

THE SANCTUARY-KEEPER



*A Magazine for the Exposition and Defense
of The Holy Scriptures*

In This Issue

WHAT IS NEXT FOR ISRAEL?

THE PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLESHIP

MANY SHALL FOLLOW THEIR
PERNICIOUS WAYS

THE PROBLEM OF SIN & ITS DESTRUCTION

TRANSITION FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND
DEATH TO THE LAW OF LIFE AND
IMMORTALITY

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF THE FALL AND
SALVATION OF ADAM AND EVE

WISDOM

ACCOUNT OF A CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR

EDITORIAL FLYLEAF



Contents

- p. 1 What is Next for Israel?
- p. 7 The Principles of Discipleship
- p. 14 Many Shall Follow Their Pernicious Ways
- p. 20 The Problem of Sin & Its Destruction
- p. 22 The Transition from the Law of Sin and Death to the Law of Life and Immortality
- p. 24 Chronological Order of the Fall and Salvation of Adam and Eve
- p. 35 Wisdom
- p. 40 Account of a Conscientious Objector
- p. 43 Editorial Flyleaf

Front Cover: Iron Dome at work against Gazan missile attacks on Israel

Back Cover: "The Great White Throne", John Thomas

The Sanctuary-Keeper is published on a quarterly basis at \$20.00 per year (U.S. funds.) The doctrinal position of this magazine is founded exclusively on the principles of Bible Truth as outlined and defined in The Christadelphian Unamended Statement of Faith. Subscriptions, correspondence and materials submitted for publication should be sent to the editors/publishers via email or the physical address of:

"The Sanctuary-Keeper", P.O. Box 302, Greenbrier, AR 72058

*Bobby Henderson - bobdebhend@aol.com
Aaron Thomas - aaronstaciethomas@icloud.com*

www.sanctuary-keeper.com



THE SANCTUARY - KEEPER

*A Magazine for the Exposition and Defense of
The Holy Scriptures*

“Ye shall keep the charge of the sanctuary, and the charge of the altar”

Num. 18:5

“Ye are...an holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices.”

I Peter 2:5

“Thou hast kept My Word and hast not denied My Name” - Rev. 3:8

VOLUME 32

FALL, 2023

NUMBER 3

WHAT IS NEXT FOR ISRAEL?

WE all have no doubt been watching events in Israel very closely over the past few weeks. Though there were various subtle warnings found in a few news sources signaling of something coming leading up to October 7, the attack on Israel by the Hamas terrorist regime was certainly shocking in its surprise nature on Israeli intelligence and military forces and even more shocking in regard to the barbaric brutality meted out on an unsuspecting Jewish population. While Israel has thrived over the past few years economically under the umbrella of a degree of security, this has reminded the Israeli state and Jews everywhere that a deep and burning hatred against them is very much alive and well, and growing stronger. This also reminds us as Believers that such hatred is one of the primary catalysts to bring about Yahweh's judgment on the nations and

Christ's return to rescue the Jews from impending destruction.

Israel has retaliated with full force against Hamas, attempting to squeeze the life out of this long-standing irritant. As Believers and students of Bible Prophecy, we should be considering where this all leads. After the initial attack by Hamas, it appeared by natural appearances as if Hezbollah to the north in Lebanon, Syria, Fatah in the West Bank, and also Iran (the main instigator in the first place) might directly involve themselves creating insurmountable pressures directly on Israel's very existence. But this did not happen. Western nations were very



quick to denounce what they saw as acts of barbarism against Israel, and the United States almost immediately dispatched two naval carrier groups to the region in order to keep tensions from escalating further. Israel has been able to focus its attention on methodically rooting out Hamas leadership with only minimal distractions from Hezbollah in the north. But as Israel has done this, shock among the nations regarding Hamas' attack has quickly turned to condemnation of what they consider to be Israel's "disproportionate" retaliation.

At the same time, other Middle Eastern countries such as Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia have come out showing consternation at Israel's retaliatory actions that have impacted Gaza's civilian populations but they also have given little to no support to the "Palestinians." Other Arab countries have little use for the Palestinians and have shown no viable support for them over the years, letting it continue as a languishing problem for Israel to deal with. Jordan itself is made up of a population that is 70% "Palestinian" while being ruled by a Hashemite minority. When Hamas attacked Israel, Jordan quickly dispatched troop carriers to its borders with the West Bank. This move was certainly not to instigate Israel, but to make sure to squelch tensions among their own populations that would be all too itchy to join the fight along with Hamas.

THE BIGGER PROBLEM

What has most certainly been noticed is a much bigger issue that has been exposed with this conflict. While Hamas was clearly the unprovoked brutal aggressor in this matter, Israel has found itself portrayed as a revival of "Nazism", the great "oppressor" and evil in the matter. Literally, millions across Western nations have taken to the streets in protest against Israel, and Jewry in general, as a

great evil that must be eradicated. (London, Paris, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Sydney - just to name a few cities where massive protests erupted.) These were not merely protests against Israel, but celebrations in favor of the atrocities committed by Hamas and calls for the eradication of Israel - "*From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be free!!!*" was and still is their slogan. In the name of the recent push for "equity" and "social justice" (Just another manifestation of the "Frog-like spirits", Rev. 16:13, "liberty, fraternity, and equality") they have revealed the growing wave of anti-semitism that is not isolated to the Middle East but has once again spread its tentacles across the globe into the West. With the free run of immigration, Western nations have seen an overwhelming influx of immigrants from Islamic nations.



But, the Islamic immigrants are not completely to blame as Western universities have been stoking anti-Israel and anti-semitic sentiments for years. Out of "woke" ideologies that claim to oppose "systemic injustices and prejudices" according to race, gender, and sexuality - the whole system of "wokeism" has divided the world into what they see as the "oppressors" and those who are "oppressed". The

oppressed are deemed as inherently righteous while the "oppressors" are seen as something to be overthrown. In their twisted world-view, and convenient to their anti-semitic prejudices, many have decided to deem Israel as the "oppressor" and Hamas (and "Palestinians" in general) as the "oppressed." For them, this provides the excuse they need to openly and loudly proclaim the justification and celebration of atrocities against Jews and the call for the eradication of the Jewish state in Israel. British and U.S. universities/intelligentsia are at the very heart of the stoking of these sentiments.

No doubt, much of this hatred is driven by the jealousy that despite what seems like impossible odds on the part of Israel, the Jews have been able to establish a thriving and world-class nation out of a once desolate land. While the people of most Arab and Islamic nations live in poverty and oppression, the Jews (we cannot forget the behind-the-scenes help of the Elohim) have carved out a tiny sliver of an oasis. But since the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD, the Jews have always been hated. They were hated and despised as vermin when they were found in poverty and they were equally despised when they found success in the various nations of their sojourning. Now they have a thriving, first-world state that rivals the largest and most successful nations of the earth. What do they mean when they cry “Free Palestine”? They mean to free Palestine from the Jews and put an end to the source of their hatred once and for all, regardless of what economic, technological, and political benefits Israel offers the region and the world.

What of the so-called “Two-State Solution”? For decades this has been touted by the West, but we have never perceived that this could come to fruition. The “Palestinians” themselves have continuously turned down offers by the Israelis over the span of decades. According to more recent polls, only one-third of either “Palestinians” or Jews support such an idea. Some 70% of “Palestinians” support only one state - a Palestinian state absent of a Jewish presence. Hence the cry for a “Free Palestine.”

We understand as Believers that the nature of hatred towards Israel and the Jews (both past and present) is so out of balance with what is sensible that it indicates something much greater than jealousy. Rather, it is evidence that Israel is in fact God’s Witness. A Witness to God’s existence, a Witness to the fact that God has a Plan and Purpose that includes the eventual redemption of the Jewish people, and that

involves the Land of Israel and its people as THE centerpiece of a future Kingdom that this world, for the time being, refuses to accept. Their rejection of Israel and their rejection of the Jews is in fact a rejection of God Himself.

- **Isaiah 43:10** - *“Ye are my witnesses, saith Yahweh, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no El formed, neither shall there be after me.”* And verse 12 - *“I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are My witnesses,” saith the Yahweh, “that I am El.”*
- **Zechariah 2:8** - *“For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of His eye.”*

IS THERE A PURPOSE?

The trajectory of what man desires, and what God has planned are at complete enmity. As difficult as it may be for us to see the gross unfairness and absolute madness being directed at Israel and the

Jews, we must remember that Yahweh is using this enmity to bring about the grand climax of Gentile destruction while at the same time putting the Jews through trial - a trial that is far from over. The extreme Jewish hatred that led to the Holocaust brought about the formation of the Jewish State. By all signs, it would appear that the building of Jewish hatred this time around is leading to the restoration of the Israelite Kingdom under

Christ. Jeremiah 30:11 - *“For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.”*

The more Israel does to defend itself, the more we see Israel criticized and the nations move to inhibit



Israel from acting in its own best interest. We see such in the calls for Israel to enter into a “cease-fire” while they have Hamas on the ropes. Everyone knows that a cease-fire with Hamas only gives the terrorist group time to breathe and regroup. The world feigns outrage at the reports of the unintended Gazan casualties (whether true or false reports - it makes no difference to Western media), while at the same time all but forgetting the horrific acts of psychopathic violence done to Israeli civilians, soldiers, and the unmerited capture of Israeli hostages.

Israel is winning this war, a war that they did not start, but they are not winning the public relations war being fought on the world stage. This is probably the biggest takeaway for Believers as we watch these events and make sense of their meaning in accordance with God’s Plan. Israel’s acts of self-defense have raised the spirit of Jewish hatred to levels not seen in the history of the Jewish State. The memories and guilt of the Holocaust once shared by the world are quickly fading. Now Israel has been falsely tagged with the label of “oppressor” and the world is all too anxious to see Israel pay some kind of price for its “brutality” and “genocidal” actions.

WHAT IS NEXT?

None of us are in a position to know the details of what the next few weeks or even months will bring. But, based on the Sure Word of Prophecy, we should know what to watch and where this all will EVENTUALLY lead.

In the short term, we expect Israel to bring the Gaza situation to some kind of conclusion - with Hamas either destroyed or significantly neutralized. We need to remember the state of things in Israel, shortly before the Gogian Invasion (Russia and its confederacy of nations - Ez. 38; 39; Daniel 11:40-45, etc.) is that Israel will be dwelling “safely” or rather “confidently” (Hebrew - *batach*) - see Ezekiel 38:8. This attack by Hamas (actually the long arm of Iran through a proxy) has shaken their confidence significantly, so we would expect to see the current crisis resolved and steps taken by Israel to obtain a sense of confidence and security that they did not

have previously. The U.S. is growing anxious to put an end to the current conflict and is even warning Israel that the U.S. (an untrustworthy partner) is about to place certain conditions on any future military help for Israel. Might such conditions include unprecedented commitments to assure Israeli “safety” and defense moving forward if Israel were to cease their current military operations? We admit that such is only conjecture. But we do know that Israel will be in a state of confidence and perceived security at the time of the Gogian invasion - the Sure Word of Prophecy makes such very clear to us. How Israel deals with Hezbollah to the north, with the West Bank, or even Iran remains to be seen.

Israel is planning on deploying a new laser system as an anti-missile defense for Israel in 2024, known as the “**Iron Beam Defense System**.” Quoting from a report from earlier this year this system “*will allow the interception of threats such as mortar bombs, rockets, anti-tank missiles, drones, and various other objects, with the precision of a laser, at the speed of light - and at a minimal cost compared to those of the Iron Dome.*” Israel will be the first to deploy a system of this kind in the world. This will no doubt boost Israel’s confidence in its **perceived** ability to keep its people secure moving forward.



ILLUSTRATION OF THE IRON BEAM

We do not suppose that there will be any reversal in the rise of anti-semitic fervor moving forward. It appears that the world is on an irreversible course in this regard. And we believe that larger political and religious players are about to seize upon and further stoke this spirit of discontent against Israel. We read in Revelation 16 that in the lead-up to Armageddon

("Heap of sheaves in the valley of judgment") that "three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon (Russia), and out of the mouth of the beast (Europe), and out of the mouth of the false prophet (the Papacy)" (Rev. 16:13). What is their purpose - vs. 14 - to "go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." The frog-like spirits are the spirit of "liberty, fraternity, and equality" that came out of the French Revolution. These spirits, which are essentially united as one, have been further manifested in the spirit of socialism and communism which has caused immeasurable madness, death, and destruction throughout the twentieth century into this twenty-first century. As we have already mentioned, it needs to be realized that the current cries against Israel interestingly involve the issues of "social justice" and "equity." The results of the French Revolution have been anything but "liberty, fraternity, and equality" but have been a spirit of discontent and great social injustices wherever and whoever they have infected. The current cries of "justice", whether against Israel or any of the other political and social issues of the day do not want "justice" but rather seek power of their own.

Prophetically speaking - Russia, Europe, and the Papacy will be the enemies of Israel that organize the nations to battle against them. Are we able to see that the cries of "injustice" and "inequity" that are being directed at Israel provide a perfect foundation, a perfect "spirit" if you will, to draw the nations to hate Israel to the point that an invasion by Russia (and supported by the Papacy, European "beast nations", Iran, and North African nations, etc.) will be deemed as perfectly justified? *"Oh, the poor Palestinian people that are so terribly oppressed by the Zionist colonizers."* We are hearing that even now. The chant *"From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free"* is not an idle slogan or threat. Hezbollah, Hamas, Fatah, etc. are incapable of

achieving this. It will take much bigger world players to pull this off; nations that have their own agendas, and that care little for the Palestinian cause. Russia seeks control of the world oil and natural gas supply - Israel stands in the way of this. The Papacy seeks control of Jerusalem as an "international city" under their own religious authority - Israel stands in the way of this. Iran wants Israel and the Jews annihilated - period. We are seeing the justifications of a united world versus Israel (with the waverings of the governments of the Tarshish nations) come to a clearer view. **"DEAL WITH THE INEQUITABLE ISRAEL ONCE AND FOR ALL, BECAUSE THE PEACE AND PROSPERITY OF THE WORLD DEPEND ON IT."** We are not predicting these as their exact words, but most certainly their sentiment.

"ONE MORE MILLION JEWS WILL MOVE TO ISRAEL"

This bold statement was declared by a former military official - Major General Daron Almog. Rather than scaring Jews away, the latest attack by Hamas and the resulting worldwide rise of anti-semitism is sparking more desire for Jews to return to the Land. The shaking of Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones continues (Ez. 37). In an article posted by the Daily Wire the General stated -

"Over the next few years, we anticipate a million new immigrants due to the increasing antisemitism in Jewish communities around the world.

... The Jewish community, still reeling from the trauma, will forge ahead in building the State of Israel with unparalleled vigor and creativity. We aspire to become a beacon of hope and inspiration for the nations of the world."
Aliyah and Integration Minister

Ofir Sofer said the number of Jews considering moving to Israel increased by 81% in North America and 149% in France as of late October, World Israel News reported."

We will see if such zeal continues on the part of the Jewish diaspora, but they are no doubt realizing



that there is no safe place for them throughout the world - including the United States. But with increasing Jewish populations in Israel will come more need for Israel to expand settlements into the West Bank - an extremely sensitive issue on the world stage. This will simply be yet another match to stoke hatred towards Israel.

