a change in their lives and the lives of other true Christians. It does not matter what color a person's skin is, if they refuse to obey God, they will end up in the lake of fire, (see the handout, 'Coming out of Babylon', the book, Who Said That You Should be Perfect?, Romans 1:16-32 and Revelation 21:7-8; Apocrypha of the Old Testament, II Esdras 16:18-20).

Romans 1:16-32 -

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. ²⁴Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. ²⁶For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. ²⁷Likewise 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. ²⁸And 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; ²⁹being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, ³⁰backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; ³²who, knowing the

righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.⁴⁸

Revelation 21:7-8 -

⁷“He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. ⁸“**But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.**”⁴⁹

II Esdras 16:18-20 -

¹⁸ The beginning of sorrows, when there shall be much lamentation; the beginning of famine, when many shall perish; the beginning of wars, when the powers shall be terrified; the beginning of calamities, when all shall tremble. What shall they do, when the calamities come? ¹⁹ Famine and plague, tribulation and anguish are sent as scourges for the correction of humankind. ²⁰ Yet for all this they will not turn from their iniquities, or ever be mindful of the scourges.⁵⁰

The lake of fire will be the end of every human who makes the conscious decision to disobey God. This is the ‘second death’. It will be an eternal death. This is the mercy of a loving God. Satan and his demons are already immortal. They will therefore suffer torment in the lake of fire forever. However, any human who ends up in the lake of fire will die and cease to exist. Those who die before Judgment Day and have not received Christ and obeyed God, (this includes people who call themselves Christian, but still refuse to believe God and obey God) will go to hell and be tormented there until Judgment Day, (i.e., the ‘Great White Throne Judgment’). Those who truly obey God and die before Jesus comes back will go to heaven to await Jesus to bring them back with Him. When Jesus comes back, these obedient ones will be resurrected in the first resurrection of the just. They will receive their immortal bodies and the second death will have no power over them, (see Handout ‘Christianity 101’, Revelation 21:7-8 above, Daniel 12:1-3, Luke 16:19-31, 23:32-43, I Corinthians 15:12-28 and Vv. 50-58, II Corinthians 12:1-10, Philippians 1:19-26, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Revelation 14:6-13 chapter 20; Apocrypha of the Old Testament, II Esdras 7:75-115).

Daniel 12:1-3 -

¹ “At that time Michael shall stand up,
The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people;
And there shall be a time of trouble,

⁴⁸*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁴⁹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁵⁰*The New Revised Standard Version*, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

Such as never was since there was a nation,
Even to that time.
 And at that time your people shall be delivered,
 Every one who is found written in the book.
² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,
 Some to everlasting life,
 Some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.
³ Those who are wise shall shine
 Like the brightness of the firmament,
 And those who turn many to righteousness
 Like the stars forever and ever.⁵¹

Luke 16:19-31 -

¹⁹“There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰“But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, ²¹“desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²“So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³“And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴“Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ ²⁵“But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. ²⁶“And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’ ²⁷“Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, ²⁸‘for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ ²⁹“Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰“And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹“But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’ ”⁵²

Luke 23:32-43 -

³²There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. ³³And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” And they divided His garments and cast lots. ³⁵And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God.” ³⁶The soldiers also

⁵¹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁵²*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine,³⁷ and saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself.”³⁸ And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.³⁹ Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.”⁴⁰ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?”⁴¹ “And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.”⁴² Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”⁴³ And Jesus said to him, **“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”**⁵³

I Corinthians 15:12-28 and 50-58 -

¹²Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.¹⁴ And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty.¹⁵ Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise.¹⁶ For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.¹⁷ And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins!¹⁸ Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.¹⁹ If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

²⁰But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.²¹ For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead.²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ’s at His coming.²⁴ Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.²⁶ The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death.²⁷ For “He has put all things under His feet.” But when He says “all things are put under *Him*,” *it is* evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.²⁸ Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.⁵⁴

⁵⁰Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.⁵¹ **Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—**⁵²**in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**⁵³**For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.**⁵⁴**So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”**

⁵³*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁵⁴*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁵⁵ “O Death, where *is* your sting?
O Hades, where *is* your victory?”

⁵⁶The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. ⁵⁷But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.⁵⁵

II Corinthians 12:1-10 -

¹It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: ²**I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.** ³And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴**how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.** ⁵Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. ⁶For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me *to be* or hears from me.

