

Kingdoms

Larkin Chapters 9, 10,11,12,13,14,15

Vol.4



KINGDOMS

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Chapter 9 The Jews

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The Passover

For upwards of 4000 years, amid all civilizations and countries, conditions of government, there has existed a distinct people with laws, habits and customs distinctively their own. The history of the Jewish race reads like a story from the Arabian Nights and is without a parallel in human history. Though oppressed, downtrodden carried to other lands, scattered among the nations, like they have risen from the ashes of their dispersions, and appear now and again upon the page of history. They are remarkable in the first place for their "Antiquity." No nation can trace back its lineage by the clear light of reliable history so far as they. In comparison with the Jews the nations which are making the history of the world today are young.

The "Golden Age" of Israel's glory was long before the palmy days of Greece and Rome. Long before Socrates and Plato taught philosophy, or Herodotus wrote history; in the dim ages of which Homer's Iliad preserves traditions and memorials; before all other authentic and circumstantial records, the nation of Israel was an organized, civilized, and well-established people.

They had literature before most nations had letters, a literature that today, in the Scriptures, is more widely diffused than the literature of any other people.

Assyria has perished, Babylon is in heaps, Rome has tottered and fallen, Egypt has become a "base" kingdom, but the Jew has outlived all his conquerors and walks unscathed amid the general wreck. Dispersed for centuries among all nations, without a national center, capital, government, flag, or rallying point, secular or religious, they have never been absorbed by the nations, nor lost there identity or national peculiarities and characteristics, and we have the unique spectacle of a nation without a king, government, or land, retaining its national existence, and a land that seems to be under a curse, awaiting the return of its legal owners.

No nation has ever had such manifest and visible tokens of the "Divine Presence." For them the Red Sea was driven back, and the Jordan parted. They were miraculously fed in the Wilderness, and divinely sheltered and guided by the Pillar of Cloud and Fire. At the

blowing of rams' horns, the walls of a besieged city fell, and the Sun and Moon stayed in their courses that they might have time to slay their enemies. The Angel of the Lord encamped about them, and one angel slew 185, 000 of the army of Assyria for their deliverance.

No nation has given to the world such a number of great men. Such a man of faith as Abraham; such a great leader and lawgiver as Moses; such statesmen as Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon; such a king as David, and wise man as Solomon.

No nation has produced such seers as the Hebrew prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel and no such man as that man above all men, the

"MAN OF GALILEE."

In the first century there is no name that shines more dazzling than that of the Apostle Paul. And in modern days the men who have been and are, making history are Jews. The preservation of the Jewish people is the

"MIRACLE OF HISTORY."

When Frederick the Great asked the court preacher for an unanswerable proof, in one word of the inspiration of the Bible, he replied "The Jew, your Majesty." The emblem of the Jewish Race is a

BUSH BURNING AND UNCONSUMED.

How are we to account for the wonderful preservation of the Jewish Race? We can only account for it on the supposition that God had, and still has, some great work for them to do. We believe that God raises up individuals for special ministries. Why not a nation?

In the **first place** the Jewish Race was raised up to reaffirm and teach that there is but one God. In the days of Abraham, the nations of the earth were given over to universal idolatry, pantheism¹ and polytheism. For 2000 years (B. C. 1921 to A. D. 30) no other people

¹ pan·the·ism – a doctrine that equates God with the forces and laws of the universe

but the Jews believed the "Unity" of God or taught it. The Jews have been the teachers of "Monotheism" to the nations. No Gentile nation, untouched by Jewish influence, ever became Monotheistic.

In the **second place** the Jewish Race was raised up to be the Writers, Preservers, and Transmitters of the Holy Scriptures. To them were committed the "Oracles of God." Rom. 3:1-2

Every page and book in the Bible were written by Jews. The Jews took especial care to preserve the Scriptures and keep them from being tampered with, and if it had not been for them, they would have been lost long ago.

In the **third place** the Jewish Race was raised up that God through them might give the world a Savior. Who was Jesus? A Jew. How carefully His genealogy has been preserved in the Scriptures from Adam to His Birth at Bethlehem.

In the fourth place the Jewish Race was raised up that they might save the world from moral corruption. When Jesus said

"Salvation Is of the Jews, "

John 4:22, did He simply mean that from them should come the **Savior of the world, Jesus?** Or did He mean when He said, "**You Are the Salt of the Earth**," that the Jewish Race were to be the means of preventing the

Moral Decay

of the world, and that if they became extinct as a nation, that God would destroy all mankind from off the earth, as He destroyed the Antediluvians when Noah and his family were safely shut in the Ark, or as He destroyed the "Cities of the Plain," Sodom and Gomorrah, when Lot had escaped from them?

A careful study of Peter's speech, as quoted by James, at the First Church Council (Acts 15:13-15), and the words of Paul in his lettr to the Romans (Rom. 11:1-3,11-12,15,17,23-25) clearly show that Christ meant the latter.

That is, the Salvation of the Nations, morally and physically, and the preservation of the human race on the earth depends on the

Preservation and Continuance of the Jews as a RACE.

The present degenerate condition of the world is due to the fact that the Jews have lost their savor, as the salt its saltness, and until the Jews recover their savor degeneration will continue to develop until the time comes that the smell of decomposition of the decaying nations of the earth shall call for Divine intervention and the salt be resavored by the conversion of the Jews, and the Jewish nation again take its place among the nations of the earth.

1. THEIR PAST

In the morning time of history, in B.C. 1936, 412 years after the Flood, God called Abraham, a Shemite, from Ur of the Caldees, to be the father of a new nation.

"Now the Lord had said to Abraham, Get out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your fathers' house unto a land that I will show you; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, and you shall be a blessing; and I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you, and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed." Gen. 12:1-3.

Notice that this is not a conditional promise, and there is not a passage in the Bible anywhere that revokes it.

Abraham was 60 years old when he was called but tarried at Haran for 15 years until his father, who was an idolater, died, when he started for the "Land of Promise." God appeared to him 10 times. These appearances were called "Theophanies (personal encounter with a deity)."²

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² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theophany

God's promises to Abraham were progressive. At Ur the promises were to the "Land," and that his seed should "become a great nation." Gen. 12:1-2. At Shechem the promise of the "ownership of the land to his descendants." Gen. 12:7. At Bethel, all the land "you see," and that his seed should be as the "dust of the Earth for number." Gen. 13:15-16. At Mamre, that his seed should be for numbers as the "stars of the heavens," and that the "Land" should extend from the "River of Egypt" to the "River Euphrates." Gen. 15:5,18. And at Moriah the promise as to the number of his seed was repeated. Gen. 22:16, Gen. 22:17.

These promises were unconditionally confirmed to his son, Isaac (Gen. 26:1-3), and to his grandson, Jacob. Gen. 28:10-12.

When the descendants of Abraham had increased to about 70, in fulfillment of a prophecy made by God to Abraham that his seed should be as strangers in another land, where they would be afflicted for 400 years (Gen. 15:13-14); and to prevent contamination by intermarriages, and to give them time to grow into a nation, God paved the way for their leaving Canaan, by sending, Joseph down into Egypt to make provision for them, for when the famine He was going to send would fall on the land. There they were segregated out and live in the land of Goshen.

The next great event in their history was the **Exodus**. When the time for their deliverance from Egypt came, God weaned them by increasing the hardness of their lot, and when they cried to God, He sent Moses to deliver them. Within a year after their escape from Egypt the Law was given, the Tabernacle built, and a sacrificial system of worship was inaugurated. The "Jewish Commonwealth" was then set up. But when at the end of the year they reached Kadesh Barnea and refused to go up and take possession of the Land, God punished them by compelling them to wander for 40 years in the Wilderness, where they were miraculously clothed and fed, and were divinely guided by the "Pillar of Cloud and Fire."

At the end of the 40 years, under the leadership of Joshua, they crossed the Jordan and entered the Promised Land and took possession of it.

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³ In Duet. 2:14 we read according to Joshua that after 38 years the entered the Promise land. God has mercy of His people and started counting the 40 years from the time they left Egypt, not from the time of the offence.



Comment: TIME SERVED⁴

The fact of the matter is that from the time of the offence we would expect to see the extra 40 years in the wilderness begin, but that was not the case. Because of God's love and Mercy for His people, He started the prophetic 40-year countdown back when they left Egypt two years earlier. That would make it possible for Joshua to write what he did at the time when Israel actually crossed over the Jorden and into their promised land. And the first thing they encountered was the City of Jericho.

Deuteronomy 2:14 (NASB), "Now the time that it took for us to come from Kadesh-barnea until we crossed over the Wadi Zered was thirty-eight years, until all the generation of the men of war perished from within the camp, just as the LORD had sworn to them."

End Comment.

Then began the **third period** of their history, the **"Times of the judges,"** which lasted about 450 years. The government was a Theocracy, administered at first through elders, and then by judges. The people, however, were not satisfied with being ruled by an invisible King, they wanted a king like the other nations around them had, so they went to Samuel the Prophet and asked him for a king. Samuel was displeased and felt it was aimed at his administration, but when he took the matter to God, God said,

"Hearken unto the voice of the people . . . for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected ME." 1 Sam. 8:7.

Samuel then warned the people of what the king they would choose would do to them, but the warning listened did not avail and Saul was chosen. This was the **fourth period** of their history.

Saul reigned for 40 years and was succeeded by David, a man of God's choice, who also reigned 40 years, and was succeeded by his son Solomon, who in turn reigned 40 years. During the reign of Solomon, the First Temple was built. His reign was most glorious, but

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⁴ https://judaism.stackexchange.com/questions/44095/38-years-or-40-years-in-the-desert

its weak feature was that he married so many heathen wives and permitted them to introduce idolatrous worship at Jerusalem. This was at the beginning of the downfall of the Jewish nation.

After the death of Solomon, B.C. 975, the Kingdom was divided, his son Rehoboam retaining possession of two Tribes, Judah and Benjamin, and with them Jerusalem and the Temple; and Jeroboam, a usurper, as ruler over the remaining ten Tribes, set up his capital at Samaria. This division of the Kingdom, known as "Israel," rapidly declined, and in B.C. 721 the Ten Tribes were carried captive to Assyria. The Two Tribes, known as "Judah," survived over 100 years longer, but in B.C. 606 they were carried in Captivity to Babylon, and Jerusalem was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in B.C. 587. Thus ended a period of deadly tribal wars which was made illustrious by the ministry of a noble succession of great prophets. With the Captivity of Judah and the destruction of Jerusalem began that long period which still continues, known in the Scriptures as

"The Times of the Gentiles,"

and which is so fully outlined and described in the Book of Daniel. The **fifth period** of Jewish History began in B.C. 536, when the 70 years of the Captivity ended, as prophesied (Jer. 25:11); and some 40,000 of those of the Captivity returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and the Temple. The Temple was not finished and dedicated until 20 years later, and the walls of the city were not rebuilt until 70 more years had passed by, B.C. 445.

But while the Jews were permitted to return to their own land, they never again secured supremacy. They remained subject to the different conquerors of their land, though for the most part governed by rulers of their own race, in fulfillment of the prophecy that the Scepter should not depart from Judah until Shiloh came.

In B.C. 168 Antiochus Epiphanes, King of Syria, wrested Palestine from Egypt, twice took and sacked Jerusalem, desecrated and closed the Temple, and cruelly persecuted the Jews, until they became so incensed as to rise in rebellion under the leadership of the "Maccabees." This rebellion lasted from B.C. 166 to B.C. 40.

In B.C. 63 Judea became subject to Rome, and during the next 60 years the Roman Empire tightened its grip on the Holy Land. About this time, B.C. 5, many of the students of prophecy, knowing that the time set for the coming of "Messiah the Prince" by Daniel the Prophet (Dan. 9:25) was not far distant, frequented the Temple waiting for the "Consolation of Israel." Luke 2:25-26.

In December of that year Jesus was born at Bethlehem, He was visited by the Shepherds, acknowledged a few weeks later in the Temple by Simeon and Anna, the Wise men from the East did Him homage bringing Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, He was taken to Egypt, and returned to Nazareth where He spent His youth and young manhood. At 30 years of age, He appeared at the Jordan, was baptized of John and entered upon His public ministry.



<u>Comment</u>: December was not the month that the Lamb of God (Jesus) was born, this is a mistake by the author. According to Jewish Rabbi Jonathan Cahn, there is a particular time that lambs are born (called the "lambing season" from December to April) and particularly in the early days of the Jewish month of Nissan (late March- early April). The Rabbi's also record for us that this season is mostly in the Springtime in Israel when the shepherds would be out watching over the sheep, because they are giving birth, and in Bethlehem the lambs would become the Temple sacrifice lambs.

End Comment.

But His claim of being the Messiah was rejected by His own people. They joined hands with the Gentiles in crucifying the "Lord of Glory," and in A. D. 70 the Roman armies came, Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by Titus and the Jews were scattered among the nations of the earth.



Comment: The "Times of the Gentiles" will continue until Jesus comes back (Rev. 20:4-5) and rules the earth from Jerusalem.

End Comment.

II. THEIR PRESENT.

(Larkin Pg.60b)

With the Crucifixion of Christ, the sorrows of the Jewish race began. Their cry, "His Blood Be on Us and on Our Children" (Matt. 27:25) has been literally fulfilled.

In A.D. 50, 30,000 were killed in Jerusalem in a tumult with the Romans, but their worst sufferings commenced in A. D. 66 under Gessius Florus, the Roman Governor of Judea. His oppression led to a widespread revolt. Nero sent Vespasian, accompanied by his son Titus, with an army of 60, 000. He was met in upper Galilee by Josephus, a famous general of the Asmonean race, and a noted historian, who entrenched himself at Jotapata, but was finally overpowered, after a siege of 47 days, with a loss of over 40, 000 men. The subjugation of Galilee followed. Thousands perished in the war. Judea and Jerusalem were spared because Vespasian was called back to Rome by the death of Nero. When Vespasian was made King, he sent his son Titus to complete the subjugation of the Holy Land and capture Jerusalem.

It was in April, A. D. 70, that the Roman army, numbering 100,000 men, marched against Jerusalem. The city was poorly prepared to stand siege. Rival factions disputed among themselves for control. The city was surrounded by a triple wall, defended by 90 towers. The siege lasted 4 months. Great engines of elastic timbers, aided by the twisting of great cables, hurled huge stones against the massive walls. Within the city famine reigned, wives snatched food from their husbands, children from their parents, mothers from their babes, and some mothers, lost to all sense of motherhood, killed, cooked and ate their own children. Many fled from the city to meet a worse fate, for being captured by Titus, they were crucified as a warning outside the city walls. So horrible became the condition of the besieged that Titus called God to witness that he was not responsible.

At last, on August 5, A. D. 70, the Tower Antonia was taken, the Romans swarmed into the Temple enclosure, and though Titus had commanded his soldiers to spare the beautiful Temple building, for it was looked upon, even by Rome, as one of the wonders of the world, yet a soldier threw a blazing torch through a doorway and in the inferno that followed the Temple of Herod was destroyed, leaving nothing but the rock upon which it stood.

Josephus says that over 1,000,000 perished in the siege, while 97,000 survived as captives, of whom the handsomest young men were taken to Rome to grace the triumph of the Conqueror, and thus was fulfilled the prophecy of Daniel, that "the 'People' of the prince that shall come (Antichrist) shall destroy the City and the Sanctuary." Dan. 9:26.

While the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus scattered the Jews far and wide, the end was not yet. Sixty-five years later, A. D. 130, the Jews had sufficiently recovered from that crushing blow to rise afresh in revolt against the Roman power. Hadrian then completed the work of Dispersion. In a war lasting three and a half years he devastated Palestine, destroyed 580,000 people, ran a ploughshare over

Zion, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Micah 3:12, uttered 885 years before, and forbade the Jews, on pain of death, even to approach Aelia Capitolina, the new Roman city which he erected on the site of Jerusalem. The Jews since that time have been few in Palestine.

In A. D. 362 the Emperor Julian the Apostate made an attempt to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, thus, to falsify the prediction of the Lord, but his workmen were driven off by fire that burst from the ruins.

The interval from Hadrian, A. D. 140, to Constantine saw the Jewish people in a measure prosperous and flourishing in the lands of their exile throughout the Roman World. They even took part in pagan persecutions of the early Church. But the conversion of Constantine to Christianity in A. D. 312, changed all this. The Jews then became a condemned and persecuted sect. They lost the imperial favor and privileges they had enjoyed and were excluded from one sphere after another, though they were still free to observe their own religion and retained their fights as citizens.

The gloom deepened until A. D. 1096, the time of the First Crusade, known in history as the "Holy War;" when the gloom of midnight's blackness fell upon them, and did not lift until long after the Reformation.

The Frown of England.

In A. D. 1020 Canute banished all Jews from England. In A. D. 1068 the only burial place in all England allowed the Jews was Cripplegate, London. In A. D. 1096 the "Holy War" began by attempting to murder all the Jews in Europe who would not submit to baptism. Henry II ordered the Jews to pay 60,000 pounds toward defraying his expenses during one of the Crusades. At the accession of Richard I (Coeur de Leon), A. D. 1189, murderous riots were instigated against the Jews and not a Jewish household in London escaped robbery and murder.

The following year occurred the "Tragedy of York Castle," in which the chief Rabbi of York, with 500 followers were besieged in York Castle, and when escape became hopeless, they slew one another and the chief Rabbi, the last to die, started a blaze, then took his own life, and when the besiegers broke in they found the besieged in one great pile like the sacrifice upon the altar.

Up to the time of Edward I, A. D. 1272, the Crown claimed to own the Jew and all he possessed, and from time to time would allow him to gather riches that he might squeeze them from him, like water from a sponge. Edward, I drove all the Jews, 16,500 in number, from England, and for nearly four centuries there is no evidence that British soil was pressed by a Jewish foot.

The Curse of France.

In A. D. 1306, on the morning of the fast commemorating the Destruction of Jerusalem all the Jews of France, men, women and children to the number of 100,000, were stripped of their possessions for the benefit of the royal treasury and cast out of the land. In 10 years, they were allowed to return, but soon the "Pastoureaux," bands of fanatical shepherds and malefactors, swept them away by thousands. In A. D. 1683 the Jews were ordered to quit all the French Colonies, and it was not until A. D. 1723, when Louis XV gave the Jews permission to hold real estate in France, that the tide began to turn.

The Bloody Hand of Germany

The Plague of the "Black Death," which swept over Europe in A. D. 1348-1350, and which carried off one-fourth of the population, afflicted the Jews but lightly, owing to their simple life and observance of the hygienic requirements of the Levitical Law. Their comparative exemption caused them to be suspected as the source of the Plague, and they were charged with poisoning the wells and springs. In Germany the composition of the poison, the color of the packages in which it was transported, and the persons who conveyed them, were all declared to be known. The result was that they suffered the torture, the caldron and the devouring flame at the hands of the "Flagellants," an order of fanatics who swarmed through Germany preaching extermination to all unbelievers. The entire community at Strasburg, 2000 souls, was dragged upon an immense scaffold, and it set on fire. They were also charged with stealing the children of Christians and crucifying them for Passover Lambs, and also with stealing the consecrated "Host" and piercing it with knives. In A. D. 1560 they were banished from Prague and later in Constantinople 3000 houses in the Jews' quarters were burned and property to the value of 50,000,000 crowns confiscated.

THE HOLOCAUSTS OF SPAIN

(Larkin Pg. 62a)

In Spain the machinery of

"The Inquisition"

held full sway. It was established to terrify into faithfulness apostate Jews. Men and women disappeared by hundreds, as if the ground had opened and swallowed them up. Some never returned, others reappeared in after years human wrecks, pale and emaciated and semi-insane through long incarceration in dark and chilly subterranean dungeons. Now and then processions wound through the streets to the place of burning, the victims being tortured with the hope that they would recant before being thrown into the flames.

Many found themselves led from the Hall of judgment along subterraneous passageways to the chamber of the

"Iron Maiden,"

the rude hollow figure of a woman, made of iron, which at the touch of a spring flew open and disclosed its inner surface studded with iron nails rusted by the blood of its numerous victims. No sooner did the condemned step inside than the figure began to close, hugging in its iron grasp the victim, until the nails, entering the body amid the shrieks of the victim, pierced some vital part, and when all was over the "Iron Figure" again opened and allowed the body to fall into the deep pit below.

But this was not all. Ferdinand and Isabella in A. D. 1492 issued an edict of banishment against all the Jews in Spain. A Jew offered 600,000 crowns for a revocation of the edict. The King and Queen hesitated and were inclined to accept when the Spanish Inquisitor, Torquemada, stalked into the presence of the abashed rulers and holding up a "Crucifix" before them cried,

"Behold Him Whom Judas Iscariot Sold for 30 Pieces of Silver. Sell Ye Him Now for a Higher Price and Render an Account of Your Bargain Before God."

The sovereigns trembled before the stern Dominican and the Jews had to go. They were given four months in which to prepare. Whither to go they knew not, for there was no hospitable shore to which to fly. Some embarked for Africa and were sold into slavery.

A number reached Italy. Their sufferings were indescribable. Two hundred years later, A. D. 1680, the spirit of Spain toward the Jews was unchanged.

And so, like a horrible nightmare, for centuries history records the terrible punishments and persecutions that befell the seed of Abraham.

But the long night of persecution came to a close. The tide began to turn when England passed the

"Naturalization Bill" in A. D. 1753, and received its greatest impulse when our own "Declaration of Independence" Was Signed in A. D. 1776, and, with the exception of Russia the Jews today, in all lands enjoy comparative freedom.

The miracle of the preservation of the Jews during the long night of their persecutions <u>cannot be accounted for</u>, only on the supposition that they have been preserved for a purpose.



Comment: On this matter, again I disagree with the author in that the time factor can be accounted for. When the Jews rejected Jesus the Son of God, they were rejecting God. Like their ancestors in the desert (Num.14) who also rejected God, their punishment was that God made the 40 days the spies spent in the promise land into 40 years in the wilderness (Num.14:33-34). God multiplied the 2520 Prophetical days of the Daiel's 70th year (a year for a day) and now Israel had 2520 years to wait until they would see their Messiah (in days, this is 2520 x 360 days = 907,200-day prophecy.) This time frame accounts for the 2000+ years since the crucifixion of Christ and makes way for the Gentiles, and the time of the Church, known as the "Church Age." End Comment:

The secret of their endurance is twofold.

1. Their National Law. It preserved them from disease, controlled and regulated their passions, checked the baser impulses⁵ of their nature, and secured the vigor of their offspring.

⁵ Baser Impulses - whatever we consider to *be base* impulses -- hate, greed, ego, etc. we eventually either satisfy the urge or feel sufficiently guilty to stop.

2. Their National Hope. Amid all the ups and downs of their history the Jewish people have been upheld by their "National Hope." a "Hope" so radiant and a "Faith" so beautiful, that the world has never seen it's like. The "Hope" of a

Coming Messiah

The "Hope" of the coming of this "Messiah" has flamed like a "Morning Star" through the darkness of Israel's long night, and has turned their thoughts toward the dawning of that day when the

"Sun of Righteousness"

shall arise and dispel the gloom and usher in that bright "Millennial Day" when Righteousness and Peace shall cover the earth as the waters cover the deep.

For the Jews today there is no "Pillar of Cloud" by day, nor "Shechinah Flame" by night. They have no altars, no sacrifices, no priesthood as in former days. They observe the "Passover," but no Passover lamb is slain. They keep the "Great Day of Atonement," but no blood is shed to make reconciliation for sin. All sacrifices and oblations have ceased. They have no King, no Judges, no Prophets, no inspired writers. The "Urim" and "Thummin" give no Divine token. The word of God is precious, but there is no "open vision." Their last Great Prophet was the "Man of Galilee," but Him they rejected. Like their forefathers, who took Joseph, after they had rejected him, and sold him for 20 pieces of silver, and he was hidden from their view in Egypt on the Throne of Pharaoh, so the Jews took Jesus, and like Joseph, and having rejected Him, sold Him for 30 pieces of silver and He is now hidden from them on His Father's Throne.

Why Is This? Have they been supplanted as a "Nation" by the Gentiles, and as "God's People" by the Church? Are they never again to have a land of their own, and a King, and a Capital City, and a National Existence?

Is not their condition today the fulfillment of the prophecy of Hosea 3:4

Hosea 3:4, "For the sons of Israel will live for many days without a king or leader, without sacrifice or memorial stone, and without ephod or household idols."

Is it not that Jerusalem must be,

"Trodden down of the Gentiles until the 'Times of the Gentiles' be fulfilled?" Luke 21:24.

What does Paul say,

"Blindness in part is happened to Israel until the 'Fulness of the Gentiles' be come in. And so, All Israel Shall Be Saved. Rom. 11:25-26.

We see then that the Jews (Israel) have not been supplanted by the Church, or by the Gentile nations. They are again to take the lead among the nations of the earth. For this they have been preserved.

The eleventh chapter of Romans begins with the question,

"Hath God Cast Away His People?

Paul answers his own question by replying "God Hath Not Cast Away His People Which He Foreknew." vs. 2.

In the eleventh verse Paul asks a second question. "Have they stumbled **That They Should Fall?**" That is, have they fallen down so that they shall **Never Rise Again**?

He replies, "God forbid; but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles for to provoke them to jealousy.

Now two things are revealed here, first, the Jews have fallen that the Gentiles may have a chance to be saved, and second, that the sight of seeing the Gentiles saved may make the Jews "jealous." Why should God want to provoke the Jews to **jealousy** if He has **cast them off**? The Apostle then adds,

"If the **Fall** of them be the **riches of the world** and the **Diminishing** of them the **riches of the Gentiles** (that is, if the giving of the Gospel to the Gentiles is such a blessing to them), how much more will be their **Fulness**? "vs.12.

That is, how much greater blessing there will be for the **world** when the Jews rise up again and take their place among the nations. For Paul goes on to say, "If the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but

LIFE FROM THE DEAD? "

That is, when the Jews come back to God, it will be like a **resurrection**, not of individuals, but a

"National Resurrection."

Then the Apostle changes the figure and speaks of

Two Olive Trees

One he calls the "Good" Olive Tree, the other a "Wild" Olive Tree. Of the "Good" Olive Tree he speaks of "Some" (not all) of the branches being broken off, for there is a "Remnant of Grace," vs. 5, as there were 7000 men in Elijah's day who had not bowed the knee to Baal. And we must not forget that the "Root" and "Trunk" of the Tree were still alive, and where some of the "Good" branches were broken off, the "Wild" Olive branches were grafted in "among" them, not "instead of," and thus became "partaker" of the "Root" and "Fatness" of the "Good Olive Tree."

We see from this that the "Good Olive Tree" is not rooted up and destroyed and a "Wild Olive Tree" planted in its place, but it still remains alive and gives life to both the "Good" and "Wild" olive branches.

The Apostle then goes on to reprove the Gentile members of the Church at Rome, who were boasting of their independence of the Jews, and that Christianity had supplanted Judaism, just as so many in the Church today claim that the Church has supplanted Judaism and fallen heir to all its promises. saying to them,

"Boast not against the branches . . . for you bear not the root, but the "Root" bears you.

And he reminded them that the branches were broken off, not that they might be grafted in, but because of "Unbelief," and thus the "unbelief" of the Jews redounded to their benefit, and he goes on to tell them that if the "Good" Olive branches that had been cut off should repent, they would be grafted back again, for GOD is able to graft them in again. Rom. 11:17-19.

Here we see that if the Jews repent and turn from their unbelief, God will restore them to their old-time place among the nations.



<u>Comment:</u> This restoring of the Jews to their place among the nations will come when their Messiah comes back to rule and reign on the earth. Rev. 20:4-6. The Jewish nation will become the "**Head of the Nations.**"

End Comment.

III. THEIR FUTURE.

If it were suggested that we discuss the future of any other nation than the Jewish nation, I, for one, would not attempt it, for the task would be simply a speculative one, based on probabilities that would be likely to be upset by unforeseen circumstances. But the Jewish nation has the unique distinction of having for its historian the "Holy Spirit." who has not simply recorded the past history of the nation but has outlined its future. We indulge then in no idle and profitless speculations when we attempt to forecast the future of the Jewish People. All we must do is to gather together and place in their logical order what the Holy Spirit, through the Prophets, has foretold of their future. The method is as simple as the result is sure.

THE RESTORATION OF THE JEWS.

(Larkin Pg. 63b)

1. As to the Fact.

"Therefore, fear not, oh my servant **Jacob**, saith the Lord; neither be dismayed, oh **Israel**; For I am with you, says the Lord, to save you; though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered you, yet will **I not make a full end of you**." Jer. 30:10-11.

"And I will bring again the captivity of my people 'Israel' and they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall **no more be pulled up out of their land**." Amos 9:14-15.

But you say this prophecy was fulfilled in the restoration from the "Babylonian Captivity." Not so, for they were driven out of the land after that, and this promise is, that they shall **no longer be pulled up out of their land** and must refer to some **future** restoration. The return from the "Babylonian Captivity" was the **First** restoration, and the Scriptures speak of a **Second**.

"And it shall come to pass in 'That Day' (Millennial Day) that the Lord shall set his hand again the 'Second Time' to recover the remnant of His People, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the Sea." Isa.11:11.

The Jews have never been **restored** but **ONCE**, and that was from Babylon. The march from Egypt to Canaan was not a restoration. You cannot have anything restored to you unless it has been in your possession before, and Palestine was never in possession of the Children of Israel until **after** its conquest by Joshua.

Again, the Jews are to come this time, not from the "East," as when they returned from the "Babylonish Captivity," but from the "North," and from "All Countries."

"Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that it shall no more be said, The Lord lives, that brought up the Children of Israel out of the Land of Egypt; but the Lord lives that brought up the Children of Israel **from the land of the NORTH and from ALL THE LANDS where He had driven them**; and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers." Jer. 16:14-15. Also Isa. 43:5-7. And they shall never again be dispersed.

"For I will set mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land: and I will build them, and not pull them down; and I will plant them, and not pluck them up." Jer. 24:6.

The certainty of it is seen in Jer. 31:35-36.

³⁵This is what the LORD says, *He* who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar, The LORD of armies is His name: ³⁶ 'If this fixed order departs From Me,' declares the LORD, "Then the descendants of Israel also will cease To be a nation before Me forever."

When the Children of Israel shall be restored to their own land the **whole "Twelve Tribes" will return**. In Rom. 11:26, Paul says, "**All** Israel shall be saved, " and Ezekiel in his vision of the

"Valley of Dry Bones"

was told that the bones represented the "Whole House of Israel." Ez. 37:11.

There are some who teach that what is meant here is, that, previous to the Millennium God will resurrect all the descendants of Israel and put them back in the Land of Palestine, and they base it on the statement in Ez. 37:12,

"Behold, 0 my people, I will open your **graves**, and cause you to **come up out of your graves** and **bring you into the** Land of Israel."

Now such an interpretation cannot be true for several reasons. First, the Land of Palestine is not large enough to hold and sustain such a great multitude, and secondly this is not a description of a **physical** resurrection of **dead bodies**, but of a "**National Resurrection**" of a people. The **cry** of the "bones" in verse 11, where they say,

"Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost we are cut off for our parts."

This is not the cry of **individual dead** Israelites, but the cry of a **dead nation** that has been "cut off" from its own land. It is the cry of a **Spiritually** and **nationally** dead people.

By the word "graves" we are not to understand "literal graves," for the bones were not in graves but scattered over the valley. What the passage means is, that God is going to bring back His People Israel, who are buried in captivity in the "Graveyard of the Nations," and place them again in their own land. This is clear from what follows,

"I will open your **graves**, (among the nations), and cause you to come up out of your graves (that is back from among the nations) and bring you **into the Land of Israel**."

Notice that nothing is said here of the opening of any graves in the Land of Israel. This therefore could not be a general resurrection of the Dead of Israel, but only of Israelites who lived in other countries.

But the next two verses settle the question, for the Lord say,

"When I have opened your graves, 0 my people, and brought you up out of your graves" (that is, back into their own land), and THERE shall put my spirit (Holy Spirit) in you, and ye shall live (nationally) and I shall place you in your own land: (according to your Tribes, as described in Ez. 48:1-3), then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, said the Lord." Ez. 37:13-14.

This is in exact accord with other scriptures that teach that Israel is to be gathered back to their own land, where they are to be first judged, (Ez. 20:34-36; Ez. 22:19-21), and then converted. Ez. 36:24-26.

If we are to take the resurrection spoken of by Daniel (Dan. 12:2), as referring to his "People" only, then we are still more certain that there is not to be a "General Physical Resurrection" of Daniel's "People," the Jews, before the Millennium, for he distinctly says that only some shall rise at that time.

That what is meant is a

National Restoration

of the Whole Twelve Tribes, is clear from what follows the Vision of the "Valley of Dry Bones." Ez. 37:15-28.

The Prophet is told to take a stick and write on it,

"For Judah and for the Children of Israel his companions," which means the Two Tribes, Judah and Benjamin, known as "Judah." Then he was told to take another stick, and write on it,

"For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim,"

the son of Joseph who represented him among the Twelve Tribes, and by whose name (Ephraim) the Ten Tribes, after jeroboam's insurrection were sometimes called. Isa. 7:17.

