

The Concordant Persion of the Sacred Scriptures





Eale to promote the common good, whether it be by deuling any thing our felues, or reuifing that which hath bene laboured by others, deferueth certainly much respect and esteeme, but yet should but cold intertainment in the world. It is welcommed with suspicion in stead of soue, and with emulation in stead of thankes: and there be any hole left for cauill to enter, (and cauill, if it doe not finde a hole, will make one) it is sure to be emisconstrued, and in danger to be condemned. This will easily be granted by as many as know story, or have any experience. For, was there ever any thing projected, that savoured any way of newnesses or renewing, but the same

endured many a fforme of game-faying, or opposition? A man would thinke that Ciuilitie, hole forme Lawes, learning and eloquence, Synods, and Church-maintenance, (that we speake of no more things of this kinde) should be as safe as a Sanctuary, and flour of short, as they say, that no man would litt up the heele, no, nor dogge mooue his tongue against the motioners of them. For by the first, we are distinguished from bruit-beasts led with sensualitie: By the second, we are bridled and restrained from outragious behaulour, and from doing of iniuries, whether by fraud or by violence: By the third, we are enabled to informe and reforme others, by the light and seeling that we have attain

FACSIMILE OF THE INTRODUCTION TO THE AUTHORIZED VERSION

It will surprise many to read the above beginning to the introduction of the King James Version, now in common use. Notwithstanding the influence of both Church and State, king and clergy, it took fifty years to displace the other versions then in use. This will serve as an apology for the Concordant Version. Below is a reproduction in modern spelling:

ZEAL to promote the common good, whether it be by devising anything ourselves, or revising that which has been labored by others, deserves certainly much respect and esteem, but yet finds but cold entertainment in the world. It is welcomed with suspicion instead of love, and with emulation instead of thanks: and if there be any hole left for cavil to enter (and cavil, if it does not find a hole, will make one) it is sure to be misconstrued, and in danger to be condemned. This will easily be granted by as many as know history, or have any experience, For, was there ever anything projected, that savored any way of newness or renewing, but the same endured many a storm of gainsaying, or opposition? A man would think that civilization, wholesome laws, learning and eloquence, synods and church maintenance (that we speak of no more things of this kind) should be as safe as a santuarry, and out of shot, as they say, that no man would lift up the heel, no, nor dog move his tongue against the motioners of them. For by the first, we are distinguished from brute beasts led with sensuality; By the second, we are bridled and restrained from outrageous behaviour, and from doing of injuries, whether by fraud or by violence: By the third, we are enabled to inform and reform others, by the light and feeling that we have attai

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Concordant Version

The Sacred Scriptures

Designed to put the English reader in possession of all the vital facts of Divine revelation without a former knowledge of Greek by means of

A RESTORED GREEK TEXT

WITH VARIOUS READINGS conforming, as far as possible, to the inspired autographs

A UNIFORM SUBLINEAR

based upon an exclusive English equivalent for each Greek element, and

A CONSISTENT, EMPHASIZED ENGLISH VERSION

WITH NOTES

which are linked together and correlated for the English reader by means of

AN ENGLISH CONCORDANCE AND LEXICON

and a complementary list of

THE GREEK ELEMENTS



Completely Revised, 1930

THE CONCORDANT PUBLISHING CONCERN 2823 E. SIXTH ST., LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, U. S. A.

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The chart on page 64 gives the number and order of the books. As the text is always referred to by chapters and verses, no page numbers are used. Each book, however, is paged to correspond with the number of Greek letters. There are a thousand on each leaf, fifty lines, twenty to a line. Thus every Greek letter is numbered, and the pages represent the number of thousands of Greek letters used thus far in any book. The first page is always 0^{001} , the second 1^{001} , for the first letter on the second page is number one thousand one.

TO THE BELOVED READER

THE CONCORDANT VERSION proposes to make it possible for any person of ordinary intelligence to discover for himself just what God has said, and to furnish him with facts sufficient to test any interpretation. It aims to be simple enough for the uneducated, sufficient for the needs of the student, and so accurate and comprehensive that the scholar will be satisfied. It is limited to the so-called "New Testament", at present. Much work has been done on the Hebrew text, also, and it may be published later.

The Concordant method places the work of translation on a permanent systematic and scientific basis. The probability of error is reduced a hundred fold. The facilities for further revision and correction are correspondingly increased.

This plan gives the Scriptures to the people, and removes the necessity of relying on human learning or authority in matters of the gravest moment, where it is of supreme importance that they procure the counsel of God, unclouded by the creeds and traditions which corrupt the current texts. The Version is intended to be *read*, the Interlinear and Concordance are for *reference*. When certainty becomes vital and imperative, the evidence is at hand. It is a supreme satisfaction to know that any fact in divine revelation can be checked at will.

A comparison of a few lines of the Concordant Version with other translations will reveal many minute points which excel in accuracy, and fresh renderings which throw a new light upon difficult, obscure, and misunderstood passages.

Only by carefully reading the following Introduction will the reader be able to grasp the tremendous possibilities and immeasurable value of this plan, as a means of entering into the mind and heart of God.

PREFACE TO THE REVISED EDITION

SINCE the first edition was completed, the CONCORDANCE has been prepared for the press. In doing this each word and grammatical form, in the Greek, the Sublinear, and the Version has been checked again. The result is most gratifying. Only three letters of the Greek text were found to be incorrect. Few changes were needed in the Version. The alterations are nearly all such as would be entirely disregarded in other versions. Yet the immense labor bestowed on this revision brings the work still nearer that ideal perfection which should be the aim of every version of God's holy Word.

The publication of the Concordance, the Grammar, and the Word Elements places the Concordant Version in a class by itself. Such works expose the inconsistencies of other translations. They are the best possible guaranty of the integrity, the accuracy, and the harmony of this version as a transcript of God's inspired revelation. The concordant method is receiving recognition in other lands. Now that the apparatus is ready, work will commence in several languages. We will supply all translators free with this means of making a faithful version or revision, and request that this offer be given every possible

publicity, especially in missionary publications.

The Hebrew and Chaldee vocabulary has been assigned most of its English standards. In order to test some of these, a special journey to Palestine is contemplated. No effort will be spared to get actual evidence, so that the version will be in accord with the land as well as concordant within itself. The setting of such passages as the twenty-third psalm will be changed from an English countryside to the wilderness of Judea, where David dwelt, with

great gain in coloring and accuracy and spiritual force.

Other methods of translation stereotype accepted error. The glory of the concordant principle is that it discovers and corrects venerable misconceptions, removes difficulties, solves mysteries, and allows the light to shine unhindered into our hearts. The version has fully met our expectations in this regard, for it solves some of the difficult theological problems simply and satisfactorily. No other method can compare with it in opening up the mind and heart of God, or in giving the profound conviction that the Scriptures are in very truth the Word of the living God.

The COMPILER takes this means of publicly expressing his gratitude and appreciation to the many friends who have graciously helped him in this undertaking. Without their aid the work would have been impossible. May our Lord Himself reward them in that day! The further progress of the work is entirely in the hands of God, and those whom He rouses to carry it on, for His glory, and the honor of His beloved Son, Christ Jesus, our Saviour and

Lord, Who loves us, and Who is coming for us.

Los Angeles, California, U.S.A. October, 1930

PURPOSE AND PLAN

GOD HAS SPOKEN. His word is the only revelation of divine light and life and love. Nothing can compare with a close acquaintance with His will and a clear apprehension of His grace. That the English reader may rest assured and the student be satisfied that he is enjoying the pure word of God, precisely as He has been pleased to reveal it, the Concordant Version proposes to provide him with all the essential facts so that every point can easily be tested and the translation of any passage verified. The object of this work is to go to the very limits of fidelity in translating the word of God into English and to guarantee its truth by putting the reader in possession of all the evidence, so that he may check every detail for his own satisfaction.

This is accomplished by basing the work on definite laws of language rather than on the authority of scholars, and by the use of set standards, much as a carpenter uses his rule or square, or a merchant his scales. A merchanic can work without a gauge, but his efforts would be unsatisfactory. A translation based on linguistic law and after a definite design has advantages which no other can claim.

The work divides itself into two principal parts, the Greek text and the English version. These are correlated by a Sublinear, based on an analysis of the Greek into its Elements, and a Concordance, which shows where every form of every word may be found. Thus the English reader, who knows nothing of Greek, has somewhat the same advantage as the learned scholar. Anyone can readily refer to the Lexical Concordance to find the meaning and occurrences of any word, and those of the entire family of which it is a member, and satisfy himself as to the correctness and accuracy of any passage.

Uniformity or consistency is the keynote. This is attained by the use of a standard English expression for every Greek element of the original, and secondary standards which correspond to the words, and form the basis of the version. All is uniform when possible, and consistent, when uniformity is impracticable.

THE SCRIPTURES INSPIRED

The only possible apology for such an exhaustive and elaborate method of translating the scriptures is the profound con-

viction that they are the very words of God. It is a fact that considerable portions record the thoughts of God's enemies, and are not His sayings or declarations. But, while these are not themselves divine, the record of them is, for they serve as a foil for the positive revelations

from the mouth of Deity.

All scripture is inspired by God (2 Ti. 316). Since the spirit imparts life, we understand that the sacred writings are superior to other literature in the same way that God's living creatures surpass the inventions of man. The word of God is living: man's writings are dead. As, in nature. God alone can bridge the gulf between the organic and inorganic or living and non-living, so He has given us His words, which are spirit and are life. and which alone can impart life to dead humanity. No other book has the vitality and vivifying power of the book of books.

The CONCORDANT VERSION is the only one which practically acknowledges the inspiration or vitality of the Sacred Scriptures by using a method of translation based on the denial of human ability to sound its depths or scale its heights, and by insisting on its superhuman perfection even to the minutest detail. It is not the reiteration of any formula of "verbal" inspiration which counts with God, but the actual attitude of the heart, which confesses its own inability to transcribe thoughts, and the intelligent appreciation of His words, which considers every element and listens to every letter.

The Concordant is not a "private" version. Indeed, it is far less so than even the Authorized or Revised. While these do not express the private opinions of one man, they reflect the bias of a group and the tendency of the times in which they were made. The CONCORDANT VERSION is also the work of a group of men, for the assistants of the Editor tested all his work by the principles on which it is founded. Moreover, any one can do the same by means of the Concordance and ELEMENTS. No version which provides the tools for testing its translations by the laws of language can be anything but a "public" version. Other versions are artistic; it is scientific in the best sense of that word. It aims at truth and accuracy rather than literary elegance.

THE CONCORDANT METHOD

As an earnest Bible student, desiring to understand the word of God. I discovered that practically all solid progress in the recovery of truth during the last century had come through the use of the concordance. I found that those of my friends who based their study on a concordance made the surest and speediest advance in their knowledge of God. Hence I also began to test and correct my ideas as to the meaning of Bible words by tracing them through all their occurrences. The immense profit and pleasure of this plan awoke in me a strong desire to do all in my power to assist others in this safe and satisfactory method of assuring themselves of the real revelation which God has given.

But I found that even keen students of exceptional intelligence were not able to derive much benefit from concordances based on English translations. Only those who used concordances based on the original languages received real help. And even they were harassed by using a version which continually counteracted the benefits of their concordant study. So it gradually dawned on me that it was foolish to fill my mind with a discordant version if I hoped to advance in the knowledge of God. It would be just as sane to tangle up a ball of twine before trying to use it.

Thus it was that the idea of a concordant version suggested itself to my mind. Instead of correcting current translations occasionally by a concordance, why not make a version which is already concordant, so that the simple reading of it will give all the benefits otherwise won by prolonged and arduous study? such a version might do far more to bring the unschooled reader into accord with the truth than would be possible by the patient and prolonged study of a concordance. For instance, it would be easy to explain what the soul is if our translators had never rendered it life. It would be an impossible task to correct all the mistranslations in the minds of Bible Why not make a version in readers. which psuchê is always soul, and zōê life?

A REVERENT METHOD

No one could honestly object to this method, for it is not based on human scholarship but on a worshipful recognition of the divine Author's ability to make Himself understood. Most versions always render zōê life, so that no one is at a loss to know the significance of the word. But how few know what soul means! That is because it is not uniformly translated. In the Hebrew Scriptures it is rendered by over forty different expressions, such as appetite, beast, body, breath, creature, ghost, heart, lust, man, mind, pleasure, but especially by life. The Greek word is rendered mind, heart, and life (more than thirty times) besides soul.

A SANE PRINCIPLE

I appeal to the sanctified common sense of the saints, "the spirit of a sound mind" (2 Ti.17). If the holy spirit intended us to understand life in so many places where the original has soul, why was not the word for life used? I came to the definite conclusion, which has been strengthened by tests extending over a quarter century of study, that, wherever possible, each word in the original should be represented in translation by only one English word. Then the English reader, seeing this English word in all of the correct contexts, subconsciously acquires its exact signification and force and color.

Another principle I found to be of just as great importance. The same illustration will serve. Even the word life has lost its distinct meaning by being used for soul. No one would tolerate such a translation as "The first man Adam was made a living life." Why, then, translate "Take no thought for your life"? (Lu. 1222). Why not "Do not worry about the soul"? No English word should do duty for more than one word of the original. This is quite as necessary as using only one English word for each Greek or Hebrew expression. Between the two we have the best possible safety device for insuring purity, clarity, and accuracy in the translation of God's holy word.

A SIMPLE SHORT CUT

The Concordant Version is not another burden for the student to bear, but an easy, simple, short cut to knowledge which would cost him more than a lifetime of study by any other method. In stead of giving him a puzzle to solve, it gives him the solution. He does not need to study a concordance of the original to

find out the exact meaning of any word. First, he is assured that he has the nearest English equivalent. Second, he knows that when he sees it he may depend upon it that the light of the context is true and not a false beacon to lead him astray.

The greatest benefit will come, not to the student as such, but to the humble reader who will simply use the version and allow the contexts to color each word and define its force for him. He will be a constant attendant in the school of God, quite independent of human learning or scholarship.

NOT A MODERN VERSION

The Concordant is not a "modern" version. Neither is it archaic. The method is such that little regard could be paid to the outward embellishment of thought. All appearances are subordinated to truth. Yet truth is itself so desirable and beautiful that only the superficial and unbelieving will prefer error because it is arrayed in robes rich and venerable. The living Word was not clothed in sumptuous garb to entice the eye. He had no form or comeliness. There was no beauty, that they should desire Him. So is the written word. The desire to dress it up is of the world and not of God. Those who despise its meanness ally themselves with the throng who crucified the Lord of glory.

We are warned that, in the latter eras, religious men will want their ears tickled rather than their hearts aroused (2 Ti. 43). They will prefer the musical to the true. Familiar, finely phrased error will appeal to their ears rather than inspired facts to their minds. But truth has a spiritual harmony and sweet accord which no dissonance can mar, and which is unutterably more pleasing to the anointed ear than all the music of mere sound.

BASED ON THE ORIGINAL

The concordant method of studying the scriptures uses a concordance to discover the meaning of a word, not in any version, but in the original. It is based on its occurrences in the Hebrew, Chaldee, or Greek, however it may be translated into English. The aim is to discover the usage and fix its signification by its inspired associations. It is in line with the linguistic law that the meaning of a word is decided by its usage. In this version the efficiency and value of this method has been greatly multiplied by extending it to the elements of which words are composed and by combining with it the vocabulary method,

which deals with each word as a definite province of the realm of thought which must be carefully kept within its own boundaries.

WORD ANALYSIS

The evidence for the exact force of a given expression is multiplied many times if we separate it into its elements. Take one of the two words which are usually rendered "foundation". Its elements are DOWN-CAST, and the Greek has found its way into English in the word catabolism. The element pown brings in two hundred witnesses, while CAST commands over fifty. These we may call its near relatives. They arouse a suspicion in our minds that down-casting is a strange and unlikely word for "foundation". It does not suggest building up but casting down. By testing this new thought in all the contexts we discover that DOWN-CASTING means disruption, not foundation.

THE ENGLISH-GREEK SUBLINEAR

Not only does the separation of the Greek vocabulary into its elements help in fixing its true meaning, but it enables us to build up an artificial English-Greek for use in the Sublinear which brings the two languages together in a most interesting and profitable way. The reader who knows no Greek is easily able to follow and grasp the idiom of the original, and to enjoy God's revelation in the very mold in which He cast it. There is the same relation between His thoughts and words, and between the words themselves that exists in the inspired autographs.

Such an English-Greek translation is by far the best instrument for making a version in which the thoughts, rather than the identical symbols of thought, The human mind at its must be used. best is limited. The keenest intellect needs this assistance. The mathematician might be able to count without the use of figures. But how far could the science of mathematics go if it had no numerals? So the Elements used in this version help to convey the precise values of the Greek into the English. Such a word as repentance is far more colorful when we find that, in Greek, it is called "after-MIND".

GRAMMATICAL STANDARDS

Still greater is the gain in the grammatical elements. Take the word usually rendered Who hath abolished (2 Ti.110). Now we know that death has not been abolished yet. From the ending of the

word we see that its grammatical elements associate it with *indefinite* verbals, which do not state the time of the action. Hundreds of other passages, where this form is used, focus their light on this, and we are practically compelled to render it *Who abolishes*. The great value of this change is instantly evident, for we can literally believe it, though we could not believe that death *has been* abolished.

We unhesitatingly make two tremendous claims for concordant uniformity in transferring the grammatical elements into English. The probability of such renderings being correct is increased many fold, for all the evidence is continually before us, and subject to scrutiny. Moreover, even if a standard should be wrong, or, what is more likely, is not a perfect equivalent, the very fact that it occurs in all the divine contexts will tend to modify and correct it. Uniformity in rendering Greek grammatical elements into

English is even more important than present exactness, for it is the only way to eventual exactitude.

We have taken the Greek grammatical elements and given to each a corresponding English form. Any one can see what confusion will result if we should not always translate a past by a past, a future by a future, and a present by a present. We must sort out our equivalents in this way or truth is turned into pious error. The very fact that there is a special form for the past proves that the indefinite is not a past. If the past can be rendered Iwrote, the indefinite must be different. The existence of the present incomplete form, I am writing, bars the indefinite from this rendering. If we assign all available English forms except the Greek indefinite and have nothing but the English indefinite left, that alone goes far to prove the correctness of I write. No other method can be so safe or satisfactory.

THE VOCABULARY METHOD

The concordant method has been used in a fragmentary way for a century. So far as we know, the Concordant Version is the first attempt to employ it systematically and exhaustively by applying it to the complete vocabulary of the sacred text. From this has sprung the complementary "vocabulary" method. It insists, not on uniformity, but the opposite. If PLACE-CARE means foundation, and its elements and contexts clearly agree with that meaning, then DOWN-CASTING, which our versions so translate, does not mean foundation. In some languages we may not always have enough words to cover all cases, but English certainly ought to furnish sufficient. In this extreme example, the words are totally unlike in elements, association and contexts. means foundation, the other disruption.

The meaning or usage of one word is necessarily distinct from that of all other words. If we have placed all the words in the vocabulary of the Greek scriptures but one, we have a vast fund of information as to what it does not mean. This, of course, is not necessary with many words, but it is of the utmost value in dealing with words of similar or related meaning. Let any one study a passage in our accepted versions in which a number of synonyms are used together and he will find that our translators were forced to better work by the presence of words of

nearly the same signification. What a pity they did not use such renderings elsewhere!

Let us take an example from the socalled Authorized Version. It translates twenty-one words depart. We will give the CONCORDANT standard of each and a passage, if possible, where they agree:

UP-LEAD they render $led\ up\ (Mt.4^1)$ and $departed\ (Ac.28^{10})$.

UP-LOOSE is both return (Lu.1236) and depart (Phil.123).

UP-SPACE, meaning retire, they render departed (Mt.2¹²).

FROM-CHANGE, meaning clear, is departed $(Ac.19^{12})$.

FROM-COME, meaning pass away (Un.214) is depart (Mt.818) many times.

FROM-LOOSE, meaning release (Mt.2726) or dismiss (Ac.1530) is sometimes depart (Ac.2825).

(Ac.13°0) is sometimes depurt (Ac.2325).

FROM-SPACE is always correctly depurt (Mt. 723 Lu.939 Ac.1313) as also in the Concordant Version.

FROM-SPACEIZE they have tried to distinguish on one occasion by adding asunder (Ac.15 ³⁹), but in its other occurrences departed Un.6¹⁴). It means recoil.

FROM-STAND, withdraw (1 Ti.65) is usually rendered departed (Lu.237).

Thru-spaceize, sever, they make depart also (Lu.933).

THRU-COME, pass through (Lu.430) is once depart (Ac.1314).

OUT-BE, be off, is twice depart (Ac.1715).

OUT-COME, come out, (Mt.526) is depart (Mt. 931) a few times.

OUT-GO, go out, is depart (Mt.2029).

Down-come, come down (Lu.431) is once depart (Ac,134).

WITH-(after)-go, proceed, is usually depart.
WITH-LIFT, withdraw, is also depart (Mt. 1333).

BESIDE-LEAD, pass by (Mk.214) is once departed (Mt.927).

Go (Mt.28) is occasionally varied to depart (Mt.29).

UNDER-LEAD, go away (Jn.1428) is rendered depart (Mk.633).

SPACEIze, separate (Ro.835) they have, on good grounds, rendered depart when it refers to a place (Ac.14181,2), and the English seems to have no nearer term, and the Greek word differs but slightly from FROM-SPACE.

Is it not very evident that the translation of twenty words depart, when English has an abundant supply of synonyms, is in itself a departure from the dictates of reason and real reverence? How is it possible for the English reader to grasp twenty-one different ideas through the medium of one word? But the confusion is worse confounded by the fact that twenty different sets of contexts are throwing a false flood of light upon the word, and the light is darkness.

The vocabulary method, used in the CONCORDANT VERSION, insists that each of these distinct ideas be distinguished from each other by a special symbol, if that is possible. It will be seen that, in most cases, the Authorized Version itself uses the proper word on some occasions. No plea for pious or venerable diction will convince the honest truth seeker that their erratic renderings are justified.

In the trying task of transcribing the thoughts of another mind, which far transcends that of the translator, the ordinary methods of turning a human composition from one language into another are entirely inadequate. What a man has written a man can comprehend. The most effective course is to seize the foreign author's thought and express it afresh in a different tongue.

But once we acknowledge that God, and not man, is the Author of the revelation which we will call the Sacred Scriptures, we are face to face with a spiritual problem akin to that which the scientist encounters in the sphere of nature. He can apprehend some, but never comprehend all. It has been demonstrated mathematically that the distance from one branch to another of a very common weed cannot be measured by any human scale. It is in a ratio whose solution demands a square root which is incommensurable. Now if a mere weed baffles the human intellect. what shall we say of His highest and greatest work? The Scriptures are for our apprehension, but very far beyond our comprehension.

The ideal way of producing a perfect translation would be to find a man who could understand it all, fully and perfectly, and then have him turn it into English. But where is he? The staff of the CONCORDANT VERSION makes no claim whatever to such necessary knowledge and spiritual skill. On the contrary, the method employed is an admission on their part that such a task is entirely beyond the sphere of human attainment. The vital differences between the greatest of theologians make manifest the fact that no man or company of men can fully grasp divine revelation.

During the past decade an average of one new translation has appeared annually, yet all differ in numberless details. That there can be such variety in results shows that the translations partake largely of the mind which acted as a medium. The differences are not in the text.

Unless science had reduced its scattered facts into a system so that the human intellect could deal with its phenomena as the expression of law, it would still be groping in the dark domains of mediæval philosophy. It would still be teaching that the heavier a stone, the faster it will fall. One single experiment would have demolished that dogma, but, in those days, "truth" rested on tradition and authority, not on fact. Science has made enormous strides ever since, despite the hindrance offered by unfounded theories. It resorts to experiment and founds truth on the regular recurrence of facts, that is, on law.

But theology is still largely dominated by tradition and dependent on authority. The extent to which translations agree with such tradition and authority rather than with the inspired autographs is the measure of infidelity to fact and distance from truth.

