

THE VOICE OF GOD

A CRY IN THE WILDERNESS

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SEARCHING

**Once I was searching,
For someone to see,
If someone was searching
For someone like me.**

**Once I was crying,
For someone to hear,
That someone was crying,
To have someone near.**

**Once I was reaching,
For someone to see,
And found someone reaching,
For someone like me.**

Jesus is reaching for souls who are searching.

INTRODUCTION

THE VOICE OF HIM WHO CRIES IN THE WILDERNESS, PREPARE YOU THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE STRAIGHT PATHS IN THE DESERT (wilderness), A HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD. EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE EXALTED, AND EVERY MOUNTAIN SHALL BE MADE LOW. AND THE CROOKED SHALL BE MADE STRAIGHT, AND THE ROUGH PLACES PLAIN: AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHALL BE REVEALED, AND ALL FLESH SHALL SEE IT TOGETHER: FOR THE MOUTH OF THE LORD HAS SPOKEN IT. Isaiah, Chapter 40, Verses 3-5.

Today there is a Cry in the Wilderness for people to repent of their sins. We are on the verge of the greatest Revival mankind has ever experienced. On the other hand, we are on the verge of the greatest outpouring of satanic activity since the beginning of time. Jesus told us in Matthew, Chapter 24, that a time of great tribulation would occur on the Earth worse than anything man has or will ever experience. While there is still time, we must heed the call of God to take the Gospel to the lost. Today many find themselves wandering in the Valley of Decision. It is our responsibility to point them to the Cross of Christ to help them decide to choose LIFE.

John the Baptist was sent by God to “PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD” by preaching the doctrine of repentance to a lost and dying World. John’s calling was to prepare those who were living in the WILDERNESS OF SIN for the first coming of the Messiah.

John baptized people in the Jordan River as a prophetic prelude to the spiritual baptism Christ would perform in the life of all who would believe and trust in His Name. John’s baptism was a prophetic example of the washing away of the sins of the flesh. The baptism of Christ is the fulfillment of that prophetic example which literally washes away the sins of the flesh by the washing of the WATER of the WORD and the BLOOD of HIS NEW COVENANT.

The Glory of the Lord is revealed to us in the Person of Christ. Christ came to seek and save those who are lost in a Wilderness of Sin. Jesus CRIES OUT IN THE WILDERNESS OF SIN to all who are bound by sin to offer them freedom from the bondage of sin. God uses men and women to Cry Out in the Wilderness for people to repent of their sins so they can find peace and rest for their lost and lonely souls.

The Voice crying out in the Wilderness today is the Voice of Christ speaking through His beloved ones, the Church, who have accepted the CALL to “go into all the World and preach the Gospel.” The “VOICE THAT CRIES IN THE WILDERNESS” today will save a multitude of souls from an eternity of damnation if the Voice of God will be trumpeted by His Children.

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CHAPTER I

THE LIGHT AND THE DARKNESS

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH. AND THE EARTH WAS WITHOUT FORM, AND VOID; AND DARKNESS WAS UPON THE FACE OF THE DEEP. AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD MOVED UPON THE FACE OF THE WATERS. AND GOD SAID LET THERE BE LIGHT: AND THERE WAS LIGHT. AND GOD SAW THE LIGHT THAT IT WAS GOOD: AND GOD DIVIDED THE LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS. AND GOD CALLED THE LIGHT DAY, AND THE DARKNESS HE CALLED NIGHT. AND THE EVENING AND THE MORNING WERE THE FIRST DAY. Genesis, Chapter 1, Verses 1-5.

Since the beginning of time there has been conflict between Light and Darkness. The conflict between Light and Darkness is the conflict between Good and Evil. IN THE BEGINNING time began when God created the Light and separated it from the Darkness. According to the above Scriptures IN THE BEGINNING darkness was already present. Darkness permeated the Earth which was without form and void until the Spirit of God moved upon the waters (or vapors in the Hebrew) and said "Let there be Light."

The above Scriptures have a spiritual application as well as a natural one. EVERYTHING we see with the naked eye is a type and shadow of things which are not seen. Light brings clarity and understanding whereas

darkness and deception obscures vision. There exists a natural light and a natural darkness. There also exists a Spiritual Light and a Spiritual Darkness. In this book we will be dealing with both Light and Darkness. Spiritual Light and Spiritual Darkness are continually at odds with each other. How we perceive each of these will determine how we deal with each of them in our daily life.

The Conflict of the Ages has always been between Light and Darkness. God created the Light to dispel the Darkness and bring clarity and understanding to the hearts and minds of men. Before God created mankind He called him to walk in Light (understanding), even though Darkness was present.

Light has always been greater and more powerful than Darkness because Light always brings clarity, vision and understanding where chaos and lawlessness abounds. For TRUTH seekers light exposes the evils of Darkness and crowns men's hearts with understanding. Unfortunately, many men prefer Darkness rather than Light because their hearts and deeds are evil. For those who seek TRUTH, Light will lead them out of Spiritual Darkness into a life filled with spiritual visions, clarity and understanding.

In the story of Creation we find many lessons regarding Spiritual Light and Spiritual Darkness. We find the story of Christ Jesus, the Light of the World, and the Darkness which dwells on and permeates the Earth (spirit and soul). In the Bible the Earth is a type and shadow of the spirit of man. The whole story of Creation is an anomaly which can only be understood by those who are dwelling in the LIGHT of Christ. Christ is the Light of the

World who came to dispel the darkness which permeates the hearts and souls of mankind.

DARK MATTER

AND THE LORD SAID EVEN UNTO MOSES, STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND TOWARD HEAVEN, THAT THERE MAY BE DARKNESS OVER THE LAND OF EGYPT, EVEN DARKNESS WHICH MAY BE FELT. AND MOSES STRETCHED FORTH HIS HAND TOWARD HEAVEN; AND THERE WAS A THICK DARKNESS IN ALL THE LAND OF EGYPT THREE DAYS. Exodus, Chapter 10, Verse 21-22.

Many scientists believe there is a thing called DARK MATTER. According to some scientists, Dark Matter makes up approximately 85 percent of the Universe. They believe that energy is attached to Dark Matter and it can have an effect on people. Scientists are still studying Dark Matter and how it affects our Universe. Could it be that Dark Matter played a role in the Plague of Darkness which came upon Egypt in the Book of Exodus? Again, it looks Science may have proved the Word of God to be true.

THEY SAW NOT ONE ANOTHER, NEITHER ROSE ANY FROM HIS PLACE FOR THREE DAYS: BUT ALL THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL HAD LIGHT IN THEIR DWELLINGS. Exodus, Chapter 20, Verse 23.

When the land of Egypt was filled with darkness, the Children of God had light in their dwellings. This is a type and shadow of the Light of Christ dwelling in the hearts and minds of God's people.

The only thing Darkness in any form cannot penetrate is Light. Darkness has no power over Light, but

Light has power over Darkness. You can turn on the light in a room, but you cannot turn on darkness. Darkness only exists when there is the absence of Light. One who does not possess the LIGHT of Christ dwells in Darkness.

LIGHT LIFE AND UNDERSTANDING

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. THE SAME WAS IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD. ALL THINGS WERE MADE BY (through) HIM; AND WITHOUT HIM WAS NOT ANYTHING MADE THAT WAS MADE. IN HIM WAS LIFE; AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN. AND THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS; AND THE DARKNESS COMPREHENDED (overtook) IT NOT.

IN THE BEGINNING God hovered over the Darkness and spoke the creative words “Let there be Light.” The Earth was void and without form (desolate), and darkness permeated the deep (vapors). The word “void” speaks of there being nothing but an emptiness or vacuum in the darkness. This is a type and shadow of men without the Light of Christ illuminating their souls. Without Christ, the Light of the World, men walk in darkness.

The LIFE of Christ is the LIGHT of men. You cannot separate the Life of Christ from the Light of Christ. It is the Light of Christ which causes the spiritually blind to see and understand the Truth. Christ is not only Light and Life, He is also Truth. Where the Light of Christ brings understanding, the Life of Christ brings Salvation to all who will believe in Him.

The Apostle Paul in praying for the Ephesians wrote: THAT THE GOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE FATHER OF GLORY (light), MAY GIVE UNTO YOU THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM: THE EYES OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING BEING ENLIGHTENED; THAT YE MAY KNOW WHAT IS THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING, AND WHAT IS THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS, AND WHAT IS THE EXCEEDING GREATNESS OF HIS POWER TO US-WARD WHO BELIEVE, ACCORDING TO THE WORKING OF HIS ALMIGHTY POWER. Ephesians, Chapter 1, Verses 17-19.

Light is prophetic of understanding. Without light I cannot see anything. Light gives me the ability to see the things and places around me. Light helps me to maneuver around on this planet without waking into things and hurting myself. Light helps me to see dangers which may be in my pathway. Without light, we would be in total darkness and subject to the things and forces which are around us.

In the same sense, without Spiritual Light (Christ), we cannot see and understand things which are spiritual. Without Christ, men walk in Spiritual Darkness. Without Christ, our Light, we cannot understand spiritual truths. Without Christ, we cannot see the dangers and pitfalls of living in Spiritual Darkness. Understanding who Christ is and what He has done for us gives us the ability and opportunity to walk in His Light. His Light shines in the deepest parts of our soul. Our souls were once full of

spiritual darkness and at one time void of Truth and spiritual understanding.

WE ALSO DO NOT CEASE TO PRAY FOR YOU, AND DESIRE THAT YOU BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL IN ALL WISDOM AND SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING. Colossians, Chapter 1, Verse 9.

Without Spiritual Light, I cannot know the will of God, and I am blinded to the Wisdom and Understanding of Truth. It is the Truth we know which sets us free from the pitfalls and chaos of Spiritual Darkness. It is Truth which transforms us into the image of Christ by setting us free from Spiritual Darkness. It is the Light of Christ which enables us to find our way, even though we walk through a World permeated by sin and darkness.

Without Spiritual Understanding, we are alienated from God and our hearts are blinded from KNOWING and UNDERSTANDING the Truth. Without Spiritual Light, men are bound in chains of darkness and destined for Hell unless they repent of their sins and accept Christ as Lord and Savior. When they do accept Christ, the LIFE (spirit) of Christ comes to dwell in their hearts.

Darkness and Light cannot coexist. Darkness and Light influence our emotions in opposite ways. Darkness promotes fear in the life of a person. Fear leads to depression and despair. On the other hand, Light inspires hope and understanding in the heart of man. Hope and understanding leads to deliverance and salvation. Understanding dispels ignorance as Light dispels Darkness. Jesus is the LIGHT of the World. The Scripture says: men love Darkness more than they do Light because their deeds

are evil. Men who live in Darkness do so at their own peril.

THIS IS THE MESSAGE WHICH WE HAVE HEARD OF HIM, AND DECLARE UNTO YOU, THAT GOD IS LIGHT, AND IN HIM IS NO DARKNESS AT ALL. IF WE SAY WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM, AND WALK IN DARKNESS, WE LIE AND DO NOT (KNOW) THE TRUTH. 1 John, Chapter 1, Verses 5-6.

In the Story of Creation, the Darkness which permeated the FACE OF THE DEEP was a type and shadow of the soul without Christ who is the Light of the World. When God spoke into the DARKNESS and said, "Let there be Light," He was speaking of the Light of Christ. The Light of Christ brings Understanding and Salvation to the souls of men living in Darkness.

Darkness cannot dispel darkness. Living in Darkness can only lead to tragedy. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that." Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that. God is LIGHT. 1 John, Chapter 1, Verse 5. God is LOVE. 1 John, Chapter 4, Verse 8.

LIGHT LOVE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

BELOVED LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER: FOR LOVE IS OF GOD; AND EVERYONE WHO LOVES IS BORN OF GOD, AND KNOWS GOD. HE WHO LOVES NOT KNOWS NOT GOD; FOR GOD IS LOVE. 1 John, Chapter 4, Verses 7-8.

He who walks in the Light loves God. The Gospel of John says: "The Life of Jesus is the Light of men." If we

are walking IN THE LIGHT, it is because we know and have experienced that GOD IS LOVE and His love constrains us to LOVE ONE ANOTHER. His Love empowers us to love one another so that we may become complete in Him. His Life is the Light which leads us to Eternal Life.

THE PATH OF THE JUST (righteous) IS AS THE SHINING LIGHT; THAT SHINES MORE AND MORE UNTO THE PERFECT DAY. THE WAY OF THE WICKED IS AS DARKNESS: THEY KNOW NOT AT WHAT THEY STUMBLE. Proverbs, Chapter 4, Verses 17-18.

The Path of Righteousness is the Way of Light. In other words, Light (understanding) is one of the keys to RIGHTEOUSNESS. On the Path of Righteousness we are able to LIGHT the WAY for others who are dwelling in Darkness. In walking in the Light of Christ, we become a Light set upon a hill for all to see. In Christ we become a Heavenly Beacon of Light shining out over stormy seas in order to direct ships being tossed and turned from the storms of life to safety. The Light of Christ is an ever present help in the time of storm: an ever present help in the time of need.

On the other hand, the pathway of the wicked is DARKNESS. They will continue to stumble and fall because they do not understand and cannot see that the pathway which they travel is the pathway which leads to destruction and death. There are many pitfalls on the Pathway of Darkness which lead to eternal damnation. Unfortunately, those who walk the Pathway of Darkness do not understand the perilous dangers which lay ahead of them.

CHAPTER 2

THE SUN AND THE MOON

AND GOD SAID LET THERE BE LIGHTS IN THE FIRMAMENT OF THE HEAVEN TO DIVIDE THE DAY FROM THE NIGHT; AND LET THEM BE FOR SIGNS AND SEASONS, AND FOR DAYS, AND YEARS. AND LET THEM BE FOR LIGHTS IN THE FIRMAMENT OF THE HEAVEN TO GIVE LIGHT UPON THE EARTH: AND IT WAS SO. AND GOD MADE TWO GREAT LIGHTS; THE GREATER LIGHT TO RULE THE DAY, AND THE LESSER LIGHT TO RULE THE NIGHT; HE MADE THE STARS ALSO. AND GOD SET THEM IN THE FIRMAMENT OF THE HEAVEN, TO GIVE LIGHT UPON THE EARTH, AND TO RULE OVER THE DAY AND OVER THE NIGHT, AND TO DIVIDE THE LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS: AND GOD SAID IT WAS GOOD. AND THE EVENING AND THE MORNING WERE THE FIRST DAY. Genesis Chapter 1, Verses 14-19.

In the last Chapter we saw that God created Light and Darkness on the first day. In the above Scriptures we see that God created the Sun and the Moon on the fourth day. God created the Light and the Darkness before He created the Sun and the Moon. The Sun and the Moon are

supposed to be representations of the Light and the Darkness which God created first. They are prophetic examples of Christ and Satan, Heaven and Hell, and the Spiritual Light which dispels, overcomes and overpowers Spiritual Darkness. The Kingdom of Darkness is ruled by Satan and the Forces of Darkness. The Kingdom of Light is ruled by Christ and the Hosts of Heaven.

The Sun and the Moon are prophetic of many things. Like the Earth, the Sun and the Moon are round. They too, can be seen as prophetic examples of the spirit of man. Man without Christ, dwells in Darkness. Man with Christ, dwells in the Light. Man either dwells in the Light of Christ, the Sun (Son), or dwells in the darkness of night which is ruled by the Moon (Satan).

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. THE SAME WAS IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD. ALL THINGS WERE MADE BY HIM; AND WITHOUT HIM WAS NOT ANYTHING MADE THAT WAS MADE. IN HIM WAS LIFE; AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN. AND THE LIGHT SHINES IN DARKNESS; AND THE DARKNESS COMPREHENDED (did not prevail) IT NOT. John, Chapter 1, Verses 1-5.

The Sun and Moon are also prophetic examples of Christ and Satan, the Kingdom of Light and the Kingdom of Darkness as well as true and false religions. The Sun is an example of Christ who shines Light or understanding and true vision into the spirit and soul of men who accept Him as Truth and become born again. FOR THE LORD GOD IS A SUN AND SHIELD: THE LORD WILL GIVE GRACE AND GLORY: NO GOOD THING WILL HE

WITHHOLD FROM THEM THAT WALK UPRIGHTLY.
(Psalms, 84 vs. 11).

The Moon is dark and produces no light of its own. The light of the Moon is just a reflection of light the Sun produces. For centuries people were deceived into believing the Moon produced its own light. It reflects a light that shines in the Darkness, but possesses no light (understanding) at all. The dark side of the Moon is always hidden from the eyes of man. The dark side of the Moon displays its true nature.

The Sun and the Moon have always been prophetic examples of the conflict between two diametrically opposed Kingdoms--the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Satan: the Kingdom of Light and the Kingdom of Darkness. Because the Kingdom of Light is more powerful than the Kingdom of Darkness, the Ruler of the Darkness uses deception to conquer the spirits and souls of men who dwell in darkness.

IN HIM (Christ) WAS LIFE AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN. The Life of Christ is also the Light of Christ which shines in and overcomes Darkness. Outside of Christ spiritual Life does not and cannot exist. Outside of Christ men live in Darkness.

When God created man he created within him a natural tendency and desire to worship his Creator. Worship is an attitude of the heart. We all have the propensity to worship someone or something. Worship is a natural act of devotion directed at a deity; an act of reverence, honor and/or love. A deity can be a person, place or thing. It depends on who or what a person loves, honors or reverences the most. Whoever or whatever we

are devoted to will be the object of our worship. Many people worship idols they make with their own hands or create in their mind. Others idolize themselves. This is called PRIDE.

God seeks for men to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. Christ, our Lord and Savior, is the TRUTH. Without Christ in the hearts of men, they cannot TRULY worship God who created them.

THE MOON GOD

The LESSER light, Satan, rules the Kingdom of Darkness. He is called the Prince of Darkness. Satan is the Moon God known as Allah. This is the god the Muslims worship.

Men have worshipped the Sun and the Moon for millennia. Most false religions have and continue to incorporate the worship of the Sun and Moon in their religious rituals. All of these false religions are birthed in the dark catacombs of the Kingdom of Satan. Unbeknownst to believers in false religions, they are trusting in doctrines of demons and worshipping devils.

The Ancient Egyptians worshipped “Ra,” the Sun God. Many of the people who dwelt in the Land of Canaan before the Children of Israel entered into their Promised Land worshipped the Moon God, “Yerach.” Yerach’s consort was named “Shamash.” Shamash was known as the Sun God. The people of Jericho worshipped Yerach, the Moon God, and Shamash. Jericho was called the “Moon City” because it was the center of worship for the Moon God Yerach. Later, the names of Yerach and

Shamash were changed to Baal and Ashteroth. Today the Moon God is called “Allah.” Allah is the God of Islam.