⁷And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. ⁸Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹And He said to me, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”** Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.⁵⁶

Philippians 1:19-26 -

¹⁹For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹**For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.** ²²**But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.** ²³**For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is* far better.** ²⁴**Nevertheless to remain in the flesh *is* more needful for you.** ²⁵And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, ²⁶that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.⁵⁷

⁵⁵*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁵⁶*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁵⁷*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 -

¹³But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶**For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.** ¹⁷**Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.** ¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words.⁵⁸

Revelation 14:6-13 -

⁶Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—⁷saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”⁸And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”⁹Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, **“If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand,** ¹⁰**“he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.** ¹¹**“And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”** ¹²Here is the patience of the saints; here *are* those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. ¹³Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”⁵⁹

Revelation Chapter 20 -**Chapter 20**

¹Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ²He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the

⁵⁸*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁵⁹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

⁴And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

⁷Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea. ⁹They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

¹¹**Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.** ¹²**And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.** ¹³**The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.** ¹⁴**Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.** ¹⁵**And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**⁶⁰

II Esdras 7:75-115 -

State of the Dead before Judgment

75 I answered and said, “If I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, show this also to your servant: whether after death, as soon as everyone of us yields up the soul, we shall be kept in rest until those times come when you will renew the creation, or whether we shall be tormented at once?”

76 He answered me and said, “I will show you that also, but do not include yourself with those who have shown scorn, or number yourself among those who are tormented. ⁷⁷ For you have a treasure of works stored up with the Most High, but it will not be shown to you until the last times. ⁷⁸ Now concerning death, the teaching is: When the decisive decree has gone out from the Most High that a person shall die, as the spirit leaves the body to return again to him who gave it, first of all it adores the glory of the Most High. ⁷⁹ If it is one of those who have shown scorn and have not kept the way of the Most High, who have despised his law and hated those who fear God— ⁸⁰ such spirits shall not enter into habitations, but shall immediately wander about in torments, always grieving and sad, in seven ways. ⁸¹ The first way, because they have scorned the law of the Most High.

⁶⁰*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁸² The second way, because they cannot now make a good repentance so that they may live. ⁸³ The third way, they shall see the reward laid up for those who have trusted the covenants of the Most High. ⁸⁴ The fourth way, they shall consider the torment laid up for themselves in the last days. ⁸⁵ The fifth way, they shall see how the habitations of the others are guarded by angels in profound quiet. ⁸⁶ The sixth way, they shall see how some of them will cross over into torments. ⁸⁷ The seventh way, which is worse than all the ways that have been mentioned, because they shall utterly waste away in confusion and be consumed with shame, and shall wither with fear at seeing the glory of the Most High in whose presence they sinned while they were alive, and in whose presence they are to be judged in the last times.

88 “Now this is the order of those who have kept the ways of the Most High, when they shall be separated from their mortal body. ⁸⁹ During the time that they lived in it, they laboriously served the Most High, and withstood danger every hour so that they might keep the law of the Lawgiver perfectly. ⁹⁰ Therefore this is the teaching concerning them: ⁹¹ First of all, they shall see with great joy the glory of him who receives them, for they shall have rest in seven orders. ⁹² The first order, because they have striven with great effort to overcome the evil thought that was formed with them, so that it might not lead them astray from life into death. ⁹³ The second order, because they see the perplexity in which the souls of the ungodly wander and the punishment that awaits them. ⁹⁴ The third order, they see the witness that he who formed them bears concerning them, that throughout their life they kept the law with which they were entrusted. ⁹⁵ The fourth order, they understand the rest that they now enjoy, being gathered into their chambers and guarded by angels in profound quiet, and the glory waiting for them in the last days. ⁹⁶ The fifth order, they rejoice that they have now escaped what is corruptible and shall inherit what is to come; and besides they see the straits and toil from which they have been delivered, and the spacious liberty that they are to receive and enjoy in immortality. ⁹⁷ The sixth order, when it is shown them how their face is to shine like the sun, and how they are to be made like the light of the stars, being incorruptible from then on. ⁹⁸ The seventh order, which is greater than all that have been mentioned, because they shall rejoice with boldness, and shall be confident without confusion, and shall be glad without fear, for they press forward to see the face of him whom they served in life and from whom they are to receive their reward when glorified. ⁹⁹ This is the order of the souls of the righteous, as henceforth is announced; and the previously mentioned are the ways of torment that those who would not give heed shall suffer hereafter.”