A true transcript of a divine revelation must be based on the laws of language rather than on the bias of theologians. What are these laws? How can they be We will briefly consider them applied? in this connection. We must remember, however, that English is not a pure language. It is a conglomeration of fragments from several languages. Greek, on the contrary, is one of the most perfect and law-abiding of all tongues. In English the same letters and sounds have a dozen distinct meanings. Each thought has a variety of close synonyms. Such difficulties are practically absent from the first century Greek.

Everything in nature and revelation is known to us by its relation to other objects. We know nothing absolutely, only relatively. The same is true of the symbols, spoken or written, which we use to represent ideas. Hence, in studying words and their meanings, we are not so much concerned with the sign for a word, as with the relation this sustains to other signs. The meaning of a word depends on its usage, that is, the other words with which it is used; on its etymology, that is, the family from which it springs; and on the whole vocabulary of which it forms a part.

Certain simple and common-sense laws have been discovered and confirmed which are of the greatest help to the linguist, the infraction of which is fraught with the most confusing consequences.

One is,

No word is the exact equivalent of any other word.

If a language, like English, is made up of several tongues, this rule seems to be contradicted. But such is the vitality of this law that such a condition refuses to be permanent. Many words once exactly alike, from the French and Anglo-Saxon, have gradually drifted apart, so that now no good writer will confuse them.

Pork and pig were once the very same. Now the pig is in the pen and the pork is on the table. One is a living animal, the

other, the flesh of a dead one.

In the languages of inspiration such confusion is practically unknown. The few foreign words fill a vacant place. Each word stands for a definite idea. When, for instance, the divine Author wished to speak of life, what valid reason could be given if, occasionally, He should substitute the word soul? If He meant soul, why did He not use the symbols that expressed it? We are satisfied that He did not mean life when He used the symbols for soul.

THE LAW OF LOCATION

Every word in the original should have its own English equivalent.

If no two words are precisely alike in meaning in the original, it should not be necessary to prove that accuracy demands that each Greek word be supplied with a distinct English equivalent. This, however, cannot be successfully done without a comprehensive system. It is not sufficient that we have the same number of different words in each vocabulary. Each English word should be the one which comes nearest to covering the same do-

main of thought as the original, and, more particularly, sustains the same relation to the other words of the language.

To make this clearer, we will compare the world of thought to the surface of the earth, and the words to the geographical and political divisions. There is, indeed, a signal instance—the ancient province of Asia-which shows how confusing it is to use geographical names in English which do not correspond with those in the Greek. Asia now includes a vast continent, and the English reader, unless warned, must get the idea that the entire territory of Asiatic Russia, China, Japan, Korea, Siam, India, Persia, Arabia, Palestine, and Asia Minor are included. So we have translated it "the province of Asia", for only a small part of the present Asia Minor is meant. In precisely the same way it is misleading to translate a general term for one that is specific.

Carrying out our figure, we will call this the Law of Location. If the geographer must not confound England with New Zealand, the lexicographer should not confuse yea and nay (A. V., 1 Co.4363), or pour out and fill (A. V., Rev.1410186).

But such accidents are rare and easily avoided. It is when two words are similar in meaning that the danger is greatest Great Britain covers three countries but there are times when it is most important to distinguish between England, Scotland and Wales. Similarly, though all are sin, it is of the highest value to discriminate between injustice and transgression and offense.

This is practically impossible when one of them, offense, is rendered sin (Eph. 17), trespass (Eph.21), which is practically the same as transgression, as well as the usual word offense. The translators were restrained from rendering it sin in the first verse of the second of Ephesians by the immediate presence of the real word sin. In the vocabulary method of the Concordant Version this restraint is always present, and debars it from following their example and lapse into sin in the fifth verse.

The only practical safeguard in apportioning to each Greek expression its most fitting English equivalent is to arrange the whole vocabulary in alphabetical order, so that any duplicates will immediately become apparent. If, for instance, we wish to translate FROM-LOOSING redemption, as it is ordinarily rendered, we will be confronted by the fact that this term is already appropriated by Loosing. We then find that we need, not merely an-

other word, but one which will register the difference indicated by the prefix FROM-. The word deliverance admirably

performs this function.

The vocabulary used by a translator should be such that, when superimposed on the vocabulary of the original, it will not only coincide as far as possible, but clearly define the boundaries between the words and their relation to one another. Such a task is necessarily imperfect in its results, due to radical differences in the idioms of language and also to the usage of words. The question arises whether these imperfections can be removed and, if so, how it is to be done.

It is not enough, that each word should harmonize with its contexts. If a single English word seems to suit different sets of contexts, in which the original uses two expressions, that is evidence that we have failed to grasp the finer phases of concord. The difference is there, though we may not be aware of it. The vocabulary method is the only means of discovering what our dull senses otherwise overlook. We must find a word for each set of contexts which will fit that and no other. We must compare it with the whole vocabulary and so prove that there is not a better word for the place it fills.

This leads us to consider the greatest and most powerful of all the laws of lan-

guage.

THE LAW OF RECIPROCATION

Every thought symbol, the moment that it is placed in connection with others, both influences the meaning of its neighbors and is itself modified bu them.

Words antagonistic to each other will not associate. We never read of hot ice. If we did the word hot would gradually become chilled and lose its present meaning. If we did not know the meaning of cold, its close company with ice would soon assure us of its signification.

Words get their color from their contexts. Without any dictionary whatever, it is possible to determine the meaning of almost any word if it is seen in a dozen sentences. From this we may deduce the notable conclusion that the actual and understood meaning of an English word in the Bible is not necessarily its current or dictionary meaning, but that which it absorbs from the passages in which it is found. A dictionary simply records the usage of words as employed by careful writers.

We find, then, that we have discovered

a law which will practically adjust the minor differences which exist between Greek and English equivalents. An English word will expand or contract, color or blanch, become purified or tainted, to conform to the thought environments which surround it in the Scriptures. If an English word is not an exact counterpart of the Greek, the contexts in which it consistently occurs will correct its inaccuracies. It will take on a special scriptural signification. This is why the uniform renderings of the Concordant Version are the most valuable yet simple means of transferring the truth into English.

THE PENALTY OF LAWLESSNESS

But, like all law, its benefits depend on its unvarying observance, and a penalty follows its infringement. If we inject into one English word all the virus of five false contexts, it will not only fail to furnish us with the truth, but it will reflect a false light when used in its proper place. A version which mixes its renderings subconsciously confuses its readers.

One example will suffice. The ecclesiastical meaning of "ordinance" is a relig-

ious rite or ceremony.

Five different Greek words are translated ordinance in the Authorized Version. One of them means decree (Lu.21 Ac.164 177Eph.215Col.214). In the first three passages they so render it. Why not in the last two?

Another is mandate (Ac.753 Ro.132). In the first they translate it disposition.
Another is statute (Heb.91,10).
Another is always translated creation or creature elsewhere (1 Pt.213)
Another is uniformily tradition except in

In no case does it mean a religious rite. Yet it injects this meaning into almost every passage. If the translators had used some of their own renderings consistently, or even a synonym, we should have been saved untold confusion. It is a flagrant violation of the laws of language to render five different words by one word, and, in each case, to translate these words by other terms as well. The truth is lost in such a maze.

So valuable and vital is the law of reciprocation that we believe its observance puts the Concordant Version in a class by itself. We urge all who are sincerely desirous of knowing God to test this matter fully. The continuous use of a version which obeys this law bridges the gulf between God's thoughts and human apprehension; the constant use of a lawless version puts an impassable chasm between us and God. One is clear concord: the other is subconscious confusion.

A TEST PASSAGE

What need is there for another version? Why change from the Authorized? Are there any vital improvements in the new version? What is the proportion of improvements? How can we know that the new readings are better? What authority is there for them? How does the Editor of the Concordant Version plan to keep out his own opinions? These are the principal questions which arise in the minds of those who hear of the Concordant Version.

We have told of the principles and the plan which underlie it. We now propose to give a concrete example, showing how its method works in practise, and give the reason for every "change from the Authorized", though, in the nature of the case, there can be no "changes", as the work is based on a concordance, not on any previous version.

In order to make this study instructive and helpful, we have chosen a passage of scripture which contains the very foundation of the evangel—Romans, chapter three, verses 19 to 28.

In this short passage there are about seventy points in which the CONCORDANT VERSION differs from the Authorized. We shall take up each in turn and tell why it is preferable. Some may seem trivial at first sight, but only to such as underrate the preciousness of God's revelation. In a costly gem an almost imperceptible flaw greatly depreciates its market value. In the most precious treasure in all the universe we should welcome the most minute improvement.

As there are about two hundred words in this passage and we propose seventy improvements, two-thirds of the Authorized Version stands, while the remainder, half as much, is replaced by better renderings. The American Revision, either in its text or margin, makes or suggests about half of these betterments.

It is presumed that the reader has a great respect and reverence for the Authorized Version. Nearly all of the corrections made by the Concondant Version may be based on the authority of the Authorized. All that needs to be done in most cases is to apply the best one of their own renderings consistently. Thus, in the passage before us they have translated a certain word conclude. Yet in five other occurrences in the same epistle they render this word reckon. Is it criminal or commendable to "change" to the

rendering they themselves have used elsewhere?

The law of reciprocation, which is the foundation of all language, is continually violated in most versions of the Scriptures. A word is merely the sound or sign of an idea. We gather this idea from the surroundings in which we find a word. Every time we read a passage of Scripture we unconsciously clothe each word with a meaning appropriate to its context. Every new context adds to our knowledge of its meaning. If we find it where it should not be, we unconsciously burden it with wrong ideas and color it with false notions.

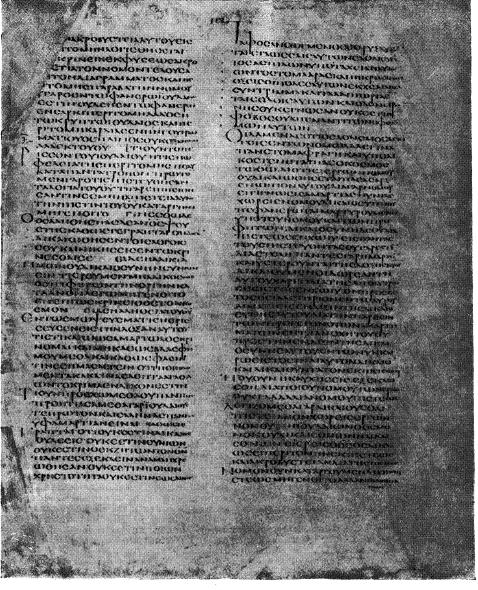
In practise, we absorb the meaning of a word, not from the dictionary, but from the use to which it is put in the Scriptures themselves. If this is in concord with the Greek word it represents, we unconsciously imbibe the correct thought beyond the power of any dictionary definition to impart. Conversely, should we use it in discordant contexts, the mental image becomes distorted and confused.

It is impossible to overestimate the gain in clearness and accuracy which a concordant translation imparts. An English word, being found in the same contexts as the Greek word for which it stands, takes on the same force and color. If it should occur in false contexts, as in the Authorized Version, then it would assume false and misleading tendencies.

There seems to be no valid reason for changing from the clear reading of the Greek simply because we cannot grasp a distinction. It is not the translator's duty to comprehend the minute differences in the original, but to pass them on to others, who may be able to discover those beauties which he has failed to observe.

19 Now we are aware that, as much Now we know, that what things as the law is saying, it is speaking to soever the law saith, it saith to those under the law, that every them who are under the law: that every mouth may be barred, and the entire mouth may be stopped, and all the world should be becoming subject to world may become the just verdict of God, guilty before God.

1. are aware for know! The A. V. uses the single word "know" for not less than six different terms, know, perceive (per-



CODEX ALEXANDRINUS (A) ROMANS 226 TO 331

This is the chief treasure of the British Museum in London, England. It is written on thin vellum, each page being about 10%x12% inches in size. In the nineteenth line of the second column (fourth letter) will be found the added E noted in the superlinear (Ro.321). A little lower in the twenty-third line (letters 8-13) is the reading "in Christ Jesus" (Ro.322). Note the initial letters. These are sometimes the beginning of a new paragraph. But the break is usually found indicated by a space in the line above and the initial is the letter (even if in the middle of a word) starting the next line.

fect aware), recognize, be adept, foreknow, be conscious of. One of these it translates know 196 times out of 224 occurrences. The C. V. renders it know always as there is no reason for any change. This passage, however uses a different term, which they have rendered aware in Lu. 1246, "at an hour when he is not aware". Thus they are authority that it has this meaning.

The sublinear has have-perceived, and this word is rendered perceived, except when its form is in the complete or perfect tense, denoting the condition which follows an act, rather than the act itself. Then it is more agreeable to the English idiom to render it be aware or be acquainted. This, however, is done consistently. It refers to knowledge gained experimentally, through the senses. Both terms occur in Rom. 77, which should read "I had not been aware of coveting". He knew of it, but not in his own experience. So here, Paul is aware from personal experience that the law speaks to those who are under it. We, who have never been under it. know that this is so. but have never felt the force of it as they

2. as much as for what things soever? Although this word occurs over a hundred times, the A. V. never translates it "what things soever" in any other passage. In Romans they render it as many as $(2^{12}, \text{ twice}; 8^{14})$, so many as (6^3) , as long as (71), in as much as (1113). They render it as much as in Jn. 611. Hence we have them for authority in our consistent rendering.

3. is saying for saith | Saith has become archaic.

4. is speaking for saith] As is shown in the sublinear, this is quite a different word from the saith immediately preceding. Why, then, render it the same? The A. V. itself translates it speak, as we do, 241 times. Only 15 times do they use say. There is often a decided difference between these words, as there is between our English say and talk, as when men talk much but say little. The contrast here is between the contents of the law and its application.

5. those for them] Them is archaic.

There is no neces-6. Omit who are

sity for adding these words.
7. bar for stop] The usual meaning of stop is to bring from motion to rest. The word here used signifies to block up, hinder, dam. It seems especially fit to use barred here, because it is used of a moral and legal hindrance.

8. the entire for all the] When the word every is followed by a noun preceded by the, in Greek, it changes the sense from every world to the entire world, taken as a single unit. The word all is used with the plural in English and fails to convey the idea of unity which is enforced here.

9. subject to the just verdict for guilty The A. V. rendering "guilty before God" has been challenged by almost every translator and commentator. It is certainly not correct, for the Greek word here used does not tell us whether the verdict is "guilty" or "not guilty". The Revisers have tried to indicate this by rendering "may be brought under the judgment of God". This, however, suggests an adverse judgment, even if it does not express it. It is unfortunate also, in that the word judgment is always associated with an entirely different term, and should never be linked with the word here used.

The apostle's argument has developed the fact that the entire world. Jews as well as gentiles, are subject to the just verdict of God. They have been tried, but the verdict waits. It has not been pronounced. Only in the case of those who believe is the Judge's decision given out, but in their case it is "not guilty", rather They are acquitted, or than "guilty". vindicated, or justified by His grace through the deliverance in Christ Jesus.

It is manifestly absurd to pronounce all "guilty" and then immediately, without any further explanation, pronounce believers "not guilty". The A. V. rendering is without foundation in the Greek, it is contrary to the apostle's argument, it is subversive of the grand doctrine of justification. One who is guilty cannot be justified. He may be pardoned or forgiven, but to justify a guilty person is to become a partner in his crimes. God is just, as well as a Justifier. He holds the entire world subject to His just verdict, and never, under any circumstances, does aught but vindicate any one who believes Him.

The A. V. rendering has given us a false impression of God's attitude toward the world. It creates a condition where justification is impossible. It has effectually robbed the saints of the truth of justification and substituted for it remission or pardon, which alone is possible for those who are guilty.

The value of this version lies in large measure in the fact that its foundation principles make it possible to translate

beyond the translator's comprehension. His understanding or misunderstanding will not necessarily bar others from the truth. The common version, "guilty before God", is terse, vigorous English, which cannot be misunderstood. In fact. the translator himself was convinced that the sentence in this case was always "guilty" and he would assuredly have rendered it so if he had not been held in check by the law which does not allow him to import into a word what it does not contain in the Greek. A study of UNDER-JUST made it evident that it was the legal term for those subject to the decision of a judge, but it does not, in itself, give the slightest hint whether the verdict is for or against. It was not until after this reading had been challenged that the truth dawned on the mind of the translator. He was wrong in supposing that, in this passage, it amounted to the same as "guilty".

Thus it is the aim of the C. V. to give a clear transcript of the scriptures, so that earnest students will not be hampered by the limitations of the translator, but may discover what he has overlooked, but which he has endeavored to leave open for those who may have a keener

insight into the truth.

20 because, by works of law, no Therefore by the deeds of the law flesh shall be justified before Him, there shall no flesh be justified in His for through law is the recognition sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. of sin.

10. because for therefore] Nowhere else does the A. V. render this therefore. Ten times they translate it because. They themselves are ten to one for this rendering. It does not introduce a new conclusion, but gives the reason for the previous statement. The world is subject to the just verdict of God because law fails to provide any ground for justification. The Revisers changed to because.

11. Omit the before works] It is not in the Greek, and English usage corresponds to Greek in this case. See 13 below. The

Revised margin omits it.

12. Works for deeds] The A. V. has this very phrase works of law in Ro.9³² Ga. 2¹⁶. Why change it here? The Revisers have corrected this. Deeds is the equivalent of another term, associated with the verb no. "Deeds of the law" suggests that the law itself is the actor,

rather than that which characterizes the action.

13. Omit the before law] This is important. Throughout this passage and elsewhere the law [of Moses] is distinguished from the principle of law in general by means of the word THE. The statement here is a broad one. No one, either Jew or gentile under the dictates of conscience, can be justified by law, for through law (not the law of Moses only) is the recognition of sin. The A. V. has entirely obscured this vital point throughout this passage. The Revisers omit the in their margin.

14. Omit there] The Revisers also omit

this useless addition.

15. through for by] The A. V. usually renders this word through. By is the efficient agent rather than the channel. The Revisers suggest through in their margin.

16. Omit the] See 13.

17. recognition for knowledge] The A. V. have recognized the special force of this word—on-knowledge—in Mt.1435, "when the men of that place had knowledge of Him", that is, recognized Him. So also Mk.633,54Lu.2416,31,etc. The law gives us a standard by which we can recognize sin.

21 Yet now, apart from law, a But now the righteousness of righteousness of God has been manifod without the law is manifested, fested (being testified to by the law being witnessed by the law and the prophets) and the prophets;

18. Yet for but] The A. V. translates another disjunctive but 572 times. The word here used is much weaker than our but. In verse 19 the A. V. renders it Now. The C. V. renders it now and yet. It would be awkward to translate it now here, for it would read "Now now".

19. apart from for without] The Revisers agree in this change. Without means outside of. In Jn. 207 the handkerchief was not without the tomb, but in a

place apart.

20. Omit the] With the Greek text we omit the. It is not the law of Moses merely but the wider principle of law which is intended.

21. Omit the] The righteousness of God" is too personal and narrow. The article is omitted in the Greek. It is a divine righteousness, for us as well as God. The Revisers made this correction.

22. has been for is manifested] The A. V. has rendered this very form of this word "hath appeared" (Heb.98), showing that they recognized that it represents a state consequent on an action rather than a continuous action. Whenever the initial sound of a Greek verb is doubled, as in this case, the verb is in what may be called the perfect or complete tense, signifying the result of an action rather than the action itself. The Revisers have hath been.

23. testified to for witnessed] Witness is no longer used with an object in this sense. Testify to has replaced it in mod-

ern English.

22 Yet a righteousness of God, Even the righteousness of God through Jesus Christ's faith, for all, which is by faith of Jesus Christ, unto and on all who are believing, for all and upon all them that believe: for there is no distinction, there is no difference:

23 For all sinned and are wanting For all have sinned, and come of the glory of God, short of the glory of God;

24. yet for even] This is the same word which the A. V. translated but at the beginning of this paragraph, and we rendered yet. The word is a disjunctive, not a conjunctive, as even.

25. a for the] As 21.

26. Omit which is] It is without warrant and unnecessary. The Revisers also omit these words.

27. through for by] As 15 above. The

Revisers make this change.

28. for for unto] The A. V. translates this word into 571 times, and idiomatically for, 87 times. Thus we are amply justified in our sublinear into, and the version for. The unto and upon suggests a distinction which does not exist, as though it came up to or as far as all, but only upon all who believe. In both cases it is the believer who is in question. It is into or for him and is on him.

29. on for upon] The A. V. renders this word both on and upon, without any

apparent cause.

30. who for them that] Them that is not in good form. The A. V. uses who for

this very phrase in Eph. 119.

31. are believing for believe] The A.V. renders this form believed (Ac. 2219), believe (Ro.322 1 Co.121), do believe (1Pt. 121). It is evident that they had no system. We distinguish between the indefi-

nite form (usually called the aorist) and the present active, which is used here.

32. distinction for difference] The A. V. uses distinction in 1 Co. 147. There are many differences between men, even as to their sins. The Revisers make this change.

33. sinned for have sinned] The margin of the Revision suggests this change. Have sinned suggests a present state, the equivalent of being sinners. We who are justified sinned in the past, but, being acquitted, are no longer in the condition of those who have sinned. This distinction is important, especially when we realize the full import of justification.

34. are wanting for come short] The A. V. has only once again "come short" (Heb. 41). In that characteristic occurrence (Lu. 1514) the prodigal began to be in want. See also 2 Co. 119. Paul was in want. So here it is not that our efforts fail to reach the divine standard, but our

condition is one of want.

35. gratuitously for freely] The A. V. freely no longer has the sense of a gift, but now means liberally, abundantly. Gratuitously is the only English word which adequately conveys the causelessness of this gracious gift.

36. deliverance for redemption] The A. V. consistently translates the usual word for redemption (Lu. 168; 238; Heb. 912) and the C. V. does the same. The word here used, however, is a strengthened form which they on one occasion, render happily by deliverance (Heb. 1135). This is used uniformly in the C. V. Its aptness can only be appreciated by seeing it in all its contexts.

25 (Whom God purposed for a Pro-Whom God hath set forth to be a pitiatory, through faith in His blood, propitiation through faith in His blood, for a display of His righteousness beto declare His righteousness for cause of the passing over of the penthe remission of sins alty of sins which occurred before in that are past, through

the forbearance of God;

37. purposed for set forth] This word may mean "set forth", but the connection indicates a past act with a present point, which is better satisfied by the usual rendering purposed. Thus it is always else-

where in the A. V.

38. Propitiatory for propitiation The A. V. correctly and consistently renders propitiation in its two occurrences (1 Jn. But this is a different form which they have translated mercy seat in its only other occurrence (Heb.95). It should, consequently, be mercy seat here, or better, Propitiatory, to preserve its connection with propitiation. This is not the act, but the place of propitiation, the meeting place of God with man. The propitiatory was sprinkled with blood, hence God could meet man between the cherubim. The passage is concerned with justification and a common ground where both God and man can be just. This is the blood stained Mercy Seat-the Propitiatory.

39. for for to] Very rarely indeed does the A. V. translate this word to, though

it occurs hundreds of times.

40. a display for declare] This is a noun, not a verb. Elsewhere they translate it evident token (Phil.12s) and proof (2 Co. 824). The Revisers have changed it to show. The word display fits all of its occurrences better than the variety of the A. V. The evident thought is that God wishes to show openly that He is just.

41. of is added] The word righteousness is in the case which the A. V. usually indicates by prefixing of as in Ro. 411517

42. because of for for] The A. V. often has this because of. The Revisers have changed it to this.

- 43. passing over for remission] This is quite a different term from remission elsewhere in the A. V. It does not involve nearly so much. Sin's penalty was not remitted before the sacrifice of Christ. It was merely covered or passed over. The use of remission here is a serious defect which was remedied by the Revisers.
- 44. the is added] The Revisers insert the here to define the particular sins or penalty referred to. It is in the Greek.
- 45. penalty of sins for sins] The word here rendered sin by the A. V. has a special ending which changes it from sin to the effect of sin. This is clearly seen in 1 Co. 618 where the penalty of sinning, not sin itself, is demanded by the context. It was the divine penalty of sins which

was passed over when the sacrifices were offered in connection with the law.