WHAT SHOULD BE OUR POSITION?

Regarding recent developments in Israel and the world response, we had a fellow Christadelphian write and ask us the following questions regarding the current situation.

- *“What should be the proper & ideal position of believers in Christ who knows & expecting earnestly the Hope of Israel, what should be our Christian stance & position in all these worldly conflicts especially as regarding Israel, without us becoming a stumbling block to others from seeing God's bigger pictures in His good plan purpose for Israel as His elect chosen people?”*
- *“Can we be right being biased towards the many wrongs, atrocities, abominations in & by Israel as a secular state (deliberately overlooking all their evils) while being sympathetic and supportive of their peace, progress, peace knowing their place in the plan & purpose of God, especially His prophetic word? How do we strike a balance that is Biblical & rational (not popular or secular position?)”*
- *“What of the identity of “Christian neutrality” in worldly affairs, politics, political activities, conflicts, civil conflicts, demonstrations, and protests? What of our conscientious objections to all these things?”*

Our initial reaction to such questions is that we are to be extremely careful. We recently saw a picture of a sister wearing a shirt that stated “THIS IS WHAT A ZIONIST LOOKS LIKE”. Is this how Believers should identify themselves? It is our conviction that this **IS NOT** the appropriate attitude of a Believer. Our hope is not in “Zionism” - which is a political movement directed by man. Our Hope is in something much grander and eternal in nature.

Very simply, we understand and should greatly appreciate that Israel stands as God's witness to His plan and purpose with this earth. The present-day

manifestation of the Israeli State stands as a God-appointed witness to the world and is also so very important to bolstering our Faith. And we know that this is a momentous precursor to Christ's return to this earth. But it isn't the present Jewish state (ruled by men/flesh) that we hope in or will hopefully fight for as immortal constituents of the Yahweh of Armies. It is **the restored Israelite Kingdom ruled over by Jesus Christ (The Messiah) himself that is our Hope.** The current Israeli State, as important as it is as a forerunner of what is to come, is yet to be wiped away by the evil actions of the Gogian invader. We are to take no pleasure or joy in that prophesied certainty as to the negative impact it will initially have on Israel, but at the same time, we look forward with great expectation when Christ and his immortal associates constitute the government that will raise the fully restored House of Israel to new heights.

We certainly want nothing bad to happen to Israel as it now stands (just the opposite), and we certainly cannot fall on the side of those who wish to curse Israel or the Jews. The hatred espoused towards Israel and the Jews should be horrifying (though not surprising) to us as it represents a rejection of God and His Plan and Purpose. We are not allowed to boast ourselves against the original Jewish branches (Rom. 11) as the Jews are going to be eventually restored to full favor before God and will be preeminent over all other nations. AT THE SAME TIME - we cannot invest our spiritual affections into the political support of the present Jewish state, since it is only a preliminary stage to what is to come with Christ's return. It is a country full of faults of its own, as we would expect from the rulership of men (as was the Israelite Kingdom under Saul, which is typical of what we see now in the present Jewish state.) Its political structure is corrupt and it is a nation that chooses to follow (by and large) the immoral trends and culture of Western society. We hope for something **MUCH** better for the Jewish people and the world at large with the return of Christ. It isn't “Zionism” or the “State of Israel” we ultimately desire - it is for the “RESTORED KINGDOM OF ISRAEL” (i.e. “THE KINGDOM OF GOD”) that we place all of our spiritual desires! God's will be done.

We continue to watch and “pray for the peace of Jerusalem” that can only be achieved with the return of The Messiah. - *The Sanctuary-Keeper*

THE PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLESHIP

CHRIST says in John 8:31, *“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples, indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”* The term disciple is one with which we’re quite familiar; as we know, a disciple is a follower, and in this context of John 8:31, a follower of Jesus. To be a follower entails being an adherent to another’s teachings and practices. The 12 apostles, for example, while referred to more specifically as apostles—ones sent for a specific purpose—are also called disciples, as are we and others who strive to walk in alignment with Yahweh and our Master. Over time, there have been comments to the effect that discipleship is somehow separate from doctrine. And that the thing that matters is not that we understand the complexities and deeper aspects of Scripture but rather that we are able to apply the ways of Christ in our daily lives. Scriptural knowledge is seen as being less important than practical living, and the diligent searching and studying of the Scriptures is for us optional. As a result, there is a strong emphasis by some to move away from the exposition of the Word, toward the principles of “good living”. Clean living is all that is said to be required, and unfortunately, on too many fronts, this concept is widely taught as being the very essence of discipleship. And yet the Word of God is emphatic in 2nd Tim. 3:16-17, *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”* Note Christ’s words also in John 5:39, *“Search [seek, inquire, investigate] the scriptures; for*



in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” (In addition, consider the counsel of Rom. 16:17-18. Please note also 2nd Tim. 4:1-4.)

It’s without question true that to manifest the commandments of Christ in our daily living is essential; it is a vital aspect of the Believer’s walk that we follow the ways of our Lord, for Christ himself clearly said in John 15:13-14, *“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you.”* Consider also James 2:14-24, *“What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works,*

when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only."

On the other hand, it is quite incorrect to speak of Christ-like living, as being distinct from Scriptural discernment in the disciple's life. In fact, it is an error in logic to elevate the practical outworking of the principles of the Word to a status that is above an understanding of it. How can one do those things commanded by Christ, unless one knows what those things are? And how can one know what they are unless that person diligently applies himself or herself in a study of the life of the Lord and his teachings? Obviously, one cannot. Simple reason alone demonstrates the fact that an understanding of Yahweh's Word, which reinforces all that Christ taught, is necessary to know what our Master would have us to know; and, therefore, also to do it. Christ speaks of the importance of sound doctrine in discipleship in defining the qualities required of men to be his disciples. We quoted this verse at the beginning of our remarks, but let's refer to it again—John 8:31, *"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples, indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

The Lord's message is quite clear; one must know and understand what that Truth actually is; and in order to continue in Christ's Word, one must be familiar with the words Christ spoke. Rather than being distinct from discipleship, soundness and understanding in the Word of Truth are vital prerequisites. For if none are acknowledged as Christ's Friends or his disciples who don't know his words, surely those who desire the friendship of Christ will strive to learn those words and to know them, so, again, that they can do them. Personal study of the Scriptures is easily neglected, but without the knowledge of the Word of God being imprinted upon our minds, it's impossible to continue

in it, demonstrating ourselves to be a disciple of Yahweh and Christ. Our walk must be determined by the doctrines or the teachings of the Scriptures, providing for us a necessary balance in our service to Yahweh and His Son.

It is to the disciples only that the Word of Truth is committed, as saith the Spirit in Isaiah 8:16, *"Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples."* Our Lord himself validated this in Matt. 13:10-13, *"And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them [Levites] in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand."*

The matter is thus confirmed and settled. The Disciples of Christ are not those who have no knowledge of the hidden things of the Word, but rather they are those to whom the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven are given. They are those in whom the testimony and law of Christ are sealed. Those to whom those things are "not given" are those who deny Christ's ways and are not His disciples.

Any who claims to be a disciple can in this manner be put to the test - Does what they teach concur with the Law and the Testimony? If so, and they walk in the light of the Truth, they may be regarded as disciples, according to the conditions of Scripture. If, on the other hand, their teachings be found wanting, they are revealed to be mere pretenders in whom there is no light as recorded in Isa. 8:20, *"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."* Note also Jude 12 and 13, *"These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their*

own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever." These are not disciples, and when they manifest themselves, they must be recognized for who they are - "sunken rocks in your feasts of charity"; they cause others to make shipwreck of their faith, as did Hymenaeus and Alexander. We read in 1st Tim. 1:19-20, "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme."

CONTRASTING VIEWS

There is a major contrast between the teaching of the Spirit concerning the need for knowledge, wisdom and discernment, and the proponents of a "simple faith" who would have us believe that to search the Scriptures isn't necessary but only an option for those who are academically inclined. Please reflect upon the following Scriptures:

- **Prov. 2:1-7**, "My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly."
- **Psm. 119:66**, "Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments."
- **Prov. 16:16**, "How much better is it to get wisdom than gold, and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver."
- **Eccles. 7:11-12**, "Wisdom is good with an inheritance: and by it there is profit to them that see the sun. For wisdom is a defence, and money is a

defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it."

- **Prov. 19:8**, "He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul; He that keepeth understanding shall find good."
- **2nd Pet. 3:17-18**, "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."
- **Prov. 23:23**, "Buy the Truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding."

In contrast, note the following warning verses concerning those who do not find joy in seeking to understand the ways of Yahweh:

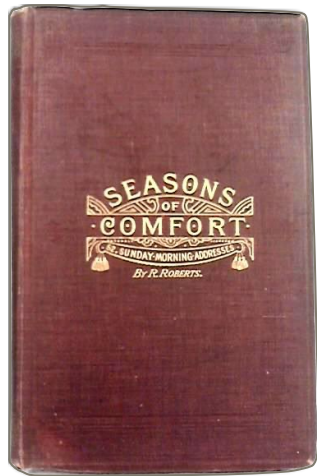
- **Prov. 21:16**, "The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead."
- **Job 21:14**, "Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways. What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?"
- **Prov. 18:2**, "A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself."

The Scriptures are able to enlighten an individual so they may be delivered, for the Apostle stresses in 2nd Tim. 3:15, "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus," and those who neglect them will not obtain that wisdom or that salvation. Not studying the Spirit Word, they will not show themselves approved unto God (2nd Tim. 2:15) and will prove to be workmen who do need to be ashamed for not having done the work required. Only by first gaining an understanding can a man walk according to Truth; all others will quickly wander out of the way and unfortunately will remain in the congregation of the dead. This is the Spirit's testimony. Brother Robert Roberts writes in

Seasons of Comfort, vol. 1,

"Men reap as they sow even now. If we are content with a one-talent knowledge of the truth—if if we rest upon that mere outline-knowledge of the Scriptures which leads to the belief and obedience of the gospel—if having become sufficiently enlightened to put on the name of Christ, we thenceforth leave the subject at rest, and devote our energies to other knowledge, and other pleasures, and other cares, we shall never attain to that knowledge of God that results in His love and fear ; we shall never become subject to that rich indwelling of the word of Christ which Christ desires in those to be chosen. Wisdom is not to be attained with a slack hand... it is everywhere represented that salvation is an easy thing ; that, in fact, you have only to allow yourself to be saved ; that you almost put God under obligation in consenting to let Him save you. How contrary to scriptural representations of the matter. Truly, it is "without money and without price" that we are invited to wisdom's feast ; and truly the yoke of Christ is easy, and the burden is light; but to the feast we must come and stay ; the yoke we must put on and wear. To each of us the Spirit says, "Incline thine ear to wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding . . . cry after knowledge . . . lift up thy voice for understanding . . . seek her as silver, and search for her as for hid treasure. Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God."

The spirit of God in the apostolic writings speaks no differently. Jesus speaks of striving (more literally, agonizing) to enter into the kingdom of God; and Paul, of "working out our salvation with fear and



trembling."

HUMILITY AND SELF-SACRIFICE

We must be ever humble to receive the teachings of Christ, possessing the meekness of a child, always striving to develop a deeper understanding as men and women of faith, for we read in 1st Cor. 14:20, *"Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men."* To truly be a follower (a disciple), there is the requirement to follow the Master in all his ways: *"for even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps"* (1st Pet. 2:21); Christ himself said in Matt. 16:24-27, *"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."*

The spirit of discipleship is the spirit of self-sacrifice and not the fulfillment of our own will. Having been redeemed by his shed blood, we are no longer our own, for we have been bought with a price, and therefore must glorify our Heavenly Father. *"We thus judge, that if one died for all, then are all dead: and that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him who died for them [as a representative and not as a substitute], and rose again"* (2nd Cor. 5:14).

In his consideration of discipleship, our Lord describes the life of a follower as one of building and yet also engaging and contending in the warfare with the flesh. We read from Luke 14:28-33, *"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and*

consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."

There is a requirement then to count the cost and consider the challenges and demands of discipleship before taking up the cross. The disciple's role is twofold – to build up and to wage a warfare, and one, therefore must consider whether or not he or she has the wherewithal to start building or possesses the depth of courage to engage in the battle. These are necessary for one's survival. One must determine, therefore, whether they are able to contend against the adversary with so few resources – and if not, acquire more before it is too late, because for the believer who desires to follow Christ, acquiescing to sinful flesh is certainly not an option: *"Let not sin reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof ... know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"* (Rom. 6:13, 16). Those who serve sin will reap only death as their wages, as noted in Rom. 6:23.

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

What is required for us to obtain the victory over sin? From a natural perspective, the odds are high against one overcoming, for the enemy is indeed strong, portrayed as twice as strong, "whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand." In human terms, victory doesn't look promising, but success is assured to that obedient individual who has the eye of faith. Think of Gideon, a man who garnered courage and reinforced his faith in order to come against many with few – and this was done because of Yahweh's purpose: "Yahweh said unto Gideon, *"The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, "Mine own hand hath saved me"* (Judges 7:2), and so the number was

reduced to only 300 men to meet the powerful Midianites in battle.

God caused the light to shine in the darkness, a lesson to us who desire to war against the power of sin: *"So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands. And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, "The Sword of Yahweh, and of Gideon"* (Judges 7:19-20).



The unnerving disturbance in the quietness of the night terrified the Midianites, who were dispatched with immediately. In the ensuing confusion, they fought with each other (v 22), readily contributing to their own destruction. It's important to note, however, that victory was gained by causing the light to shine out of clay vessels, which were broken by the shout acknowledging Yahweh, and by the blare of the ram's horn. Victory is assured for the disciple of Christ in like manner: *"God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ"* (2nd Cor. 4:6). The Light of Yahweh must permeate our hearts and minds as we read in 2nd Cor. 4:7, *"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."*

The light of Truth must dwell within us, as in earthen vessels, ready to be manifested at the time appointed. We might think of Christ as that first broken or sacrificed vessel, providing a perfect example for his disciples to follow, for it is he *“who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel”* as we read in 2nd Tim. 1:10. The deliverance of those who follow him is still yet future; at the time of the shout, and the sounding of the trumpet: *“for the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them ...”* 1st Thess. 4:16-17. Life and immortality then shall be caused to shine in all those who overcome, as mortality is swallowed up, and those who have faithfully broken or destroyed the works of the earthy “old man” of the flesh will shine with the splendor of the Deity in the Kingdom of their Father. *“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever,”* (Dan. 12:1-3).

There is, therefore, the need for the follower of Christ, his disciple, to fight the good fight of faith. As we also discussed, the disciple must make a concerted effort to build, to construct a spiritual dwelling, which will serve as a refuge and a protection for them and others from the dangers without. But what is this place they need to be building?

The Spirit declares that: *“the name of Yahweh is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe”* (Prov. 18:10). So, the Father’s Name is a strong tower, into which those must enter who seek safety.

And this is so, for in baptism, those who desire to follow Christ are baptized into the Family Name of Yahweh: *“Go ye therefore, and make disciples of (Greek) all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit ...”* (Matt. 28:19). There is but One Name possessed by both Father and Son, and in which the Spirit operates. And those who seek the safety and refuge of the Gospel enter into that Name, and thereby become part of it, and part of the Father’s Purpose to manifest His Character in a multitude of Godly individuals, the Multitudinous Christ.