When Ezekiel had done so, he was told to join the two sticks together, end to end, so as to make one stick, which when he had done, the Lord said,

"When the children of thy people shall speak to you saying, will you not show us what you mean by these? You shall say, Behold, I will take the Children of Israel from among the heathen, where ever they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: and I will make them **ONE NATION** in the land upon the mountains of Israel, and one king shall be king to them all; and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all." Ez. 37:18-22. From this we see that the

"WHOLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL,"

that is, the **Whole Twelve Tribes**, are to be gathered back to their own land, and redistributed upon it according to the manner described in Ez. 48.

"In those days the 'House of Judah' shall walk with the 'House of Israel, ' and they shall come together out of the land of the North to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers." Jer. 3:18.

The Lost Ten Tribes.

If the whole Twelve Tribes are to be restored to the Holy Land, naturally the question arises, "Where Are They Now?" The Jews are the descendants of the Tribes of Judah and Benjamin, but where are the remaining "Ten Tribes?" How are they to be identified?

Much has been written to try to prove that the "Anglo Saxons," the English-speaking race, are the descendants of the lost Ten Tribes. But they cannot be, for it is said of Israel, that "they shall **dwell alone**, and **not be reckoned among the nations**" (Num. 23:9), but the "Anglo-Saxons **are numbered among the nations**, Israel is to remain many days **without a King, a Prince or a Temple** (Hosea 3:4), but the "Anglo-Saxons" have **kings, presidents** and **princes**, and centers of religious worship. Again, Israel, out of the Holy Land, were to be few in number, and under national curse, (Deut. 4:26, Deut. 4:27; Deut. 28:62-64), but neither of these are true of the

"Anglo-Saxons." Once more, the penalty of "**Uncircumcision**" is "**Excision**, " (Gen. 17:10-12), the "Anglo-Saxons" are "**Uncircumcised**" and therefore not entitled to Jewish privileges.

The Jews Today Are Representative of the Whole Twelve Tribes.

- 1. A portion of Israel, **out of all the tribes**, fell away to Judah at the time of the division of Solomon's Kingdom, B.C. 975. 2 Chron. 11:5, 13-15.
- 2. A number deserted from Israel to Judah in the days of Asa, grandson of Rehoboam. 2 Chron. 15:8-9.
- **3.** Ninety-six years **after the Ten Tribes were carried captive**, in B.C. 625, Josiah, **great grandson** of Hezekiah, observed the "Passover" at Jerusalem, and many were present of the "Remnant of Israel." 2 Chron. 35:17,18
- 4. In B.C. 605-587, **Judah** was carried captive to Babylon, many Israelites were carried away with them.
- **5.** In B.C. 5316, when the Jews returned from the Babylon Captivity, Babylon and Assyria had become **identical**, and **Israel** was as free to return as **Judah**. Ezra tells us that he took up **some Israelites** (Ezra 7:28), and when the Temple was **dedicated**, they offered sacrifices for the **Whole Twelve Tribes**. Ezra 6:16-17.

The conclusion therefore is that those who returned from captivity were **fairly representative of the whole Twelve Tribes**. Now as the descendants of those who returned from Babylon were scattered in A.D. 70 and A.D. 135, we may well ask, "the 'Ten Tribes **Where Are They Not?**"

But the above explanation will not completely satisfy the careful **Bible** student, for Eze. 37:15-25 clearly teaches that the "Ten Tribes," as **tribes** are to be gathered back in the **future**. They must therefore be **somewhere.**

Says Sir John Wilkinson in his book "Israel My Glory, "search for a thing where it was lost." When God called Abraham from Ur of the Chaldeans it was from an idolatrous country, and he was called a Hebrew, (one who has crossed over), and when Israel relapsed into idolatry God sent them back to the other side of the Euphrates. History says the Ten Tribes were taken to Assyria, and prophecy says they are to be brought out of Assyria (Isa. 11:11,16), the plain assumption is, they are still there.

Josephus says they were there in A. D. 70; so, does Jerome in his notes on Hosea, written in the Fifth Century. We have never heard of their leaving, and so they have been identified with certain peoples living in the fastnesses of the mountains of Kurdistan, by Lake

Oroomiah, in Persia. These people have many modified observances of the Mosaic Ritual, as Peace Offerings, Vows, First-Fruits, Tithes, etc. (Wilkinson.)

2. As To The TIME.

- a. When the "TIMES OF THE GENTILES" Have Been Fulfilled."And they shall fall by the edge of the sword and shall be led away captive into all nations; and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the "Times of the Gentiles" be fulfilled." Luke 21:24.
- b. When Christ Returns. "For I say unto you, you shall not see me henceforth, till you shall say blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord." Matt. 23:39.

3. As to the Manner.

a. **Gathered Back UNCONVERTED**. "I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. **THEN will I sprinkle clean water upon you**, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols will I cleanse you. A **New Heart** also will I give you, and a **New Spirit** will I put within you: and I will give you a **Heart of Flesh**. And I will put **My Spirit within you** and cause you to walk in my statutes; and ye shall keep my judgments and do them." Ezek. 36:24-26.

b. Before Conversion They Are to Be JUDGED.

"I will bring you out from the people and will gather you out of the countries wherein you are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched-out arm, and with **fury poured out**. And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will 1 plead with you face to face. And I will cause you to

'Pass Under the Rod, '

and I will bring you into the bond of the Covenant; and I will **purge out from among you the rebels**, and them that **transgress against Me**: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the Land of Israel." Eze. 20:34-36. Then God will cast them into His

"Melting Pot."

"Therefore, thus saith the Lord God; Because you are all become **rubbish**, behold, therefore I will gather you into the **midst of Jerusalem.** As they gather silver, brass, and iron, and lead, and tin. into the midst of the furnace, to blow the fire upon it, to melt it; so, **will I gather you in mine anger and in My fury and I will leave you there, and MELT YOU**. Yea I will gather you. and blow upon you in the fire of my wrath, and you shall be **melted in the midst thereof**. As silver is melted in- the midst of the furnace, **so shall you be melted in the midst thereof**; and you shall know that I the Lord have poured out my fury upon you." Eze. 22:19-21.

"Behold, I will send my messenger (Elijah - Mal. 4:5-6), and he shall prepare the way before me, and the **Lord**, whom vou seek, shall **suddenly come to His Temple**, even the Messenger of the Covenant whom you delight in behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a Refiner's Fire, and like Fuller's Soap: and He shall sit as a Refiner and Purifier of Silver: and He shall Purify the Sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. Mal. 3:1-3.

And I will bring the **third part through the fire**, and will **refine them as silver is refined**, and will try them as **gold is tried**: they shall call on my name and I will hear them: I will say it is my people; and they shall say, the Lord is my God." Zech. 1 3:9.

The Jews have never as yet had such an experience as this. It is spoken of in Jer. 30:4-6, and Dan. 12:1, as the

"Time Of Jacob's Trouble, "

"THE GREAT TRIBULATION."

(Larkin pg. 65b)

and He and Zechariah the Prophet associate it with the **Return of the Lord**. Matt. 24:21-23. Zech. 14:1-11. The result of these terrible judgments will be that the Jews will call in their misery upon the Lord.

"And I will pour upon the 'House of David.' and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem **the Spirit of Grace and of Supplications**." Zech. 12:10.

Then Christ will come back to Jerusalem,

"And His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives which is before Jerusalem on the east." Zech. 14:4.

"And they shall look upon **ME Whom They Have Pierced**." Zech. 12:10.

And a nation, the **Jewish Nation**, shall be born (converted) **IN A DAY**.

"Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a **Nation Be Born at Once**? for as soon as **Zion Travailed, She Brought Forth Her Children**." Isa. 66:8.

Speaking of the appearance of Christ after His Resurrection, Paul says,

"And last of all He was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time." I Cor. 15:8

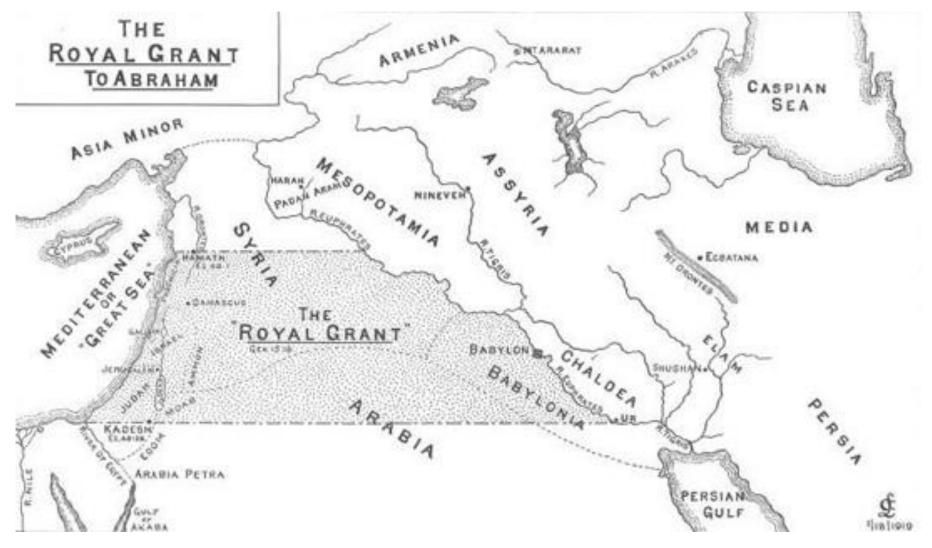
What Paul means is, that he was born **before the time**, that his was a **premature birth**, and that his "**New Birth**" is a type of the **Birth of the Jewish Nation** when the Lord returns, and not of the "New Birth" of a Christian. As Paul **saw the glory** of the Lord, and **heard his voice**, so shall it be with the **Jewish Nation** assembled at Jerusalem when Christ shall reveal Himself on the Mount of Olives at **His** return.

As to the Children of Israel, when they came out of Egypt, they took with them of the "**Riches of the Egyptians**," Ex. 12:35-36, so when they return to their own land, they will take with them the "**Riches of the Gentiles**." Isa. 60:9; Isa. 61:6.

When the Children of Israel return to their own land it will be to possess and occupy all that was promised to Abraham.

"The Royal Grant"

given by the Almighty to Abraham, extended from the "River of Egypt unto the "Great River, the River Euphrates (Gen. 15:18); and according to Ezekiel (Eze. 48:1-29), from Hamath, northeast of Damascus, to Kadesh on the south. The Temple will be rebuilt. The Glory of the Lord will return. Sacrifices will again be offered. The Government shall be reestablished, and the nations of the earth will be blessed through Israel. Zech. 8:20-23. For a continued account of the future of the Jews, see the chapters on "The Great Tribulation," and "The Kingdom." Also carefully study the chart on "The Jews," and "The Millennial Land."









"For I would not, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." Romans 11:25

The Scriptures speak of three classes of people on the earth, the **Jews**, the **Gentile**, and the **Church**. The Church is made up of both Jew and Gentile. Outside of the Church all who are not Jews are Gentiles. Up to the call of Abraham all the people of the earth were Gentiles. Abraham was the first Hebrew. His grandson Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel (Gen. 32:24-26), had twelve sons. They became the heads of twelve tribes, known as the "Twelve Tribes of Israel." After the death of King Solomon these "Tribes" were divided. Ten of them became known as Israel, and two (Judah and Benjamin) as Judah. In B.C. 721 Israel was carried captive to Assyria, and in B. C. 606 Judah was carried captive to Babylon. When Judah, after seventy years, returned from captivity, a fair representation of the whole Twelve Tribes returned with them. From that time, they have been known as the Jews.

The Jews were God's chosen people, but when they fell into idolatry⁶ and were carried into captivity, they were supplanted by the Gentiles. The nations of Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon were anxious to conquer and supplant Israel (The Jews), but God held them in an unseen leash until the iniquity of Israel was full, and then He permitted the world power to pass into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. Jer. 27:5-7. This happened in B.C. 606 and marked the beginning of the

"Times of The Gentiles."

del a try, the worship of idels, idel worship, ideletrism, fatishism, iconelatry, icon worship, paganism, h

 $^{^6}$ i·dol·a·try - the worship of idols. idol worship · idolatrism · $\underline{\text{fetishism}}$ · $\underline{\text{iconolatry}}$ · icon worship · $\underline{\text{paganism}}$ · $\underline{\text{heathenism}}$ · $\underline{\text{heresy}}$ · $\underline{\text{sacrilege}}$ · $\underline{\text{ungodliness}}$

This is the time spoken of by Christ in Luke 21:24, and which is a period that in the mind of God has certain chronological limits. It is not to be confounded with the "**Fulness of the Gentiles**" spoken of by Paul in Rom. 11:25. The "Fulness of the Gentiles" refers to the Gentiles that are "gathered out" to make up the Church, and "blindness in part" will continue among the Jews until the "Fulness' (the whole number of the elect) of the Gentiles be come in, then the Church [*Greek: ekklesia*] is "caught out," and the Jews restored to their own land. The "Fulness of the Gentiles" began at Pentecost and ends at least seven years before (*Rapture*) the "Times of the Gentiles" end (Rev.20:4).

The "Times of the Gentiles" are fully outlined in the Book of Daniel. The Book of Daniel (see chart) contains one "Dream" by Nebuchadnezzar, and four "Visions" by Daniel all relating to the "**Times of the Gentiles**."

1. Nebuchadnezzar's Dream.

In the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, he had a dream, but when he awoke it had gone from him. He demanded of his magicians and astrologers that they should not only reproduce the dream, but that they should interpret it. This they were unable to do, and their deaths were ordered, but was stayed by Daniel's petition for a little more time. Then Daniel and his companions set themselves to prayer, and in a night vision the "Dream" and its meaning was made known to Daniel.

The interpretation is certainly one that human ingenuity could not have hit upon. The wise men and flatterers of the Chaldean court would never have dared to announce the **End of Gentile Supremacy**.

The "Colossus" (Image) symbolized the "**World Kingdoms**" in their **Unity** and **Historical Succession**. Gentile dominion is represented by a huge "**Metallic**" Man. 'The degeneration of the "World Kingdoms" is seen in the diminishing **value** of the metals used. Silver is worth less than gold, brass less than silver, iron less than brass, and clay less than iron. The **weight** of the image also declines. The specific gravity of gold is 19.5, of silver 10. 47, brass 8, of cast-iron 5, and clay 1.93. The Colossus is **Top-Heavy**.

The four metals of which the "Colossus" was composed represent, the King did not see any animals in his dream only kingdoms and

Four Worldwide Empires,

which were to arise in succession. Dan. 2:37-40. Four great Empires, are to succeed each other in the government of the world beginning with Nebuchadnezzar (Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian, and Roman.) But the King saw two more future kingdoms that would rise up in the "Latter Days," that is the kingdom represented by the feet and toes made of clay and the final kingdom of the stone which destroys the Colossus statue and the kingdoms that it represents. History tells us that there were two world kingdoms before Nebuchadnezzar, that would be Egypt and Assyria, these will be talked about later in the study of the Book of Revelation. These Kingdoms which were seen in the king's dream are not only made known as to number, but their names, in the order of their succession, they are given.

The **First** Kingdom "Babylon" is indicated by Daniel while interpreting the vision to Nebuchadnezzar. "THOU art this Head of Gold." Dan. 2:38.

The **Second Kingdom**- was the "**MedoPersian**," he points out in his account of Belshazzar's Feast, by the emphatic words-"In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain, and Darius the Median took the Kingdom." Dan. 5:30-31.

The **Third Kingdom** – would be the "**Grecian**," is mentioned in Dan. 8:20-21, "the **RAM** which you saw having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. And the rough **GOAT** is the King of Grecia."



Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Daniel 2:28-35) The Kingdoms of Men with Historical References Dream Interpretation Daniel 2:36-45 God made known what would Head of Gold be in the "latter Days." Nebuchadezzar & The (Dan. 2:1, 19, 28) **Babylonian Empire** (Dan 2:36-38) 606 B.C. The 8 World Kingdoms Chest and Arms of Silver (Daniel 2:36-45) Medo-Persia 1. Egypt (Dan 2:39, 5:28, 8:20) 2. Assyria 536 B.C. 3. Babylon 4. Medo-Persian 5. Greece Belly/Thighs of Brass 6. Rome **Greek Empire** 7.Mixed (Dan 2:39; 8:21-22) 330 B.C. 8. Divine Kingdom The Stone Cut out Legs of Iron of the Mountain Roman Empire destroys the Image (Dan 2:40) (Dan 2:34-35,45) 27 B.C. The Rock is Jesus V.41 - Divided kingdom Matthw 21:42-44 V.42-43 - Mixed kingdom Feet and Toes Rome & Ottoman Empire Roman / Ottoman Mix Iron & Clay mix (Dan 2:41-43) Daniel 2:40 (NASB) the Great Mountain which is

Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch

as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in

pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.

the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Crushes the other kingdoms

(Dan 2:35, 44-45; Micah 4:1)

As a footnote to this, during the time of the rule of the Persian King Artaxerxes, the Jews were allowed to go back home to Jerusalem (Neh. 2:4-8; Ezra 7:12-13) and rebuild it. So, when the Romans came to power Israel was well established in their own land and the 70-week prophecy was in its countdown to Messiah the Prince. Sixty-nine weeks of prophecy was about to end, and the Son of God was about to make His entrance onto the world scene.

The **Fourth Kingdom** – was the "**Roman**" and is referred to in Dan. 9:26, as, "the **People of the Prince** that should destroy the city (Jerusalem) and the Sanctuary"; and we know that it was the Romans under Titus, that destroyed Jerusalem in A. D. 70.

We have seen that the deterioration of the "Colossus" is shown in the character of the metals composing it. This was prophetic of the character of the governments as they were to succeed one another. The power of Nebuchadnezzar was Absolute, of him Daniel said,

"All people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared him; whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he elevated; and whom he would he humbled." Dan. 5:19.

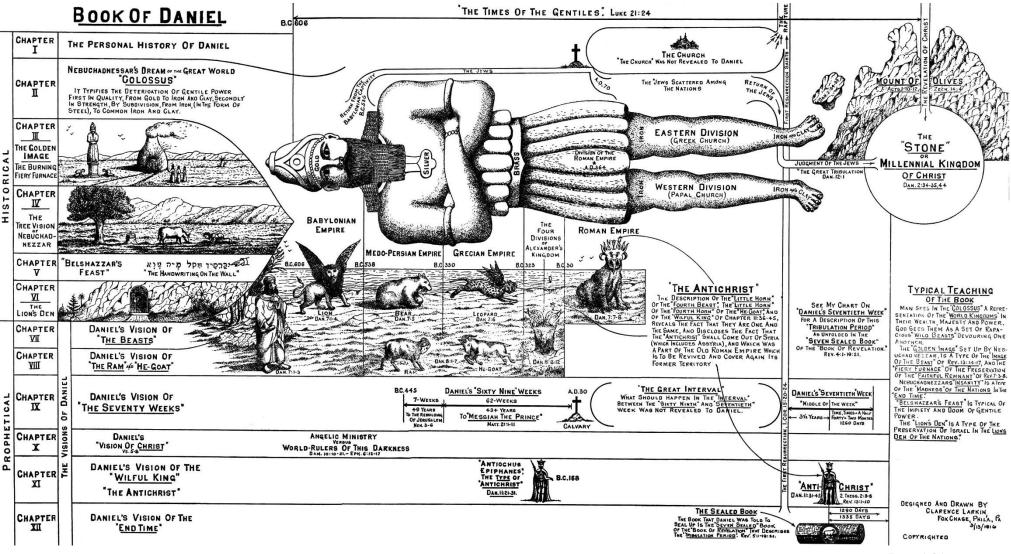
The second Kingdom was inferior to the first. It was a Monarchy dependent upon the support of a **Hereditary Aristocracy**. The king could by no means do as he willed. This is seen in the case of Darius, who desired to save Daniel from the "Lions' Den," and could not, Dan. 6:12-14; and in the case of Ahasuerus who could only save the Jews from slaughter by a counter-decree. Est. 8:3-5. The metal of the third Kingdom was **brass**, and the government of Alexander the Great was a Monarchy supported by a **Military Aristocracy**, that was as weak as the ambitions of its leaders.

The iron power of the fourth Kingdom shows a still further depreciation. The Caesars were nominally elected by the people; they were merely called First Magistrates of the State or Generals; and for a long time, they wore no diadem, but only the laurel crown of a successful commander. They also had a Senate which was supposed to counsel and control them. The people were neither allowed to legislate for them, nor to interfere with them, and if a Senator became too independent, he was banished. Thus, the Empire remained metallic and coherent. Iron is more perishable, more easily corroded or rusted than brass, or silver, or gold; but in the form of **STEEL**, it is harder than any of them, and cuts through every other metal. Such has been Rome with her iron rule.

But the "Colossus" grows weaker and weaker until the feet and toes become a **mixture of Iron and Clay**. In other words, the government degenerates from an **Absolute Monarch**y to an

Autocratic Democracy,

a form of government in which the people largely have the say.



In **short**, **the** "Colossus" shows that Gentile dominion passes **gradually** from the **Head**, the organ which ought to direct the members, to the **Feet**, which are only made to carry the body wherever the head directs. We see then that the first of these Kingdoms was a **Unit**, the second **Dual**, the third became **Quadruple** (Dan. 7:6; Dan. 8:8), and the fourth, in its final form, becomes **Ten-Toed**.

The "Colossus" comes to an end by being struck on the **Feet** by a "**Stone Cut Out of a Mountain.**" The "**Stone**" does not fill the earth by **degrees**, and thus **crowd** the "Colossus" out, the stone with **One Blow DEMOLISHES IT**. The action of the "**Stone**" is **JUDGMENT**, not grace. It therefore cannot mean Christianity, for it is a "process" whereas the action of the "**Stone**" is **SUDDEN** and **CALAMITOUS.**

Again, the **Time** of the destruction is not until **after the formation of the ten toes**, and we know that the "**Two Limbs**" of the "Colossus" did not appear until A. D. 364, and the "**Ten Toes**" have not yet been formed (Great Trib). The **Time** when the "Stone" falls on the Colossus is distinctly stated in the interpretation as "**in the days of those kings**," that is, in the days of the kings represented by the "**Ten Toes**."



Larkin page 68a



Comment: The Ten Toes are representative of **TEN KINGDOMS** not ten countries. The beast of Daniel 7 has ten horns, and no crowns. John in Rev. 13:1 John sees more detail. He sees a "Beast out of the Ocean" as having the same ten horns but now they have crowns indicative of kings. There will be in the last days (Great Tribulation 1260 days) ten kingdoms (no more individual countries) that the Antichrist establishes. These in turn will send their armies (Ref. the 3 frogs of Rev.16:13-16) into the Valley of Megiddo for the Battle of Armageddon. Rev.19:19.

End Comment.

The "**Stone**" which strikes the Colossus must be interpreted as Christ who is called a "**Stone**" in Scripture. "Whosoever shall fall on this stone (Christ) shall be broken (softened by repentance), but on whomsoever it shall fall, **it will grind him to powder**." Matt. 21:44. This is exactly what the prophet foretells of the destruction of the Colossus.

Then were the kingdoms of the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them; and the Stone that struck the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." Dan. 2:35. This is the "Divine Kingdom."

As the four Kingdoms typified by the Colossus are **literal** Kingdoms, it follows that the "**Stone Kingdom**" must be a **literal** Kingdom also, for it takes the place of the Kingdoms that are destroyed and **conquer the whole earth.** The **Stone Kingdom** then is the "**Millennial Kingdom of Christ**" and the Colossus is representative of the

"Times of the Gentiles"

and typified by it, cannot come to an end until the "**Revelation of Christ**" at His Second Coming and the end of the Tribulation period and the beginning of the **Millennial Kingdom of Christ** (Rev.20:4-6)



Comment: The next part of our study comes with controversy. In that the 4 beasts as seen in Daniels vision is only seen in chapter 7. The king did not see any of the four beasts in chapter 2, he only saw kingdoms. I will admit there are some similarities and at best three of the four beasts could also be representative of Nebuchadnezzar's vision and therefore fall into the teaching of the "Law of Double Reference."

3. The Vision of the "FOUR BEASTS." (Daniel 7)

This was a vision of Daniel's, approximately 48 years after Nebuchadnezzar had his dream, and occurred in the first year of Belshazzar, B.C. 555. In his vision Daniel stood on the shore of the "Great Sea" (the Mediterranean), from which region the four Kingdoms arose (this is the same ocean that John's beast came out of in Rev.13). Out of the sea four "Great Beasts" came up in succession. We have no difficulty in identifying these "Four Beasts" with the "Four Kingdoms" represented by the "Colossus."

"The first was like a **Lion** and had **Eagle's Wings**," and as the Prophet watched it, he saw it "lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon its feet as a Man, and a **Man's Heart** was given to it. Dan. 7:4. We have only to visit the British Museum, London, and examine the colossal stone lions with the "wings of an eagle" and the "head of a man, " disinterred from the ruins of Babylon and Assyria by

Sir Henry Layard between the years 1840 and 1850 A. D., to see that the "First Beast" of Daniel's vision represented the First World Kingdom-Babylon, and its King Nebuchadnezzar.

The peculiarity of the "**First Beast**" was that it had "Eagle's Wings." This combination of the lion, the "King of Beasts," and the eagle, the "King of Birds," corresponded to the Royalty of the "Head of Gold" of the Colossus and typified the "Eagle-like" swiftness of the armies of Nebuchadnezzar. The "Plucking of the Wings" doubtless referred to the "Beastly Insanity" of Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 4:20-22), and the "lifting up," and causing to stand upon its feet "as a man" to his restoration to sanity.

The **Second Beast** was "like to a **Bear**," and it raised up itself on one side, and it had **Three Ribs** in the mouth of it, between the teeth of it; and they said thus unto it, **Arise, Devour Much Flesh**." Dan. 7:5. The bear is the strongest beast after the lion and is distinguished for its voracity, but it has none of the agility and majesty of the lion, is awkward in its movements, and effects its purpose with comparative slowness, and by brute force and sheer strength. These were the characteristics of the Medo-Persian Empire. It was ponderous in its movements. It did not gain its victories by bravery or skill but overwhelmed its enemies by hurling vast masses of troops upon them. Xerxes' expedition against Greece was undertaken with 2,500,000 fighting men, who with the camp followers made up an army of 5,000,000. Other Persian generals had armies running up into the 100,000's of men. It is easy to be seen that the movements of such enormous bodies of men would "devour much flesh," not only in the destruction of their enemies, but thousands would die of disease and exposure and the countries through which they passed would become famine stricken by the loss of food seized to feed such armies. The side of the Bear which rose up to attack typified Persia, in which lay the greatest military strength, and corresponded to the right shoulder and arm of the "Colossus." The "Three-Ribs" stood for the three Kingdoms of Lydia, Babylon and Egypt, which formed a "Triple Alliance" to check the Medo Persian power but were all destroyed by it.

The **Third Beast** was "like a **Leopard**, which had upon the back of it **four wings of a fowl**; the Beast had also **four heads**; and dominion was given to it." Dan. 7:6. The leopard is the most agile and graceful of creatures; but its speed is here still further assisted by "wings." Slight in its frame, but strong, swift and fierce, its characteristics render it a fitting symbol of the rapid conquests of the Greeks under Alexander the Great, who, followed by small but well-equipped and splendidly brave armies, moved with great swiftness and in about 10 years overthrew the difficult forces of Persia, and subdued the whole civilized world. The "four wings of a Fowl" indicate that, as a "fowl" does not fly high, the armies of Alexander were fitted mainly for lowland fighting. There is an inconsistency between the number of "wings" and the number of "heads" of the Leopard. "Four heads" call for "four pair of wings."

Why only "four" wings we do not know, unless they denote the four quarters of the earth into which Alexander sought to extend his Kingdom.

The "Four Heads" of the Leopard represent the "Four Kingdoms" into which the Empire of Alexander was divided by his generals, namely Egypt, Syria, Thrace and Macedonia. From B.C. 323 to B.C. 30 there was no world-wide Kingdom, there being this break or parenthesis between the Medo-Persian and Roman Empires, showing that while there was to be "four" and "only four" world-wide Empires it did not necessarily follow that there should be no break between them. The Third Beast, the Leopard, corresponds to the abdomen and hips of the Colossus.

The **Fourth Beast** was unlike any beast that Daniel had ever seen or heard about, it was "**dreadful** and **terrible**, and **strong exceedingly**, and it had great **IRON TEETH**. It devoured and broke into pieces and trampled on the residue (of the other Beasts) with its feet; and it was diverse from all the Beasts that were before it and it had "Ten Horns." The fact that the Fourth Beast had "Iron Teeth," and that there were "Ten Horns" on its head, the "iron" corresponding to the "Iron Limbs" and the "ten horns" to the "Ten Toes" of the Colossus, would cause Daniel to see that the Fourth Beast represented the **Fourth World Kingdom**.



<u>Comment</u>: This fourth beast Daniel describes is the same "Beast" that John says came out of the Great Sea. (Mediterranean Sea) in Rev.13:1-2. It speaks of the rise of the Antichrist.

But as Daniel "considered" the "Ten Horns, " he was amazed to see another **Horn**, a "**LITTLE**" one, come up among them, and before whom there were "three" of the "First Horns" plucked up by the roots, that is destroyed; and as he examined the "Little Horn" more closely he noticed that it had Eyes like the eyes of a Man, and the Mouth of a Man speaking great things. Dan. 7:7, Dan. 7:8. This mystified and troubled Daniel. He had seen nothing corresponding to it in the "Ten Toes" of the Colossus. It must mean some new and additional revelation that God did not see fit to impart to the Gentile King Nebuchadnezzar, and that was reserved for Daniel and his people (the Jews), for we must not forget that <u>Daniel's own visions</u>, in the last six chapters of the Book of Daniel, have to do with God's dealings with the Jewish People in the "Latter Days." Dan. 10:14.

Comment End:

Before Daniel could ask for an explanation of the meaning of the "Little Horn," he had another vision, a vision of a judgment. Dan. 7: 9-11. Daniel's vision of the destruction of the Beast (vs. 11) locates this judgment as just before the Millennium. Daniel at the same time saw the "Son of Man" (Christ) receive His Kingdom (the Stone Kingdom). vs. 13, 14. These visions added to Daniel's perplexity, and he was "grieved in his spirit," and the visions of his head "troubled him" (vs. 15), so he approached one of the "Heavenly Messengers" that stood by and asked him the meaning. He was told that the "Four Beasts" stood for Four Kings, or Kingdoms (v23), that should arise out of the earth. Then Daniel wanted to know the "truth" about the "Fourth Beast," which was so diverse from the other three. The "Little Horn" of the Fourth Beast was what troubled him the most because it was to make war against the

"Saints of the Most High, "

and they were Daniel's own people, the God-fearing Jews of the "End Time," who were to pass through the "Great Tribulation" and to be prevailed against, until the time came that the people (the Jews) of the "Saints of the Most High" should possess the Kingdom. In explanation Daniel was told that the "Ten Horns" on the Fourth Beast represented "Ten Kings" that shall arise, and that the "Little Horn" was a king that should rise among them and subdue three of them, and that he would be a "person" of remarkable intelligence and great oratorical powers, having a mouth speaking great things (v8, 20). That he would be audacious, arrogant, imperious and persecuting and change "times and laws," and that the "Saints of the Most High" would be given into his hands for a "Time, and Times, and the Dividing of Time," or 3½ years. For a further description of the "Little Horn" see the Chapter on "The Antichrist."

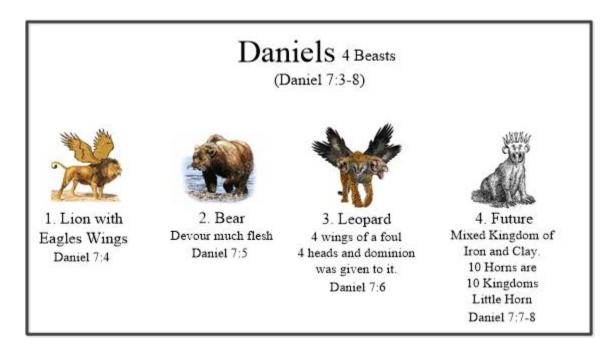
In this vision of the Four Beasts, we see "Degeneration" just as we saw it in the metals of the Colossus. The descent is from the Lion, the "King of Beasts," to a nondescript monster that defies description. The reason why these Four Kingdoms are represented first as a "Golden Headed Metallic Image," and then as a succession of "Wild Beasts," is to show the difference between man's view and God's view of the World Kingdoms. Man sees in them the concentration of wealth, majesty and power; God sees them as a succession of voracious wild beasts devouring one another.

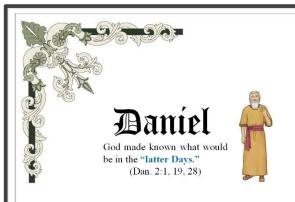
Comment:

Another Perspective on Daniel 7 and the Four Beast

It is hard to imagine that the imagery of Daniel 7 is a reference to the imagery that King Nebuchadnezzar saw in chapter 2. Chapter 2 is about the kingdoms of men and their succession one after another. We should take note that there is no mention of beastly imagery in the kings dream only in Daniels vision.