Having grown up in Dearborn, Michigan, the largest Muslim community in the United States, I was very familiar with the name Allah. It was a name I heard spoken nearly every day. Some of my best friends were Muslims. Although I grew up as a Christian, at an early age I was introduced to many of the customs of Muslims and the worship of Allah through my friends who were Muslim. My Muslim friends talked a lot about their religion and Allah.

When growing up in Dearborn, an old Arab man always walked up and down the sidewalks in the city shouting “Alhamdulillah,” which means “thanks be to god.” Everybody thought he was crazy. Even my Muslim friends thought he was off his rocker. We called him the “Allahla Man.” At that time I never knew or understood what he was saying meant. However, I knew it had something to do with the Islamic god Allah.

Although not mentioned in the Bible as Allah, the Moon God and the propensity to worship him was present from the BEGINNING. The Moon, the lesser light, is a representation of Satan. God knew before the foundation of the Earth that Satan would be worshipped as the Moon God in different religions. At one time Satan, known as Lucifer, was an Angel of Light. He was called “the shining” one. Even though Lucifer was a “shining angel,” his light could never be compared to the Light of Christ.

Satan’s Kingdom has always been a perverted version of the Kingdom of God. He has perverted and twisted the godly principles to promote his own agenda and

build his kingdom of Darkness. Satan used a perverted version of what God had told to Adam and Eve to entice them into bowing to his will and purpose. Satan's plan and purpose for mankind is to bring death, destruction, rebellion and lawlessness. Satan offers the things of this present World to people in exchange for their souls, then gives them nothing but sorrow, grief, despair and death. Satan continues to use the same temptations he used to tempt Christ in the Wilderness.

The plan and purpose of God was and always will be to create life abundantly through Love and Sacrifice. The promises God offers are Eternal life, Peace and Rest through our acceptance of the Sacrifice of Christ upon the Cross.

CHAPTER 3

THE WILDERNESS OF SIN

AND THEY TOOK THEIR JOURNEY FROM ELIM, AND ALL THE CONGREGATION OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL CAME UNTO THE WILDERNESS OF SIN, WHICH IS BETWEEN ELIM AND SINAI, ON THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF THE SECOND MONTH AFTER THEIR DEPARTING OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT. AND THE WHOLE CONGREGATION OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL MURMURED AGAINST MOSES AND AARON IN THE WILDERNESS. AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL SAID UNTO THEM, WOULD TO GOD WE HAD DIED BY THE HAND OF THE LORD IN THE LAND OF EGYPT, WHEN WE SAT BY THE POTS, AND WHEN WE DID EAT BREAD TO THE FULL; FOR YOU HAVE BROUGHT US FORTH INTO THIS WILDERNESS, TO KILL THIS WHOLE ASSEMBLY WITH HUNGER. Exodus, Chapter 16, Verse 1-3.

In the Wilderness of Sin the Children of Israel SINNED against God. They were a rebellious lot. They were doomed to WANDER in the Wilderness for forty years because they tempted God and did not believe Him even after all the miracles He performed in their presence. Their hearts became filled with DARKNESS in the Wilderness of Sin. The Wilderness of Sin was a type and shadow of life without Christ. It is a type and shadow of

spiritual darkness. It is a type and shadow of the contempt the Children of Israel had for the Lord as they were going through a time of testing. God lead them into the Wilderness to be tested in order to PROVE to them what was in their hearts. They were lacking in spiritual understanding and FAITH in God.

In reality, the Wilderness of Sin was not just a place where the true hearts of the Children of Israel were revealed, but a place where the worship of Satan was prominent. The word “sin” in the above Scripture is translated from the Hebrew word “midbar-sin.” “Midbar-Sin” is not just a word for sin, but mainly a word which refers to the “Moon-Deity Sin.” Midbar Sin was worshipped around the entire area of Arabia, Mesopotamia and LEVANT. I capitalized the word LEVANT because that word has been in the news lately.

The Islamic Terrorists, who are torturing and murdering people in the Middle East, call themselves the Islamic State of Iraq and LEVANT or ISIL. Levant means “to rise.” I think we can safely say the “rise of the Levant” refers to the Moon God, Allah, since it is Allah’s will that all men be in submission to him. The short term goal of ISIL is to create an Islamic Caliphate in the Middle East by seizing Israel, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Jordan and a few other Arab Nations. However, their long term goal is to bring the entire World under the subjection of Islam which is demanded by the Moon God Allah, or Satan. Islam is not only a religious system, but also a political one. Satan has always desired to rule the entire World. He is already the God of this World, but this World and the FULLNESS THEREOF belongs to the true God, Jehovah.

The Islamic State of Levant began in Iraq. Iraq has been called by many the “Cradle of Civilization” because Civilization began there. The Garden of Eden is said to have been in what we now call Iraq. Ancient Babylon was where the nation of Iraq is now located. When ISIL first surfaced in Iraq, they took the city of Baqubah as their Capitol.

Satan is the God worshipped in all religions outside of Christianity. No, he is not called Satan by those religions, but he is the mastermind behind all false religions. Satan is called by many different names in many different religions. He has always desired to be worshipped as God. Satan tried to get Jesus to bow down and worship him when he tempted Christ in the Wilderness. He promised he would give Him all the Nations of the World for His obedience if He would only obey him. All the Nations of the World would one day belong to Jesus, but it would not be Satan who would give them to Him. He would obtain them by paying the price for sin for all mankind when He shed His Blood at Calvary.

I will not go into any more detail about Islam. There are many good books which have been written exposing the deceptive teachings of the Koran and the Prophet Mohammed written by some very good Authors. The intent of this book is to bring people to an understanding of Truth and help them to draw closer to Christ. For those who do not know Christ as their Lord and Savior, this book is a call in the WILDERNESS OF SIN for them to repent of their sins, and accept Christ as Lord and Savior in order that they may find Eternal Life. See John, Chapter 3, Verse 16.

THE REBELLION

AND ALL THE CONGREGATION OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL JOURNEYED FROM THE WILDERNESS OF SIN, AFTER THEIR JOURNEYS, ACCORDING TO THE COMMANDMENT OF THE LORD, AND PITCHED IN REPHIDIM: AND THERE WAS NO WATER FOR THE PEOPLE TO DRINK. WHEREFORE THE PEOPLE DID CHIDE, WITH MOSES, AND SAID, GIVE US WATER THAT WE MAY DRINK. AND MOSES SAID UNTO THEM, WHY CHIDE YOU WITH ME? WHEREFORE DO YOU TEMPT THE LORD? AND THE PEOPLE THIRSTED THERE FOR WATER; AND THE PEOPLE MURMURED AGAINST MOSES, AND SAID, WHEREFORE IS THIS THAT YOU HAVE BROUGHT US UP OUT OF EGYPT, TO KILL US AND OUR CHILDREN AND OUR CATTLE WITH THIRST? Exodus, Chapter 17, Verses 1-3.

The Wilderness was a place of testing for the Children of Israel. There was a direct route from Egypt to the Promised Land by which God could have led them. However, God chose first to show them what was in their hearts and expose to them their shortcomings and rebellion. They were a stiff-necked people whose will had to be broken before they could receive the promises of God. They wandered in the Wilderness for forty years because they were a rebellious people. “THE PEOPLE DID CHIDE,” complained or argued with Moses, and in doing so they tempted the Lord in the Wilderness.

God was trying to instill faith and patience in His chosen people. Instead, they murmured and complained against Moses. In doing so, they were tempting the Lord.

Even after seeing all the Miracles God performed in Egypt and the Wilderness, they did still not trust God. They failed to UNDERSTAND what God was trying to teach them. The main thing God was trying to teach them was that they could TRUST Him no matter what adversities they would experience. God led them on their journey through the Wilderness and always provided their needs, even where resources did not exist.

We fail many times in our own life because we do not believe the promises of God. We travel daily through a **WORLDLY WILDERNESS** on our journey through life. God is trying to teach us to trust and lean on Him during trials and adverse situations we encounter which we have no strength or power to overcome on our own. We **KNOW** what God has promised, but fail to receive the promises of God because we murmur and complain instead of believing God will do what He said He would do. God is not like men who lie, but has always been faithful to fulfill His promises when we by faith and patience believe.

This World is a type and shadow of the Wilderness in which the Children of Israel journeyed on their way to the Promised Land. The Promised Land represented the Promises of God. It was a land filled with Milk and Honey, a land of provision filled with every life sustaining thing they needed. The only thing they needed to obtain the Promise of God was Faith.

On this Earth we all live in a Wilderness. Some people live in a Spiritual Wilderness. We who are born-again live in a land of Promise **SURROUNDED BY THE Wilderness**. God has promised to supply all of our needs **“ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY BY CHRIST JESUS.”** Philippians, Chapter 4, Verse 19.

People without Christ live and journey in the Wilderness of Sin. They are spiritual subjects of Satan, the lesser light. People who have been born-again are subjects of Christ, the Greater Light. We live in a Land of Promise where God assures us He WILL supply every need we have. However, God does not make it rain on the just and the unjust, JUST because He is JUST. The JUST, however, live by FAITH in God. The unjust live by faith in themselves and their own ability to get what they want or need. As Christians, we give God the credit for the rain, and all He provides for us. The non-Christian does not care where the rain or provision comes from, only that it rains.

BUT GOD WHO IS RICH IN MERCY; FOR HIS GREAT LOVE WHEREWITH HE LOVED US, EVEN WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN SINS, HAS QUICKENED US TOGETHER WITH CHRIST, BY GRACE ARE YOU SAVED; AND HAS RAISED US UP TOGETHER, AND MADE US SIT TOGETHER IN HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS. Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verses 4-6.

As Christians we may live in a Natural Wilderness. However, in Christ we have been lifted up to dwell spiritually with Him in Heavenly Places. We dwell far above the Principalities and Powers of Darkness who control and ravage the souls of mankind that wander aimlessly in the Wilderness of Sin. Read Ephesians, Chapter 1, Verses 18-23.

To those who dwell in Darkness the VOICE of the Lord cries out in the Wilderness of Sin to repent of your sins and receive Christ (Life) as your Lord and Savior. Christ is the Light which will lead you out of Darkness and Spiritual Death to become a NEW Creation in Him. Seek the Lord while He may be found. He will give you

VICTORY, REST and PEACE from your life of SIN
DESPERATION and DESPAIR. God's peace which
passes all understanding has the ability to keep you safe
during times of trouble..

CHAPTER 4

THE WILDERNESS OF DESPAIR

SO MOSES BROUGHT ISRAEL FROM THE RED SEA, AND THEY WENT OUT INTO THE WILDERNESS OF SHUR; AND THEY WENT THREE DAYS IN THE WILDERNESS, AND FOUND NO WATER. AND WHEN THEY CAME TO MARAH, THEY COULD NOT DRINK THE WATERS OF MARAH, FOR THE WATERS WERE BITTER: THEREFORE THE NAME OF IT WAS CALLED MARAH. AND THE PEOPLE MURMURED AND COMPLAINED AGAINST MOSES, SAYING, WHAT SHALL WE DRINK? AND HE CRIED UNTO THE LORD; AND THE LORD SHOWED HIM A TREE, WHICH WHEN HE HAD CAST IT INTO THE WATERS, THE WATERS WERE MADE SWEET.

Exodus, Chapter 15, Verses 22-25.

Among other things, the Wilderness was a type and shadow of life without Christ. Without Christ men are Spiritual Vagabonds. They can be compared to the Walking Dead. They are physically alive, but they are spiritually dead. They lack the Life of Christ which is the Light (understanding) of Christ. IN HIM WAS LIFE AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN.

The Children of Israel lived in a Spiritual Wilderness like the natural Wilderness they journeyed in after they were delivered from their taskmasters in Egypt. Like a Natural Wilderness, a Spiritual Wilderness is a place

of desolation where DESPAIR, hopelessness, and desperation thrive because Christ is not present there.

The Children of Israel lacked Spiritual Wisdom and Understanding. The first place they came to after crossing the Red Sea was the Wilderness of Shur. They played the HARLOT before God in the Wilderness of Shur. The word “Shur” means “to travel about as a harlot.” Because they were filled with unbelief they became despondent and desolate. Their hearts were filled with Spiritual Darkness and Fornication.

After three days in the Wilderness of Shur, the Children of Israel journeyed to a place called Marah. “Marah” means “bitter.” They could not drink the water there because the water was bitter. Like the bitter water, the Children of Israel became bitter. They murmured and complained against Moses because they did not have any WATER to drink. The Lord then showed Moses a tree and threw it into the water and the water became sweet. The Tree being thrown into the water is a picture of the Cross. The sacrifice of Christ is able to change the bitter waters of the soul to sweet waters pure enough to drink. The sweet water is a picture of Christ the LIVING WATER. When we receive Christ as our Lord and Savior, we are drinking sweet water from the River of Life.

The Children of Israel were in despair. They were without any life sustaining water. People who are in despair become desperate. People who are desperate do desperate things. They did not understand that the reason God brought them through the Wilderness in the first place was to teach them to trust Him in whatever desperate situation they might find themselves. Many times when God’s people find themselves in desperate situations, they

murmur and complain instead of using their faith and trust in Him. Faith is the key which opens the door to provision when we are approaching God with our needs. When we murmur and complain, we are sowing seeds of rebellion and discord.

FOR GOD, WHO COMMANDED THE LIGHT TO SHINE OUT OF DARKNESS HAS SHINED IN OUR HEARTS TO GIVE THE LIGHT OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF GOD IN THE FACE OF JESUS CHRIST. BUT WE HAVE THIS TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS, THAT THE EXCELLENCY OF THE POWER MAY BE OF GOD, AND NOT OF US. WE ARE TROUBLED ON EVERY SIDE, YET NOT DISTRESSED; WE ARE PERPLEXED, BUT NOT IN DESPAIR; PERSECUTED BUT NOT FORSAKEN; CAST DOWN BUT NOT DESTROYED. 2nd Corinthians, Chapter 4, Verses 6-9.

In the beginning, God Commanded the Light to shine out of the Darkness so Christ and the KNOWLEDGE of His Glory could shine in our hearts. We may face many difficulties and trying times, but we are not destroyed, distressed or in DESPAIR because the POWER and GLORY of God sustains us. We have this TREASURE, the GLORY of God in the face of Christ, in our earthen vessels if Christ is our Savior. Nothing can separate us from the Love of God because we have placed all our faith, hope and trust in Him and His power to deliver us from all our troubles. As Christians and vessels of these Heavenly Treasures, we have been commissioned to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and share the glorious Gospel of Christ with others.

AND THEY (we) SHALL BUILD THE OLD WASTES, THEY SHALL RAISE UP THE FORMER DESOLATIONS, AND THEY SHALL REPAIR THE WASTE CITIES, THE DESOLATIONS OF MANY GENERATIONS. Isaiah, Chapter 61, Verse 4.

Jesus came to set sinners free from the bondage of sin, to heal the broken hearted and proclaim deliverance to the captives. The OLD WASTE CITIES speak of people who are lost without Christ from the desolations which have scourged many generations. As vessels and ministers of Christ, we are commanded to go into all the World and preach the Gospel, the good news that Christ died on the Cross. The Light of Christ now shines in the Darkness to set free those who are spiritually blind, barren, distraught and destitute.

Raising up the former desolations is about Restoration. Restoration is about restoring and REVIVING the lives of people who have been destroyed by sin and desolation. A heart without Christ is a heart which is desolate of the Life and Light of Christ. We are all in need of a Savior to save us from the bondage of sin.

People without Christ live in a Spiritual Wilderness of Despair and Desolation. Unlike the Promised Land, which is filled with an abundance of peace and rest, the Wilderness of Despair provides no peace or rest. The soul without Christ (Light) is a Spiritual Vagabond roaming the Earth in total Darkness. The Darkness which permeates the soul of the Spiritual Vagabond yearns for peace and rest, but does not UNDERSTAND where peace and rest can be found. The Light (Christ) that shines in and through the Darkness can only enter in through the KEYHOLE of the soul. In order to accept Christ as Lord and Savior, one

must bypass all reason and receive Him by FAITH. Faith is the key which bypasses reason and opens the door to all Heavenly promises.

**THE LORD REDEEMS THE SOUL OF HIS SERVANTS:
AND NONE OF THEM WHO TRUST IN HIM SHALL
BE DESOLATE.** Psalms, Chapter 34, Verse 22.

The Voice of the Lord is crying out in the Wilderness of Sin to all who will repent of their sins and receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The Lord is our Redeemer. He redeems the souls of all who wish to serve and worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. All who trust in Christ will be delivered from Spiritual Darkness. The Spiritual Vagabond is spiritually blind and destitute, living without hope in a Wilderness of Despair. The Light of Christ will bring Wisdom and Understanding to all who will call on His name.

CHAPTER 5

A CRY IN THE WILDERNESS

THE VOICE OF HIM WHO CRIES IN THE WILDERNESS, PREPARE YOU THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE STRAIGHT IN THE DESERT (wilderness) A HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD. EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE EXALTED, AND EVERY MOUNTAIN SHALL BE MADE LOW. AND THE CROOKED SHALL BE MADE STRAIGHT, AND THE ROUGH PLACES PLAIN: AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHALL BE REVEALED, AND ALL FLESH SHALL SEE IT TOGETHER: FOR THE MOUTH OF THE LORD HAS SPOKEN IT. Isaiah, Chapter 40, Verses 3-5.

Today there is a CRY IN THE WILDERNESS for men to repent of their sins. Before Christ was revealed John the Baptist was a voice of one crying in the Wilderness. He was repeating the call to “PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD” first mentioned in Isaiah. John’s call was a call for people to REPENT of their sins and be baptized.

John’s ministry was to prepare those who were living in the Wilderness of Sin for the coming of Christ the Messiah. He was the forerunner of Christ inspired by the Spirit of Elijah. Everyone without Christ is dwelling spiritually in the Wilderness of Sin.

“EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE EXALTED.”
Valleys speak of humility. God gives Grace to and exalts

the humble. BLESSED ARE THE MEEK (humble) FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH (spirit). EVERY MOUNTAIN SHALL BE MADE LOW. Mountains speak of Pride. Men of pride always exalt themselves. Pride is an OFFENCE to God. Pride is the sin which originated in the heart of Lucifer. Pride always leads to rebelling, rejection and condemnation. God gives grace to the humble, but rejects the proud. James, Chapter 4, Verse 6 and Proverbs, Chapter 3, Verse 34.

The Glory of the Lord is revealed to us in the Person of Christ. Christ came to seek and save those who are lost in a Wilderness of Sin. He CRIES out in the Wilderness of Sin to all who are bound by sin to offer them spiritual freedom and liberty. His Voice is the Voice of ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS OF SIN.