BUILDERS

The Hebrew word for son is *ben*, being derived from a word that signifies “to build.” A son, therefore, is a builder, the builder of the family name, the son being the One through whom that name is continued. Those who desire to be disciples are those who are builders of the Family Name of Yahweh, becoming part of that Name, and members of the continually expanding Divine Family on earth. Consider Heb. 3:1-6. We note in Eph. 3:14-16, *“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man...”*

“What is the cost to build up the Divine Family and to strengthen it against the Adversary?” The cost is the giving of ourselves; we are no longer our own, for we are bought with a price; even the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. As a result, we must dedicate all we have to the effort; if we cannot do that, the spiritual dwelling will not be built sufficiently, and those therein will be subject to the dangers outside. Let us strive to build unto Yahweh and avoid bringing the evils of the world into our place of safety, threatening the loss of our salvation. The Lord is our strong tower!

The Samaritan woman at the well, as noted in John 4, shared with Jesus the then-present debate as to whether worship should be conducted at Gerazzim or Jerusalem. He taught her with these words, *“Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when*

ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem worship the Father...but the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him" (John 4:21-23). The debate to



worship either in Gerazzim or Jerusalem would soon be over; because of the destruction of Judea and the scattering of Israel, worship would no longer be offered at either place. In contrast, anyone who worships in spirit and in truth at any place would be accepted. This Malachi the prophet emphasizes: *"from the rising of the sun even to the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith Yahweh of Hosts"* (Mal. 1:11).

When the Lord returns from the Father's right hand, a *"house of prayer for all people"* will be

constructed in Jerusalem (Isa. 56:7). The present condition of his brethren is that there is no specific place where they must worship. Men and women are instead accepted according to the spirit in which their efforts are made. The spiritual sacrifice to be offered is the prayers of the saints, foreshadowed in the offering up of incense under the Law: *"...let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name"* (Heb. 13:15). Christ was crucified outside of Jerusalem: *"Wherefore, Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come"* (Heb. 12:12-13).

We have had the covenants of promise extended to us. As a result of Israel's failings, salvation is provided to us as Gentiles, and how much more then shall Israel's receiving in again be life from the dead. The Roman armies were directed providentially against the nation, destroying the Temple, and dispersing Israel. Still, we look forward to a future city and a house with foundations, to a house of prayer for all nations. For the time being, we must strive to follow the example of our Lord Jesus, following him outside the camp, willing to bear shame for his name, if need be, but always looking towards the vision of glory and joy that is in store for those who are of a contrite spirit, and who tremble at Yahweh's Word.

Sid Strickland

There is a degree of action, of discipline, of constancy in keeping the faith that must be comprehended before we can truly become engaged in its pursuit. It is not used in the sense that we might refer to keeping bees or sheep, where we occasionally look in on their progress or well-being. There is an implied tenacity, such as holding fast, refusing to turn loose or compromise. It is staking out a claim and defending it against all intrusion. *"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life"* (1 Tim. 6:12). In the qualifications incumbent upon bishops, Titus, in 1:9, is *"holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and convince the gainsayers."*

Keeping the faith is maintaining an effective warfare: *"that thou ... mightest war a good warfare; holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck"* (1 Tim. 1:18-19). The action implied in certain scriptural usages is that of ownership, possession, mastery, complete domination. The idea conveyed is to take, seize on, hold to, support, retain, to have and hold. IT goes far beyond wishful thinking, sentimental dreaming, or laying up talents in a napkin.

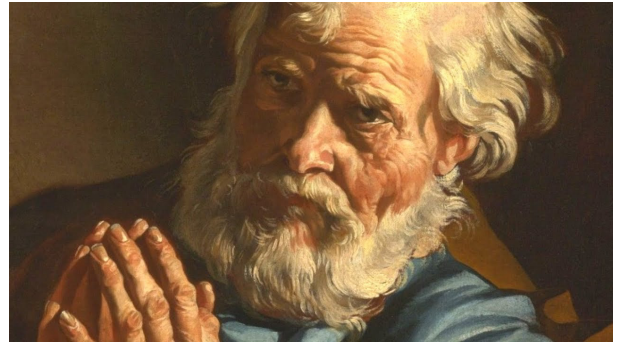
- Jim Stanton, "On Keeping the Faith"

MANY SHALL FOLLOW THEIR PERNICIOUS WAYS

Short excerpt of from a class by bro. Frank Welshman, NMBS, 1989

The very term - *“denying the Lord that bought them”* is a statement that indicates that false doctrine had relation to the atoning work of our Lord Jesus. And Jude who uses the same form of words relates the error of the doctrine of God Manifestation which is connected with the atonement. Jude uses the same words as Peter. Peter is evidently referring to the erroneous views that some would introduce relating to the person and sacrifice of Christ. As a doctrine of substitution, which early became widespread throughout the ecclesias, defeats the doctrine of personal sacrifice. If Jesus died instead of us, then there is no need (is there?) for us to die if Christ has already died for us. But Paul taught contrary to that in Galatians 5:24. He taught that there is a need to mortify the lust of the flesh and to replace them with the attributes of Christ. And Paul was opposed to some who misinterpreted the liberty of the Gospel as being license and set out to please themselves. They proclaimed the doctrine of doing evil that good may come (Rom. 3:8). And having been delivered through Christ from the condemnation of the Law, they imagined that they were a law unto themselves - did they not? And that all restrictions for them had ceased. And in so doing, thus, they denied the right of the Lord that had bought them. Obsessed with the theory that grace would provide a cover for all sin, they gave themselves over to the unstinted gratification of the flesh. Of these Paul wrote these words - *“Their damnation is just”* (Rom. 3:8).

But the true Doctrine of the Atonement not only reveals the mercy of God in forgiving sins, but His



justness in demanding sins be forsaken. And these errorists to whom Peter makes reference here denied that the Lord had any claim on them at all. They forgot that he had bought them in his death. And that as his slaves, they should perform his will. And so what was it like? The picture really is brethren and sisters, they were like slaves rebelling against their master.

And so the false doctrines taught by these false teachers would rapidly be followed by deterioration of moral conduct destructive of every principal of righteousness in Christ Jesus. They would therefore swiftly bring upon them the moral deterioration resulting from their false teaching.

In verse two, how sad it must have been to pen this statement - *“many shall follow their pernicious ways”* (2nd Peter 2:2). How sad it must have been, when you think of Peter, with all his labors, with all the labors of his fellow apostles, all these things were to prove abortive. Were all their efforts to be without lasting effect? Was all of their preaching to be a waste of time? If all apostolic effort was merely aimed at founding ecclesias - is that all it was for?

Was it only for creating a personal following? Or establishing a permanent movement? Then it and all their endurance under trial and persecution would have been in vain.

For the very ecclesias they established, brethren, the very ecclesias they established in these times of the writings of Peter were soon to cease. They would be gone. And the many, who then embrace the Truth, were soon to be swayed therefrom. How? By the false teachers who arose from among them. The history of Israel pointed the lesson and indicated that even as apostasy swept the nation; even as there had been false prophets among the people who challenged the Sure Word of Prophecy spoken by men who were moved by the Holy Spirit - and so a repetition would follow the establishment of the Gentile ecclesias.

Peter and his fellow apostles, however, did not labor for the moment, they did not labor for the present, but they labored for the future. They labored for you and me. They did not labor to build up a personal prestige among men. Nor did they labor to create a personal movement that they might be head over. They labored to win individuals over to The Kingdom yet to be established. And so in this, their effort will be crowned in success to those comparatively few who heed the message. And meanwhile, Peter told his readers that many would defect from The Truth. And his prediction is a warning to us all to not be adversely influenced by ungodly majorities nor should any of us be deferred by widespread defection.

- Frank Welshman, Class on 2nd Peter

ECCLESIAL UNITY

A want of unity is fatal to edification. Union without unity is worse than worthless; it is pernicious; it tends to frustrate the objects of fellowship ... Agreement in the things of the Spirit is the first condition of ecclesial unity. The unity of the Spirit may be kept in the bond of peace; but the schism of the Spirit - disagreement in the things of the Spirit - renders peace impossible. Those who are indifferent can easily afford to ignore disagreement; and preach cordially of the virtue of "agreeing to differ." This is no characteristic of the church (ecclesia) of the living God. It contends for the faith once delivered to the saints, and obeys Paul's command (1 Tim. 6:5) to "turn away" from the perverse disputing of men of corrupt minds. The first characteristic of the true saint is zeal for the things of God. He is not content to cultivate friendship on the basis of "adhesiveness" or any other merely fleshly instinct. He stands "in God"; God's ways and principles are the rule of his life, the measure of his aspirations, the standard of his friendship, the foundation of all his doings. The Laodicean attitude of indifference - the readiness to agree to differ within the precincts of the ecclesia - is impossible with him. He must have the faith first pure, knowing that peace will follow, and from peace edification, and the growth in every good thing that shall prepare the brethren for the coming of the Lord. A contrary condition produces every evil work. Unity in the Spirit will admit of growth to the stature of the perfect man in Christ. It will help us to dwell together in love and hope, striving together for the faith of the Gospel, abounding in the whole work of the Lord with thanksgiving.

- Robert Roberts, "The Beauty of Christ", Seasons of Comfort, Vol. 1, p. 243

THE PROBLEM OF SIN & ITS DESTRUCTION

WE originally presented this material at the Arkansas Bible School in the summer of 2018. Little did we know then that controversy and division would arise within Unamended Christadelphia over “The Law of Sin and Death” and the appropriate understanding of Romans 8:1,2 (among other issues). Understanding the vital nature of the Atonement and the continuous controversy that swirls around this issue, we perceive a need to revisit the matter.

FOUNDATIONAL PASSAGES

- **1st Corinthians 15:51-54** - *“Behold I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, **“Death is swallowed up in victory.”**”*
- **Hebrews 9:28** - *“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear **the second time without sin, unto salvation.**”*
- **1st John 3:1-3** - *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God and it doth not yet appear what **we shall be; but we know that, when He shall appear,** we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.”*
- **Revelation 7:9-17** - *“I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying “Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.” down to verse 13 “And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, “What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?” And I said unto him, “Sir, thou knowest.” And he said to me, “These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His Temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more,*



neither thirst any more; neither shall the sunlight on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb Which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

- **Revelation 21:3,4** in considering the Christ Bride in the symbolic vision of the New Jerusalem - *"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, "Behold, **the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."***

We put these wonderful Bible passages (and many others that could be provided) before you as an introduction to our consideration of The Atonement. What do these verses have to do with the principle of Atonement? - Everything, as they represent the great desired and promised end as well as a new beginning of God's Plan and Purpose with this earth and mankind upon it. In this sampling of verses, we see:

- The certainty of resurrection for a specific class of people
- The Hope of eternal life and immortality to come and the sharing of the same perfect nature that Christ now possesses - to an exclusive class of people.
- The end of death upon the earth and, therefore, the end of sorrow that its existence has brought to man since its introduction by sin.
- God's manifestation is brought to its perfect and all-encompassing realization when God is joined in quintessential unity with His creation of immortal beings who, in the days of their mortality, chose to serve God by their own free will rather than the impulses of their own desires.
- We see the central role that Christ plays as the instrument of the Father in providing such

salvation and such a glorious end, as well as a new beginning.

Considering the subject and weighing out its mechanics, definitions, processes, and laws of doctrine, it is sometimes too easy to lose sight of the all-important end. The continued conflicts that have circulated this glorious subject, not only in our Christadelphian history but ever since the establishment of the 1st Century ecclesia, have drawn the topic into a constant state of turmoil, which can make this subject seem more like a debate to be won or a territory of thought to be fiercely defended, rather than a doctrine of extraordinary hope, comfort, and application. Make no mistake in our comments here - the mechanics, processes, definitions, and laws of what we are to consider are of the utmost importance and are to be promulgated and defended without compromise. And it is our intent (Lord willing) to consider these very details as they hold the only means of salvation for us. And in these details, we see our All-Wise Creator's glorious, merciful, and ingenious handiwork. But, this doctrine means nothing without the end...the glorious objective in full view. What is the ultimate purpose or principle of The Atonement? - *"But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD."* The Atonement offers the only means by which God will be perfectly manifest amid His glorious Creation. The Doctrine of the Atonement puts before us THE WAY OF THE TREE OF LIFE.

But, as we all know, there is a seemingly impenetrable barrier to achieving an end that promises resurrection, immortality, eternal inheritance of the earth, and God dwelling among men. That problem is the problem of SIN. We read in **1st John 3:8** in the second sentence of the verse - **"For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."**

Such a statement as this makes it clear, as seen from a comprehensive viewpoint, that this was the entirety of Jesus' mission - not only during his first appearance but that which continues today and will continue until the end of his 1,000-year reign. When speaking of the "devil", or *diabolis*, we are, of course,

speaking of sin - that which is contrary to God's laws and righteousness. It is interwoven into the legal, physical, and moral experiences of every human. It also finds ugly manifestations in this world's political and religious realms. This is understood to be due to the sin of Adam and Eve. The *diabolis* is the source of all evil, suffering, and death. It is not supernatural but very much of the flesh and that of man's doing. **The *diabolos* did not cause man's fall; rather, through sin, man gave rise to the *diabolos*.** It was caused and continued by man and can only be rectified by God's intervention.

During Jesus' ministry on earth, he was constantly working to destroy the works of the *diabolos* - whether it be preaching the truth (the Gospel) to turn men away from the errors of man's creation or by curing the various diseases that were the result of the sin-nature (as stated in Acts 10:38 - *"healing all that were oppressed of the devil."*) In scriptural language, why did Jesus die the death of crucifixion? **Hebrews 2:14** - to *"destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil."* What was the purpose of his resurrection? - to deliver him from that which has the power of death. *"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"* *"The sting of death is sin,"* but Christ destroyed the power of sin in himself through his life and his death.

Christ continues this effort in his mediatorial work so that his brethren might receive the forgiveness of their sins, which are, in fact, the work of the devil. When he returns to this earth, his very first priority is to free his brethren from the power of the devil, to free them eternally from mortal flesh ... from "sin's flesh" - the *diabolos* nature. We read in **Psalms 149:7,8** that along with his saints, the next work will be to subdue the political manifestation of sin found in the current powers of this world - *"to execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute upon them the judgment written."* In Apocalyptic symbolic terms, we read in **Revelation 20:2** - *"And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and bound him a*

thousand years." And even then, the work is not yet finished in dealing with this problem of sin or the devil.

It is the primary objective of Christ during the millennial age to reign until he has *"put all enemies under his feet."* And what is that last enemy? It is death. What brings forth death, according to the 6th chapter of Romans, is that *"Sin brings forth death."* Sin is the root, and death is the consequence. And we read of the end of the 1,000 years in Revelation 20:10 - *"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."* In other words, the sin-flesh influence that deceives men to rebel against God, and that which brings forth death is swallowed up in utter and perpetual destruction.