In Daniel 2:44-45, Daniel told the king that in the days of the last kingdom (the 6th) the God of Heaven would setup a kingdom which will never be destroyed ... "and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵ Just as you saw that a stone was broken off from the mountain without hands, and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what would take place in the "**FUTURE**, **LATTER DAY's**. I believe this future can find common imagery in the days of old and in the modern world of today. Let us look at Daniel 7 imagery in the light of today's world ... the "**Latter Days**."









1. Babylon

2. Medo-Persian

6. Divine Kingdom the Great Mountain White sethe Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Crushes the other kingdoms (Dan 2:35, 44-45; Mican 4:6)

5.Mixed

Daniels Dream

The 4 Beasts - Daniel 7 The "He-Goat" - Daniel 8



Bear Leopard

Fourth Wild Beast Ten Horns, Ten Kingdoms Little Horn Dan.7:7-8, 19-20, 23, 25 10 Horns are the end-time 10 nation confederacy



(Daniel 8:8-12, 23-25

"Latter Day" Kingdoms (Super Powers) of Daniels Dream - Daniel 7



Lion v4 - England 1707 - was the world power of its day. It was called "Great Britain." With wings of an Eagle.





Bear v5 - Russia has caused or been in the mix of almost all wars either direct involvement or by proxy



Leopard v6 – 3 bones in its mouth are the three attempts for world power (3 Richs) Leopard tank division



Daniels Vision of the Antichrist The 4th Beast

"latter Days." (Dan. 2:1, 19, 28)

John's

Un-Woly Frinity



The Great Dragon, the Serpent, The Devil, Satan Rev.12:9

Antichrist

Polictical Power Given his power by the Dragon (Satan)

Johns Vision of the Antichrist Beast out of the Sea



Seven Heads are Seven Kingdoms Revelation 17:9-12





Persia Greece Roman Ottoman

10 Horns are the "end-time" 10 Kingdom confederacy Two Theories 1. The E.U. (European Union)

2. The Revived Ottoman Empire

False Prophet Beast out of the Earth

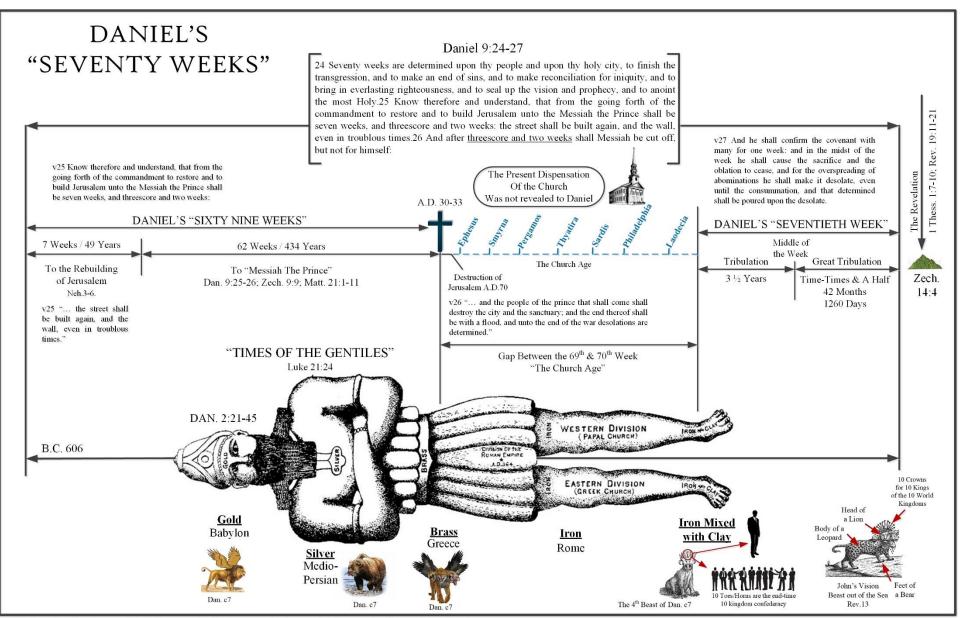
Religious Influence Antispirit Daniel 8:3 Revelation 13:11-18



All the power of the 1st beast and causes all men to worship the first Beast. Rev.13:12



Causes all men to take the Mark. Rev.13:16



Originally Designed by Clarence Larkin 1/25/1919 - Updated by S.G. Kennard 12/2022 Decipleship 102 Vol.4 Chart - Daniels 70th Week

Daniel's

Dream

4 Beasts out of the Sea (Daniel 7)

Daniel 7:1-3 (NASB), 1In the first year of Belshazzar, king of Babylon. Daniel had dreams and visions as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it. 2 Daniel said, "I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. 3 And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another."

Forty-eight years after Nebuchadnezzar had his Dream, Daniel in a vision saw himself standing upon the shore of the "Great Sea" (the Mediterranean), and saw four "Great Beasts" come up out of the sea in succession.

Daniel's Lion, Bear, and Leopard are Modern-Day Countries



4 heads and dominion

was given to it.

Daniel 7:6

10 Kingdoms

Little Horn Antichrist

Daniel 7:7-8

 2 sets of wings for – Germany tried in WWI & WW2 for world dominance

Daniel 7:4

flesh

Daniel 7:5

4 heads – One for each Reich (empire)
 1st Reich Envolved Holy Roman Empire & Charlemagne
 2nd Reich Otto von Bismark 1871- 1918
 3rd Reich Hitler's Nazi Germany 1933 – 1945
 4th Reich 0 Still futuer (Angela Merkel?)

S.G. Kennard 8/11/2020 Daniels Dream c7 - John's Beast out of the Sea

10 Horns 10 Kingdoms

Antichrist

10 Horns (10 Toes) are the endtime 10 world kingdoms John's

Vision

The Beast out of the Sea (Revelation 13)



REPERTY PROP

Head of a

Lion

For of the Ki

10 Crowns for 10 Kings of the 10 World Kingdoms

> Feet of a Bear

Great Tribulation

4 Pieces of Evidence that the Lion, Bear, Leopard are Modern Kingdoms

1st Piece of Evidence - from Dan.7:17 the use of the word "ARISE" ... note the time frame

2nd Piece of Evidence – from Revelation 12-14 order of events shown in imagery of the birth of the man-child and His ascension into heaven. The Beast of Dan.7 Arise after Christ ascension.

3rd Piece of Evidence – The first three beasts can be found in the book of Revelation 13 as being part of the great beast that comes up out of the great sea. (head of Lion, body of Leopard, feet of the Bear)

4th Piece of Evidence – After the Antichrist is destroyed the three kingdoms will still exist. (Daniel 7:12)

 5^{th} Piece of Evidence – Sequence of Events given by the angel in v18. Connecting them with the 4^{th} beast at the time when the saints of the Highest One receives a kingdom (Establishment of the Millennial Kingdom).

The First Kingdom - The Kingdom of the Lion with Eagles wings





Daniel 7:4, "The first *was* like a lion and had *the* wings of an **EAGLE**. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it."

There is no other nation today that represents the LION as does England.

The three lions represent the three parts of the UK;

- 1. The Lion of **England**
- 2. The **Scottish** Unicorn
- 3. The Harp of **Ireland**





The wings of the lion of Babylon's days did not give rise to another greater kingdom or world power, Babylon was invaded and conquered by the Persians.

The greater imagery is with England as it pertains to history and world events, and you will see in Rev.13 the beast that comes out of the sea in our future, has the head of a Lion. Can it be that the Lion is connected to this beast in its time frame when it comes out of the ocean, Can this be a link to future prophecy from out of Babylon or out of England?

Great Britain was once the major world power, having power over 1/5 of the world's population. At their height, they were the largest empire in the world and held power for over 100 years. There was a time when it could be said of England that "The sun never set on the English flag." Today that is not the case.

America severed their political connections to Great Britain, and as it is seen in Daniels prophetic imagery the wings of the Lion were plucked off (as by force). The wings according to Daniel were "Eagle wings" v4. Then the two eagle wings were lifted up and <u>made</u> to stand on its own two feet like a man and a human mind was given to it, and with it the United States of America was born ... The American colonies signed their Declaration of Independence in 1776. America's national symbol is the eagle with its wings spread open ... prophecy fulfilled.





The **Second Kingdom - The Kingdom of the Bear**



Daniel 7:5, "And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs *were* in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat!"



Today the world is very familiar with the nation whose symbol is the bear. It seems that **Russia** has a prophetic appointment with end-time events. When Jesus said in His Olivet Discourse that there shall be "wars and rumors of wars" (Mt. 24:6), there was no Russia, but today they are in the mix of all wars either by direct involvement or by proxy. The three bones in the bear's mouth would seem to represent all the death the bear has caused. Today Russia fits this prophetic picture. In Rev.13 the beast that comes out of the sea has the feet of the Bear. Can this be a link to future prophecy from out of Persia or out of Russia?





The Third Kingdom - The Kingdom of the Leopard



⁶ After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

The prophetic picture of the Leopard is a perfect fit for **Germany**, whose Leopard tanks have been used predominantly in European armies since their introduction in the 1960's. Germany sought to be a World power and caused much suffering before being defeated in WWII by the Western Allies.





The rise of the German Reich (Kingdom/Realm/Empire) is commonly divided into three periods.

1st Reich 800 to 1806 lasting 1000 years. It involved the Holy Roman Empire & Charlemagne. It was succeeded by the Second Reich in 1871.

2nd Reich (German Empire) 1871-1918.

3rd Reich (Nazi Germany) 1933-1945

4th Reich (Future) Can it be that the future 4th Reich kingdom of the leopard becomes aligned with the Beast out of the sea and be a tool of the Antichrist. The Beast has the body markings of the leopard. Can this be a link to future prophecy from out of Ancient Greece or out of Germany?

End Comment:

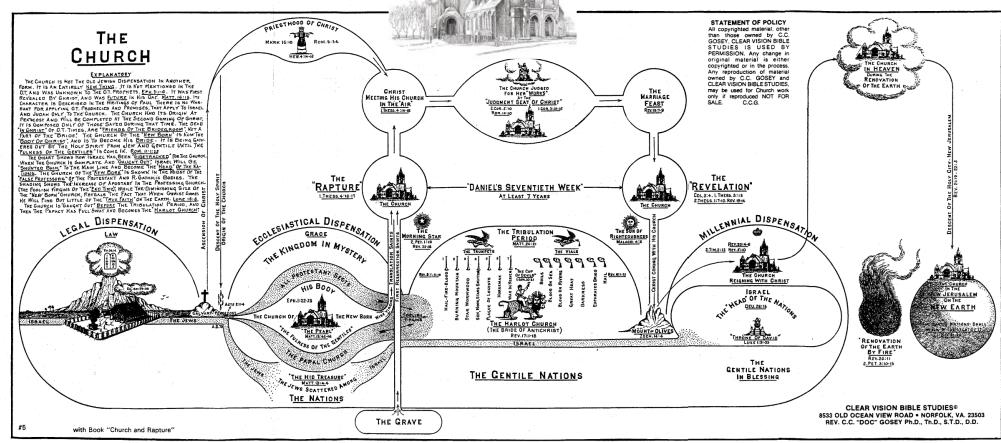


Chapter 11

The Church

(Larkin Page 74)





For the sake of clearness, we will consider the Church in the light of these seven teachings.

1. What the Church is NOT.

1. It is not a continuation of the "Jewish Dispensation" under another name.

As we have seen in the chapter on the Jews, the Jews have been **moved to a sidetrack** that the "Main Line" may be clear for the passage of the Church. Jesus said, "The Law and the Prophets are until John." If the Scriptures put Moses and Law in one Dispensation and Christ and Grace in another let us respect the Divine order and not join together what God has put asunder.

It is because some religious bodies believe that the Christian Church is but another phase of what they call the "Jewish Church," that they insist on a "ceremonial ritual" and retain the Priesthood with its altar, vestments, etc., and Temple-like buildings; and call the ordinances of the Christian Church "Sacrifices" and "Sacraments." They also go further and advocate a "State Church," with the Church as the head, and claim that all the Old Testament promises of riches and glory have been transferred from the Jew to the Church. This we shall see is unscriptural.



<u>Comment:</u> This teaching is called **Replacement Theology** (also known as Supersessionism). There is still another issue of warning that came to the church via Paul in

Acts 20:29-30, ²⁹ 'I know that after my departure savage **wolves** will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves' men will arise, speaking perverse things to draw away the disciples after them."

The "wolves Paul was referring to were Nicolaitans. Who were the **Nicolaitans**? They were not a sect, but a group in the church who were trying to establish a "Priestly Order" within the church. An attempt to model the church after the Old Testament order of Priests, Levites, and common people. This can be seen in meaning of the word, which is from "**NIKO**" to conquer, to overthrow, and "**LAOS**" the people or laity. The object was to establish a "**HOLY ORDER OF MEN**," and place them over the laity, which was foreign to the New Testament plan, and call them not pastors, but **CLERGY, BISHOPS, ARCHBISHOPS, CARDINALS, AND**

POPES. Here we have the origin of the dogma of "**APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION**." Here we see the beginning of the separation of the Clergy from the Laity, a thing that God hates. The Church at Ephesus was not deceived by the Nicolaitans, the church did recognize the group as false apostles and liars. Gods plan for His church is that there would be Pastors that would oversee the church much like a shepherd would look over his sheep. To His church He gave the Holy Spirit who would give them (the Church) power from on high and lead them.

Acts 1:8. "but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth."

Is it a wonder then, that the Lord praised them for their dislike for the teachings of the Nicolaitans ... Jesus said in Rev.2:6, "But this you have, that you 'hate' the deeds of the Nicolaitans which I also hate."

End Comment:

2. It is not "The Kingdom."

John the Baptist came preaching that the "Kingdom of Heaven" was "at hand" and Jesus sent out the Twelve and the Seventy to do the same, but the Jewish people rejected their King, and the setting up of the Kingdom was postponed. There cannot be any Kingdom until the "Nobleman Farmer" who has gone into a "far country" to receive the Kingdom returns. Luke 19:11-27.

The Church is never confused with the Kingdom in the Scriptures. The Church is compared to a "House" (1Tim. 3:15), to a "Temple" (1Cor. 3:16-17), to a "Body" (1Cor. 12:27-31), but never to a Kingdom. Christ is the "HEAD" of His Church (Eph. 1:22; Eph. 4:15; Col. 1:18), but He is never spoken of as its King. The Church's relation to Christ is to be that of a "Bride." Eph. 5:23-32; Rev. 21:2, 9-10.

⁷ Apostolic Succession – Is derived from the apostles by a continuous succession, which has usually been associated with a claim that the succession is through a series of bishops.

H. What the Church IS.

1. It is a "Mystery."

The Kingdom was no **mystery**. The Old Testament prophets describe it in glowing terms. But there was something that was a Mystery" to them, and that was, what was to come, in between the "**Sufferings and Glory**" of Christ. 1Pet. 1:9-12.

That is, between the **Cross** and the **Crown**. Jesus implied that there was to be something that He called the "Church," but He did not say when it should appear, or what it would be like.

Matt.16:13-20, ¹³ Now when Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some *say* John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and *still* others, Jeremiah, or one of the *other* prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you yourselves say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you lose on earth, shall have been loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then He gave the disciples strict orders that they were to tell no one that He was the Christ.

The "Mystery of the Church" was first revealed to Paul.

"For this cause I, Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, if you have heard of 'The Dispensation of the Grace of God' which is given me to share with you; how that by revelation He made known unto me

'THE MYSTERY'

which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is **now revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit**; that

THE GENTILES

should be fellow heirs and of

THE SAME BODY,

and partakers of His promise in Christ by the Gospel.... according to the

'Eternal Purpose'

which He purposes in Christ Jesus our Lord." Eph. 3:1-11. (See the Chart on "God's Eternal Purpose as to the Earth.")

From this we see that the Church was unknown to the Old Testament patriarchs and prophets.

The plan all along was that the Gentiles were to be saved, was no mystery. Rom. 9:24-30. The "Mystery" was, that God was going to form an entirely "NEW THING," composed of Both Jew and Gentile, to be called

"THE CHURCH."

2. It is a "Called Out" Body.

The word Church comes from the Greek word "ecclesia" which means "Assembly" or a congregation of "called out ones."

But the word is not used exclusively as to the Church. Israel was an "ecclesia" or an Assembly of people "called out" from other peoples and nations, and is called in Acts 7:38, "The Church in the Wilderness."

Any Assembly of worshipers banded together as a church or congregation is an "ecclesia." Matt. 18:17; 1Cor. 14:19,35.

The Guild of Ephesian Craftsmen and a Town Meeting is an "ecclesia," because distinct or called out from the body of citizens, Acts 19:32,39. The context will show what is meant.

The purpose of this Dispensation is seen in the "Divine Program," outlined by the Apostle James in his address to the First Church Council (Acts 15:13-15), where he declares that God has visited the Gentiles to

"Take Out of Them A 'PEOPLE' for His Name." (Larkin Page 75)

The purpose of this Dispensation then is not the Conversion of the World, but the "Gathering Out" of the Church.

While Israel is a "called out body" it is a "National Body, " composed exclusively of the descendants of Abraham, but the Church is not a "National Body" for it is not composed of the people of any one nation, but of individuals from every **kindred**, **people**, **tribe** and nation. (Ref. Rev.5:8-10).

That Israel and the Church are distinct and separate and cannot be blended, is clear from the fact that their "election" was made at different dates, and that the "election" of the Church **antedates** the "election" of Israel, for Israel was chosen in Abraham from the **foundation of the world** (Matt. 25:34), while the Church was chosen in **HIM** (Jesus) **BEFORE the Foundation of the World**. Eph.1:4-6.

3. It is the "Body of Christ."

In Eph. 1:22, 23 we read, "And hath put all things under His feet, and gave **HIM** (Jesus), to be the **HEAD** over all things to the Church which is **His BODY**." The context shows (vs. 20), that this "Headship" was not possible until Jesus had been **raised from the dead and seated at the right hand of the Father.** The Church, therefore, could not have been in existence before there was a **Head**, for God does not make headless things. The Church then is the **Body** of which Christ is the **Head**

In 1Cor. 12:12, 13 we are told how this "Body" is formed.

"For as the body is one, and hath many members; and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into One Body, whether we be Jew or Gentile, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into ONE SPIRIT."

From this we see that it is the

"Baptism of the Spirit"

that incorporates us into the

"BODY OF CHRIST."

Therefore, there could be no Church until the "**Day of Pentecost**." Acts 1:4-5; Acts 2:1-3. Paul in his Letter to the Ephesians, that deals mainly with the Church, emphasizes this baptism.

"There is One Body (the Church) and One Spirit (the Holy Spirit), even as you are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord (Jesus), One Faith, ONE BAPTISM (of the Holy Spirit), One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Eph. 4:4-6.

That there should be no mistake as to what Paul meant by the "one body" of 1Cor. 12:13 he says, verse 27, "Now **you are** the **Body of Christ.**" And in Rom. 12:5 he reaffirms it-

"So we, being many, are 'One Body in Christ, ' and every one members one of another."

The fact that the Church is a "Body" made up of "living members" shows that it is not an "Organization," but an "ORGANISM." An "Organization" is made up of distinct units like the doors, window roof, floors, etc., of a building, that may be removed and replaced by new parts without destroying the integrity of the building; but a human body is an **organism**. You cannot remove an eye, or ear, or arm, or foot, or even a fingernail or tooth, without destroying the integrity of the body and causing a mutilation. So, we see from this for Christ to lose **One Member of His Body** (the Church) is to **MUTILATE** it. Neither can the Church, as the "Body of Christ" die, for whoever saw a dead body attached to a living head. Christ the **Head** is **ALIVE** and can **NEVER DIE AGAIN**, for He tells us in Rev. 1:18, "I am He that lives and was dead (on the Cross), and behold, I am **ALIVE FOR EVERMORE**." It follows therefore that

"when Christ, who is our **LIFE**, shall appear, then Shall **We Also Appear With Him in Glory.**" Col. 3:4. Jesus Christ not only gave His life for the Church, but to the Church.

But why call the Church the "Body of Christ?" What is a body for? It is for the

Manifestation of a Personality.

A person can exist without a physical body, as the Soul exists without a physical body between death and the resurrection of the body, but that existence cannot be made manifest. So the only way Christ, who is now in glory, can manifest Himself to the world is through **His Body - THE CHURCH**.

The only way the world can see Christ today is in Christian believers. This is probably what Paul meant when he wrote to the Philippians,

"For to me to live Is Christ."

(Phil. 1:21). That is, for **Christ** to live again in Paul, so that the world might see Christ **manifested** in **Paul.**

The Perfect Man.

If Christ is the **Head**, and the Church is the **Body**, then the two should make a **Perfect Man**, for we cannot conceive of a perfect Head like Christ, joined to an imperfect body. This is just what Paul tells us should be.

"And He gave some, Apostles; and some, Prophets; and some, Evangelists; and some, Pastors and Teachers; for the

Perfecting of the Saints,

for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the

'Body of Christ; '

till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a

PERFECT MAN,

unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. Eph. 4:11-13.

In 1Cor. 3:9-17, Paul speaks of the Church, under the figure of a **Building** or **Temple**, of which Christ is the **Chief Corner Stone**, "in whom all the building fitly framed together grows unto a **Holy Temple** in the Lord; in whom ye also are built together for an **HABITATION OF GOD** through the Spirit." Eph. 2:19-21.

Here we see that as God's presence was manifested in the Tabernacle in the "Shekinah Glory," so now in this Dispensation, when Israel, nationally, is out of fellowship with God, and there is no Temple at Jerusalem, the Church, since Pentecost is the visible "Habitation of God" on earth, where He manifests Himself through the Holy Spirit.

John tells us (John 1:14), that the "WORD" (Jesus) **Tabernacled** among **us**, and spoke of His **Body** as a **Temple**, John 2:19-21, so between God's manifesting Himself in the "Shekinah Glory" of the Temple, and now through His Spirit in the Church, He manifested Himself in the "person" of Jesus, and John tells us that he and Peter and James saw the "Glory of God" in the person of Jesus on the Mt. of Transfiguration. John 1:14.

4. It is to be the "Bride of Christ."

At present the Church is a virgin espoused. Paul said to the Church at Corinth,

"I am jealous over you with godly jealousy; for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste VIRGIN to Christ." 2Cor. 11:2.

In Christ's day an espousal was as sacred as a marriage.

The First Adam had his Bride, and the Second or Last Adam must have His Bride. In Gen. 2:18, Gen. 2:21-23, we are told how the First Adam got his Bride.

"The Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and with the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made (built) He a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said of Eve, this is now **bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh**; she shall be called **woman** because she was **taken out of man.**"

Now Jesus during His life on the earth as a man, abode alone, but a deep sleep-the sleep of death-fell on Him, and out of His wounded side, as the result of the Atonement He made on the Cross, there came that from which the Church was formed, and to which the Holy Spirit gave life on the Day of Pentecost; so that, as Adam said of Eve-"This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh, "so we can say of the Church-"We are members of His Body, of his Flesh, and of his Bones." Eph. 5:29-31.

The Woman was brought to Adam and presented to him, but Christ will present the Church to Himself, Eph. 5:27. That Eve was married to Adam is indicated in Gen. 2:24 and referred to in Matt. 19:4-5 Matt. 19:5, and Eph. 5:3 Eph. 5:31.

We have a beautiful illustration of how Christ is gathering out His Bride, the Church, in the story of how Isaac got his bride.

In the Scriptures-

Abraham is a type of God.

Sarah is a type of **Israel**.

Isaac is a type of **Jesus**.

Eliezer is a type of the **Holy Spirit**.

Rebekah is a type of the **Church**.

Keturah⁸ a type of **Israel Restored.**

⁸ Many scholars believe Keturah was none other than Hagar who was sent out from the Abraham's family into the desert by Sara. After Sara's death Abraham married Hagar but her name was changed to Keturah. It is believed the name change was to symbolize a new start or beginning.

When the time came for Isaac to have a wife his father Abraham did not want him to marry a Canaanitish woman, and so he sent his servant Eliezer over to Padan Aram to get one for him from among Abraham's kindred. When Eliezer reached Padan Aram he was divinely directed to the home of Laban, a grandnephew of Abraham, whose sister Rebekah God had chosen to be the wife of Isaac. Gen. 24:12-14. Rebekah consented to become the wife of a man she had never seen solely on the representations of Eliezer, and she departed with him, leaving her kinsfolk behind. As the caravan neared the home of Abraham, we read that "Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the Eventide" and saw the camels of his father returning, and Rebekah alighted from off her camel and was introduced by Eliezer to Isaac and she became his wife.

So God has sent the Holy Spirit into this world in this Dispensation to get a wife for His Son Jesus, and when the full number of the Church is complete, the Holy Spirit will take her back with him to the Father's home, and Jesus, whose Bride she is to be, will come out into the midair at the "Eventide" of this Dispensation to meet her. 1Thes. 4:15-17.

Some hold that because Isaac's bride was taken from his own kin, that, therefore, to complete the type, Jesus' Bride must be Israel, His own kin, and not the Church composed mainly of Gentiles. But we must not forget that while Abraham was the first Hebrew his kin were Gentiles. Abraham was not, strictly speaking, a Jew, for the Jews are the descendants of Judah, the fourth son of Jacob or Israel. So, we see that Rebekah was not an Israelite, but a Gentile, so the type holds good.

We must not forget that there are "Two Brides" mentioned in the Scriptures. One in the Old Testament, and the other in the New Testament. The one in the Old Testament is Israel, the Bride of Jehovah; the one in the New Testament is the Church, the Bride of Christ. Of Israel it is said, "Thy Maker is thine husband." Isa. 54:5-7. Because of her Whoredoms, Israel is a cast-off wife, but God, her husband, promises to take her back when she ceases from her adulteries. Jer. 3:1-18; Ez. 16:1-63; Hosea 2:1-23, Hosea 3:1-5. Sarah is a type of Israel before her fall, and Keturah of Israel when God shall take her back again. She will not be taken back as a Virgin, but as a Wife. But it is a **VIRGIN** that the Lamb (Christ) is to marry. So, the **Wife** (Israel) of the Old Testament cannot be the bride (Virgin) of the New Testament.

Again the "Wife" (Israel) is to reside in the earthly Jerusalem during the Millennium, while the "Bride" (the Church) will reside in the New Jerusalem. These distinctions make it clear that Israel cannot be the "Bride" of Christ. As to the Church being both the "Body" and "Bride" of Christ, we have the type of Eve who was of the "body" of Adam before she was his "**bride**."

H. The ORIGIN of the Church.

(Larkin Page 76b)

While, as we have seen, the Church had its origin in the mind of God

"Before the Foundation of the World," yet it did not exist until-after Christ's Ascension.

In the summer of the third year of Christ's ministry, when Israel had practically rejected Him and He was entering the "Shadow of the Cross," knowing that the offer of the Kingdom would soon be withdrawn, and the Church be set up, and wishing to prepare His Disciples for what was coming, He took them over into Cesarea Philippi, and there asked the question, "Whom do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" Matt. 16:13-20. After they had told Him what others said of Him, He said to them," But whom do YOU say that I am?" And Simon Peter answered and said," You Are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." And Jesus answered and said unto Peter, "You are Peter, and upon this Rock I will build my Church; and the 'Gates of Hell' (Hades) shall not prevail against it." Notice that there is here a little play upon words. It is from the Greek word "petros" that the word Peter is taken. "Petros" in the Greek means a stone, the small fragment of a rock, while the Greek word "Petra" means a rock, or large mass of stone. It is significant that in the Greek the word "Petrog" is masculine, while the word "Petra" is feminine. The change of gender then is not without significance, as if it would distinguish Peter the man, from his confession that

"Christ Was the Son of God, "

and that upon that confession, or upon Christ-**THE ROCK**, Christ would build His Church. That the "**Rock**" means Christ Himself is in harmony with other scriptures that speak of Him as a "Rock." That Peter understood that **Christ** meant that He Himself was the "**Rock**" is evident from Peter's address in Acts 4:5-7, where he says of Christ

"This Is the STONE

which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner"- that is the Corner Stone of the Building.

Peter reaffirms this in his First Epistle (1Pet. 2:3-8), and thus disclaims that he was the "rock" Christ meant. The Apostle Paul also declares that by the "Rock" Christ is meant. Writing to the Corinthians he says, "Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid which is, Jesus Christ." 1Cor. 3:11. In Eph. 2:20-22, Paul declares of the Church that it is being built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself Being the CHIEF Comer Stone, "in whom all the building fitly framed together grows into a

HOLY TEMPLE

in the Lord, in whom we also build together for an Habitation of God through the Spirit.

Habitation of God

through the Spirit.

There could be no foundation for the Church until Christ's death, resurrection and ascension. Then Christ became the **Rock** and upon **Him** the **Foundation of the Apostles and Prophets** (New Testament Prophets) was laid, and the first layer of the superstructure of **3000 "Living Stones"** was laid on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41), and a few days later the second layer of 5000 was added (Acts 4:4), and so on, down the centuries, the Church has been growing as a "Holy Temple" for the "Habitation of God, " through the Spirit. The Church then had its origin at Pentecost. If Peter was the "rock" upon which the Church was to be built, it seems reasonable that the "Mystery of the Church" should have been revealed to him instead of to Paul.

By the "Gates of Hell" is meant the "Gates of Hades" or the "Underworld." The "Underworld" is composed of two sections with an "Impassible Gulf" between them. See the chapter and chart on the "Spirit World." One of the sections was called "Paradise," the other "Hell." Luke 16:19-31. To the "Paradise" section Jesus went to meet the penitent thief after His death on the Cross, and when He came back from Paradise, He took all the "captives" that Death had locked up there, with Him, and locked up that compartment of the Underworld, and **HE** now has the **Keys** of "**Death and Hades**," and so the "Gates of Hell" shall not prevail against the Church. The Roman Catholic Church claims that Peter was the "Rock" on which the Church was to be built, and as Christ promised to Peter the "Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven" that therefore the Pope and his successors can unlock the "Gates of Purgatory." But Peter never did

have, and never will have, the "**Keys of Hades**," for the Keys of the "Kingdom of Heaven" are not the "Keys of **Hades**." The "Keys of **Hades**" are in the hand of Peter's **MASTER**, who said to the beloved John on the Isle of Patmos-

"Fear not; I am the First and the Last; I am He that lives and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forever more, Amen, and have the 'Keys' of HELL (Hades), and of DEATH." Rev. 1:17-18.

This at one stroke destroys the claim of Rome.

As we have seen, the Church is not the Kingdom, the Keys of the "Kingdom of Heaven" therefore cannot be the Keys of the Church. The "Kingdom of Heaven" is the "Mystery Form" of the Kingdom during the absence of the King, and is broader than the Church, and takes in the World, particularly that part known as Christendom. This is seen in the "Kingdom of Heaven Parables" of Matt. 13. The Keys of the "Kingdom of Heaven" that were given to Peter were the "Keys" by which he opened the way into the "Kingdom of Heaven" to the Jews at Pentecost, Acts 2:14-40, and later to the Gentiles in the house of Cornelius at Caesarea. Acts 10:34-48.

Who Belongs to the Church?

If the Church had its origin at Pentecost, and ends at the Second Coming of Christ for His saints at the "Rapture," who belong to the Church, and therefore constitute the "Bride?" Necessarily only those who are saved between those two events. The Old Testament saints could not belong to the Church for it did not then exist. At every wedding that is a public function there are others present beside the Bridegroom and the Bride. There is the groomsman, the bridesmaids, the ushers, flower girls, relatives and invited guests.

In Rev. 19:9 we read-

"Blessed are they which are **called** unto the "Marriage Supper' of the Lamb."

Now the "Bride" would not be "called" (invited), she has a place there in her own right. The "called" are the "Guests." And in the Parable of the "Marriage of the King's Son" (Matt. 22:1-3), those who were "bidden to the Wedding" were "Guests" not the Bride. John the Baptist, who stands for the Old Jewish Dispensation, claimed to be only the "Friend of the Bridegroom." John 3:29

At the Rapture all the "Dead in Christ" will rise indeed. The Old Testament Saints, will be part of the guest that are present at the

Marriage of the Lamb

the "Blood Washed Multitude" that comes out of the "Tribulation," after the Church is caught out. These will all be "Blessed", but they will not be a part of the Bride. Angels will be spectators of the scene, but they cannot be "Guests," that honor is reserved for those who have been redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb

The "MISSION" of the Church.

As we have seen the Church is not an "Organization" but an "Organism.' Therefore, it is not a "Social Club, " organized and supported solely for the benefit of its members. It is not a "Place of Amusement" to pander to the carnal nature of man. It is not a "House of Merchandise" for the sale of "Indulgences, " or other commodities, whereby the money of the ungodly can be secured to save the penurious church member a little self-sacrifice. Neither is it a "Reform Bureau" to save the "bodies" of men. The reformation of men is very commendable, as are all forms of "Social Service, " but that is not the work or mission of the Church. The world was just as full, if not fuller, of the evils that afflict society today, in the days of Christ, but He never, nor did the Apostles, organize any reform agencies. He knew that the source of all the evils in the world is SIN, and the only way to eradicate sin is to Regenerate the Human Heart, and so He gave to the world The Gospel, and the Mission of the Church is to carry that Gospel to the Whole World. Mark 16:15. The Gospel is not a system of "Ethics," or a "Code of Morals," it is a

Proclamation of Salvation.