BEHOLD I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD. AND HE SHALL TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN, AND THE HEART OF THE CHILDREN TO THE FATHERS, LEST I COME AND SMITE THE EARTH WITH A CURSE. Malachi, Chapter 4, Verses 5-6.

Elijah means “GOD IS JEHOVAH.” Eli and Jah (or Yah) are both names of God. The VOICE of Elijah is the VOICE OF GOD Crying in the Wilderness of Sin for men to repent of their sins. It is not the VOICE of Elijah that cries in the Wilderness. Elijah is just a Prophet reverberating the Voice of God Crying in the Wilderness. It is the SPIRIT of God who speaks through individuals to MAKE STRAIGHT PATHS in the Wilderness of Sin as they call people to repentance through divine inspiration.

The EARTH is a type and shadow of the “spirit.” When we see the word “earth” in the Bible, scripture is not only speaking of natural Earth, but also the spirit of man. The “Curse of Sin” always brings a curse upon the spirit of man. The Law of Sin and Death is a good example of this. When sin is conceived it brings forth death. Thankfully, there is an answer to the sin problem. It is the Blood of Jesus which He shed on Calvary for the remission of sins for all who repent and turn from their wicked ways.

Many people, including Christians, have a sin problem because they are continually eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. They do not realize there is a veil over their hearts separating them from the PRESENCE OF GOD. We are called to live a life of Holiness. For Christians holiness is a lifestyle, not something we do two or three times a week when we meet at Church. We are the CHURCH, and the Church is supposed to be a HOLY PLACE. The unbeliever has an excuse for eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. They do not know any better. As Christians we do not have an excuse because we are supposed to know better. We have been BOUGHT by the Blood of Jesus, and we must lose control of our life and allow God to have full control so we can be pleasing to Him.

A BROKEN SPIRIT

THE SACRIFICES OF GOD ARE A BROKEN SPIRIT: A BROKEN SPIRIT AND A CONTRITE HEART, O GOD, YOU WILL NOT DESPISE. Psalms, 51, Verse 17.

Reconciliation with God requires true REPENTANCE. A contrite heart (spirit) is a heart which has been or is HUMBLED before God. Christian humility

is submission before God. God gives GRACE to the humble, but rejects those with a prideful heart. Pride always leads to condemnation and judgment.

Humility is the opposite of pride. The Pride of Life will always precede destruction. If we approach the throne of God PROUDLY in the time of need, we can expect nothing from Him. Scripture admonishes us to come BOLDLY before the Throne of God in our time of need without pride or arrogance. We must HUMBLE ourselves in the Presence of God or we will surely be rejected by Him. Pride is the scourge of the ages. It was the sin and downfall of the Serpent. It is the sin and downfall of all who stand before God without being cleansed from their transgressions and sins.

All have sinned and come short of the Glory of God. All who are not born again are wandering spiritually and aimlessly in the Wilderness of Sin. Just like the Children of Israel, they are being led by the Spirit of Confusion around Mount Sinai in the Wilderness of Sin. They are like Wild Mustangs whose spirit must be broken before they can be pleasing and useful to God. Until the spirit of a horse is broken, it is of no use to the rider.

The spirit (heart) of many Believers has not become completely broken and humbled before God. Sometimes their minds WANDER aimlessly seeking rest and peace, but they are searching in all the wrong places. They focus more on earthly things than they do Christ and His will and purpose for their life. The Cares of the World and the Deceitfulness of Riches have replaced Believer's true worship and their reasonable service to God. They think they can pacify God with dead works, and they continue with their ungodly lifestyles WANDERING in the

Wilderness of Sin. If they do not change their ways, they will surely die in the Wilderness of Sin just as the Children of Israel did.

A WHIP FOR THE HORSE, A BRIDLE FOR THE ASS, AND A ROD FOR THE FOOL'S BACK. Proverbs, Chapter 26, Verse 3.

For a horse's spirit to be broken a rider must put a bit in the horse's mouth to make him go wherever he desires. In the same way God can only use us when our spirit has been broken. Man without Christ is like a wild horse who goes where he wants to go and does what he wants to do. Like wild horses, people will be stiff-necked and self-willed until they their spirit is broken. The UNBRIDLED are like the Children of Israel in the Wilderness of Sin who rebelled and murmured and complained against God.

The chastisement and discipline of the Lord is seldom ever pleasant if we are self-willed and stiff-necked. If we have not learned the lessons which lead us to humility and surrender to the Will of God, we will continue to suffer the consequences. The discipline of God is always for our benefit. Without a contrite heart and broken spirit we can be of service to Him.

The Voice of God speaks through His messengers calling people to repent and make straight paths in the Wilderness as they call people to repentance from dead works and unholy lifestyles. The VOICE cries out to saint and sinner alike to make a WAY in the Wilderness for Jesus to come to cleanse and free them from their sinfulness.

We are all born into this World with a sin nature because of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. However, through faith in the Blood of Jesus and His finished works at Calvary, we can all be transformed and changed from death unto life when we accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Turning the hearts of the fathers to the children and the children's hearts to the fathers speaks of the love of Christ instilling compassion in us for one another. Without love we are nothing. If we do not love one another, we cannot proclaim that Christ dwells in our heart. Our love for one another is proof that Christ dwells within our hearts richly. According to Scripture, if we do not love our brother as we love our self, the Love of God does not abide within us.

Today there is a VOICE crying in the Wilderness of men and women's hearts everywhere. It is the VOICE of the Spirit of Elijah (God) calling out to all who dwell in the Wilderness of Sin to repent and turn from their wicked ways and follow the Pathway of righteousness. The Pathway of righteousness leads to Eternal Life. We are admonish to be Holy even as HE IS HOLY. Without Holiness no man shall see God. Hebrews, Chapter 12, Verse 14.

THE VAGABOND HEART

THE HEART IS DECEITFUL ABOVE ALL THINGS, AND DESPERATELY WICKED: WHO CAN KNOW IT? I THE LORD SEARCH THE HEART, I TRY THE REINS, EVEN TO GIVE EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS WAYS, AND ACCORDING TO THE FRUIT OF HIS DOINGS. Jeremiah, Chapter 17, Verses 9-10.

Above everything, a heart without Christ is desperately wicked and evil. Some people will take issue with this statement and say there are many GOOD people who are not Christians and many Christians who are not good people. However, even Christ, when He was called “good” made the statement that there is “NONE GOOD, BUT GOD.” Jesus made that statement because the man who called Him “good” was addressing Him as a teacher and not as Christ, the Son of God.

I agree with the statement about many Christians not being good, or righteous at times. Many Christians do not reflect the person or character of Christ at times. Even the hearts of Christians can be considered wicked if their actions do not honor God. Many Christians journey back and forth from the Promised Land to the Wilderness of Shur because they drink the bitter waters of Marah at times. Repentance from dead works is their only recourse if they are going to remain in GOOD standing with Christ. Christ, however, always reflected the Person of God because He WAS God incarnate. As Christians we must always reflect the Love of Christ to others.

A Vagabond heart may seem to be good when compared to earthly standards, but falls far short of the Goodness and Glory which is found in Christ. Without the Light and Life of Christ people live and dwell spiritually in the Kingdom of Darkness.

The spiritual problems of the Vagabond Heart can be traced back to Cain and his wandering in the Wilderness. Cain slew his brother, Abel, in a jealous rage and was driven into the Wilderness by God. When Cain was driven from the Presence of God, he became a Spiritual Vagabond as well as a Natural Vagabond. A

Natural Wilderness is a difficult place to find food, water, shelter, and above all, clothing to protect the body from the elements of the Wilderness. When man is spiritually hungry, only the Bread of Life (Christ) can satisfy His soul. When man is spiritually thirsty, only Living Water (Christ) can quench his thirst. When man is spiritually naked, only the Glory of God can cover his sin and shame and protect him from the elements of judgment.

A Vagabond Heart is a heart filled with Darkness. It is alienated from the Light and Presence of God. No one can KNOW (understand) the thoughts and intents of the heart but God. The Vagabond Heart is desperately wicked because it dwells in the Kingdom of Darkness.

The Lord TESTS the reigns (emotions and will), to bring to light the disposition of the heart. A JUST reward comes to those who are JUSTIFIED by the FAITH they possess. A reward of condemnation is given to the unjust who dwell in Darkness.

A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS cries out to the Vagabond Heart to Repent and be Saved. It is the Voice of God that cries out in the Wilderness of Sin to
“WHOSOEVER WILL LET HIM COME AND DRINK
OF THE WATER OF LIFE FREELY.

CHAPTER 6

A CRY IN THE DARK

AND THE EARTH WAS WITHOUT FORM, AND VOID; AND DARKNESS WAS UPON THE FACE OF THE DEEP. AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD MOVED UPON THE FACE OF THE WATERS. AND GOD SAID, LET THERE BE LIGHT: AND THERE WAS LIGHT. Genesis, Chapter 1, Verse 2.

The Earth (spirit) was without FORM and void. DARKNESS was upon the face of the deep. The word “form” here was translated from the Hebrew word “tohuw.” Tohuw is defined as a wilderness, a waste place, desert or desolation. In the beginning DARKNESS permeated the face of the deep (waters). The Spirit of God moved upon the FACE of the waters and said, LET THERE BE LIGHT (understanding). The Spirit of God cries out in the WILDERNESS to bring wisdom, understanding and clarity to the heart (spirit) of those who walk in DARKNESS. Men without Christ live in Spiritual Darkness. The Light of Christ knocks at the door of the hearts of men and women everywhere to bring spiritual wisdom, clarity and understanding. These three spiritual attributes can only be found when people open the door of their hearts to Christ and ask Him to come in and dwell with them.

Spiritual Light brings Spiritual Understanding. Many people reject Christ, the Light, because they love DARKNESS rather than Light. However, many live in

Darkness because they have never heard the Gospel preached. Others, who once KNEW the Truth (Christ) were drawn back into a lifestyle of sin by sorcery and confusion through satanic delusion and treachery. Their disposition, regardless of how it came about, has again engulfed them in Spiritual DARKNESS.

A CALL TO REPENTANCE

FOR MY PEOPLE ARE FOOLISH, THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN ME; THEY ARE SOTTISH CHILDREN, AND THEY HAVE NO UNDERSTANDING: THEY ARE WISE TO DO EVIL, BUT TO DO GOOD THEY HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE I BEHELD THE EARTH, AND LO, AND IT WAS WITHOUT FORM, AND VOID; AND THE HEAVENS, AND THEY HAD NO LIGHT. Jeremiah, Chapter 4, Verses 22-23.

God was speaking of His rebellious children. They had flagrantly disobeyed His Holy Commandments and worshiped gods they made of gold, silver, wood and bronze. They were foolish, drunkards, and evil children lacking in godly wisdom and spiritual understanding. The Children of Israel had returned to the Spiritual Wilderness of their forefathers. Their hearts (spirits) were filled with sin and degradation. God had warned them for forty years to REPENT or they would find themselves in danger of being taken captive by the King of Babylon. Unfortunately, most of them rejected the call of the Father to REPENT of their sins and return to serve the true God Jehovah.

Man was created to worship and serve God. God created within man the desire and propensity for worship. Unfortunately, many have replaced their desire to worship for a desire to be worshipped. This is called PRIDE.

People living in sin are driven by the sin of pride, or self-worship. Pride can never bring self-satisfaction or spiritual rest. Consequently, people wander in the Wilderness of Sin constantly worshipping self, or some other god they have chosen to worship. Because their desire to worship has been warped and redirected by evil thoughts and desires, they are constantly leaving themselves open for condemnation and judgment.

DARKNESS prevails in the hearts of men because they lack and/or reject spiritual UNDERSTANDING. They reject the TRUTH and worship the created rather than the Creator.

Today many of God's people continue to worship the same gods the Children of Israel worshipped. They may not fall to the ground and pay homage to them, but they still worship them in their hearts and minds. The gods may not have the same names they had then, but they are still the same ones. Worship is an attitude or action of the heart. Anything men admire and honor more than the true God is an affront and an offense to Him. Yet, God still loves man. He always stands waiting and ready to forgive people if and when they repent of their sins and turn to follow Him.

A DANCE IN THE WILDERNESS

AND MIRIAM THE PROPHETESS, THE SISTER OF AARON, TOOK A TIMBREL IN HER HAND; AND ALL THE WOMEN WENT OUT AFTER HER WITH TIMBRELS AND WITH DANCES. AND MIRIAM ANSWERED THEM, SING UNTO THE LORD, FOR HE HAS TRIUMPHED GLORIOUSLY; THE HORSE AND

RIDER HAS HE THROWN INTO THE SEA. Exodus, Chapter 15, Verses 20-21.

Miriam was repeating the song she heard Moses sing after the Children of Israel had crossed the Red Sea. The Egyptian Army had drowned in the Red Sea while pursuing the Children of Israel. God had miraculously parted the Sea, and the Children of Israel had walked across on dry ground to safety in the Wilderness of Shur. God's chosen people were dancing and singing as they rejoiced because God had delivered them from their enemies. The actual Hebrew text suggest that the men had also taken part in the great celebration.

We saw in Chapter Three that the Children of Israel first began murmuring and complaining in the Wilderness of Shur. Shur means "playing the harlot." Instead of trusting God for provision, they became bitter and began murmuring and complaining. The waters at Marah were bitter. Marah means "bitter." It didn't take long for God's children to forget He had recently and in a miraculous way SAVED them from their enemies. One day they were rejoicing and praising God for His deliverance, and three days later they were playing the harlot through accusation and unbelief. At Marah in the Wilderness of Shur God miraculously turned the bitter waters into sweet water.

After leaving the Wilderness of Shur, the Children of Israel entered into the Wilderness of Sin. Playing the harlot always leads people deeper and deeper into a WILDERNESS OF SIN. God's chosen people became more and more unfaithful and rebellious in the Wilderness of Sin.

THEN SAID THE LORD UNTO MOSES, BEHOLD, I WILL RAIN BREAD FROM HEAVEN FOR YOU; AND THE PEOPLE SHALL GO OUT AND GATHER A CERTAIN RATE EVERY DAY, THAT I MAY PROVE THEM, WHETHER THEY WILL WALK IN MY LAW. Exodus, Chapter 16, Verse 4.

In the Wilderness of Sin God's chosen people began to murmur and complain against God because they didn't have bread to eat. They had still not learned the lessons God was trying to teach them by leading them into the Wilderness in the first place. Again, God miraculously supplied their need and provided them with Manna (Angel's food) from Heaven.

The message which God was trying to convey to His chosen people was not a physical or natural one, but a spiritual one. He was trying to get them to trust in Him and His ability to perform the miraculous, no matter what circumstances they might find themselves in. These are the same lessons He is trying to teach His chosen people today. He wants His people to be people of Faith. We are entering into a time of testing. The World is a type and shadow of the Wilderness. The lessons God is trying to teach His chosen ones today are both spiritual and natural. They are the same lessons He was trying to teach His chosen ones by leading them into the Wilderness. He could have taken them to the Promised Land via another route which would have taken very little time.

Jesus is the LIVING WATER. He alone can supply our need for spiritual water. As Christians we are able to drink from the River of Life. Only Christ can quench our thirst for peace and rest. Without Christ we walk through a

spiritual wilderness, void of the WATER which quenches the thirsty soul.

Jesus is the BREAD OF LIFE. Only Christ can supply our need for spiritual food. As Christians we have access to Angel's food or Manna from Heaven on a daily basis. Only Christ can fill our empty souls with spiritual food. Without THE BREAD OF LIFE, Christ, our souls become spiritually impoverished. Jesus told us to pray: "GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD." God supplied bread (manna) daily for the Children of Israel. We must seek Christ DAILY for our spiritual bread. He is the Bread of Life which sustains us daily as we fellowship with Him in Heavenly Places. Christ is the supplier of every need we have, both spiritually and naturally.

Without faith it is impossible to please God. If we do not learn the lessons the Children of Israel failed to learn in the Wilderness, we will surely suffer the same consequences. They WANDERED in the Wilderness for forty years because they played the harlot. They were a rebellious people whose hearts were evil. If they would have believed God and sought truth and understanding, many of their carcasses would not have fallen and been left in the Wilderness. The Promised Land was theirs for the taking if they would have believed God.

THE REPHIDIM INCIDENT

AND THE CONGREGATION OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL JOURNEYED FROM THE WILDERNESS OF SIN, AFTER THEIR JOURNEYS, ACCORDING TO THE COMMANDMENT OF THE LORD, AND PITCHED IN REPHIDIM, AND THERE WAS NO WATER FOR THEM TO DRINK. WHEREFORE THE

PEOPLE DID CHIDE WITH MOSES, AND SAID, GIVE US WATER THAT WE MAY DRINK. AND MOSES SAID UNTO THEM, WHY CHIDE YOU WITH ME? WHEREFORE DO YOU TEMPT THE LORD? AND THE PEOPLE THIRSTED THERE FOR WATER; AND THE PEOPLE MURMURED AGAINST MOSES, AND SAID, WHEREFORE IS THIS THAT YOU HAVE BROUGHT US UP OUT OF EGYPT, TO KILL US AND OUR CHILDREN AND OUR CATTLE WITH THIRST. Exodus, Chapter 17, Verses 1-3.

You would think after seeing God supply them water in the Wilderness of Shur and manna in the Wilderness of Sin the Children of Israel would have been getting the picture of God's purpose for them. Unfortunately, that was not the case. Their hearts were still filled with unbelief. Again, the CHOSEN PEOPLE murmured and complained against God. Their hearts were still focused on Egypt and how good things were in Egypt. There was no mention of the cruelty of their Egyptian taskmasters who had made slaves of them. Now they had become slaves of their own unbelief.

AND THE LORD SAID UNTO MOSES, GO ON BEFORE THE PEOPLE, AND TAKE WITH YOU OF THE ELDERS OF ISRAEL; AND YOUR ROD, WHEREWITH YOU SMOTE THE RIVER, TAKE IT IN YOUR HAND AND GO. BEHOLD I WILL STAND BEFORE YOU THERE UPON THE ROCK IN HOREB; AND YOU SHALL SMITE THE ROCK, AND THERE SHALL COME WATER OUT OF IT, THAT THE PEOPLE MAY DRINK. AND MOSES DID SO IN THE SIGHT OF THE ELDERS OF ISRAEL. Exodus, Chapter 17, Verses 5-6.

Again God showed His mercy to His Chosen People by miraculously supplying water to quench their thirst. He could have slain them all at Rephidim for their disrespect and chiding, but He chose rather to show mercy to them. Time after time God had proven His faithfulness to provide for His Chosen People, but they were not getting the message.