46. which occurred before for that are past] The Greek, as shown by the sublinear, is Before-Having-become. The A. V. is a loose paraphrase, which has led us to think that the apostle is speaking of our past sins as individuals. The Revisers have changed it to done aforetime, rather old-fashioned phraseology for a modern version, and almost as loose as the A. V.

47. in for through] The Revisers change this to in, as it should be.

26 Toward the display of His To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness in the current era, for righteousness: that He might be Him to be just and a Justifier of the just, and the justifier of him one who is of the faith of Jesus. which believeth in Jesus.

- 48. toward for to] The A. V. to declare suggests that this is a repetition of the same phrase in the previous verse. It is not. The connection here is quite different. The A. V. translates it toward in other places.
- 49. display for declare] See 40. The italicized "I say" is also omitted.

50. of added] See 41.

51. in for at] The A. V. translates this connective in, 1853 times, at, 106 times.

- 52. current for this] This is the usual word for now, which we translate current when the English idiom will not bear the usual rendering. The word this is too indefinite.
- 53. era for time] This is not the word usually translated time in the A. V. They often render it season. The Revisers have changed it to this. But it is better to speak of the present era than the present season, for the latter is used only of a short period of time, and the era here referred to has run nearly two millenniums already.
- 54, 55, 56. for Him to be for that He might be] There is no warrant for the word might and the idea of contingency. It is the simplest form of the verb to be, as the A. V. itself is witness (Ro. 122). If this were turned back into Greek an entirely different phrase would be the result. That is the same word which they made unto in verse 22 and to in verse 25, which we have consistently given as for. He is in the objective case, Him.

57. a for the] It is His character as a Justifier which is pressed here. The insertion of the, which is not in the Greek, interferes rather than helps.

58. one who for him which] The Greek is simply the in the singular, and though usually listed as masculine, is applied to both genders in common. Hence it is not well to limit this to the masculine him. No one would defend the which, though

the Revisers retained it. 59. of faith for believeth] A reference to the sublinear will show that this is not a verb, believe, but a noun, belief. The A. V. has deliberately altered the sense of this passage, making our believing in Jesus the basis of justification instead of Jesus Christ's faith, as in verse 22. The point is that it is not His keeping the law which made Him a fit Propitiatory where we could meet God and be justified, but His faith which led Him far beyond the law's demands, in faith obedience, even to the death of the cross. From this faith springs justification. It is out of this faith for our faith (Ro. 117). Whatever we may believe on this point, we are not warranted in deliberately altering the text to suit, as the A. V. has done.

60. of for in] See 59. The in is absent in the Greek.

27 Where, then, is boasting? It is Where is boasting then? It is debarred! Through what law? Of excluded. By what law? of works? No! but through faith's law. works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

61. debarred for excluded] Literally this is LOCKED-OUT. Exclude is a mild term more suited to another Greek word. We no longer speak of excluding boasting. Usage and elegance are both better satisfied with debarred.

satisfied with debarred.
62, 63. through for by] As English will bear through as well as by, it is better to use the more precise term as in verse 20, and so distinguish this phrase from by the law in verse 21.

28 For we are reckoning mankind Therefore we conclude that a man to be justified by faith apart from is justified by faith without the works of law. deeds of the law.

64. for for therefore] The A. V. fol-

lows a different reading here, which is given in the superlinear as THEN. The better reading, which we follow, they have translated for 992 times.

65. we are reckoning for we conclude.] Only here has the A. V. used conclude. Elsewhere they render number, account, count, reason, think, suppose, esteem, etc., and reckon (Ro.44,9,10611818). The tense is present active, not indefinite.

66. mankind for a man] This is not the word for a man as distinct from a woman, but a human being of either sex. This cannot always be expressed in English, as it has no noun corresponding to human except mankind and humanity.

67. to be for that . . . is] Why change the Greek when the same construction yields good sense in English? Besides there may be a subtle distinction which our dull minds fail to grasp.

68. apart from for without] See 19.
69, 70. Omit the twice] The works of the law confines the statement to the Jew and the law of Moses. The Greek omits both the's in order to include the principle of law wherever found.

The point we wish to press in this comparison with the Authorized Version is that, to a large degree, our work can claim the "authority" of these translators for the very variations which distinguish it from theirs. Their work was loose, with little system or order. We use much the same material but dispose it in accord with the fundamental law of language that the same word should always be used to express a given idea.

We wish also to show that, however much we may revere the version to which we are bound by ties of sentiment, there is real need for another. Everyone must acknowledge that some of these seventy corrections are vital, and that most of them are desirable. Very few of them can be questioned, because the translators of the Authorized have themselves set their seal to most of the corrections by their renderings in other passages.

There are at least seven improvements of vital value in this short passage. They affect our enjoyment of justification, our attitude toward law, our apprehension of the place of Christ Jesus as the Propitiatory, and His part in procuring justification. If the rest of the seventy seem unimportant, these alone ought to convince us of the vital value of a version based on a concordance rather than on human scholarship.

THE STANDARDS AND ELEMENTS

The great value of standards in the multitudinous affairs of life is gaining recognition. If the English alphabet were not standardized, few would be able to read these lines. If building material were not made to feet and inches the cost and confusion would be staggering. How much we owe to standard measures and weights and money is beyond estimate. The value of the Concordant Version is largely due to the system of standards to which all is referred.

WORD ANALYSIS

At first it was thought sufficient to assign each word a standard English equivalent. Much as this helped, it fell far short of our ideal. So the whole vocabulary of the Greek scriptures was analyzed into its Elements, and to each of these was assigned a STANDARD. Thus, for example, two elements, FROM and covering, in combination, became FROM-COVERING. with a secondary standard, unveiling. Whenever possible. these elementary STANDARDS. Which are printed in SMALL CAPITALS, appear in the sublinear, beneath the Greek word, commencing under its initial letter. They will be found delightfully suggestive and profitable.

The elementary standards, in SMALL CAPITALS, will associate a word, in the English reader's mind, with a host of relatives which only a Greek scholar would have otherwise observed. Thus the element from, in "unveiling", links it with scores of other words which also contain this element, but which have no visible relation to "unveiling" in English. There are about eleven hundred word-elements in the vocabulary of the Greek scriptures, besides the grammatical elements. These are used in many combinations to form the vocabulary which God has hallowed as His chosen means of revealing Himself.

The reverent reader will make many delightful discoveries as he notes the Elements of which words are formed. For example, the distinction between repentance and regret becomes clear when we see that the first is after-MIND, and the latter after-OABE.

It has not always seemed best to put the primary standard in the sublinear, for it could not be so readily understood as a secondary form. Thus UN-MARK, meaning miss the mark, has been uniformly replaced by "miss", with "sin" in the version. In a very few cases both primary and secondary standards have been used, as "after", for WITH, for this is its meaning when used with the accusative case, and "make" for no in cases where no would not be intelligible. A reference to the Concordance or Elements. in the companion volume to the Version. will make such points plain. One who wishes to study the standards should use the Concordance diligently, and in a short time he will be thinking the language of the scriptures just as though he were a Greek of the first century, even though he may not know a letter of the language.

A WORD FAMILY

As an example we will give the whole family of words which have the element ACT, and the resulting English words, as they appear in the Concordance. It will repay reading.

ACT, work, (verb)
ACT, work, trade, (noun) ACTer, worker ACTion, vocation, income, make a business of ABOUT-ACT, meddle ABOUT-ACTER, meddler, meddling art DEFT-ACT, knavery DEFT-ACT-effect, knavery DOWN-ACT, effect, produce DOWN-UN-ACT, DOWN-idle, abolish, abrogate, discard, exempt, become inert, nullify, vanish, waste EVERY-ACTING, crafty EVERY-ACTION, craftiness EVIL-ACTER, malefactor GOOD-ACT, do good act GRAPE-VINE-ACTER, vineyardist HOME-ACTER, worker at home IN-ACT, operate IN-ACT-effect, operation IN-ACTING, active, operative IN-ACTION, operation LAND-ACT, farm LAND-ACTER, farmer PEOPLE-ACT, officiate, minister PEOPLE-ACT, officiation, ministry PEOPLE-ACTER, officer, minister PEOPLE-ACTIC, official, ministering PUBLIC-ACTER, architect SACRED-ACT, act as a priest TOGETHER-ACT, work together, fellow worker TOGETHER-ACTER, fellow worker TOGETHER-UNDER-ACT, assist together TOWARD-ACT, earn UN-ACT, be idle, inactive UN-ACTIVE, idle, inactive WELL-ACT, be a benefactor WELL-ACTER, benefactor WELL-ACTION, benefaction

GRAMMATICAL STANDARDS

We confidently assert that the grammatical standards have so simplified Greek grammar and have made it so comfortably accessible to students that no one of average intelligence need fear to attempt a study of this glorious speech of inspiration. This can be done by means of the Greek Course and Grammatical ELEMENTS published in the companion volume. The assignment of an English standard equivalent to every grammatical form and the tests to which these have been submitted in actual practice has corrected the confusion into which the subject has fallen, and is by far the simplest. sanest and most satisfactory means of mastering this matter, which is popularly supposed to be most difficult.

There is an analytical Greek Testament which has an analysis of all the verbs in the margin. In this, for instance, opposite Ro. 1515 we find "egrapsa aor. 1 ind., graphō." The words in italics are in modern Greek characters which many do not know. "Aor." for aorist is foreign to most intelligent Bible readers. And "Aor. 1" needs a deal of learning to properly interpret. "Ind." for indicative ought to be easily understood. But how much easier it is to turn to the Concordant Version and find that this word is I-WRITE. Of course, it comes from the element write. Any one knows that is indefinite indicative, even though he does not understand these terms.

Each grammatical form is given a corresponding English STANDARD. This model simplifies matters much for those who do not take kindly to abstruse grammatical terms.

Number—When the plural is not fixed by the form of the English the italic letter p is added to it.

Person—First person, I and WE; second, YOU and YE; third person singular is usually apparent from the form of the English verb, plural THEY. The third person singular is it, he, or she, according to the context.

Casc—The nominative and the objective cases take the place of the nominative and the accusative in Greek. The genitive case, which denotes source or character, answering off. The dative case, which denotes rest in, or location, answering the question where? is indicated by to. The off- is understood after the connectives which denote origin, as THRU, FROM, etc. The to- is also omitted after characteristic connectives.

Gender—As this is usually of no import to the English reader, it will not always be found in the SUBLINEAR unless it has an English equivalent. When indicated, m is

masculine, f is feminine, and c is common. The so-called *neuter*, or indefinite, forms really have no gender and are not marked.

Mood—The infinitive is rendered to- as, to-write. The indicative is I-AM-writing. The subjunctive uses I-MAY-BE-writing. The optative is MAY-I-WRITE. The imperative is write and Let-him-write. The participle ends in -ING, WRITING.

Tense—The so-called aorist or indefinite form is really not a tense at all, combining the marks of both past and future in its composition, unless it may be called a past-future. It corresponds with the indefinite present, It was defined a past-future and the second of the second o

The past is as ours. I-WROTE.

The present in Greek presents an action as actually under way, and is best rendered by the English present participle, I-AM-WRITING.

The future is marked by -SHALL- in the first person and -WILL- in the second and third. As it is a modification of the present it becomes I-SHALL-BE-WRITING, YOU- or he-WILL-BE-WRITING.

The complete or "perfect" tense denotes the state resulting from an action. The standard is I-HAVE-WRITTEN. English idiom often uses special forms, as, "what you bind on earth shall be binding (have been bound) in heaven" (Mt.1619).

The past-complete, or "pluperfect", is I-HAD-WRITTEN.

Voice—The Active and Passive are I-WRITE, it-IS-WRITTEN. The Middle is indicated by the passive in italies, when it is not involved in the meaning of the word. Actions which affect the actor, as coming and going, have a special form in Greek. The LEXICON deals with each word separately.

It is common, in Greek grammars, to list many verbs which have the form of the Middle, as Passive. After a thorough investigation, we have fully satisfied ourselves that the form of a Greek verb determines its voice, and those which are Middle in form are actually Middle in usage. To call them Passive has no warrant and is unnecessarily confusing. This classification greatly simplifies the Greek verb. All the forms and their English standards will be given in full in the Grammar.

As the method employed in this work has forced us to settle on standards which are not in full accord with current Greek grammars, we deem it our duty to offer a full explanation for at least one of the changes, so as to show why we differ. We have purposely chosen the most difficult problem of the Greek verb, for its solution should justify us when varying slightly on other points, without further explanation than that, in each case our position is practical, is under continuous test, and actually works.

THE GREEK AND ENGLISH INDEFINITE

To the casual critic, the renderings of the verbs in the Concordant Version sometimes seem erratic and pedantic. Until one has become accustomed to them, the changes appear unreasonable and capricious, instead of being consistent or uniform. It is like one who steps out at night and stares at the stars, scattered hither and thither on the blue vault of heaven without any apparent system. Yet, just as the heavens are marvelous manifestations of order and law to the astronomer, so the patient student will find that the verbs are rendered in accordance with divine law, and seek to manifest the exactitude of the great Author of the sacred scrolls.

CONCORDANT VERBS CONSISTENT

The entire scheme of the CONCORDANT VERSION founds itself upon a desire for unvarying consistency in setting forth the mind of God. The Greek language is capable of expressing with precision the finest and most delicate shades of meaning. With proper care it is possible to set over into English most (if not all) of the excellences of the God-given original.

RESEARCHES IN GRAMMAR

In effecting a faithful reproduction of God's thoughts it was found necessary to consider each Greek word in all of its contexts in order to determine its scope and its most satisfactory English equivalent. A similar process, though more arduous, was called for and diligently performed, in arranging these words in a proper grammatical setting to accord with the language of inspiration.

The consideration of the nouns and adjectives did not present many very serious problems. The Greek verb, which tradition had invested with almost insuperable difficulties, required a great deal of preliminary analysis and dissection before it finally yielded up its complex structure. Certain forms of the verb were found to contain within themselves invariable signs of time, or tense, and state.

GRAMMATICAL CONFUSION IN TRANSLATION

At the first attempt to apply the prime principle of consistency to the rendering of the Greek verb, according to accepted grammatical doctrines, we soon found ourselves in clouds and chaos. This was especially true of the so-called Voices and Tenses. There seemed to be no correspondence between form and force. The Middle form was usually called Passive. The Aorist was either past, present or future. It seemed a hopeless task to create order out of such confusion.

This condition of affairs is recognized by the greatest scholars in this field, as the following facts and extracts from their writings show. The "Analytical Greek Lexicon", published by Bagster's, was first intended as a basis for our Analytical Concordance. But when one word was found which, in its three persons, I, you, and he, was listed first as a past and then as a present and also as a future, this work had to be discarded. If one form of a verb, differing only in the matter of personal endings, which do not affect the tense, can be rendered in all three tenses, there is an end of all significance to the Greek verb so far as time is concerned.

AN UNSOLVED PROBLEM

In "A Grammar of the Greek New Testament in the Light of Historical Research" Prof. Robertson has this to say regarding the translation of the Aorist into English: "The Greek Aorist ind., as can be readily seen, is not the exact equivalent of any tense in any other language. It has nuances all its own, many of them difficult or well nigh impossible to reproduce in English. We merely do the best we can in English to translate in one way or another the total result of a word, context and tense. Certainly one cannot say that the English translations have been successful with the Greek aorist . . . (Page 847). The English past will translate the Greek agrist in many cases where we prefer 'have' . . . (Page 848). The Greek aorist and the English past do not exactly correspond. The Greek aorist covers much more ground than the English past. . . The aorist in Greek is so rich in meaning that the English labors and groans to express it. As a matter of fact the Greek aorist is translatable into almost every English tense except the imperfect . ." Again, "The aorist is, strictly speaking, timeless."

THE LATEST AUTHORITY

As this is the latest and most authoritative work on the grammar of the New Testament, it is evident that Dr. Weymouth's suggestion has not been deemed a satisfactory solution and that the translation of the aorist into English is in a most unsatisfactory state notwithstanding all the efforts of modern scholarship.

In view of this self-confessed failure, any attempt at the solution of so grave a defect in our method of translation should be welcomed and examined on its own merits.

THE REVISION NOT ENGLISH

Dr. Weymouth, in his pamphlet "On the Rendering into English of the Greek Aorist and Perfect" criticises the Revised Version for its treatment of the agrist. They regarded the agrist as referring to the past. Dr. Weymouth noted how often it makes poor English, and felt, in an indefinite way, that the agrist must not be confined to the past. He would have it rendered by the "perfect", as it often is in the Authorized Version, at the same time translating the perfect in this way as well. But if the agrist is I-HAVE-LOVED, and the perfect also is I-HAVE-LOVED, what is the difference between them? After all, the chief function of a translation is to preserve the distinctions of the original. If a painter should copy a picture of sheep and goats and draw them all alike, he may produce a pretty picture, but an unfaithful copy. There are sharp boundaries between all the forms of the Greek verb, as we shall see, and they should be distinguished as far as possible.

THE PERFECT AND AORIST

Weymouth pleads for the perfect as a rendering of the Greek aorist because it has a bearing on the present which the past has not. He protests that "it is too commonly believed and taught that the Greek Aorist Indicative... is equivalent to the Simple Past Tense in English (I wrote, I loved, I brought...)." He affirms that "the English Past, used according to the true English idiom, will largely fail to coincide with the Aorist..." He makes the startling discovery that we give the English Present the force of a Future, giving the following examples: "We start tomorrow," "The king comes tonight." He might have added the fact that this same "present" is used of the past also, as in "The king comes here since he was crowned."

He was on the verge of discovering that the English "Present" is not a present at all but a true past-future indefinite. He even gives examples where the present must be used, as, "The Chronicle states—", "Clarendon records—", "Gibbons informs us—". The one instance he gives for the past in narrative is found in Acts 2514: "Festus declared". But the Greek word here used has none of the characteristics of the true aorist at all except the sign of the past. Etheto is a simple past, and should be rendered "Festus submitted Paul's case to the king".

THE AORIST IS NOT THE PAST

To prove that the aorist is not a simple past he gives the following instances in which both the A. V. and the Revisers render it by the perfect: We add the C. V. rendering to show that it can usually be still better rendered by the so-called English "present".

Mt.5²¹,²⁷ Ye have heard that it was said C. V. You hear that it was declared Mk.10²⁰ All these have I observed C. V. All these I maintain

Rev.148 Babylon is fallen, is fallen C. V. It falls! It falls!—Babylon

The perfect limits the action to the past just as much as the past tense does. In these and all other instances of the aorist the action is not confined to the past.

AORIST MEANS INDEFINITE

Weymouth then makes the welcome admission that "aorist means indefinite, and we must bow to the authority of the Greek grammarians who held that name to be a suitable one . . .". This is precisely the point for which we contend.

He then gives examples where he thinks the agrist should be rendered by the pluperfect and the translators have so given it.

Mt.124 As the angel had bidden him C. V. As the messenger bids him Mt.111 When Jesus had made an end C. V. When Jesus finishes

Mt.2619 As Jesus had appointed them C. V. As Jesus arranges with them Mt.2731 When they had mocked Him C. V. And when they deride Him

C. V. And when they work. Mk.132 When the sun did set C. V. When the sun sets

The following is a step in the right direction: "The Aorist is often used where our idiom demands the Present ... but this Gnomic Aorist (as in Jas. 111, "for the sun rises", etc.) and the Epistolary Aorist (2 Co.818, "we send with him the brother") need not here be enlarged upon." Weymouth touches the true sense of the agrist here, but, alas, he did not enlarge upon it! He recognizes its use in the statement of general truths or proverbs (the Gnomic Aorist). The very fact that it can be used of things which are true at all times and that English uses the "present" for this purpose is sufficient to identify them.

Those who suppose that the English of our versions is beyond reproach will be shocked when he states that "the persistent rendering of the Greek Aorist by the English simple Past in the R. V. of the N. T. has one very undesirable effect—the translation is not English".

A DIFFICULT PROBLEM

Some conception of the difficulty of the problem before us is evident from the fact that Greek is one of the most difficult of languages, the verb is the most complex and elaborate part of Greek grammar, and of the verb the one unsolvable riddle has been the aorist. It is the most difficult of the most difficult. Yet we propose to make it so simple and easy that any one, with the understanding of an adult, will be able to grasp the essential facts, and thus open up a new and still unknown vista in God's revelation to readers of the English language.

A SIMPLE EXPLANATION

It should be understood that this attempt to explain the aorist is not intended primarily for scholars, but for the "unlearned and ignorant". Everything has been done with a view to making it so easy to understand that it will readily come within the range of the average intellect.

VERBAL STANDARDS

In planning a consistent version it is manifest that one of the most vital elements is the rendition of each verbal form by a fixed English equivalent. To investigate the possibility of such a course the verb was analyzed into all its forms and each was given its nearest English equivalent. In assigning these, the first form dealt with was the incomplete present. The tendency at first was to assign to it the so-called English "present", the simplest form of the verb, as 1-LOVE. But repeated experiments showed the inadequacy of this form to express the fact that the action was actually in progress. For this, English has the special form, I-AM-LOVING, the "participial present". Exhaustive tests showed that this was the true equivalent of the so-called Greek "present", though the strenuous tendency of our idiom to shorten all forms often demands the indefinite.

THE ENGLISH INDEFINITE

After all the other forms had been assigned and tested, the indefinite pastfuture, or aorist, remained. could be used for it? Nothing was left but the so-called English "present", as, 1-LOVE, and it dawned upon the mind of the investigator that its name was a misnomer-it was not restricted to the present at all, but it, too, was indefinite, just like the Greek "aorist". We have named it the English aorist. Exhaustive tests have proved the correctness of this conclusion, and years of use in compiling the Version have confirmed the fact that the English "present" is a very close equivalent of the Greek "aorist". "aorist". True, there are passages where it seems odd at first, but close investigation shows it to be correct, and when the initial queerness vanishes, it leaves a delightful sense of clearer vision into the realms of truth.

SEGREGATION NEEDED

The difficulties in regard to the aorist "tense" arise in part from the fact that a heterogeneous mass of forms are huddled together, either as "first" or "second" aorists, some of which have little in common except the name given to them by grammarians. We propose, then, to limit the present discussion to

the true aorist, which we will presently define, and, to avoid confusion of thought, we will call this aorist by the equivalent English term—indefinite.

The indefinite form, in Greek, consists of verbs which have E—, the augment of the past, prefixed (or its equivalent), the symbol of the future (—C-) between the stem and the personal ending (or some compensation in the preceding vowel), and the connecting vowel (or ending) —A (except in the third person). The essential elements are

E-CA

The student of Greek will understand that, for the sake of simplicity, the augment is always spoken of as a prefix E—though in practise it is often indicated by the lengthening of the initial vowel. The future —C- is understood, even when, for euphony's sake, it is represented by changes in the stem.

THE INDEFINITE DEFINED

The indefinite changes an act into a fact. It transforms deeds into truth. "John baptized in water" is a bald statement of an historical occurrence. "John baptizes in water" indicates the essential character of his ministry. It locates his action, not in the course of time, but in the wider sphere of truth.

When Peter charges the house of Israel with the crucifixion of Christ, it is not simply the act but the attitude which he condemns. "You have crucified" was true; "you crucify" is truth (Ac.236).