Therefore, it is evident that the destruction of the *diabolos* - in other words, sin and its consequences - involves **the whole work of Jesus Christ from beginning to end.** Herein lies the subject before us in the matter of The Atonement. In it, we have the means by which a special class of individuals are provided rescue from the ultimate consequences of sin through the instrumentality of Christ so that God may fulfill His purpose to fill the earth with his glory.

In dealing with the grand subject before us, we must first consider the origin and consequences of sin, before we can fully address the means of its ultimate destruction. But before we go any further in our consideration, we would like to provide preliminary terms and definitions to hopefully add clarity to our subject and remove any doubt about the various terminology we will be using. Some are Biblical words; others are biblical principles. But what we will consider, in essence, is the ingredients found in the Doctrine of the Atonement, and then will spend the next few articles demonstrating how these ingredients (terminologies) work together.

1. **LAW** - From American Heritage - *A rule of conduct or procedure established by custom, agreement, or authority.* Oxford Dictionary - *The system of rules which a particular country or*

community recognizes as regulating the actions of its members and which it may enforce by the imposition of penalties. In relation to spiritual things - It is the system of rules enacted by God upon man, in accordance with His absolute sovereignty and supreme standard of righteousness. With the enacting of such law, God carries absolute prerogative in the imposition of penalties for disobedience to such law as well as reward for obedience.

1. From a Hebrew word commonly interpreted as a statute or ordinance, *that which is prescribed*.
 2. Also commonly translated from the Hebrew word **torah** - law, direction, instruction
 3. We will consider the following: *Edenic Law (i.e., "The Law of Sin and Death"); The Law of Moses; and The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus*.
2. **COMMAND/COMMANDED** - Hebrew **tzah-vah** - *to command, charge, give orders, lay charge, give charge to, order*. It is the breaking of God's initial command to man - the Edenic Law - that leads to all of the terminology that follows.
3. **SIN** - From a Hebrew root - *to sin, miss, miss the way, go wrong, incur guilt, forfeit; to sin, miss the goal or path of right and duty; to incur guilt, incur penalty by sin, forfeit*
1. **Moral application** (personal sin) - *"transgression of law"*
 2. **Physical application** (sin's flesh) - *"physical principle of the animal nature, which is the cause of all its diseases, death, and resolution into dust. It is that in the flesh 'which has the power of death,' and it is called sin, because the development, or fixation, of this evil in the flesh, was the result of transgression. Inasmuch as this evil principle pervades every part of the flesh, the animal nature is styled 'sinful flesh,' that is, flesh full of sin: so that sin, in the sacred style, came to stand for*

the substance called man. In human flesh 'dwells no good thing' (Rom. 7:18; 17); and all the evil a man does is the result of this principle dwelling in him."
Elpis Israel, p. 129

4. **TRANSGRESSION** - Hebrew - "pesha" - A revolt (national, moral or religious): - rebellion, sin, trespass.

5. **IMPUTE** - related to both "imputed sin" and "imputed righteousness".

1. To relate to a particular cause or source; place the fault or responsibility for; to bestow on something or somebody as due or appropriate.

2. To assign as a characteristic; credit; to assign value to, though no inherent value exists:

Whether imputed sin or imputed righteousness, it may or may not be to the discredit or credit in which the sin or righteousness is imputed. Specifically - the imputation of Adam's sin upon the race, or the imputation of Christ's righteousness upon those in covenant. One carries consequences and the other carries benefits - though the individual has no personal fault or credit to either. *Example:* - *"the usage of paper money by governments. A dollar bill is a piece of paper measuring approximately six inches by 2 1/2 inches. The piece of paper has no intrinsic value of its own. But, by a careful printing process, the government imputes value to the paper even though it has no value of its own"* - Bro. Edward Farrar.

6. **CONDEMNATION** - *The action of condemning someone to a punishment, sentencing.*

1. **"Adamic Condemnation"** - Though this full phrase does not appear in the scriptures, the principle is clearly taught. It is the legal sentence to death that all inherit from Adam, though not personally guilty of Adam's offense

(Romans 5:12). In Rom. 5:16 & 8:1, from the Greek - *katakrima*. As used in Romans 5:16,18, *an adverse/damnatory sentence*. "*Krima*" is connected to the Hebrew idea of a legal relationship. This connects directly with the use of the word "imputation", in that though not personally guilty of the sin of Adam, the consequence or penalty of that action is imputed to all of his descendants as a matter of law. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, provides this "condemnation" or *katakrima* as a synonym for "the law of sin and death."

2. **Moral Condemnation** - To be condemned and therefore punished based upon a personal action in disobedience/rebellion to a law or system of laws. (See Jude, verse 4 - Greek "krima".)

7. **JUSTICE** - Hebrew *tsedâqâh* - *righteousness, in a case or cause*.
8. **ATONEMENT** - A critically important word to our subject. It is from the Hebrew word *kaphar*, which means to cover. Biblically speaking it is a covering for sin. The word itself in English actually speaks to the effect rather than the root action that is indicated in the original. If broken down into its 3 parts, we have - "at one ment". The English word indicates a position of reconciliation, a bringing together of two parties where a breach once existed. The English word is doctrinally appropriate, but cannot be understood without understanding the original meaning of "covering". Such is the result of "kaphar" or a covering. The sin creating the breach must first be "covered" - See Ps. 32:1; Ps 85:2. And this all takes us back to that critical time and the contrast between the fig leaves in which Adam and Eve covered themselves versus the coats of skins that the Elohim provided for their covering.
9. **RECONCILE** - Also from the Hebrew word *kaphar*. In the N.T. it is "apokatallaso". Bro.

Andrew in his pamphlet "The Doctrine of the Atonement" defines it as "*to move or excite with a view to bringing together again. That implies that there has been a previous oneness, but that it has been severed.*"

10. **JUSTIFY** - In the O.T. it is from a Hebrew word that means to "*be made right or righteous*". (Think of the name "Meldhizedek" - King of Righteousness). Isaiah 53:11 states of Christ's sacrificial work - "*shall my righteous servant justify many*". In the N.T. justify/justification is from a series of closely related Greek words that follow this same line. From Thayer we read - 1) *the act of God declaring men free from guilt and acceptable to him*, 2) *abjuring to be righteous*.
11. **MERCY** - To show compassion, goodness, pity. In the N.T. it indicates kindness. Webster's - *compassion or forbearance shown especially to an offender or to one subject to one's power*;
12. **SACRIFICE** - From the primitive Hebrew root - *zabach* - *to slaughter, kill, to slaughter in divine judgment*. Therefore, sacrifice requires the shedding of blood. It is death by premature and violent means.
13. **COVENANT** - *A legal agreement, promise or contract (either written or verbal) between two or more parties to do or not to do a certain act or work which is specified in the terms of the agreement*. From the Hebrew - *berith* - *to cut*. And in the Greek - *diatheke* - *an appointment*. But unlike the pacts made between men, God's Covenant (used interchangeably with the term "law" in the scriptures - Ps. 105:8-11) does not depend upon man's acceptance and stands independent of man's consent or consultation. It is established and enforced by Divine prerogative alone.
 1. **The Old Covenant** = The Mosaic Law; on the surface a law given to the Israelites by God to serve and obey Him with the promise of "long life in the land".

2. **The New Covenant or “Everlasting Covenant”** = The Abrahamic Covenant/ The Law of the Spirit of Life (Though promised first, ratified by Christ’s shed blood at the end of the Mosaic, therefore putting an end to the Old Covenant.) This gave the surety of resurrection, the hope of eternal life, and the means to inherit the promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Edenic Covenant and the Davidic Covenant (*The Sure Mercies of David*) are connected to, and book end the Abrahamic Covenant with the first promising of The Seed of the Woman that would destroy the power of Sin and Death, and the latter providing a promised King through the line of David to rule over God’s Kingdom, the full and permanent restoration of the Israelites in their Land as the central focus of this Kingdom, and the certainty of David’s own resurrection to witness this for himself.
14. **FEDERAL HEAD(SHIP)** - *The position that the male represents his descendants.* Two such relationships scripturally speaking - either under Adam or under Christ, hence the term “FEDERAL RELATIONSHIP”.
15. **CONSTITUTE/CONSTITUTION** - *To set up or establish according to law or provision.* Directly connected to the previous definition. It is a legal position, a position or condition of relationship - either to The Law of Sin and Death or the Law of the Spirit of Life.
 1. Constitution of Sin
 2. Constitution of Righteousness
16. **ALIEN(S)** - *to estrange away, that is, (passively and figuratively) to be non participant:* From a root meaning to be “off, that is, away (from something near.)
 1. **“Racial alienation”** - a position of estrangement or separation from God

due to constitutional/federal relationship by birth, under the Federal Headship or relationship to Adam. Such fall under the “Law of Sin and Death” and are “Constituted” sinners due to their relationship to Adam. This position leaves one estranged from the benefits and hope found under The Law of the Spirit of Life.

2. **Moral alienation** - a position of estrangement or separation from God due to one’s own personal transgression. Especially pertinent to those “in Christ” who follow after sin after baptism - (1st John 1:5,6).

17. **SUBSTITUTE vs. REPRESENTATIVE**

1. **Substitute** - a person or thing that takes the place or function of another
2. **Representative** -1. One that serves as an example or type for others of the same classification. 2. One that serves as a delegate or agent for another.

18. **FINAL TERMS**

1. **Provisional** - *Providing or serving for the time being only; existing only until permanently or properly replaced; temporary*
2. **Probation** - The status of a person being tested or on trial. A testing or trial, as of a person’s character, ability, etc.
3. **Legal** - Conforming to the law; according to law
4. **Moral** - Concerning the principles of right and wrong behavior and the goodness or badness of human character.
5. **Physical** - Relating to the body as opposed to the mind.

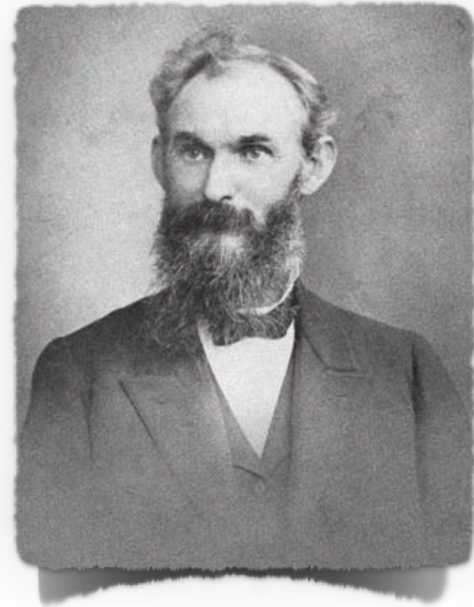
To be continued, Yahweh willing.

A Thomas

TRANSITION FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH TO THE LAW OF LIFE AND IMMORTALITY

THOMAS WILLIAMS

The important question now is, How we may escape sin and death and obtain life and immortality? There are two representatives of these two laws - Adam and Christ. Adam brought sin and death and Christ will bring life and immortality, it was Adam's sin that started the law of sin and death into operation, and it was Christ's righteousness - prospective before His death amid resurrection - that set the law of life and immortality at work. Now which of these laws are we under? is the important question. If we are under the first, in Adam, our condition is thus described: *"Wherefore remember, that ye being in times past Gentiles in the flesh, * * * that at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world"*—Eph. 2: 11, 12. This is a hopeless state indeed. We are Gentiles by nature, and as such we are by nature under the dominion of sin and death. if we remain under the law of this dominion we shall continue citizens of the dominion of sin and death; and death, yes, eternal death is all we may ever expect. If ever we hope to escape this sad end we must change our citizenship, by passing out from under the law that Adam placed us under by sin to that which Christ only can place us under by righteousness. If this change from one law to another, from one dominion to another takes place, we shall then be under the law of life and immortality, called the "law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus" (Rom. viii: 2); and if we are loyal to its requirements so long as



our probation may last we shall finally secure the glorious possession of life and immortality. We must therefore change our relation to law; we must change our dominion. We must put off Adam's dominion and put on Christ's. We must pass out of Adam and into Christ. How can we do this? The Apostle Paul answers: *"For ye are all the children of God by (the one) faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye*

Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise" —Gal. 3: 26-29. Baptism, upon belief of the gospel, is therefore the act required to effect our transition from under the law of sin and death to that of life and immortality. The same apostle further says: *"In whom (Christ) ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; buried with him by baptism, wherein ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead"*—Col. 2:11,12. This is called a new birth, a being born of or out of water (John 3: 5). And when the change is thus effected we have put off the old man and put on the new; we have put off the law of death and put on the law of life; amid *"now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were afar off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."* *"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens of the saints and of the household of God"* Eph. 2:13,19. Being now under the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus we are made free from the law of sin and death and waiting the time when we shall pass from these sin-and-death bodies into those of life and immortality; for now *"our citizenship is in heaven, from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working*

whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself" (Phil. 3:20,21). What a glorious hope this is! Well might we exclaim, *"Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God; for now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."* *"And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure"* (1 John 3:1-3). If the reader and the writer shall be at last blessed with a realization of this glorious hope happy, happy shall we be. Amen.

These comments by Brother Williams were first published in his booklet entitled The Problem of Life Here and Hereafter Booklet Or Man's Relation to the Law of Sin and Death and of Life and Immortality. This booklet of Brother Williams was first published in 1895 according to the Advocate Publishing Committee book entitled The Life and Times of Thomas Williams. This complete booklet was also reprinted and included in the booklet published by the Richmond Hall Ecclesia entitled Selected Works of Thomas Williams. Both the Advocate book and the Richmond Hall book were published in 1974. - SK



1 Thessalonians 4:17

... it is worthy to remark, that the rendering of Paul's words in 1 Thess. 4:17, *"shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air,"* is objectionable. This is one of those things of Paul's writings, which Peter said were hard to be understood by the unlearned and unstable. These suppose, that Paul taught that the resurrected and changed should be carried up like Elijah to the dew-point of our atmosphere, the region of the clouds, there to remain for ever with the Lord. But, I object that Paul had no reference to either the clouds of our atmosphere, or to the air itself; and for these reasons.

In the first place, *arpagesometha*, rendered *"we shall be caught up,"* neither expresses the idea of *up* nor *down*; but signifies *"to snatch, to seize, to take hold of forcibly, as a wild beast doth its prey,"* and hence, the idea of hurrying off by any kind of force or power.

In the next place, Paul does not say in the clouds, but simply, *en nephelais, in clouds*; instead therefore of *"caught up in the clouds,"* we read *"hurried off in clouds:"* so that clouds of saints, by almighty power, will be removed from the east, west, north, and south, where they have been resurrected, *"for a meeting of the Lord"* in the territory of his kingdom, the Holy Land - Luke 13:28,29. - John Thomas, Eureka, Vol. 1, p. 145

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF THE FALL AND SALVATION OF ADAM AND EVE

PART 2

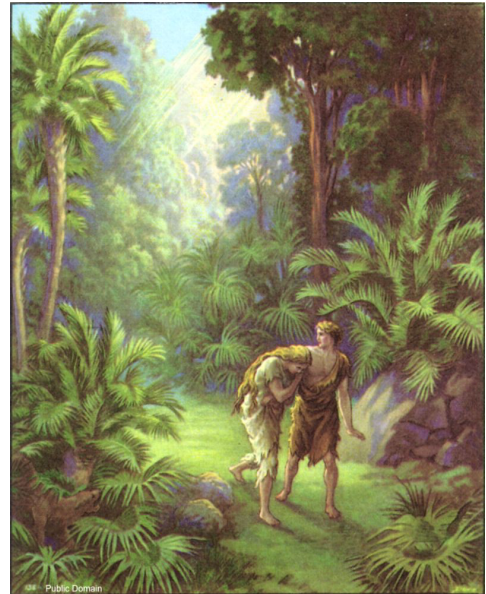
IN the Previous Sanctuary Keeper – Summer 2023, we began a series of articles reviewing the chronology of the fall and salvation of Adam and Eve by examining their status before Yahweh as referencing the applicable verses in Genesis 2 and 3. We ended our remarks from the last edition with an initial review of Genesis 3:1-5. We will continue at that point with the comments below.