"I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ
For It Is
THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION
To Everyone That Believeth
To The Jew FIRST
And Also To The Greek (Gentile)."
Rom. 1:16.

The purpose of the Gospel in this Dispensation is not to **Save Society**, but to save the **Individual Members** that are to compose the **'Body of Christ''-THE CHURCH.**

The great mistake the Church has made is in appropriating to herself, in this Dispensation, the promises of earthly conquest and glory which belong exclusively to Israel in the Millennial, or "Kingdom Age." As soon as the Church enters into an "Alliance with the World," and seeks the help of Parliaments, Congresses, Legislatures, Federations and Reform Societies, largely made up of ungodly men and women, she loses her spiritual power and becomes helpless as a redeeming force.

Y. The "DESTINY" of the Church.

(Larkin page 78)

The Church is to be "caught out." The "event" will be twofold.

- 1. Of the Dead in Christ.
- 2. Of the Living Saints.

They are to be caught up simultaneously to meet the Lord in the air

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel (Michael), and with the Trump of God: and the

'Dead In Christ' shall

rise first: then we which

'Are Alive and Remain'

shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, **To Meet the Lord IN THE AIR:** and so, shall we ever be with the Lord." 1Thes. 4:16-17.

The "taking up" of Enoch in the days before the Flood (Gen. 5: 24), and of Elijah in the days of the kings of Israel (2Kings 2:11), are types of the "Translation" of the Saints, the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the Mt. of Transfiguration with Christ (Luke 9:28-31), is a type of the

"Rapture of the Church."

It pictures the meeting of Christ and the Church in the air. Moses is a type of the "Resurrected Saints," and Elijah of the "Translated Saints." Jesus revealed to Martha, before He raised Lazarus, what should happen at the First Resurrection. He said to her,

"I am the 'Resurrection and Life,' he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: (First Resurrection Saints); and whosoever LIVETH, (is alive when I come back) and believeth in Me shall NEVER DIE." John 11:25, 26.

Note how exactly this harmonizes with Paul's statement in 1Thes. 4:16-17. When Jesus comes back, will He be the "Resurrection" to the "**Dead in Christ**," and the "**Life**" to those who are "**Living**" and **Believe in Him**.

In his immortal chapter on the Resurrection, 1Cor. 15:1-58, after describing the "order" of the Resurrection (verses 22-24), Paul proceeds to describe what shall happen to the "living saints."

"Behold, I show you a **Mystery**, we shall not all **Sleep**, but we shall **All Be Changed** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the **dead** shall be **raised**, and **we** shall be **changed**. For this **Corruptible** (the dead in Christ) must put on incorruption, and this mortal (the living saints) must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on **incorruption**, and this **mortal** shall have put on **immortality**, **then** shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, **DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY.**

"O DEATH, WHERE IS THY STING? O GRAVE, WHERE IS THY VICTORY?"

1Cor. 15:51-57.

The last two lines refer only to those who are "changed without dying," for it is only those who will not die who can shout,

"O Death, Where Is Thy Sting? "O Grave, Where Is Thy Victory?"

This passage also corresponds with 1Thes. 4:16-17 and declares that the "Resurrection" and "Translation" of the Saints shall be at the **same time**, and in a **moment**, in the **twinkling of an eye**, and agrees with Christ's statement as to its "suddenness." "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the **coming of the Son of Man Be**." Matt. 24:27.

In 2Cor. 5:1-4, Paul expresses his longing, and the longing of the Saints, to be among those who should not be "unclothed" by Death, but who should be "clothed upon" by Immortality "without dying."

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle, (the body), were dissolved, (that is die), we have a building of God, and a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens. For in this (body) we groan, earnestly desiring to be 'clothed upon' with our house which is from heaven: if so, be that being 'clothed' we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle (the body) do groan, being burdened; not for that we would be 'unclothed' (by death), but 'clothed upon' (by immortality), that 'mortality' might be "swallowed up of life."

In his letter to the Philippians, while Paul hopes that,

"If by any means he may attain unto **the** (rather from among the dead) **Resurrection**, yet he pressed toward the mark for the '**prize**' of the **High** (out and up) **Calling** of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:11-14.

That is, while Paul would esteem it a great thing to "rise from the dead" at the First Resurrection and be "caught up" with those who should be "changed," yet he would esteem it a "prize" if he could be caught up "without dying," that is, live until Jesus came back.

The Time of Rapture.

Some claim that "all" the Church are to pass through the Tribulation; others that "all" the Church are to be caught out before the Tribulation, while some claim that only the "Waiting" and "Watching" Saints shall be caught out before the Tribulation, and that the

rest must pass through it. The latter base their claim on Heb. 9:28, where it says, "Unto them that **look for** Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation." While this might apply to the **living** when He appears, it certainly cannot apply to the dead. There are tens and hundreds of thousands who "fell asleep in Jesus" who never heard of the Premillennial Coming of the Lord, or at least never grasped its meaning, and who therefore never "watched" and "waited" and "looked" for His Appearing. They surely are "In Christ"; and the "Dead in Christ" are to rise at the Rapture. Paul does not say in 1Thes. 4:16-17, that it will be the "dead" who "watched" and "waited" and "looked, " and those who are "alive" and "watch" and "look" for His Appearing that shall be "caught out, " but the dead "In **Christ**, " and we who "**Are Alive** and **Remain**."

The order of the Resurrections is, "Christ the 'First Fruits, ' afterward they that 'are Christ's at His Coming." Paul says, "Behold, I show you a Mystery: we shall not all 'sleep, ' but we shall ALL Be Changed." 1Cor. 15:51.

Then there is another fact that we must not forget, and that is, the **Unity** of the Church.

"For as the **Body Is One**, and hath many members, and **ALL the Members of That One Body**, **Being Many ARE ONE BODY**; so also, is Christ. For by **One Spirit** are we **ALL Baptized into One Body**." 1Cor. 12:12-13.

All then who have been "born again" (John 3:3-7) are part of Christ's "Body," and we cannot conceive of Christ's "Body" being divided; part of it remaining "asleep" in the grave, and part of it "raised in glory"; part of it left to pass through the Tribulation, and part of it "changed" and caught up to meet Him in the air.

If "all" the Church are to pass through the Tribulation, then instead of waiting and watching "for the Lord," we should be waiting and watching "for the Tribulation" which is contrary to the teaching of Christ Himself. Matt. 24:42-44. The Tribulation is not for the perfecting "of the Saints." It has nothing to do with the Church. It is the time of "Jacob's Trouble" (Jer. 30:7), and is the "Judgment of Israel," and it is God's purpose to keep the **Church Out of It**. Rev. 2:10. The Book of Revelation is written in chronological order. After the fourth chapter the Church is seen no longer upon the earth until she appears in the nineteenth chapter coming with the Bridegroom "from" Heaven. The entire time between these two chapters is filled with appalling judgments that fall upon those that "dwell on the earth," and as the Church is not of the earth, but is supposed to "sit together in, "Heavenly Places" in Christ Jesus, " (Eph. 2:6), she will not be among those who "dwell on the earth" in those days.

Rapture And Revelation.

The confusion is largely due to the fact that students of Prophetic Truth do not distinguish between Christ's coming "for" His Saints, and "with" His Saints. The former is called the "Rapture" the latter the "Revelation." Between the two there is an interval of at least seven years, during which the Church is "judged," and the "Marriage of the Lamb" takes place in the heavenlies, and on the earth Antichrist manifests himself and the Tribulation runs its course.

Numerous passages in scripture speak of Christ coming "with" His Saints (Zech. 14:5, Col. 3:4, 1Thes. 3:13, 4:14, Jude 14), but it is evident that they cannot come "with" Him, if they had not been previously caught out "to" Him. All such passages refer therefore to the "Revelation" and not the "Rapture."

The typical teaching of Scripture demands that the Church be caught out "before" the Tribulation. Joseph was a type of Christ, and he was espoused to, and married Asenath, a Gentile bride, during the time of his "rejection by his brethren," and "before the famine," which typified the Tribulation, because it was the time of "Judgment of his Brethren." This is the time of Christ's rejection by "His Brethren" the Jews, and to complete the type He must get His Bride the church, "before" the Tribulation. Moses, who is also a type of Christ, got his bride, and she a Gentile, "after" his rejection by his brethren, and "before" they passed through the Tribulation under Pharoah. Ex. 2:23-25. Enoch, a type of the "Translation Saints," was caught out "before" the Flood, and the Flood is a type of the Tribulation, and Noah and his family of the "Jewish Remnant" or 144, 000 sealed ones of Rev. 7:1-8, who will be preserved through the Tribulation.

The Rapture.

The "Rapture" will be the most startling "event" of this Age and Dispensation. As it is to occur in the "**twinkling of an eye**" and **all over the earth at the same time**, that part of the world that is not asleep will witness the event. As to the "**Shout of the Lord**," the "**Voice of the Archangel**, " and the "**Trump of God**" we do not know whether their sound will be heard and distinguished by others than the "dead in Christ" and the "living saints." We know that one day the Father spoke to Christ in a voice that He understood, but the people who stood by mistook it for "thunder." John 12:28-29. When the Lord appeared to Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus and spoke to him, the men that journeyed with him stood speechless, "hearing a voice, " but seeing no man, and not understanding what was said. Acts 9:3-7. We know, however, that the "dead in Christ" will hear the sound, for it will be "intensely penetrating."

There will be no graves so deep, no catacombs so rock covered, no pyramids or mausoleums so thick, but what the sound shall reach their depths and the "dead in Christ" shall hear the cry "awake ye sleeping saints and arise from the dead, it is MORNING, the morning of the FIRST RESURRECTION."

The Voice of The Archangel.

The statement in Dan. 12:1- 2 that Michael (the Great Prince) will be busy helping Daniel's People (the Jews), at the time of the Second Coming of Christ, and that there will be an "out from among the dead resurrection" at that time; and the fact that Michael the Archangel contended with the Devil about the dead body of Moses when it was raised from the dead, as we are told in Jude 9, makes it clear that Michael the Archangel will have a part to play in the resurrection of the dead at the Rapture. The "voice" of the Archangel then will be the "voice" of Michael, for he is the only Archangel mentioned in the Scriptures.

As Satan tried to prevent the resurrection of the body of Moses, and as he will not be cast out of the Heavenlies until "after" the First Resurrection, the inference is that he will try to prevent the resurrection of the "dead in Christ," and that he will be opposed by Michael at the head of "Armies of Heaven," and that the "voice of the Archangel" refers to his commands to the Heavenly Army.

The Trump of God.

What is meant by the "Trump of God" is not so clear. That there is a Trumpet to sound at the "first" Resurrection is certain, for Paul mentions it in his discourse on the Resurrection in 1 Cor. 15:52 and calls it the "Last Trump." Some hold that Paul refers to the last of the "Seven Trumpets" mentioned in the Book of Revelation (Rev. 8:1-2, 6; 10:7), and as that does not sound until the "Middle of the Week," that therefore the Church is not caught out until the "Middle of the Week."

But as the Church is to be caught out at the "beginning" of the Week then the above statement cannot be true. What then is meant by the "Last Trump?"

The Trumpet is a military instrument. It was used in the Camp of Israel to call the Assembly together. The First Trumpet called them to arise and be ready to depart, the Second (last) Trumpet was the signal to march. When God descended upon Mt. Sinai the people were assembled at the sound of the "Trumpet of God." Ex. 19:9-11, 16-18. And when God was ready to speak to the people it sounded the second time (verse 19). It has been suggested that the descent of God to Mt. Sinai is a type of the "Descent of the Lord" into the

Air to meet His Church, and that at the sounding of the First Trumpet, the "dead in Christ" will be raised, and at the sounding of the Second (last) Trumpet, the "living Saints" will be changed and together with the risen dead ascend to meet the Lord. The probability of this is seen in the fact that the "Last Trump" is connected with the "changing" of the living Saints, rather than with the resurrection of the dead. 1Cor. 15:51-52.

We know that the "Elect of Israel" are to be gathered back to their own land with a "great sound of a trumpet." Matt. 24:30-31. This will occur at the

"Feast of Trumpets"

(the Jewish New Year) at the close of the Tribulation Period. The "Feast of Trumpets" was associated with the "Feast of Tabernacles" and occurred in the fall of the year, and as Jesus was crucified at the time of the "Passover Feast," and the Holy Spirit was given at the time of the "Feast of Pentecost," it has been suggested, that as Jesus will reveal Himself to His brethren, the Jews, at the "Feast of Tabernacles," a type of Israel's rest in the Millennial Land, that He will call out His Church with the "sound of a Trumpet" at the "Feast of Trumpets" seven years before the "Elect of Israel" are called out. This, however, is mere speculation.

If the sainted dead shall slip out of their sepulchers without disturbing them, as Christ arose and left the tomb without breaking the seal, the angel rolling away the stone simply to show that the tomb was empty, the First Resurrection will be secret and probably unknown to the world, but it will not be so with the "Living Saints" who are translated. If it is night on our side of the earth when the Rapture occurs, the community will wake up in the morning to find all the real Christians gone, disappeared in the night. The world will awake to the fact that the Bible is true, and the much-despised doctrine of the Premillennial Coming of the Lord to gather out His Saints is no fanciful interpretation of Scripture.

"I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed: the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left." Luke 17:34-36.

Here we have the "rotundity" of the Earth taught by Christ before it was demonstrated by Columbus. Two in one bed, that means night; two grinding grain for the morning or evening meal, that means sunrise or sunset; two in the field, that means midday, and this

is another proof that when the Rapture occurs it will be instantaneous, in the "twinkling of an eye," and shall girdle the earth like lightning.

If it is the day with us when the Rapture occurs the event will be "startling." As it was in the days of Noah (Matt. 24:36-39), the people will be eating and drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage, buying and selling, planting and building. If it is at a pleasant time of the year, the boats, and cars, and parks, will be filled with pleasure seekers. If it be in the midst of the week and during the business hours of the day, the shops and stores and mills will be filled with toilers and shoppers, and the streets of the cities lined with men-and women and children on pleasure and business bent. Suddenly a noise from heaven will be heard. To the vast majority it will be but a startling "sound," but to many it will be the

"Voice of The Lord."

When the people recover from their frightened condition, they will discover that a great many people are missing, and that the missing ones were the best people in the community.

Confusion for a time will reign. The working force in the stores, banking institutions, manufacturing plants, and other places of business will find their force depleted by the loss of faithful employees. Streetcar lines and other means of transportation will be blocked owing to a shortage of men. At first, the whole thing will be a Mystery, until someone who has heard of the Doctrine of the "Rapture" explains the situation. The surprise will be that so many professing Christians are left behind, among them many ministers of the Gospel, while many who were not known to be Christian will be missing.

For a few days the excitement will be intense. Then the people will settle down to the inevitable. With the exception of a few who will repent and turn to God, the mass of the people will become more hardened and wicked. As the Holy Spirit will have gone back with the "Raptured Ones," and the Saints, the "salt" of the earth, been taken out, there will be nothing to prevent the rapid degeneration and "Moral Putrefaction" of those who are "left," and sin and iniquity and all manner of crime and worldliness will increase and pave the way for the manifestation of Antichrist, under whose administration the world will rapidly ripen for judgment.

VI. The "Judgment" of the Church.

After the Church has been taken out of the World it is to be "judged." Not for sin, but for works, at the "Judgment Seat of Christ." See judgment No. 2, in the Chapter on "The judgments," and on the Chart of "The Resurrections and judgments."

VH. The "MARRIAGE" of the Church.

The "Marriage" of the Church is prophetically- referred to by Jesus in the Parable of the "Marriage of the King's Son" (Matt. 22:1-3) and is consummated in Rev. 19:7-9.

"Let us be glad and rejoice and give honor to Him; for the

'Marriage of the Lamb'

is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white. for the fine linen is the righteousness of Saints. And he saith unto me, write, **Blessed are they which are called unto the MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB**."

Notice that it does not say the "Marriage of the Bride," but the "Marriage of the **LAMB**." That grand event will be not so much the consummation of the hopes of the bride, as it will be the consummation of the plan **of God for His Son**, arranged for **before the foundation of the World**. Eph. 1:4. The "Marriage of the Lamb" is the consummation of the joy of Christ as a **MAN**. It would not have been possible if Christ had not been born **in the flesh**. Otherwise, it would have been the union of "dissimilar natures" for the "Bride" is of "human origin." This is why Jesus took His "human nature" back with Him to Heaven, and today we have in Heaven the **MAN** Christ Jesus. 1Tim. 2:5.

While the "Bride" was chosen for Christ "before the foundation of the world," the "espousal" could not take place until Christ assumed humanity and ascended to Heaven as the Man Christ Jesus. There have been many long betrothals, but Christ's has been the longest on

record. He has been waiting for His Bride over 2000 years, but He will not have to wait much longer. Soon Heaven shall resound with the cry,

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him, for the Marriage of the Lamb is Come." Rev. 19:7.

There have been many royal weddings of international interest, where the invited guests and spectators witnessed a spectacle magnificent in its appointments and rejoiced in a union that bound together different nations. But the wedding of the Lamb and His Bride the Church will surpass them all, for it shall unite Heaven and Earth in a bond that shall never be broken, for what God (the Father) shall join together, no man shall ever put asunder, and that union no divorce shall ever break.

The Bride shall be "arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; for the fine linen is the righteousness of Saints." Rev. 19:7-8. The word "righteousness" is plural and should read righteousness's." Not the imputed righteousness of Christ, but the "righteous acts and works" of the saints themselves, that shall remain after they have passed through the "fiery test" of the "Judgment for Works" at the "Judgment Seat of Christ." 1Cor. 3:11-15. What a contrast there will be between the purple and scarlet colored dress, and jewel bedecked person, of the "Harlot Wife" of Antichrist (Rev. 17:3-4), and the spotless white robe of fine linen of the Bride of the Lamb.

After the Marriage, the Heavenly Bridegroom, having received His Kingdom, will return to this earth where He bled and died, and from whence He got His Bride, and the Lord God will give unto Him the "Throne of David," and He shall reign on the earth for a **Thousand Years**." What a sweet and delightful "**Honey-Moon**" that will be. But it will end, not for the Bridegroom and the Bride, but for the earth, by their return to the Father's House. Then after the earth has had its "Baptism of Fire," they will return with the descent of the "Holy City" to abide on the New Earth forever. See the chart on "The Church."



He is Coming



He is coming, coming for us;
Soon we'll see His light afar,
On the dark horizon rising,
As the Bright and Morning- Star,
Cheering many a waking watcher,
As the star whose kindly ray
Heralds the approaching morning
Just before the break of day.
Oh! what joy, as night hangs round us,
'Tis to think of morning's ray;
Sweet to know He's coming for us,
Just before the break of day.

He is coming, coming for us;

Soon we'll hear His voice on high;

Dead and living, rising, changing,

In the twinkling of an eye

Shall be caught up altogether,

For the meeting in the air;

With a shout the Lord, descending,

Shall Himself await us there.

Oh! what joy that great foregathering,

Trusted meeting in the air;

Sweet to know He's coming for us,

Calling us to join Him there.

He is coming as the Bridegroom,
Coming to unfold at last
The great secret of His purpose,
Mystery of ages past.
And the Bride, to her is granted
In His beauty now to shine,
As in rapture she exclaimeth,
"I am His and He is mines'
Oh! what joy that marriage union,
Mystery of love divine;
Sweet to sing in all its fulness,
"I am His and He is mine."



Chapter 12 The King (Larkin Page 82)



If it is the purpose of God to set up a Kingdom on this earth, the question naturally arises who is to be the King. Is there any intimation in the Scriptures as to who he shall be? In the Old Testament we have a "Prophetic Portrait" of the King, and in the New Testament the "Historic Portrait." These correspond as the die to the matrix. As the cartoonist first outlines his picture and then fills in the details, it is the Divine method of revelation to begin with an outline, and then gradually fill in its details until we have the complete picture.

The first outline of the "Prophetic Portrait" of the King we find in the book of Genesis. The Lord God said unto the Serpent.

"I will put enmity between **you** and the **woman**, and between **your seed** and **her seed**; it shall bruise your **head**, and you shall bruise his **heel**." Gen. 3:15.

Here we have a reference to some future "descendant" of the woman who should be victorious over the Serpent. How luminous this becomes in the light of the New Testament's statements as to Christ's final victory over Satan.



<u>Comment</u>: In Gen. 3:15 we find the first prophetic statement of future events, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed;" This is called "**The Mother Prophecy**," because it tells of the beginning of all human wars and sufferings and of the Kingdoms of Men. It is still happening in today's world, when Jesus spoke of the "Wars and rumors of wars, to come and into the Tribulation.

End Comment:

We have to wait for 1700 years, until after the Flood, for our second outline of the "Prophetic Portrait," when God tells us in Gen. 9:26-27, that the promised seed of the woman shall come through the line of Shem.

The third outline is given 400 years later, when God singles out Abraham to be the father of the race from whom the King shall come. Gen. 12:1-3. At that time Abraham had no heir, and humanly speaking there was no likelihood of his having one, so Abraham besought the Lord that his steward Eliezer, who had been born in his house, should be his heir, but God said, "he shall not be thine heir, but he that shall come forth out of 'thine own bowels' shall be thine heir." Gen. 15, 1-4. Now Sarah, Abraham's wife was "past age," and the only solution of the problem to her was that Abraham should take her handmaid, Hagar, an Egyptian, as his wife, to which Abraham consented, and in due time Ishmael was born to Abraham of Hagar. Gen. 16:1-16. This pleased Abraham and he said unto God: "O that Ishmael might live before you! " And God said,

Genesis 17:18-21, ¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before You!" ¹⁹ But God said, "No, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his ^[b]descendants after him. ²⁰ As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I will bless him, and make him fruitful and multiply him exceedingly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. ²¹ But I will establish My covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year."

Here again we see the principle of selection, or limitation. If in the days of Christ an Ishmaelite had claimed to be the Messiah because he was a "lineal descendant of Abraham," his claim would have been rejected because the Messiah was to come from Abraham through Isaac.

In course of time Isaac was married and unto him and Rebekah twin sons were born, Esau and Jacob. Then another choice had to be made, and at Bethel God revealed to Jacob that he was the one chosen. Gen. 28:10-15. Here we see that the Abrahamic Covenant passes over Esau, the "first-born," and falls on Jacob. No descendant of Esau therefore may claim the Messianic title.

To Jacob twelve sons were born, to which one shall the promise descend? To Reuben, the first-born, or to Joseph, the favorite? To our surprise God chooses neither, but selects Judah, the fourth son of Leah.

"Judah, you are he whom your brethren shall praise; your hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; your father's children shall bow down before you. . .. The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet

UNTIL SHILOH COMES.

and unto **Him** shall the gathering of the people be." Gen. 49:8-10.

Here the promise gains in finality. The Messiah must come through **Judah**, not through Levi, the ancestor of the Priestly order. The word "scepter" indicates Kingly power, and the word "Shiloh" (meaning "gift of God," and/or "peaceful one) is a name for the Messiah.

The promise now skips 475 years to the time of David, who was of the tribe of Judah. God said to David, through Nathan the prophet,

"Your **House** and your **Kingdom** shall be established **forever** before you; your **throne** shall be established **forever**." 2Sam. 7:16.

This promise God afterward confirmed with an oath, saying,

"I have made a Covenant with my chosen, I have **sworn** unto David my servant, your **seed** will I establish forever, and build up your **throne** to all generations . . . Once have **I sworn by My Holiness** that I will not lie unto David. His **seed** shall endure **forever**, and his throne **as the sun before ME**. It shall be established **forever as the moon**, and **as a faithful witness in heaven.**" Psa. 89:3, 4, 35-37.

This Covenant was unconditional and was reaffirmed to Israel through Jeremiah the prophet, many years after David's death when Israel had lapsed into idolatry (Jer. 33:17-20), in which God promised that David should never want a **man** (son) to sit upon **his throne forever.**

That these promises did not mean, as we now see, that there should be an "unbroken" line of successors on David's throne, is clear from the fact that, after Solomon, the kingdom was divided. and in B.C. 587 the last king of Judah was carried captive to Babylon. Jeremiah refers to a "future" king that God would raise up to sit on the "Throne of David."

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous **Branch**, and a **King** shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and 'justice in the earth. In **His days** Judah shall be **saved**, and Israel shall **dwell safely**, and this is his name whereby he shall be called-**THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**." Jer. 23:5-6.

When we compare this prophecy with Isa. 11:1-2

"There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a **Branch** shall grow out of his **roots**; and the **Spirit of the Lord** shall rest upon Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord, "and note the word "**Branch**" that is common to both, and then note the last words of Isaiah's prophecy-"The **Spirit of the Lord** shall rest upon him, etc, " and recall Luke's description of the Child Jesus" And the Child grew, and waxed strong in Spirit, filled with wisdom; and the Grace of God was upon Him, "Luke 2:40, we have no difficulty in identifying who the Prophet meant.

But the Messiah was not only to come from the line so clearly marked out in the Old Testament Scriptures. He was also to be of

Divine Parentage.

How this could be was a riddle until the Prophet Isaiah solved it by saying,

"Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel" Isa. 7:14.

An obscure passage in Jer. 31:22 may refer to the same event "A **woman** shall encompass a man." That is, a woman shall enclose in her womb a "man-child" without human parentage. Later Isaiah says,

" For unto us a **Child is born**, unto us a **Son** is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called **Wonderful**, **Counsellor**, **the Mighty God**, **the Everlasting Father**, **the Prince of Peace**. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the

Throne of David,

and upon his **Kingdom**, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth, even **forever.**" Isa. 9:6-7.

Where is the key that will unlock this passage? Listen.

"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the

House of David.

and the virgin's name was Mary . . . And the angel said unto her, "Fear not, Mary; for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, you shall conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a **son**, and shall call His name **Jesus**. He shall be great and shall be called the **Son of the Highest** and the Lord God shall give unto Him

The Throne of His Father David

and He shall **reign** over the **House of Jacob** (Israel) **FOREVER**; and of His Kingdom **There Shall Be NO END**." Luke 1:26-33.

That this was not to be a natural birth after marriage with Joseph, is clear from the fact that when Joseph learned of Mary's condition he was minded to put her away privately, but was told not to do so by the angel Gabriel, for that which was conceived in her was of the Holy Ghost. Matt. 1:18-20. This is confirmed by the words of Gabriel to Mary herself.

"The **Holy Ghost** shall come upon you, and the power of **THE HIGHEST** shall overshadow you; therefore, also that **Holy** Thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the **SON OF GOD**." Luke 1:35.

Some have maintained that the Prophet Isaiah in his prophecy, "Behold a 'virgin' shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel; " referred to some maiden of his own time, but this is refuted by Matthew, who says "Now all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

"Behold, a **virgin** shall be with child and shall bring forth a **son**, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is **God with Us**." Matt. 1:23.

The "Virgin Birth" of Jesus is still further confirmed by the statement of Matthew that Joseph "knew her not" until she had brought forth her firstborn son. Matt. 1:24-25.

The promise in Gen. 3:15 was to be fulfilled through the "**seed of the woman**." The word "seed" is always in the Scriptures, with this exception, the "seed" can only be applied to the "male" of man and beast. However, the promise of Gen. 3:15 could only be fulfilled, as Luke tells us it was, by Mary being with child by the Holy Ghost.

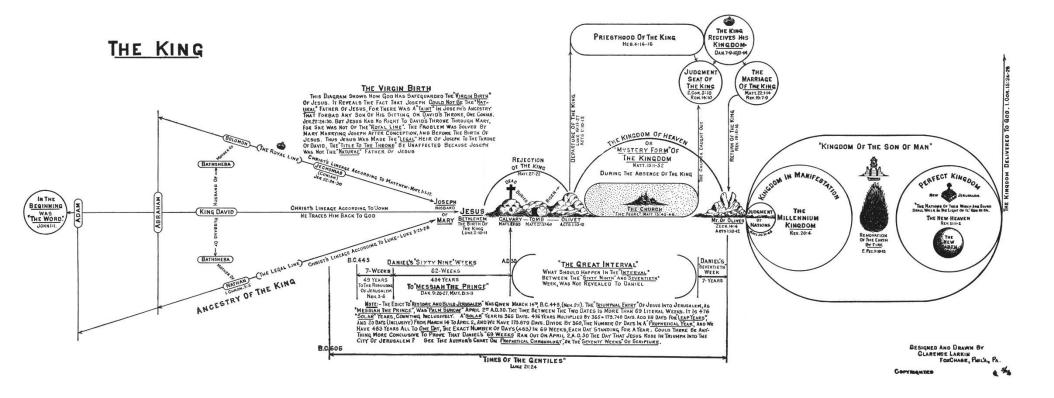
We may have no difficulty in tracing the ancestry of Jesus, two genealogical tables are given us. <u>The first</u>, in Matthew (Mat.1:1-17), is of **Joseph**, and traces Jesus' ancestry back to Abraham. In v17 we read "Thus there were **fourteen** generations in all from Abraham to David, **fourteen** from David to the exile to Babylon, and **fourteen** from the exile to the Messiah.

So why 14 generations? In the Hebrew alphabet each of the 22 letters that make up their alphabet has a corresponding number assigned to it, this is known as the "**gematria.**" Although Matthew writes in Greek, it is easy to see which Hebrew consonants stand behind the Greek spelling of David's name that he uses. The three Hebrew consonants of David's name (represented in English by D-V-D) their gematria equivalents are 4, 6, and 4, which when added together equals **fourteen**. So, by giving us fourteen generations in each period, Matthew is calling attention to David as a crucial figure in the story of Israel.

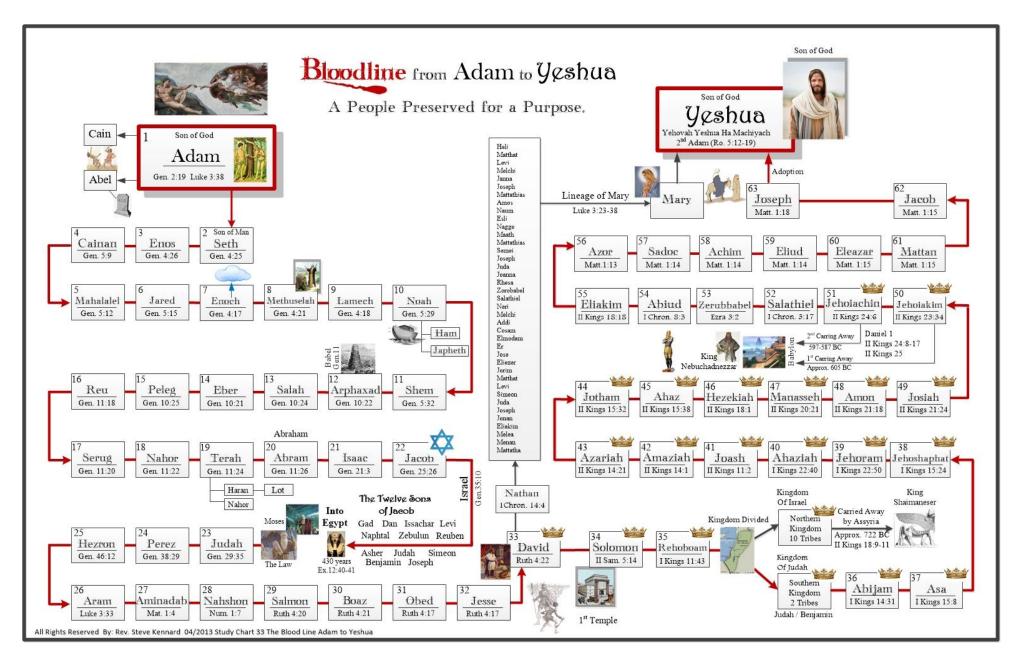
<u>The second</u>, tracing of the ancestry we find in the Gospel of Luke, and it is of Mary (Luke 3:23-31) The Chart below on "The King, traces Jesus' ancestry back to Adam." A careful examination of these genealogies shows what a safeguard God placed on the birth of Jesus and how careful He was to see that the Scriptures were literally fulfilled in Him. Matthew traces the genealogy of Jesus back to David, through Solomon; Luke traces it back to David through Nathan.

The fact that there are similar names in the two tables presents no difficulty as such a thing is common in tracing any long line of descent. Again, the statement in Matthew (Mt.1:16) that "Jacob begat Joseph, the husband of Mary," and the statement in Luke (Lu.3:23) that Joseph was (as supposed) the son of Heli is easily reconciled, for Joseph could not be the son of **both Jacob and Heli**. The fact that the translators of the King James version use the word "*supposed*" and that the word "*son*" is in italics (which indicates that it is not in the original but is placed there to make sense), shows that some other word could be inserted that would make sense,

and that word is "son-in-law," and so it should read, "Joseph which was the 'son-in-law' of Heli." This makes the genealogy of Luke, that of Mary, for two genealogies so clearly unalike, that they both could not be the genealogy of Joseph.



- Clarence Larkin Chart "The King" at https://www.blueletterbible.org/images/larkin/
- A larger genealogical record can be found in 1 CHRONICLES 1



Link to the above chart at https://www.innercirclestudies.com/_files/ugd/12d364_ec0e64bfe5be4869887ed268fbba6cec.pdf

Matthew

But why two lines of descent, one through Nathan and the other through Solomon? Why was not Mary's genealogy sufficient? During King David's residence at Hebron, while he was as yet only the king of Judah, six sons were born to him. Of these, three appear to have died in infancy. Of the other three, Amnon was murdered, Absalom perished while in rebellion against his father, and Adonijah, having attempted to usurp the throne, was subsequently put to death by Solomon. The right of succession to the crown was thus secured to the sons of David born "after" he was enthroned king over all Israel.