AN ILLUMINATING DISCOVERY

Here we have a hitherto hidden combination to the great depository of divine truth. We do not need to guess in order to distinguish what is true, but transient, from that which is truth and permanent. God has deposited the truth in the indefinite. If we but glance at such high unfoldings as are found in the first chapter of Ephesians, this fact will force itself upon us. Like a string of pearls we read (Eph. 1) of the One Who blesses us (verse 3), Who chooses us (4) and designates us (5) and graces us (6) and lavishes on us (8), Who makes known to us (9) the secret of His will. Read the passage in the Concordant Version at least a dozen times to wear off the strangeness, meditate on its unlimited scope in time, the aptness of its present application as well as its past and future place, then suddenly change the tense to the past and see what a chill falls upon the whole. Then change the yerbs to the present incomplete, Who is blessing, Who is choosing, etc., and see how the thought shrinks.

THE PERFECT NOT SUITABLE

The translators of the Authorized Version felt this and tried to express it by the perfect or complete tense, hath blessed, hath chosen, etc. This, however, confines all action to the past, and denotes the condition consequent on that action. It is as though a father gave his son all that was coming to him and left him to make what he could of it. It puts God's active efforts for us into the past and leaves but a passive interest for the present and future. This is the very opposite of the truth and contrary to God's purpose, which is to draw us nearer to Himself by a constant flow of blessing. He does not start us off to go on alone. It is true that He has blessed us. But it is truth that He blesses us now and in the future as well.

To one whose eyes have been opened to see it, there is an exquisite beauty in this. God fills the whole horizon. His immanence is everywhere. He is not behind or before, but both. His care for us can be traced in His purpose and its accomplishment.

ENGLISH IDIOM

True, some of the expressions seem strange to those accustomed to stereotyped English phraseology. We would say He chose us, in the past. At first we miss the precious fullness of the fact that His choice of us is not affected by time or circumstance. chooses us today and will choose us in all the eons to come. It is not a mere act in the past which may be repudiated should His attitude toward us change. It is a fact for all time. It is a guarantee that His gracious dealings with us do not alter. Time cannot modify nor state impair His settled beneficence toward the objects of His affection.

FIVE METHODS OF PROOF

We depend upon five distinct lines of evidence for our conclusion that the Greek "aorist" is indefinite as to state and tense, and corresponds to the socalled "present", as I-LOVE, in English.

Our first witness is the meaning of the word "aorist". This name was given to it by the ancients, who used this form continually in their conversation and literature, and who ought to have known what to call it. It comes from two Greek elements, A- un-, and -OP-(or) SEE. As -OP- was usually preceded by the h sound, the verb horizō (SEEIZE) is almost the same as our word "horizon". This gives us the true thought—without a horizon, indefinite.

THE AORIST IS INDEFINITE

Strange as it may seem, notwithstanding this form's name means indefinite, the usual definition in Greek grammars is "a definite action, complete in itself". Such works as Newberry's Bible indicate it by a dot, and explain it as "a point in the expanse of time". As, however, many forms were added to it which were in reality a primitive past tense (called the "second" aorist), it is usually translated by means of the past tense, as, I-LOVED. As the indefinite covers the past, this confusion of forms has strengthened the idea that it is, in some way, a past tense.

SIGNS OF INDEFINITENESS

Our second proof lies in the correspondence between the connecting vowel of the aorist and abstract nouns. If the vowel —A- is given to nouns to make them indefinite, it is striking, to say the least, that the personal endings of the aorist indicative and middle are, with few exceptions, this same letter.

The fact that the same analogy exists between nouns in —MA, which stand for the effect of an action, and the perfect or complete form of the verb, which also denotes the effect of an action, goes far to establish the connection between the indefinite nouns and verbs.

THE E- OF THE PAST

Our third reason for clinging to the ancient definition is found in the formation of all true indefinite verbs. It should be understood that Greek has a very simple yet effective method of indicating the past. It seems to be almost a matter of instinct which leads them to precede past action by the prefixed E—. In English, regular verbs

add —ed to obtain the same effect. Thus call is changed to the past by adding —ed, called. The present and past of call (Greek kal) would be

KAAE (DI-AM-CALLING

EKAAON I-CALLED

THE -C- OF THE FUTURE

Another easy method is employed in indicating the future. An C (corresponding to our letter S) was inserted as a link letter just before the personal endings. Where we must use the auxiliaries shall or will they simply inserted a sibilant sound near the end of the verb to change it to the future form. We say "I shall call", or "you will call", but they needed only to insert one letter, thus:

KAAE CO

KAAEC (D

A PAST-FUTURE TENSE

The striking and distinctive feature of all true agrists is that they contain the signs of past and future. It is difficult to illustrate this in English, for shall wrote is ridiculous. We cannot will called any one. Our tenses will not blend. The real reason is that we have no need for such combinations, for we also have a true agrist or indefinite form in English, as, I-WRITE, which is misnamed the "present". In Greek the word call will be as follows:

E KAAON I-CALLED KAAECO I'LL-BE-CALLING

EKANECA

I-CALL

THE TEST OF USAGE

Our fifth, the final and conclusive proof that the "aorist" is indefinite and corresponds to our "present", is its application to test passages of scripture. If we find that it gives the true sense, that it removes difficulties, that it corresponds with the context, then let us gladly accept it. If, however, it creates difficulties, confuses the sense and wars with the context, then let us be rid of it. But we should not let our stereotyped mannerisms, which are a sign of the decadence of the English language, lead us to reject the truth. We are after sense, not sound. We want our hearts instructed, not our ears tickled.

THE VARIETIES OF THE VERB

The Greek verb (and the English as well) varies its form to indicate the state as well as the time of an action. It tells us whether the action is going on, or indefinite, or completed. So much stress has been laid upon the time element, in English grammar, that the state has been largely overlooked. The difference between I-wrote and I-waswriing, both past, I-write and I-AMWRITING, both present, and I-SHALL-BE-WRITING, both future, receives but little consideration.

STATE IS INDICATED BY -A-

The state of an action, in Greek, is indicated by the form of the endings. Nouns in —A, using the —A- as a connecting vowel, are either abstract or denote the effect of an action. By adding-eia to the root for TRUE (alêth) we get TRUTH (alêtheia). Add it to KING (basil) we get KINGDOM (basileia), to SLAVE (doul) gives SLAVERY (douleia).

The effect of an action, denoted by the ending-Ma in nouns (as krima, the effect of judging, a sentence, or thelema, will, as the effect of willing), has its counterpart in the so-called "perfect" or complete verb, which also registers the effect, or state consequent on an action. It has the vowel—A. Any one can see the close relationship between i-have-judged, and a judgment or sentence. Both indicate the state consequent on a past action. Hence both the noun and the verb have A in the ending.

THE ABSTRACT IDEA

The same correspondence may be traced between the true acrist, or indefinite, and that class of nouns which denote the abstract idea. Thus, both I-SLAVE (edouleusa) and SLAVERY (douleia) fail to call to mind any specific act, but suggest rather the abstract fact based on a series of acts. Such words almost always have A as a connecting vowel or end.

We may conclude, then, that the indefinite connecting vowel —A- suggests the abstract idea, that it is, in fact, as well as name, indefinite. It does not denote any specific act, or, if used of such, includes other such acts within its range. I-HAVE-WRITTEN and have a manuscript to prove it. I-AM-WRITING at this very moment. These are definite, and refer to distinct acts. I-WRITE, however, may refer to any act, or all.

As the passive endings are practically the verb to-be, which is itself indefinite, the connecting vowel —A- is not necessary.

Verbs change to indicate both state and time

PAST PRESENT FUTURE

C
INDEFINITE, the fact merely

E-ON E-CA [lacking]

INCOMPLETE, going on, -ING

E-W -W -CW I-MM-ING I'LL-BE-ING

COMPLETE, the consequent condition, HAVE OF HAD

E-R-KEIN R-KA [lacking]
I-HAD-ED I-HAVE-ED I'LL-HAVE-

As set forth in the table, verbs change their form to indicate the state as well as the time of an action. Any of these three states may be past, present or future. An action may be looked at as going on, hence is incomplete. I-WAS-LOVING. I-AM-LOVING. I-SHALL-BE-LOVING, all denote an action in progress. An action may be considered as performed, or complete, leaving a resultant condition. This we usually call "perfect". I-HAD-LOVED, I-HAVE-LOVED, I-SHALL-HAVE-LOVED, all put the action behind them and deal with the state consequent on the action.

THE INDEFINITES

The remaining class denote neither the progress nor the effect of an action. I-LOVED differs from I-WAS-LOVING and I-HAVE-LOVED in treating the action simply as a past fact without a definite occurrence or result. Perhaps another verb would be clearer. I-WORKED at printing in my youth. I-WAS-WORKING at printing when God called me. Transpose the verbs and note the result: I-WAS-WORKING at printing in my youth. I-worked at printing when God called me. The indefinite past "in my youth" demands the simple indefinite I-WORKED. The definite past "when God called me" calls for a definite verb, I-WAS-WORKING.

The same is true of the future. I-SHALL-WORK at printing for a livelihood. This is true at any future time. I-SHALL-BE-WORKING at printing when this is being printed. This defines the action as going on at some particular time.

THE INDEFINITE OR "AORIST"

We have now considered all the forms in the table except the one which is denoted by the formula E—C-A-. It occurs under the heading independent of translated simply i-love, or and is translated simply i-love, or twork. It is under the column-heading present, but it also invades the sphere of both the past and future. It is, in fact, a past-future. As this makes it indefinite as to time as well as to state, it is doubly indefinite. So we will call it simply the indefinite.

INCLUDES ALL STATES AND TENSES

Consider the scope of the simple statement, 1-Love. It may include any or all the other states and tenses! If I-WAS-LOVING, I-AM-LOVING, I-SHALL-BE-LOVING, I-LOVED, I-SHALL-LOVE, I-HAD-LOVED, I-HAVE-LOVED, OF I-SHALL-HAVE-LOVED, then I-LOVE. It is at home in any condition at any date. It ignores both time and state. Test this conclusion (which is, generally speaking, quite as true in the Greek forms as in the English) with other words, such as work or BELIEVE. I-work at printing though. at the present moment I-AM-WORKING on an article dealing with the aorist. I-HAVE-WORKED at printing for nearly forty years. I-shall-work at it in the future. The one word I-work covers all the ground. So, I-BELIEVE God, that is, I-HAVE-BELIEVED, I-AM-BELIEVING, and I-SHALL-BE-BELIEVING - until faith vanishes in sight.

THE PAST-FUTURE SIGNS IN THE AORIST

The true aorist is not only indefinite as to state, but also as to time. This is incorporated into its form in a marvelously effective yet simple method. A glance at the column-headings in the table will show that the sign of the past is a prefixed E—. The sign of the future is —C-. The sign of the aorist, or past-future is a combination of both, or E—C-. No verb is a true indefinite which does not have these indications or their equivalent.

The presence of the signs of both past and future ought to settle the point so far as time is concerned. What form in English, except the simple present, as I-LOVE, refers to all time as this does? The perfect, I-HAVE-LOVED, will not do, for its action is confined to the past, its effect to the present. It has no direct bearing on the future.

THE TRUE AORIST FORMS

The following shows all the forms of the true agrist and the English equivalents, as they are set forth in the "Elements" of the Concordant Version. The connecting vowel —A- is sometimes lacking or absorbed, and is not necessary in the passive, the endings of which are already indefinite.

THE PAST-FUTURE INDEFINITE VERB

Active	Middle	Passive
E-CA °	E-CAMHN	€-CeHN
I	I-or I-am-ED	I-AM-ED
6-CAC	E-CΦ	E-COHC
YOU-	YOU— or YOU-are—ED	YOU-ARE-ED
e-ce	E-CATO	E-COH
he, she or it —s	—s <i>or -is</i> —ed	-IS-ED
E-CAMEN WE-	E-CAMEGA WE- or WE-are-ED	E-COHMEN WE-ARE-ED
E-CATE	E-CACOE	E-COHTE
YE-	YE-or YE-are-E	
E-CAN	E-CANTO	E-COHCAN
THEY—	THEY— or	THEY-ARE-ED

TEST PASSAGES

Our final appeal is to the contexts in which the indefinite is found, in other words, to its usage in Holy Writ. We have already considered the opening sentence of Ephesians and noted the marvelous richness imparted to its transcendent doctrines by the unbounded scope of the indefinite. Now we will consider a few more texts, and then take up some words to confirm, if we can, the evidence we have already considered.

THE AORIST GIVES FACTS, NOT ACTS

For our first test we will take a text which refers to all time, past, present and future. In the A. V. Ro.830 reads as follows: "Moreover, whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified." This verse is full of difficulties to the close student. The "did predestinate" cannot be questioned, but how can Paul say that these were called (in the past) Romans was penned? If this is strictly true, then we have no place in this scripture, for we were not called until the far future from that time.

WE WERE NOT GLORIFIED

The same difficulty applies to justification, but with far more force to glorification. If it was an error for

some to teach that the resurrection was past already, why is the apostle allowed to teach that glorification, which is far more than resurrection, and includes it, is past? Of course, no one takes this as it stands, and thus this translation breeds that miserable habit of slovenly interpretation, in which all idea of accuracy and definiteness is decried. If glorified here means will glorify, then we have the best of reasons for suiting any tense of scripture to our own interpretation.

Now see how simply and grandly the whole passage responds to a true translation. "Now whom He designates beforehand, these He also calls, and whom He calls, these He also justifies: now whom He justifies, these He also glorifies." The whole transaction is taken out of time and circumstance into the higher realm of eternity and There is now no confusion created by the time when the epistle was written. He justified some before that, He was justifying them then, He has been since and will be in the future. All this is concisely and elegantly embraced in the indefinite form, iustifies.

And glorification, though future, is itself glorified when we receive it as a great truth, rather than as a future act. This rendering blends beautifully with the great thought of the chapter, and imparts permanence and majesty to God's method of drawing us to Himself.

DEATH HAS NOT BEEN ABOLISHED

Our next example has proven a hard puzzle to the greatest Bible scholars. They have written reams of "explanations" but the real difficulty remained. In 2 Ti.110 the old version reads "Who hath abolished death . . ." With all due respect to the Bible, we may safely conclude from the sad evidence so abundant on every side, that death has not been abolished. It has been in the case of Christ. It will be for His own at His presence, and it will be for all at the consummation. The abolition of death is partly past but mostly future. How can we express this in English? By the very form by which we have chosen to render the Greek indefinite. All incongruity vanishes when we translate "Who, indeed, abolishes death . . ." Hath abolished will not be true until after death has been done away with as the last enemy (1Co.1526).

ALL DO NOT DIE

There is a negative test which proves our position as to the aorist, which supplies an interesting example. The statement "in Adam all die" (1Co.1522) was quite perturbing to the writer at one time, as he clings hopefully to the expectation of being alive at the Lord's presence and being changed without passing through death, as set forth in this very chapter (verse 52). It was a welcome relief for him when he noticed that die is not indefinite, but incomplete. It should be rendered are dying. This is strictly, literally, actually true, even of those who will not die when He comes. We surely may be pardoned if we are very fond of the correct rendering. The translation we once preferred has become most distasteful to us. Let us not be fascinated by the face, but edified by the heart of a rendering.

THE INDEFINITE PARTICIPLE

The verbal adjective or "participle" has no indefinite form in English, hence is especially difficult to translate. When preceded by the article, in the Greek, we can preserve the distinction thus: the [one]-calling may be rendered he who is calling, and, when indefinite, we may change it to he who calls. This effectually conveys the difference between them. The verbal ending -ing is especially expressive of incompleted present action, hence is not fitted to represent the indefinite Greek participle. It seems necessary to change it to a noun and express its verbal force by an auxiliary. As the participle is a verbal adjective, this is really a close method of translation.

THE PARTICIPLE WITHOUT THE ARTICLE

But when there is no article the case is not so readily solved. The nearest solution seems to be the addition of the indefinite when. There are times when the translator cannot ignore the distinct force of these forms. In Heb.610 the sense of the final clause depends solely on drawing an accurate boundary between them. We cannot ignore the shade of difference and render this "serving the saints and serving". The old version attempts to define the difference thus: "in that ye have ministered to the saints and do minister". This rendering follows the interpretation, instead of guiding it. They supposed that the past and present acts of the Hebrews are before us and thus they produced a version which seemed to correspond closely with its context.

Its grave defect is that it has no bearing on the future. And this, of course, was especially on the writer's heart, for this is an exhortation. The true rendering broadens out the statement to its necessary extent. God will not forget when you serve—at any time in the past or future—and you are serving.

GOD LOVES (NOT LOVED) THE WORLD

Let us put our position to a different test. We will take the word "love" and discover, if we can, the distinction between the indefinite and other forms. Our first passage will be Jn.316. The usual rendering is "God loved", which we change to "God loves". Which is best? Is God's love a thing of the past? Is God not loving the world now? Will He not love it in the future? Surely His love is timeless! He loved. He is loving, and He will be loving: in brief. He loves. Does not this appeal to our hearts as well as our heads? However precious the old text may be. is it not a thousand times more precious in the new form? Suppose it does offend our ears at first, is not the great spiritual gain worth some temporary pain?

CHRIST'S LOVE IS TIMELESS

Christ's love is like the Father's love. It is timeless. Hence we read (Jn. 15°): "According as the Father loves Me, I, also, love you." In contrast to this is the love of the saints for God, which is put in the present. "We are loving God, seeing that He first loves us" (1 Jn.41°). But, we hear our readers object, "The sentence is awkward; it does not balance. It should be the same form of the verb in both clauses. Either make it 'We love . . . He . . . loves . . .' or 'We are loving . . . He . . . is loving.' The former is far preferable."

As the lack of "balance" is in the inspired original, the question is really not one of translation but of revelation. God did not "balance" the sentence. Shall we "improve" on His work? Or shall we let the "defect" appear in the English rendering? Shall we not rather break our jaws over the

most cacophonous wilderness of words in the world, rather than disturb the very shading of truth? The sentence does not balance because it should not balance. God's love and man's are different in their quality. It is not a natural instinct but a divine compulsion which urges us to love Him.

GOD LOVES, WE ARE LOVING

Can we not see the beauty of His love in this contrast? Shall we not revel in the distinction drawn by our Lord when He charges His disciples: "A new precept am I giving to you, that you be loving one another, according as I love you, that you also be loving one another" (Jn.1334)? This distinction "cumbers" all of John's writings. We would always use the indefinite forms. But the very love which burns within us bids us tear off the veneer that hides the surpassing excellence of His affection, and raises it above the feeble flicker of our own.

MEN LOVE DARKNESS

This thought is further unfolded when the indefinite form is used of men. Though men do not love God, they love darkness rather than light (Jn.319); they love the praise of other men (Jn.1243), they love the wages of unrighteousness (2 Pt.215), they love their own souls (Un.1211). In contrast to this the Son of God loves righteousness (Heb.19). The only time it is used of our love toward God it is in the negative: "Not that we love God, but that He loves us" (1 Jn.410).

Further examples and contrasts are found in the following passages, which should help us to appreciate the surpassing love of God and of His Christ as well as the exquisite power of the aorist to express it (1Jn.4¹¹): "Beloved, if God loves us thus, we also ought to be loving one another." And again (Jn. 15¹²): "This is My precept, that you be loving one another, according as I love you." And (Eph.5²⁵): "Husbands, be loving your wives according as Christ also loves the ecclesia. . ."

At first sight, the case of the woman who anointed our Lord's feet seems to be out of line with the indefiniteness of the aorist (Lu. 747), for the Lord says "She loves much". Yet the near context shows that He does not refer specifically to her act, but to her character. Hence it should be in the aorist.

ALL THE EVIDENCE

The following references are given that those who wish it may have all the evidence. I love occurs in Jn.13³⁴ 15⁹, ¹² Ro.9¹³ Un.3⁹. We love: 1 Jn.4¹⁰. You love: Jn.17²³, ²⁴, ²⁶ Heb.1⁹. He loves: Mk.10²¹ Lu.7⁴⁷ Jn.3¹⁶ 13¹ 15⁹ Eph.2⁴ 5², ²⁵ 2 Pt.2¹⁵ 1 Jn.4¹⁰, ¹¹, ¹⁹. They love: Jn. 3¹⁹12⁴³Un.12¹¹.

THE IMPERATIVE

The imperative, likewise, cannot have any place in the past. A command is always future. Here, too, the indicator of the past tense is absent. See 1 Pt.122, love-ue (agangsate).

THE PAST ELEMENT

That the indefinite verb expresses past as well as future is strongly confirmed by this change which it undergoes outside of the indicative mode. Those modes which, by their nature, cannot be used of a past action, drop the augment E—, the sign of the past.

THE VERBAL ADJECTIVE

Yet the same great truth vibrates in the participle, where we translate it who loves and the present who is loving, when they are preceded by the article. Is it not infinitely better to say "Him who loves us", in Ro.837? And Gal.220 is robbed of much of its sweetness in the old rendering, "Who loved me". The apostle's theme is not the past so much as the present and the future. "Who loves me" is full of solid satisfaction, entirely absent from the Authorized rendering. So in 2 Th. 216, is not "Who loves us" more comforting than "which hath loved us"? The participle is found without the article in Jn.131. Its indefiniteness is quite apparent, though it cannot be expressed in English.

GREEK VARIES ITS VERBS

The vivid and life-like changes of the verb in Greek offend our dull perceptions. Our minds are sluggish and do not respond to quick variations. We have a tendency to put everything in the past if it has already occurred, even if, for any reason, the fact rather than the act is in view. We would say (1 Pt.121) "God Who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory," instead of "God Who rouses Him from among the dead and is giving Him glory," as in the Greek. But Peter is not calling attention to past acts, but present conditions. God's character, as the God of

resurrection, is in point, not merely the past deed. And it is especially appropriate that Peter should call attention to the One Who, indeed, *suffered* in the past, but Who is now actually obtaining the glory which follows. He is not reciting history but inculcating faith.

SOUNDNESS IS NOT A MATTER OF SOUND

We grieve over the fact that we all feel the infraction of current English mannerisms much more keenly than the violation of the inspired originals. Even the most godly seem to be content if the English follows in the ruts of the decadent intellects of this dark era, rather than ride roughly in the road of truth. Those who are willing to bear with a passing disgust will find that, after a little use, the new renderings will appeal to them far more strongly than the old, for the old had nothing but custom and usage to gild them, while the new will gradually get these as well as the vital advantage of conformity to the mind of God.

We stand upon the ground that the tenses of scripture are a vital part of its inspiration. We have no more liberty to change the tense than we have to alter the words. At times the tense of a word is of greater moment than its meaning. When we yield to current English custom, we do so under protest, with the comfort that the Sublinary shows the true reading and exposes our departure from it.

"YE CANNOT BE COMING"

The distinction may not seem vital to us, but how must the disciples have felt if the Lord had really said to them, "Where I go ye cannot come"! (Jn.1333). Indeed, He immediately softens it by adding "at present", but that only shows that He did not say "come" but "be coming". Some certainly can go whither He went, but not at that time. In the case of the Jews (821) this English rendering has given rise to the natural deduction that they never could come to Him. But surely that cannot be so when He applies the very same words to His own.

Both the A. V. and Revised quote the Lord as saying "I judge no man" (Jn.815), notwithstanding that the Father has committed all judgment to the Son (Jn.522). Both cannot be true, The discrepancy vanishes when we render it "I am judging", that is, at

that time.

A DELIGHTFUL DISCOVERY

We have a strong conviction that, once students of the Scriptures grasp and enjoy the rich redundance of wisdom and grace brought to light by the proper rendering of the past-future indefinite, their initial aversion will be turned to delight.

The value of this orderly disposition of the forms of the Greek verb cannot be over-estimated. The earnest searcher after truth will find a haze removed from his eyes, and he will be able to follow God's thoughts clearly and precisely, if he distinguishes where God has been pleased to put a difference.

THE PRACTICAL PROCEDURE

"If the shoe fits, put it on." This is the common-sense method of distributing the English verbal forms among the Greek. Traditional grammatical tenets must fall before the fact that this plan works.