THE TEMPTATION AND SIN OF ADAM AND EVE

Genesis 3:1-6 – *“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”*

RELATIONSHIP OF ADAM AND EVE WITH GOD AT THIS POINT IN THE CHRONOLOGY –

1. Prior to their sin, they were not under the



condemnation of the Law of Sin and Death until disobedience.” Before the point that they placed the fruit in their mouth, they were still in a “very good” state, neither mortal nor immortal.

2. Adam and Eve used their free will and chose to become disobedient.
3. They were still under the legal condemnation to a sentence of a perishing death and they were now awaiting the physical execution of that sentence to a punishment of death that was set forth in the Law of Sin and Death of Genesis 2:16-17.
4. Adam and Eve were no longer in a very good

state.

5. After their sin, they experienced the physical effects of the legal condemnation to a perishing death as noted below.
6. Their flesh became unclean.
7. They became a mortal, dying, corruptible creature.
8. They were no longer in harmony and fellowship with the Creator.
9. They were now alienated from God.
10. Their disobedience brought them under the wrath of God.
11. Their nature now included the tendencies to succumb to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.
12. The “Law of Sin in their members” or sin nature as defined by Paul in Romans 7 had now been implanted in their bodies which produced the physical effects of sin and death. It is important to note that the sin nature called the “Law of Sin in their members” by Paul did not exist within their bodies until after they committed their sin of disobedience. This teaches us that the Law of Sin and Death dealt with the legal commandment and the legal sentence of condemnation to a perishing death if and when sin occurred but the Law of Sin in their members could only be the physical effects or results of that broken commandment. As Adam came under the legal promise of a perishing death in the Law of Sin and Death and the physical results of that legal condemnation (the Law of Sin in his members) at different times in his life, these two laws could not have the same definition and can only be linked as cause and effect.

ADAM AND EVE BECAME COGNIZANT OF THEIR NAKED CONDITION BEFORE GOD

Genesis 3:7 – *“And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked;”*

This verse does not imply that Adam and Eve were physically blinded prior to the commission of their sin. This verse does teach us that there was a

more complete mental change in their understanding of the Law of Sin and Death and the timing of the execution of the sentence of that Law. By partaking of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they were now able to discern between good (obedience) and evil (disobedience). They were able to discern between being naked and having no shame and being naked and feeling shame due to their nakedness.

Prior to their sin, they had been taught about the concept of death and had been taught about the timing of the execution of the sentence contained within the Law of Sin and Death. They knew enough about the law of sin and death and the sentence for disobeying the law given unto them that they immediately recognized that they had become disobedient to the only Law given to them to obey. They were able to make the connection of being naked to being disobedient and thus coming under the immediate execution of the sentence to a perishing death. If this connection was not made, then they would not have made any effort to cover their nakedness.

After breaking the law of God, their understanding of their physical condition before the Elohim changed. They became ashamed of their physical condition before the Elohim. The state of nakedness became symbolic of uncovered sin and unfitness to be in fellowship with God. This verse is in contrast to Genesis 2:25 where it is stated that they were naked and unashamed. Prior to the sin, they knew that they were naked, but unashamed of that physical condition in the presence of the Elohim.

RELATIONSHIP OF ADAM AND EVE WITH GOD AT THIS POINT IN THE CHRONOLOGY –

Adam and Eve were in the same condition as stated in the previous section except now they felt a sense of guilt from the disobedience and shame from their naked condition.

ADAM AND EVE DEVELOPED THEIR OWN DEVICES TO COVER THEIR SINS

Genesis 3:7 – *“... and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.”*

In the sinful nature that now was physically implanted within them, they thought that the means devised by human thinking was sufficient to cover their nakedness, to hide their shame, to cover their sin. This was their first act of fleshly thinking that was caused by their newly acquired nature of sin. This act indicates that they understood that it was important to cover the condition of nakedness that they felt in the presence of God's representatives, the Elohim. As yet uninstructed in the divine ways of salvation, they turned to their own human devices to fix the guilt and shame of their physical condition that they had experienced immediately after their sin. The following verse is applicable to this evil act of the human flesh.

Proverbs 12:2 – *“A good man obtaineth favour of the LORD: but a man of wicked devices will he condemn.”* Adam and Eve through the reasoning of the flesh created their own wicked device to cover their nakedness. They were under the sentence of the execution of the sentence to a perishing death that was a part of the Law of Sin and Death, i.e., they were still under condemnation. Adam and Eve were no longer in a “very good” state; therefore, they were no longer under the favor of Yahweh. They were now in a state of condemnation.

RELATIONSHIP OF ADAM AND EVE WITH GOD AT THIS POINT IN THE CHRONOLOGY –

Adam and Eve were in the same condition as stated in the previous section except now along with a sense of guilt from the disobedience and shame from their naked condition, they had now used the reasoning of the flesh to devise their self-devised means to resolve this sinful, naked and unclean condition.

ADAM AND EVE BECAME AFRAID AND HID THEMSELVES IN THE TREES OF THE GARDEN

Genesis 3:8 – *“And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.”*

This verse teaches us that after Adam and Eve experienced the guilt of their sin and the shame of

their nakedness and after devising their own means of resolving that guilt and shame, they experienced the emotion of human fear and they tried to hide themselves among the other trees in the Garden. As they had never experienced fear before this time in their lives, it is important to determine what were their reasons for the manifestation of this newly experienced human emotion.

1. They would not have been afraid of each other nor of the animals in the Garden.
2. Adam had only received instructions from the Elohim on the meaning of death, but he had not actually experienced any sort of death prior to his disobedience.
3. Therefore, between the time of Adam's creation and the time that he partook of the forbidden fruit, the Elohim must have taught him of the consequences of the death he would incur if he became disobedient to God's law.
4. Therefore, Adam and Eve must have been afraid of the immediate execution in the day of his sin of the sentence of death that the Elohim had taught them if they became disobedient to God's law.
5. Adam and Eve also did not at that time understand that mankind cannot hide from God.



This verse states that the first couple hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God. The word “presence” is often translated as “face”.

The principle of Psalms 34:16 seems to be very applicable to the action of Adam and Eve as put forth in this verse in Genesis. *“The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.”* In considering this verse in Psalms, we believe that Adam and Eve had been taught that upon disobedience to the only law given unto them, they would be subject to the immediate death referenced in the law of Genesis 2:17. They were subject to a cutting off from the presence of the Lord. Adam and Eve hid themselves from the presence (face) of the LORD God because they had been taught that if they did evil, (disobeyed) they would be cut off, i.e., put to immediate death, due to the sentence of death in the Law of Sin and Death

These verses are applicable to this evil act of hiding themselves from the Lord.

- **Proverbs 5:21** - *“For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.”*
- **Proverbs 15:3** - *“The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”*

These fleshy and evil acts of Adam and Eve in their creation of fleshy means to cover their sinfulness and their attempt to hide themselves from the eyes of Yahweh proved to be insufficient and found no acceptance in the eyes of the Lord. At this time, the first couple committed their next sin – the fleshy justification for straying away from Yahweh. These acts of the flesh showed their fear of the immediate execution of the sentence of death that was contained in the Law of Sin and Death of Genesis 2:16-17. These words in Hebrews 10:31 are very applicable in regard to this fleshy fear of Adam and Eve – “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God”. They understood that they had done evil and was afraid of the consequences of disobedience.

RELATIONSHIP OF ADAM AND EVE WITH GOD AT THIS POINT IN THE CHRONOLOGY –

Adam and Eve were in the same condition as stated in the previous section except now along with a sense of guilt from the disobedience and shame from their naked condition, they had now used the

reasoning of the flesh to devise the means to resolve this sinful, naked and unclean condition and they were trying to hide themselves from the punishment that was promised to them upon disobedience.

THE ELOHIM’S QUESTIONS FOR ADAM AND EVE

Genesis 3:9-11 – *“And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?”*

The Elohim, being the immortal agents of Yahweh on earth, knew the answers to these questions. They were not questioning where he was physically. The Elohim knew where Adam and Eve were hiding. They knew that the couple were disobedient to the commandment of Genesis 2:16-17. They knew that it was Adam and Eve who discovered the shame of their nakedness. They were bringing these questions to Adam and Eve in order to press home to Adam and Eve that they needed to recognize the significance of their sin and the promised consequences of their transgression.

Without the mercy of God, it probably would have been at this time that the immediate execution of the sentence of the Law of Sin and Death would have been carried out in accordance to the divine law. Prior to this time in the chronology of Adam’s short life, the Scriptures do not record any instruction given to Adam and Eve regarding the means by which upon disobedience they could receive redemption and forgiveness and salvation. Prior to their sin, they only understood death from an academic sense. After their sin, I believe that they had a much fuller understanding of the concept of death.

We know that God is merciful and long-suffering and patient and provides all with the opportunity to achieve salvation and redemption. It was at this time when the Elohim questioned Adam and surely provided a very thorough discussion of their transgression, the consequences of their sin, and the necessity and method of the remedy that had to

occur in the eyes of Yahweh. At this time, the Elohim must have instructed Adam and Eve of God's plan of atonement, redemption, and salvation. This is evident by the confession of their sins in the next verse of the chronology.

RELATIONSHIP OF ADAM AND EVE WITH GOD AT THIS POINT IN THE CHRONOLOGY –

Adam and Eve were in the same condition as stated in the previous section except now they had received additional instruction from the Elohim about the path to redemption and atonement and salvation.

ADAM AND EVE CONFESSED TO THEIR DISOBEDIENCE

Genesis 3:12-13 – *“And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.”*

Part of the instructions to achieve redemption and atonement that had to be taught to Adam and Eve was the necessity for the recognition of their alienation from God and the necessity to confess their sin in the manner prescribed by the instructions from the Elohim. How could Adam and Eve understand this necessary part of the path to redemption and salvation without being taught the importance of confession by the Elohim?



We should understand that their statements found in this verse were not an attempt to blame their sin on others. We find this statement to be true as the following verse dictates.

1 John 1:9 – *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* This verse teaches us that without confession, there can be no forgiveness for the actual sin committed nor any cleansing from the physical sin nature now residing within the first couple.

We also find these words in the book of Proverbs – Proverbs 28:13 – *“He that covereth his sins shall not*

prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” The Hebrew word for prosper in this verse means *“to advance, prosper, make progress, succeed, be profitable.”* As we think about this word in Proverbs 28:13 in regard to Adam and Eve, we gain a very good understanding of the status of the couple in the eyes of God. They were not successful in their one and only trial from God to show their obedience to the law of God. Without confession and repentance, Adam and Eve's disobedience could not allow them to proceed one step further in God's Plan and Purpose for them. Therefore, without this confession after learning of the plan of atonement from the messengers of Yahweh, the sentence to a perishing death would have been carried out. As Adam was the federal head and representative of the human race, if God did not require confession from the first couple, then He would have been unjust in requiring it from the descendants of Adam through the stream of time.

If Yahweh, who knows the thoughts and intents of the heart, thought that Adam and Eve did not recognize their individual participation in their sin, then He would not have allowed them to continue to live past that very moment. If He did allow them,

without confession, to continue to live past that very moment when they were confronted in the Garden, then He would be continuing His creation through unrepentant and unpardoned sinners. Yahweh could not have produced a Redeemer through an unrepentant federal head of God's natural Creation.

Therefore, without confession of their individual personal sin, they would have been subject to the full immediate execution of the sentence to a perishing death having no hope for reconciliation to God within the day of the occurrence of the sin. The execution of the sentence to death would have occurred at that very moment.

However, the fact that this immediate execution

of the sentence to a perishing death did not occur proves that Yahweh through His great mercy and longsuffering and patience did accept their confession. The words of Isaiah 55:7 are appropriate to the extension of God's mercy to Adam and Eve at this point in their probationary lives. Isaiah 55:7 – "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." We also believe these words of 1 Timothy 2:4 are applicable to this situation. "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

Although confession was made and accepted, this was not the completion of the process of gaining full forgiveness of the sin and reconciliation with God. This was just the first step. There were other steps that were required prior to full reconciliation to God. These are presented in the remaining verses of the chapter.

RELATIONSHIP OF ADAM AND EVE WITH GOD AT THIS POINT IN THE CHRONOLOGY –

Adam and Eve were in the same condition as stated in the previous section except now after receiving additional instruction from the Elohim about the path to redemption and atonement and salvation, they chose to accept that instruction as divine Truth and they realized that confession of one's sin is mandatory before forgiveness of that sin can occur in God's eyes.

THE SERPENT CAME UNDER THE SENTENCE OF GOD

Genesis 3:14 – *"And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:"*

The serpent, typical of the newly required sin nature/sin in the flesh, became cursed above all of

the other animals and would be sentenced to destruction by the promised seed of the woman as taught in the next verse.

THE PROMISE OF A REDEEMER

Genesis 3:15 – *"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."*

The sentence of the serpent from the previous verse indicated that the newly acquired sin nature/sin in the flesh of man would have an impact on the seed of the

woman. This verse presents the promise of one who would be a descendant of Adam and Eve that would come and destroy the power of the serpent/sin nature. It seems certain, that the Elohim must have provided further instruction to Adam and Eve regarding how this enmity would occur, how the serpent's head would be bruised and how the heel of the seed of the woman would be bruised. As this was the first promise of redemption, Adam and Eve had to develop the faith created by the instruction of the Elohim, they had to understand these primary elements of the atonement process.

RELATIONSHIP OF ADAM AND EVE WITH GOD AT THIS POINT IN THE CHRONOLOGY –

Adam and Eve were in the same condition as stated in the previous section except now after receiving additional instruction from the Elohim about the path to redemption and atonement and salvation, and after confessing their sin to the angelic representatives of Yahweh, they now had to learn, accept and believe in a promised Redeemer who would proceed from their loins and be strong enough to punish the serpent power of sin in the flesh.

ADAM AND EVE CAME UNDER THE SENTENCE OF GOD

Genesis 3:16 – *"Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in*



sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”

Genesis 3:17-19 – *“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”*

1 Timothy 2:13-15 – *“For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.”*

These verses teach us that the woman was sentenced to a life of childbearing and would become subject to her husband. According to the Timothy reference, the woman would be saved in childbearing. This refers to the birth of the seed of the woman in Genesis 3:15. This prophesized seed of the woman would be the only means of salvation. There is no other name under heaven whereby man must be saved,

The man was sentenced to a life of sorrow and hard work. All of God's creation became cursed because of the sin of Adam and Eve. After Adam and Eve confessed their sin and after their acceptance of the truth of the promised redeemer, God, in His mercy declared that Adam and Eve would not be immediately put to death for their sin. This is evident when He promised that there would be a future seed of the woman that would be under the influence of the power of the seed of the serpent (sin nature/sin in the flesh) but would destroy the power of the seed of the serpent – sin nature.