Moses smote the rock and water gushed forth to provide life sustaining water for the Children of Israel. Jesus is not only the Living Water, but also the ROCK of our Salvation. Moses smiting the rock is also a picture of the Cross. “Surely He has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, SMITTEN of God, and afflicted.” (Isaiah ch. 53 vs. 4). Jesus, the Rock, was SMITTEN of God and became the Redeemer of our souls. A spear punctured His side and “water flowed out of the Rock,” Christ. The incident at Rephidim is a prophetic picture of the confluence of the Water and the Rock harmonizing together to bring salvation to a World lost in the Wilderness of Sin.

AND HE CALLED THE NAME OF THE PLACE MASSAH; AND MERIBAH, BECAUSE OF THE CHIDING OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, AND BECAUSE THEY TEMPTED THE LORD, SAYING IS THE LORD AMONG US OR NOT? Exodus, Chapter 17, Verse 7.

Massah means “contention” and Meribah means “strife.” Rephidim means “place of rest.” Rephidim should have been a place of rest for the Children of Israel. Instead it was a place of contention and strife because of their unbelief. Up until this time the CHOSEN PEOPLE had been travelling a path of unbelief in the Wilderness of

Sin. This path ultimately led them to spending the rest of their lives wandering aimlessly in the Wilderness. Because of their unbelief they missed the opportunity to enter into the land God had promised was theirs for the taking.

TAKE HEED, BRETHREN, LEST THERE BE IN ANY OF YOU AN EVIL HEART OF UNBELIEF, IN DEPARTING FROM THE LIVING GOD. BUT EXHORT ONE ANOTHER DAILY, WHILE IT IS CALLED TODAY: LEST ANY OF YOU BE HARDENED THROUGH THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN. FOR WE ARE MADE PARTAKERS OF CHRIST, IF WE HOLD THE BEGINNING OF OUR CONFIDENCE STEADFAST UNTO THE END. WHILE IT IS SAID, TODAY IF YOU WILL HEAR HIS VOICE, HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS, AS IN THE DAY OF PROVOCATION. FOR SOME, WHEN THEY HAD HEARD, DID PROVOKE; HOWBEIT NOT ALL WHO CAME OUT OF EGYPT BY MOSES. BUT WITH WHOM WAS HE GRIEVED FORTY YEARS? WAS IT NOT WITH THEM WHO HAD SINNED, WHOSE CARCASSES FELL IN THE WILDERNESS? AND TO WHOM SWORE HE THAT THEY SHOULD NOT ENTER INTO HIS REST, BUT TO THEM WHO BELIEVED NOT? SO WE SEE THAT THEY COULD NOT ENTER IN BECAUSE OF UNBELIEF. Hebrews, Chapter 3, Verses 12-19.

The PROMISED LAND was to be a place of rest for the CHOSEN PEOPLE, but they could not enter in because of their UNBELIEF. It was a land flowing with milk and honey waiting for them if they would learn the lessons of trust and obedience. They provoked the Lord and murmured and complained against Him when they should

have been grateful and thankful. They hardened their hearts when they heard His Voice in the Wilderness instead of trusting and believing for Him to meet their needs.

Today many in the Church, the CHOSEN PEOPLE, murmur and complain because of their unbelief. God has given them the greatest miracle they can receive. Christ, the ROCK was smitten at Calvary and LIVING WATER gushed forth for a lost and dying World wandering through the Wilderness of Sin. Hear His voice today and do not “HARDEN NOT YOUR HEART AS IN THE DAY OF PROVOCATION.”

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CHAPTER 7

THE WILDERNESS OF SINAI

IN THE THIRD MONTH, WHEN THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WERE GONE FORTH OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT, THE SAME DAY CAME THEY INTO THE WILDERNESS OF SINAI. THEY WERE DEPARTED FROM REPHIDIM, AND THEY WERE COME TO THE DESERT OF SINAI, AND HAD PITCHED IN THE WILDERNESS, AND ISRAEL CAMPED BEFORE THE MOUNT. AND MOSES WENT UP UNTO GOD, AND THE LORD CALLED UNTO HIM OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN SAYING, THUS SHALL YOU SAY UNTO THE HOUSE OF JACOB, AND TELL THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL; YOU HAVE SEEN WHAT I DID UNTO THE EGYPTIANS, AND HOW I BORE YOU UP ON EAGLE'S WINGS, AND BROUGHT YOU UNTO MYSELF. NOW THEREFORE IF YOU WILL OBEY MY VOICE INDEED, AND KEEP MY COVENANT, THEN YOU SHALL BE A PECULIAR TREASURE UNTO ME ABOVE ALL PEOPLE: FOR ALL THE EARTH IS MINE. AND YOU SHALL BE UNTO ME A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS, AND AN HOLY NATION. THESE ARE THE WORDS WHICH YOU SHALL SPEAK UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL. Exodus, Chapter 19, Verses 1-6.

God brought the Children of Israel out of Egypt to lead them to the Land of Promise. Since their departure

from Egypt, they had done nothing but PROVOKE God through their murmuring, complaining and unbelief. There were many more obstacles which lay before them in the Wilderness, and they needed to learn to trust in God to help them overcome their WILDERNESS experiences.

The Wilderness was a Prophetic Picture, a type and shadow of the hearts of most of the Children of Israel. They were spiritually desolate and destitute. Their hearts were evil and desperately wicked. God led them THROUGH the Wilderness to prepare them for the battles which they would encounter in the Wilderness and the battles they would face when they entered into the Promised Land.

The Promised Land was a type and shadow, among other things, of the Promises of God. If we are going to receive the Promises of God, we must learn to trust in God and His promise of PROVISION in the time of our need. God knew it would take faith to endure the perils in the Wilderness and the battles they would face in the Promised Land.

God had called the Children of Israel to be Priests, a Holy Nation and a PECULIAR TREASURE for Him. God was leading them through the Wilderness to mold and make them into a people He could TRUST to obey His voice. God is looking for people He can TRUST. He is looking for people who will dare to believe Him and obey His voice when He speaks to them. To this point they had not fulfilled the calling of God.

The World is a type and shadow of the Wilderness. As Christians we live in this World, but we are not of this World. OUR LIFE IS HIDDEN IN CHRIST. Because we

have Christ in our heart, our life is hidden in Christ. We face many tests and trials as we travel through the Wilderness (earth) as we stand upon and trust in the Promises of God.

The Promised Land was also a type and shadow of God's REST (Sabbath). Many of the Children of Israel PROVOKED God in the Wilderness and did not enter into HIS REST because of their unbelief. When men lack faith, they will never find the REST and PEACE God has promised. They will WANDER aimlessly until their carcasses fall in the Wilderness of Sin. Without faith, it is impossible to please God.

SINAI AND SIN

Sinai comes from the same root word as "sin." We saw in Chapter 3 that "sin" refers to the deity called the Moon God. In Syriac the name "Sin" means to "shine." In the Babylonian dialect sin is translated as "the moon." The word "Sinai" means "thorny or thorn Bush." The Wilderness of Sinai was a desolate place with very little water and was filled with thorns and thistles.

In the Wilderness of Sinai the Children of Israel would face one of the greatest tests in their sojourning in the Wilderness. Their rebellion at the encampment at Mount Sinai would provoke God far beyond any other up to that point. The peculiar call to Holiness and Priesthood would be revoked forever for most of them because of their rebellion at the foot of Mount Sinai. God prefers to justify rather than judge. However, unless the rebellious repent they will justifiably be punished.

THE BURNING BUSH

NOW MOSES KEPT THE FLOCK OF JETHRO HIS FATHER-IN-LAW, THE PRIEST OF MIDIAN: AND HE LED THE FLOCK TO THE BACKSIDE OF THE DESERT, AND CAME TO THE MOUNTAIN OF GOD; EVEN UNTO HOREB. AND THE ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED UNTO HIM IN A FLAME OF FIRE OUT OF THE MIDST OF THE BUSH: AND HE LOOKED, AND BEHOLD, THE BUSH BURNED WITH FIRE; AND THE BUSH WAS NOT CONSUMED.

Exodus, Chapter 3, Verses 1-3.

Before Moses led the Children of Israel out of Egypt an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in what is called a Burning Bush at Mount Horeb. The first encounter Moses had with God was on Mount Horeb. Horeb means “glowing heat.” Many Bible Scholars believe Mount Horeb and Mount Sinai are the same mountains because the title “Mountain of God” is used for both of them in Scripture. Whatever the truth is concerning the two mountains, they are certainly part of the Sinai Mountain Range in the Sinai Peninsula. They are prophetic examples of how God’s Voice can be heard on the Mountain of God revealing the mysteries of God to mankind.

The BURNING BUSH was not really burning or the bush would have been consumed by the Fire. It was the Fire of God burning on the bush. A voice from the bush spoke to Moses and told him to take his shoes off because he was standing on Holy Ground.

As on Mount Horeb, the experience Moses would have on Mount Sinai would also be an experience with the Fire of God. Sinai means “thorny or thorn bush.”

According to Hebrew Scholars, the bush which burned on Mount Horeb was a thorny bush. Mount Horeb, Mount Sinai and the thorns on the burning bush represented the hearts of men void of the knowledge and understanding of God. They also represent a heart (soul) languishing in Darkness, void of the Light and Life of God. The voice speaking from the burning bush was a type and shadow of God speaking through the thorns and thistles. It was a cry and call to Holiness to men lost in the Wilderness of Sin.

THORNS AND THISTLES

AND UNTO ADAM HE SAID, BECAUSE YOU HAVE HARKENED TO THE VOICE OF YOUR WIFE AND HAVE EATEN OF THE TREE OF WHICH I COMMANDED YOU, SAYING, YOU SHALL NOT EAT OF IT: CURSED IS THE GROUND (spirit) FOR YOUR SAKE, IN SORROW SHALL YOU EAT OF IT ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE: THORNS AND THISTLES SHALL IT BRING FORTH TO YOU; AND YOU SHALL EAT OF THE HERB OF THE FIELD. Genesis, Chapter 3, Verses 17-18.

The earth or ground is a type and shadow of the spirit, or the Heart of Man. Adam sinned and brought a curse upon himself through his disobedience to God's Commandment. Thorns and thistles represent a heart (spirit) which produces sin and sorrow. Jesus said in Matthew, Chapter 13, Verse 22 that "thorns" choke the WORD OF GOD through the "cares (distractions) of this World and the deceitfulness of riches."

Adam and Eve were sent forth out of the Garden of Eden because their sin disqualified them from again eating from the Tree of Life until an acceptable sacrifice for their

sin could be made. Sin disqualifies us from eating from the Tree of Life until we repent and ask the Lord for forgiveness. The heart grows spiritual thorns and thistles which create a spiritual Wilderness in our souls. Only the Spirit of Christ and faith in Christ's shed Blood can remove those thorns and thistles from our hearts.

The Lord gave me a dream several years ago about thorns and thistles. In the dream I was walking around in an Emergency Room in a Hospital. I saw many people lying in Hospital beds around the room. Some of the patients I knew very well. The people were all covered in thorns and thistles. The thorns and thistles seemed to be deeply embedded in their flesh. The people were all crying out in pain seeking relief from their misery. The thorns and thistles were wrapped around them so tightly they could not reach to pull them out. I saw Doctors and Nurses going around to each hospital bed taking hold of the thorns and thistles which engulfed their patients. Instead of trying to free the people from their thorns and thistles, they would push them farther into their skin. The people would cry out even more in pain.

Many Christian leaders are causing more hurt and pain in the lives of people than they are helping them. Instead of setting people free from their emotional pain and suffering, they are inflicting more pain and feelings of hopelessness.

I recognized a man who once worked for me lying on one of the hospital beds. After working for me he moved to another State. I ran into him one day and he told me a very disturbing story. He shared with me how Pastors and other so called Christians had hurt him over the years. His confidence in Christian people had been lost. Instead

of loving and helping him in his time of need, people he trusted had used him then rejected him. To this day this man is not going to Church.

The Church is supposed to be a Hospital for saints and sinners alike. Instead of helping people however, many Churches have become sanctuaries for demons and devils. The leadership in many Churches has been occupied by enemy forces. They spew out their ungodly rhetoric and promote their self-seeking programs. Another man who worked for me told me he went to his Pastor for prayer and guidance and told him some things in confidence he did not wish anyone else to know. He was seeking help in some areas in his life and thought he could trust his Pastor to help him. The next Sunday morning the Pastor got up in front of the Church and told the Congregation everything the man had told him in confidence in his counseling session. Needless to say the man was very distraught and left the Church.

God's people need to be more discerning and compassionate when they are dealing with the lives of others. Instead of inflicting more pain and sorrow in people's lives, we should be binding up the broken hearted and setting free those who have been captured and enslaved by sin.

At the end of the dream, I would go around to each patient lying on the hospital beds, pray for them, and take hold of the thorns and thistles and pull them out. The people would cry out in great pain as the briars were being ripped from their skin. Then they would get a big smile on their faces, get up out of the bed, stand on their feet and thank me for pulling out the briars.

Bringing hurts and sorrows to the surface can be very painful when we are dealing with people's emotions. However, once deep seated pain and emotional stress have been exposed and healed through the right process, people can go on with their life with joy and thanksgiving. Whom the Lord has set free is FREE INDEED.

Thorns and thistles grow in the heart that has not been established and grounded in the doctrines of Christ Jesus. The cleansing and healing Power of Christ removes all pain and sorrow in a destitute heart. We make converts, but fail to make disciples out of people by not teaching them HOW to be set free from all the pain and sorrow visited upon them in the past by their ungodly taskmasters. Men who live in sin are slaves to sin. Men who have been set free by the Power of God are FREE INDEED. When we are dealing with people's spiritual and emotional well-being, we must strive to always apply the TRUTH of God in every situation.

Like the Children of Israel in the Wilderness of Sin, some people will always be murmuring and complaining. The thorns and thistles which permeate their hearts will always cause them needless pain and sorrow because their hearts are filled with DARKNESS. On the other hand, there are many people who are sincere about finding help and deliverance from their captivity. All they need is someone who can point them in the right direction by showing them the love of Christ and helping them in their time of need.

If we have been set free from sin, we should take into consideration the feelings and the desperate condition of others. We must always remember that we were also once captives of grievous taskmasters and could not free

ourselves from the grip of Hell. We needed someone to help us obtain our own freedom.

God's plan to make a Holy Nation and a Royal Priesthood out of a rebellious rabble in the Wilderness of Sin was not going well. Most of the people provoked Him through their murmuring and complaining. Their greatest test still lay ahead of them, and so far they were failing to TRUST and BELIEVE God would help them reach their PROMISED destination.

CHAPTER 8

THE GOLDEN CALF

AND WHEN THE PEOPLE SAW THAT MOSES DELAYED TO COME DOWN OUT OF THE MOUNT, THE PEOPLE GATHERED THEMSELVES TOGETHER UNTO AARON, AND SAID UNTO HIM, UP, MAKE US GODS, WHICH SHALL GO BEFORE US; FOR AS THIS MOSES, THE MAN WHO BROUGHT US UP OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT, WE KNOW NOT WHAT IS BECOME OF HIM. AND AARON SAID UNTO THEM, BREAK OFF THE GOLDEN EARRINGS, WHICH ARE IN THE EARS OF YOUR WIVES, OF YOUR SONS, AND OF YOUR DAUGHTERS, AND BRING THEM TO ME. AND HE RECEIVED THEM AT THEIR HAND, AND FASHIONED IT WITH A GRAVING TOOL, AFTER HE HAD MADE IT A MOLTEN CALF: AND THEY SAID, THESE BE YOUR GODS, O ISRAEL, WHICH BROUGHT YOU UP OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT. Exodus, Chapter 32, Verses 1-2, and 4.

Moses spent forty days and nights on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments, and among other things, the plans pertaining to the building and furnishing of the Tabernacle. While Moses was on the Mountain, the Children of Israel were breaking the first two Commandments God had given Moses. They made a graven image and proclaimed the gods of Egypt to be their gods. Not only did they declare the gods of Egypt to be

their gods, the Children of Israel gave the Egyptian gods the credit for their escape from bondage.

The Egyptians worshipped many gods. The Golden Calf was formed after the Egyptian bull god “Hapi.” The Children of Israel were familiar with the Egyptian god Hapi. Seeing that they worshipped Hapi in Sinai they probably worshipped this god while they were in Egypt. “Hapi” was known to the Egyptians as the god of blessing, strength and prosperity. King Jeroboam would later return the tradition of “bull” worship in Israel during his reign as King.

The Hebrew word for “calf” is the word “egel,” which means young “bull or steer.” The calf was not a small male steer as the word suggests, but a large young bull.

The Egyptians also worshipped a bull deity called “Apis.” “Apis” was an intermediary god to one of their main gods “Ptah.” “Ptah” was the god of craftsmen and architects, as well as one of their “creator gods.” The Children of Israel may have made the Golden Calf in honor of all three gods (trinity) since they were honoring the gods of Egypt for delivering them from the Egyptian army.

In their hearts the Children of Israel had already returned to Egypt and the gods of their taskmasters. In Prophetic Teaching, Egypt has always been a type and shadow of the World. God had delivered the Children of Israel out of Egypt (the World) and was leading them to a land He Promised to give them. Instead of honoring Jehovah God, who SAVED them from their taskmasters, they honored the gods of the Nation who enslaved them. In

essence, they were honoring the same gods for deliverance who had enslaved them in the first place.

WALL STREETS GOLDEN CALF

Bull worship was prominent in most, if not all, ancient civilizations. The bull deity was usually given credit for a Nation's prosperity and strength. Even today, on Wall Street a robust economy in the United States is called a "BULL MARKET." When the Stock (bull) Market (a place to buy and sell) is up, it is a sign the economy is doing well; people are prospering and goods are available.

Unfortunately, today people still worship the gods of prosperity rather than the true God Jehovah. They worship what the workmanship (craftsmanship) of THEIR HANDS can bring them rather than God. Men may not get down on their knees and literally worship what their hands have created or provided, but in their hearts they worship Baal.

The Bull-Deity is still alive and well deep in the hearts of those who worship the ALMIGHTY DOLLAR. It is called the "almighty dollar" for a reason. Men commit spiritual fornication by bowing down to the god of worldly riches. Money and what money can buy has become the main focus of most people. Many Christians have fallen into the same trap. The "deceitfulness of riches" can never satisfy a soul with peace and contentment.

THE LOVE OF MONEY

FOR THE LOVE OF MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL; WHICH WHILE SOME COVETED AFTER,

THEY HAVE ERRED FROM THE FAITH AND
PIERCED THEMSELVES THROUGH WITH MANY
SORROWS. 1 Timothy, Chapter 6, Verse 10.