The children that were born to David after he was crowned king over all Israel are also enumerated. 1Chron. 3:1-9. Of these, two only need be mentioned, Nathan and Solomon. Solomon, as we know, succeeded his father as king, but Nathan was older than Solomon, and on that ground might have contested Solomon's right of succession, though we are not told that he did. Nevertheless, Solomon's title had the shadow of Nathan's claim upon it, and that there should be no cloud upon Jesus' title to- the "Throne of David," God ordained that Mary, the mother of Jesus, should be a direct descendant of David through Nathan, the "legal heir" to the throne. But Jesus had no right to David's Throne through Mary, for she was not in the "Kingly Line" of descent through Solomon. How then was Jesus' right to David's Throne to be brought about? Only by **marriage**.

Here we see the wonderful way in which God safeguarded the "Virgin Birth" of Jesus. He saw to it that Mary married (after conception) a man who could not be the natural father of Jesus, because of a taint or defect in his ancestry.

Joseph was a lineal descendant of David through the "Kingly Line" of Solomon, but in that line, there was one Jechonias (Matt.1:11-12), called in Jer. 22:24-26, Coniah, of whom God had said,

"No man of his (Coniah's seed) shall prosper, sitting upon the 'Throne of David' and ruling any more in Judah."

So, we see that Joseph could not be the "natural" father of Jesus, for no descendant of his could sit on the Throne of David and "prosper." This forever sets at rest the claim that Joseph was the "natural" father of Jesus and establishes the fact of His "Virgin Birth."

The marriage of Joseph and Mary made Jesus the adopted son and "legal heir" of Joseph. The title, unaffected by the curse pronounced upon Coniah, was thus conveyed to Jesus, in whom there centers, through both Nathan and Solomon, exclusive right to the "Throne of David."

That there might be no question as to Joseph's and Mary's ancestors, God, when the time came for Jesus to be born, put it into the heart of the Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus, to call for an enrollment, and this required that every Jewish citizen should be enrolled in the city where his family had lived, and as Joseph was of the "House and Lineage of David" (Luke 2:1-5), this required him to go to Bethlehem to be enrolled. And as Mary was of the same family, Joseph took her with him. They could not have been enrolled unless their names were **on the Register**,

and that they were enrolled proves that they could **at that time** trace their ancestry back to King David. It was doubtless from this register that Matthew and Luke got their genealogy.

If the claim of Jesus to the "Throne of David" had not been known in Jerusalem to be absolutely without a flaw, the Jews would have denounced Him as an imposter and pretender on the day He entered Jerusalem and was received with royal acclamation as the Son of David. Matt. 21:9-11. Up to the time of Jesus' rejection as King, all genealogical records were preserved in the Temple, and easily accessible to all the people, but when Titus in A. D. 70 destroyed the city and the Temple those records were all destroyed, and since that day the genealogical tables of Matthew and Luke alone remain to give us the lineal descent of Jesus from King David.

Therefore, the **only living man** who today can establish an **unbroken genealogy** directly and incontrovertibly from King David, is the MAN Christ Jesus, (1Tim. 2:5), born "King of the Jews," (Matt. 2:2), crucified "King of the Jews," (John 19:19), and to come again "King of the Jews."

It has been said that Jesus never claimed to be the "Messiah," but this is not true. He made the claim to the "Woman at the Well" (John 4:26), and to Pilate (John 18:33-35).

But the Old Testament Scriptures not only give the Messiah's ancestry, but the **time** and **place** of His birth. If we can locate the "time" of His birth, we shall have strong evidence of His identification. If, according to the Scriptures, He was to appear at the time Jesus

"did appear," and Jesus fulfilled the other scriptures relating to Him, then our identification of Jesus as the Messiah is beyond question.

In Dan. 9:24-25, we read that it was to be 69 Weeks from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the "Messiah the Prince." Now here is a definite period of time mentioned, "69 Weeks," and these weeks were to date from a certain edict, "The commandment to Restore and Rebuild Jerusalem." The date of this "commandment" is given in Neh. 2:1, as the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, which was the 14th day of March, B.C. 445. Now we found in the Chapter on "The Gentiles," under the head of "Prophetical Chronology," using the "Year Day Scale," that those "69 Weeks" expired within one day of April 2nd, A. D. 30, the day on which Jesus rode in triumph into Jerusalem as "Messiah the Prince."

If the students of prophecy of Jesus' day had been on the watch they would have known for a certainty whether Jesus was the Messiah or not; for in all probability they had among their archives a copy of the famous edict of Artaxerxes Longimanus, dated March 14, 'B. C. 445, and they could have computed from the prophecy of Daniel the year, if not the day, when "Messiah the Prince" would come. What a rebuke is this to the teachers and preachers of today who make light of the prophetical statements of God's word. The Second Coming of Jesus will find them just as much unprepared to receive Him, as the Jews were to receive Him at His First Coming.

But not only was the time of the Messiah's appearing given, but the place of His birth.

"But you, **Bethlehem Ephratah**, though you be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall he come forth unto me that is to be 'Ruler in Israel' whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." Micah 5:2.

This prophecy we know was literally fulfilled. There are **four** prophecies in reference to the origin of the Messiah that seemed irreconcilable previous to their fulfilment. They were, that he was to be born at Bethlehem, born of a Virgin, was to come out of Egypt, and that he should be called a Nazarene, and yet, as we know, every one of them was literally fulfilled in Jesus.

But the very passage from Daniel which gives us the "time" of the coming of "Messiah the Prince, " also tells us that almost immediately "**He Shall Be Cut Off, But Not for Himself**." Dan. 9:26. How then could the prophecy be fulfilled that declared that He was to be given the "Throne of David," and that He should reign over the "House of Jacob **forever**, and of His Kingdom there shall be **NO END**? There is but one answer. His coming was to be in Two Stages. He was to come first as a "**Suffering Savior**," and then as a

"King." Here is where the Jews of Jesus' day misread the Scriptures, they did not distinguish between the **Sufferings** of the Messiah and His **Glory**. 1Pet. 1:11. They could not understand how the Messiah was to be a mighty King and also be "cut off" for the sins and iniquities of His people. There was but one possible answer and that. was by **Resurrection**. They accepted Psa. 16, as Messianic, and yet did not see that it prophesied the "**Resurrection of Jesus**" in the words,

"Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell (Hades); neither wilt thou suffer thine 'Holy One' to see corruption." Psa. 16:10.

This passage Peter in his sermon on the Day of Pentecost, quoted saying that David, being a prophet, here speaks of the **Resurrection** of Christ, " and added, 'This **JESUS** hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses." Acts 2:25-32 There can be no question but what "**Jesus of Nazareth**" was the promised "**Son of David**," who is to reign upon the "**Throne of David**." But being rejected and crucified, and risen from the dead, He now sits on His Father's Throne until the time comes for Him to take the Kingdom. The "**Throne of David**" was **on the earth** and can never be anywhere else. To say that Christ now reigns on the "Throne of David," and that His Kingdom is "spiritual," is to subvert the meaning of the Old Testament prophecies. The "Throne of David" is now **vacant**, and has been for **2500 years**, but when the "Times of the Gentiles" have run their course, and the time has come to set up again the "Tabernacle (House) of David" which has fallen down (Acts 15:13-18), the "**Throne of David" will be reestablished and given to Christ.**

A Great Gift of Understanding



Comment:

While we are on the subject of Jesus as the King ... and He is, I thought it is good to share a very important fact. It is that Jesus / Yeshua King of Kings and Lord of Lords who came first to pay the price for the whole worlds sin, as He told Pilate. Just before He died, His last words were "It is finished" (Jn.19:30). The high price of man's sin has been paid.

But we still sin don't we, and there is a reason why. One day I just had to find out more and with a new desire to understand, I opened the books and lost myself in scripture. The Lord set my path, and my understanding found its resolution in the question of "What sin is." I told the Lord ... now I understand better, let me share what the King opened my eyes to see. It can be found in

THE ISSUE OF SIN,9

Where does my sin come from? To know the answer, you must first understand the greater question.

DID GOD CREATE SIN?

At first glance, it might seem that if God created all things, then evil must have been created by God. However, evil is not a "thing" like a rock or tree. You cannot have a jar of evil. Evil has no existence of its own; it is really the absence of good. For example, holes are real, but they only exist in something else. We call the absence of dirt a hole. Did God create the hole? The hole cannot be separated from the dirt, and if you put the dirt back in the hole then you stop having a hole.

To have a real choice, God had to allow created beings the ability to <u>not choose Him</u>. They could decide for themselves if they wanted to serve Him or not. That was the choice, <u>God or not God</u>, this is the ultimate decision man can make. When we choose God and the things of God it is considered righteousness. When we do not choose God in a particular matter, or a life decision, we are in affect choosing ourselves, this is our sin. Putting ourselves or anything else in the place where God should be. Sin (evil) is not a "thing" that required God to create it.

Perhaps a further illustration will help. If a person is asked, "Does cold exist?" the answer would likely be "yes." However, this is incorrect. Cold does not exist. Cold is the absence of heat. Similarly, darkness does not exist; it is the absence of light. Evil is the absence of good, or better stated, evil is the absence of God. God did not have to create evil, but rather only allow for the absence of good in the choices made. It started first with the angels, at least 1/3rd of them when given a choice, choose Lucifer over God. We do the same thing when we choose ourselves over God's we for us.

If God had not allowed for the possibility of evil, both mankind and angels would be serving God out of obligation, not choice. He did not want "robots" that simply did what He wanted them to do because of their "programming." God allowed for the possibility of "the wrong choice," so that we could genuinely have a free will and choose whether or not we wanted to serve Him.

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⁹ https://gotquestions.org/did-God-create-evil.html

As finite human beings, we can never fully understand an infinite God.

Romans 11:33-34 (NASB), ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! ³⁴ For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?

One of life's most important lessons we all need to learn is simply this, "Our lives are not all about us." It's not about you, your wants, your desires, selfish gain at the expense of others. This is then the great sin, the evil inside, that we put ourselves first and others last or not at all. Those kinds of choices reveal our true nature, selfish and self-serving. Why do we make such choices ... it's because God lets us have free will. We are free to choose Him, every day in every part of our life, or we can choose ourselves and we live with the results of that decision.

What do you choose today?

The understanding of something old, that has been made new. Now our thoughts can be more in line with scripture, a light has just come on in our understanding ... my next thought was ... "It's not about me."

The sin question has been answered.

Jesus is certainly the King of my life; He knows our names ... amazing.

One day in the Kingdom, we shall see Him face to face.

End Comment:



Chapter 13 The Kingdom

(Larkin Page 85)



Kingdom of God ...



It is clear from the Scriptures that God has been trying to set up a "visible" Kingdom on this earth ever since the creation of man, to whom He gave dominion. Gen. 1:26-28. But that dominion was lost by the "Fall," and Satan set himself up as the "Prince of this world." Matt. 4:8-10; John 14:30.

In the "Call" of Abraham God took the first step toward the setting up of a "visible" Kingdom on this earth, which assumed an outward form in, the "Jewish Commonwealth," under Moses, and during the administration of Moses, Joshua, the Elders that outlived Joshua, the Judges, David, Solomon, the kings of Israel and Judah down to the Babylonian Captivity, God reigned through these men under the form of a "Theocracy."

Under the Judgeship of Samuel there was a revolt against the "Theocracy," and Saul was chosen by the people as King. 1Sam. 8:6-7. This was followed by God's selection of David. But the misrule of his successors, and the idolatry of the people, caused the cessation of the Theocratic reign in B.C. 606, and the "Times of the Gentiles" began.

1. The Kingdom at Hand.

But when 600 years of the "Times of the Gentiles" had run their course, God again made the attempt to set up His Kingdom on the earth, and the angel Gabriel announced to Mary the birth of the King. Luke 1:26-33.

Thirty years later the Kings forerunner, John the Baptist, announced that the Kingdom was "at hand," (Matt. 3:1-2); and when the King manifested Himself to Israel, He Himself made the same announcement, (Matt. 4:17-23), and later He sent out the "Twelve," (Matt. 10:7), and the "Seventy-two" to proclaim the same thing. Luke 10:1-9.

But the King was rejected and crucified, and the setting up of the Kingdom postponed, and the Kingdom took on its "Mystery Form" under the name of the "Kingdom of Heaven."

Here we must distinguish between the "**Kingdom of God**" and the "Kingdom of Heaven." The "<u>Kingdom of God</u>" is the "Reign of God" in the Universe over all His created creatures, and includes time and eternity, heaven and earth. It is **spiritual** and "**comes not with observation.**" Luke 17:20, 17:21. It is entered by the "New Birth," (John 3:5); and is **not 'meat**" and "**drink**," but "**Righteousness and Peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.**" Rom. 14:17.

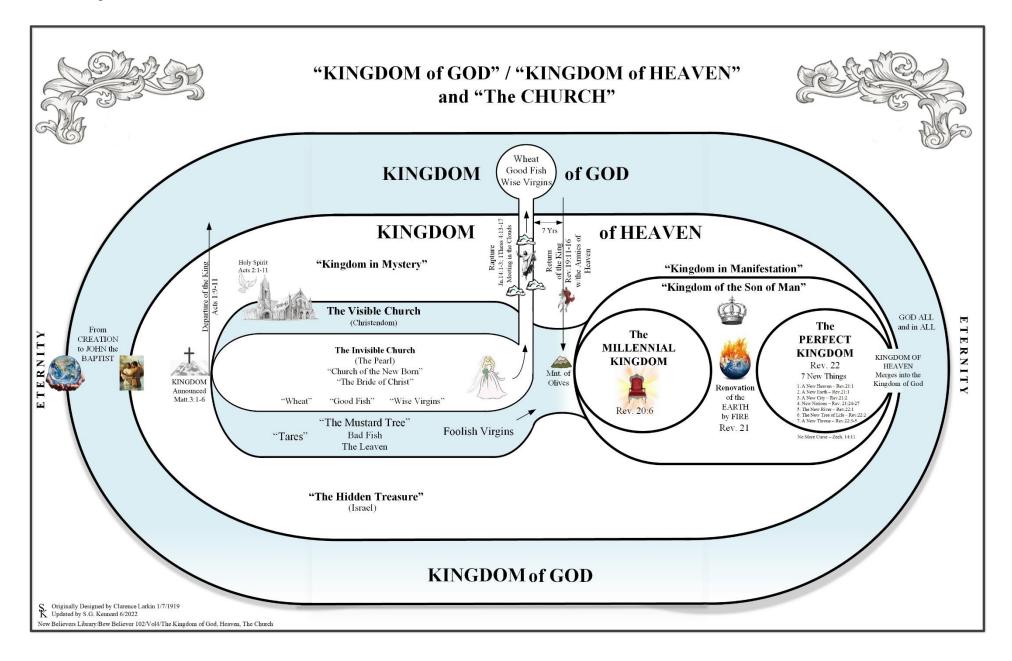
The "**Kingdom of Heaven**" is a New Testament term, and is found, in Matthew's Gospel only, where it is mentioned 32 times. Its character is described in the **12** "**Kingdom of Heaven Parables**" given in Matt. 13:1-3; Matt. 18:23-25; Matt. 20:1-3; Matt. 25:1-3. From these Parables we see that the "Kingdom of Heaven" is limited as to its Time and its Sphere. Its Time is from the First to the Second Coming of Christ, and its Sphere is over that part of the world that we call Christendom. In the "Kingdom of

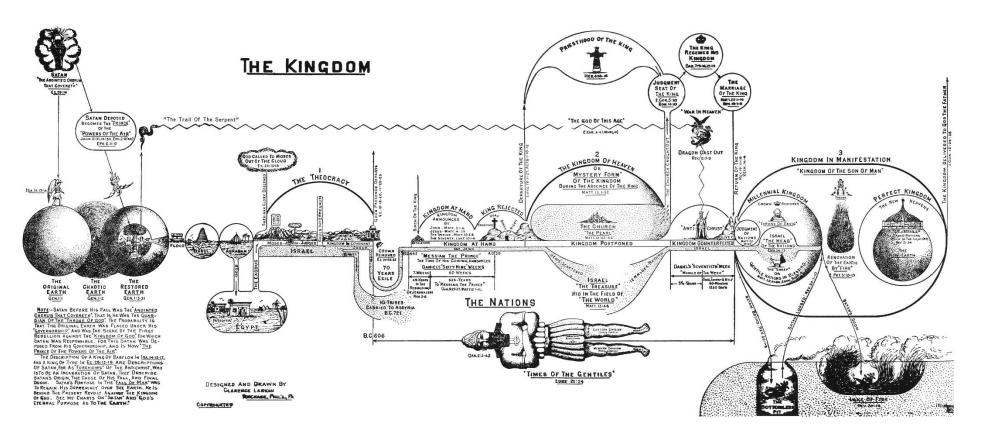
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 $^{^{10}\} https://www.gotquestions.org/gospel-of-the-kingdom.html$

¹¹ https://www.str.org/w/what-is-the-kingdom-of-heaven-

Heaven" there is a mixture of good and evil, of "Wheat" and "Tares, " of "Good Fish" and "Bad Fish, " of "Wise Virgins" and "Foolish Virgins





THE POSTPONEMENT THEORY

(Larkin pg. 86)

There are some who object to what they call the "Postponement Theory," and claim that the Kingdom which was "At Hand" was not an outward visible Kingdom, but a spiritual Kingdom, and that it was not withdrawn but is seen today in "Newborn" believers. They base their claim on the fact that the earthly visible Kingdom of Christ could not be set up until after He had suffered and died on the Cross as the Savior of men, and had risen from the dead, and ascended to the Father and received the Kingdom, and that therefore the offer of an outward visible and earthly Kingdom at that time was not a "bona fide" offer, and that John the Baptist and Jesus must

have meant by the "Kingdom of Heaven" something else than an outward visible and earthly Kingdom. What are the facts? First that the Old Testament scriptures teach that there is to be an earthly and visible Kingdom over which the Son of Man is to rule. (Dan. 2:34-35, 44-45, 7:13-14; Jer. 23:5; Zech. 14:9), and we know that at the time of Jesus' birth there was a widespread expectation of the coming of the Messiah, and that Simeon and Anna waited in the Temple for the "Consolation of Israel." Luke 2:25-38. We are also told that "Wise Men" came from the East to Jerusalem inquiring "Where is He that is born KING OF THE JEWS?" And when they had found Jesus, they worshipped Him as **KING**. Matt. 2:1-3. There can be no question but what Jesus was born to be a **KING**. It was not until Jesus was 30 years old that John the Baptist appeared at the Jordan preaching, "Repent ye: for the Kingdom of Heaven is AT HAND." Matt. 3:2. And we are told that his mission was to "Prepare the Way of the Lord." Matt. 3:3. Isa. 40:3. Prepare the way of the Lord for what? Not for the "Cross" but the "Kingdom." John's message had no meaning to those who heard him and were looking for the setting up of the "Messianic Kingdom," if he did not mean by the "Kingdom of Heaven" an outward and visible earthly Kingdom. That John himself so believed is evident from the question he sent his disciples while in prison to ask Jesus,"Are you He that should come, or do we look for another?" Matt. 11:3. The fact that Jesus answered John's question by a number of miracles of healing, which are the "Signs" of the Messianic Kingdom (Isa. 35:1-10), and were proofs of Christ's Messiahship, and told John's disciples to so report, is proof that both John and Jesus had in mind the earthly Messianic Kingdom when they proclaimed that the "Kingdom of heaven was AT HAND." It was the "Kingdom of Heaven," not because it was a Heavenly or Spiritual Kingdom, but because it was not received from men, but was given from Heaven by God the Father.

While it is true that John the Baptist pointed out to two of his own disciples Jesus as the "Lamb of God" (1 John 1:29), this was after Jesus' return from the Wilderness Temptation and had been revealed to John at the Baptism of Jesus and does not nullify or alter the character of his previous proclamation that the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand. We must not forget that as soon as Jesus was baptized, He was "**immediately**" driven into the Wilderness to be tempted of the Devil (Matt. 4:1-11, Mark 1:11-13), and it was not until 40 days after His Baptism that John pointed out to his disciples Jesus as "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." The words "next day" (John 1:29) refer not to the day after Jesus' Baptism, but the next day after the Priests and Levites had inquired of John whether he was the Christ or Elias. John 1:19-28. In John 1:32-34, John the Baptist testifies that he knew not Jesus as the "Lamb of God" until His Baptism. Then he knew by the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove upon Christ that He was the "SON OF GOD." Therefore, John the Baptist knew nothing about Christ's sacrificial work at the beginning of his ministry, and his proclamation that the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand could have had no reference to a Spiritual Kingdom.

When Nathanael exclaimed, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the KING OF ISRAEL" (John 1:49), Jesus did not disclaim the title. When Jesus entered on His own ministry His message was the same as John the Baptist's "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is AT HAND." Matt. 4:17. The repentance called for was a "NATIONAL REPENTANCE." The Old Testament scriptures clearly teach that the Messianic Kingdom cannot be set up until Israel, as a nation REPENTS. In Matt. 4:23 we read, "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the 'Gospel of The Kingdom.'" While this was attended with "signs of bodily healing," nowhere we are told that the "Gospel of the Kingdom" had anything to do with the salvation of the soul, and as it is to be preached again after the Rapture of the Church, for a "witness" unto all nations, that the time has come for the setting up of the Kingdom (Matt. 24:14), the inference is that the "Gospel of the Kingdom" has nothing to do with "salvation," but is simply an announcement that the "Messianic Kingdom" is AT HAND.



<u>Comment</u>: So, by now you might be asking "What is the Messianic Kingdom?" The word "**Messianic**" refers to anyone who believes in their heart that Jesus Christ / "Yeshua" is the Son of God and the **Messiah**, the Savior of this world. He is coming back to set up a kingdom and He will rule this world for 1000 years as foretold in scriptures. Many groups have embraced the word "Messianic" as part of their identity, ie: Messianic Jews, Messianic Christians, Messianic Bible groups and all of them proclaiming Yeshua as Lord and Son of God. So, it makes since that this same Jesus will have a Messianic Kingdom, Matthew 6:10 "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

End Comment:

When Jesus sent forth the Twelve Disciples He commanded them, saying, "Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not; but go rather to the 'lost sheep' of the HOUSE OF ISRAEL, and as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of Heaven is AT HAND.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils (demons)." Matt. 10:5-8. Note again that the works they were to perform were "Kingdom SIGNS," and had no reference to the salvation of the soul. They did not preach the "Gospel of Salvation." but the "Gospel of the Kingdom." And further the "Gospel of Salvation" is for the whole world, but the Disciples were forbidden to go to any but the "House of Israel," thus showing that what they preached was exclusively for Israel. That the Disciples were expecting the setting up of a visible earthly Kingdom is evidenced by the request of James and John that they might sit, one on the right hand, and the other on the left hand of Jesus in His Kingdom. Mark 10:35-41. If there was to be no earthly Kingdom Jesus would have removed that idea from their minds, but He confirmed it by saying that the place of honor was not for Him to give but would be bestowed by His Father. Matt. 20:23.

The fact that after the miracle of the "Loaves and Fishes" the multitude was desirous to take Jesus by force and make Him a **KING** (John 6:15), reveals what they understood by the preaching of the Kingdom of Heaven being **AT HAND**. That Jesus prevented their doing so by escaping to a mountain is no evidence that He rejected the idea of Kingship over a visible earthly Kingdom, but that to have received the <u>Kingdom from them would have been wrong</u>, for He is to receive the Kingdom from the <u>FATHER</u>, and not from men. Dan. 7:13-14. That Jesus did not deny His Kingship of an outward and visible earthly Kingdom is clear from the fact that He accepted the "Hosannahs" of the multitude when He rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday in fulfilment of the Messianic prophecy of Zech. 9:9. John 12:12-15. And it was as "**KING OF THE JEWS**" He was crucified. Matt. 27:37. When Pilate asked Jesus, "Are You the king of the **JEWS**? "He evaded the question, but admitted that He was a **KING**, and to that end had been born, but that His Kingdom was "**not of this world**," that is, it would be given to Him by God the Father, and therefore would be from Heaven. John 18:33-37.

But someone may ask, "What would have happened if the Jews, as a nation, had **repented**, and accepted Jesus as King, would the earthly Messianic Kingdom have been set up?" Certainly, but not necessarily immediately, for certain Old Testament prophecies as to Jesus' death and resurrection had to be fulfilled, for He had to die for the redemption of the race, before He could assume His office as King. But this could and would have been fulfilled by the Roman Government seizing Jesus and crucifying Him as a usurper, and with Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension, Daniel's 69th week would have terminated, and the 70th week begun without a break, and at its close Jesus would have descended and set up His earthly Kingdom.

But you ask, "What about the Church? If it was God's Eternal Purpose to form the Church (Eph. 1:4), how could it have been formed if there was no break or gap between Daniel's 69th and 70th week, and how therefore could there have been a 'bona fide' offer of an earthly Kingdom to Israel?" The question is hypothetical and based on the supposition that something might have happened that God foresaw would not happen. God's foreknowledge that the Jewish nation would not at that time heed the announcement that the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand and repent, does not count against the sincerity of the announcement any more than the offer of spiritual salvation by a preacher of the Gospel to an audience of sinners who he has every reason to believe will refuse his offer, is not a sincere and "bona fide" offer.

God's Plan and Purpose in the Ages is based upon His **FOREKNOWLEDGE**. If God had not foreseen that the Jews would reject the King and therefore the Kingdom. He would have planned for the formation of the Church at some other time than this present

Dispensation. As the Church was to be purchased by the precious blood of Christ (Acts 20:28, 1Pet. 1:18-21), it was necessary that Jesus should be rejected and crucified, and that by His own nation, for the Prophet Zechariah (Zech. 12:10) foretold that the Jews should look upon Him whom they had **PIERCED**. But God's foreknowledge did not require or compel the Jewish nation to reject Jesus, any more than Jesus' foreknowledge that Judas would betray Him compelled Judas to so do. The possibility of the Church being crowded out by the repentance of the Jewish nation did not enter into the "Plan of God," who foresaw the refusal of Israel to accept Jesus as King, and that Israel would not nationally repent until after the Church had been formed and taken out of the world.

In expounding on the Scriptures, we are not to take something that belongs to a "PAST" and a "FUTURE" Dispensation and put it in the "PRESENT" Dispensation. For instance, "THE KINGDOM." The "PAST" and "COMING" Dispensations have to do with "THE KINGDOM." but the "Present" has to do with the CHURCH. The "Kingdom" is an outward, visible and earthly "POLITICAL ORGANIZATION," and is to be "set up" on the earth (Dan. 2:44); while the "Church" is an invisible and heavenly "SPIRITUAL ORGANISM" that is to be "caught out." 1Thes. 4:16-17. The "Kingdom" was prepared FROM the "Foundation of the World." Matt. 25:34. The "Church" was chosen in Him "BEFORE the Foundation of the World." Eph. 1:4. The "Church" then is not the "Kingdom."

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

A good illustration of the confusion that results when we take things that belong to a **FUTURE** Dispensation and put them in this **PRESENT** Dispensation is seen in the **"Sermon on the Mount."** It is found in Matt. 5:1-7,29. Matthew's Gospel is Jewish and must so be **interpreted**, though there are teachings in it that have eternal application and may be applied to any Dispensation, as the phrases "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the Law, till all be fulfilled (Matt. 5:18); or "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matt. 6:21. But the instructions as to "fasting" (6:16-18); the "danger of the Council" (5:22); the "Judge," the "Officer," and the "Altar" (5:24-25), and the profession "I never knew you," and such like, have no application to the Christian, but only to those who are under the Law, and therefore must apply to another Dispensation than this.

The absurdity of the application is seen when we note that many professing Christians instead of "loving their enemies," do not even "love their brethren." Instead of agreeing with their "adversary quickly," they are unwilling to agree with their "brethren slowly." Instead of not judging others it is the one thing to which they are most addicted. If any sue them and would take away their coat, instead of letting them have their cloak also, they let them have the law. Take the command "Give to him that asks of you, and from

him that would borrow from you turn him not away." Try that upon the average church member and see what you would get. How many if they were struck on one cheek would turn the other?

Take the "Lord's Prayer," (Matt. 6:9-13), which is a part of the "Sermon on the Mount." It asks that "The Kingdom" may come, not that the "Church" may increase and prosper. There is no petition for "Salvation from sin" in it. It asks that "God's will may be done on earth, as it is done in heaven." It is a prayer for those who shall be living in the "Tribulation Period" who in their persecutions will long for the return of the King, that the Kingdom may be set up, and God's will be done, as it will be done then, on earth as it is done in Heaven. At that time the "Beast" (Antichrist) will be in power, and no one shall be able to "buy" or "sell" except he that hath the "Mark of the Beast," and this explains the petition, "Give us this day our DAILY BREAD, "for unless food is supplied miraculously, they will perish. And it will be a time when they shall particularly need to be delivered, not from evil, but the EVIL ONE-Satan, who will tempt them to recant and worship the Beast.

The "Sermon on the Mount" was spoken by Christ before His rejection and was the Constitution of the then offered Kingdom; now that the Kingdom has been withdrawn it is not in force but will be in the Millennial Kingdom. So, we see that we must discriminate between the Dispensations and not dislocate scripture.

THE DISCIPLES, QUESTION

After the Resurrection of Jesus, the hope of a visible Kingdom was revived, and just before His Ascension the Disciples asked Him,

"Lord will You at this time restore the Kingdom of Israel?" His reply was, "It is not for you to know 'The **Times'** or 'The **Seasons'** which the Father has put in His own power." Acts 1:6-7.

It is clear from this that the Disciples were looking for an **Earthly** and **Visible** Kingdom, and not a spiritual one. If Jesus came simply to set up a "Spiritual Kingdom" in this Dispensation, as many claim, then common honesty demanded that He at that solemn moment when He was about to leave His Disciples and go back to the Father, should have corrected His Disciples' false hope, and told them plainly that the Kingdom he came to set up was "**spiritual**" and not earthly. But He did no such thing. He confirmed their hope and told them that there was to be an "**Earthly** Kingdom," but the time and season for setting it up had not yet come. In Luke 19:11- 12 we read,

"Because He was night o Jerusalem, and because they thought that the Kingdom of God Should 'IMMEDIATELY' Appear; He spoke this parable. A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a Kingdom, and to return."

From this we see that Jesus is the "Certain Nobleman" who has gone into a "Far Country" (Heaven), to receive the Kingdom and that, when He has received it, He will return.

There is nothing in the Scriptures to prove that Jesus is a King now. David was anointed King over. Israel long before King Saul died in anticipation of that event, but he did not become King, and take the throne, until after Saul's death. So, while Jesus was born "King of the Jews," He does not become King until He actually takes the Throne. At present He is engaged in His High Priestly functions and is seated on His Father's Throne and not on His own Throne.



<u>Comment</u>: There is a debate that I suppose, will last until Jesus returns in person and takes the nation of Israel and sits on a throne of a Kingdom that will be global in size. At that point several prophecies and parables are fulfilled. At this point Jesus is the literal and physical "King" of Israel and the entire world. There is a Spiritual Kingdom, and to this kingdom He is a King also. Right now, Jesus rules of the hearts and minds of those who love him (spiritual).

<u>He was the King of the Jews</u>: The New Testament gives the answer that Jesus Christ is the true King of the Jews. Let's look at Luke 1:30-33

³⁰ And 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 give birth to a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; 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 His kingdom will have no end."

The objection as to if Jesus is a king now seems to be that Jesus never ruled as King of the Jews, and this would be true. He was the genuine King but was rejected by the unbelieving people.

John 1:1, He came unto His own, and His own did not receive Him.

Nevertheless, the kingdom was rightfully His.

Jesus was executed as a King: (John 19:19)

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: **JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

The Nature of His Kingdom: (John 18:36-37)

When Jesus stood before Pontius Pilot He told the Roman leader the nature of His kingdom saying,

³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom <u>is not of this world</u>. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." ³⁷ Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say *correctly* that I am a king. For this *purpose*, I have been born, and for this I have come into the world: to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice."

I believe that there is enough scriptural evidence to show that Jesus' kingdom was at that time, as He told Pilot "NOT OF THIS WORLD." But we know by prophecy, that it will happen, and He will have an earthly kingdom that will last forever. Maybe we should read Jesus' response to Pilot as ... "NOT OF THIS WORLD ... YET!" As for now, Jesus is a true King without a physical kingdom, He rules in the hearts and lives of those who loves Him. One day soon this will all change, and the world will then see the Son of God coming through the clouds on a white horse "And on His robe and on His thigh, He has a name written: "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." Rev.19:16

End Comment:

II. The Kingdom in Mystery.

The King having been rejected it was impossible then to set up the Kingdom, so the Kingdom took on another aspect known as

The Kingdom in Mystery.

This "Mystery Form" of the Kingdom is described in the "Kingdom of Heaven Parables" found in Matthew's Gospel alone. If we want to know the character of this Period, which covers the time between the **Ascension of Christ**, and the **Rapture of the Church**, we must study these Parables. They are 12 in number.