This is the second part of the process for the reconciliation to God. There has to be a Saviour and Redeemer and one who could destroy the power of sin in the flesh. Adam and Eve also had to have the knowledge and understanding of the necessity of this

individual in God's plan. This knowledge had to be imparted to them through the Elohim.

The promise made to Adam and Eve of an extended life is proof that Yahweh accepted their confession, their acceptance and understanding of the promised Redeemer, and their acceptance of the steps that they needed to perform in God's plan of redemption, atonement, and salvation.

RELATIONSHIP OF ADAM AND EVE WITH GOD AT THIS POINT IN THE CHRONOLOGY –

Adam and Eve were in the same condition as stated in the previous section except now after receiving additional instruction from the Elohim about the path to redemption and atonement and salvation, and after confessing their sin to the angelic representatives of Yahweh, and after they had now accepted God's plan of salvation and redemption, and now they had come under the mercy of their Creator with His promise to them an extended life, although it would be a life of sorrow and grief.

ADAM NAMED HIS WIFE – EVE – MOTHER OF ALL LIVING

Genesis 3:20 – *“And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.”*

The name of Eve means mother of all living, life, or life-giving. She was named after the confession of her sin, after they obtained an understanding of the promised Redeemer, but before the participation in the sin-covering efficacy of the animal slain in the Garden. Eve was the genealogical ancestor of the natural human family. She was also the first ancestor of God's spiritual family, for out of her came the Redeemer, the seed of the woman.

RELATIONSHIP OF ADAM AND EVE WITH GOD AT THIS POINT IN THE CHRONOLOGY –

Adam and Eve were in the same condition as stated in the previous section except now after receiving additional instruction from the Elohim about the path to redemption and atonement and salvation, and after confessing their sin to the angelic representatives of Yahweh, and after they had now accepted God's plan of salvation and redemption, now they had come under the mercy of their Creator

with His promise to them an extended life, although it would be a life of sorrow and grief. Adam's renaming of his wife from "Woman" to "Eve" indicates that he fully accepted the terms of the covenant that were included in the covenant that he made with his Creator. Because of the additional instruction received from the Elohim and accepted and believed by Adam and Eve regarding the path to redemption, atonement, and salvation, they are no longer under the fear of the immediate execution of the sentence of death in the Law of Sin and Death.

ADAM AND EVE CLOTHED WITH COATS OF SKINS

Genesis 3:21 - *"Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them."*

This event was the final step in achieving the redemption and atonement for their personal sin and the covering of their newly acquired sin nature as represented by their nakedness. This is one more instance where the first couple had to receive additional instruction from the Elohim in regard to the significance of the violent death of the slain lamb and the necessity for the shed blood and the necessity for their spiritually naked condition to be covered by the means that Yahweh had set forth for them. One of the principles that they must have learned was that *"without shedding of blood is no remission"* (Hebrews 9:22). They had to have been taught the principle of Hebrews 11:6 - *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."* If this statement is true for the descendants of Adam, then it had to be true for him and Eve also. For Yahweh to be pleased with the actions of Adam, Adam and Eve had to recognize the breach between them and God; they had to confess their sins; they had to be instructed in the way of redemption, atonement, and salvation; they had to accept this instruction and they



had to act on that faith by participating in the sacrifice of the lamb that was to be slain to provide this redemption and atonement and salvation.

This last act in the process of redemption, atonement, and salvation was reflected strictly in the legal changes made in the relationship between God and man. These legal changes are listed below.

It is important to note that if every one of these acts found in the process of redemption had not been completed by Adam and Eve and were not done in a manner pleasing to God, then Adam and Eve would have been slain under the conditions of the law given to them in Genesis 2:16-17 and the Edenic Law (Law of Sin and Death) would have kept him in the grave forever.

RELATIONSHIP OF ADAM AND EVE WITH GOD AT THIS POINT IN THE CHRONOLOGY -

The condemning sentence to a perishing death under the Edenic Law which is the same as the Law of Sin and Death was repealed. Adam and Eve's sinful nature was covered with the skins from the lamb. Adam and Eve received forgiveness for their personal sin. Since the Law of Sin and Death had

been repealed, they were now under the administration of the Law of Spirit of Life. Their alienation from God was healed. They were now back in fellowship with God. Their alienation came from disobedience to the Edenic Law of Genesis 2:16-17 (the Law of Sin and Death) but their return to fellowship came under the Law of

Spirit of Life after they had participated in the shed blood of the sacrificial lamb. This shows that Adam and Eve could not have been under the administration of both laws at the same time. Romans 8:1-2 teaches us that the Law of Spirit of Life frees a person from the condemnation of the Law of Sin and Death. To summarize these legal changes, their condition before God went from being under a condemning sentence to a perishing death to a condition of life with an assurance to a resurrection

and with the hope of eternal life. They did not inherit eternal life at that point in time.

Regardless of the legal changes made in their relationship with God, there were no changes made in their physical bodies. They were still mortal, they still had the physical "Law of Sin in my members" as Paul called it implanted in their bodies, they were still influenced by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. They still had a responsibility to confess their sins, repent and seek forgiveness. These were the physical effects that were produced by the act of disobedience of breaking the only law given to Adam and Eve – The Edenic Law – the Law of Sin and Death.

Quoting from *The Blood of the Covenant*, J. J. Andrew, page 8, we find a very good summary of the changes made in the life of Adam in regard to the successful completion of these acts found in the process of redemption.

"As soon as Adam was clothed with the animal skin, he was justified through the Edenic sacrifice and belief in the Edenic promise. His justification was legal not moral; he was, by a typical sacrifice, "made righteous," but he did not possess a righteous character. From what was he thus justified? The "offence" he had committed and the "sin-in-the-flesh" which it had produced. What was its effect? It averted a violent death; thereby prolonging his life, and giving him a second probation. Did it alter the physical consequences of his offence? No; the ground continued to be cursed, he had to toil for bread, evil desire still dwelt in him, and when his vitality was exhausted, he died." End Quote

ADAM AND EVE WERE EXPELLED FROM THE GARDEN THUS PROTECTING THE WAY TO THE TREE OF LIFE –

Genesis 3:22-24 – *"And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of*

the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."

The purpose of this expulsion was to prevent the newly justified pair from partaking of the Tree of life, thus attaining unto eternal life without having the opportunity for them to manifest their faithfulness over the course of their probationary lives. If they ate of the Tree of Life immediately after participating in the bloodshedding of the slain lamb, they would have been in a different position than any of their descendants, including Christ. All of the descendants of Adam who have come under the administration of the Law of the Spirit of Life have to manifest their faithfulness, be judged in accordance with their obedience to the laws under the Law of the Spirit of Life, and then receive a positive judicial verdict from God's beloved Son who He made the Judge of the whole earth upon His return. The fact that they were expelled from the Garden proves that Christ did not physically exist at that time as He is the only one that God has placed in a position of authority to judge the just and the unjust. None of the angelic Elohim who participated in the events of the Creation were ever given this authority.

WHAT LESSONS DO WE GET FROM THIS STUDY?

In the 2020 Fall/Winter Sanctuary Keeper, there was a small insert on page 26 that listed several events that occurred in the process of Adam's redemption.

- * Disobedience resulting in a death sentence
- * Ineffective device for atonement devised
- * Instruction provided in God's Way
- * Confession of sin
- * Appreciation and recognition of the role of the seed of the woman
- * Divine mercy and justice shown through the shedding of blood and the providing of a Covenant Representative of the slain lamb who would ultimately take away the effects of sin & death
- * Covenant followed by a probationary walk

* Preservation of the Way of the Tree of Life

The above article has provided further details on the chronological order of these events in the life of Adam. Since Adam was the federal head of the human race, all that proceeded out of his loins would have to complete these same steps before coming under the terms of the everlasting covenant, the Law of the Spirit of Life.

- **First step:** - Adam and Eve had to recognize their alienation from God, the sentence of a perishing death that they were placed under and that through their association with sin, they had to realize that they had no hope and were without God.
- **Second step:** - They had to be taught of God's means of redemption and salvation.
- **Third step:** - Through instruction in God's way, Adam and Eve had to recognize the life of sin that they had embarked upon and confess that they were sinners and alienated in the eyes of God
- **Fourth step:** - They had to develop faith in the promised redeemer.
- **Fifth step:** - They had to participate in a redemptive ceremony whereby they became typically associated with the blood of the Redeemer, the blood of the everlasting covenant.

All of these steps are summarized in the following verses in Romans:

Romans 5:12-19 – *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, in whom all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many*

offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”

Romans 7:21-25 – *“I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”*

Romans 8:1-2 – *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, ~~who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.~~ For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”*

(Note – The words marked through in the verse above are included in some translations and are not included in other translations. This poses some difficulties as to which translation is correct. Unamended Christadelphians believe that the condemnation in Romans 8:1 is in reference to the condemnation to a perishing death, inherited from Adam as referenced in Romans 5. This is the condemnation that all mankind comes into at the time of their birth. Unamended Christadelphians believe this condemnation is removed at the point in time when individuals come into the everlasting covenant, which is at the time of baptism in this dispensation.)

If the crossed-out words are left in Romans 8:1 as some translations suggest, then this verse would

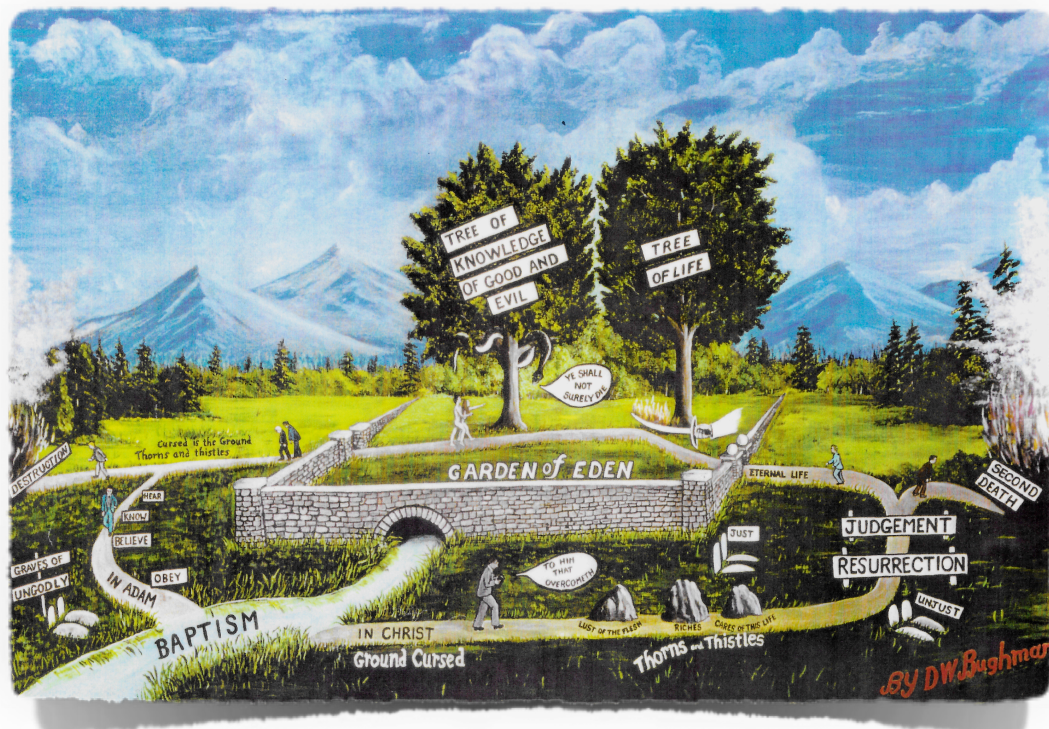
be teaching that Adamic Condemnation is not removed until the individual has been judged as walking after the Spirit instead of after the flesh which cannot occur until they appear before Christ's Judgment Seat. This would mean that Adamic condemnation is not removed at baptism, which would indicate that the individual would still be under Adamic condemnation during the entire period of their probation while still being "In Christ" during that same time period. One cannot be under Adamic condemnation and "In Christ" at the same time.

There are some equivalent phrases in these two verses of Romans 8. One cannot legally come into Christ Jesus until they come under the administration of the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus. Therefore these two phrases occur at the same time. In like manner, the other two phrases in Romans 8:1-2 also occurs at the same time. Stating that there is no condemnation (Adamic) is the same as saying that the individual is freed from the law of sin and death. The removal of the condemnation and the freeing from the law of sin and death occur at the same time, at the time of baptism in this generation.

Romans 8:23 – "And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." Note – The physical redemption of our body comes when this mortal puts on immortality and this corruptible puts on incorruptibility and the individual receives eternal life.

A scriptural consideration of the chronological events in the fall of Adam and Eve and their subsequent reconciliation to Yahweh puts forth the changes that are made between man and God at the time they come into covenant relationship with Him. It is important to gain a very good understanding of the legal changes in status made between God and man that can be identified in these foundational chapters of Genesis. We pray that this article may help all to understand the special privilege that the Body of Christ has as we await the soon return of our Master and Lord Jesus Christ.

B Henderson



WISDOM

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

- **Proverbs 2:10, 11** - *"When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee..."*
- **Proverbs 1:7** - *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."*
- **Proverbs 9:10,11** - *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased."*

The color purple is often associated with royalty, nobility, luxury, power, and ambition. Purple also represents the meanings of wealth, extravagance, creativity, wisdom, dignity, grandeur, devotion, peace, pride, mystery, independence, and magic. When connected with King Solomon, we see the royalty and wisdom of he who was wiser than all men. Although God gave him wisdom far above any person (save Jesus), he still allowed himself to reject God's commandments, by compromising that wisdom. Compromise quickly erodes the truth and will steal away our hope of life eternal. So we must hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end. If not we too can fall to compromise in small or gray areas which will weaken us over time and lead us to major problems. So we can backslide in the same manner as Solomon. Ps. 111:10 *"A good*

understanding have all those who do His commandments." But if we slacken our resolve to keep all the commands of Yahweh we will gradually lose our understanding of God's way.

1 Kings 4:29 - *"And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore."*

"Wisdom" means the knowledge of a certain matter; "Understanding" is the application of wisdom; "Largeness of heart" is the capacity to grasp matters; *"As the sand of the sea shore"* speaks of the extent and depth of knowledge. God gave Solomon all this in the sense that He provided him with the opportunity to attain unto this wisdom, but Solomon had to cultivate it just as we do. Did Solomon keep all the statutes, and commandments of Yahweh? NO. Do we - NO we do not.

David offered these last words to his son Solomon (1st Kings 2:1-4): *"Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying, I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself: That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning*

me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel."

It goes on to read in the same chapter (vv. 10-12): *"So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David. And the days that David reigned over Israel were forty years: seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem. Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly."*

Let us meditate for a brief moment on the death of David. How short is a lifetime in the long record of history — but how crowded it is with incidents and personal experiences. What opportunities, triumphs, failures, crimes, ambitions, desires, hidden actions, and open incidents are compressed within the short period of a single life! For a moment the energy of life bursts forth — and then it is covered in the darkness of the grave. How wise to pray: *"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom"* (Psalms 90:12). How true are the words of Scripture: *"What is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away"* (James 4:14).