Because this verse of Scripture is misquoted, many people think money in and of itself is evil. When translated literally from Greek, this Scripture says, “Money is the root of ALL KINDS of evil.” However, money itself is not the problem. It is the LOVE OF MONEY which is the cause of “all kinds of evil.” For many Christians, the LOVE OF MONEY has brought with it many heartaches and sorrows because their motives and attitudes concerning riches have been perverted.

BUT YOU SHALL REMEMBER THE LORD YOUR
GOD: FOR IT IS HE WHO GIVES YOU POWER TO
GET WEALTH, THAT HE MAY ESTABLISH HIS
COVENANT WHICH HE SWORE UNTO YOUR
FATHERS, AS IT IS THIS DAY. Deuteronomy, Chapter
8, Verse 18.

There is nothing wrong with being wealthy as long as we are using our wealth to help the needy and to further the plan and purpose of God here on Earth. When God makes someone wealthy it is because He can trust him or her to use their wealth for the right reasons.

Riches can be like a sorceress enticing men into committing fornication with her. She subtly entices men into committing fornication with her by flashing her comeliness before them. In the end they have sold their souls for a single moment of pleasure. The souls of many rich AND poor men have been damned by committing fornication with her.

To put it bluntly, the prosperity gods of Gold and Silver have sent and will continue to send many unsuspecting men and women to the pit of Hell. The deceitfulness of riches is a trap of Satan which plunges unsuspecting people into the depths of despair, oblivion and hell.

FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE ALSO. Luke, Chapter 12, Verse 24.

One does not have to be rich to love money or what money can buy. The desire to be wealthy can pervert the hearts of men as easy as being wealthy can. Many men have become slaves to the god of riches. Satan has **MASTERED** the art of spiritual fornication, and bought and sold the souls of many men. Man cannot serve God Jehovah and riches at the same time. He cannot serve two masters. Man will either love Jehovah and make Him his Master or hate God and become a slave to riches.

The richest people on earth are not those who have worldly possessions or money in the banks. The richest people on earth are those who possess the **RICHERS OF GOD'S GRACE AND UNDERSTANDING**. We are saved by Grace through Faith in Christ Jesus and have become joint heirs with Christ. In Christ we have inherited all the promises and blessings of God. The **BLESSING** of God makes one rich and with it comes no sorrow. Proverbs, Chapter 10, Verses 22. The greatest treasures on Earth and in Heaven are the treasures which set men free from the bondage of sin-the Love of God and the Blood of Christ. A man's true wealth cannot be measured by his worldly possessions, but by the godly treasures which dwell within his heart.

JUDGMENT AT SINAI

AND IT CAME TO PASS, AS SOON AS HE CAME NEAR UNTO THE CAMP, THAT HE SAW THE CALF, AND THE DANCING, AND MOSES'S ANGER WAXED HOT, AND HE CAST THE TABLETS OUT OF HIS HANDS, AND BROKE THEM BENEATH THE MOUNT. AND HE TOOK THE CALF WHICH THEY HAD MADE, AND BURNT IT WITH FIRE, AND GROUND IT TO POWDER, AND STRAWED IT UPON THE WATER, AND MADE THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL DRINK OF IT. Exodus, Chapter 32, Verses 19-20.

The incident with the Golden Calf was the last straw for Moses. The stiff-necked (self-willed) people had gone too far this time, and punishment would be harsh. The hearts of many of the Children of Israel were evil and desperately wicked. Many of them would die at Sinai because of their rebellion and spiritual fornication. They desired to serve the gods of Egypt instead of the true God Jehovah who had delivered them from their life of slavery. In Sinai (thorny), their actions, driven by their sinful (thorny) hearts, brought the Judgment of God upon them.

Their punishment was not only harsh, but astonishingly severe. Many of the Children of Israel were forced to swallow the very god they had created out of their gold. The god they created in their own hearts and with their hands would become the instrument of their judgment, punishment and death.

When people worship the gods of gold and silver (earthly riches), they condemn themselves to eternal punishment. These DUMB gods speak out and testify

against them prophetically. Those who put their trust in riches are destined to suffer the consequences of their actions. Earthly riches can be distractive and deceptive to those who are trying to keep their hearts and minds focused on heavenly things. We must be careful not to fall into the traps of the gods of gold and silver that have been set before us by Satan.

BUY GOLD

I COUNSEL YOU TO BUY OF ME GOLD TRIED IN THE FIRE, THAT YOU MAY BE RICH, AND WHITE RAIMENT, THAT YOU MAY BE CLOTHED, AND THAT THE SHAME OF YOUR NAKEDNESS DO NOT APPEAR; AND ANOINT YOUR EYES WITH EYESALVE, THAT YOU MAY SEE. Revelation, Chapter 3, Verse 18.

Prophetically GOLD speaks of the “Divine Nature of Christ.” Jesus admonishes us to BUY Gold tried, or purified, in the fire. Jesus was not really saying that you can buy what God offers freely in the Divine Nature of Christ. The Laodiceans were wealthy people who were accustomed to buying anything they wanted. Trusting in earthly riches was one of their biggest problems. They were wealthy according to earthly standards, but poor when it came to heavenly riches.

When we buy something we are making an exchange. Jesus was challenging the Laodiceans to exchange their earthly nature for the Divine Nature of Christ. He was telling them to exchange their nakedness and shame for a robe of righteousness. Earthly riches are temporal, but the GOLD purified in the fire will last throughout eternity.

The Bible tells us that man's works will be tried by fire, and that men will be rewarded according to their works. Read First Corinthians, Chapter 3, Verses 10-13. God uses the fiery trials of life to cleanse and purge us of our carnal nature so the Divine Nature of Christ can dwell within our hearts RICHLY. The gold (god) the Children of Israel trusted in became the very instrument of their death and destruction.

In Christ our true Wealth is determined by how much we GIVE AWAY rather than how much we store away. The more of the Divine Nature of Christ we share with others, the more we receive in Heavenly wealth and rewards. Every time we share the TRUE RICHES with others, we are laying up TREASURES in Heaven for ourselves. In buying Gold purified in the fire, we obtain life everlasting which earthly wealth and riches cannot afford.

CHAPTER 9

TRIALS

MY BRETHREN, COUNT IT ALL JOY WHEN YOU FALL INTO DIVERS TEMPTATIONS (trials); KNOWING THIS, THAT THE TRYING OF YOUR FAITH WORKS PATIENCE, BUT LET PATIENCE HAVE HER PERFECT WORK, THAT YOU MAY BE PERFECT (complete) WANTING (lacking) NOTHING. James, Chapter 1, Verses 2-3.

If there is one thing in this World we can be assured of it is that everyone, no matter who they may be, will go through trials and some sort of tribulation. As Christians our faith will be tested. God is trying to teach us how to LIVE by FAITH. Living by faith for the Christian is not an option, it is a necessity if we are going to “fight the good fight of faith” and dwell in the Promised Land (promises of God).

There are many obstacles which stand in the way of our Promised Land. Doubt, fear and unbelief are a few of them. BELIEVING and RECEIVING the promises of God are the two vehicles which will take us to our destination. PATIENCE is the bridge between believing and receiving. THROUGH FAITH AND PATIENCE WE INHERIT THE PROMISES OF GOD. Hebrews, Chapter 6, Verse 12.

Like the Children of Israel, at times we all have a personal RED SEA of our own we must cross. With the enemy (Satan) closing in at our backs and a seemingly

impassable sea before us, our future sometimes may look bleak. During perilous circumstances we must lift our eyes to Heaven to find a way of escape. God is always an ever present help in the time of need; an ever present port in the time of a storm. We must always keep our hearts and minds STAYED upon Christ. He is our only hope when overwhelming odds threaten to drive us into the sea.

God led the Children of Israel through the Wilderness to instill a sense of TRUST and FAITH in them. He rolled the waters of the Red Sea back, and the Children of Israel were delivered from their former taskmasters. They crossed the Red Sea on dry land into the Wilderness on the other side of the Red Sea. God performed miracle after miracle in their presence, and yet they still PROVOKED God by their lack of faith and their murmuring and complaining.

God, their Teacher, was very patient with the Children of Israel. He knew it would take more than just a few days to whip this rebellious rabble into a mighty force who would be able to contend with all the enemies they would face in the future. Unfortunately, most of the Children of Israel FAILED the test and never learned the lessons God was trying to teach them.

God, our Teacher, does not want us to FAIL as we sojourn in this Wilderness we call the World. He is very patient when it comes to teaching His Children to walk by faith and trust in Him. His desire for His children to prosper spiritually is greater than ours. He even provided a way of escape from every Red Sea circumstance we would face 2000 years ago when Jesus shed His Blood for us at Calvary.

God was patient with the Children of Israel and did not punish them for their lack of faith, for their incessant murmuring and complaining in the beginning of their journey through the Wilderness. However, when they came to Mount Sinai and gave all the credit for their provision and deliverance to the Egyptian gods, God was very displeased with them. The Children of Israel were a stiff-necked (self-willed) and obstinate people who did not gain entrance to the PROMISED LAND due to their disobedience. The majority of them died in the Wilderness before they reached the Promised Land.

As Christians, we should be happy and encouraged knowing that God is patient and will not leave us in the Wilderness without teaching us how to serve Him faithfully. Although we fail from time to time, our Lord is always faithful to pick us up when we fall.

Trials in and of themselves may not produce spiritual maturity and faith in us, but they certainly can help us to lean on and trust God more through patience. The goal of patience, more than anything else, is to establish us in holiness through total dependence on God for the things which are impossible for us. We must have faith that God will PART THE RED SEA on our behalf when there seems to be no way of escape from the trials of life. God always makes a way of escape for those who put their faith and trust in Him. We conquer doubt, fear and unbelief by putting all our faith and trust in God and His promises.

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

WHO SHALL SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST? SHALL TRIBULATION, OR DISTRESS, OR PERSECUTION, OR FAMINE, OR NAKEDNESS, OR

PERIL, OR SWORD? AS IT IS WRITTEN, FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE KILLED ALL THE DAY LONG; WE ARE ACCOUNTED AS SHEEP FOR THE SLAUGHTER. NAY, IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED US. Romans, Chapter 8, Verses 35-37.

It is a natural reaction to want to avoid and be free from trials and tribulations. However, trials are designed to strengthen our faith and resolve to serve God. If we never face trial and temptations, our faith in God would not grow and flourish. Trials strengthen our faith. We become more than conquerors IN the trials if we faithfully endure through patience.

Leaning on God and His faithfulness, we will find the faithfulness of His promises. He promised that we would not be tempted or tested by any more than we would be able to bear. God promised He would never leave us or forsake us. He PROMISED to be with us as we learn to endure any test and trials which may come our way. We cannot become more than conquerors OVER things until we learn to become more than conquerors IN them.

BUT THANKS BE TO GOD, WHICH GIVES US THE VICTORY THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. 1 Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verse 57.

We are able to become more than conquerors through the Blood of Jesus Christ and the Word of our Testimony. We know that all things work together for good for those who love Christ and are called according to His purpose. All of God's children have been called according to His plan and purpose. However, we must seek

out and find the plan and purpose of God for our life so we can experience all He has in store for us.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God when we have made Christ our habitation. As we live and breathe in Christ, we become a Holy Nation; conquerors in life and in death. The victory comes from our faith in Christ. He gives us that VICTORY because of His unfailing love for us.

Many people believe IN God, but they do not BELIEVE God. That is to say they do not believe the Promises of God, or that He is faithful enough to deliver His promises. Sometimes this is a result of our lack of faith. Sometimes it is a result of one's lack of patience. Sometimes it is a result of a lack of faith and patience. Whatever the case they cannot expect to receive anything from God. These and several other variables can enter into the equation.

If we find ourselves lacking in faith, we must ask ourselves these questions, "Is my lifestyle pleasing to God?" "Am I seeking Christ and spending time with Him every day?" "Have I made Christ the main focus of my life?" "Do I have any unresolved sin issues in my life?" "Am I supporting the work of God by giving God tithes and offerings?" "Do I possess patience?" You are the only one who can answer these questions. You are the only one who can make the quality decision to believe and trust God during times of trouble, and wait patiently for His promises to be fulfilled. Only you can believe God to supply all your needs according to His riches in Glory by Christ Jesus.

God wants us to know where we STAND in our WALK with Him. Why do we fail at times? Why are all

these bad things happening to me? Why do the Heavens seem like brass when we pray? Why do I not seem to be progressing in God's plan and purpose for my life? Why do I seem to always take one step forward and two steps back? We may have many problems, but God has all the answers to ALL our problems.

God desires for us to understand the reasons why we do not seem to be progressing in our walk with Him. Where we fit in the scheme of things is one of the most important questions we can ask. Changing the way we think about God and how we perceive Him will bring about any necessary changes we may need in our life.. How do we do that? We seek the Scriptures so we can know and understand the nature of Christ. The Divine Nature of Christ is what transforms us from Children of Darkness into Children of Light.

When we seek Him with our whole heart we will find Him, along with all the answers to our questions. When we are filled with His Spirit, His Spirit will teach us all things. If we draw near to God He will draw near to us as we go before His Throne of Grace. In our time of need Christ not only knows the answer--He IS the answer. Above all, we must understand and TRUST in God's love for us. If we are not trusting in His love, we are not trusting in God. GOD IS LOVE. We become more than conquerors when we trust in His LOVE

CHAPTER 10

TRIBULATION

THESE THINGS I HAVE SPOKEN UNTO YOU, THAT IN ME YOU MIGHT HAVE PEACE. IN THE WORLD YOU SHALL HAVE TRIBULATION: BUT BE OF GOOD CHEER, FOR I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD. John, Chapter 16, Verse 33.

The word “tribulation” is derived from the Greek word “thlipsis” which means burdened, troubled, tribulation and persecuted. Jesus warned His disciples as long as they were in this World they would be burdened, persecuted and troubled. Man who is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. (Job ch. 14, vs. 1)

No person is exempt from the trials and tribulations of this World. However, Jesus told us we could be at peace in Him during the troubled times we would experience during our journey here on Earth. Jesus is the Prince of Peace and an ever present help in the time of trouble.

At the birth of Christ the Angel Gabriel appeared to Shepherds attending their flocks in the field and announced “Peace on earth and goodwill to men.” Gabriel was talking about Christ coming to dwell in the hearts of men. There

never has been, and never will be “peace on earth (in people’s hearts)” without Christ. We overcome the World when the Peace of God which surpasses understanding dwells richly in our hearts by Christ Jesus.

As Disciples of Christ we may be troubled on every hand, persecuted and burdened with the cares of this world, but in Christ we are more than conquerors. Although the storms of life may come, we can be assured that Christ is an “ever present help in the time of need—and an ever present port in the time of a storm.”

Tribulations and trials are designed to lead us to a closer walk with Christ. When we seek our Lord in the time of trouble He will cause our hearts and minds to dwell in PERFECT PEACE. We know that “all things work together for good for those who love Christ and are called according to His purpose.” Romans Chapter 8, Verse 38.

THE GREAT TRIBULATION

FOR THEN SHALL BE GREAT TRIBULATION, SUCH AS WAS NOT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD TO THIS TIME, NO, NOR EVER SHALL BE. Matthew, Chapter 24, Verse 21.

The Great Tribulation will be a time of great trouble which will come upon the earth which will be GREATER than any other time of trouble since the beginning of time. Natural disasters, storms, wars and epidemics will define the times during the Great Tribulation. These times are designed to separate the sheep from the goats. True believers draw closer to God through great trials and tribulations. Trials and tribulations have always defined

the life of true Christians. It is how we endure trouble and persecution which makes us stronger.

The Great tribulation is also a time when God will judge the Nations and the SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST for their sins through cataclysmic events. No nation will be spared from the terrible events which will result in the deaths of over one billion individuals.

AND THE LORD SHALL SCATTER YOU AMONG THE NATIONS (the dispersion), AND YOU SHALL BE LEFT FEW IN NUMBER AMONG THE HEATHEN, WHITHER THE LORD SHALL LEAD YOU. AND THERE YOU SHALL SERVE GODS, THE WORKS OF MEN'S HANDS, WOOD AND STONE, WHICH NEITHER SEE, NOR HEAR, NOR EAT, NOR SMELL. BUT IF FROM THENCE YOU SHALL SEEK THE LORD YOUR GOD, YOU SHALL FIND HIM, IF YOU SEEK HIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL. WHEN YOU ARE IN TRIBULATION, AND ALL THESE THINGS ARE COME UPON YOU, EVEN IN THE LATTER DAYS (end times), IF YOU TURN TO THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND BE OBEDIENT TO HIS VOICE. Deuteronomy, Chapter 4, Verses 27-30.

The first mention of the Great Tribulation is found in the above Scriptures. The Book of Deuteronomy was written after the Children of Israel had wandered in the WILDERNESS for forty years. God was preparing to lead them out of the WILDERNESS into the LAND OF PROMISE. He warned them of the perils of disobedience and that future generations would be scattered or dispersed among the nations because of their sins and the Great Tribulation of the last days.

The Great Tribulation is also mentioned in Daniel Chapter 12, and also in Jerimiah, Chapter 30, as well as other places in the Bible. Tribulation came upon the Children of Israel over the centuries because of their sins and disobedience. Rejecting God and His Word will always result in judgment. God expects the world to be sinful, but He does not look too kindly upon sin when His chosen people, the ones who call themselves by His name, become like the rest of the World. There will always be a warning from God to His people to WALK UPRIGHTLY and love Him with all their heart. There will always be a CRY IN THE WILDERNESS for people to REPENT of their sins or they will face the judgment which follows.

PROPHECY

I began studying Bible Prophecy for myself over 35 years ago. There were too many discrepancies in the teachings of those who proclaimed to understand eschatology. Everybody had a different interpretation of Bible Prophecy which was, and is, confusing to say the least. After months and later years of studying the scripture for myself, I learned that men were just teaching what somebody else had written or taught them. Everyone had a great REVELATION about the end times and the Book of Revelation, but somebody had to be wrong because many of their REVELATIONS conflicted with one another.

God is not the AUTHOR of confusion. When people are confused about scripture it is because men, even well-meaning men, THINK they have the mind of God. The scripture was not given to one man to interpret privately. Only the Holy Spirit can teach us the true

meaning of the revelatory meanings of Prophecy and prophetic events.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIBULATION OF THOSE DAYS SHALL THE SUN BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON SHALL NOT GIVE HER LIGHT, AND THE STARS SHALL FALL FROM HEAVEN, AND THE POWERS OF HEAVENS SHALL BE SHAKEN: AND THEN SHALL APPEAR THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN IN HEAVEN: AND THEN SHALL ALL THE TRIBES OF THE EARTH MOURN, AND THEY SHALL SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING IN THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY. AND HE SHALL SEND HIS ANGELS WITH THE GREAT SOUND OF A TRUMPET, AND THEY SHALL GATHER TOGETHER HIS ELECT FROM THE FOUR WINDS, FROM ONE END OF HEAVEN TO THE OTHER. Matthew, Chapter 24, Verse 29- 31.