100 Then I answered and said, “Will time therefore be given to the souls, after they have been separated from the bodies, to see what you have described to me?”

101 He said to me, “They shall have freedom for seven days, so that during these seven days they may see the things of which you have been told, and afterwards they shall be gathered in their habitations.”

No Intercession for the Ungodly

102 I answered and said, “If I have found favor in your sight, show further to me, your servant, whether on the day of judgment the righteous will be able to intercede for the ungodly or to entreat the Most High for them—¹⁰³ fathers for sons or sons for parents, brothers for brothers, relatives for their kindred, or friends for those who are most dear.”

104 He answered me and said, “Since you have found favor in my sight, I will show you this also. The day of judgment is decisive and displays to all the seal of truth. Just as

now a father does not send his son, or a son his father, or a master his servant, or a friend his dearest friend, to be ill or sleep or eat or be healed in his place,¹⁰⁵ so no one shall ever pray for another on that day, neither shall anyone lay a burden on another; for then all shall bear their own righteousness and unrighteousness.”

36 ¹⁰⁶ I answered and said, “How then do we find that first Abraham prayed for the people of Sodom, and Moses for our ancestors who sinned in the desert, 37 ¹⁰⁷ and Joshua after him for Israel in the days of Achan, 38 ¹⁰⁸ and Samuel in the days of Saul, and David for the plague, and Solomon for those at the dedication, 39 ¹⁰⁹ and Elijah for those who received the rain, and for the one who was dead, that he might live, 40 ¹¹⁰ and Hezekiah for the people in the days of Sennacherib, and many others prayed for many? 41 ¹¹¹ So if now, when corruption has increased and unrighteousness has multiplied, the righteous have prayed for the ungodly, why will it not be so then as well?”

42 ¹¹² He answered me and said, “This present world is not the end; the full glory does not remain in it; therefore those who were strong prayed for the weak. 43 ¹¹³ But the day of judgment will be the end of this age and the beginning of the immortal age to come, in which corruption has passed away, 44 ¹¹⁴ sinful indulgence has come to an end, unbelief has been cut off, and righteousness has increased and truth has appeared. 45 ¹¹⁵ Therefore no one will then be able to have mercy on someone who has been condemned in the judgment, or to harm someone who is victorious.”⁶¹

Most people will refuse to believe these truths and will eventually pay the ultimate eternal price for their unbelief, (see Revelation 21:7-8 above). I recommend wholeheartedly that if someone reads this teaching that they heed this warning and repent for their unbelief and hardness of heart before it is too late, (see Hebrews chapters 3-4).

Hebrews Chapters 3-4 -

Chapter 3

¹Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, ²who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also *was faithful* in all His house. ³For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. ⁴For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things *is* God. ⁵And Moses indeed *was faithful* in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken *afterward*, ⁶but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

⁷Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says:

“Today, if you will hear His voice,
⁸ Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,
 In the day of trial in the wilderness,
⁹ Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me,
 And saw My works forty years.
¹⁰ Therefore I was angry with that generation,
 And said, ‘They always go astray in *their* heart,

⁶¹*The New Revised Standard Version*, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

And they have not known My ways.’
¹¹ So I swore in My wrath,
 ‘They shall not enter My rest.’ ”

¹²Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; ¹³but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, ¹⁵while it is said:

“Today, if you will hear His voice,
 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

¹⁶For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, *was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses?* ¹⁷Now with whom was He angry forty years? *Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?* ¹⁸And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?

¹⁹So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Chapter 4

¹Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. ²For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*. ³For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said:

“So I swore in My wrath,
 ‘They shall not enter My rest,’ ”

although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁴For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh *day* in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all His works”; ⁵and again in this *place*: “They shall not enter My rest.” ⁶Since therefore it remains that some *must* enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, ⁷again He designates a certain day, saying in David, “Today,” after such a long time, as it has been said:

“Today, if you will hear His voice,
 Do not harden your hearts.”

⁸For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. ⁹There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. ¹⁰For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God *did* from His.

¹¹Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. ¹²For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must* give account.