An undoubted difficulty remains for discussion. Our mode of thinking offers no facilities for considering a past act as a fact. Let us take the most notable act in history, the crucifixion of Christ. Surely that was a past act and cannot be repeated. Yet this is the very point the apostle presses in the sixth of Hebrews. There were some who were crucifying Him for themselves again. English may wince under the statement of Peter (Ac.236): "Jesus Whom ye crucify." Peter was pressing on them, not merely the past act, but the present fact of their attitude toward Him. Perhaps few of them had taken an active part in the act of crucifixion. All who refuse Him are guilty in fact. This distinction is a very practical one. In Gal.524 the A. V. tells us that "they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh". This has led to the logical deduction that this is a definite past experience, as was the case with Christ. It supports the doctrine of sinlessness in this life. The correct reading may grate on the English ear, but it conveys the truth. They crucify the flesh. It is a fact for the past, the present and the future. A knowledge of this distinction would have saved the saints from many a tremendous blunder and false step.

SOUND OR SENSÉ

The question is, shall we attempt to enlarge the scope of English idiom to express a past act as a fact, or shall we alter God's truth to fit the narrow confines of our craniums?

EXAMPLES ABOUND

It would make this treatise too long and laborious to multiply examples. They may be readily found by any English reader by a reference to the Concordant Version sublinear. Few are without point. Many are most precious. Even as this is being written Eph.432 comes up in our hearts. ".. and become kind to one another, tenderly compassionate, dealing graciously among yourselves, even as God, in Christ, deals graciously with you." The contrast between dealing and deals fills our hearts to overflowing with thankfulness. His gracious dealings with us are timeless.

We have opened up a new vista in divine revelation. If true, it should be welcomed with open arms and published in every periodical, our grammars should be corrected and our versions revised. If it is true, it is an enormous stride toward the knowledge of God. If it is true, we should not allow the forms of speech or temporary idiom's to rob us of its light. We should break our rigid molds of thought and recast them to include this new and precious vehicle of truth.

THE SCRIPTURAL TEST

If it is false, it should be conden ned unsparingly. Let it be tested, however, not from the standpoint of current scholarship, or devout tradition, or any other thing than the evidence found in the form and context of the inspired originals. We are confident that these will support our position, yet we are prepared to abandon this stand just as soon as actual evidence from the original shows it to be unfounded.

No one who believes in divine inspiration can be neutral in this matter. To put it concretely, "God loved the world" is wrong: "God loves the world" is right.

THE CONCORDANT METHOD

Furthermore, if it is right it should be the best possible vindication of the method used in the CONCORDANT VERSION. If this method automatically solves the riddle of the Greek verb, does it not follow that it can solve many other problems of translation?

THE CONCORDANT GREEK TEXT

Conformity to the autographs is the one aim of the Concordant Text. Should the documents which were penned by the sacred writers ever come to light, it is certain that, in many particulars, they would present an appearance quite unlike our modern editions. This text aspires to restore the sacred scriptures in all points, in form as well as fact, so that it may be a faithful copy and pure reproduction of the inspired writings.

LETTERS—Only capital letters were used in the first century and in all older manuscripts. The forms used are found in the best manuscripts as well as in inscriptions made about the time when the scriptures were penned.

IOTA SUBSCRIPT-Modern editions follow the later cursive manuscripts in adding a small iota, under certain vowels. ancient inscriptions this letter was writen on the line with the capital letters. Gradually, in the first century, it was dropped. On a Cæsarean coin struck about A.D. 67-68 (at about the time the scriptures were penned) the jota is absent. It is safer, therefore, to follow the most Excient uncial manuscripts, and omit this leiter until evidence is presented which proces that it was used in the inspired Mographs. It is not likely that all the copyists would conspire to leave out this letter (which is the only one not sounded in pronunciation) unless the original before them did not contain it. Could we prove that it was always used in the latter half of the first century, as appears to have been the case some centuries earlier. we might presume to restore it. But, as the first century was a period of transition, during which this silent letter gradually fell away, there is no evidence that it was ever present in the original documents, or that all the copies made from them deliberately omitted it in every instance. The later manuscripts, which have this letter, also contain many other features which could not have been present in the inspired originals.

SPACING—The best manuscripts do not have spaces between words or sentences. We dare not inject our own judgment by introducing any human divisions into a text which aspires to be a facsimile of the autographs. By putting the phrase

"now it is the evening of the sabbaths" at the *beginning* of Mt.28 instead of at the *end* of Mt.27 the passage becomes self-contradictory and the whole subject of the resurrection day has been thrown into confusion.

It is significant that sacred Greek has no such term as "word". The meaning of logos is "expression", often consisting of many "words". As English is divided into words, we have indicated the corresponding Greek by starting the English word, when possible, under the first letter of the Greek. Thus anointed commences under X, the first letter of its equivalent. With a little practise this answers the purpose of our spaces without marring the inspired text.

ACCENTS, BREATHING, PUNCTUATION, etc., are not inspired, hence have no place in the text.

In order to put the text beyond the possibility of further mutilation and provide an exhaustive system to enable the student to readily refer to any letter, the Greek is printed with twenty letters to a line and fifty lines to a page, making just a thousand letters on each opening. After each line is a numerical check. Each group of a hundred is numbered 20, 40, 60, 80, and the groups numbered, 100, 200, etc., to 900. At the end of the page the thousands gather up the amount from all previous pages and give the full number of letters to this point. This is used in the heading of the next page. If we should say that there has been much discussion about 1 Ti.3782, any one can find the letter readily by turning to page 3001, beyond group 700, line 80, second letter. In case it is necessary to change the number of letters, only the numbers at the end of each line are altered.

A TOTALLY NEW TEXT

The CONCORDANT GREEK TEXT is entirely original in its methods and results. It is not allied with any of the conflicting schools of criticism. Because it is based on the most ancient evidence it seems to be built on the work of the greatest recognized "authorities", such as Tischendorf, Lachmann, Tregelles, Westcott and Hort, Nestle, etc. But it also agrees, on important points, with that school of criticism of which Scrivener is the repre-

sentative, especially in the admission of much which is discarded in some quarters. We have aimed to construct, not to destroy. But, above all, we have given all the evidence of the texts on which the work is based. This makes the Concordant the equivalent of four texts, three most ancient, and one most modern.

To explain our position we will mention the principal passages which have been omitted or changed in the Revised Version, in accord with the destructive criticism which is generally supposed to be based on the most ancient evidence such as we have used.

TEST PASSAGES

We do not omit the end of Mark's account, for, though it is not found in B and s, space is left for it in both, and it is found in A. In Lu.214 the C (which led the revisers to change "Good will toward men" to "among men in whom He is well pleased") is found only in A, for it has been erased in B and s. Hence we omit it and render it more accurately "Delight among men".

We do not omit the two verses (Lu.2243-44) concerning the strengthening of our Lord by a messenger, for, though A, B, s* omit them, they are restored by s².

We do not omit the prayer of our Lord for the forgiveness of His murderers (Lu.2334), for A has it and s restores it after cancellation.

We do not omit "strong" in $Mt.14^{30}$, for B has it in the margin.

we have carefully investigated the evidence as to the reading "who" for "God" in 1 Ti.316. In s there can be no doubt that it originally read "who". A late corrector has added "God" above the line in small thick characters, and has inserted three dots before "who" in the line. The epistle is lacking in B. In A the passage is very blurred, but it seems clear that the two small horizontal strokes which change "who" into the abbreviation for "God" are there, but have been added by a later hand, for the ink is quite black. The vellum is so thin that it may be that a stroke on the opposite side came through, so starting the alteration. The ancient versions, in general, know nothing of the reading "God", while the cursive manuscripts, which were copied from the ancient uncials after they had been changed, all have "God". Besides this there is the story that Macedonius, Patriarch of Constantinople, was deprived of his office by Emperor Anastasius for having corrupted the evangel, especially in this passage, by changing one letter, so altering "who" into "God". The context overwhelmingly favors "who", for it is an exhortation to conduct, not a dissertation on the Godhead. The statement in Hebrews 1020 that the curtain which hung before the holy of holies and kept its contents from being manifest is figured by His flesh, is a direct contradiction of the teaching of this passage, if we read "God manifest in flesh". The antecedents being things, we use "which" in the version.

EVIDENCE, NOT THEORIES

Instead of formulating theories regarding the sacred text, we have sought to

accumulate actual evidence and deal with it from a practical and spiritual viewpoint. A careful comparison of all the readings of the three manuscripts used with one another, with the "Received" text, and with the leading printed editions, will convince any one that, while no single ancient manuscript has the best text and may be regarded as better than the "Received", the combination of three divergent and supplementary manuscripts gives us a text superior to any obtained in any other way.

CONSTRUCTIVE, NOT DESTRUCTIVE

Hitherto the flaws in the most ancient manuscripts have usually been given prime consideration. The inadvertent omission of a clause has thrown suspicion on its right to a place in the text of other copies, whereas its presence in these should have supplied the evidence for its insertion. The combination of the most ancient evidence comes much nearer the "Received" text than does any single manuscript, and really composes the dispute as to whether the earliest or latest manuscripts are the best evidence. The "Received" is evidently such a composite text, but, having been subject to more human infirmity in its multiplied links of transmission, it can never aspire to the authority of the earliest evidence.

TEXTUAL PRINCIPLES

The principles on which the CONCORD-ANT text is based are drawn from the practical experience of printers, who are the copyists of today. When we know the nature of the errors most readily made by a modern compositor, we are ready to understand the mistakes of the ancient scribes and can correct them.

In applying these principles due regard must be given to the weight of each witness and the special facts in each case. These may modify the conclusions and even reverse the result.

The ancient corrector corresponds to the proof reader of the present day. No one thinks of issuing a work today before it has been read for errors, which are corrected before printing. An ancient manuscript, however, had to be used as it was written. Hence the corrector's marks should supersede the text.

It is found that present day printers, in "following copy" leave out a word or a phrase or a sentence much more frequently than they put anything in. In fact, an insertion is a rare thing. It is

more than likely that the ancient copyists did the same thing. In fact any one who will take the trouble to look over the Sinaitic text of the last book of scripture will come to the conclusion that it was written by one who made a habit of omission. Many a sentence has been supplied by the ancient corrector and even he failed to catch a few palpable omissions, which may have been lacking in the copy he had. Hence we may deduce this rule:

Omissions are easily made: restore them: Additions are rare: weigh them.

Hence the proper course to pursue today is to incorporate every attested reading in the text, noting the fact of its omission from other manuscripts.

The work of copying was done by profollowed who their fessionals copy mechanically. A repetition would be readily detected; the omission of a phrase might be mere carelessness. Omissions are especially apt to occur when a word is repeated. The scribe of s, one of the best manuscripts of the Apocalypse, left the tribes of Gad and Simeon out of his list of the one hundred forty-four thousand. The same scribe skipped from the words "thousand years" to the same words a line or two lower, and left out the words between. The modern proof reader finds the same tendency. It is our duty to restore these missing words from other sources.

A FULL TEXT

The Concordant is what may be termed a "full" text. It seeks to restore all readings which have any good claim to a place in it on the assumption that deliberate insertions are much more improbable and unforgivable than are unintentional omissions. Later texts, of course, were corrupted in the interest of error, but we have reason to believe that very little of this was done in early days. A few of the ancient corruptions we are able to expunge by means of the evidence supplied

by the writings of the early Fathers. Unusual forms (not actual blunders) are to be preferred to common modes of expression. The compositor and scribe naturally fall into a rut, but seldom inject an original feature into their work.

FOUR TEXTS IN ONE

All of the Concordant text which has no notation in the line immediately above is in perfect agreement with all three of the ancient manuscripts on which it is based. If one of these differs, its reading is noted just above the text used. Thus the possessor of the Concordant text can tell at a glance how any one of the three best manuscripts reads.

It will be noticed that very few of these divergent readings vitally affect the sense. Differences in spelling, the cases of nouns, the use of the article, the order of words and blunders (apart from which there are few variants) cannot even be transferred into English at all times. For all practical purposes the text is very pure-perhaps one in a thousand letters is open to serious question—which cannot be said with equal truth of any other ancient writing which has come down to us. On all the great truths of Holy Writ there is ample evidence to assure certainty and confidence. The loss in translation has been a hundred-fold more than in the transmission of the text.

MUTILATED MANUSCRIPTS

The accompanying diagram shows the mutilation of the manuscripts which are used as the basis of this Version. Codex Sinaiticus (\$) is the only complete text, and even it omits the end of Mark. Alexandrinus (A) lacks most of Matthew (from the beginning to 256) besides Jn. 650-852 and 2 Co.413-126, as well as a few letters on the corners of numerous leaves. Vaticanus (B) omits the end of Mark, Paul's pastoral epistles, Hebrews 914 to the end, and the Unveiling. In place of

SINA-	М	MK	LK	JN	RO	18	200	GAL	EPH	PH	8	ITH	2TH	HE	ITL	ŽΠ	TIT	PHM	AC	JA	IPE	2PE	IJN	2JN	3.N	JD	RE
TIC																											
VATI-	Mī	MK	LK	JИ	AC.	JA	1 PE	2 PE	IJN	2JN	3JN	JD	RO	100	200	GAL	EPH	PH	COL	ITH	2TH	HE					
ÇAN		W	M							W														1			
JEYAN-	MT	MK	LK	JN	AC	JA	IPE	2 PE	IJN	2JN	3 JN	JD	RO	100	200	GAL	. EPH	PH	Œι	ITH	2TH	HE	ITI	2 TI	TIT	PHM	RE
DRINE																											

this we use Vaticanus 2066 (b), which is confined to the Unveiling. The various papyri are only short fragments.

FIRST CENTURY GREEK

In the interval between the last Hebrew prophet and the advent of the Messiah Whom they foretold, vast changes took place in the apostate nation. The fires of faith flickered feebly, yet flared up at times, especially under the leadership of the Maccabees. The Persian world empire was conquered by Alexander, who overran the holy land, taking Jerusalem without a struggle. As a result of his conquest the Greek language was spread among all nations and became the common medium of communication for the peoples dwelling near the Mediterranean sea. The constant turmoil in the land of Israel, either from enemies without or traitors within, led many of the Jews to seek a home in other lands. Multitudes went to Egypt and dwelt there. Not only the Jews of this dispersion but those who remained in the land gradually took up the Greek language. Hence, when the scriptures were translated into that tongue, the Hebrew text was soon left for the rabbis in the synagogues. The Greek translation took its place in common use. While some still retained a small smattering of the language of inspiration, the tongue of the Jews became Greek. Our Lord and His disciples spoke Greek. Only occasionally they used a familiar word or phrase from the Aramaic, which was probably a corruption of the ancient Hebrew. So that, even if Paul had never written to those outside the pale of Israel, the Jews themselves could be reached only by the use of Greek. Only the learned were sufficiently acquainted with Hebrew to read the prophets.

A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

Doubtless it was God's plan to use this change in language to reach the other nations as He afterward did through the apostle Paul. But the use of Greek was quite as necessary to reach the Jews themselves both in the land and among the dispersion.

The Greek found in the scriptures is that in common use in the first century. Many papyrus manuscripts have been discovered which show that it was the language of the common people. It is the language of the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew scriptures.

The usual criticism of scholars that it is "bad" Greek is based on ignorance and faulty standards of comparison. It is an adaptation of one of the most perfect of human languages to the highest purpose for which speech can be used.

THE THREE WITNESSES

Our Lord laid down the law that the words of two or three witnesses are sufficient evidence to decide any matter. It surely is not a mere chance that, in the providence of God, there are two great witnesses to the text of Holy Writ and a third to call upon when these do not agree. Editors have examined thousands of later manuscripts, but the resultant text is practically the same as one derived from the three most ancient manuscripts alone. As we desire to avoid human opinions and found all on fact, we are compelled to draw our text directly from the most ancient sources possible. As we exhibit the evidence as well as the result, we are forced to confine ourselves to the chief witnesses. The effect of this course is a text which is in essential accord with that on which the concensus of critical opinion has placed its approval.

To insure accuracy the printed text has been carefully compared with photographic reproductions of the ancient manuscripts themselves, when possible.

The three most ancient and valuable manuscripts of the Greek Scriptures are the Codex Sinaiticus in Leningrad, the Codex Vaticanus in Rome, and the Codex Alexandrinus in the British Museum. It is a remarkable fact that, after centuries of study and comparison, the first two are the best texts of the scriptures which have come down to us. The influence of all other manuscripts of later date is very slight compared with these two texts.

The parts of the various manuscripts vary much in value. As the scriptures originally circulated as separate pamphlets and these differed from each other in their dependability, it is quite possible in some book, for a text like A, though usually regarded as inferior, to take first place. It is unwise to insist that any manuscript is always to be preferred.

The collations here given (except b, on which we lay no stress) do not conform to printed editions, in which the editor uses his own judgment in selecting readings and adds headings and other matter from other sources. They are an exact report on the facts as they exist in the ancient manuscripts themselves.

CODEX SINAITICUS (8)

Codex Sinaiticus (herein denoted by a small italic s) is the most complete and perfect manuscript we have. It is the latest great codex to be discovered. In 1844, Constantin Tischendorf, in search of ancient manuscripts, visited the monastery of St. Catherine on Mt. Sinai, in the desert of Arabia. While there he noticed several leaves of vellum in a waste paper They proved to be part of a copy of the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew scriptures. The monks were using these valuable books as fuel. He got possession of forty-three leaves. which he took to Europe and published. In 1853 he went back to recover the rest of the manuscript, but failed to find any trace of it. In 1859, under the patronage of Tsar Alexander II., of Russia, he was once more at Mt. Sinai for a few days. As he was about to leave he had a conversation with the steward of the monastery regarding his edition of the Septuagint. The steward said that he too had a copy of the Septuagint, and brought out a copy which included the Greek Scriptures in their entirety, wrapped up in a napkin. Here was the prize Tischendorf had sought for fifteen years! He persuaded the monks to let him take the manuscript to Cairo and have a transcript made, but was unable to get them to part with it except as a present to the Tsar, the protector of the Greek Church, to which they belonged. It was taken to the Russian Imperial Library, in St. Petersburg, where it remained.

THE EDITOR OF SINAITICUS (82)

The readings of Sinaiticus are of two classes. First there are the corrections made at the time the manuscript was written or soon afterwards. These are sometimes called the A or B readings. They are shown in the Concordant Version as s*. The second class of corrections are editorial in nature and were made some centuries later. They are sometimes called the C readings. The Concordant superlinear gives them as s², s³, and s⁵. A very few alterations were made much later and are known as F readings (s⁵).

So great do we deem this discovery that we offer some evidence to prove our position. The corrector in whom we have so much confidence is denoted by the symbol s². Only s* gives us the long lost answer to the seventh chapter of Romans. In the margin he inserts the answer to

the question, "What shall deliver me?" It is grace (Ro. 725). This is so precious and important that we will inquire more carefully into the character of \$2, who passed on this addition favorably.

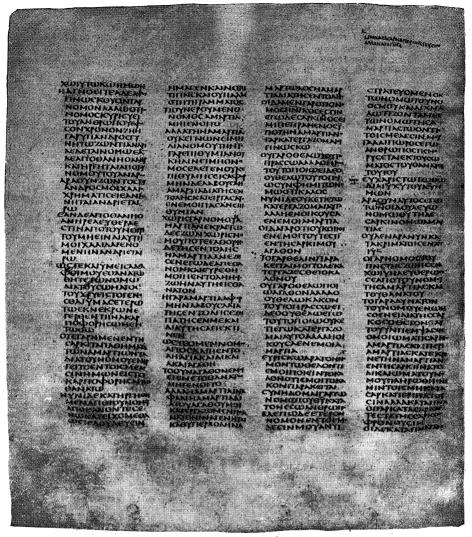
He was an editor, endeavoring, not merely to correct the mechanical slips of the scribe, but to conform the text to the best ancient evidence. It is supposed that this editorial work was done at Cæsarea by comparison with Pamphilius' manuscripts, which in turn had been compared with Origen's Hexapla. If this be true, it is of the utmost importance that we recognize it and accord their readings the place they deserve.

It is important to note that the early corrections, like the addition to Romans seven, mentioned above, were all subjected to the scrutiny of the later editors. Thus they are not only the deliberate additions of the early scribe, but are confirmed by the later editorial revision.

Another point is of principal importance. Many of the mistakes in the ancient manuscript are omissions. Only those actually engaged in transcribing will realize how easy it is to leave out a few words or a line. A compositor on the CONCORDANT VERSION recently skipped from one line of his copy to the next, because the same word occurred in each. The principle hitherto followed, that the ancient scribes were anxious to add to the text and thus gave rise to spurious additions, must be abandoned. Just as an ancient sculpture does not gain, but rather loses in the course of time, and must be restored, so with the writing which is copied many times. There can be no that the scribe of Sinaiticus doubt skipped many words which were restored by the corrector. The Alexandrian manuscript has thus lost quite a few whole sentences and almost always the reason is apparent from the text itself.

READINGS RESTORED

As the corrector of Sinaiticus restores many omissions, in which it is supported by the other manuscripts, the question arises whether it may not be the sole remaining source of some readings which have fallen out of all the other manuscripts. This can be determined only by internal evidence. As Romans 725, the particular passage in which we are interested, is in this class, we shall enlarge on this point and leave it to our readers' candid judgment. We feel sure all who investigate will come to the conclusion that, in the providence of God, the cor-



CODEX SINAITICUS (8) ROMANS 628 TO 85

The original of this famous manuscript was written on thin vellum, each page being now about 13½ by 15 inches in size. This allows the letters to be quite large and clear. This page contains two notable corrections by a later editor (s²). In the upper right hand corner will be seen the reading: "They are not walking according to flesh but according to spirit" (Ro.81). In the space between the last two columns, a little over an inch from the top, is the word "Grace", which answers the question of the seventh chapter of Romans (Ro.724). In the first line on the page are three abbreviations. These are indicated by horizontal strokes over the words. The first two letters stand for Christ. The second two (the stroke-over them is invisible) are the first and last letters of Jesus. The next two are the article the. The seventh and eighth letters stand for Master or Lord. The name God is abbreviated in the fifth line from the bottom of the third column, the fifth and sixth letters from the end.

rector and later editor of Sinaiticus has preserved for us the true reading in this notable text, and that grace (which has been largely absent from the lives of God's saints as well as from this passage) may now be restored to its place in the seventh of Romans and in our hearts and lives.

In an exhaustive survey, limited to the readings occurring in the first epistle to the Corinthians it was found that there are about three dozen places where the later editor of Sinaiticus supplies something absent not only from the first draft of Sinaiticus but from Vaticanus and Alexandrinus as well. We will examine these to see what motive prompted their addition. Did this editor try to force some of his own teachings into the text? Are the additions as good or better than the text without them? Is there any apparent reason why they might have been dropped in the transcription? We have sorted the passages into five classes. The first fourteen additions are all alike in character, in that they make no change in the sense of the passage, but are more precise and accurate—points which are highly commendable in the scriptures. In each of the subjoined passages the word added by the editor is in italics. It is omitted by the other evidence. The renderings are from the Concordant Ver-SION, as other translations are not sufficiently exact to show some of the distinctions.

1 Co. 120 the wisdom of this world 210 through His Spirit 312 this foundation 46 not to be disposed above what is written for I sur-49 suppose that God demonstrates 57 clean out, then, the old leaven and those using this world 731 I became as weak to the weak 922 1013 To enable you to undergo it 1023 All is allowed me (twice) 1126 and drinking this cup yet all the members of the one body being many or one member is being esteemed each of you has a psalm 1212 1226 1426

Try the experiment of going over each of these, leaving out the italicized word. The sense remains, but its point is blunted. In fact, it is not strictly true that God makes the wisdom of the world stupid. The wisdom of the world to come will be in harmony with His wisdom. It applies only to the wisdom of this world. And God reveals it to us not merely through the spirit, but it is through His spirit.

And so, in almost every case there is a distinct gain in accuracy and emphasis. In no case can we charge the editor with the introduction of his own ideas.