Jesus, IMMEDIATELY AFTER the tribulation the Son of Man, will appear in the sky to gather the ELECT from the four winds (north, south, east and west). Some people say the ELECT are the people of Israel and not the Church because the Church is raptured before the Tribulation. I have read commentaries of some of these same people, prominent men of God, who are calling the ELECT the Church. They only use the argument about the Jews being the ELECT when it suits their doctrine. Paul called the Collosians the ELECT. Peter called the Church the ELECT in His writings.

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 IN CHRIST SHALL BE RAISED INCORRUPTIBLE, AND WE SHALL BE CHANGED. 1 Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verses 51-52.

According to the pre-tribulation rapture theologians the above scripture is speaking about the rapture. The above scripture says the rapture takes place at the sound of the last trumpet. We saw in Matthew ch. 24 vs. 31 a trumpet sounds to call the ELECT from the four winds, or north, south, east and west. If this trumpet sounds IMMEDIATELY AFTER the tribulation how can the last trumpet call be before the tribulation? I rest my case.

CHAPTER 11

PERSECUTION

ALL WHO WILL LIVE GODLY IN CHRIST JESUS SHALL SUFFER PERSECUTIONS. 2nd Timothy, Chapter 3, Verse 12.

Persecution is the common lot of all who live godly in Christ Jesus. There are many different forms and degrees of persecution. According to the Apostle Paul, ALL godly people will suffer from some form and degree of persecution. If we live a life of true godliness, we cannot expect to be immune from the afflictions of our persecutors.

As Christians we must endure persecution for the Lord's sake. Jesus was a target of persecution. As Christians we cannot alienate ourselves from Christ, who is the Head of the Church as well as our example. If we are to be Christ-like we can expect persecution. If we follow in the footsteps of Christ, we can expect to be treated as He was by the rest of the World. ALL who are Christ-like will suffer persecution in one form or another. True Disciples of Christ can be expected to receive the same treatment Christ received as He went about doing good and preaching the GOOD NEWS of the Gospel.

The word "persecution" come from the Greek word which means to "pursue a person because of their goodness

or godliness.” As we walk the path of Holiness we can be assured we will be persecuted as Christ was. Persecution should be worn as a badge of honor. If we suffer persecution for the cause of Christ, we are proven to be Christ-like.

If we are going to be Christ-like, we are going to be persecuted just as Christ was persecuted. Some Christians may not suffer persecution as severely as others, but nevertheless, suffering persecution comes as a **MARK OF THE HIGH CALLING** we receive in Christ Jesus.

LIVING GODLY

If we are not experiencing or have never experienced any form or level of persecution in our life, we are probably not **LIVING GODLY**. To **LIVE GODLY** in Christ is to die to self and live a life which is pleasing to Him. If we **LIVE GODLY** in Christ, we will seek the will, plan and purpose of God for our life rather than our own plan for our life. Our thoughts, desires and emotions will reflect the Life of Christ rather than our own. When we love Christ wholeheartedly, He becomes our **ALPHA** (beginning) in the morning when we get out of bed. Christ is our **OMEGA** (ending) in the evening when we put our bodies to bed at night. He is our rest as we close our eyes in sleep each night.

Those who **LIVE GODLY** in Christ are led by the Spirit of God and not earthly desires, attitudes or motives. His children hear His voice. They know His voice. They obey His voice. All who **LIVE GODLY** in Christ set their hearts on things which are above rather than the deceptive promises of worldly gain and fame. They are pure in heart and filled with the Righteousness of God as they sojourned

through the WILDERNESS of this present World. They are in right standing with God as they stand with Christ against the evils of this present age.

BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE: FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. Matthew, Chapter 5, Verse 10.

The first record of persecution in the Bible is found in the Book of Genesis in the story of Cain and Abel. Abel was persecuted and slain by Cain his wicked brother because of his GODLY lifestyle. Evil always pursues the GODLY to eliminate the threat of judgment and condemnation that righteousness imposes upon it. Righteousness exposes the deeds of evil men and the demonic forces which perpetuate and fuel their sins and iniquities.

Hatred is a form of persecution. The Scribes and Pharisees hated and persecuted Jesus long before they had Him nailed to the Cross because He exposed their evil hearts and evil deeds. Hatred is the root of all persecution. Jesus told His Disciples they would be hated JUST because they were His Disciples.

BLESSED ARE YOU, WHEN MEN SHALL REVILE YOU, AND PERSECUTE YOU, AND SHALL SAY ALL MANNER OF EVIL AGAINST YOU FALSELY, FOR MY NAMES SAKE. REJOICE AND BE EXCEEDING GLAD: FOR GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN: FOR SO PERSECUTED THEY THE PROPHETS WHICH WERE BEFORE YOU. Matthew, Chapter 5, Verses 11-12.

All who LIVE GODLY will suffer verbal persecution. Haters of the TRUTH will always verbally

abuse those who are followers and carriers of the TRUTH. Enduring verbal persecution without being offended is the mark of a true disciple. When one dies to self, they will not care what someone says about them or to them. Christians who are secure in Christ will not be phased by evil words, lies and accusations. We must all remember that it is not ourselves that offend people, but the righteousness of Christ which dwells within us.

The hatred, anger and wrath of Satan is provoked by the Righteousness of God. Righteousness is an offense to evil. Satan is the epitome of evil. The evil within Satan provokes him to eliminate the threat righteousness imposes upon him and his Kingdom. He uses evil men to eliminate the threat of righteousness whenever and wherever he can. Righteousness is an offense to sinfulness.

Jesus said we are BLESSED when we are reviled and persecuted for His Name sake. He tells us to rejoice because we are considered worthy to be persecuted and reviled as He was. If we are being persecuted, it is because we possess the righteousness of Christ in these earthen vessels.

The greatest and most severe form of persecution is when men hate the Truth so much they kill the righteous. Many of the Prophets of old were slain because they spoke the truth and exposed the wickedness of the evil hearts and deeds of men. They were men who refused to compromise, even when they were threatened with the possibility of losing their life. Their right standing with God meant more to them than life itself. They loved God more than anything this World could offer them.

All twelve Disciples of Christ were persecuted and martyred, except for John, because they were followers of Christ and purveyors of Truth. Their love for Christ and the preaching of the Gospel compelled them to take the message of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ to the World without fear of persecution or death. They walked in faith, not in fear, as many Christians do today.

THE GREAT PERSECUTION

AND IT WAS GIVEN UNTO HIM (Satan) TO MAKE WAR WITH THE SAINTS, AND TO OVERCOME THEM: AND POWER WAS GIVEN HIM OVER ALL KINDREDS, AND TONGUES, AND NATIONS. AND ALL WHO DWELL UPON THE EARTH SHALL WORSHIP HIM, WHOSE NAMES ARE NOT WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE OF THE LAMB SLAIN FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD. Revelation, Chapter 13, Verses 7-8. AND I SAW THRONES, AND THEY SAT UPON THEM, AND JUDGEMENT WAS GIVEN UNTO THEM: AND I SAW THE SOULS OF THEM WHO WERE BEHEADED FOR THE WITNESS OF JESUS, AND FOR THE WORD OF GOD, AND WHICH HAD NOT WORSHIPPED THE BEAST, NEITHER HIS IMAGE, NEITHER HAD RECEIVED HIS MARK UPON THEIR FOREHEADS, OR IN THEIR HANDS; AND THEY LIVED AND REIGNED WITH CHRIST A THOUSAND YEARS. Revelation, Chapter 20, Verse 4.

The greatest time of persecution for the Church lies ahead of us during the Great Tribulation. Those who truly love Christ and are washed in the Blood of the Lamb will not fear for their lives even when threatened with death.

They are willing to die for Christ because the Love of Christ dwells within their heart abundantly.

Many in the Church have not been persecuted to the same extent or in the same ways as others have been because of the times in which they lived or where they lived in the World. However, in these last days all who live **GODLY** in Christ will suffer **GREAT PERSECUTION**.

Persecution will be worn as a Badge of Honor for all who are deeply involved in the Great Harvest of souls during the end of days. Each Believer should be concerned about the souls of those whose lives are hanging in the balance. Many lost souls languish in the Valley of Decision and need to be encouraged to choose life in these last days. Who will lead them to the Cross of Christ where they can find life everlasting during the trials and tribulations which will encompass the whole World? Who will reach out to those who need a helping hand when all hell breaks loose in the lives of multitudes? Who will voice the call to repentance in the Wilderness of Sin? Will you?

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE; FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. We have no right to the Kingdom of God if our righteousness is not found in Him. We have no right to the Kingdom of God if we have not lived godly enough to be persecuted for His names sake.

Jesus warned the disciples that they would be brought before Kings and Rulers, and thrown out of Synagogues because of the message of Christ. They would be scourged, humiliated and forsaken by their own people. Those who live **GODLY** in Christ shall not escape the

persecution which comes from following in the footsteps of Christ.

The persecution of the end-time Church will be greater than it has been at any time in History. As the Church prepares herself for the coming of the Lord, she can expect greater persecution as the time of Christ's arrival nears.

Over twenty years ago the Lord told me there was coming a time when Christians could no longer preach the Gospel in public places without being arrested and thrown in jail. Since then I have witnessed many instances where the rights of Christian's freedom of religion being hindered and in many cases eliminated.

Governmental authorities have been slowly and precariously passing laws to stifle and inhibit the preaching of the Gospel for years. We are witnessing daily attempts to stop Christ from being preached all over this Nation, and in Nations around the World. The spirit of anti-Christ has entered into our own White House. A Spirit of Deception has taken control of the very fabric of this nation to usher in the Great Persecution during the Great Tribulation. Satan has plans to prohibit the Saints of God from preaching the Gospel by getting our leaders to pass specific laws and regulations. This World is being set up to receive the anti-Christ Spirit which will come in the form of a false religion. This false religion already has control of many leaders in this Nation.

However, this is not a time to FEAR what is happening to our Nation and the Nations of this World. ALL prophecy spoken of in the Bible will come to pass without hesitancy. The times which are ahead of us will be

times of great sorrow for many, but for the Church they are times of great awaking and joy. We must be glad and rejoice that we have been chosen to live in a time such as this. There is no greater sacrifice than to lay one's life down for a friend. "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear." Jesus is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. To lay our life down for Him is the sacrifice each Christian must make to be followers and Disciples of Christ.

As Christians we walk on COMMON GROUND with Christ. If He was persecuted for righteousness sake, our lot is to do the same. If we are walking with Christ daily we will not be spared the persecution of Christ. In Christ we live and move and have our being.

There is coming a day when people will think they are doing God a favor by persecuting true Christians. I use the term TRUE Christians because there are so many people who claim to be Christ-like but are of the Synagogue of Satan. Many who call themselves Christians will fall prey to the same Spirit of Deception which has crept into the lives of the rest of the World. Many will receive the mark of the Beast because they will be deceived into believing the anti-Christ and his ungodly agenda is the only hope for self-preservation.

The TRUE Church will not follow the lies and hypocrisy of the false Christ. There are many false prophets who will point to the anti-Christ proclaiming he is the Messiah. Many Christians will be persecuted, imprisoned and killed because they choose to follow the TRUE Messiah, Jesus Christ, the Righteous.

CHAPTER 12

THE FINAL SOLUTION

AND I WILL PUT ENMITY BETWEEN YOU (the Serpent) AND THE WOMAN, AND BETWEEN YOUR SEED AND HER SEED; IT (the seed of Christ) SHALL BRUISE YOUR HEAD, AND YOU SHALL BRUISE HIS (Christ) HEAL. Genesis, Chapter 4, Verse 15.

In the early 1930's, Adolph Hitler came up with a plan to eliminate the Jewish population in Europe. It was called THE FINAL SOLUTION. His plan was to systematically exterminate the entire Jewish population through genocide. Over two-thirds of the Jewish population, over six million Jews, were murdered during the Holocaust. Millions of Christians were also murdered by the Nazi War Machine during World War II.

Hitler and other Nazi leaders believed the Jews were responsible for World War I and all the problems in the World since the inception of the Jewish Race. All the Nazi leaders were involved in the Occult in one form or another. They were under the control of satanic entities and spiritual wickedness in high places who convinced them the Jews had to be eliminated before they themselves could rule the World and prosper as a Nation.

Adolph Hitler was a type and shadow of the anti-Christ. He thought he was doing the World a favor by eliminating the greatest threat to the World---the Jews.

This same mindset is alive and present in the World today. Another Holocaust can be seen on the horizon.

The greatest threat to Israel today is Iran. Iran has sworn to destroy the Jewish Nation. In the 1930's Persia was an ally of Germany. They were so intrigued with the concept of Fascism and the elimination the Jews they changed the name of their county to Iran. Iran is a form of the Name "Aryan." Aryanism was revived by Nazism in the early Twentieth Century when the Nazi Party believed the Germanic speaking peoples were a master race destined to conquer and rule the World. Iran wants to finish the job of eliminating the Jews which the Nazis were unable to accomplish.

Satan has always tried to eliminate the SEED OF PROMISE. Israel has always been referred to as God's Chosen People. Satan enslaved the Children of Israel in Egypt. Satan has tried to eliminate the Nation of Israel throughout history. He used Herod to kill all the male children under the age of two years old when he found out a TRUE KING had been born in Bethlehem, Judea. Satan thought he had eliminated Christ when he had Him crucified on the Cross at Calvary. War between the Seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent will continue until the return of Christ when all His enemies are crushed under His feet.

Today, hatred for the Jews is greater than any other time in History. Muslim Nations have sworn to drive the Nation of Israel into the sea and kill every Jew. Many Nations are becoming increasingly anti-Semitic. Many people now believe the Jews are the cause of all the World's problems and would like to see the Nation of Israel dismantled.

Israel has always been a type and shadow of the Church. Many people are looking at the Church today and proclaiming the Church is also the cause of all the World's problems. Many leaders around the World are trying to stop the Gospel of Christ from being preached. Laws are systematically being passed to curtail and eliminate the propagation of God's Holy Word and the growth of the True Church.

Institutionalized religion is not a threat to the Serpent. The biggest threat to the Serpent is the preaching of the Gospel. The preaching of the Gospel is the SEED which produces true Christianity and births souls into the Kingdom of God. Many people embrace non-violent Islam and the other false religions of the World as peace loving religions. However, the same devil which propagates all other false religions, including non-violent Islam, is the same devil which causes militant Islam to murder, dismember and mutilate anyone who disagrees with them.

THE PRESENT PERSECUTION

AND I SAW THRONES, AND THEY SAT UPON THEM, AND JUDGMENT WAS GIVEN UNTO THEM: AND I SAW THE SOULS OF THEM WHO WERE BEHEADED FOR THE WITNESS OF JESUS, AND FOR THE WORD OF GOD, AND WHICH HAD NOT WORSHIPPED THE BEAST, NEITHER HIS IMAGE, NEITHER HAD RECEIVED HIS MARK UPON THEIR FOREHEADS, OR IN THEIR HANDS; AND THEY LIVED AND REIGNED WITH CHRIST A THOUSAND YEARS. Revelation, Chapter 20, Verse 4.

As I write this Book, many Christians are being persecuted, burned and beheaded in different parts of the

World. There have been a few instances here in the United States where beheadings have taken place. Islamic Fundamentalists and other terror groups, some of them home grown, are perpetuating acts of terrorism. Jesus said men's hearts will fail them because of the fear of the things they will see coming upon the earth during the Great Tribulation. Luke, Chapter 21, Verse 26. The word "fear" in Luke ch. 12 comes from the Greek word "phobos." "Phobos" means "terror." We get our English word "phobia" from this word.

There is no doubt we are now living in perilous times. Terrorism is a term which is used every day in the media describing events which are taking place globally. As the hearts and minds of evil men are becoming more and more depraved, we are experiencing an explosion of terrorism, sin, sexual perversion and the persecution of godly men and women. Those who stand up and speak out against evil WILL suffer persecution in the days to come.

Most Christians in America are arrogant enough to believe persecution will not affect them like it has affected and will affect other Christians around the World. Sadly, they are mistaken and maliciously misguided by the same leaders of the Church.

The early Church was persecuted and driven to the four corners of the Earth. America was settled by many Christians from other Nations who left their homes and almost everything they owned because they were being persecuted. What is it that makes Christians in American think they are more special than their forefathers or the early Church? Maybe it is because they have espoused a lazy form of Christianity unwilling to live HOLY before a HOLY God? Maybe many of them just possess a form of

godliness which denies the Power of God. If the Power of God is not present in our life, it is because we only have a form of godliness. Persecution will not be an issue for the ungodly, but the godly.

BE YE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY. 1 Peter, Chapter 1,
Verse 16.

Being HOLY is not just a suggestion, it is a COMMAND. Without Holiness no man shall see God. If we live HOLY, we WILL suffer persecution. As Christians, our foundation is built upon HOLY living and our daily dedication to the work and service of our Lord Jesus Christ. Without HOLINESS, we are like the rest of the World. Jehovah is a Holy God. The Scripture admonishes us to be Holy, just as God is Holy.

To anti-Christ and his followers, THE FINAL SOLUTION for the World is the elimination of all Jews and Christians. To them good is bad and bad is good. If they can eliminate the Jews and Christians, they will be rid of all the things which keep societies from PROGRESSING into a higher consciousness of evil. Their consciences have been seared, and reality is just an aberration.

At the End of the Age, the anti-Christ (the Beast) deceives all the Nations of the Earth. The anti-Christ is more than just a person. Anti-Christ is a demonic spirit which has entered and will enter into the hearts and minds of all who follow the Beast. The spirit of anti-Christ is already working in the hearts and minds of all who oppose the Truth—Jesus Christ.

There has been a meltdown of morality which is possessing the hearts and minds of the progressive thinker.

There is nothing wrong with progress in relation to the natural elements of the World. However, progressive thinking, or Secular Humanism is a religion in itself. In Secular Humanism man is his own god and is subject only to his own whimsical lusts and desires, regardless of how perverse or evil they may be. This is the religion of the Beast. The teachings of Christianity and Judaism are his biggest threats. The goal of the anti-Christ spirit is to destroy anyone or anything which embraces the teachings of Christ.

Today Christians are openly discriminated against and threatened with lawsuits if they do not succumb to the desires of progressive thinkers. Laws are being passed in order to stifle the message of the Cross and prevent the preaching of the Gospel in public as well as private settings.

In these last days it will take faith and courage to stand up against the evil schemes of the enemy as he tries to eliminate the very existence of holiness and godly living. We must decide now whose side we are on, and who we will choose to trust in. If men are not trusting in God for their provision and deliverance, they will find themselves submitting to the Beast. They will be looking to the anti-Christ as the source of all their physical and spiritual needs.