¹⁴Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet

without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.⁶²

Since the flesh represents sin and sin exists in the flesh, it is the flesh that human beings must overcome in order to enter the kingdom of God. God created humans in the flesh in order to give them the opportunity to overcome the PRIDE of the flesh and to prove themselves worthy of His eternal kingdom. If they failed, then in His mercy, God could destroy these stubbornly disobedient humans forever.

*God also put the 'sin nature' or 'law of sin' into the flesh after the fall of Adam. It was through Adam that all people of the world received sin. It is through the human genetic code that sin is propagated. This is why Jesus had to come from the 'Seed' of the Father and be conceived of the Holy Spirit through 'immaculate conception', so that the sin nature would NOT be in Jesus. **Thus, it is only by being 'born again' through faith in Jesus that we can overcome the law of sin that exists in the flesh.** Otherwise, we have no power over sin. People who give in to sinful, fleshly desires will not only suffer the consequences in this life, but will pay the eternal price in the lake of fire.*

How do we then overcome the flesh and be counted worthy to live in the presence of God forever? The answer is to accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as the 'propitiation' or replacement sacrifice for our sins, be fully submersed water baptized, receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and begin to walk in obedience to God by the power of the same Spirit. The flesh must symbolically die during water baptism, which breaks the power of sin in our lives. We thus symbolically die to the flesh, by being 'crucified with Christ' and therefore voluntarily give up the prideful ways of the flesh and walk in obedience to the Holy Spirit, (see the handout 'The Doctrine of Baptisms', 'OBEDIENCE - The Key to Righteousness' and 'Pride', Hebrews 2:17 above, Luke 1:26-38, John 3:1-21, Acts 1:4-8, Romans 3:19-26, chapters 5-8, I Corinthians 15:35-49, Galatians 5:16-25, I John 2:1-11 and chapter 4).

Luke 1:26-38 -

²⁶Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" ²⁹But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³²"He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³"And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴**Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"** ³⁵**And the**

⁶²*The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.*

angel answered and said to her, **“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.**”³⁶“Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.”³⁷“For with God nothing will be impossible.”³⁸Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.⁶³

John 3:1-21 -

¹There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered and said to him, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”** ⁴Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷“Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”** ⁹Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? ¹¹“Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. ¹²“If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³“**No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. ¹⁴“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵“that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 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. ¹⁷“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰“For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹“But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”⁶⁴**

Acts 1:4-8 -

⁶³*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁶⁴*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁴And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “**which,**” *He said*, “**you have heard from Me;** ⁵**“for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”** ⁶Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷And He said to them, “**It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.** ⁸**“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**⁶⁵

Romans 3:19-26 -

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ²⁰Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²²even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.⁶⁶

Romans Chapters 5-8 -

Chapter 5

¹Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

⁶For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰For if when we were

⁶⁵*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁶⁶*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

¹²Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— ¹³(For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. ¹⁵But the free gift *is* not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. ¹⁶And the gift *is* not like *that which came* through the one who sinned. For the judgment *which came* from one *offense resulted* in condemnation, but the free gift *which came* from many offenses *resulted* in justification. ¹⁷For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) ¹⁸**Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. ¹⁹For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. ²⁰Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, ²¹so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Chapter 6

¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ²Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, ⁶knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ⁷For he who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²**Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.**

¹⁵What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! ¹⁶Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to

obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? ¹⁷But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. ¹⁸And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading to more* lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves of righteousness for holiness. ²⁰For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things *is* death. ²²But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. ²³For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Chapter 7

¹Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? ²For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to *her* husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of *her* husband. ³So then if, while *her* husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man. ⁴Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another— to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. ⁵For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. ⁶But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not *in* the oldness of the letter.

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."** ⁸But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all *manner of evil* desire. For apart from the law sin *was* dead. ⁹I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. ¹⁰And the commandment, which *was to bring* life, I found to *bring* death. ¹¹For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed *me*. ¹²Therefore the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.

¹³Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. ¹⁴For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. ¹⁵For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. ¹⁶If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *it is* good. ¹⁷But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ¹⁸For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find. ¹⁹For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice. ²⁰Now if I do what I will not *to do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ²¹I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the

one who wills to do good. ²²For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Chapter 8

¹*There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. ¹¹But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

¹²Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵For 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.” ¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and 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.