After Jesus had spoken the Parable of "The Sower," the Disciples came to Him and said, "Why do You speak to them in Parables?" He answered, "Because it is given unto you to know

THE MYSTERIES Of the Kingdom of Heaven."

(Larkin pg. 88)



<u>Comment</u>: Parables are short stories or illustrations designed to reveal a larger truth, Jesus used them to describe the Kingdom of heaven. In Matthew 13:3,34 Matthew tells us that Jesus told them (the disciples) many things in parables. Parables were often hard to understand, and Jesus would later describe them in greater detail to his disciples. This would prompt the disciples to ask Jesus the question, why he spoke to the people in parables, and he responded that it was because of the hardness of their hearts (Mat.13:13). The people refused to believe, so in a type of judgment they would be made even more resistant.

Matthew points to Jesus' use of parables as the fulfilment of Psalms 78:2, "I will open my mouth in a parable, I will tell riddles of old," Matthew's version of the text (Matt.13:34-35) changes the last line of v35 to "What has been hidden since the foundation of the world." In doing so, he describes Jesus' parables as revelations of long-hidden truths about the nature of the kingdom of heaven. By communicating those truths in the form of parables, they remain hidden for many of Jesus' listeners.

End Comment:

In Matthew13:35 He gives as His reason for speaking to them in Parables, that it might be fulfilled as spoken by the prophet,

"I will open my mouth in Parables; I will utter things which have been kept SECRET from the foundation of the world."

The "Kingdom of Heaven Parables" therefore cannot describe the "Messianic" or "Millennial Kingdom," for it was no "secret" to the Old Testament Prophets. Neither do they describe a "Spiritual Kingdom," for the figures they use are all of an "earthly" nature. They must then describe the character of the Present Dispensation, in its **earthly aspect**, during the **absence of The King.**

Our Lord's Parables are not "Allegories." A vein of falsehood characterizes all allegories. Things are represented "fictitiously." The Parables of our Lord present things truthfully. He used Parables so that those who were not disposed to believe might not understand, and that the word of God might be fulfilled as spoken by the Prophet Isaiah. Isa. 6:9-11. Matt. 13:13-15. Also, because "blindness in part" had fallen upon Israel, (Rom. 11:25), and a clear revelation would only discourage them or drive them further into unbelief.

Seven of the "Kingdom of Heaven" Parables are found in Matthew 13. All of the twelve, except the Parable of "The Sower," begin with "The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto."



The Parable of the Sower

1. The Sower.

The purpose of the "Parable of the Sower" seems to be, not so much to show the "character" of the "Kingdom of Heaven," that is, the "proportion" of those who hear the Gospel and fail to profit by it though that is clearly revealed, as it is to show the **causes** that hinder **the growth of the Seed**. The Parable mentions **four classes of "Hearers."**

(1) The "Wayside" Hearer.

Here the seed does not have a chance to "take root." The "Devil's Birds," (vs. 19), "Criticism," "Doubt Unbelief," "Prejudice," "Preoccupation," etc., snatch up the seed before it can be worked into the soil.

(2) The "Stony Ground" Hearer.

Here the seed takes "root" but dies before it can grow because of the "shallowness" of the soil. Emotional souls caught by some sudden fear of hell, or moved by some strong appeal, profess conversion, but not counting the cost they soon fall away. Jesus mentioned "two stones" that underlie the soil of the heart of the "Stony-Ground Hearer Tribulation" and "Persecution."

(3) The "Thorny-Ground" Hearer.

Here the seed takes "root," "grows up," but does not bear fruit. The soil of the heart of the "Thorny-Ground Hearer" contains the seeds or roots of "thorns" and these spring up, and outgrow, and overshadow the wheat, and absorb from the soil the nutriment needed by it. Matthew mentions two of these "thorns" the "Cares of the World" and the "Deceitfulness of riches." Mark (4:19) mentions another, the "Lust of other things," and Luke (8:14) a fourth, the "Pleasures of this life."

(4) The "Good-Ground" Hearer

Here the seed takes "root," "grows up bears fruit," but the amount varies. Some bring forth a 100-fold, some 60, some only 30. Why is this? It was not the fault of the soil. That was equally good all over the field, even on the "Wayside," and in the "Stony" and parts. Why then? It was the lack of cultivation. If the soil had been properly cleared, tilled, and cultivated, and the proper atmospheric conditions prevailed, it would have brought forth a uniform crop of 100 fold.

This Parable teaches us that Christianity is a **New Thing**, that it's not like weeds that grow up spontaneously of themselves, but it must be sown and cultivated like wheat. The figure is a lowly agricultural one, that of a farmer sowing seed, and not of a **King Setting Up a Kingdom**. In other words, this Dispensation is an "**Agricultural One**" the purpose of getting the "**WHEAT OF THE CHURCH**." The apparent fruitlessness of the soil, only one-quarter bringing forth any fruit, and that in unequal proportions, seems to indicate the comparative failure of the Gospel in this Dispensation. Surely this Parable does not teach that the World is to be converted in this Dispensation by the preaching of the Gospel.



The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares

2. The Wheat and the Tares

The Parable of the "Wheat and Tares" (Matt. 13:24-30), Christ Himself interprets (vs. 37-43), and this forbids any fanciful or unscriptural interpretation. He tells us that the "Man" who sowed the good seed is the "Son of Man" (vs. 37), that He sowed it in His "own field" (vs. 24), and that the "Field" is not the Church, but the "world."

This at one stroke demolishes the argument of those who claim that the "Field" is the Church, and that the "Wheat" and the "Tares" represent "true" and "false" professors.

The Son-of Man, the "Sower," in the first Parable sowed the seed of "The Word." In this Parable He sows "Men" (the Children of the Kingdom). This is beautifully illustrated in the persecution that followed the martyrdom of Stephen. Acts 8:1-4. It was the Son of Man Himself, through the agency of Saul of Tarsus, and not Satan, who scattered the Church broadcast throughout Judea and Samaria. This is where the Parable begins. This scattering has been going on down the centuries.

But the "Field" was not left to the "Wheat." The Devil came and sowed Tares." The "Tares," or "Darnel," so closely resembles Wheat that its true nature cannot be seen until it has matured. This sowing of the "Tares" was done, not while the Sower slept, for He never slumbers or sleeps, but while the "men" He left to look after the Field slept. Vs. 25. This sowing is still going on.

The "Tares" are called the "Children of the Wicked One." They are men of the character of those Jews to whom Jesus said-"Ye are of your father the Devil." John 8:44.

It is important to note that the Devil cannot "change" the "Wheat; " he can only sow "Tares; " but he can sow in such large quantities as to completely change the "aspect" of the whole field. When the servants saw what was done, they said, "Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? " The master said "Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares ye root up also the wheat with them." This is no argument for "laxness" in Church Discipline. This Parable has no reference to the Church, as a church. Men and women in these days are trying to root out all manner of obnoxious evils, it is an idle dream. It does more harm than good. There is to be a **Twofold Development of "Good" and "Evil" DOWN TO THE END OF THE AGE**, the "Good" growing better and the "Evil" worse. The Parable teaches that as the time for the "Harvest" approaches the difference between the "Wheat" and the "Tares" will become more strikingly and clearly manifest.

How long is this conflict between "Good" and "Evil" to last? "Until the Harvest." Vs. 30. When is the Harvest. At the "End of This Age, " and the "reapers" are the Angels (vs. 39). As soon as the "Wheat of the Church Is Ripe" Jesus will come back.

Some are perplexed by the words,

"Gather ye together first the 'Tares, ' and bind them in bundles to burn them; but gather the 'Wheat' into my barn" (vs. 30),

and claim that the Church is to remain on the earth until the "Tares" are burned, and that this necessitates the Church's going through the Tribulation.

The fact is that the "Tares" are gathered together in "bundles," not to burn them "before" the "Wheat" is harvested, but to have them "separated" and in readiness to burn "after" the "Wheat" has been garnered in the "Heavenly Barn." This gathering together of the "Tares" into bundles is going on now in the formation of false religious systems such as "Christian Science," "New Thought," "Millennial Dawnism...... Spiritualism," "Mormonism," "Theosophy, 12" etc. This Parable teaches that the "Wheat" and the "Tares" are inseparable until the End of This Dispensation, and therefore there can be no Millennium until Christ returns.



The Parable of the Mustard Tree

3. The Mustard Tree

The Parable of the "Mustard Tree," and the one that follows it, the "Leaven," both begin with the phrase "The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto," and therefore their teaching should not contradict the teaching of the Parable of the "Wheat and Tares." The same is true of all the "Kingdom of Heaven" parables. Yet these two parables have both been used to teach the "expansion of the Church" until it becomes universal in its supremacy. We repeat again that the "Kingdom of Heaven" is not the Church, but Christendom. Yet for clearness' sake we will let the "Mustard Tree" represent the "visible" Church, composed of all churches called Christian. Of these two Parables the "Mustard Tree" represents the "external" growth and condition of the visible Church and the "Leaven" the "internal" development.

The "Mustard Plant" is a "garden herb," and is cultivated for its seed, used as a condiment. It grows wild, often to the height of seven or eight feet. To obtain the best results it should be cultivated in a garden. In the Parable we find the seed sown in a "Field," (the World), not in a garden, and it grows "wild" until it is no longer called an "herb" but a "tree." The seed does not produce, after its kind, " a humble "herb," but becomes a vain-glorious **Tree**, a "**Monstrosity**," in which the "**Birds of the Air**" **Lodge.** Who are these

^{1. &}lt;sup>12</sup> the·os·o·phy - any of a number of <u>philosophies</u> maintaining that a knowledge of God may be achieved through spiritual <u>ecstasy</u>, direct <u>intuition</u>, or special individual relations, especially the movement founded in 1875 as the Theosophical Society by Helena Blavatsky and Henry Steel Olcott (1832–1907).

"birds?" They are the "fowls" of the Parable of the Sower, for the same word is used, and are therefore the agents of the "Wicked One," the Devil. Matt. 13:4,19. It is clear then that the "birds" in this parable do not represent persons converted by the preaching of the Gospel, but the emissaries of Satan, and they do not lodge in the branches of the "Tree" so much for shelter as for worldly advantage, and they "befoul" it by their presence.

The "Mustard Tree" began with the 120 believers who received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and continued to enlarge until its branches spread all over the Roman world. But the "Birds of the Air," the Ananias and Sapphiras, the Simon Maguses, the Hymenaeus and Philetus and other emissaries of Satan, began to lodge in its branches and "contaminate" its purity, and when in A. D. 324 the Emperor Constantine united Church and State, thousands, and tens of thousands, crowded into the Church as a matter of policy, interest and fashion, and crouched beneath its shadow, lodged in its branches, fattened on its fruit, and have continued to do so until this day. According to this Parable the "Kingdom of Heaven" is a

Vast Worldly System,

rooted in the earth, bearing the name of Christ, possessed of wealth, standing, and power but **sheltering** the agents of the "Ruler of the Darkness of This Age." Such we know is the condition of the visible Church today. Where is the picture of "pure" Christianity spreading through the world until the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the deep, thus ushering in a Millennium, in this Parable? In fact, it teaches the contrary and is proof of Jesus' own declaration that when **He shall come back**, **He shall Not Find 'THE FAITH**' on the Earth. Luke 18:8

The Parable of the Leaven

4. The Leaven

The common interpretation of the Parable of the "Leaven" (Matt. 13:33), is, that the Woman" represents the Church, the "Leaven," the Gospel, and the "Three Measures of Meal, "Humanity; and that the "Leaven of the Gospel" is to be so introduced by the Church into the "Meal of Humanity" that the whole world will be converted to Christ. But the "Leaven" cannot mean the "Gospel, "Leaven in the Scriptures is the

Symbol of Evil.

It is a species of corruption produced by fermentation, and tends to putrefaction, and will "corrupt" everything with which it comes in contact. The Children of Israel were commanded to put it out of their houses at the time of the "Passover" on penalty of "excommunication." Ex. 12:15. It must not come in contact with any sacrifice. Ex. 34:25; Lev. 2:11; Lev. 10:12. Three times Christ uses the word "Leaven" beside here in this Parable. He speaks of the "Leaven of the Pharisees, " the "Leaven of the Sadducees" and the "Leaven of Herod." Matt. 16:6-12; Mark 8:15. He calls the "Leaven" of the Pharisees and Sadducees "false doctrine." The "False Doctrine" of the Pharisees was "Legalism," the "form of godliness without the power." The "False Doctrine" of the Sadducees was "Skepticism," the denial of the resurrection of the body, saying there was neither angel or spirit. The "False Doctrine" of Herod was "Materialism," a mixture of religion and worldliness.

Christ never used the word "Leaven" except in an "evil" sense. It is used in the same way by the Apostle Paul. Writing to the Corinthians he said-"Purge out therefore the 'old leaven' that ye may be a 'new lump." 1Cor. 5:6-8. In the same passage he calls Leaven "malice and wickedness," as contrasted with "sincerity and truth." Writing to the Corinthians and Galatians about "evil practices," he warns them that "a little leaven leavens the whole lump." 1Cor. 5:6; Gal. 5:9.

There are but two exceptions to this universal rule. In Lev. 23:6-14 we read that the "Wave Sheaf" of "First Fruits" was to contain no Leaven because it represented Christ, the "First Fruits" of the, Resurrection, who was "without sin." But the new "Meat Offering," of "two wave loaves," offered 50 days later, at the Feast of Pentecost (Lev. 23:15-17), was to contain Leaven, because the Feast of Pentecost was typical of the bestowal of the Holy Spirit on the Disciples on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4), and those who received it were not free from sin.

The other exception is in Amos 4:4-5, where the Lord is "rebuking transgression," and "sarcastically" refers to the use of Leaven as a "multiplying of transgression." We see then that even where the use of Leaven is commanded, or permitted, it is a symbol of evil. It is clear then that what is meant by "Leaven" in this Parable is false or corrupting doctrine. If by "Leaven" is meant the Gospel we have a queer contradiction, for the Gospel does not work like leaven. Leaven when put in meal works by "itself," and if left "alone" will leaven the whole batch of dough. But this is not the way the Gospel works; if it were, every village, town, city and country where the Gospel has once been implanted, should by this time be so thoroughly "Leavened" as to be now completely Christian, but this we know is not true. The Gospel as far as converting the world is concerned is a failure.

We are not left in the dark as to the "character" of the Leaven. Paul writing to Timothy said,

"The time will come when they will **not endure sound doctrine**; but after their **own lusts** shall they heap to themselves teachers having **'itching ears**; ' and they shall turn away their ears **from the truth** and shall be turned unto **fables**." 2Tim. 4:3-4.

The Apostle Peter also sounds a warning.

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be **false teachers** among you, who **privily** (like hiding the Leaven in the meal) shall bring in **damnable heresies**, even **denying the Lord that bought them**, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And **many shall follow their 'Pernicious Ways**, ' by reason of whom the **'Way of Truth' SHALL BE EVIL SPOKEN OF**." 2Pet. 2:1-2.

So much for "Leaven." Now what is meant by the "three measures of meal?" Where do we get meal? Not from Tares. They would not yield fine wholesome flour. Meal comes from corn. Hence the "Meal" cannot represent the "unregenerate mass of humanity, " but the pure seed of the Word of God. It is a striking coincidence that the professing Church is divided today into three great parts, the Roman Catholic, the Greek, and the Protestant churches, which may represent the "three measures" into the "Meal" of which has been placed the false and corrupting doctrines of "Baptismal Regeneration," "Prayers for the Dead, " "Image Worship, " the "Sacrifice of the Mass" and other false doctrines.

The "Woman" who hides the "Leaven" corresponds to the woman Jezebel of the Church of Thyatira (Rev. 2:20) and foreshadows the "System" (Papal) referred to in Rev. 17:5, as the "Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth." As further proof that the "Leaven" is "bad" and "corrupting" is the fact that the Woman "hides" it in the "Meal." If the Leaven is the Gospel, there was no reason why she should hide it.

The purpose of these four Parables is to warn us of what to expect as the result of the preaching of the Gospel in this Age, so that we shall not be discouraged and disheartened by what we see to be the apparent failure of the Gospel. They teach that at no time during Christ's absence will there be a universal reception of the Gospel; that it will be opposed by the World, the Flesh and the Devil until the End of the Age, that the Church will grow unwatchful and fall asleep, that the Devil will take advantage of such unwatchfulness to put his own children into the professing Church to introduce corrupting doctrine, and that all this shall continue in an increasing

measure until the Lord shall come with "fiery" judgments, for fire alone can arrest the work of leaven. This then is to be the outcome of all the "religionism" of the Age. Where is there a place in these Parables for a Millennium before Christ comes back?

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

5. The Hid Treasure.

The Parables of the "Hidden Treasure," and the "Pearl" have been interpreted to mean that Christ is the "Hidden Treasure" and also the "Pearl," and that we are to sell all, that is, give up everything for Him. But such an interpretation is contrary to the Gospel plan of salvation and breaks down in every particular.

The "Field" in this, Parable is the "World," the same as in the Parable of the "Wheat and Tares," and the sinner is not to "purchase" the "World" but to "give it up." Furthermore, the sinner has "nothing to sell," nor is Christ "for sale," nor is He "hidden in a field," nor having found Christ does the sinner "hide him again." Salvation is not something that can be "bought." it is a "free gift." Rom. 6:23. The sinner does not buy Christ, Christ buys him. 1Cor. 6:20. Salvation is "free," and is something to be "received" (John 1:12), and that "without money" and "without price." Isa. 55:1.

As in the preceding Parables the "Field" is the World, and the "Man" is the Son of Man, or Christ. Christ is the "purchaser" of 'the "Field." But why should He purchase the "Field? "Does not the World belong to His Father? And if He found the "Treasure" in the Field" why should He "hide" it until He was able to purchase the 'Field? "Would it be considered honest to discover that, under the surface of a man's farm there were hidden treasures of coal, iron, oil or copper, and, without letting him know, try to secure the farm at a small cost, thus deceiving him until the property was secured? The answer is that a "usurper," the Devil, had taken possession of the "Field." The Hidden Treasure was not in the field when he took possession. It was placed their afterward. It did not belong to the Devil, it belonged to God who had hid it in the "Field" from the Devil. Christ found it, and as the only way to get the "Treasure" was to buy the "Field," Christ hid it again, and then purchased the "Field." The price He paid was all He possessed. 2Cor. 8:9.

The Hid Treasure is Israel. God said to Israel at Sinai, "Ye shall be a **Peculiar Treasure** unto me above all people; for all the earth (world) is mine." Ex. 19:5.

"For the Lord hath chosen 'Jacob for Himself and Israel for His **Peculiar Treasure**." Psa. 135:4. The "Treasure" still remains "hid" in the "Field." Christ purchased the "Field" on the Cross, but He has not taken possession as yet, and will not until the time comes for the "Redemption of the **PURCHASED POSSESSION**." Eph. 1:14.

Until that time Israel must remain hid among the Nations. This is one of the "Mysteries" of the "Kingdom of Heaven."

"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this 'Mystery,' lest ye should be wise in your own conceits, that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the Fulness of the Gentiles Be Come in." Rom. 11:25.

Israel must remain hid in the "Field" until the "Fulness of the Gentiles" be come in. Then Christ will come back and claim His "Hid Treasure," and Israel will be resurrected from the "Graveyard of the Nations" where she is buried and restored to her own land.

The Parable of the Pearl 6. The Pearl



In the Parable of the "Pearl" the "Merchant Man" is Christ. The "Pearl" is the Church. In the Parable of the "Hidden Treasure, "the Treasure was not purchased but the Field. In this Parable it is the "Pearl" that is purchased. Once Christ comes into full possession of the "Pearl" it will never be on the market again. It will be His forever. We see from this Parable that the purpose of this Dispensation is not the conversion of the World, but the securing (formation) of the Church.

The Parable of the Drag Net

7. The Drag Net

The Parable of the "Drag Net," like all the preceding, covers the present Dispensation. The "net" here mentioned is the "Gospel Net." The Parable is descriptive of the work the Disciples were to do when Jesus said unto them, "I will make you 'Fishers of Men." While men in this "Gospel Age" are mostly caught one by one, yet in times of revival they are caught as in a net in large quantities. The Parable is descriptive of the method used in this Gospel Dispensation of gathering people into our churches by the

"Drag-net of Solicitation." The result is that there are "Good" and "Bad" fish in the net. But while fishermen can separate the "bad" fish from the "good," that is the eatable and marketable from those that are not, the officers of a church are not always wise enough to do this. The ending of this Parable corresponds with the ending of the Parable of the "Wheat and Tares." As there the separation does not come until the "Harvest," and the "Harvest" is the "End of the Age," and the separation will be made by the "Angel Reapers," so in this Parable the separation between the "Good" and "Bad" fish will not be until the "end of this Age," and angels will do the separating.

We should notice also that as the "Tares" were gathered together "first," but not burned until the "Wheat" had been garnered in the "Heavenly Barn," so here, the "Good" fish are separated from the "Bad" and the "Good" gathered into "vessels" (Heaven), before the "Bad" are cast away.

When a net is cast into the sea, even though the net is filled to the point of breaking, the great bulk of the fish in the sea remain uncaught, and where there is a separation of those caught, as in the Parable, comparatively few are saved. If this is true of this Gospel Dispensation, as the Parable seems to teach, then the world is not to be converted before the "Angel Fishermen" separate the "Righteous" and the "Wicked" at the coming of the Lord.

Of the five remaining "**Kingdom of Heaven**" Parables we have only space to speak briefly. The **Parable of the "Unmerciful Servant**" (Matt. 18:23-35), has to do with the "conduct" of the members of the "Kingdom of Heaven" towards each other during this Dispensation.

The **Parable of the "Vineyard Laborers"** (Matt. 20:1-16) does not teach that the "penny" that the laborers received for their labor represents "Salvation," for "Salvation" is a Gift, and cannot be "earned" as wages, or "merited" as a reward. Neither does the Parable teach, as some claim, that those who were hired early in the morning, and at the third, sixth, ninth and eleventh hours, represent the different ages at which sinners may come to Christ. Neither does the Parable teach that because each one received a "penny" that men shall be "equally" rewarded in the next world. What then does the Parable teach? The context shows (Matt. 19:27-30) that the Parable was spoken to rebuke the "hireling spirit" of Peter and is to teach that men will be judged for the "motive" of their service, and not for the "amount." The Parable teaches that the "Hireling Spirit" will be a characteristic of the "Kingdom of Heaven," and therefore of this

Dispensation, and that it will be revealed at the "Judgment of Reward" by the consumption of the "wood, " "hay" and "stubble" works of all "Hireling Laborers." 1Cor. 3:9-15.

The **Parable of the "Marriage Feast"** (Matt. 22:1-14) must not be confounded with the Parable of the "Great Supper" recorded in Luke 14:16-18. That Parable was spoken in the house of a chief Pharisee in Perea, three months before Christ's death, and refers to the "Gospel Feast." This Parable was spoken in the Temple at Jerusalem on the morning of the Tuesday preceding His Crucifixion and was spoken to the multitude. In the scope of its teaching and outlook this Parable of the "Marriage Feast" is the broadest of all the parables of Jesus. In its perspective it extends from the giving of the "Mosaic Law" to the "Marriage of the Lamb." The "certain king" is God, the "son" is Christ. Those first bidden were the Jewish Nation. Moses and the Prophets announced the "Feast." John the Baptist, the Twelve, and the Seventy, notified the Jewish Nation that it was about ready.

When Jesus the "Lamb" was offered on Calvary the Feast was ready, and Peter, John and others were the "other servants" sent forth. This was the "second" call. Acts 3:19-21. But the Jewish Nation made "light of it." Then the "remnant" took Stephen, James and others, and "entreated them spitefully" and "slew them." This made the King angry, and He sent His armies and "burned their city." This is a prophetic announcement of the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus in A. D. 70.

Then Philip, Barnabas, Paul and others, were sent out onto the Highways of the "Gentile World" to gather in those who were willing to accept the invitation to the "Marriage Feast." This is still going on. The Parable looks forward to the "Marriage of the Lamb," and reveals that there is to be a "separation" among the guests, and that all those that are not wearing a "Wedding Garment" will be excluded from the "Feast." The ending of the Parable synchronizes with the separation of the "Wise" and "Foolish" Virgins and reveals the fact that many professing Christians will be found without a "Wedding Garment," and "speechless," when they are called upon to face God.

The Parable of the "Ten Virgins" (Matt. 25:1-13), is a picture of what will happen to the professing Church when Christ comes to gather out His Saints. It teaches that we cannot distinguish the "True" from the "False" professors in the Church until the time for separation comes, and that the possession of the Holy Spirit represented by the "oil" in the Parable will be the supreme test. If possibly

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¹³ This is the "Bema Seat Judgment" otherwise known as the "Judgment Seat of Christ."

half the "Professing Church" is shut out from the "Wedding," and all of the great multitude outside the Church, who show by their lives that they are unsaved, where is the Conversion of the World in this Dispensation to be seen in this Parable?

The **Parable of the "Talents"** (Matt. 25:14-30) must not be confounded with the Parable of the "Pounds" in Luke 19:11-27. The "Man" is Christ. The "far country, " Heaven. The "departure, " Christ's Ascension. The "return, " His Second Coming. The **Parable of the "Pounds"** is Jewish and pictures what will happen when Christ, "having received the Kingdom, " returns to the earth and rewards His Servants (the Jews), by giving them authority over different cities. The "One Pound" man loses his Pound and the right to rule but is not "cast out." In this Parable of the "Talents" the "One Talent" man is "cast out." The theme of the Parable is "Christian Stewardship" and the fact that the "One Talent" man complains of the strict accountability required of him shows that the "One Talent" man is a mere professor, and his character is revealed by his commission of the "Napkin Sin." The time of the accounting synchronizes with that of the separation of the "Wheat" and "Tares, " the "Good" and "Bad" Fish, and the "Wise" and "Foolish" Virgins and reveals the fact that unfaithfulness in "Christian Stewardship" will be punished.

III. The Kingdom in Manifestation.

That there is to be a period of a 1000 years during which Satan shall be bound and Christ shall reign on this earth, is plainly stated in the New Testament. This period is mentioned 6 times in Rev. 20:1-3, and is generally called

"The Millennium,"

from the Latin words "Mille" (1000) and "Annum" (year). It is to be regretted, however, that the word "Millennium" ever supplanted the Biblical word "Kingdom," for it is this period that Christ taught His Disciples to pray for in the petition "Thy Kingdom Come."

Let us drop then for the present the word "Millennium" and look at the word "Kingdom." In the chapter on "The Gentiles" we saw that there were to be "Four World-wide Kingdoms" that were to succeed each other on the earth and that they were to be destroyed in turn by a Kingdom called the

"Stone Kingdom."

As those "Four Kingdoms" were "literal" Kingdoms it follows that the "Stone Kingdom" must be a "literal" Kingdom, for it takes the peace of those Kingdoms and "fills the whole earth." This "Stone Kingdom" is the "Millennial Kingdom of Christ."

The time when this "Stone Kingdom" shall be set up is at the "Revelation of Christ," when He shall come with the "armies of Heaven" and destroy Antichrist (Rev. 19:11-21) and judge the Nations." When the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the

'Throne of His Glory;'

and before Him shall be gathered all nations; and He shall separate them one from another as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats, and He shall set the Sheep (Sheep Nations) on His right hand, but the Goats (Goat Nations) on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom Prepared for You from the Foundation of the World." Matt. 25:31-34. This Kingdom is an earthly, visible Kingdom, and is the "Millennial Kingdom" of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. The Form of Government

It will be a "Theocracy." God will rule in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. "And the angel said unto Mary, thou shalt bring forth a son and shalt call His name Jesus. He shall be great and shall be called the 'Son of the Highest, ' and the Lord God shall give unto Him the Throne of His Father David; and He shall reign over the House of Jacob FOREVER, and of His Kingdom There Shall Be **NO END**." Luke 1:30-33. There are 7 of God's "**shalls**" in this passage. Four of them have been fulfilled, for Mary did bring forth a "son," He was called "Jesus," He was "great, " and was called the "Son of the Highest; " the other three must and will be fulfilled. Daniel the Prophet describes the event.

"I saw in the night visions, and behold, one like the 'Son of Man' came with the clouds of heaven and came to the 'Ancient of Days' (God), and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him **Dominion**, and **Glory** and a **KINGDOM** that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him; His **Dominion** is an **Everlasting Dominion**, Which Shall Not Pass Away, and His **KINGDOM** that which **Shall Not Be Destroyed**." Dan. 7:13,14.

Whether Christ shall sit in person on the Throne at Jerusalem, or whether He shall rule through another is not so clear. There are several passages of Scripture that seem to teach that King David will be raised and placed on the throne again, and that the Children of Israel will seek him, or it may mean that the new King shall be named David.

"Afterward shall the Children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and **David Their King**; and shall fear the Lord and His goodness in the **Latter Days**." Hosea 3:5.

"They shall serve the Lord their God, and David Their King, whom I will Raise Up unto them." Jer. 30:9.

"And David, my servant, shall be King Over Them." Eze. 37:24.

"I Jehovah will be their God, and my servant David a Prince in Their Midst." Eze. 34:24.

"My servant David shall be their Prince Forever." Eze. 37:25.

As the "Lord of Hosts" shall reign in Mt. Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before His ancients "gloriously" (Isa. 24:23), the inference is that King David will reign simply as "Regent," and will be called "King" or "Prince" as circumstances may require. It is very clear from Ezekiel that the "Prince," whoever he may be, is not perfect, and has to offer sacrifices for himself. Eze. 45:22.

We have a hint of the manner of government in the **Parable of the Pounds**. That Parable was spoken to show what Jesus will do to His servants (the Jews) when He shall have "received the Kingdom and returned." The man whose Pound shall have gained "Ten Pounds" will be rewarded by being placed in authority over "ten cities." The man whose Pound shall have gained "Five Pounds" will have authority over "five cities." The man who failed to use his Pound is simply deprived of it and loses all opportunity of authority. Luke 19:11-26.

The promise that Jesus made to His Disciples that

"In the **Regeneration** when the Son of Man shall sit on the **Throne of His Glory**, you also shall sit upon **Twelve Thrones, judging the Twelve Tribes of Israel.**" Matt. 19:28,

in all probability does not refer to the "Millennial Age," but to the. "Perfect Age," the "Age" that is to follow the renovation of the Earth by fire. The use of the word "regeneration" suggests this, as it refers to the time when the present earth is to be "re-created" and made "new." It has occurred to the writer that we have not as yet the proper perspective as to all the Old Testament prophecies, and that we are putting in the "Millennial Age" some things that belong to the "Perfect Age." The one just mentioned, for example.

Some object to the "visible reign" of King, David, or the Disciples on the earth during the Millennium because it involves the anomaly of intercourse between men in the flesh and those who are clad in resurrected and glorified bodies. But why should this be an objection? Did not Jesus appear "eleven" times "after His resurrection, " during a period of "forty days, " to His disciples Did He not "eat" and "drink" with them during that period? Did they not "walk" with Him to the Mount of Olives and see Him go up in that Same Resurrection Body? Did not angels appear in human form and "eat" and "drink" with men in Old Testament times? Gen. 18:1-8.

We must not forget that they who shall be accounted worthy to obtain "**That Age**," and the "**Resurrection from Among the Dead**, " shall be "**Angel Like**" (Luke 20:35-36), and like the angels can mingle with earth's inhabitants, having visible bodily forms, can eat and drink, and there is probably more truth than poetry in the Prophet's utterance that in those days,

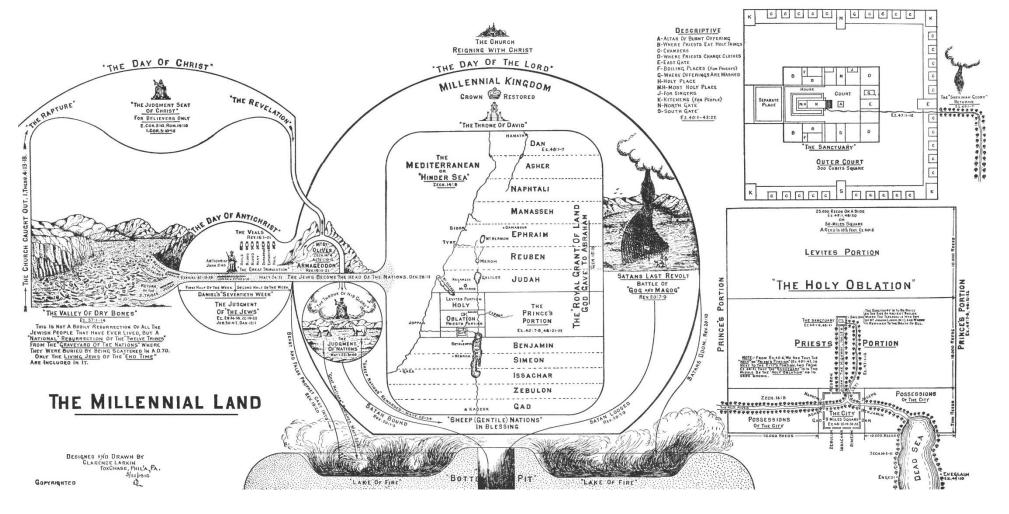
"They that wait upon the Lord (as messengers) shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles (Angels); they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint." Isa. 40:31.