THE FINAL SOLUTION, according to the Secular Humanist mindset, is the elimination of Judaism and Christianity. Only the destruction and elimination of those who believe in the TRUE GOD will satisfy the hearts and minds of perverted and evil men. The goal of Satan is to destroy and kill all who believe in the God of Israel in a final holocaust.

CHAPTER 13

THE SUN, MOON AND STARS

There are two women mentioned in the Book of Revelation who play a prominent role in the war between good and evil during the end of days. One woman is called “Mystery Babylon,” the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth. She is accused of being “drunk with the blood of the Saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.” Read Revelation, Chapter 17.

Mystery Babylon represents the Kingdoms of the World and their Political, Economic and Religious systems. These Systems are inherently corrupt because they are, for the most part, demonically inspired. Out of Mystery Babylon comes the BEAST who deceives the entire World. The BEAST and his allies declare war against Christ and His Chosen People and against the current Babylon System.

As corrupt as Mystery Babylon was, it was never corrupt enough to stop the Gospel of Christ from reaching the multitudes. The Beast has a new war plan to wipe out those who call themselves Christians and stop the proliferation of the Gospel. Satan has always been at war with those who carry the Light of Christ to those who dwell in Darkness.

Satan knows his time is short and aspires to do everything in his power to destroy the Church and stop

Christ from being preached to the Nations. The Mark of the Beast is his final attempt at suppressing and destroying the works of Christ on earth.

A SIGN IN HEAVEN

AND THERE APPEARED A GREAT WONDER (sign) IN HEAVEN; A WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN, AND THE MOON UNDER HER FEET, AND UPON HER HEAD A CROWN OF TWELVE STARS: AND SHE BEING WITH CHILD CRIED, TRAVAILING IN BIRTH, AND PAINED TO BE DELIVERED. Revelation, Chapter 12, Verses 1-2. AND SHE BROUGHT FORTH A MAN CHILD, WHO WAS TO RULE THE NATIONS WITH A ROD OF IRON: AND HER CHILD WAS CAUGHT UP UNTO GOD, AND TO HIS THRONE. Revelation, Chapter 12, Verse 5.

The second woman we are going to talk about mentioned in the Book of Revelation represents the Kingdom of God, and specifically, the Body (Nation) of Christ. This vision John had is a prophetic anomaly with a multiplicity of types and shadows. Astronomy also plays a pivotal role in examining and explaining its mysteries.

First John said there appeared a great WONDER (sign) in Heaven which included the sun, moon and stars. Speaking of the end of days, Jesus said in Luke Chapter 21, Verse 25, “there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon and stars with perplexities and distress of nations.” This sign John saw in Heaven was there to REVEAL a spiritual truth, as well as to point us to a time of past and future events.

In the Bible a woman can represent creation. In the beginning, in the womb of creation, a new World was conceived. Man was created from the dust of the Earth (world) and God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. Because of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, God's new creation was sent into turmoil. Death would rule and reign in the chambers of men's hearts until God would create a new Garden where sin could not enter. I am speaking in spiritual terms of course.

The Woman John saw was clothed with the Sun. She also represents the Church. When we think of the Church, we usually just think of the BRIDE OF Christ. However, Jesus is head of the Church and the most important person in the Church because the Church is inhabited by His Spirit.

As we saw in Chapter One, the Sun (Son) represents Light. Christ is the Light of the World. A new system, creation, was needed to replace the old one which was corrupt and void of spiritual LIFE. The Woman was clothed with the Sun, or Light. This new creation brought forth a man child, Christ, who would rule the Nations with a rod of iron. Jesus was crucified on the Cross, resurrected by the Holy Spirit, and caught up to Heaven. He now sits at the right hand of God. He is the LIGHT of the World.

Jesus is the head of the Church, and the firstborn, or first fruits of many. The Church itself is a living, breathing, commonwealth of Believers who have received Christ as their Lord and Savior.

We saw in the earlier chapters that the Moon represented the Kingdom of Darkness and sin. Through the

sacrifice of Christ, the Kingdom of Darkness has been defeated. The Kingdom of Darkness is now under the feet of Christ and all who believe in Him.

The number Twelve is the number of Divine Government, the Disciples and unity. Stars represent Israel, but also represent Angels who are messengers of God. In the twelve stars God is sending us a message of the woman through the celestial signs around her. This message represents a message concerning Creation, Christ, the Church (spiritual Israel) and certain past and future events. The past events are also prophetic of future events.

A crown speaks of Kingship and Authority. Jesus was given authority to rule and reign over the Nations as a King. Because of His sacrifice he has been given dominion as King and Kings and Lord of Lords. The twelve stars on the crown speak of His divine government being perpetuated in the Church, spiritual Israel, who will rule and reign with Him throughout eternity.

The Moon, as I wrote earlier in the book, represented Satan. Muslims worship the Moon God, but call Him Allah. Allah (Satan) is the God of the anti-Christ. At Calvary, Satan was defeated and put under the feet of Christ like the Moon stood under the Sun in John's vision of the Woman.

THE SIGN OF HIS COMING

**AND THERE WILL BE SIGNS IN THE SUN, THE
MOON AND STARS.**

In Astronomy the twelve stars represent the Constellation Virgo. Virgo represents a virgin. I read that around time of the birth of Christ twelve stars from the

Constellation Virgo aligned over the Sun. At the same time the Moon was positioned under the Sun. Some Bible Scholars believe this alignment of the Sun, Moon and Stars was the Star of Bethlehem.

God does speak to us through the Constellations. He did so in Amos, Chapter 5, and also in Job Chapters 9 and 38. Moses wrote in Genesis, Chapter 1, Verse 14:
AND GOD SAID, LET THERE BE LIGHTS
(understanding) **IN THE FIRMAMENT OF THE HEAVEN TO DIVIDE THE DAY FROM THE NIGHT; AND LET THEM BE FOR SIGNS, AND FOR SEASONS, AND FOR DAYS, AND YEARS.**

BEHOLD THE DAY OF THE LORD COMES, CRUEL BOTH WITH WRATH AND FIERCE ANGER, TO LAY THE LAND DESOLATE: AND HE SHALL DESTROY THE SINNERS THEREOF OUT OF IT. FOR THE STARS OF HEAVEN AND THE CONSTELLATIONS SHALL NOT GIVE THEIR LIGHT: THE SUN SHALL BE DARKENED IN HIS GOING FORTH, AND THE MOON SHALL NOT CAUSE HER LIGHT TO SHINE.
Isaiah, Chapter 13, Verses 9-10.

The above Scriptures are speaking of the time of Judgment during the Great Tribulation. The Sun, Moon and Stars will be darkened and will not shine for long periods of time. These SIGNS come through storms, volcanoes and other calamities as Judgment upon mankind for their refusal to repent of their sins and transgressions. The Blood Moons are also signs we are living at the end of the age and of God's Judgment upon the Nations.

AND THERE APPEARED ANOTHER WONDER (SIGN) IN HEAVEN; AND BEHOLD A GREAT DRAGON,

HAVING SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS, AND SEVEN CROWNS UPON HIS HEADS. AND HIS TAIL DREW THE THIRD PART OF THE STARS OF HEAVEN, AND DID CAST THEM TO THE EARTH: AND THE DRAGON STOOD BEFORE THE WOMAN WHICH WAS TO BE DELIVERED, FOR TO DEVOUR HER CHILD AS IT WAS BORN. Revelation, Chapter 12, Verses 3-4.

The Great Dragon, of course, is Satan, the Serpent, who deceived Eve and introduced chaos and rebellion into God's first creative work. The Great Dragon controls the anti-Christ and the Nations under his authority. Anti-Christ under the authority of the Dragon causes them to make war on the Saints of the Most High God and to persecute and slay them.

We saw that Stars also represent Angels. The third part of the stars were the third part of the Angels who joined Lucifer, the Dragon, during the rebellion in Heaven. They were cast down to Earth with Satan.

CHAPTER 14

THE WOMAN IN THE WILDERNESS

AND WHEN THE DRAGON SAW THAT HE WAS CAST UNTO THE EARTH, HE PERSECUTED THE WOMAN WHICH BROUGHT FORTH THE MANCHILD. AND TO THE WOMAN WERE GIVEN TWO WINGS OF A GREAT EAGLE, THAT SHE MIGHT FLY INTO THE WILDERNESS, INTO HER PLACE, WHERE SHE IS NOURISHED FOR A TIME, AND TIMES, AND HALF A TIME, FROM THE FACE OF THE SERPENT. Revelation, Chapter 12, Verses 13-14.

The Great Tribulation is a time of testing for the Institutional Church. Like the Children of Israel during their Wilderness experience after leaving Egypt, the Church will find itself needing to trust God for their daily needs. During times of famine God will supernaturally provide food for His children. There will be water shortages and God will provide water for His children supernaturally. God can and will provide everything the Church needs supernaturally. Just as God supplied all the needs of the Children of Israel in the Wilderness, He will also meet the needs of His people in this present Wilderness.

The Great Tribulation is not a time for murmuring and complaining in the Wilderness like the Children of Israel did. GOD FORBID that we fall into the trap of Satan

and not believe God for provision in the time of need. The Just live by Faith, and without faith it impossible to please God. He was not pleased with the Children of Israel in the Wilderness because of their unbelief. He will likewise not be pleased with those who fail to believe and trust Him during their Wilderness journey.

Many Christians will actually flee to Wilderness areas and Refuges God has prepared for them to escape the economic woes and persecution that will take place. There are many Churches and Organizations who have been and are preparing places of refuge for the evil days which are ahead. Like Joseph, God has given many people the task of feeding multitudes of refugees. I call this the JOSEPH ANOINTING. These Refuges are not just for Christians, but for many others who find themselves in dire need of food, clothing, water and shelter.

AND THE SERPENT CAST OUT OF HIS MOUTH WATER AS A FLOOD AFTER THE WOMAN, THAT HE MIGHT CAUSE HER TO BE CARRIED AWAY BY THE FLOOD. AND THE EARTH (Spirit) HELPED THE WOMAN AND OPENED HER MOUTH, AND SWALLOWED THE FLOOD WHICH THE DRAGON CAST OUT OF HIS MOUTH. Revelation, Chapter 12, Verses 15-16.

The flood coming out of the mouth of the Dragon are lies and false accusations Satan brings against Institutional Christianity and the followers of Christ. Of course, the lies and false accusations contrived by the Dragon will not hinder the Church from fulfilling the Great Commission to preach the Gospel to all who will believe and receive Christ as Lord and Savior during the Great Harvest which takes place during the Great Tribulation.

In 2017 the same twelve stars of Constellation Virgo will again appear over the Sun, and the Moon will appear beneath the Sun as it did during the birth of Christ. This is another sign in the Heavens which will occur during the Great Tribulation.

AND THE DRAGON WAS WROTH WITH THE WOMAN, AND WENT TO MAKE WAR WITH THE REMNANT OF HER SEED, WHICH KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD, AND HAVE THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST. Revelation, Chapter 12, Verse 17. (And they overcame him by the Blood of the Lamb and the Word of their Testimony: and they loved not their lives unto the death. Revelation, Chapter 12, vs. 11.

Of course, the REMNANT are the people of God who live during the time of the Great Tribulation. The Dragon persecutes those who have the TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST. Many Christians will be reviled, persecuted and martyred during the Great Tribulation because of their faith, and their refusal to deny Christ. **ALL WHO LIVE GODLY WILL SUFFER PERSECUTION.**

Jesus is coming back for a Church without spot or wrinkle. He is coming back for a Bride who has washed her garments in His Precious Blood.

BORN TO BE PERSECUTED

BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE: FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. BLESSED ARE YOU, WHEN MEN SHALL REVILE YOU, AND PERSECUTE YOU, AND SHALL SAY ALL MANNER OF EVIL AGAINST

YOU, FOR MY SAKE. REJOICE, AND BE EXCEEDINGLY GLAD: FOR GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN: FOR SO PERSECUTED THEY THE PROPHETS WHICH WERE BEFORE YOU.

Matthew, Chapter 5, Verses 10-12.

To be “reviled” means to be criticized, censured, condemned and attacked. These things are what we are called to endure for Righteousness sake. These are the PURPLE HEARTS we receive which bring honor and glory to Christ.

On March, 26, 2015, I had a dream about the persecution of the Church. Over the years I have had several dreams and visions of the persecution of the Church during the last days. In the dream I saw a woman dressed in a long robe with a veil over her head. I could tell she was pregnant. I watched as her belly grew larger and larger. I could tell she was ready to give birth to her child.

At first I thought she was a Nun, but I realized she was not a Nun, but represented the Institutional Church in the above verses of scripture. After all, Nuns are supposed to be celibate. Like the Virgin Mary, who brought forth the man child Christ, this virgin (Virgo) woman was about to give birth to a child. After the child was born she walked over to me and placed the child in my hands. The child then looked up at me and said “I was born to be reviled and persecuted.” I tried to assure the child that what it was saying was untrue. Then I realized this child represented the Church at the end of the age.

FOR THE EARNEST EXPECTATION OF THE CREATURE (speaking of creation) WAITS FOR THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SONS OF GOD. FOR WE

KNOW THAT THE WHOLE CREATION GROANS
AND TRAVAILS IN PAIN TOGETHER UNTIL NOW.

Romans, Chapter 8, Verses 19 and 22.

Later as I walked by the woman who had birthed the child, I saw she was bent over with her tongue hanging out of her mouth groaning in pain.

I believe the greatest time of persecution for believers will begin in 2017 when the Constellation Virgo again lines up with the Sun and the Moon. The Church will have to go underground because laws will be changed that will prohibit the worship and teachings of Christ in public places. Many Christians will be tortured and put to death for their faith in Christ. They are not intimidated by the threat of bodily harm or death. They have overcome the world by the Blood of the Lamb and the Word of their Testimony.

A mother suffers much pain before her child is born. In its final hour the Church will be BORN through great suffering, sorrow and pain. WHO HAS HEARD SUCH A THING? WHO HAS SEEN SUCH THINGS? SHALL THE EARTH (Spirit) 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. SHALL I BRING TO BIRTH, AND NOT CAUSE TO BRING FORTH? SHALL I CAUSE TO BRING FORTH, AND SHUT THE WOMB? SAYS OUR GOD. Isaiah, Chapter 66, Verses 8-9.

The above Prophecy was speaking about Israel becoming a Nation again in 1948. It is also a reference of the end time event when the Bride of Christ is finally

united with Christ in Holy Matrimony and becomes a HOLY NATION in Him. The Nation of Israel has always been a type and shadow of the Body of Christ.

The Church was BORN in persecution. Christ was reviled and persecuted; nailed to a Cross and became the First Fruits of a new Creation. IF ANY MAN BE IN CHRIST HE IS A NEW CREATURE (creation). OLD THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY AND ALL THINGS HAVE BECOME NEW. 2nd Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 17. The early Church followed in the footsteps of Christ and were reviled and persecuted. Persecution has always made the Church stronger.

A Pastor from the United States was visiting an underground Church in China during a time of great persecution. One of the Chinese Pastors asked the visiting Pastor to have the people in the United States pray for them because of the persecution. The visiting Pastor told the Chinese Pastor they would pray that the persecution would stop. “Oh no,” said the Chinese Pastor, “we just want you to pray that we will be able to endure the persecution.” It is written, “ALL WHO LIVE GODLY WILL SUFFER PERSECUTION.”

We must always keep in mind that we are chosen to be VESSELS OF HONOR carrying the message of the Kingdom of God to the World. This is the greatest honor that can be bestowed upon mankind. Being called to be persecuted following in the footsteps of Christ is the greatest calling one can receive. We must not forsake the opportunity and privilege to be reviled and persecuted as we walk the path of Holiness in the Heavenly Realm of God’s POWER and GLORY. Following in the Footsteps

of Christ we will become like Him. When we become
LIKE Him we will see Him in all His Power and Glory.

CHAPTER 15

THE JOSEPH ANOINTING

AND THE FAMINE WAS ALL OVER THE FACE OF THE EARTH: AND JOSEPH OPENED ALL THE STOREHOUSES, AND SOLD UNTO THE EGYPTIANS; AND THE FAMINE WAXED SORE IN THE LAND OF EGYPT. AND COUNTRIES CAME INTO EGYPT TO JOSEPH FOR TO BUY CORN; BECAUSE THAT THE FAMINE WAS SO SORE IN ALL LANDS. Genesis, Chapter 41, Verses 56-57.

The greatest call on Joseph's life was to prepare Egypt and the surrounding Nations for a time of famine. All the tests and trials Joseph experienced in his lifetime were designed to prepare and catapult him to his purposed destiny in life. He found his destiny being fulfilled during the Great Famine which WAXED SORE IN THE LAND OF EGYPT and beyond. The many setbacks Joseph experienced in life were God ordained.

We should never judge our life by the failures and setbacks we have experienced in our life. God uses our adversities, failures and triumphs to prepare us for our destiny (destination). There may be setbacks along each path we travel, but God walks with us to use the trials of life to lead us to our destiny.

Joseph was a man who loved God and refused to compromise his faith during times of adversity and

temptation. During his life he was ridiculed, despised and rejected by many who knew him. Others saw the hand of God upon him and promoted him from opportunity to opportunity. Opportunity would finally lead him to his God purposed destiny. There were setbacks along the way, but he never lost his focus or the calling God had on His life. The dreams he had as a young man would lead him down the path to his God purposed destiny. He held those dreams close to his heart until they became a reality in his life. Joseph's dreams would finally be realized after his final promotion to second in command over all the land of Egypt.

If I could use one word to describe Joseph it would be "faithful." He was faithful to God's plan and purpose for his life. If we are going to fulfill our God purposed destiny we are going to have to be faithful servants. The trials, temptations adversities and setbacks will help to catapult us toward our destiny in Christ. If we allow Him, God will mold and make us into VESSELS OF HONOR. God is seeking faithful vessels who are willing to serve and obey Him regardless of any adversity we may encounter along the trails and in the trials of life.

The story of Joseph is also a story of forgiveness. Joseph chose to forgive his brothers for their transgressions against him. He forgave others who had wronged him. His mercy opened the door of reconciliation between himself and his estranged family. In doing so he was able to provide a REFUGE during a time of great trouble for those who had hated and mistreated him.

FAMINE

Famine can be defined as an extreme shortage of food caused by drought-like conditions. The Bible has recorded and predicted many occurrences of droughts and famines which occurred throughout history.