Matthew 6:25-34 – *"Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying,*

What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek;) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

David died in the sure hope of a resurrection from the dead to life eternal. He expressed this in a wonderful Psalm (Psalms 71:9, 17-20) – *"Cast me not off in the time of old age; Forsake me not when my strength faileth O God, Thou has taught me from my youth; And hitherto have I declared Thy wondrous works. Now also when I am old and grey-headed, O God, forsake me not; Until I have shewed Thy strength unto this generation, And Thy power to every one that is to come... Thou, which hast shewed me great and sore troubles, Shalt quicken me again, And shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth. Thou shalt increase my greatness, And comfort me on every side."*

We read these words of Solomon in Ecclesiastes 1:13 – *"I the Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem. And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven."* The Apostle James tells us this in James 1:5, *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally... and it shall be given him."*

We see here that Solomon had been blessed with an understanding heart but he had to seek out a matter by wisdom. We too can get wisdom by asking through prayer and studying. The reign of Solomon was a time of peace, prosperity, glory, and luxury for the people of Israel. Never before had they experienced such times, and never again will they do so UNTIL the Lord Jesus returns to "restore again the Kingdom to Israel" (Acts 1:6).

Part of the wisdom that Solomon would have learned was the specific commandments that God required of all kings over His people. These

guidelines for a king are recorded in Deuteronomy 17:16-20: *"But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold. And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel."*

The King had to write out the law to read daily. He must not take many wives (for they would lead his heart away from Yahweh), and he must not acquire many horses, or store up riches such as silver and gold. He had a great army which made him confident in his power. His wealth brought every comfort and pleasure and every material thing possible. He would feel pride and not rely on God. We read in verse 16 *"that the King should not go back to Egypt ever again"*. However, in 1 Kings 3:1, we read that Solomon formed an alliance with Pharaoh, king of Egypt, by marrying his daughter and brought her to the City of David.

One of Solomon's greatest faults came from the multiplication of wives, in which he followed the custom of the day. But Solomon loved others beside Pharaoh's daughter, and as was the custom of the times, he married them, until he eventually had 700

wives and 300 concubines (or lesser wives). They gradually led him away from the pure worship of Yahweh. He married *"many strange women"* (1 Kings 11:1). The word in Hebrew is *"nokree"* and signifies "foreign women". They were foreign in every sense: not only by birth but also by religion. They came from the surrounding nations, from Moab, Ammon, Edom, and Zidon. The Israelites were commanded not to marry any from these nations unless they embraced the hope of Israel as did faithful Ruth. These women did not do that. Instead, they introduced their religious beliefs and practices into Israel. Polygamy led to Polytheism: many wives led to many religions. They asked Solomon to build altars so that they might worship their gods.



Solomon had made one mistake in marrying them; he made a second when he listened to them and allowed them to build their altars and temples to pagan gods. And then came the final terrible step. Solomon also went after pagan gods. Exodus 22:20 is one of the many places in Scriptures that speak of the danger of worshipping the pagan gods of the time. This verse

reads – *"He that sacrifices to any god, save to the LORD only, he shall be utterly destroyed."*

The following verses teach us of the commandments to God's people regarding marriages.

- Genesis 6:1-3 - the sons of God married the daughters of men
- Genesis 24:1-4 - Abraham instructed his chief servant to find his son a wife of his own kindred
- Deuteronomy 7: 2-4 - the Israelites were to make no marriages with any of the seven nations they conquered.
- Exodus 34:14-15 - worship no other God, make no covenant with other nations

- Numbers 25:1-9 - Moab seduced the people to worship Baal of Peor 24,000 died.

The law had been given, and the people knew it, but did they do it? No. Look at the exhortation of Exodus 22:20 and the other verses listed above. We are told that before the Flood, the sons of God saw the daughters of men and took them as wives as they chose. Later on, Abraham would not let his son marry from the Canaanites. The Lord knew that the daughters of men would lead Israel to pagan worship and forsake Him. We see this fulfilled in the account of all of the wives of Solomon.

A true servant of Yahweh should only marry those who embrace the One Hope (1 Corinthians 7:39) so that there is complete harmony in the home concerning the things of God. A husband and wife are united in the same hope. A mutual faith will bind stronger the bands of true love so that there is complete harmony in the home concerning the things of God; a husband and wife are then united in the same hope of eternal life. A mutual faith will bind the bands of true love and will bring unity and happiness to married life, not problems. Thus, Paul taught: "*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers...*" (2 Corinthians 6:14). Young people should bear this well in mind when entering upon courtship or marriage. At such a time they need to remember that they are undertaking a contract that is for life, and upon which earnest thought needs to be exercised, lest a mistake be made that will result in much unhappiness, and lead away from the Truth.

~~When I was young my mother would say find yourself a nice Christadelphian girl to marry. Well she didn't know what was to happen with the breakup of the ecclesias, and the going to the amended. Parents for the most will follow their children instead of following after truth.~~

Can we think of a woman who led her husband to sin, which caused the downfall of mankind to condemnation? Of course, we are talking about Eve and her actions as recorded in Genesis 3.

Yahweh was angry with the actions of Solomon concerning the worship of the false gods of his wives. 1 Kings 11:4-12 tells us of Yahweh's attitude

towards these sinful acts of Solomon. *"For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded. Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son."*

Solomon had not kept the Lord's commandments, so, the Lord would rend the Kingdom from him. Because of Solomon's worship of the false gods of his wives, the Mount of Olives came to be known as the mount of corruption. 2 Kings 23:13 – *"The king also desecrated the high places east of Jerusalem, to the south of the Mount of Corruption, which King Solomon of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites."*

The Lord was very angry with Solomon. Sin is sin no matter who commits it. God is as much displeased with the sin of Solomon as he can be with anyone else. And although God sees that sin in precisely the same degree of moral depravity as to the act itself, yet there may be circumstances which

greatly aggravate the offense, and subject the offender to greater punishment. Solomon was wise; he knew better; his understanding showed him the vanity as well as the wickedness of idolatry. God had appeared unto him twice, and thus given him the most direct proof of His being and of His providence. The promises of God had been fulfilled to him in the most remarkable manner, and in such a way as to prove that they came by a Divine counsel. Solomon's crimes, in every case, has the same degree of moral wickedness in the sight of God; but circumstances may so aggravate, as to require the offender to be more grievously punished; so the punishment may be legally increased where the crime is the same. Solomon deserved more punishment for his worship of Ashtoreth than any of the Sidonians did, though they performed precisely the same acts. The Sidonians had never known the true God; Solomon had been fully acquainted with him.

In the book of Proverbs, we find a list of what are known as the vanities of life. Solomon experienced all of these during his lifetime. In this book, he writes about these matters.

- **WISDOM** — it cannot solve the problems of life: wise and fools have one end.
- **LABOR** — the worker is no better than the shirker in the end. One dieth so dieth all.
- **PURPOSE** — man proposes but God disposes.
- **RIVALRY** — success brings envy, not joy.
- **AVARICE** or excessive greed — "much" wants "more".

- **FAME** — it is brief, uncertain, soon forgotten.
- **GREED** — money does not satisfy.
- **COVETING** the gain it brings is often not enjoyed.
- **FRIVOLITY**—lack of seriousness, it only hides the inevitable sad end.
- **AWARDS** — the bad is often awarded instead of the good.

Solomon tried all these things! He looked about for something new and different to do. He could not find it. He became bored with life. Late in life he learned the answer, but it was too late to then obtain the full benefit of the lasting great joy that Yahweh had placed within his reach. As an old man, he wrote: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecclesiastics 12:13-14). Solomon's experience finally led him to the right conclusion in life, namely that service to God can transform these vanities into something really worthwhile. When Christ governs our lives, then wisdom, labor, purpose, fame, and pleasure take on a new meaning.; we know that work done in His name is not in vain; "*Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them*" (Ecclesiastics. 12:1). That, Solomon failed to do. He learned by bitter experience that it pays to serve God in truth.

Pat Dew

"As soon as society abandons a standard of judgment (which in former days was the Bible) and becomes a society which measures themselves by themselves, the lowest common denominator of morals and ethics will always prevail. All of us are bound to be influenced by the trends of society around us. We are apt to think that as long as we are not going downhill as fast as the society around us, we are in pretty good shape. This is a very dangerous attitude, because what would have utterly shocked Christadelphians 50 years ago has now lost its connotation of spiritual decline. It is of no use to take comfort in the fact that the society around us is far worse! Our standard of morality and propriety is not to be measured by the consensus of public opinion but rather by the high standards of the Word of God." - Edward Farrar

ACCOUNT OF A CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR

In the December of 1985 (December 15th) an article appeared in the Arkansas Gazette titled *"Camp Magnolia housed those who refused to fight."* It was an account of the conscientious objectors to military service that were assigned there during the 1940s. The camp was located near Magnolia, AR. One of the brothers assigned there was Bro. Ted O'Kelley.

Bro. James Stanton reprinted the article in the February 1986 Sanctuary-Keeper, along with a personal account from Bro. O'Kelley. We do not have the space here to provide the Arkansas Gazette article, but we are providing Bro. O'Kelley's recollections of his experience.



ACTIVITIES AT CAMP MAGNOLIA

YOU can imagine my complete surprise when the article on the camp at Magnolia appeared in the December 15 issue of the *Arkansas Gazette*. It brought back memories sharp and clear of CPS #7 after forty years or more. It was a resurrection of part of me that had been buried for many years. It was much like a computer - the keys were touched and the images appeared upon the screen. I was nineteen again [twenty by the editor's calculation] and reporting to Camp Magnolia for an experience very new to me.

I really never saw my camp experience as some kind of sacrifice. In fact, I was glad to get out of Conway. The social climate for one of my persuasion was tedious and at times oppressive. My going into CPS was delayed for almost a year as the FBI checks me out from first grade in grammar school to the time I was on campus at Arkansas State Teachers College, now the University of Central Arkansas. I completed my sophomore year and then got a letter

from Uncle Sam (in July, I think) telling me to get my affairs in order. I reported to Camp Magnolia in September 1943. During the FBI episode I was notified to appear before a federal judge (I still remember his name - Mr. Henry) and was told to bring one witness with me. Brother C.L. Ghent went with me and Judge Henry instructed him that he was not to comment or respond in any way unless he was specifically asked. I still remember what Judge Henry said, "I'm only interested in what this young man has to say - what he says here will determine his future." He also reminded me that everything I said would be taken down by a stenographer.

You may wonder how I knew that the FBI had gone all the way back to grammar school days. I not only was told this, but Judge Henry, in the hearing, mentioned a Mrs. Files who was one of my teachers, referring to her by name. What does this tell us about counseling our young people in the way they conduct their early lives? One of my teachers told the FBI that I attended on a regular basis a church-

sponsored Bible School in the summer. This came up in the hearing. The Judge asked Dr. Ghent to confirm this.

Charles Ghent, Dr. Ghent's son, preceded me by one month in being sent to camp. Shelby Lenox, my brother-in-law, went in the spring or early summer of 1943, being the first Arkansas Christadelphian to be sent to camp. There were nine Christadelphians at Camp Magnolia when the tornado hit. Five were Texans. Owen Williams, now deceased; Edwin Brooks; Van Copeland, also now deceased (he was accidentally electrocuted while doing some wiring work for his ecclesia back home several years after the war; an aluminum ladder touched some overhead wires); Lloyd Harrison; and Kirby Wolfe of the Amended. Shelby, Charles, Paul Burd and myself were the others. When the camp shut down I was sent to CPS camp #21 in Cascade Locks, Oregon along with Lloyd Harrison, Charles Ghent, Paul Burd, and Noel Canady who was just entering camp. Kirby Wolfe was in his late thirties; he stayed, as far as I can remember, until after the clean-up and close-down of the camp. I vaguely recall the terms "Responsibility" and "enlightened rejector." The doctrinal aspects of this were unknown to me at the time. We had never had any first-hand experience with the Amended in Arkansas. Do you recall any of this being emphasized when we were growing up? (Question to bro. Jim Stanton - Editor.) I just can't seem to place it as a prominent thing in our instruction. I do remember that there was a difference and it came up in my association with Kirby Wolfe at camp. However, we were able to converse and talk about it.

This was in considerable contrast to my experience in Cascade Locks. I was informed that two new men were being sent to SPS #21 and I was assigned to get them bunked and taken care of. I knew beforehand that they were Christadelphians and that they were Amended. One was a brother Nick Mammone and the other from Illinois, but I can't recall his name. Nick and I became very close and had many Bible discussions and studies together. His companion was very aloof and made no bones about where his sympathies were. I'm not stretching this -

he considered Unamended as incurable lepers. He and Nick had words over his relationship with me. Nick was bunked in my barracks. It is interesting how all this comes back to mind. I do know that fellowship was mutually felt untenable. Nick was a chess player, He taught me the fundamentals of the game, all of which has long departed from me.

I now recall something I said in my hearing before Judge Henry. He said he knew that the Christadelphian were considered as one of the historic peace "churches" of this country. He said that his knowledge of Christadelphian was favorable in image. He then said (I can remember this so well), "I have a Jehovah's Witness waiting in the adjoining room for a hearing. I have found them to be belligerent and difficult." It was my impression that Judge Henry's mind had already been made up. You know that many Jehovah's Witnesses went to prison. There were about a dozen in Magnolia. One from Missouri told me he was ashamed of the reputation they had in the eyes of the public. This is quite different among the JW's now. It was evident that during the 1930s and 1940s they drew adherents from the blue-collar and laboring class. There were about sixteen of them at Cascade Locks. Three or four were in my barracks. We had some good - sometimes pretty rousing - discussions. There seemed to be a mutually-felt respect for our shared rejection of the doctrine of the immortality of the soul; some lively disagreement on the devil and the return of Christ having come in 1914. Also we would get some up-tight JW's when we accused them of teaching "heaven-going" and a kingdom on the earth. This was based upon their belief that the 144,00 were a select group and were considered to have achieved a higher status, i.e., that they would spend eternity in heaven.

They were militant in their feelings and teaching about the Catholic Church. This is another area where we both had a meeting of the minds.

One of the JW's at Camp Magnolia lost an arm in the storm. (A tornado went through the camp on April 10, 1944. Bro. Ted's back was also injured in the storm. - Editor.) It was badly mutilated and gangrene set in. He and I shared the same hospital room. His

mother was there when the decision was made to take the arm. He, of course, was discharged from service after that. He was also a pretty good auto mechanic.

In the article where the \$2.50 per month pay is mentioned, there is a little story about this. Once a month we would line up outside the mess hall to get our pay. We would sign upon receiving our \$2.50. Believe me, this looked pretty big to all of us. We had a camp canteen to support. Anyway, there was a decision made in the brotherhood (I can see the ecclesial business meetings) to send each brother in the camps \$5.00 a month. About the same time each month the Christadelphian checks would arrive in the mail. It was a big joke in camp - they called us bankers and capitalists. Men in camp would ask, "How do you become a Christadelphian?" "What do you have to do to get the \$5.00 check?"