JUSTIFIABLE ADDITIONS

We next present a list of fifteen more passages in which the editor of Sinaiticus adds to the sense yet never alters it. In almost every case the addition is not only undoubtedly true, but it is demanded by the context. How lacking is the statement "This is My body which is for you," spoken as the Lord is breaking the bread for his disciples! Is it not much more likely that the true reading is "Which is broken for you?" True, no bone of Him was broken, but not so His body.

The three other additions to this passage all appeal to our spiritual perception of the fitness of things. "Let him be testing himself first" adds point to the exhortation, "He who is eating and drinking unworthily" is surely demanded by the words that follow. Eating and drinking do not themselves call for judgment. "Not discriminating the body of the Lord" gives definiteness to an otherwise vague expression. So with "Is anyone planting a vineyard and not eating of its fruit?" The planter could hardly eat all of its fruit himself. Rather he eats of it and supplies his household as well. Love never falls is a usage of the word "falls" unknown elsewhere. It is weak. "Love never falls out, or lapses" is eminently fitting.

1 Co. 51 such prostitution as is not even named among the nations

57 Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for our sakes 75

have leisure for fasting and prayer giving in marriage (out-marry-738

ing)

739 A wife is bound by law for

that there is no other (different)
God except One 84

is any one planting a vineyard and not eating of its fruit he who is threshing in expectation 97

910

of sharing in the expectation this is My body which is broken for your sakes 1124

not discriminating the body of the for he who is eating and drinking unworthily 1129 $\bar{1}\bar{1}^{29}$

1129 not discriminating the body of the Lord

love is never lapsing (or falling-out) for "falling" 138

1615 Stephanas and Fortunatus

fond of the Lord Jesus Christ 1622

That Christ our Passover was sacrificed for our sakes, none will deny, and it is far from trite to introduce it into the apostle's argument. So with the bonds of wedlock. They are legal bonds. It is likely that the sin spoken of in this epistle was committed among the nations though they probably refrained from mentioning it. The addition of Fortunatus' name was done deliberately and must have been based on earlier evidence. So also with the name and title of our Lord. The character of these additions impresses us as a genuine attempt to restore the text to its original completeness and vigor.

MINUTE BETTERMENTS

Our next group of passages is such as only one acquainted with Greek or who has an exact sublinear such as is given in the CONCORDANT VERSION can appreciate. The Greek language is very rich in particles and connectives which appear redundant to English ears.

1 Co. 510 And undoubtedly it is not

619 from the God

811 is being destroyed also 1134 Now if any one is hungry

1134 Now if any one is hungry 1311 Yet when I have become a man 1413 Wherefore let even him who is

talking languages 1538 its own (the) body

"Yet when I have become a man" shows a disjunctive turn of thought better than if it were omitted. The same is true of "Now if anyone is hungry."

We next present two cases in which the particle AN is added by the editor of Sinaiticus. This interesting little word is seldom translated in the versions. It is the sign of indefiniteness, represented by EVER in the sublinear of the CONCOR-DANT VERSION. In the Version its presence is usually acknowledged by changing may to should. It is the key to that passage which has caused so much controversy (Mt.2434): "Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass till all these things be fulfilled." All difficulties are removed if we render it concordantly, "Verily, I am saying to you, This generation may by no means be passing by till all these things should be occurring." It is not may, but may ever, which, in English, is should. Our Lord was careful to qualify His statement, which shows that, far from being positive that these things would be fulfilled, He evidently knew they would not. The two passages follow:

1 Co.1126 till He should (for may) be coming

1525 until He should (for may) be placing

ONE DISCORDANT NOTE

Except the strengthening of the word not (9¹²), but one passage remains, the only one which seems to mar the text and quarrel with its context. Nevertheless we give it so that all the evidence will be before us and nothing hid.

1 Co.14¹⁰ not one of them is soundless (for "nothing is soundless")

The apostle seems to be speaking of voices or sounds. To say that no sounds are without sound seems senseless. To say that nothing is without sound is doubtless true though rather trite. Perhaps the root of the difficulty lies in the word "soundless". Our Common Version renders it "without signification", which the Revisers change to "without significance". While there is no external evidence for this rendering, it certainly responds to the context, for the apostle has been speaking of a variety of natural sounds, and he is pleading against senseless speaking in the ecclesia. Now if we insert a letter, P, which is the equivalent of our R, and read aphroonos for aphoonos, then the whole difficulty is solved and the corrector of Sinaiticus is right even in this passage. It would then read, "many voices in the world and not one of them senseless." But there is no documentary evidence for this, so we cannot stake anything on it.

THE CHARACTER OF \$2

We trust that the proof we have presented will convince all that we are justified in treating the readings of the editor of Sinaiticus with a grave measure of respect. There is not the slightest reason to impugn his motives, for in no case could he gain any doctrinal advantage by his additions. Most of his contributions strengthen or develop the sense already present and are supported by the context. As he very often agrees with the best manuscripts such as Vaticanus or Alexandrinus (where internal evidence is not needed to confirm his changes), we may readily come to the conclusion that the edited Sinaiticus is far superior to its first draft. Furthermore, even when the editor of Sinaiticus seems alone, his additions to the text are of such a solid, unbiased and helpful character, that they demand recognition far beyond what has been accorded them in the past.

When we remember, then, that the word "grace", added in the margin of Romans seven, is not only the correction

of the contemporary scribes, but was passed as correct by the later editor, we have ample grounds for including it in the text without appealing to the strong prejudice created by the demands of the context.

RESTORATION, NOT MUTILATION

Every ancient work of art comes to us mutilated by the hand of time. When we find one in which there was an ancient attempt to restore it to its pristine perfectness we do not rid it of the restorer's work but rather rejoice that one has been before us, and carefully preserve and guard his efforts. So with the scriptures. The many corrections which seem to deface the Sinattic text are its greatest glory. Speaking generally they probably give us the best evidence as to the original scriptures which we possess.

GRACE IN ROMANS SEVEN

We shall now return to the seventh of Romans and the reading which has prompted this digression. Without an acquaintance with the facts we have presented we would probably pass over the added word grace, as the answer to that chapter, as it is based almost entirely on this manuscript. It will be of more than ordinary interest to note the various ways in which this text has appeared in Greek manuscripts and other ancient sources as well as modern editors. "I am thanking the God" is the reading of one set of witnesses, which includes Sinaiticus uncorrected. Alexandrinus. two Syriac versions, the Peshitto and the Harkleian, the Gothic version of Ulfilas, and most other Codices. Origen has it so twice out of three instances and Chrysostom quotes it so once. "Thanks (or grace) to the God" is the reading of Vaticanus and is followed by the Coptic Sahidic version. Origen one out of three instances. Methodius, a Bishop of Olympus, and Hieronymus, once out of two occurrences. "Yet thanks (or grace) to the God" is the reading of c2 (Codex Ephræmi), a few other Codices, a few of the Boharic and the Armenian versions, and is so quoted by Cyril of Alexandria. "The grace of God" is found in D (Codex Claromontanus), 32, a twelfth century manuscript in Paris, the Latin version, Hieronymus, once in two instances, and Origen's Latin in both of its occurrences. Weymouth gives the consensus of modern editors as favoring "Thanks (or grace) to the God", but most of them put "I am thanking" in the margin. Alexander Souter's recent

edition reverses this, putting "I am thanking" in the text, and "Thanks to" in the margin. The Concordant Greek text will combine these readings. Once this is done the solution of the whole matter appears as clear as noonday. Probably a very early scribe, in copying this passage, came to the word grace, XAPIC (charis) and lifted his eyes from the copy. Then turning to it again, his eyes fell on the same combination of letters XAPIC in "I am thanking", a little further on. In this way, his copy skipped the word grace, for he had lost it in the "thanking". This shifting from grace to thanks, in English, will be clearer if we explain that thanks, gratitude, grace, rejoice and bounty are all from the same element xAP, in Greek, which means joy. Sometimes we must translate grace gratitude (1 Co. 1030). Thanks is WELL-JOY. Surely all who are acquainted with the grace of God can see that there is a much deeper connection than a mere etymological one, for grace is the purest and most inexhaustible source of joy and thanksgiving.

WORD SKIPPING

The habit of skipping words found between recurring combinations of letters accounts for many of the omissions found in our modern texts. They should be restored. The compositor of the Greek text of the Unveiling had an experience of this kind in setting up the repetition "out of the tribe of . . . twelve thousand," and, he, like the scribe of Sinaiticus omitted two tribes by skipping, but was able to correct it, as it was in movable type.

The key to the sixth and seventh chapters of Romans lies in the fact that they are an expansion of the conclusion of the fifth chapter. "For even as through the disobedience of the one man the many were constituted sinners, thus also through the obedience of the One, the many shall be constituted just. Yet law crept in that the offense should be increasing. Yet where sin increases, grace superexceeds, that, even as Sin reigns in death, thus also Grace should be reigning, through righteousness, for eonian life, through Jesus Christ our Lord." Then comes that superlative insistence on grace which is rejected by almost everyone today. "What, then, shall we assert? That we may be persisting in sin that grace should be increasing?" It is evident from this that, even under such a supposition, grace would exceed. Who believes this today?

CODEX VATICANUS (B)

Codex Vaticanus (B) is generally held to be the oldest as well as the most valuable of all the manuscripts. Since 1481 it has been in the Vatican Library at Rome, except for a short period when Napoleon carried it to Paris. It was almost inaccessible to scholars until 1868. In 1889-90 a photographic fac-simile was published which makes it available to all. It contains all the Greek scriptures except the end of Hebrews, Paul's personal epistles and the Apocalypse.

In assigning this text a very high place as a witness to the truth we are supported by many eminent critics and students of diverse theories and methods. It impresses one as the result of a conscientious endeavor to protect the sacred text in contrast to other and later manuscripts which suffer from injudicious and deliberate changes. The corrector of Sinaiticus, who undoubtedly had much better evidence than is now available, unconsciously put his seal upon Vaticanus by correcting again and again to agree with this great witness. In this text Paul's epistles are placed after Jude, and Hebrews is inserted in them between second Thessalonians and first Timothy.

CODEX VATICANUS (b)

As Codex Vaticanus does not contain the Apocalypse, we have used Codex Vaticanus 2066, (046), which is attached to it, in its place, with the symbol b. It is not by any means as valuable as B. and may not have been written until the eighth century.

ALEXANDRINUS (A)

Codex Alexandrinus (A) has been long known to English scholars and was once the only early manuscript accessible to them. It came to England as a gift to James I. from the Patriarch of Alexandria through the Turkish ambassador. It is now the chief treasure of the British Museum. It has been repeatedly published and is now issued in photographic facsimile. In it Paul's epistles are placed after Jude, with Hebrews inserted after the second epistle to the Thessalonians.

The Codex Alexandrinus was probably written in the fifth century.

THE PAPYRUS FRAGMENTS

Some of the recently discovered fragments of Papyri have been added to our witnesses. They may be the most ancient of all the testimony we have. Those of the fourth or fifth century are in close agreement with B and s. They are found as follows:

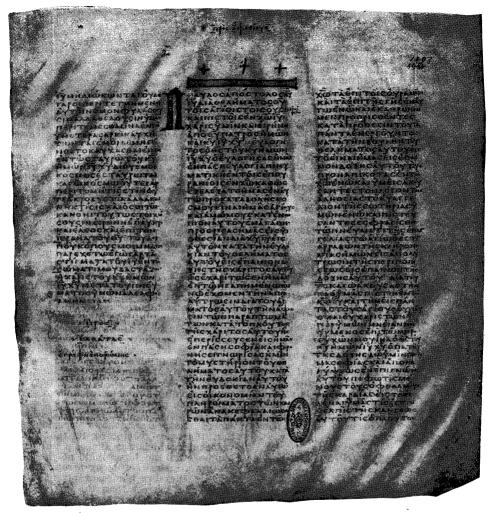
> p5 Jn.123-31, 33-41, 2011-17, 19-25 p13 Hb.214-55, 108-1113, 1128-1217 p15 1Co.718-84, Phil.39-17, 42-8

The few papyrus fragments are not included in our collection for their critical value so much as for their sobering effect on so-called higher criticism. About three hundred years elapsed between the penning of the autographs of the Greek scriptures and the writing of the earliest of the manuscripts hitherto known. Skeptical critics were swift to assume that Constantine was really responsible for the Greek text as we have it and that we know nothing of the actual autographs. They did not hesitate to denounce everything. The idioms were foreign, the grammar crooked, the spelling strange—nothing was what it ought to be.

Now come the papyri and fall upon the great edifice of destructive "scientific" scholarship and crush all their ungodly theories in the dust. Pieces of papyri, though written not much earlier than our standard codices, record, not only a few fragments of the sacred text, but documents of all kinds from recipes to imperial proclamations, touching all classes of society and every variety of communication or memorandum.

The fact that all are written in the same language as that employed in the scriptures, shows conclusively that these are composed in the Greek vernacular which was almost a universal language in the latter half of the first century. Instead of being wrong in all regards, they are immeasurably more accurate and correct than the critics ever could be. But critics cannot learn, even from a rebuke like this, for now they are trying to explain the remaining "blemishes" by blaming the men who wrote at the dictation of the authors. Nothing less than divine illumination will ever convince men of the absolute and inerrant perfection of holy writ, even down to the last letter.

Yet we must remember that, though the papyri prove, in a general way, that the language of the originals is just what is to be expected, these fragments are not by any means a safe guide to the meaning of words. They were written several centuries later and hundreds of miles distant from Palestine. If it is



CODEX VATICANUS (B) GALATIANS 612-18 AND EPHESIANS 11-18.

The chief treasure of the Vatican Library at Rome. This page is hardly a fair specimen of its appearance, as a later hand has added the large initial (the original MS. had the letter on the line where the blank space now is) and the ornaments. It is written on very fine vellum, nearly square in shape, about $10x10\frac{1}{2}$ inches in size. The accents and other marks have been added by a much later hand. At the end of the third line of the center column will be seen the notable addition "in Ephesus". It is mostly in the margin, very evidently not a part of the original manuscript. The subscription to Galatians shows how these were added. The oval stamp between the last few lines of the second and third columns is the stamp of the Vatican Library at Rome. It reads bibliotheca apostolica vaticana. It will be noted that this manuscript has three columns to the page, while Alexandrinus has two, and Sinaiticus four. It has no initials and practically no indications of words, sentences or paragraphs. The original is jealousy guarded because it is the greatest prize of the Papal library. The photographic fac-simile now issued gives all students access to its pages.

not good sense to determine correct current English usage by the documents of an obscure English shire three hundred years ago, neither is it sound policy to judge the language of Palestine in the first century by that in Oxyrhynchus, on the upper Nile, in the third century.

An earnest effort was made to use the evidence of the papyri in fixing the meaning of words used in this version, but the net result was far less than was anticipated. God has made His revelation self-sufficient. The value of a single divine context in determining the force of a word is immeasurably greater than a dozen usages in documents written by inaccurate, ignorant human hands.

The pages throughout this Version giving the Greek and Interlinear evidence of what God really inspired will be found the most accurate, the most comprehensive and instructive, the most useful and consistent reproduction of the sacred scriptures to be found in Greek or English today.

All are asked, even urged, to test this Greek text, and the English equivalent to be found just below each Greek word, for accuracy by comparison with actual photographs of each page of the MSS., A, B, and s, and for uniformity and consistency of rendering of any given Greek word in English with each separate occurrence. Only as it is tested and found true and exact, will its worth be realized and valued. And the English Version here given is based on the evidence as herein submitted.

THE SUPERLINEAR

When a line of Greek has no notation above it, the manuscripts all read alike, and there can be little, if any, question of the correctness of the text as it stands.

When they differ, the variations are noted immediately above the Greek. These notations in the superlinear enable any one to determine exactly how each manuscript reads. The following abbreviations are used.

A is Codex Alexandrinus

в is Codex Vaticanus

b is Codex Vaticanus 2066 (046), the substitute for B in the Unveiling

s is Codex Sinaiticus

n stands for the Papyri

A, B, b and s stand for that part of the manuscript which is free from correction, and stands as originally written. A¹, B¹, b^1 , s^1 is used only when subsequent correction makes it necessary to refer to the manuscript before correction, as originally written.

An asterisk (*) indicates a contempo-

rary corrector.

The superior figure from 2 up, as 2 , s^2 , indicates a later corrector or editor. With the Papyri it gives the catalogue number

of the manuscript.

No note is made of the abbreviations commonly used by the scribes in making their copies. They used the first and last letters only for the names of God and Christ, Jesus, Master, spirit, Israel, while longer words, as heaven, humanity, father, Jerusalem are contracted to three,

four or five letters. The manuscripts usually have a stroke above words so abbreviated.

Alterations are indicated by printing the Greek word to be substituted, beginning at the same point as the one which it displaces.

Jn. 13 (138)

SECTIN IS HN WAS

By indicates the source of a reading.

ONE I TON' WHOM 1-said

Additions are indicated by +, inserts or adds. The Greek words commence, when possible, at the point of insertion. A single letter is centered above the two letters between which it is to be inserted.

Jn.124 (1546)

PHARISEES

All additions not appearing in the text are given in *Greek* at the point of insertion.

Jn.16 (249) s1* adds HN was ONOMA NAME

Omissions are indicated by omits, o., —, or the term dots. An o. just above a letter denotes that the letter is omitted in the manuscript noted. Words to be omitted are repeated in English. It is understood that the corresponding Greek words are omitted in the text noted.

Jn.114 (801) B1 omits AND 8 0.

KALAAHOEIAC

AND TRUTH

After A1, B1, 81, or s1* omits, it is to be inferred that the next corrector supplied the omission. B2 supplies what B1 omits.

s* supplies what s1 omits.

When a reading is omitted by both s^1 , the original scribe, and s^* , the contemporary corrector, but supplied by s^2 , this is indicated by s^{1*} omits. s^2 omits implies that s^{1*} has the reading.

Jn.13 (19)

EN ONE

When a reading interferes with another, the shorter one is enclosed in parenthesis and put in its proper position within the longer reading.

Jn.527 (15621) 82+&A(8 0.) WENEXIN EXEIN TO-BE-HAVING

In one instance we have referred the reader to the Introduction (1 Ti. 316). Ms. B is lacking, s has "God" added above the line, with three small dots to indicate its insertion, while a has evidently been changed in modern times from "who" to "God" by simply adding two small strokes. Although all the cursive manuscripts read "God", none of the ancient manuscripts, versions or fathers (before editing) seem to have known of this reading. There is an old story that Macedonius, Patriarch of Constantinople, was deprived of his office by the Emperor Anastasius (506 A. D.) because he corrupted the evangel, especially by changing the reading here from "who" to "God".

THE SUBLINEAR

The special excellence of the Concordant Sublinear lies in its uniformity, its exactitude and its vivid reflection of the untransferable features of the Greek, such as the order of the words, their formation, and their relation to one another. It aims to be as nearly Greek as can be understood by an English reader. Those who enter into the spirit of it derive much profit and enjoyment, as they find themselves surrounded by the precise ideas and modes of thought which moved the apostles and prophets, and our Lord Himself, as they poured forth the Word in its pristine purity.

With very few exceptions (such as "after" for with and "make" for do) the sublinear is uniform in its renderings. That is, wherever a given Greek word occurs, the same English word is beneath it at all times. Where the Greek is alike, the English is likewise. On the other hand it also registers almost all the differences in the Greek. For instance, there are two negatives, but they are never confused. One is always no, the other is not. There are many forms of the verb, but they are carefully distinguished. Two different words, having the same grammatical form in Greek, have the same in English.

THE TYPE OF THE SUBLINEAR

SMALL CAPITALS, Roman letters and italics are used in the sublinear. The SMALL CAPITALS carry the reader as close to the elements which compose the Greek language as possible. Common type,

called "lower case" by printers, is used for words when the STANDARD would not be intelligible. It is also used for parts of words where no true English standard can be found. The Concordance will enable any one to trace any word to its elements.

Jn.17 (265) OYTOCHAGEN this-one CAME

As English has no form for the Middle voice, which makes the subject the object of an action, as "I bathe [myself]", this form is either ignored or expressed in the passive with *italic* letters. It occurs often in the words it-has-been-written (Mt.44).

As the participle has no number in English, this is indicated by adding one for the singular and ones for the plural. Thus we have one-reading (Un. 13), in which the one-denotes the singular and the -ING the participle of the verb "read".

Jn.112 (596) TICTEYOYCIN ones-BELIEVING

As English has no form for the indefinite participle, it is distinguished by putting the *-ing* in *italics*.

Jn.122 (1415) TEMYACIN ones-sending

All of these matters are fully presented in the English equivalents found in the grammar.

Occasionally italics are used for words not in the Greek or special forms or explanatory matter, such as emphasis, or to distinguish words alike in English.

THE IDIOMATIC VERSION

The Concordant Version recognizes the evident fact that various languages have their own peculiar forms of expression, so that it is impossible to produce a version by rendering each separate word uniformly and consecutively. Such a rendering is, however, of the utmost value to the student and everyone who desires to assure himself of the actual facts of inspiration. Hence the Concord-ANT VERSION gives both a literal uniform rendering in its sublinear, conforming accurately to the original in every possible detail, and a consistent version, conforming to the idiom of the language into which it is translated.

Yet even in the Version severe restraint is exercised that no variations from the sacred text are introduced which are not actually necessary for the sense. There is no attempt to tickle the hearing, for that is the failing which pleases those who will not tolerate sound teaching (2 Ti. 43). The sonorous sweep and ravishing rhythm of a literary classic is specifically associated with those who turn away from the truth and will be turned aside to myths. There is a higher harmony than sound, a more entrancing music than our ears can hear. It is the spiritual accord of truth. Its cadences are marred, its notes are jarred by the tinkling of mere words and the booming of empty phrases.

UNIFORMITY AND CONSISTENCY

Whenever possible each Greek word is rendered uniformly throughout, but, when this is impossible, it is rendered consistently by means of a group of synonyms, none of which are used for any other Greek word, and which will be found grouped together at all times in the Concordance. Thus, UNFLAWED (which occurs seven times and is rendered by six variants in the Authorized Version) is always "flawless". [This certainly is one flawless rendering!] But from-covering needs two idiomatic equivalents, "revelation" for things, and "unveiling" for The Authorized Version uses five distinct terms, lighten (Lu.232), revelation (Ro. 25), manifestation (Ro. 819), coming $(1 \text{ Co. } 1^7)$, appearing $(1 \text{ Pt. } 1^7)$, without any apparent discrimination.

ENGLISH IDIOM

There are occasions where we make

distinctions for the sake of intelligible English which are not made in the Authorized Version. It uses "deny" of per-But a man cannot deny Christ. He may disown Him (Mt. 1033). Nor can he deny himself. He may renounce himself (Mt. 1624). Peter did not deny His Lord. He renounced Him (Mt. 2634). In these cases the common version is uniform and the version of the Concordant is not. So with the statement that Bar-Abbas was a notable prisoner (Mt. 2716). Was he not rather notorious? Inasmuch as we give a uniform rendering in the sublinear, we do not feel obliged to violate English idiom, as the Authorized Version does, in such cases.

There is one case where English usage demands as many as eight synonyms for a single Greek word. The Authorized Version uses eighteen. This is DOWN-UNACT, put out of action. Land which produces nothing is waste (Lu.137), laws are abrogated, people are exempted from them, faith is nullified, a body becomes inert, faithless men and foods are discarded, death is abolished, and in the middle it means vanish.

Another term which defies uniformity is REPLETEIZE. We pack a basket (Jn. 6¹⁸), soak a sponge (Mk. 15³⁶), cram a thurble with fire (Un. 8⁵), water pots are piled to the brim (Jn. 2⁷), and the temple is dense with smoke. English uses five specific terms where Greek is content with one. The word fill, used by the Authorized Version is used for four other words, one of which is an exact equivalent. It falls far short of the intensive sense of REPLETEIZE.

These are extreme examples, and are presented principally to enforce the fact that the Version is not a literal translation, without regard to English idiom. For uniformity go to the sublinear, where it is given with nearly absolute fidelity. The Version is consistent, not uniform. But we depart from uniformity only when forced to do so to conform to the demands of good English.