The famine which took place in Egypt was widespread. Famine often comes as judgment from God because of sin. All the famines recorded in the Bible in Israel were judgments of God upon His chosen people because of their sins and idolatry. Israel's relationship with God, or their lack thereof DIRECTLY affected the fertility and condition of the land. When Israel's relationship with God flourished, the land flourished and brought forth an abundant Harvest. God always sent the rain to assure a bountiful Harvest when Israel obeyed and served Him faithfully. When other Nations around them were experiencing famine, the land in Israel would flourish. On the other hand, when Israel's relationship with God was strained and the purposes of God were not being fulfilled, the Harvests would be minimal to say the least.

BEHOLD, THE DAYS COME, SAITH THE LORD,
THAT I WILL SEND A FAMINE IN THE LAND, NOT A
FAMINE OF BREAD, NOR A THIRST FOR WATER,
BUT OF HEARING THE WORDS OF THE LORD.
Amos, Chapter 8, Verses 11-12.

There is a spiritual lesson we can learn from famine in the land. When we are not faithful servants and obedient to our Lord, the rain which brings spiritual harvests is minimal and can sometimes be non-existent. When relationships are strained, people become aloof from God and fellowship is hindered. When our relationship with

God is strained we are not under the cloud of Heaven where Living Water falls, refreshes and replenishes the Earth, our spirit.

AND I LOOKED, AND BEHOLD A PALE HORSE: AND HIS NAME THAT SAT ON HIM WAS DEATH, AND HELL FOLLOWED WITH HIM, AND POWER WAS GIVEN UNTO THEM OVER THE FOURTH PART OF THE EARTH, TO KILL WITH SWORD, AND WITH HUNGER (famine), AND WITH DEATH, AND WITH THE BEASTS OF THE EARTH. Revelation, Chapter 6, Verse 8.

Famine is one of the judgments which is poured out upon the Earth before and during the Great Tribulation. Today people are consistently and brazenly defying the God of Heaven. Spiritual Darkness is covering the whole Earth, and sin has entered into the highest offices of every Nation on Earth. Righteousness is fast becoming an offense to the ungodly.

Society is rejecting the concept of Christianity and TRUTH is being replaced with lies and deception. It is no longer convenient or even popular to be called a Christian. To be Christ-like is an offense to many of those who promote and espouse political correctness. Political Correctness rewards unrighteousness and punishes the righteous. It protects the bad and prosecutes the innocent. Evil is called good, and good is called evil. Nations who once corporately prayed to the True God have become cold and indifferent to Him. People are becoming increasingly more hostile to those devoted to preaching the Gospel.

A line has been drawn in the sand and everyone on Earth will have to decide whose side they will choose.

Those who love Darkness will be judged contemptuously, and the Pale Horse will visit them unmercifully. Those who choose to dwell in the Light of Christ will be fed both physically and spiritually in the time of famine. Seeds of evil can only produce a harvest of Justice and Judgment.

VISIONS

After writing the above paragraphs the Lord immediately gave me three visions. First, I saw the devil sitting on a chair in a large room. In front of him was a large globe in a round frame resting on the floor. He was leaning, bent over with his hand on the globe. I asked the Lord what the meaning of this was and I heard the words: "GLOBAL MELTDOWN OF SOCIETY."

Immediately after the first vision I had a second vision. I saw a very thin man walking down a pathway. He was wearing a ragged cloak with a hood over his head. I could not see his face. Everything this man owned was rolled up and securely tucked under his left arm. I knew this man represented famine and poverty caused by drought and economic collapse. I realized this vision was related to the Scripture concerning the Pale Horse which brings poverty, famine, disease and death.

The third vision the Lord gave me was of an Arab man riding a horse. He was carrying a sword in his right hand and was riding out to conquer. I knew this man represented Islamic Extremism and the Nations who would be allied with them during the end times. As I was pondering this vision, the following scriptures came to me: AND THERE WENT OUT ANOTHER HORSE THAT WAS RED: AND POWER WAS GIVEN TO HIM THAT SAT THEREON TO TAKE PEACE FROM THE EARTH,

AND THAT THEY SHOULD KILL ONE ANOTHER:
AND THERE WAS GIVEN UNTO HIM A GREAT
SWORD.

Among other things RED is associated with terrorism, war and blood. Islamic Extremists will ally themselves with the RED nations including Russia, China and other Communist Countries to make war on Western Civilizations. Eventually, they will turn their focus on Israel and attack the Holy Land.

The judgments and plagues which will be poured out during the Great tribulation are a direct result of the global meltdown of the moral fiber of society. “Power was given the rider of the Red Horse to take peace from the earth” because mankind, as a whole, has become fundamentally apostate.

Famine, poverty, disease and war are all results of a meltdown of the moral fiber of society in the end times. All these curses ultimately cause the death of Civilization as we now know it. Hell comes after death for those who do not know Christ. Those who know Christ will not have to fear the judgment of God.

Jesus called the Apostates a “generation of Vipers.” He did not tolerate the hypocrites who opposed the Word of God and made it of no effect by their man made traditions.

THE JOSEPH ANOINTING

FOR NATION SHALL RISE AGAINST NATION, AND
KINGDOM AGAINST KINGDOM: AND THERE
SHALL BE FAMINES, AND PESTILENCES, AND
EARTHQUAKES IN DIVERS PLACES. ALL OF

THESE ARE THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS.
Matthew, Chapter 24, Verse 7.

The Lord spoke to me a few years ago regarding the Joseph Anointing. I had known for many years a famine was coming which would be worse than any the World has ever experienced. I have been warning people for years about this famine and the approaching Tribulation which would engulf the whole Earth. War, widespread famine, earthquakes and disease are just the “beginning of sorrows.” According to Scripture, each of these calamities will grow in intensity as time continues. However, if we are trusting in God we do not have to be concerned about these things. God promised He would never leave or forsake those who trust in Him. David said: “I have never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread.” Psalms, 37, Verse 25.

The Lord has been preparing Cites, or Places of refuge where people will be fed during the times of Sorrow and Tribulation. I know personally several people in different States who have been storing food and other much needed supplies to help people during the coming years of lack. I have heard of many other Churches and Ministries who are also preparing to feed, clothe and provide shelter for displaced individuals and families who will become refugees during the coming STORM.

I wrote a Book over 10 years ago called “I AM—A Prophetic Look at End Time Events” in which I called the Great Tribulation “THE STORM.” I have had many dreams and visions of the Great Tribulation. Many people will not heed the warnings of the Prophets and will find themselves lacking in everything they need to survive the coming Storm. Many Christians will not be prepared for

what is coming because they have been listening to Church leaders who tell them they will not be here during the time of great sorrow and tribulation.

Many Christians who are preparing will not be ready spiritually because they have neglected to keep their LAMPS filled with oil. They are preparing physically, but they are not prepared spiritually or emotionally. They are neglecting their relationship with God, which is more important than any physical preparations they can make.

We have entered into a season where storms are continuing to grow exponentially worse and worse. All someone has to do is look around them and see the sin and degradation which proceeds the judgment of God. We can hear the hoof beats of the Four Horsemen when we pick up a newspaper or listen to the News.

The JOSEPHS of today have been faithful to God throughout life's troubles and trials. They have dreamed the dreams of future tribulations, and have dedicated their lives to seeing that the hungry are fed, the naked are clothed and the homeless and destitute are given shelter from the STORM.

Above everything, those who wear the mantle of the JOSEPH ANOINTING know that Jesus IS the REFUGE FROM THE STORM. Cities of Refuge and other places of Refuge have been, and are being, established to provide for the physical needs of individuals. However, more important than the physical needs of individuals, are the spiritual needs they may have. Josephs are also stockpiling Bibles and other Christian Literature to share with those who are now, and those who will become, heirs of salvation during the Great Tribulation.

In feeding, clothing and providing shelter to the refugees who have been displaced through man-made and natural disasters we are fulfilling the Law of Christ. Helping the less fortunate and the unfortunate during their time of need is the call of those who carry the mantle of the Joseph Anointing.

CHAPTER 16

A CRY IN THE WILDERNESS OF SIN

AND IT CAME TO PASS IN PROCESS OF TIME, THAT THE KING OF EGYPT DIED; AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL SIGHED BY REASON OF THE BONDAGE, AND THEIR CRY CAME UP UNTO GOD BY REASON OF THE BONDAGE. AND GOD HEARD THEIR GROANING, AND GOD REMEMBERED HIS COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM, AND ISAAC, AND WITH JACOB. AND GOD LOOKED UPON THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, AND GOD HAD RESPECT UNTO THEM. Exodus, Chapter 2, Verses 23-25.

According to some Bible Scholars, the Children of Israel were in bondage in Egypt for 400 years. They had all but forgotten the God of their forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Egypt was a type and shadow of the World. When they decided to call upon God for deliverance, the Lord remembered the covenant He made with Abraham. God had not forgotten about the covenant He made with Abraham, but it was up to Israel to do their part and call upon God for help in their time of need. God recognizes and respects people when His people call on Him in faith to deliver them out of trouble. God is an ever present help in the time of trouble. Psalms, 46, Verse 1.

God sent Moses to deliver the Children of Israel out of slavery in the land of Egypt. He wanted to lead them to a land of Promise where they would be free to worship Him as their forefathers did. Moses was a type and shadow of

Christ. He led the Israeli slaves out of bondage to freedom after a series of plagues came upon the land of Egypt (the World).

God hears our cries when we are troubled on every hand by our enemies and persecutors. Many people are slaves to sin and need deliverance from the taskmaster of sin. Sin is a heavy burden to bear. Only Christ can free men from the bondage of sin. Only the Blood of Jesus can wash away every sin which holds men in its grievous grasp. If we call upon His name, He is faithful and just to deliver us from the grip of sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

THE WILDERNESS OF SIN

After leaving Egypt God led the Children of Israel into the Wilderness of Sin. The Wilderness of Sin also represented the World. God delivered them from Egypt, but they were still in the World and subject to all the trials and temptations the World provides. He could have taken them on a shorter trip to the Land of Promise, but He led them to and through the Wilderness of Sin to teach them the treasures of wisdom and understanding. They were still in the World, but God was trying to teach them to be Heavenly minded. God's desire was to establish in the hearts and minds of His Chosen People a God consciousness instead of a sin consciousness. Most of them did not learn the lessons God was trying to teach them and perished in the Wilderness of Sin (World). They provoked God with their doubt and unbelief, and murmured and complained against the One who brought them out of slavery in the first place.

As Christians, we must always seek out the plan and purpose of God for our life in times of adversity. It is the trials of life which mold us into VESSELS which carry the message of Living Water into a dry and thirsty World. God's plan for our life can only be fulfilled when we have been purged in the fires of adversity, persecution and tribulation.

Today the Children of God are walking in the Wilderness of Sin. God bids us to trust Him during the trials and tribulations of life, but many are murmuring and complaining like the Children of Israel did in the Wilderness of Sin. There is a CRY IN THE WILDERNESS OF SIN to be Holy even as HE is Holy. There is a CRY IN THE WILDERNESS OF SIN to cast all our cares upon Him because He cares for us.

If we are to be effective witnesses for Christ, we must be effectively Christ-like. If we are going to lead others to Christ we must possess the knowledge and understanding which comes from knowing and understanding Him. We cannot set people free from the bondage they are experiencing in the Wilderness of Sin if we have not been set free from them ourselves.

If we are to be effective witness of Christ, we must forfeit our natural tendencies to doubt and be fearful during times of trouble. In this World we will experience trouble, but we are told to "be of good cheer because Jesus has overcome the World," and His Spirit dwells within our hearts richly. Because He dwells within us, we can look inwardly for that peace which passes all understanding, no matter what tribulations may be going on around us.

THE CALL TO REPENTANCE

IN THOSE DAYS CAME JOHN THE BAPTIST, PREACHING IN THE WILDERNESS OF JUDEA; AND SAYING, REPENT: FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND. FOR THIS IS HE SPOKEN OF BY THE PROPHET ISAIAH, SAYING “THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, PREPARE YOU THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.” Matthew, Chapter 3, Verses 1-3.

John the Baptist came crying in the WILDERNESS of Judea for people to REPENT of their SINS.

The WILDERNESS is prophetic of the condition of a person or person's heart. Many people are living in a spiritual WILDERNESS. Their hearts are WILD like the WILDERNESS. They have no spiritual stability. They can be dry, filled with rancor and lack peace and contentment. A WILDERNESS is a place of danger inhabited by wild animals including snakes and other dangerous things. A WILDERNESS is not usually conducive to human life or suitable for human habitation.

It is interesting that John chose to cry out in THE WILDERNESS for people to repent when most people do not inhabit the Wilderness physically. The majority of the Earth's inhabitants live in cities and urban areas. I believe this is a prophetic example of God speaking to the lost who live prophetically in THE WILDERNESS OF SIN.

The Bible tells us when the people of Jerusalem and the surrounding regions heard the BAPTIST calling for people to repent, they came out to hear him in the WILDERNESS. Many people confessed their sins and

were baptized by John in the Jordan River. Even some of the Sadducees and Pharisees came to witness what was going on in the WILDERNESS, but refused the call to repentance. They were sorely rebuked by John for their evil deeds and refusal to repent of their sins.

Judea comes from the Hebrew word “Judah.” There is a lesson we can learn from the people of Judea and the attitudes of their hearts. “Judah” means “praise.” The term “Jew” is a derivative of the word “Judah.” Judea could be called the land of praise. Unfortunately, the name did not always fit the motives and attitudes of the Jewish people.

In Biblical history, the Tribes of Judah and Benjamin broke off from the Nation of Israel and became a separate Nation calling themselves “Judah” with Jerusalem as their capitol. They formed their own Nation because Israel had rejected the God of Abraham and began worshipping other gods. The Tribes of Judah and Benjamin wanted no part of their evil plans. A few other tribes later severed their ties with Israel and became part of the Nation of Judah. However, the Nation of Judah fell into the same trap Israel did and rejected the True God, and eventually fell into perdition.

The Jewish people were called of God to offer up sacrifices of praise to Him. In reality, to most people the name “Jew” is just a misnomer today. The Jews, for the most part, are no longer a “people of praise,” but a people who dishonor God through their unbelief and rejection of Christ as their Messiah. This will change however, when the whole Nation of Israel recognizes Christ IS the Messiah and worships Him as Lord and Savior.

The BAPTIST'S call to repentance was heard in the Wilderness of Judea (the hearts of many Jews) and many repented and were baptized. The baptism of John was just a type and shadow of the washing away of their sins which would come later through the shedding of the Blood of Christ. John was the precursor of one who was greater than he who would die on the Cross to cleanse them of their sins.

Many Christians have lost their ability to praise God. They have been deceived by the enemy, and their tongues are in bondage. Their voice has been captured by the devil. Their breath is as the breath of a wind in the Wilderness of Sin. It is dry and void of spiritual life. They are like whited sepulchers filled with dried bones. They are in the Valley of Dried Bones Ezekiel spoke about. But there is still a chance to find that place of praise and worship if they will seek God and repent of their sins.

THE VOICE OF GOD

Today there is a voice CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS in the hearts of people everywhere. A voice CRYING for people who do not know Christ, or who have known Him but are backslidden, to repent of their sins. It is the VOICE of God. It is the Spirit of Elijah. It is the voice of God crying out to souls everywhere who live in a Spiritual Wilderness. God speaks in many ways. He speaks to people through His Prophets, Pastors, Apostles, Evangelists and Teachers, as well as other believers. God speaks through deacons and lay people. He will use the voice of anyone who will respond to the call and take the Message of Christ to people living in a WILDERNESS OF SIN.

AND THEY SHALL BUILD THE OLD WASTES, THEY SHALL RAISE UP THE FORMER DESOLATIONS, THEY SHALL REPAIR THE WASTE CITIES, THE DESOLATIONS OF MANY GENERATIONS. AND STRANGERS SHALL STAND AND FEED YOUR FLOCKS, AND THE SONS OF THE ALIEN SHALL BE YOUR PLOWMEN AND YOUR VINEDRESSERS. BUT YE SHALL BE NAMED THE PRIESTS OF THE LORD. Isaiah, Chapter 61, Verses 4-6.

Restoring the waste cities is about restoring the lives of people who are living in darkness and bound by sin. Being restored into a ROYAL PRIESTHOOD we become able to offer up sacrifices of PRAISE to our Creator-----God.

Jesus came to set the captives free. He came to repair the waste cities. The cities (people) who have become desolate from the ravages of sin. In the Wilderness of Sin we become His voice---the VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS. In the Wilderness of Sin we become His hands as we lay hands on the sick and they recover. With our feet shod with the PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE we take the Message of the Kingdom of God to those wandering in the Wilderness of Sin who have no plan or purpose for their life.

Many people will heed the call to repentance if someone will tell them about Christ Jesus and His love for them. How can they hear if no one mentions the Message of the Cross of Christ to them? How can someone find the Truth which is able to set them free if there is not someone to lead them in the right direction?

As Christians, we are all called to share the Gospel of Christ with others. We do that not only by the words we speak, but also by the lifestyle we live.

God is looking for people to be HIS voice on Earth today to lead people to Christ. God is also looking for people today to warn people of the impending doom which is coming upon a World that has rejected the Truth. The World is persecuting the very people who are speaking the Truth. The ones He is sending to warn the World of their peril are being reviled and persecuted. However, it is our duty to preach the Gospel to the World. Some will believe and receive Christ as Lord and Savior. Others will not. We must be about our Father's business reaching out to souls who do not know Christ and the sacrifice He made for them at Calvary.

I will ask you the same question God has asked me many times.....“Who will go?” If you do not go and tell people about the love of God, “Who will go?” Are you going to leave it up to someone else to share the LOVE OF CHRIST or are you going to fulfill the Great Commission and share the LOVE OF CHRIST God has put in YOUR heart? Are you going to allow God to speak through you or your lifestyle or are you not? The choice is yours to make.

Who will obey the call to “GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL?” Many people cannot physically go into all the World to preach the gospel, but they can help support those who can with their prayers and financial support. If we pray for God to reveal to us what our calling is, He will be more than happy to reveal His perfect will for our life.

IF YOU DO NOT KNOW JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR, OR IF YOU HAVE BACKSLIDDEN OR NOT SURE WHERE YOU ARE IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST---PLEASE PRAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER AND ASK JESUS TO COME INTO YOUR HEART NOW.

FATHER I COME TO YOU IN THE NAME OF YOUR SON JESUS. I ADMIT I AM A SINNER AND THAT I HAVE COME SHORT OF THE YOUR GLORY. I BELIEVE JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS FOR MY SINS AND THAT YOU RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD. I KNOW IT WAS FOR ME HE SHED HIS BLOOD ON CALVARY'S CROSS. I AM SORRY FOR ALL THE SINS I COMMITTED IN MY LIFETIME. PLEASE FORGIVE ME AND COME INTO MY HEART RIGHT NOW. I ALSO ASK YOU TO FILL ME WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.

DATE:

Signature

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