Charles Ghent, Gene Alexander and myself saved enough money to take a furlough to Southern California. We attended the Los Angeles meeting the Sunday we were there. They were meeting in a hotel (I can't remember it's name) in downtown Los Angeles. I remember seeing some from Arkansas there. Charles was driving a Model-A Ford in good condition. We lost a wheel on a large boulevard. The wheel passed us and crashed into a gas pump in a service station on the opposite side of the boulevard. An older brother took us to the famous Farmer's Market. This was my first experience with shrimp.

(End of Bro. O'Kelley's remarks. And the beginning of Bro. Stanton's added comments.)

Having received the above article and letter, I researched the issues of *The Advocate* for the years 1941-45 for more information on the Christadelphian who went to conscientious objector camps. There is surprisingly little mention of it in the ecclesial news of that time. As I recall it was felt at the time that we should be careful not to publicly advise young men to take this stand - it should be an individual decision of conscience, not a denominational position.

Ted O'Kelley's back was injured in the tornado which struck Magnolia. he spent some time in CPS #21 in Oregon but his back still bothered him, and does to this day. He was discharged from Cascade Locks and his return trip back across the country to Arkansas was enlivened by encounters with battle-

weary servicemen returning from the Pacific war zones who didn't take favorably to meeting up with a conscientious objector. As I recall the story, he was in such a strait that he decided to abandon his train in Wyoming, leaving behind his belongings and Bible. Not a few of the soldiers were drinking heavily. Every time he would leave his seat as if to go to the restroom, soldiers would arise to guard the exit in case he had ideas of leaving. It was due to the stupor caused by the alcohol that his adversaries all fell asleep thus allowing him the opportunity to get off the train.

I also appeared before Judge Henry while I was making my appeal for recognition as a conscientious objector. He was not as kind in his recognition of my petition. Dr. Ghent accompanied me. In the report which went to Selective Service, Dr. Ghent was pictured as a Pied Piper who influenced all the young men of the Christadelphian community to seek shelter under the umbrella that some had successfully used. The summation of his report in my case was that I was not in fact a conscientious objector and that if inducted into the armed services that I would make a good soldier. Subsequently, I was deferred for failure to pass the physical examination.

It was a time of testing, and many of the brethren gave and received strength as a result of the faith shown by the young men. I know that there were more, but the ones I remember who went into CPS camps were Don Robitaille, L.E. Parker, Roscoe Starratt, Tony Giordano, Pete Ribaudo, John E. Washeck, George Brazeal, Charles Munn, Clarence Wade, Ernest Hardy, Frank Henderson, Edgar Quillin and the ones mentioned in the above article. Blair Smith was employed by the National Service Board for Religious Objectors. I was in farm work on Cape Cod along with Sam DiLiberto, Jack Giordano, Andrew Hagman, Reginald Swift, and some of the above CPS attendees. In the arrangement of things, one sent to camp could apply for detached service, usually in a hospital, and be placed there with pay of \$40 a month. The sisters, particularly those associated with Sister Mabel Lowry of Worcester, Mass., did much to keep up the morale of the boys by sending packages containing candy, toilet articles, literature, etc.

- *The Sanctuary-Keeper*, Feb. 1986

EDITORIAL FLYLEAF

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON ISRAEL

It is certainly very difficult to watch the hypocritical way much of the world treats Israel in these End Times. They declare that Israel has “the right of self-defense” until Israel attempts to defend itself. Then they are accused of “war crimes” and “genocide”. Israeli soldiers are denounced as “terrorists”, while the real terrorists are lauded as “freedom fighters.” Israel is labeled as foreign “colonizers” when in fact the Jews have maintained some kind of continuous presence in the Land for centuries. It is claimed that they stole The Land, when so much of it (and at the time, desolate) was actually purchased from the Ottomans. Later the entire region was captured by the British. The rest of Israel’s land holdings were captured as the result of wars that Israel did not start, with the exception of the Six-Day War which was simply preemptive in nature. It is claimed that Israel is an “apartheid state” when Arabs living in Israel have more “rights and freedoms” than their Arab relatives in neighboring countries.

We could go on and on here. All of us have had plenty of exposure to factual history that exposes the horrid hypocrisies thrown at the Jews for centuries and the various conspiracies to discredit and undermine Jewish aims for the last many decades. Whether it be the historic anti-semitism found in the U.S. State Department; actions/inactions of the British Diplomatic Service; Papal conspiracies to side with the Nazis and their later opposition to the establishment of a Jewish State; Russian efforts to bolster the enemies of Israel; the continued efforts of the United Nations to single out Israel as the number one human rights violator in the world through continuous condemnations; etc., etc. With all of the evils and horrid atrocities committed across the globe - why does the world obsess over one race



and one specific nation? There is only one answer, and that is their role in God’s Plan and Purpose. Without understanding this, all of the natural reasonings as to why there is so much hatred directed at the Jews mean nothing. None of it can make any sense without this all-important realization. It also must be understood, no matter what other natural arguments or justifications are put forward in favor of or against Israel, that the Land of Israel is intended by God to be for the Jews ... PERIOD.

And - why do the nations care so much about Jerusalem or who controls it and the Land? To the natural senses, there is nothing reasonable in the obsession. The Muslims have Mecca, the Catholics have Rome, and the secularists and capitalists have their pick of vibrant, financial cities across the globe from London, to New York, to Hong Kong, etc. But God directs the nations and their obsessions. The preoccupation with Jerusalem and the Land plays a critical role in God’s Plan. All things surrounding the Jewish people, their Land, and their city are like an all-powerful magnet. The world is pulled in without really understanding why. The Scriptures address this infatuation - Zechariah 12:3 - *“And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.”*

Though we would expect to see some short-term improvements in circumstances in Israel, we also know that there is even greater trouble ahead for Israel before their final rescue by Christ and the Saints. **Jeremiah 30:7-9** - *“Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is **even the time of Jacob’s trouble**; but he shall be saved out of it. For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts,*

that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.” The prophet Daniel, speaking of the same time warns - **“and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time.”**

There is a powerful degree of irony in the fact that the pains of great tragedy for Israel and the Jews at the hands of the Gentiles will at the same time involve the breaking forth of unspeakable joy in their rescue at the hands of the Yahweh of Armies. The pain of birth gives way to the joy of Israel's salvation. It is to these joys, and all of the wonderful events that surround it (e.g. Christ on Earth again; The Resurrection; The Judgment and bestowal of eternal life; the destruction of Mystic Babylon, etc.) - it is to these things we should look in eager anticipation.

PSEUDO-DELPHIAN PROGNOSTICATORS

A brother shared with us the social media posting of an Unamended Christadelphian from the U.S. Northeast. It gives claim to an exact date of Christ's return and then proceeds to point to the scriptural passages that reference the sun, moon, and stars being darkened as being connected to future literal events in the heavens. We have addressed this issue before, that the dimming of heavenly objects or of the moon being turned to blood is **symbolic** language regarding the fortunes of the POLITICAL and RELIGIOUS authorities (heavens). So many false predictions have been made by Christadelphians over the years trying to identify constellations, comets, solar eclipses, and lunar eclipses to the return of Christ. Such an approach was forcefully condemned by our early brethren. Why is it not realized that it is to the political/religious heavens that we look for the signs of our times, not the literal heavens? Here is an excerpt of the posting:

Joel 2:10 KJVS

The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.”

When Jesus begins to return Aug 2, 2027, there is a near total eclipse for Israel. The heavens will

experience significant solar disturbance, it will be a dark day and earthquakes will ensue.

Jupiter King planet Jesus will be in Leo the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

Red blood Mars will be by the arm of Virgo the woman/Israel.

Joel 2:31 KJVS

“The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.”

At the judgement on Dec 31, 2028, there will be a very full blood moon lunar eclipse over Israel.

The sun is below the horizon. Blood red Mars will be at the shoulder of the woman/Israel and Jupiter/King planet Jesus will be at her side.

The Blood moon is in the center of the Gemini twins because there are two thrones set down.

One for Ancient of days

Daniel 7:9 KJVS

“I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.”

One for one like the Son of man

Daniel 7:13 KJVS

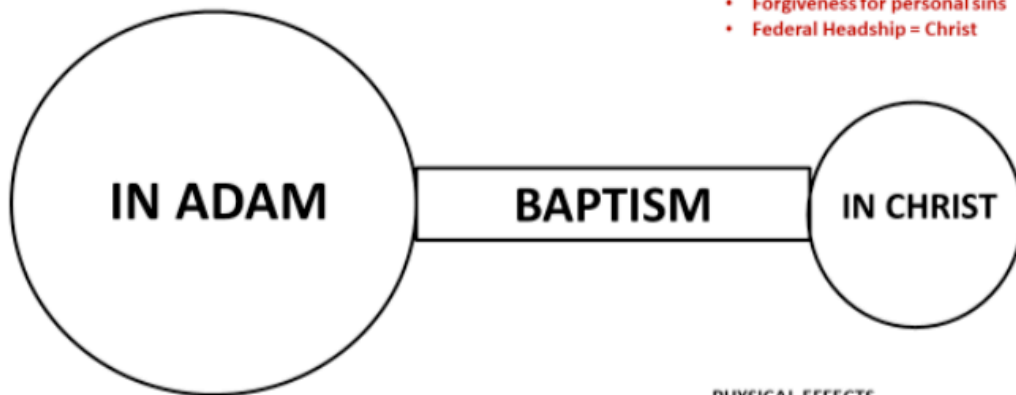
“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.”

Though the Scriptures are very clear that there will be a literal and topographic changing earthquake when Christ's feet touch the Mount of Olives (Zech 14:4), we also understand that the political/religious shaking of the entire earth will upend the ruling classes completely (of greater magnitude than the political/religious earthquake of the French Revolution - Rev. 11:13). After Armageddon (Rev.16:16) - we are informed that the pouring out of the Seventh Apocalyptic vial will result in *“thunders, lightnings”* and a *“great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great”* (Rev. 16:18). If we interpret this literally (after the same manner of literal interpretation demonstrated in the previous posting) than we miss the intent of Scripture and fall into the same errors of prophetic interpretation as false Christianity. - SK.

LAW OF SIN AND DEATH

ELEMENTS OF THE LAW

- Condemned to eternal death
- Alienated from God
- No hope for salvation
- No forgiveness for personal sins
- Federal Headship = Adam



PHYSICAL EFFECTS

- Sin nature (Sin in the Flesh)
- Prone to commit sins
- Dying, corruptible, mortal body of flesh
- Eternal Death for all who remain in Adam

LAW OF SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS

ELEMENTS OF THE LAW

- Freed from condemnation to eternal death
- Reconciled to God
- Assurance of resurrection and just judgment and hope of eternal life
- Forgiveness for personal sins
- Federal Headship = Christ

PHYSICAL EFFECTS

- Sin nature (Sin in the Flesh)
- Prone to commit sins
- Dying, corruptible, mortal body of flesh
- Sin nature removed at immortalization
- Eternal life for the Righteous
- Eternal Death for the UnRighteous

1877 BIRMINGHAM STATEMENT OF FAITH - CLAUSE #15, SECTION D:

*That at the appearing of Christ, **his servants, faithful and unfaithful, dead and living of both classes,** will be summoned before his judgment seat to "be judged according to their works;" "and receive in body according to what they have done; whether it be good or bad;" 1 - that the unfaithful will be consigned to shame and "the second death," 2 - and the faithful, invested with immortality, and associated with Jesus as joint heirs of the kingdom, co-possessors of the earth and joint administrators of God's authority, in matters both civil and religious.*

THE ORIGIN AND EXTENT OF THE KINGDOM OF MEN

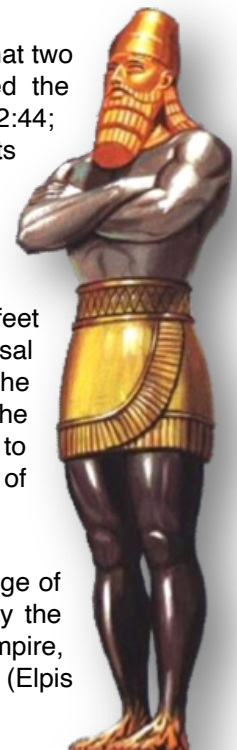
In taking a general survey of the contents of the Book of Daniel, it may be seen that two great powers are the principal subject of its predictions. The one is styled the KINGDOM OF MEN (Dan. 4:17) and the other the KINGDOM OF GOD (Dan. 2:44; 4:3; 7:27)...It will be seen that the Kingdom of men has been diversified in its constitution, extent and throne since its foundation by Nimrod to the present time. It has nevertheless been the same Nimroudian kingdom with Babylon and Assyria for its characteristics. (Exposition of Daniel, pp. 7,8)

THE FEET OF THE IMAGE

While the head, breast, arms, belly, thighs, legs and toes have all existed, the feet have not yet been formed; so that it has hitherto been impossible for the colossal image to stand erect as Nebuchadnezzar saw it in his dream...It is therefore, the mission of the Autocrat (of Russia) to form the feet and set up the image before the world in all its excellent brightness and terribleness of form; that all men subject to the kingdom of Babylon may worship the work of its creator's power. (Exposition of Daniel, p. 87)

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE IMAGE

The Russian Autocracy in its plenitude and on the verge of dissolution is the image of Nebuchadnezzar standing upon the mountains of Israel, ready to be smitten by the Stone. When Russia makes its grand move for the building up of its Image-empire, then let the reader know that the end of all things present constituted, is at hand. (Elpis Israel. preface)



THE GREAT WHITE THRONE



“And I saw a GREAT WHITE THRONE, and him sitting upon it, from whose face the earth and the heaven had fled away; and place had not been found for them.”

Rev. 20:11

THE establishment of the Great White Throne of Christ and his Brethren changes the face of the entire world. The Gentile Constitution of Society in Church and State is entirely abolished; and all the sinners, the “miserable sinners,” as they truly declare themselves to be, or “the spiritual of wickedness,” as Paul styles them, who constitute the hierarchies, aristocracies, and office-holders, of the body politic, will be abolished with it, being “scattered,” “put down,” and “sent away empty away” (Luke 1:51-53). Popes, Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Parsons, and all other sorts of superior and inferior dealers in “sorcery” and “Lies;” emperors, kings, cabinets, diplomatists, officers of state, military and naval commanders, parliaments, congresses, and all sorts of legislative bodies - these all will be chased into the darkness of annihilation, and historical contempt, as “the Devil and his Angels,” who for ages were “them who destroy the earth” (ch. 11:18). All these constituted things, with the peoples, nations and tongues, in their political aggregation, are the Gentile “Heavens and Earth,” or Body Politic. Its complete supersession by the world-wide dominion of the Saints, is Apocalyptically represented by the saying, “the Heaven and the Earth fled away; and place had been found for them no more.” The manner of their flight is symbolically illustrated in Dan. 2:34,35, where, as elements of Nebuchadnezzar’s political image, they are smitten by the Stone Power, and “broken to pieces together, and become like the chaff of the summer threshing-floors; and the wind carried them away, that *no place was found for them*; and the Stone that smote the image become a GREAT MOUNTAIN, and filled the whole earth.” - John Thomas, Eureka, Vol. 5, p. 332