The fact is that all is founded on settled principles and no literary license is allowed to give opportunity for decorative diction. Yet it has been a most agreeable surprise to find that the English is seldom unbearable, and, at times, is actually an improvement on unprincipled or lawless translations.

As an example we will take the passage which has been most in dispute since the Revision has been issued. We subjoin all three renderings (2 Ti. 316):

A. V. All scripture is given by inspiration of

God . . . Every scripture given by inspiration of God . . . R. V.

C. V. All scripture is inspired by God . . .

The Greek adjective theopneustos, Godspirited, cannot be rendered literally. To the impartial ear, "given by inspiration of God" is no more pleasing than "inspired by God". To the spiritual perception "given" is an unwelcome intruder. There is nothing in the original to indicate that scripture was merely given by inspiration of God at the beginning, and, for aught which is stated here, no longer possesses the divine afflatus. It is inspired by God now. It is vital with the presence and power of the living God.

The Revisers altered "all" to "every". This is literally correct, and it is so rendered in the Concordant Version sublinear. Idiomatically it can only be tolerated in case their subsequent change, involving the idea that some scriptures are not inspired, is correct. The only satisfactory way of testing their rendering is the concordant method. There are seven other passages of practically the same grammatical construction. We will do to them what the Revisers have done to this passage:

the holy precept is also just many infirm are also ailing his weighty epistles are also strong for this ideal is also welcome Every ideal creation of God is also matter to be aget away. Ro. 7¹² 1 Co.11³⁰

2 Co.1010 1 Ti. 23 1 Ti. 44

nothing to be cast away 2 Ti. 316 Every scripture inspired by God is

also profitable Now all naked is also bared Heb.413

It is evident that we cannot consistently and intelligently follow their translation, even though we insist that there were "writings" (such as the apocrypha and secular literature) which were not inspired. As a matter of translation we must make it "All scripture is inspired."

Many a passage will be found more vitally virile in the new rendering. Compare

Mark 1438

The spirit truly is ready, but the A. V.

flesh is weak. The spirit, indeed, is eager, yet the c. v. flesh is infirm.

Some passages are actually little gems of literary art, even though no attempt was made to furbish them. Compare

1 Timothy 518

The laborer is worthy of his reward. The worker is worthy of his wages. c. v.

Not only is the alliteration an improvement but the truth is that a laborer or worker, does not get a reward, but wages.

But such literary excellence is a snare which traps readers in insidious error. A recent translation has beautifully rendered Jn. 330: "He must wax; I must The sense is the same as the Authorized. But both are wrong. John the baptist did not wane. He did not decrease. The moon waxes and wanes every month, but it is dimmed daily by the rising of the sun. Our Lord was like the sun whose rising put John in an inferior light. Compare

John 330

A. V. He must increase, but I must decrease. c. v. He must be growing, yet I am to be inferior.

A passage may be in line with its immediate context, and phrased in felicitous English so as to make an artistic appeal.

and still be wrong.

Many a real difficulty is solved by the new renderings. A vast amount of energy has been expended in trying to explain how the generation in which our Lord lived should not pass away until His predictions should be fulfilled. Compare

Matthew 2434

A. V. This generation shall not pass, till all

these things be fulfilled. this generation may by no means be passing by till all these things should C. V. be occurring.

The Authorized Version ignores a little particle which makes the whole statement contingent on circumstances. Had the nation received Him, "these things" would have occurred.

The fact that "man" stands for humanity as well as for an adult male, has caused confusion. Much speculation has arisen as to "the number of a man". Compare

Unveiling (Rev.) 1318

A. V. it is the number of a man; and his number is six hundred threescore and six.

C. V. it is the number of mankind, and its number is six hundred sixty-six.

Many who are justified by faith fail to enter into peace. They will appreciate the new rendering of the following verse. It is often erroneously rendered in the imperative, "Let us have peace."

Romans 51

- Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ A. V.
- Being, then, justified by faith, we may be having peace toward God, through our Lord, Jesus Christ C. V.

Some passages are so obscure and contradictory that they call for continual "explanation". They really need a correct translation. We know that faith cannot be either substance or evidence. It is the opposite of these. Compare

Hebrews 111-3

- A. V. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For, by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.
- C. V. Now faith is an assumption of what is being expected, a conviction concerning matters which are not being observed; for in this testimony was borne to the elders. By faith we are apprehending the eons to have been readjusted to a declaration of God, so that what is being observed has not come out of what is apparent.

Whoever could carry out the injunction to "take no thought for your life"? The soul, not the life, is in view. Compare

Matthew 625

C. V. Be not worrying for your soul, what you may be eating, or what you may be drinking, nor yet for your body, what you should be putting on. Is not the soul more than nurture and the body than apparel?

Our word poem is practically the same as the Greek word which the Authorized Version has rendered "workmanship". It denotes a very high grade of effort. Ephesians 210

A. V. We are His workmanship C. V. We are His achievement

It is especially in the higher realms of truth, in Paul's later epistles, that the student will find the greatest advance in this version. Translators admit the difficulty of translating the Pauline epistles because they are so far above our spiritual apprehension. The Concordant method is the greatest help in this dilemma. The keystone passage of Ephesians is an example. Compare

Ephesians 31-6

C. V. Seeing that the secret is made known to me by revelation (according as I write before, in brief, to enable those who are reading to apprehend my understanding in the secret of Christ, which is not made known to other generations of the sons of humanity as it was now revealed to His holy apostles and prophets): in spirit the nations are to be joint enjoyers of an allotment, and a joint body, and joint partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus, through the evangel of which I became the dispenser.

Note the many particulars in which the following passage is improved in the CONCORDANT VERSION. Compare

Philippians 46,7

- A. V. Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God, and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
- C. V. Let nothing be worrying you, but in every prayer and petition let your requests be made known to God with thanksgiving, and the peace of God, being superior to every mental state, shall garrison your hearts and your apprehensions in Christ Jesus.

The compiler's faith has not betrayed him into introducing his belief into passages that do not teach it, such as Tit.2¹¹.

- A.V. For the grace of God that bringeth salvation has appeared to all men.
- A.R.V. For the grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation to all men.
- C. V. For the saving grace of God made its advent to all humanity.

The verb bring is not in the original. The statement is that grace which is saving in its character has made its advent dispensationally to all humanity, and there is no warrant for the statement that that advent brings salvation to all men.

The common version tells us that, with temptation, God will make a way to escape, that we may be able to bear it (1 Co. 10¹³). How any one can escape a temptation in order to bear it is not clear. How much more reasonable is this: "God... together with the trial, will be making the sequel, also, to enable you to undergo it." It is God's way to reveal the sequel to His servants, as in the case of Joseph, to help them through the trials which lead to it.

"A measure of wheat for a penny" (Un. 66) gives the impression of great plenty instead of fearful famine. "A chenix [1½ pints] of wheat a denarius [15.7¢, 7d 3f]" gives nearly correct values. The vexed question of measures and coins is solved by using the Greek terms with their

equivalents added in brackets.

To sum up, the CONCORDANT VERSION is not artistic but scientific, in the best sense of that word. It is a consistent scientific setting forth of the phenomena of divine revelation as true science should be of nature. It is not intended for an example of human art, nor a model of composition, but a faithful exponent of truth. Our temple is the open sky, lighted by the sun and all celestial luminaries, not the dim cathedral whose filtered light comes through stained glass windows or is furnished by ornate chandeliers.

EMPHASIS IN THE ENGLISH VERSION

Emphasis is indicated, in the Greek scriptures, in various ways: As in English, by Indication, Repetition, Modification, contrast; but more particularly and constantly by Position, which cannot be duplicated in English. The first four methods can usually be preserved in translation; the last cannot, for the position of a word in an English sentence determines its relation to the other words, not its force.

At times we are directly told what was uttered in a loud voice (Un. 1¹¹, 5², etc.). This we have indicated by printing the words so spoken in *italic* type.

"Worthy is the Lambkin which has been slain"

EMPHASIS BY REPETITION

When a word is repeated in Greek, we can usually do the same in English and preserve the effect. Thus the "Verily, verily" of John's account (151), or the "Woe! woe!" of the Unveiling (813) preserve their emphasis in every language. But there are times when a word cannot well be repeated in English, especially if it is a pronoun. This is because the Greek verb has the pronoun in itself. There is no verb Am. It is always FAM. Now if the pronoun is added we have 1 FAM, which is not English. I is very emphatic. So we print it in italic letters.

"I am not the Christ."

When John the baptist refused to be mistaken for the Messiah he said (Jn. 1^{20}), literally: I not I-AM THE ANOINTED. We can read the version, "I am not the Christ," with the principal emphasis on Christ, not, or I. If we put it on Christ, then he is repudiating an office; if on not it is a mere negation; but if we put it on I (where it belongs), it suggests that, while John is not the Christ, he is His forerunner. Hence the emphasis is most important in giving the right direction to the thought. This is shown only in emphatic versions.

EMPHASIS BY POSITION

God has not only given us words to convey His meaning, but has arranged them

in such a way that we may get their relative force, just as if He spoke to us audibly and modulated His voice to bring out a contrast or emphasize the important point of what He is saying.

Emphasis is regularly indicated by the order of the words in a Greek sentence. What comes first is most emphasic. What comes last is fairly so. What is buried in the middle of a statement is of least im-

portance.

The simplest form of emphasis is indicated by the order of a noun and its modifier. As a noun is normally more emphatic than its modifier, the Greek puts it first, contrary to English usage. Thus, while the word "great" occurs scores of times after the term it modifies, and we read of a sound great (Un. 110) and a city great (Un.1818), the word is stressed when we read of the great God (Ti. 213).

the great God

In the simple sentence

Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,

(1 Co. 153), the English follows the order of the Greek, so the first word is double thin spaced (on each side of the i) and the last has one thin space (between the p and t). It should be read with some stress, either by swelling the tone, or dwelling on the syllable, according to the number of thin spaces, which we will exaggerate thus: "ChrIst died for our sins according to the scriptures."

But often the order of words must be changed in English. If we should say "Is finding Philip Nathanael" (Jn.145), no one would be able to say who did the finding. We must say "Philip is finding Nathanael". But in doing this we bury the emphatic word in the middle of the sentence. All we can do is to indicate the fact that finding is first in importance by thin spacing its emphatic syllable thus:

Philip is finding Nathanael

One more example will suffice to show the principle which governs the application of emphasis to the version. In Mk. 1539 we read in the sublinear, TRULY this THE human son of God was. In this order truly is most emphatic and this and was are somewhat so. We might have printed them thus: "TRULY, this man was a Son of God!" But this would disfigure the page and exaggerate the stress. Hence we simply and unobtrusively spread out the emphatic words by thin spacing, thus:

Truly, this man was a Son of God!

INDICATIONS OF EMPHASIS

The method of indicating the relative emphasis in this version could hardly be more simple. Words in SMALL CAPITALS

In the Beginning was the Word and *italics* take precisely the same stress
Who are you?

ordinarily given to them. The milder degrees of emphasis are indicated by thin spaces between the letters of a word. These are placed, if possible, where the voice would naturally halt and dwell if we wished to give the word prominence. They are after or on both sides of long vowels, but after the next consonant when the vowel is short, thus, "justified gratuitously" (Ro.324), and thus aid in pronunciation as well.

As emphasis is never absolute, but depends on the relation of a word to its companions, and of a phrase, or clause to its neighbors, the process of determining it is a complex one, and largely a matter of judgment. Hence the critical student is referred to the sublinear, in which it appears in its purity. The test of true emphasis is oral reading. The stress indicated accords with the context and invigorates the sense. Place it elsewhere, as is so often done, and the loss is evident to the spiritually intelligent saint.

THE EXPOSITORY NOTES

It was no part of the original plan of the CONCORDANT VERSION to provide a commentary or interpretation, but, even after making the type of the version large and clear, it was found that it would take only half as much space as the Greek and Sublinear. It is most desirable that all concerned with any passage should appear on one "opening", so that it may seldom be necessary to turn the page to compare the version with the sublinear. This leaves a blank column, which, at the earnest solicitation of friends, the Editor has reluctantly filled with notes.

Nothing is farther from the spirit of the CONCORDANT VERSION than to impose the opinions of any man on his fellow saints. The whole plan is a protest against this. Years upon years of labortous effort on the part of the Editor and his associates (all of which were necessary because they wished to renounce all personal claims to authority) are more eloquent than any protestations they can make, and ought to satisfy everyone that

the notes are merely suggestive. Their chief value lies in the fact that they are a frank avowal of the Editor's opinions, and, as such, are the final safeguard against the injection of his own judgment into the version. If he has been biased, all are entitled to know the direction in which he leans.

Let no one found his faith on the notes, which are his fallible findings, but on the unfailing foundation of the inspired originals. There is a sense in which the notes follow out the method used in the version. Just as the signification of a word is fixed by its contexts, so the interpretation of any passage depends on its place in an epistle, and of a book on its relation to the rest. Hence the notes stress the proper apportionment of the truth. Those who are interested in the teaching they contain may find further expositions along the same lines by consulting the CONCORDANT PUBLISHING CON-CERN. 2823 East Sixth Street, Los Angeles, California, U. S. A., which publishes a line or scriptural literature.

THE COMPANION VOLUME

The key to the Concordant Version is sometimes bound separately in a companion volume, hence an index of its contents is given herewith. It consists of three principal parts, a Lexical Concordance. the Greek Elements, and a Greek Course. For convenience these are referred to as "the Concordance".

These will enable any one to get a complete grasp of the word of God in the original as well as in English, for every word will be traced to all its occurrences. in all its forms, and associated with every word in its family. There will be a complete alphabetical index, both of the English and Greek vocabulary, and even of the grammatical forms. Such a tool has never been made for the scholar before, and it can be readily used by the ordinary student of English.

THE LEXICAL CONCORDANCE

All the words used in the Sublinear or Version are arranged in alphabetical order, so that any one can be located in an instant. If it is not standard it will appear in ordinary type, along with all the other words which also represent the same Greek expression, and it is referred to its STANDARD. Thus "unveiling, revelation," is followed by FROM-COVERING, showing that the STANDARD is COVER. Turning to cover, the whole family of sixteen members will be found, and among them, in alphabetical order, FROM-covering. This is defined, and all its occurrences are cited, grouped according to grammar, thus:

ANOKANY II TO apo kal up't ō

FROM-COVER, reveal things, Jn.1238; unveil persons, Ga. 116.

To- Mt1127 Lu1022 uGa116 YOU- Mt1125 Lu1021 -s Mt1617 1Co210 WILL-BE-ING Ph315 Mid. TO-BE-being-ED 1Pt51 -IS-being-ED uLu1730As Rol17 18 1Co313 MAY-BE-being-ED sLu1730 Pass. TO-BE-ED Ros18 Ga323 u2Th26 1Pt15 -WAS-ED Jn1238 Ep35 1Pt112 -MAY-BE-BEING-ED 1Co1430 u2Th23 THEY-MAY-BE-BEING-ED Lu235 -WILL-BE-BEING-ED Mt1026 Lu122 u2Th28

Manuscript readings and various renderings are all indicated, thus:

KATAPPEW katarae'o DOWN-UN-ACT, DOWN-idle, abolish death 2Ti. 110, abrogate laws or promises 1Co.1524, discard things 1Co.1311, exempt persons Ro.76, become inert, of sin, Ro.66, nullify faith Ro.33, middle vanish 2Co.37, waste

-ing abrEp215 of- 2Ti110 TO- abrGa317 -IS-ING wLu137 WE-ARE-ING abrRo331 -WILL-BE-ING nRo33 d1Co613 2Th28

-SHOULD-BE-ING d1Co128 abr1524 Hb214 ARo66

Mid. -IS-beING-ED 1Co1526 v2Co314 being-ED v2Co311 of- v2Co313 p d1Co26 a v2Co37

I-HAVE-ED d1Co1311

land Lu137.

-HAS-ED abrRo414 eRo72 vGa511

Pass. WE-WERE-ED eRo76 YE-WERE-ED eGa54 MAY-BE-BEING-ED iRo66B8

-WILL-BE-ED abrB1Co138 abr8Bs abr1310 THEY-WILL-BE-BEING-ED abr1Co138A8 A8

When the interest and support warrant, we hope to issue a concordance giving all the passages with the English equivalent in italics. This is not included in the Companion Volume, as it would make a large volume by itself.

ANOKAAYNTO apo kalu p't ō FROM-COVER, reveal things, Jn.1238; unveil persons, Ga. 116.

Mt.1026 which shall not be revealed

Mt.1125 Thou dost reveal them to minors Mt.1127 the Son should be intending to unveil Him

Mt.1617 flesh and blood does not reveal it Lu. 235 of many hearts should be revealed

Thou . . . dost reveal them to Lu.1021 minors

Lu.1022 the Son should be intending to unveil Him

which shall not be revealed Tan. 122

the Son of Mankind is unveiled Lu.1730 was the arm of the Lord revealed

Jn. 1238 God's righteousness is revealed Ro. 117

118 God's indignation is revealed 818 the glory about to be revealed

1 Co. 210

God reveals it to us yet if it should be revealed 1 Co.1430 to unveil His Son in me. Ga. 116

Ga. 323 the faith about to be revealed

as it is now revealed Ep. 35

God will reveal this also to you Ph. 315 the man of lawlessness [should] 2 Th. 23

be unveiled for him to be unveiled in his own 2 Th. 26

lawless one will be unveiled 2 Th. 28

1 Pt. 1⁵ 1 Pt. 1¹² 1 Pt. 5¹ salvation ready to be revealed to whom it was revealed

the glory about to be revealed.

THE GREEK ELEMENTS

Above every STANDARD in the Concordance will be found the corresponding Greek word and its pronunciation. After a few trials any one should be able to find this word in the GREEK ELEMENTS, especially as the alphabet is printed on the margin of each page. After each of the ELEMENTS, is given every word in which it is found, followed by its English STANDARD and idiomatic rendering. The following is a sample:

KAAY- -KAE- -KAO- COVER

KANY TT U COVER

KANY MMA cover-effect, covering

ANA KAAY II TO UP-cover, uncover, discover ANO KAAY II TO FROM-cover, reveal, unveil ANO KAAY YIC FROM-covering, revelation.

unveiling

ETIKANYMMA on-cover-effect, cover ETIKANYTTO on-cover, cover over

KATA KAΛΥΠΤΦ DOWN-COVER, COVER A KATA KAΛΥΠΤΟΝ UN-DOWN-COVERED, uncovered

ΠΑΡΑ ΚΑΛΥ Π Τ Φ BESIDE-COVER, screen
ΠΘΡΙ ΚΑΛΥ Π Τ Φ ABOUT-COVER, cover about
CYΓ ΚΑΛΥ Π Τ Φ TOGETHER-COVER, cover up

-KAE- -KAO- steal

KAE TT COVER, steal
KAE MMA COVER-effect, stealing, theft
KAE TTHC COVER, stealer, thief
KAOTH COVER, theft

REVERSE GRAMMATICAL INDEX

The most difficult feature of Greek grammar, for the beginner, is the great variety of forms, especially of the verb. As these variations are largely confined to the last few letters of the words, a special Reverse Index has been prepared, in which all the forms are arranged in alphabetical order from the end. By consulting this, the student can quickly verify any form. It should be remembered, however, that the sublinear gives the grammar directly, so that this is not so

much a necessity as a convenience for students who wish to explore for themselves. The variable letters are put in square brackets to warn the student where to expect irregularities.

Verb, indefinite 1						[6	G)-	-[C]A
Noun, I, II, III, genitive								
Verb, incomplete present,	I-	AM-	-11	TG.	. •	•	•	- ⊕

THE GRAMMATICAL ELEMENTS

The Grammatical Elements consist of all the augments and endings used in declension and conjugation with their English equivalents. These are grouped together in such a way as to help the student to a quick and clear apprehension of the normal forms and their euphonic variations. The following is a specimen of the active indefinite verb.

Verbs i	л П, В, Ф, ПТ	in K, F, CC, TT, X, Z	in A, N, ?
E-CA	-ΨΔ	- £ A	-A
E-CAC	-YAC	-ZAC	-AC
E-CE it, he or she-s	-ΨE	-16	-e
E-CAMEN WE-	-YAMEN	I — ŁAMEN	-AMEN
E-CATE	-чате	-£ATE	-ATE
E-CAN	-YAN	-£AN	-AN

THE GREEK COURSE

The GREEK COURSE gives very brief instructions, methods of work, and exercises to enable any intelligent English speaking student to take advantage of the unparalleled opportunity offered by the CONCORDANT VERSION to grasp the fundamental features of first century Greek With the Greek text, Sublinear, Elements and Grammar in his possession he is prepared for a life-long enjoyment of all he learns, and is able to advance comfortably and constantly in his knowledge of the original, and of its Author.

APPARATUS FOR CONCORDANT TRANSLATION INTO ANY LANGUAGE

THE basic principles of philology underlying the Concordant Version are applicable, with modifications, to every language.

Realizing that the fruitfulness of our labors will be greatly multiplied by concordant versions in other languages, and

considering the reflex value of such translations on the English edition, we propose to do all in our power to encourage and all who wish to apply concordant principles to the translation or revision of the Scriptures in any foreign language.

REVISION

One of the inherent weaknesses of the present system of translation is the fanatical reverence for the acknowledged defects of our "Authorized" version. Many years ago the compiler of the CONCORD-ANT VERSION was asked to pass upon a certain rendering by a publisher of the scriptures whose proofreader could not understand what a certain word meant. The matter was explained and another word suggested which was intelligible and correct. He received the thanks of the publisher, but the version was not altered! Every version should always be held in solution. Even though little more light should be shed upon the original text, all living languages are in a state of flux, and versions should be revised to conform to their alterations and adjustments.

There is also a reflex action of great value of which such a course should take advantage. There are lacks languages which hinder an exact and consistent rendering. For example, in English we have no name for human being. The word man usually is in contrast with woman. There is no word to distinguish men, women and children from higher or lower orders of life, such as the Greek anthropos or the German mensch. We should have one. We have, therefore, suggested the word human (noun) in the Lexicon and sublinear. Perhaps it will be welcomed in the version at no distant date.

At first, readers of the Concordant Ver-SION object to accurate renderings. Later they prefer them. Finally they insist on them. It is probable that later editions of this version will find it possible to cleave still closer to the Greek, and we shall bear with such suggested changes as "human" for man, "commissioner" for apostle, "miss" for sin, or even "stake" for cross. The important point to be pressed is this, that all such improvements shall be uniformly or consistently made, not in a haphazard, unprincipled way, but in accord with the laws of language. It may be that some permanent committee or Bible Society will undertake a revision at stated periods.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE SPREAD OF SCRIPTURE TRUTH

God has mightly used the efforts of Bible Societies for the distribution of "uncorrupted" versions of the word of

God. Very wisely, they do not distribute "private" translations. We confidently commend to them a thorough examination of the principles and methods of the CONCORDANT VERSION, with the conviction that, if they do so, they will acknowledge that it is as far removed as is humanly possible from the realm of private opinion, whether of individuals or companies of men, for committees are merely the multiplication of the private opinion of their members. And they will find it the most uncorrupt because it seeks to hide nothing, but puts all the evidence before the reader in such a way that deception is practically impossible.

It may take some time for Bible Societies to realize the advantages of distributing this uncorrupted public version. In the meantime the Concordant Publish-ING CONCERN, a purely philanthropic, nonprofit-sharing association, consisting of all who are interested in its task of bringing the facts of God's word to the peoples of the earth, will welcome to its ranks all who wish to aid in its work, in the Lord. We hope to establish offices in many lands, but first contact should be made by writing to the headquarters at 2823 East SIXTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIF., U.S.A. Those who wish to aid should state the talents, qualifications, or time they wish to devote to the work. All gifts will be duly acknowledged and applied as directed or as most needed. If desired, annuities can be arranged, with interest during life. Legal advice on all such matters will be freely given. But no consideration in the least affecting the integrity of the version will be entertained.