This can be said of only those who have been "Raised in Power." 1Cor. 15:42-43.

2. The Seat of Government.

The Seat of Government will be at Jerusalem. Jerusalem is to be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the "Times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." Luke 21:24. Then it will be rebuilt. The Prophet Ezekiel gives us a detailed description of the restored Land and City in Eze. 48:1-35. See Chart of the Millennial Land.

The "Royal Grant" of land that God gave to Abraham and his descendants extended from the "River of Egypt" unto the "Great River," the river Euphrates. Gen. 15:18. Ezekiel fixes the Northern boundary at Hamath, about 100 miles north of Damascus (Eze. 48:1), and the Southern boundary at Kadesh, about 100 miles south of Jerusalem. Eze. 48:28. This "Royal Grant" was not conditional and was never revoked. It is 8 times as large as that formerly occupied by the Twelve Tribes.



This "Royal Grant" is to be divided among the restored Twelve Tribes in parallel horizontal sections, beginning at Hamath on the North with a section for Dan, next comes Asher, then Naphtali, Manassah, Ephraim, Reuben, Judah. Then comes the

HOLY OBLATION¹⁴

¹⁴ ob·la·tion - a thing presented or offered to God – Christian Church example would be the presentation of communion bread and wine to God.

a square tract on the west of Jordan, 25,000 reeds, or 50 miles on a side. A "Reed," according to Eze. 40:5, is 6 cubits long, the cubit being an ordinary cubit 18 inches long plus a handbreadth, 3 inches, making the "reed cubit" 21 inches. Six such cubits make the "reed" 10 1/2 feet long. South of the "Holy Oblation" will be the Tribes of Benjamin, Simeon, Issachar, Zebulon and Gad.

The "**Holy Oblation**" is divided into **three horizontal sections**. The Northern section is 25, 000 reeds long, from East to West, and 10, 000 reeds wide. It is called the "**Levites' Portion**." South of it is the "**Priests' Portion**" of equal size. South of the "Priests' Portion" is the section for the "**City' with its suburbs and farming sections**. This section is 25, 000 reeds long, from East to West, and 5000 reeds wide. Eze. 48:15-19.

In the center of this section the City (Jerusalem) is located. This helps us to map out the whole of the "Holy Oblation," as the "New City-" is to be located on the site of the Old. The "New City," however, is to be much larger than the Old. It is to be 9 miles square, and with its suburbs, 1/2 a mile on a side, 1/2 miles square. It will have a wall around it with 3 gates on each side like the New Jerusalem (Eze. 48:15-18, 30-32), these gates being named after the 1/2 sons of Jacob.

The "Temple," or "Sanctuary," will not be rebuilt in the "New City," but in the "midst" or middle of the "Holy Oblation." Eze. 48:10, 20-21. This will locate it at or near Shiloh, where the Tabernacle rested after the Children of Israel conquered the Land, and where it remained until the Temple of Solomon was finished. A "Highway" shall lead from the "Sanctuary" to the "New City." Isa. 35:8. It will be a magnificent boulevard, 12 miles long, lined with beautiful shade trees.

The "New Temple" or "Sanctuary" will occupy a space of 500 reeds on a side, or nearly a mile square. Eze. 42:15-20. The old Temple was not a mile square.

The Prophet Zechariah tells us (Zech. 14:8), that in "That Day" (the Millennial Day),

"Living Waters Shall Go Out from Jerusalem," half of them toward the Former Sea (Red Sea) and half of them toward the Hinder Sea (Mediterranean); in summer and in winter shall it be."

But those "Living Waters" will not have their "source" in Jerusalem. The life-giving spring from which they flow will be located under the "Sanctuary." Ezekiel tells us how he saw in vision the "New Temple" or "Sanctuary" and how the Lord took him to the

eastern door of the "House" or Sanctuary, " where he saw the waters come forth from under the Threshold of the door, and flow past the "Altar of Burnt Offering" on the south side eastward until the stream was deep enough to swim in.

"Then said he unto me, these waters ... go down into the desert (by way of Jerusalem) and go into the sea (Dead Sea), which being brought forth into the sea, the waters (of the Dead Sea) shall be **healed** (lose their saltness) ... And everything **shall live** wherever the river goes. And it shall come to pass that the fishers shall stand upon it (Dead Sea), from Engedi (on the west shore) even unto Eneglaim (on the east shore); they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the Great Sea (Mediterranean) exceeding many. ... And by the River upon the banks thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow **all trees for meat**, whose **leaf shall not fade**, neither shall the **fruit thereof be consumed**; it shall bring forth **new fruit according to its months**, because the waters they issued out of the "**Sanctuary**; " and the "**Fruit**" thereof shall be for **meat** and the "**Leaf**" thereof for **medicine**." Eze. 47:8-10. Compare Rev. 22:1-2.

The size of the "New City," the location of the "New Sanctuary" and the elevation of the Dead Sea- which is now 1200 feet below the level of the Mediterranean Sea, call for great physical changes in the land surface of Palestine. How are these changes coming about?

When Christ comes back it will be to the Mount of Olives from the same point that He ascended up. Acts 1:9-11. The Prophet Zechariah describes what will then happen.

"His (Christ's) feet shall stand in **That Day** (the day of His return) upon the **Mount of Olives**, which is before Jerusalem on the east and the **Mount of Olives** shall **Cleave** in the **midst Thereof Toward the East and Toward the West**, and **There Shall Be a Very Great Valley**; and **Half of the Mountain Shall Remove Toward the North and Half of It Toward the South...**

"All the Land Shall Be Turned as a Plain From Geba to Rimmon South of Jerusalem; and it shall be LIFTED UP AND INHABITED." Zech. 14:4, 10, 11.

These great changes will probably be brought about by earthquakes or volcanic action.

"Behold, the Lord cometh forth out of His place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth. And the mountains shall be Molten Under Him, and the valleys shall be Cleft as Wax Before the Fire, and as the Waters That Are Poured Down a Steep Place." Micah 1:3-4.

These great physical changes will level the land surface of Palestine, and make room for the "New City," and raise the Dead Sea, so its waters can flow into both the Red and Mediterranean Seas. Ezekiel tells us that the name of Jerusalem in that day shall be "**Jehovah Shamniah**," the Lord Is There. Eze. 48:35.

3. The Temple and Its Worship.

As we have seen the Temple or Sanctuary will be located in the center of the "Holy Oblation." A full description of the Temple and its courts is given in Eze. 40:1-3:31. No such building as Ezekiel so minutely describes has ever yet been built, and so the prophecy cannot refer to either Zerubbabel's or Herod's Temple, and as there is to be no Temple in the New Jerusalem, it must be a description of the Temple that is to be on the earth during the Millennium. That it does not belong to the New Earth is also clear, for the land in which it is located is bounded by the Sea, and the waters that flow from it, flow "into the Sea," but in the New Earth there is "no more sea." Rev. 21:1. This is still further confirmed by the Prophet's mention of the "desert," the "River Jordan," the "Mediterranean Sea," and other localities that will not be found on the New Earth after its renovation by fire.

The "Aaronic Priesthood" will be re-established, and the sons of Zadok shall officiate and offer sacrifices. Eze. 44:15-17. The New Temple, however, will lack many things that were the features of the old Temple. There will be no "Ark of the Covenant, " no "Pot of Manna," no "Aaron's Rod" to bud, no "Tables of the Law," no "Cherubim, no "Mercy Seat," no "Golden Candlestick," no "Shew Bread," no "Altar of Incense, " no "Veil," no unapproachable "Holy of Holies" where the High Priest alone might enter, nor is there any "High Priest" to offer atonement for sin, or to make intercession for the people, unless a rather obscure passage in Zech. 6:12, 13 means that Christ (The Branch, Jer. 23:5-6) shall be a "King-Priest," and perform the duties of High Priest conjointly with His Kingly office.

While the Levites as a class shall perform Temple service, they shall be barred from Priestly duties for their past sins. Eze. 44:10-14. There shall be a daily "morning" sacrifice, but no evening sacrifice. Eze. 46:13-15. The offerings will be the "Burnt, "the "Meal," the "Drink," the "Sin, " the "Peace" (Eze. 45:17), and the "Trespass" offering. Eze. 42:13. Two Feasts are to be observed, "The Passover,"

but no Passover Lamb will be offered as Jesus fulfilled that Type (Eze. 45:21-24), and the "Feast of Tabernacles, " Zech. 14:16-19. This Feast is to be observed by all the nations under penalty of "Drought" or "Plague."

The "Feast of Pentecost" will be done away with on account of its fulfillment. The "Day of Pentecost," recorded in Acts 2:1-4, was only a partial fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel 2:28-32. No such wonders in the heavens and the earth as "blood," and "fire" and "Pillars of smoke" the "Sun turned to darkness," and the "Moon into blood," occurred at Pentecost. But all those things will happen before "The Great and Terrible Day of the Lord."

The conversion of the Jewish Nation will be sealed with a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Whether this shall be universal, or only upon Israel is not clear. The original prophecy in Joel was given to Israel, and its partial fulfillment at Pentecost seems to have been limited to them. The knowledge of the Lord, however, will be world-wide, and "it shall come to pass that ten men of all languages and nations shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a **Jew**, saying, **We will go with you; for we have heard that God is with you."**Zech. 8:22-23. There will be one "universal religion' in that day. Malachi 1:11. The "Shekinah Glory" that departed from the Temple at the time of the Babylonian Captivity (Eze. 10:18-20; 11:22, 23), will again take up its residence in the "New Temple." Ezek. 43:1-5.

4. The Character of the Millennium.

(1) Satan Bound. Rev. 20:1-3.

That man may be "without excuse" God is going to subject him to a final test under the most favorable circumstances. Man has charged his fall and continuance in sin to Satan. "Take him away, " he cries, "paralyze his power; cripple his malignant activity; bind and imprison him and deliver us from his dominating influence, and then you will see that man is radically good and virtuous and is simply the victim of an unfavorable environment."

God answers it shall be done. Satan shall be bound and imprisoned so that he can no longer deceive men, and lest man shall say that sinful habits are too deeply rooted to be soon eradicated the test shall last for a **Thousand Years**, and man shall have during that period of probation all the blessed influences of the **Holy Spirit** and the presence of **Christ Himself**.

Man has never known and therefore cannot conceive what this world would be like free from Satanic influence. It would certainly be a marvelously different world. There would be no one to stir up hate and passion and engender strife and turmoil.

True, man would still have an evil heart of unbelief to contend against, but it would be like a magazine of gunpowder without a spark to ignite it. That the evil heart of man has not been eradicated will be evident when at the close of the Millennium Satan is loosed and finds no difficulty in deceiving the nations. Rev. 20:8.

During the Millennium the "Prince of the Powers of the Air" will be "dethroned" and the "Prince of Peace" "enthroned." When the "Great Red Dragon" (Satan) is cast out of the Heavenlies there will be cast out with him all the "Principalities and Powers" and "Age Rulers of Darkness" (Eph. 6:12), and the Heavens which now are "not clean" in His sight (job 15:15), will be "cleansed" of all Evil Powers.

There will be no universal peace until the Lord comes back. Then the nations will beat their swords into "plow-shares" and their spears into "pruning-hooks" (Micah 4:3-4), and shall be no longer impoverished by the enormous tax on their revenues for the support of armies and navies and the building of "Dreadnoughts." Then ships of war and armorclad vessels will rust and rot in the navy yards and guns and cannon will be recast into implements of agriculture. The great armies of earth will be disbanded, and in the pursuits of peace and the tilling of the soil, the depleted treasuries of the world will be replenished. There will be little if any political graft. Corporations and combines will not be run in restraint of trade, and there will be no entailed estates if the law of the "**Year of Jubilee**" is re-established. Lev. 25:8-17. Num. 36:4.

(2) The Revival of the Land of Palestine.

The Land of Palestine when it was first occupied by the Children of Israel under Joshua, was a land of "milk" and "honey" and of "all manner of fruits," and its soil brought forth "abundantly," and this continued as long as the Children of Israel kept its Sabbaths. But God had warned them that if they did not obey Him and turned aside to worship other gods, He would shut up the heavens and the harvests would fail. Deut. 11:13-15. Palestine today has the same fertile soil it had in Joshua's time, but it lacks rain and irrigation. God has withheld the "early" and "latter" rain, but they are now becoming more frequent and copious. The "early" rain falls in October and November and prepares the land for ploughing and sowing; the "latter" rain falls in April and May and insures a good crop.

In the Millennium the Land of Palestine will be restored to its former fertility. This will be aided not only by the rains, but by numerous rivers and streams that shall flow from the "New River" that shall have its source in the Sanctuary.

"It shall come to pass in **That Day** (Millennium) that **the mountains shall drop new wine**, and the **hills shall flow with milk**, and all the **Rivers of Judah** (where the New River will be) shall **flow with waters**, and a **fountain shall come forth of the House of the Lord**, and shall water the **Valley of Shittim**, " the country about the Dead Sea. Joel 3:18.

The "mountains dropping new wine," and the "hills flowing with milk," are figures of speech declaring that the mountain sides will be covered with vineyards from which an abundance of wine shall be obtained, and that the pasture lands will be so productive that they will sustain vast herds of milk cattle.

The harvests will be so great and abundant that the ploughman will "overtake the reaper," and the treader of grapes him that "soweth seed." Amos 9:13.

"Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir-tree, and instead of the briar shall come up the myrtle tree; and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off." Isa. 55:13.

"Then shall the earth yield her increase." Psa. 67:6.

"And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. And ye shall eat in plenty and be satisfied and praise the name of the Lord your God that hath dealt wondrously with you; and My People (the Jews) shall never be ashamed." Joel 2:24-26.

(3) There Will Be Changes in the Animal Kingdom.

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp and the weaned child shall put his hand on the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain (Jerusalem), for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Isa. 11:6-9.

We cannot spiritualize these words. This was the character of these animals in Eden before the Fall, and in the Ark. The ferocity of the brute creation is the outcome of the "Fall of Man." While the context seems to imply that this change in the brute creation has reference to the "Millennial Earth," where it may be partially true, yet the fact that the Edenic condition of the earth is not to be restored until the appearance of the New Earth may postpone the fulfillment of this prophecy until then.

The Apostle Paul says,

"We know that the **Whole Creation** groans and travails in pain together until now. . . waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons *and daughters*, the redemption of our body." Rom. 8:23.

That is, until the human race is redeemed from the results of the "Fall, and fitted to occupy the New Earth, Creation must wait for its restoration to "Edenic conditions."

(4.) Human Life Will Be Prolonged.

"There shall be no more thence an **infant of days**, for the child shall die a hundred years old." Isa. 65:20.

That is, a person dying 100 years old shall be considered only a child, therefore a man, to be called a man, must live for several hundred years.

"For as the days of a **Tree** (oak tree) are the days of my people." Isa. 65:22.

"Thus, saith the Lord of Hosts: There shall yet Old Men and Old Women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand because of his age." Zech. 8:4.

Patriarchal Years will be restored, and men shall live as long as they did before the Flood. This may be due to some climatic or atmospheric change, or to the healing or life-giving qualities of the water of the "New River" that shall flow from the "Sanctuary," and the leaves of the trees that line the banks of the river, which shall be for "Medicine." Eze. 47:12.

(5) There Will Be a Sevenfold Increase of Light.

"Moreover, the light of the moon shall be as the light of **the sun**, and the light of the sun shall be **SEVENFOLD** as the light of **seven days**, in the day that the Lord bindeth up the breach of His people, and healeth the stroke of their wound." Isa. 30:26.

The "atmosphere" of the Millennial Earth will be of such a character as to make **moonlight nights as bright as day**, and the days **seven times as bright**.

"The sun shall be no more thy light by day: neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee; but the Lord Shall Be unto You As An Everlasting Light, and Your God Your Glory." Isa. 60:19-20

This may refer to that part of the Holy Land that shall be illuminated by the "Shekinah Glory," where it will make no difference whether the sun shines or not. It will have its complete fulfillment when the nations of the New Earth shall walk in the **Light of the New Jerusalem**. Rev. 21:23-24.

Israel's Mission during the "Millennial Age" will be that of "blessing" to the Gentile nations. Of the nation of Israel, that has never as yet been a leading nation, God says,

"I will make thee the **Head**, and not the **Tail**." Deut. 28:13.

The nations today are a "Headless" body. There is no "Chief Nation" today. In that day Israel shall be the "**Chief Nation**," and the nation that will not serve her shall perish. Isa. 60:12.

But those nations will only be kept in subjection by the "Iron Rule" of Christ. This is brought out in the "Messianic Psalm," Psa. 2:6-8. It is very clear that during the "Millennial Age" the "will of God" will not be done on earth as it is done in heaven. The peace among the nations will be more superficial than real. It will only be insincere obedience, more the result of fear than of love. As the "afternoon" of that long "Millennial Day" draws to a close the shadows deepen. As soon as Satan is loosed from his prison in the "Bottomless Pit," he will find a vast multitude ready to believe his lie, and to serve and obey him. He will gather them from the "Four Quarters of the Earth" to battle. They will be in number as the "sand of the sea." Rev. 20:8-9. The revolt will be Worldwide and will

mean the Mobilizing of Vast Armies. Satan will send them across the "Breadth of the Earth" until they compass the "Camp of the Saints" (the Holy Land) and lay siege once more to the "Beloved City." This time the armies of heaven are not sent to destroy the rebels, but "Fire from Heaven" devours the rebellious host, and Satan, who deceives them, is cast into the "Lake of Fire" to be tormented day and night for the "Ages of Ages."

From this we see that the "Millennial Dispensation," like all the six Dispensations before it, will end in failure. God will have tested man in "Innocence," under "Conscience," under "Self-Government," under the "Headship of the Family," under "Law," under "Grace," and finally under the influence of the "Holy Spirit," free from Satanic influences, and under them all he will prove himself to be hopelessly, incurably and incorrigibly bad.

If after 1000 years of the Presence of the King, and of universal peace and blessing, man still persists in rebelling against his Maker, what will there be left for God to do? Humanly speaking, there will seem to be nothing for God to do but destroy the human race. To send another Flood and wipe out mankind. But this He cannot do. for He promised Noah that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood of waters. Gen. 9:11. But do something He must, so He is going to purge the earth with **Fire.** 2Pet. 3:7.



<u>Comment</u>: I suggest to you an additional read of 2 Peter 3, read slow and let the Holy Spirit speak to you as to the truth you have heard from the author Rev. Clarence Larkin, it is powerful.

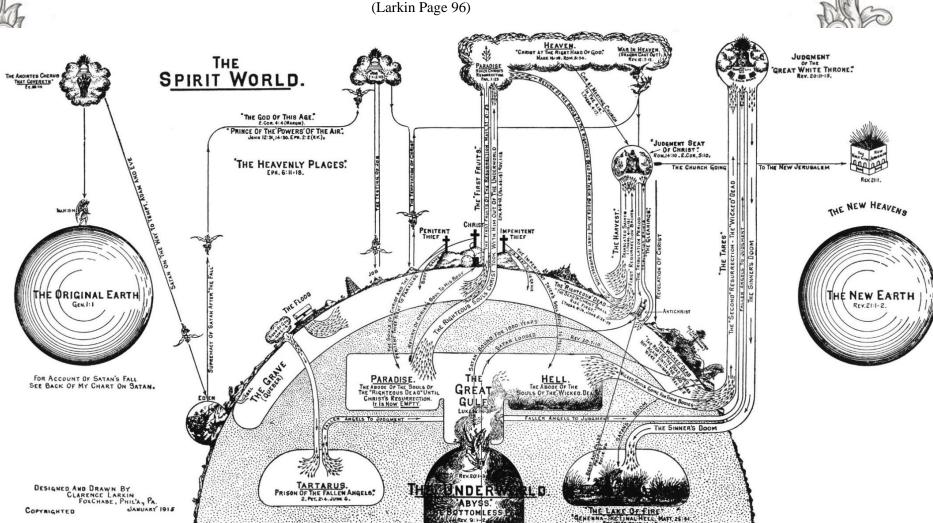
With that statement being made we find ourselves in Revelation c21-22

On to Chapter 14 and the Spirit World.



Chapter 14 The Spirit World

(Larkin Page 96)





<u>Comment</u>: An excerpt from my study on the GAP Theory beginning on page 20 is the following. I have included it here as it is appropriate subject matter, and the teaching is up to date and a deeper treasure for the reader.

CREATION

& the Sons of God



It is important to have a proper understanding of what the scriptures call "The Host of Heaven and who they are. There is order in the Kingdom of Heaven, and it started when God created the angels. So, I think it is fitting for us to start there also. This is a quick look at the angels at a time in eternity past when GOD BEGAN TO CREATE.

Genesis 1:1a, In the beginning God created ..."

In the Beginning ... the Beresheet of time ... In the dateless past

Psalm 33:6, "By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the **host of them** by the breath of his mouth."

The Host of Heaven

(The Angels)

There came a moment in eternity past when the Creator stood to His feet and spoke and suddenly there was a great multitude of the "Host of Heaven," known to us as the angels, standing where nothing had been before. Their numbers were exceedingly great, with the exact number known only to the Creator. They were all of singular purpose and of singular thought. They were dedicated for eternal service to the Creator, because this was all they knew.



The SPIRT WORLD c14



A Short Story by Gene Edwards

There was a moment never experienced before when the very first creature opened his eyes and marveled at all he saw. He was aware of things he never knew before this moment. Then he heard, "Your name shall be **Recorder**. You will be the one who records into the Book of Records all that shall transpire from this moment forward. I brought you into being before your companions that there may be a record even of their creation. I have endowed you with insight that I will give to no other."

Then Recorder answered back, "You are my Lord and my Creator. You are about to create a vast realm, are you not?"

"I Am."

Recorder looked around, "The books that lay next to your throne, they are the ones that are in my charge, and that I am to record all events in."

"You are."

Then Recorder took the great books from next to the throne and held them in his hands. "My Lord one of these books bears the title the Book of Life and it already has names written in it, I do not understand. Whose names are these for there is no one here but you and your servant."

"Those whose names have been written in the Book of Life are those of whom I have chosen before the foundations of the world, before creation itself. I have not yet brought them into being yet, but I have chosen them and they have chosen me."

Recorders eyes glistened and his spirit brightened at what he had been told. Then he had a revelation and so he said, "There has been no creation until now. Until this very moment it has been you, you have been everything and everything existed in you. Before you created there has been activity."

"You speak with the insight that I have given you, Recorder."

"My Lord, you have seen the beginning even before you created it, have you not?"

"I have seen the beginning of creation. I have seen its end."

Recorder was motionless for what he had just heard. His lack of response was his own way of asking another question. The Lord continued.

"Recorder, I have stood at the beginning and seen the end. I have stood at the end and seen the beginning."

"My Lord, Your words are beyond the reach of the understanding you have given me."

"I Am ... beyond all understanding, Recorder."

Sensing what he should do next, Recorder placed the book before him and took his position beside the throne. He paused and looked around at his Lord, knowing his words were not finished.

"I have finished all things."

"You are ... finished?" replied the astounded angel.

"Before I created all things, I finished all things."

"Lord, you know I do not understand."

"True. Nonetheless, place into the Book of Records what I have said."

Recorder lifted his pen and wrote on the first page. "Before the Creator of all things created ... He finished all things."

"Lord ... I perceive you have more to say."

"Place this also in the records. There is a Mystery in Me. A Mystery in Me, unknown to all ... hidden in Me before the creation of the world."

"This too, I will record," replied the somber angel. Once more Recorder inscribed the words of his Lord. Suddenly Recorder whirled about. "Lord! There is something else."

The Lord did not respond. Rather, light began pouring out from him like rivers of white fire. Recorder shielded his face, but still the radiance grew. The angel began to falter, thinking that he would be consumed by the glory. The torrents of light grew brighter, and then turned into a flaming furnace of gold. By some intuitive means, Recorder knew he was to face his Lord full on. Un-shielding his eyes, he looked up. The garments of his Lord were flowing about him in liquid waves of golden fire.

Recorder clutched his eyes, hesitated, and looked again.

"No! No!" cried Recorder in horror. "It is not possible!"

"What do you see, Recorder?"

"Lord! On your side ... a scar. You have been wounded."

"No Recorder not wounded. I have been slain, slain before the foundation of the world. Inscribe into the chronicles of creation what you have seen and what you have heard. Then seal these pages so that no eye may know what you have written. These words are to remain sealed ... until ..."

"Until when my Lord?"

"Until the fullness of time! Now step back, Recorder, and take your place beside the throne. Record what you see, for I am about to create the eternals ... and your companions!"

"Lord one last question. The handwriting is mine. It is I who wrote these names in the Book of Life! Yet, that is not possible!"

"Yes, it is your handwriting. You wrote the names into this book at the end of all things. I stand here at the beginning of all creation. Yet I, at this moment, also stand at the end of this creation. Alpha and Omega, I always am. Both, for me, are now. At both places I always Am. Wait my friend, and at the end, you will understand."

The Lord swept His hand across the horizon of nothingness. There burst forth first three, then a thousand thousands of beings of blazing light. All in one accord turned and faced the One who had created them. As they did, they divided into three innumerable bands. From out of the midst of one band rose a specially created being from among them, with a sword so immense it surely could slice eternity in two. "I am **Michael**, the first of the chief princes."

Another creature of like size and stature rose up from among the second group, a mighty trumpet in his hand. "I am **Gabriel**; the second host of messengers is my charge.

Out of the third host rose one of indescribable beauty. "I am **Lucifer**, the angel of light, the most glorious of all whom you have fashioned." With those words, the Son of the Morning rose above the third host of angels and took his place near the throne of God.

By celestial instincts, archangels and angels alike lifted their voices in one deafening roar.



Honor to Him who was before all things!!

"Go now, and explore your habitat," cried the Lord. Instantly, spirit-beings scattered out across the immeasurable reaches of the newly created realm, they would be called the **ETERNALS**.



The Creator created three separate "orders" of angels, each having a unique form, function, and purpose. In the Hebrew their singular titles were Cherub, Seraph, and Terap. The Hebrew plural forms of their title are as follows, ¹⁵

1. The **Cherubim**: also called archangels. These are angels of the highest and most powerful order. They literally surrounded the throne of God. Cherubim have six wings, four faces, and are quite large. The four faces (Rev. 4:7, Ezk.1:10) are a man's face, a lion's face, a bull's face, and an eagle's face. They are also covered with eyes.

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¹⁵ Lost in Translation Volume 1, by: John Klein & Adam Spears, page.81-82 In the beginning ...

In the scriptures we are introduced to four cherubim. The most commonly known are the Archangel **Michael** (*the Prince of Israel*), and the Archangel **Gabriel**. The two who fell, were "**Lucifer**" (Isaiah 14:12), and **Abaddon** (now known as the angel of Death). There are two others, **Uriel** and **Raphael**, these are referred to in extra-biblical writings – the Talmud, Mishnah, and apocryphal books. Below are the names of the four cherubim/archangels who did not rebel and thereby kept their positions before the throne of God:

•	Michael meaning Warrior (prince) of God
•	Gabriel meaning Redeemer of God
•	Raphael meaning Healer of God; bringer of God's Healing
•	Uriel meaning Light of God; bringer of God's Light

All of these names end with "el," which is a Hebrew word (or suffix) meaning God. Each of these four angels represents some attribute, characteristic, or service that originates with God.

Two of the original cherubim (one-third of the original six), rebelled against God. The four whose names end in "el" stayed true to God, while the one we (mistakenly) call Lucifer (often comes as a Cherub of Light) and Abaddon (originally the Cherub of Life, is now the Cherub of Death, you know him as the Angel of Death) these both fell in rebellion. Lucifer's downfall is forever recorded in Ezekiel 28:13-19.

2. The **Seraphim**: These are the middle order of angels and are sometimes known as "Burning Ones" or "Healing Angels." According to scripture these angels burn with fire and, like the cherubim, are covered with eyes. As messengers of God, they race back and forth between heaven and earth, doing His will. By way of illustration, the ancient Hebrew word in Revelation 8:7 (*seraph*) that is commonly translated as "*fire*" raining down on the earth also refers to seraphim coming down from heaven as "heavenly fire."

Much earlier in the Bible, in telling the story of Jacob's ladder we find in the book of Genesis:

Genesis 28:12 (NASB), ¹² "He had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it."

In this passage the original Hebrew suggests that what Jacob saw were seraphim, or messengers of God.

3. The **Teraphim**: These are the lowest order of angels. They are the only ones who can take on human form and maintain it for extended periods. These are the ones Paul spoke of who you may have entertained without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2 (NASB), "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Also, in the Hebrew Teraphim is the word "ayir," which means "watcher." Daniel 4:10, 17, 18 refers to angels that watch over us and serve as protectors and custodians of men's souls. These are truly our guardian angels. This is the group that television shows often portray, specifically "Touch by an Angel" and "Highway to Heaven".

When those within this group fell in rebellion, they became what we know today as the "demons" and "evil spirits." These are the ones who took on the form of, or possessed inanimate objects and are called "Idols." They demand to be worshiped.

Genesis 31:34 (NASB), "Now Rachel had taken the household idols and put them in the camel's saddle, and she sat on them. And Laban felt through all the tent but did not find *them*."

Some translations use the word "images" instead of idols, but both words in the Hebrew is (ha Teraphim) indicating the spirts behind the wooden idols (carved figures) that Rachel stole from her father's house were fallen Teraphim. The actual carved figure idol has no power at all, but rather the fallen angel or devils, who are the literal power behind each idol. The worship of such things is called Idolatry.

Idolatry is the worship of these idols giving them the honor and many times the thanks and credit which belongs to God alone. God hates idolatry and does not tolerate it because it turns people away from following Him.

Deuteronomy 7:4, "For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods; then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and He will quickly destroy you.

Below is what the New Testament writers had to say about these Teraphim angels who rebelled against God and are now the demons and devils and evil spirits we know today.

Jude 6 (NASB), "And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,"

2 Peter 2:4 (NASB), "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment.

The fallen watchers of Daniel and Enoch are this group of angels called Teraphim, or "sayir". This is also the group of Greek mythology, referring to the satyrs as half-man, half-beast. The books of Jude and 2nd Peter both speak of angels who did not keep their positions of authority and are bound in chains and in darkness, awaiting judgment. In all these cases, the Hebrew word used for these angels is sayir, whose pictographic meaning is "watchers to destroy [consume] men's souls." These words perfectly describe devils.

At some point in the dateless past while the "Stars of Heaven," (angels) were worshipping, the Lord stood up and He spoke and in so doing He created the Heavens and the earth. As God declared it to Job so He declares it to us today:

The three verses in the book of Job is God telling us two important truths:

- 1. God created angels **before** He created the earth and the universe. Otherwise, they would not be present to praise Him for all He was creating.
- 2. When God created the earth, **He created it in such a beautiful and perfect condition** that the angels responded with joyful singing and shouting.

End Comment: Back to Larkin

The Scriptures are full of the "Supernatural." The only cure for the "Materialism" of the present day is to discover what the Scriptures reveal as to the "Spirit World." There is but a step from the "Natural" World to the "Spirit" World. The dividing veil is our "fleshy" bodies. The "Heavenlies" are filled with Spirit Beings. They are of two classes, good and evil. They are classified as "**Seraphim**," "Cherubim..... Angels" (Good and Bad), "Principalities," "Powers," "Age Rulers of Darkness," "Wicked Spirits," (Eph. 6:12)

"Thrones, " "Dominions," (Col. 1:16) "Fallen Angels," (2Pet. 2:4) "Spirits in Prison, " (1Pet. 3:18-20): "Demons, " "Seducing Spirits" 1 Tim. 4:1.

The "**Seraphim**" have three pair of wings. They are the attendants of the "Lord of Hosts" and call attention to His holiness. Isa. 6:1-8.

The "Cherubim" or "Living Creatures," as described in Eze. 1:4-25; 10:1-22, have only two pair of wings, but they have "four faces on their head, the front face that of a "Man, the right side that of a "Lion," the left side that of an "Ox" (calf), and the back that of an "Eagle." They also have the "hand of a man" under their wings on each of their four sides. They are the Guardians of the Throne of God.

The "**Four Beasts**" or "Living Creatures" of Rev. 4:6-8. differ from the "**Living Creatures**" of Ezekiel, in that each Beast, instead of having four faces has but one. The <u>first Beast having the face of a lion</u>, the <u>second that of a calf</u>, the <u>third that of a man</u>, and the <u>fourth that of a flying eagle</u>, and each "Beast" has "six wings" and "eyes before and behind." The mention of a "Rainbow" by both Ezekiel and John (Ez. 1:28, Rev. 4:3) identifies the two visions as relating to the Throne of God.

The "Seraphim," "Cherubim," "Angels," and all other "Heavenly Beings" are created beings. They did not exist from all eternity. (Col. 1:16.)