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; ²¹because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. ²³Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. ²⁴For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance. ²⁶**Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.** ²⁷Now

He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be conformed to the image of His Son*, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³²He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. ³⁴Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written:

“For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

³⁷Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.⁶⁷

I Corinthians 15:35-49 -

³⁵But someone will say, “How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?” ³⁶Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. ³⁷And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other *grain*. ³⁸But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. ³⁹All flesh *is* not the same flesh, but *there is one kind of* flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, *and* another of birds. ⁴⁰*There are* also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the *glory* of the terrestrial *is* another. ⁴¹*There is* one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for *one* star differs from *another* star in glory. ⁴²So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. *The body* is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. ⁴⁵**And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit.** ⁴⁶However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven. ⁴⁸As *was* the man of dust, so also *are* those *who are* made of dust; and as *is* the heavenly Man, so also *are* those *who are* heavenly. ⁴⁹And as we have

⁶⁷*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man*.⁶⁸

Galatians 5:16-25 -

¹⁶I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.⁶⁹

I John 2:1-11 -

¹My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

³Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. ⁷Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. ⁸Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. ⁹He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. ¹⁰He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. ¹¹But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.⁷⁰

I John Chapter 4 -

⁶⁸*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁶⁹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁷⁰*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

Chapter 4

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. **⁴You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are of the world. Therefore they speak *as* of the world, and the world hears them. ⁶We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.**

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

¹²No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *as* Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹We love Him because He first loved us.

²⁰If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.⁷¹

*So we see that God created the flesh in order to represent the pride of Satan and to test humans to see if they would overcome the same pride that caused Lucifer to sin. It is the sin within the flesh that humans must overcome in order to convince God that they will obey Him forever and be granted immortality. **The most important act of obedience in overcoming the flesh is to believe in and receive the free gift of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. This is the ONLY way into the kingdom of God, (see John 11:25-26, 14:6 and I John 2:15-17).***

John 11:25-26 -

⁷¹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

²⁵Jesus said to her, **“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶“And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”**⁷²

John 14:6 -

⁶Jesus said to him, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”**⁷³

I John 2:15-17 -

¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶**For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.** ¹⁷And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.⁷⁴

We can also see from the scriptures above that God will give us help from Jesus and the Holy Spirit in order to be able to ‘walk in the Spirit’ and not according to the flesh. This help is essential for ultimate success in overcoming the flesh. It is by abiding in Jesus and, through Him abiding in the love of God, that will eventually lead us into perfection, either by dying in Christ, or by living in Him, (see the handout, ‘The Life in Christ’, John 11:25-26 above, John 14:15-29 and chapter 15).

John 14:15-29 -

¹⁵**“If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷“the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸“I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.**

¹⁹“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. ²⁰“At that day you will know that I *am* in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. ²¹“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” ²²Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?” ²³Jesus answered and said to him, **“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will**

⁷²*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁷³*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

⁷⁴*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

come to him and make Our home with him. ²⁴“He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.

²⁵“These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. ²⁶“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. ²⁷“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. ²⁸“You have heard Me say to you, ‘I am going away and coming *back* to you.’ If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, ‘I am going to the Father,’ for My Father is greater than I. ²⁹“And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.⁷⁵

John Chapter 15 -

Chapter 15

¹“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ²“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³“You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵“I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶“If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

⁹“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full. ¹²“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. ¹⁴“You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. ¹⁷“These things I command you, that you love one another.

¹⁸“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹“If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰“Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. ²¹“But all these

⁷⁵The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. ²²“If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³“He who hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴“If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. ²⁵“But *this happened* that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, ‘They hated Me without a cause.’
²⁶“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. ²⁷“And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.⁷⁶

*The bottom line is that we must overcome the flesh by the power of God, through Jesus and the Holy Spirit and abide in Jesus through continual obedience to God. This is why God created us in the flesh and why He sent Jesus to help us and to make a way for us to become members of the family of God. Apart from Jesus we can do nothing. **That is why no one except Christians will by any means inherit the kingdom of God, PERIOD!** This is the truth, believe it or not. Believers in Jesus will obey God and live forever in His presence and non-believers will perish in the lake of fire. Now is the time to receive the promises of God through Jesus Christ in order to overcome the weakness of the flesh, by Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit in order to receive eternal live in the presence of the Father. Amen.*

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⁷⁶*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.