The Angels are "innumerable in number." Heb. 12:22. They are "mighty in power" but not almighty. 2Thes. 1:7. They excel in strength. One angel destroyed 185, 000 of the Assyrian army in a night. An angel rolled away the stone from the Tomb of Christ, and one angel shall bind Satan and cast him into the "Bottomless Pit." They are "Glorious" beings (Luke 9:26) ', and have "great knowledge," but are not Omniscient. They neither marry nor are given in marriage. Matt. 22:30. That does not mean that they are "sexless" and have not the power of procreation. All the angels in the Scriptures are spoken of as men, and were so created in great numbers, and as they do not die (Luke 20:36), there is no need for "procreation," but that they have such power seems indisputable from Gen. 6:1-4, where we are told that the "Sons of God" (angels), had intercourse with the "daughters of men," and the result was a race of "Mighty Men." See Chapter two on the cause of the Flood. From this we see that the angels can sin.

The Angels are "Ministering Spirits" to them who are "heirs of salvation," (Heb. 1:13-14), and "Executioners of God's Wrath" on the "wicked." 2Thes. 1:7-8. They will gather the "elect of Israel" from the four corners of the earth, (Matt. 24:31), and are commissioned to supply the physical needs of God's people. Matt. 4. 11; 1Kings 19:4-6.

The Demons are not to be classed as angels. They appear to be "**disembodied spirits**," some think of the Pre-Adamite Earth, the inhabitants being disembodied because of the sin that caused the Pre-Adamite Earth to become chaotic. This is plausible, because they seek to re-embody themselves in human beings. They are **wicked, unclean, vicious**, and have the power to **derange both mind and body**. Matt. 12:22; 15: 22; Luke 4:35; Luke 8:26-36, 9:42. They are the "**Familiar Spirits**" of the Old Testament, and the "**Seducing Spirits**" of which Paul warned Timothy. 1Tim. 4:1. There are three prominent Personages spoken of in the Scriptures outside of the Triune God.

1. Michael.

He is mentioned three times in Daniel (Dan. 10:13, 21; 12:1), where he is called a "Prince" who stands for Daniel's People-the Jews. In Jude 9 He is called the Archangel. In Rev. 12:7 he is seen in command of the Angelic "Army of Heaven." His work seems to be to deliver God's people, particularly the Jews, from the power of Satan, and finally to oust him and his angels from the Heavenlies and cast them down on to the earth. Rev. 12:7-9. He also has something to do with the resurrection of the dead, for he is associated with the "Resurrection mentioned in Dan. 12:1-2, and he contested with the Devil the resurrection of Moses, (Jude 9) and the "voice" of the Archangel that will be heard when the "Dead in Christ" shall rise, (1Thes. 4:16), will be the "voice" of Michael, for he is the only Archangel mentioned in the Scriptures.

2. Gabriel.

He is mentioned by name four times. In Daniel twice and in Luke twice. He seems to be associated with the redemptive work of God. He appeared to Daniel (Dan. 8:16; 9:21-23), to inform him as to the "time" of Christ's "First Coming," and when the "time had come" he announced to Zacharias the birth of Christ's "Forerunner" -John the Baptist, and later to Mary the birth of Jesus. Luke 1:19,26,27. His position in heaven is lofty, for he said of himself to Zacharias "I am Gabriel that **Stands in the Presence of God."**

3. Satan.

We speak of Satan last not because he is the least of the three, for in many ways he is the greatest, but because of his evil character. He is the source of all the anarchy and rebellion in the Universe. See the Chart and Chapter on "Satan" for his history.

Let us now consider man's relation to the Spirit World. Man in his physical and spirit makeup, was made for two worlds, the Physical and the Spirit world. Writing to the Thessalonians Paul says,

"I pray God your whole 'Spirit' and 'Soul' and 'Body' be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1Thes. 5:23.

Writing to the Hebrews he says,

"The Word of God is quick (alive), and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of 'Soul' and 'Spirit, ' and of the 'Joints and Marrow' (body), and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Heb. 4:12.

From these references we see that man is a Trinity, and is composed of a "**Body**, " "**Soul**' " and "**Spirit**." Man was made in the "Image of God" and God is a Trinity. The difference between plant and animal life is that the plant has not "conscious" life, while the animal has a "living (conscious) soul." The difference between animal life and human life is, that while animals have a "living soul" man has more, he has a "spirit."

While man differs from a beast in having a "spirit," yet he is as to his "body" only an animal. That is, his body, as to its functions, is like the body of an animal in its vital processes of respiration, digestion, assimilation and general makeup; so, when the Apostle speaks of the "Natural" body he refers to the "animal" body of man. And when he speaks of man's "Spiritual" body, he means a "body" not some "ghostly substance," but a body with form and shape, but controlled and regulated by spiritual rather than natural laws. In other words, both our "Natural" and "Spirit bodies" are composed of "matter," the only difference being that the matter of our "Natural" bodies is adapted to this "Physical" world, while the matter of our "Spirit" bodies is adapted to the "Spirit" world. It makes the subject clearer to speak of a "Spirit" body, rather than a "Spiritual" body, for the word "Spiritual" refers more to the "religious" attribute of a body, than to the material.

The "Threefold Nature of Man" may be illustrated by the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was a tent surrounded by a court, which court was enclosed by a curtain fence. (See diagram of the Tabernacle.) The tent was divided into two parts, one twice the length of the

other, by a "veil" or curtain. The larger part was entered from without by a curtained doorway, and contained the "Table of Shewbread," the "Altar of Incense," and the "Seven Branched Candlestick." This part was called the "Holy Place." The smaller part was entered from the "Holy Place" through the "veil" or dividing curtain, and contained the "Ark of the Covenant," on the lid of which, between the "Cherubims," God took up His residence in the "Shekinah Glory." This part was called the "Most Holy Place." There were no windows in the Tabernacle, and the only entrance was through the curtained doorway into the "Holy Place."

The Tabernacle and its Courtyard is a type of the "**Threefold Nature of Man**." The "Courtyard" represents his Body, the "Holy Place" his Soul, and the "Most Holy Place" his Spirit, and as there could be no communication between the "Courtyard" and the "Most Holy Place, " only through the "Holy Place," so there can be no communication between a man's Body and Spirit only through his Soul.

After the completion of the Tabernacle, it remained empty of the "Presence of God" until the "Spirit of God" descended and took up His abode in the "Most Holy Place." So, a man may be complete as to body, soul and spirit, but his spiritual nature -Will remain unregenerate until the Holy Spirit enters and takes possession of the "spirit" compartment of his nature. This happens when the "New Birth" takes place.

When a man dies his soul and spirit separate from the body, and the body is laid in the grave, but the "spirit" is not "bodiless," it has what Paul calls its "Psychical" or "Soulish" body. This may be illustrated by a peach. A peach is a trinity. It is composed of the "flesh of the peach," the "stone," and the "kernel." Let the "flesh" correspond to the "body" of man, the "stone" to the "soul," and the "kernel" to the "spirit." Remove the "flesh" of the peach from the stone, and the "kernel" still has a "body," the "stone." So, when a man's "body" is separated from his "soul" and "spirit" at death, the "spirit" is not "bodiless," it still has its "Soulish body." As this "Soulish body" can hear, and speak, and think, and feel, it must have some "tangible" form. It is not a "ghostlike" structure. There are doubtless limitations in its use, or there would be no need for it to recover its physical body at the Resurrection.

That there is such a thing as the "Soulish Body" is brought out in the story of the "Rich Man and Lazarus." Luke 16:19-31.

The story is not a Parable, but a description by Christ of something that really happened in the other world to his own personal knowledge. It declares that both Lazarus and the "Rich Man" died and were buried. That is, their bodies were left on the earth. What happened to them in the "Underworld" then, is descriptive of what happened to them in their "disembodied state." In that state they were conscious, and the Rich Man recognized Lazarus, which he could not have done if Lazarus had not a body, not his "physical"

body, he left that on the earth, but his "Soulish" body. This is proof that the "Soulish" body is not simply a body, but that in its outward form and appearance it conforms to the earthly body of the owner, otherwise he would not be recognizable in the other world. Again the "Rich Man" could see, and feel, and thirst, and talk, and remember, proving that he possessed his senses and had not lost his personality. This proves that there is no break, as "Soul Sleep," in the Continuity of Existence, or Consciousness, in passing from the "Earth- Life" to the "Spirit-Life." The one life merges into the other just as the "infant-life" merges into the "boy-life," and at the Resurrection the "Spirit-Life" will merge into the "Resurrection-Life," just as the "boy-life" merges into the "man-life." I am just as much myself when I am stripped of my clothing as when I have it on. So, death, though it strips me of my "material" body, only changes my environment but does not destroy my Personality or BODILY FORM.

Sleep in the Scriptures always refers to the "body," not to the soul, and the expression, "Asleep in Jesus" refers to the Believer only.

The "Threefold Nature of Man" is clearly brought out in the Diagram.

"The Threefold Nature of Man.

The outer circle stands for the "body" of man, the middle for the "soul" and the inner for the spirit, or what Paul calls the "Carnal" (1Cor. 3:1-3); the "Natural" (1Cor. 2:14); and the "Spiritual" (1Cor. 3:1); parts of man.

In the outer circle the "body" is shown as touching the Material world through the five senses of "sight," "smell," "hearing," "taste" and "touch." The soul uses the "Five Senses" of the body as its agents in the exploration of the phenomena of matter and historical research, and for its self-expression and communion with the outside world. The "Gates" to the soul are "**imagination**," "**conscience**," "**memory**, " "**reason'** and the "**affections**." The "**Gate of Imagination**" of the soul corresponds to the "Gate of Sight" of the body, being the "eye" by which the soul sees. The "**Gate of Conscience**" corresponds to the "**Gate of Smell**, " by which the soul detects the presence of good and evil.

The "Gate of Memory" corresponds to the "Gate of Hearing," by which the soul recalls what it heard. The "Gate of Reason" corresponds to the "Gate of Taste," permitting the soul to compare facts as taste compares foods. The "Gate of the Affections" corresponds to the "Gate of Touch," being the hand by which the soul feels the person of the one it loves.

The Spirit receives impressions of outward and material things through the soul and body. The "Sense Faculties" of the spirit are the "Spiritual faculties" of "Faith...... Hope," "Reverence," "Prayer," and "Worship." In his unfallen state the "spirit" of man was illuminated from Heaven, but when the human race fell in Adam, sin closed the window of the spirit, and pulled down the curtain, and the "chamber of the spirit" became a **Death Chamber**, and remains so in every unregenerate heart, until the "Life" and "Light" giving power of the Holy Spirit floods that chamber with the "Life" and "Light" giving power of the NEW LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS. We see then why the "natural" man cannot understand spiritual things. He cannot understand them until his spiritual nature has been renewed.

But the spirit of the Natural man is not only darkened, his "Will" stands as a "guard" at the door, and prevents the entrance of the Holy Spirit, and it is not until the "Will" surrenders through the power of the "Sword of the Spirit," the ... Word of God, " that the Holy Spirit can enter and take up his abode in the "spirit" of man.

The battlefield of "Good" and "Evil" is in the "soul" of man. It is not enough that the Holy Spirit should take up His residence in the "spirit" of a man, He must have access to the "soul" and "body, " as shown on the Diagram. Not until then can a man become "Sanctified" for "Holiness" is conditioned on a "Spirit Filled" spirit, soul and body. A healthy soul and spirit need a healthy body, and if the body is given over to carnality and the lusts of the flesh, even to fasting that weakens it, the soul and spirit suffer, and the whole man becomes spiritually sick.

Let us now trace the life of the soul and spirit after they have left the body. In the story of the "Rich Man and Lazarus," we have a description of the "Underworld." We find that it is made up of two compartments, "Paradise" and "Hell," with an "Impassable Gulf" between them. At the bottom of the Gulf is the "Bottomless Pit" or "Abyss." This is a place of temporary confinement for "Evil Spirits" (Demons). It has a King, "Apollyon," but is kept locked by God, who commissions an angel to open it when He so desires. Rev. 9:1-11; 17:8; 20:1-3. Study in this connection the charts on "The Spirit World" and "The Resurrections and the judgments."

Before the resurrection of Christ, the soul and spirit of the righteous dead went to the "Paradise" compartment of the Underworld. There Christ met the "Penitent Thief" after His death on the Cross. On the day of His Resurrection Christ's soul and spirit returned from the Underworld, but He did not return alone. Jesus cleared out Paradise. scriptures tell us that "He led the captives free." He brought back with Him all the occupants of the Paradise section and locked it up, He now has the "Keys of Death and Hades." Rev.1:18 Here "Death" stands for the "grave" and "Hades" for the Underworld.

Mat. 27:51-54, ⁵¹ "And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² Also the tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; ⁵³ and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many.

Lu. 24:36-43, ³⁶ Now while they were telling these things, *Jesus* Himself *suddenly* stood in their midst and *said to them, "Peace *be* to you." ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were looking at a spirit. ³⁸ And He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why are doubts arising in your hearts? ³⁹ See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, because a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you *plainly* see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. ⁴¹ While they still could not believe *it* because of their joy and astonishment, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They served Him a piece of broiled fish; ⁴³ and He took it and ate *it* in front of them.

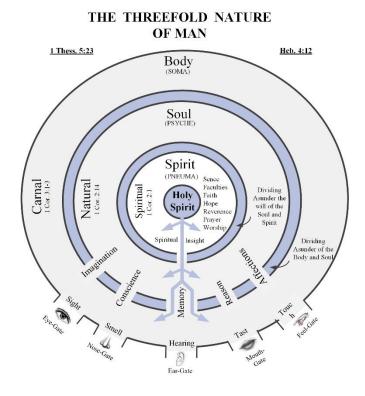
All of the (Old Testament Saints) who were in the Paradise side of the Underworld received their "Flesh and Bone bodies" when they rose from the dead with Crist, (A type of rapture). Proof of this is that they were seen walking around Jerusalem by many people including Pilate, as he conveyed in a letter, he sent to Caesar not long after the event. You cannot see a spirit body, but you can see a resurrected Flesh and Bone body like Jesus had as He pointed out to the disciples who were gathered together in Jerusalem. The Old Testament saints rose and ascended with Jesus as the "First-Fruits" of the resurrection "from among the dead." Matt. 27:52-53. There all the Righteous dead that have died since Christ's resurrection go, that they may be "With the LORD." Phil. 1:23. 2Cor. 5:8 For to be absent from this "Flesh and Blood" body, is to be present with the Lord and all things are new.

2 Corinthians 5:8,17 "8We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be <u>absent from the body</u>, and to be <u>present with the Lord</u>. … ¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *this person is* a <u>new creation</u>; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

The New Testament bodies of the Righteous dead shall remain in he grave until the time comes for the resurrection of their bodies, when Christ comes back to meet His Bride (the Church) in the Air (Rapture), He will bring back the souls of the Righteous dead from the "Third Heaven," for we are told that He will bring them who "**Sleep in Jesus**" **WITH Him** (1Thes. 4:14), and they shall continue on to the earth and get their "new resurrected bodies" from the grave, and then ascend with the "**Translated Saints**" to meet Christ **IN THE AIR.**

So far as we know the souls of the "Wicked Dead" are still in the "Hell Compartment" of the Underworld, and will remain there until the Second Resurrection, when they will return to the earth and get their bodies, and then go to the "Great White Throne" judgment. After judgment they will be sentenced to the "Second Death," which means that they shall die again, in the sense of losing their bodies again, and as "disembodied spirits" be cast into the "Lake of Fire, " (Gehenna, the "Final Hell"), to suffer in flames forever. As soul and spirit are impervious to flames, this explains how the wicked, after being disembodied again by the "Second Death," can exist forever in literal fire.

When the earth is "Renovated by Fire," (Rev.21) Satan and all the "Evil Powers" of the Heavenlies will be imprisoned, and the heavens will be "cleansed" of all evil and rebellious spirits. In the New Heavens and Earth man will be restored to the condition Adam was in before the Fall, and the "veil" between the Natural and Spirit Worlds will be no more.

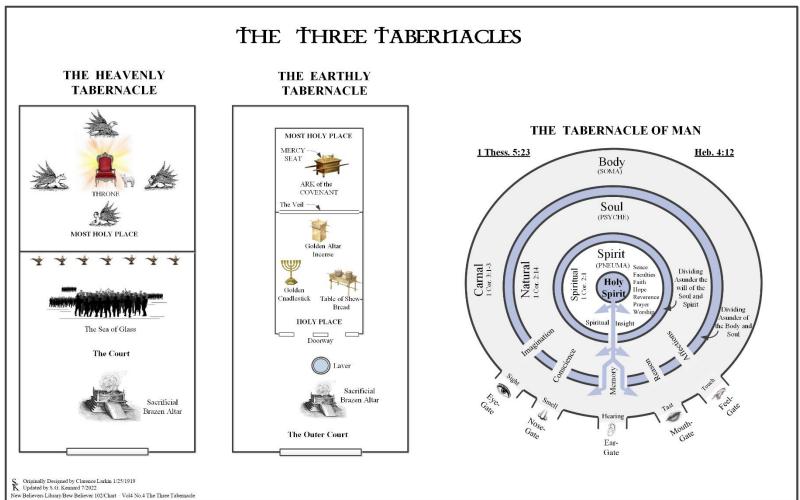




Chapter 15 SPIRITISM

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SPIRITISM

The Three Tabernacles

Spiritualism, or "**SPIRITISM**" as it should more properly be called, is an attempt to hold communication with the "spirits" of the departed dead. It has another name, "**IMMORTALISM**, " and its investigations are carried out these days under the title of "**PSYCHICAL RESEARCH**." The Biblical name for it is "**DEMONISM**."

It is forbidden in the Scriptures. "The soul that turns after such as have **'FAMILIAR SPIRITS**,' and after 'Wizards,' to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will **CUT HIM OFF FROM AMONG HIS PEOPLE**." Lev. 20:6.

A man or woman that hath a 'FAMILIAR SPIRIT,' or that is a 'Wizard,' shall surely be put to death; they shall STONE THEM WITH STONES." Lev. 20:27.

"There shall not be found among you anyone *** that uses 'Divination, ' * * * or a 'Witch,' or a consulter with 'Familiar Spirits,' or a 'Wizard."' Deut. 18:10-11. "When they shall say unto you, seek unto them that have 'FAMILIAR SPIRITS' and unto the 'Wizards, ' that speak and that mutter; should not a people seek unto their God on behalf of the living, should they seek unto the dead? " Isa. 8:19 R. V.

The "Familiar Spirits" of the Old Testament are the same as the "Demons" and "Seducing Spirits" of the New Testament.

Of the revival of "Spiritism" in these days we have been fully warned in the New Testament. The Apostle Paul, writing to Timothy, says,

"Now the Spirit (Holy Spirit) speaks expressly, that in the **'LATTER TIMES**' (the last days of this Dispensation) some shall **depart from the Faith** (that is, give up the Christian Faith) giving heed to **'SEDUCING SPIRITS**,' and **'DOCTRINES OF DEVILS'** (Demons): * * * **forbidding to marry**, and commanding to **abstain from meats.**"
1Tim. 4:1-3.

The phrase "forbidding to marry" does not refer to "**celibacy**," but to the repeal of the marriage covenant or relationship, turning to the practice of "**FREE LOVE**" and the doctrine of "**AFFINITIES**¹⁶," which Spiritism leads to.

The close connection of this warning of the Apostle with the words, "Refuse profane and 'OLD WIVES' FABLES, ' in verse seven, is doubtless a reference to some of the "ISMS" of these last days. For "Christian Science" is but an "OLD WIFE'S" Fable, for Mrs. Eddy was an "Old Wife" in the sense that she had been many times married. It's an indisputable fact that most of the "Witches" and "Mediums" of Scripture, and these "Latter Days," were and are women. It was through Eve and not Adam that Satan sought to destroy the race.

We are also told in Rev. 9:1-3, of an invasion of "Infernal Cherubim" or "Locusts" from the "Bottomless Pit" in the "Last Days." And we are told that "Three Unclean Spirits," or "Spirits of Demons" are to gather the Kings of the Earth for the great Battle of Armageddon. Rev. 16:13-15. And we read in Rev. 18:2, that the restored and rebuilt City of Babylon, shall, before its destruction, "become the **HABITATION OF DEVILS**, and the **HOLD OF EVERY FOUL SPIRIT**, and a cage of every **UNCLEAN AND HATEFUL BIRD**.

The revival of "Spiritism" then is one of the "Signs of the Times," and should be a warning to every true child of God of the approaching end of the Age. But alas! because of the absence of warning from the pulpit, thousands of God's Children are entering these "Perilous Times" unprepared to meet the subtle attack of "Spiritism" because they have not been taught the doctrine of

DEMONOLOGY.

The authorized English version of the New Testament is less clear in its presentation of "Demonology" than is the original Greek, because it translates "diabolus," "daimonion," and "daimon," by the same word, "Devil." The word "diabolus" (Devil), meaning "slanderer" or "false accuser," is only used in the New Testament in the singular, and appears 35 times. The words "daimonion" and "daimon" are used in the New Testament both in the singular and plural, but never interchangeably with "diabolus," and should be translated "demon," or "evil" or "unclean spirit." The word "daimonion" occurs 56 times, and "daimon" 5 times.

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¹⁶ Affinities – the kinship relationship created or that exist between two people as a result of someone's marriage.

There is but **one** Devil (Satan), but multitudes of "**demons**," and Beelzebub (Satan) is the "Prince of the Demons." Matt. 12:24-26. Satan has not the power of omnipresence, and so many things attributed to him should be attributed to demons. On important occasions, as the Temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness, Satan himself is the agent. The "Demons" belong to the "Powers of Darkness." They are not few in number but are a great "army of "Demonic Host, " veterans in the service of Satan. Their central camp or abode is the "Bottomless Pit" from which they "come forth" at the command of their leader. Rev. 9:1-11. They are not angels. Angels have bodies. But the fact that demons can enter in, and take possession of, and control human beings and animals (swine), is proof that they are "**Disembodied Spirits**." They are supposed by many to be the "spirits" of the inhabitants of the "pre-Adamite Earth," whose sin caused its wreck, and whose bodies were destroyed in the catastrophe that overwhelmed it, and their desire and purpose in entering human bodies is to re-embody themselves again on the earth where they once lived. That the "Demons" have a **personality** is clear from the fact that Jesus conversed with them, asked them questions, and received answers. Luke 8:26-28. They possess more than ordinary intelligence. They know that Jesus is the "**Son of God**," and that they are finally to be confined in a place of "**Torment**." Matt. 8:29.

THE POWER OF DEMONS OVER THE HUMAN BODY

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They can cause **DUMBNESS** (Matt. 9:32-33), and **BLINDNESS** (Matt. 12:22), and **INSANITY** (Luke 8:26-28), and the **SUICIDAL OBSESSSION** (Mark 9:22), and **PERSONAL INJURIES** (Mark 9:18), and impart **SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH** (Luke 8:29), and inflict PHYSICAL DEFECTS AND DEFORMITIES. Luke 13:11-13. Once they have got control over a human body they can come and go at will. Luke 11:24-26.

The Devilish character of "Demons" is seen in the use they make of their victims. They use them as "instruments of unrighteousness," (Rom. 6:13), for the proclamation of the "DOCTRINES OF DEVILS," (1Tim. 4:1), and the teaching of "DAMNABLE HERESIES." 2Pet. 2:1. The effect of such use of the victim is not only unmoral, but it is IMMORAL. It leads to vicious and inhuman conduct. The conduct of "demonized" men and women seems to indicate that the "Demon" takes possession of them for the purpose of physical sensual gratification, thus letting us into the secret of the cause of the wreck of the Pre-Adamite Earth, the SIN OF SENSUALITY. This accounts for the desire of the victim to live in a state of nudity; to have lustful and licentious thoughts. In these days of the increasing tendency to yield to "Seducing Spirits" it may account for the immodesty of fashionable

attire. The purpose of the "Demon" is often to alienate husband and wife and break up homes by preaching the doctrine of "**FREE LOVE**." In short, the "Demon," for personal gratification, has the power, once he is in control of his victim, to derange both mind and body, and wreck the victim's health, and if deliverance is not obtained by turning to Christ, who alone has power to cast out the Demon, the victim will be lost soul and body.

Demon-possession must not be confounded with diseases, such as "Epilepsy," which causes the victim to fall in convulsions, foam at the mouth and gnash the teeth, for the Scriptures make a clear distinction between them.

"And His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought unto Him all sick people that were taken with **divers diseases and torments**, and those which were **POSSESSED WITH DEVILS** (Demons-"daimonizomai, " demonized or demon possessed), and those which were **lunatic**, and those that had the **palsy**; and He healed them." Matt. 4:24.

In 1Cor. 10:20-21 we read,

"But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they **SACRIFICE TO DEVILS** (Demons), and not to God; and I would not that you should have **FELLOWSHIP WITH DEVILS** (Demons). You cannot drink the **'Cup of the Lord'** (Communion Cup), and the **'Cup OF DEVILS'**; you cannot be partakers of the **'Lord's Table**, ' and of the **TABLE OF DEVILS** (Demons)"

This passage proves that behind all heathen worship there is the "Spirit of Demonism," or "**DEVIL WORSHIP**," and accounts for the "wild orgies" and voluptuous and licentious mode of worship of the heathen.

That the "Demons" have the power of "**DIVINATION**" is clearly revealed in the New Testament.

"And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel **POSSESSED WITH A SPIRIT OF DIVINATION** met us, which brought her masters much gain by **SOOTHSAYING**. The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, these men are the servants of the 'Most High God,' which shew unto us the Way of Salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the '**SPIRIT**' (the Evil Spirit, or Demon), I command thee in the **name of JESUS CHRIST** to come out of her. And he came out at the same hour." Acts 16:16-18.

It is clear from the context that this young woman was a **MEDIUM**, and that she performed her work through the instrumentality of an "Evil Spirit" or "Demon." This reveals the source of information of modern "Mediums." The information they furnish is given, not by the person they profess to call up, but by an "Evil Spirit" or "Demon, " who, for the purpose impersonates the person called for.

If there ever was an exception to this method of communication between this and the world of departed spirits, it was the case of Samuel, recorded in 1Sam. 28:6-8. There is a diversity of opinion as to whether Samuel really appeared, or was impersonated by an "Evil Spirit." But the account is so circumstantial, and the evident and undisguised surprise of the Witch of Endor at the appearance of Samuel, whom she doubtless had known, and the conversation between Saul and Samuel without the aid of the Witch as a **MEDIUM**, seems conclusive evidence that Samuel did really appear. But the Witch did not bring him up. God sent him as a rebuke to Saul. Thus the exception proves the rule.

Some claim that because Samuel said, "Tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me," that it was not Samuel that appeared, but an "Evil Spirit," for Saul and his sons would not go to the same place in the other world as Samuel. But we must not forget from our study of the chapter on the "Spirit World," that "Paradise" and "Hell" were at that time both in the heart of the earth, from which Samuel came up, but were separated by a "Great Gulf." So, the words "Tomorrow shall you and your sons be with me," meant that they should be with Samuel in the "Underworld," but in separate locations, separated by a "Great Gulf." And the fact that we are told that Saul's death was partly caused by his asking counsel of a "Familiar Spirit" (1Chron. 10:13), reveals God's displeasure with those who resort to Spiritism.

The account of the Transfiguration, in which Moses and Elijah appeared on the Mount with Jesus, and in the presence of Peter, James and John (Matt. 17:1-3), is used by Spiritualists to prove that our departed ones can come back again to the earth. But we must not forget that Moses and Elijah were not in the state of the dead. Moses had been resurrected, and Elijah had never died, and the Transfiguration scene is a foreview of the condition of the dead after the **FIRST RESURRECTION**, when those who are with Christ shall return to the region of the air to reign with Christ over the earth. In that day the saints will have communication with the earth, but not in this Dispensation.

The story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-21) reveals the fact that communication with the spirits of our departed dead, is not only unnecessary, but is not permitted. It is not necessary, for we have Moses and the Prophets, that is, the Holy Scriptures, to give us

all we need to know of the state of the dead. And it is not permitted, or Lazarus, or the rich man himself, would have been allowed to return to the earth and warn his brethren. The inevitable conclusion to be drawn from this story is, that the spirit of a good man **MAY** not, and the spirit of a bad man **CANNOT** return to this earth. If this be true then Spiritism is a fraud and is one of the devices of Satan in these latter days to lead astray the unwary. Those who dabble in Spiritism are in great danger of having their "**understanding darkened**" (Eph. 4:17-19) and come under the power and control of Demons.

The Apostle John says, "Believe not every spirit, but **TRY THE SPIRITS** whether they are of God, because many false prophets are gone out into the world." 1John 4:1. The test is-"Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ **IS COME IN THE FLESH** is not of God." 1John 4:3. Ask the "**spirit**" that comes to you personally seeking entrance, or speaks to you through a "Medium, " if Jesus Christ **IS COME IN THE FLESH**, that is, was born of the Virgin, and is the "**SON OF GOD**" and if it **says-YES**! that is the Holy Spirit, for no man can say that Jesus is the **LORD**, but by the Holy Spirit. 1Cor. 12:3. But if the "Spirit" gets angry, and denies the Deity of the Lord Jesus, and the authority of the Word of God, then it is clear that the "spirit" is an "Evil Spirit" or "Demon." The Holy Spirit will not teach anything contrary to the Scriptures, so a person to be able to "**TEST THE SPIRITS**" must be thoroughly conversant with the Word of God.

Another of the "Signs of the Times" is the revival of what is called the

"GIFT OF TONGUES,"

in which the recipient claims that he is taken possession of by the "Spirit of God" and empowered to speak in an "unknown" or "foreign tongue." But the conduct of those thus possessed, in which they fall to the ground in contortions, causing disarrangement of the clothing and disgraceful scenes, is more a characteristic of "demon possession," than a work of the Holy Spirit, for the Holy Spirit does not lend Himself to such vile impersonations.

From what has been said we see that we are living in "Perilous Times," and that all about us are "Seducing Spirits," and that they will become more active as the Dispensation draws to its close, and that we must exert the greatest care lest we be led astray by them.



<u>Comment</u>: Clarence Larkin make no bones over the fact he is/was a Baptist of the early 1900's. The first sentence of the above subject the "**Gift of Tongues**," describes the gift of Tongues and is everything his opening <u>sentence</u> says it is, and that's where it ends.

Everything God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is, Satan has a counterfeit for. For example, Satan comes in the form of a serpent, while the Holy Spirit comes in the form of a dove (Luke 3:22.) Satan was a murder from the beginning (Jn.8:44), the Holy Spirit gives life (Ro. 8:11). in Revelation chapter 6 we have the spirit of the antichrist coming out of the pit of hell riding a white horse, to deceive the world with a false peace, Jesus comes back on a white horse and ushers in 1000 years of true peace. Satan deceives this world with his lies and confusion of men's minds.

However, there is no confusion when it comes to the Holy Spirit. He came at Pentecost and a room of 120 people began to speak in tongues. If this happened to the Disciples in the Upper Room of Acts 2, then I want all of it the Spirit will give me.

Here are the facts straight from the book:

The Day of Pentecost – Acts 2

¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly a noise like a violent rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ And tongues *that looked* like fire appeared to them, distributing themselves, and *a tongue* rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with different tongues, as the Spirit was giving them *the ability* to speak out.

⁵ Now there were Jews residing in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together and they were bewildered, because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷ They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ And how *is it that* we each hear *them* in our own language to which we were born? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them

speaking in our *own* tongues of the mighty deeds of God." ¹² And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others were jeering and saying, "They are full of sweet wine!"

Peter's Sermon

¹⁴ But Peter, taking his stand with the *other* eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, know this, and pay attention to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you assume, since it is *only* the third hour of the day; ¹⁶ but this is what has been spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ and it shall be in the 'Last Days,' God says, 'that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and your daughters will prophesy; and your young men will see visions, and your old men will have dreams; ¹⁸ and even on My male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days, and they will prophecy, ¹⁹ and I will display wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below, blood, fire, and vapor of smoke. ²⁰ The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious Day of the Lord comes. ²¹ And it will be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

I would like to address a subject that was presented to me during one of my studies. My answer is not the answer to end all answers, on the matter, but rather a simple thought given to me by the Lord. First let me share scripture and a word from Paul.

1 Cor. 13:8-10, ⁸ Love never fails: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. ⁹ For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰ But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

YES, there is coming a time when some of the gifts of the Spirit will stop, cease ... not needed any more. When is that you ask? Paul tells us in v10, "When that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." You will not need tongues in heaven, you will not need healing, you will not need prophecies, even knowledge shall vanish away, WHY? I believe, because we will be with the Lord in heaven and all things are made perfect. Why have tongues when we all speak as one in the Kingdom, why do we need prophecies in heaven when all earthly prophecies no longer apply to you, and the object of them all, is standing beside us. We are one with Him.

Remember what we have now is only a small part of the blessing God has waiting for us, like the rainbow, we see and understand in part, but in heaven we shall see more clearly. The vail of half-truths and half understandings which we now have, shall be removed and what we know in part, will be made complete, like the rainbow that incircles the throne of God.

A word of advice, don't sweat the small things, because in the end, **LOVE** is the greatest thing (our Summum Bonum)¹⁷, and will never pass away. 1 Cor. 13:13, And now abides faith, hope, love, these three; but the **greatest of these is love**.

"To love abundantly is to live abundantly."

And we Continue the Study in Vol. 5

RESURRECTIONS and **JUDGMENTS**

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¹⁷ sum*mum bo*num – In the Greek [What is the supreme good]

Sources

Clarence Larkin Charts available from

https://www.blueletterbible.org/images/larkin/