A CONCORDANT HEBREW VERSION

Many urgent requests have been made for a Concordant Version of the Hebrew Scriptures. At this date (1930) most of the preliminary work has been done.

No promises can be made except that the work will be prosecuted as strength and support are received. Those who wish to actively encourage such an undertaking are asked to communicate with the Concordant Publishing Concern which will keep them informed, from time to time, of the progress of the work.

The following pages are a tentative attempt at a CONCORDANT VERSION of selections from the Hebrew scriptures, and will indicate, in some measure, the results to be expected. The idiomatic version alone will be published first.

BEGINNI

(Commonly called Genesis)

In the beginning God creates the heavens and the earth.

And the earth becomes waste and sterile, and darkness is on the sur-

face of the abyss.

And the spirit of God is fluttering 3 on the surface of the waters. And God is saying, "It shall become light." And it is becoming light. And God is seeing the light that it is good. And God is separating the 16 ⁵ light from the darkness. And God is calling the light "day," and the darkness He calls "night".

And it is becoming evening, and 17

come to be an atmosphere in the midst of the waters, and there shall come to be a separation between waters and waters." And God is 19 making the atmosphere. And He is separating the waters which are un- 20 der the atmosphere from the waters which are above the atmosphere. And 8 it is becoming so. And God is calling the atmosphere "heavens".

And it is becoming evening, and 21 it is becoming morning, a second day. And God is saying, "The waters under the heavens shall flow together into one place and the dry land shall be seen." And it is becoming 10 so. And God is calling the dry land 22 "earth". And the confluence of the

waters He calls "seas". And God is seeing that it is good.

And God is saying, "The earth 23 shall bring forth verdure, herbage seeding seed, the fruit tree yielding 24 fruit for its species whose seed is in it, on the earth. And it is becoming 12 so. And the earth is bringing forth verdure, herbage seeding seed for its species, and trees yielding fruit whose seed is in it for its species. 25 And God is seeing that it is good.

And it is becoming evening, and it

is becoming morning, a third day. And God is saying, "Luminaries shall come to be in the atmosphere of the heavens, to separate between the day and the night. And they

come to be for signs and for appoint-15 ments and for days and years. And luminaries come to be in the atmosphere of the heavens to illumine the earth.". And it is becoming so.

And God is making the two great luminaries (the great luminary to rule the day, and the small luminary to rule the night), and the stars.

And God is giving them in the atit is becoming morning, one day. mosphere of the heavens to illumine

And God is saying, "There shall 18 the earth, and to rule by day and by mosphere of the heavens to illumine night and to separate between the light and the darkness. And God is seeing that it is good.

> And it is becoming evening, and it is becoming morning, a fourth day.

> And God is saying, "The waters shall teem with living souls that teem, and the flyer shall fly on the earth on the face of the atmosphere of the heavens."

And God is creating the great monsters, and every crawling living soul which teems in the waters for their species, and every winged fiver for its species. And God is seeing that it is good.

And God is blessing them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters of the seas." And the flyer is multiplying in the earth.

And it is becoming evening, and it is becoming morning, a fifth day.

And God is saying, "The earth shall bring forth the living soul for its species, the beast and crawling thing, and the living thing of the earth for its species." And it is becoming so.

And God is making the living thing of the earth for its species, and the beast for its species, and everything crawling on the ground for its species. And God is seeing that it is good.

And God is saying, "We shall make a human in our image, as our likeness, and they shall sway over the fish of the sea, and over the flyer of the heavens, and over the beasts, and over all the earth, and over everything crawling on the earth."

And God is creating a human in His image. In the image of God He creates him. Male and female He

creates them.

God is blessing them. And standard God is saying to them, "Be ye fruitful and multiply and fill the earth, and bring it into subjection, and sway over the fish of the sea, and 2 over the flyer of the heavens, and

over all living things crawling on the earth."

And God is saying, "Lo! I give to you all herbage seeding seed which is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree in which is the fruit of a tree seeding seed. To you it shall become food.

And to every living thing of the earth, and to every flyer of the heavens, and to every crawling thing on the earth, which has in it a living soul, all green herbage is for food."

And it is becoming so.

And God is seeing all that He makes, and lo! it is very good.

And it is becoming evening, and it is becoming morning, a sixth day.

2 And the heavens and the earth and all their host are being finished.

PSALM 17

XIX

A Davidic Psalm

¹ The heavens are rehearsing the glory of the Deity,

² And the atmosphere is telling what His hands have made. Day to day is uttering a saying,

And night to night is disclosing knowledge.

There is no saying, and there is no speaking,

Naught is heard of their voice, Yet their voice comes forth in all the earth,

And in the ends of the habitable earth their declarations.

He places a tent in them for the sun,

And he is as a bridegroom coming forth from his can opy.

He is elated as a master to run the path.

From the end of the heavens is his going forth, And his revolution unto their ends,

And there is nothing concealed from its warmth.

⁷ The law of Jehovah is flawless, restoring the soul,

The testimony of Jehovah is faithful, making wise the simple,

The precepts of Jehovah are upright, gladdening the heart. The direction of Jehovah is pure, lighting up the eyes.

The fear of Jehovah is clean, standing for the future.

The judgments of Jehovah are truth; they are righteous altogether;

More desirable than gold, and much fine gold, And sweeter than honey and drips of the combs.

11 Moreover, Thy Servant is warned by them.

Keeping them is of much consequence.

Is anyone understanding errors?

Keep me innocent from those which are concealed.

Moreover, keep back Thy servant from arrogancies. Let them not rule in me:
Then am I sincere and innocent from much trespass.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the soliloquy of my heart

Become acceptable before Thee, Jehovah, my Rock and my Redeemer!

Permanent.

A POCKET CONCORDANT VERSION

As there is a demand for a small, cheap, portable edition, a Pocket Concordant Version has been issued in handy size, in a small, clear black face Antique type, as indicated below. This edition contains nothing but the version—no Greek, superlinear or sublinear, or notes. There will

be no indication of emphasis except such as demands italic type. It will be useful for all who have the Version, to carry with them at all times. Those who are not ready for the larger work will find this more accurate and consistent than any version yet attempted in English.

8:34

8:55

Now the graziers, perceiving what has occurred, fled and 35 report it in the city and in the fields. Now they came out to perceive what has occurred, and they came to Jesus and they found the man, from whom the demons came out, garmented and sane, sitting at the feet of Jesus, and they 36 were afraid. Yet those also who are perceiving how the 37 demoniac was saved report to them. And the entire multitude of the country about the Gergesenes asks Him to be coming away from them, seeing that they were pressed with a great fear.

LUKE

Now He, stepping into the ship, returns. Now the man from whom the demons had come out besought Him to be 39 with Him, yet Jesus dismisses him, saying, "Be returning to your home and relate how much God does for you." And he came away to the whole city proclaiming how much

Jesus does for him.

Now it occurred, at Jesus' return, the throng welcomes 41 Him, for they were all hoping for Him. And lo! a man came whose name was Jairus, and he possessed the chieftainship of the synagogue. And, falling at the feet of Jesus, he 42 entreated Him to be entering into his house, seeing that he had an only begotten daughter of about twelve years, and she died.

Now, at His going away, the throngs stifled Him, and a woman having a hemorrhage for twelve years, whose whole livelihood being consumed by physicians, has not the 44 strength to be cured by any one. Approaching from behind,

she touches the tassel of His cloak, and instantly her hem-

orrhage was stanched.

And Jesus said, "Who touches Me?" Now, at all denying it, Peter and those with Him, said, "Doctor, the throngs are pressing Thee and jostling, and art Thou saying, 'Who 46 touches Me?'" Yet Jesus said, "Someone touches Me, for I 47 knew that power has come out from Me." Now the woman, perceiving that she did not elude Him, came trembling, and prostrating to Him, reports in front of the entire people for what cause she touches Him, and so was healed instantly. 48 Now He said to her, "Courage. daughter! Your faith has

saved you! Go in peace!"

While He is still talking, someone of the chief of the synagogue is coming, saying to him that "Your daughter 50 has died. Bother the teacher no longer." Yet Jesus, hearing it, answered him, saying, "Fear not, only believe, and she shall be saved."

Now, coming into the house, He lets no one enter with Him except Peter and James and John and the father of the 52 girl and the mother. Now they were all lamenting and they grieved for her. Now He said, "Be not lamenting, for she 53 did not die, but is drowsing." And they ridiculed Him, being 54 aware that she died. Yet He, casting all outside and hold-55 ing her hand, shouts, saying, "Girl, be roused!" And her

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF THE COMPILER

During the later years of the nineteenth century I became intensely interested in the word of God, and determined to use every effort to master its message. I bought myself a small Greek Testament and kept it always with me. I sent for Wigram's Englishman's Concordances of the Greek and Hebrew. Both have had to be rebound since, I found them so useful. Indeed, the New Testament volume was rebound several times until finally it now lies before me as I write, a ragged loose-leaf relic, past the possibility of rebinding.

Realizing that I needed help with my Greek, I attended the Greek classes of Mr. Stiles, then a part of the course of the Los Angeles Bible Institute in California. But these did not continue long, so I was again thrown on my own resources. My continual use of the concordance impressed me with the need of more uniformity in translation, and I began to try to standardize my thinking by always using a certain English word when I had

a Greek term in mind.

My next step was to register my conclusions in the concordance. I wrote the English word alongside the Greek, and went through all the passages to see if it would fit. If it did I went to the index and found all the other Greek terms so rendered and crossed them out. Turning to these in the concordance, I went through their occurrences and crossed out the word I wished to keep distinct. In this way I "cleaned up" (as I termed it) many of the important terms in the divine vocabulary, to my great satisfaction and profit.

Then I commenced to make trial translations, and issued some of these as I had time to put them into type. But I found myself hampered by inadequate tools. The concordance I had was good but not sufficiently exact. It did not distinguish between the various forms of each word, and the grammar needed investigation. I determined to start afresh.

THE CONCORDANCE

First I needed an exhaustive concordance which would analyze the vocabulary to the limit—every form of every word

by itself. I also wished to associate all words having the same derivation.

I bought two copies of Bruder's Greek Concordance, crossed out all the odd pages of one and the even pages of the other and, with the help of my dear wife and several volunteers, pasted every line on a separate slip of paper. Then I did the same with Davidson's Analytical Lexicon, but used larger slips so that they would be visible above the occurrences. The principal forms of each word we pasted on still larger cards.

Then I made a large sorting rack and arranged all the forms of each word in order. Then the occurrences, on the smaller slips, were distributed and gathered up. This was the basis of my concordance. I had to build dozens of drawers, each about two feet long, to hold the

cards and slips.

I then gathered all the words of similar derivation together, and thus had a complete and exhaustive Greek Concordance. I realized that this would not be of much use to any one but a scholar, so began the task of turning it into English.

THE ELEMENTS

As I took up this work I began to realize the great advantage of analyzing the vocabulary into its elements, and of grouping all words having the same element together. So I took small slips of various heights but the same width, as before, wrote the Greek Element and its English standard on the largest slips, and the words on the smaller ones. In this way I went through the whole vocabulary. The result was the GREEK ELEMENTS, which is published in the Companion Volume.

This was done while I was turning the Concordance into English and re-arranging it according to our alphabet.

THE GREEK TEXT

Next the question of a Greek text engaged my attention. After much study and deliberation I decided to base my work on actual evidence rather than on any text formed by modern scholars.

I had long been wishing to get fac-similes of the most ancient texts and had a

copy of Alexandrinus. After I had tried for a year to get Vaticanus in Rome, my money was returned to me. Nevertheless, a friend secured both Sinaiticus and Vaticanus in England.

THE PASTED BOOKS

Meanwhile, I had taken two copies of the Resultant Greek New Testament and had it pasted line for line on a series of specially prepared books. Beneath each line about an inch of space was left for the sublinear to be written in. This was done by a beloved assistant, a retired physician, who has since gone to her reward.

The method was as follows: I took the concordance slips and, on each different form, wrote the standard which I wished to appear in the sublinear. This was then transferred to each occurrence in the pasted books. In this way the sublinear was made.

COLLATING THE TEXT

I was fortunate in enlisting the aid of two painstaking assistants who took a copy of the Resultant text and compared it, letter by letter, with photographic facsimiles of the ancient manuscripts. To keep them distinct, Sinalticus was noted in red ink, Vaticanus in green, the papyri in purple, and Alexandrinus in lead pencil. After this had been done, I altered the Resultant text to correspond with the evidence thus presented, and changed the sublinear to suit.

THE VERSION

With this as a basis I wrote the version in the space below the sublinear in the pasted books.

THE GRAMMATICAL INDEX

But before much of this could be done I spent a year or two trying to formulate standards for the Greek verb. As the accepted grammars would not work, I found it necessary to make another index. Two copies of Davidson's Analytical Greek Lexicon, which has every form of every Greek word, were worked up into a card index, so that every grammatical form was followed by all the words in which it occurs. This enabled me to examine as many occurrences of any given form as necessary, in order to fix its force. Finally, after years of work, I succeeded in unraveling it to my satisfaction. This is published in the Grammar.

Of course, all of this work was revised

and re-revised, time and again. When the version was written every word was added to the Concordance and referred to its standard. In this way I avoided using the same word twice for different Greek terms, for, if I found the word already filed in its order, I could not use it again.

I now had the vocabulary and grammar of the Greek at my command. By means of the three card indexes—the Concordance, the Elements and the Grammatical Forms—I could easily make investigations and come to satisfactory conclusions on almost any matter. The results were seen in the Pasted Books. So I determined to publish these, giving the Greek of all three ancient texts, the sublinear and the version.

During all these years I had been working hard at my vocation and accumulated a competence, so that I might give all my time to the work. But, by the good hand of God, this was taken from me, so that I faced the problem of printing the results of my labors entirely dependent on Him. To issue the entire work at one time was out of the question, so I proposed to issue it in parts, hoping that each part would finance the next.

Grave difficulties immediately arose. The war was on. I had designed a conventional font of Greek type, but the manufacturers were busy making war material and would not cut it. To make matters worse, I was thrown out of employment. But I took it as a signal to proceed. If I could get no other work, I would not waste my time, but get at the task that was on my heart. So I bought a length of soft steel, cut it into stubs and engraved the letters on the ends by means of an old file and nail set converted into a punch. After hardening the letters, I made a holder so that I could sink them into small copper discs. The hardest work of all was to smooth off these matrices so that the letter was sharply defined at the edges where the matrix meets the mold. This was finally accomplished, and I had the satisfaction of casting my own font of first century Greek. From a founder's viewpoint it was defective, but from the standpoint of representing the ancient manuscripts it has been very satisfactory. Later, when a lighter font was found necessary I had the dies cut by a die sinker, but made the matrices as before.

I had divided the text into nine nearly equal instalments and decided to issue the last one first, partly because of the

great interest attached to it and partly because it was shorter than the rest and would give me an opportunity to test my methods. I set the type of the Greek pages myself and had my son put the emphasis in the version. The strenuous, nerve-racking haste with which I sought to do all this was almost too much for my physical frame, so that at the last moment I lost confidence in my efforts and compared the first few pages of the Greek with a printed book in my possession, and rashly made many changes which afterward turned out to be wrong. As this was done only for the first two pages, it did not vitiate the whole work, but gave a very bad impression to any one who wished to test it, for they naturally examined those very pages, and seldom went further. We have since followed the photographs alone, being convinced of their superiority to any edition, no matter what other editors may say.

Nevertheless the work created considerable interest and the representative of a prominent religious publishing society approved of it and they promised to sell a special edition without notes. As I fell behind my schedule in preparing the next part for the printer, I published five thousand of their special edition first. I well remember the evening when I had finished putting it through the press. I was ill and almost too tired to stand. Yet I felt elated that I had finished my part of the work and would soon be able to sell several thousand of the new part to them. When I came home the first letter in my mail was a note countermanding the or-Strangely enough, I was strengthened, and felt better, for I realized that God's hand was in it. The early translators had all been persecuted. Why should I not suffer and enjoy it?

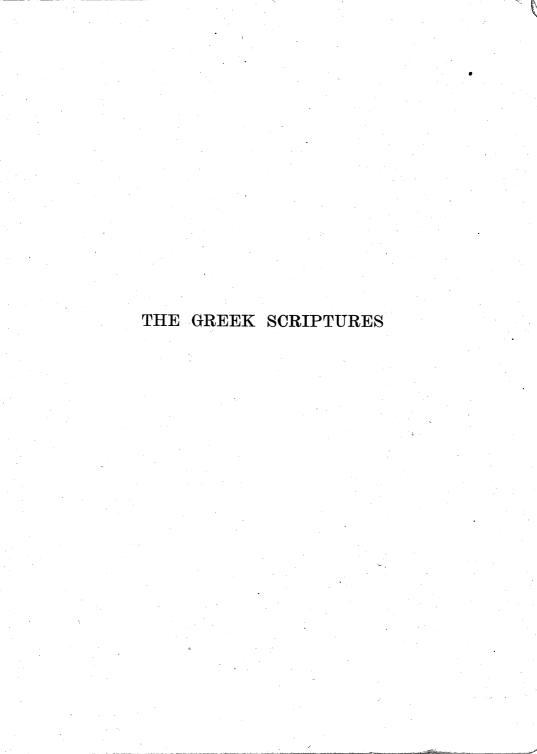
Of course, it was a severe financial blow. No reason has ever been given. No fault was found with the version. It was simply a change of policy due to a change in adminstration. The worst effect of the tremendous trials which have hindered (or helped) the publication of the version was to unfit me for that painstaking accuracy which ought to characterize it. But I realize that this is my thorn in the flesh, and I am able to largely counteract it by the greatly increased efficiency of my faithful and beloved assistants.

In spite of much slander and opposition, poverty and dire distress, the version has gone right on. One influential religious leader warned an inquirer not to read the version because it was being published to disprove the personality of the devil! As I have written much to the contrary, I could not help thinking that the Slanderer is not the only one who has a right to the title. Several insist that it is propaganda for universalism, and is supported by funds from that denomination. As I am not acquainted with a single member of that church, so far as I am aware, and have never received a single cent from any sect, this charge is as false as the first.

In neither case has any evidence been given to support the accusations. If there is any passage which has been perverted to prove that the Slanderer is not a personality, I wish to know it and correct it. If I have mistranslated any passage in order to teach universal reconciliation, I wish to be informed, so that I can set it straight. But I will not pervert the word of God to suit any sect, orthodox or unorthodox. I have suffered too much already to cringe before their anathemas. I tremble before God and His word: but I repudiate all human authority in matters of divine revelation.

Once I submitted the version to a publishing house. They refused to issue anything in instalments, because of the amount of labor and vexation which accompanies such a course. But this has been a benefit to the version, for it has enabled me to watch the reaction of those who received it and to make slight improvements in each part. It has been most encouraging. At first sight many are repelled by the new renderings. But practically all who really use it, appreciate it to a degree quite up to my fondest expectations.

As I write this I am being harassed by the slanders of those who do not understand either my motive or my method, who do not present any evidence, and who appeal to popular prejudice to support their opposition. For all such I pray to the God of all grace, Who cannot but deal graciously with them in Christ Jesus. But I also implore them to acquaint themselves with the principles on which my effort is based, with the method employed in its execution, and I doubt not that they must acknowledge that, while it degrades me to a mere workman, so that I do not care to be called a translator, it also redounds to the glory of God and conveys and displays the surpassing excellences of His holy word as no other version has even assayed to do.



THE GREEK SCRIPTURES

CHRIST and His kingdom occupies the place of prominence in the Greek scriptures. They chronicle its refusal when proclaimed by the King Himself, its rejection when heralded by His apostles after His resurrection, its present abeyance, its reaffirmation and realization in the days to come.

Only a very small portion of the Hebrew scriptures was written to or for the nations, or gentiles. By far the greater part is concerning the nation of Israel. The same is true of the Greek revelation. Excepting Paul's epistles, all is directly related to the Circumcision. Christ confined His ministry to the people of the covenant. There was nothing but crumbs for aliens in the accounts of our Lord's life. The chief of the twelve apostles could with difficulty be persuaded to preach even to such a proselyte as Cornelius. From Hebrews to Jude all is limited to the twelve tribes. The Unveiling gives Israel the sovereignty of the earth.

Only Paul's epistles, from Romans to Philemon, are written to, or intended for, the Uncircumcision. While all blessing for the nations was planned to come through the sons of Israel, this channel is choked when they reject the testimony of the apostles, as recorded in the book of Acts. All blessing for the present is based on their apostasy, and comes to us, not through them, but through their defection, and is limited to the period of their rejection. Furthermore, the destiny in Paul's epistles is different. The Circumcision and their beneficiaries are blessed on earth. The Uncircumcision of this economy are blessed among the celestials.

This book is not the "New Testament" or covenant. The new covenant which Jehovah will make with His people Israel is to be found in the so-

called "Old Testament" (Jer.3131-34), and is repeated in the "New" (Heb.88-13). In both cases it is confined to the physical seed of Jacob, the same people who received the old covenant at Sinai, and its place is in the coming kingdom. The grand division in God's purpose is not between these two covenants, but rather between covenanted and uncovenanted blessings. The nations or gentiles will share some of Israel's good things when they are in favor once again, and are under the new covenant. But in the great parenthetic period between their past apostasy and future fullness we have the present grace. This is made known only in Paul's epistles and is entirely distinct from the message of the scriptures to the Circumcision.

We have enclosed Paul's writings in a parenthesis to indicate that they are an interlude. The great movements inaugurated in the Hebrew Scriptures are continued in the accounts of our Lord's life, in Acts, and in Hebrews, James, Peter, John and Jude, and especially in the Unveiling. But Paul's epistles reveal a secret purpose which antedates and transcends God's counsels for the earth, and the blessing which comes through them is based on grace so pure and unadulterated that it depends for its display on Israel's failure rather than their faithfulness. Hence the same thread of thought can be traced through all the scriptures, omitting Paul's revelations, and they form a complete system, suited to the regeneration of the earth, through Israel. But Paul has a higher mission. He is concerned with the heavens and their reconciliation to God.

The following outline will give a grasp of the Greek scriptures at a glance.

THE GREEK SCRIPTURES

"CORRECTLY PARTITIONED"

The King and Kingdom Rejused

CIRCUMCISION

 MATTHEW
 Christ as King

 MABK
 Servant

 LUKE
 Man

 JOHN
 Son of God

Reoffered and Rejected

ACTS

In Abeyance

The Present Parenthetic Interval

PAUL'S EPISTLES

THE PREPARATORY EPISTLES

Faith

ROMANSJustification
Conciliation
Deportment
I. CORINTHIANS .. Deportment
II. CORINTHIANS .. Conciliation
GALATIANSJustification

THE PERFECTION EPISTLES

Love

EPHESIANS Doctrine

Deportment
PHILIPPIANS Deportment
Colossians Doctrine

THE PROMISE EPISTLES

Hope

I. THESSALONIANS
II. THESSALONIANS

THE PERSONAL EPISTLES

I. AND II. TIMOTHY, TITUS, PHILEMON

Reaffirmed

HEBREWS
JAMES
I. AND II. PETER

I. AND II. PETER
I., II., AND III. JOHN
JUDE

Realized

THE UNVEILING

WRITINGS

MATTHEW'S ACCOUNT

MATTHEW manifests the Messiah as the Son of David and the Son of Abraham. He is the King of Israel and the Owner of the land. His genealogy is presented to prove His title to the throne and attest His inheritance from the father of the faithful. This account is occupied with the kingdom to Israel and the land of promise. It is concerned with the covenants made with Abraham and with David.

The four accounts or portraitures of Christ give four discriminated aspects of their common subject, and are not intended to be "harmonized". Each writer has his peculiar principles of selection and arrangement. Matthew's account, ever recognized as the Hebrew gospel, is the true commencement of the Greek scriptures, showing how they grow out of the Hebrew writings. It quotes at every step from the older scriptures. It is both a history and a fulfillment of prophecy. Matthew never rises above the plane of Israel's interests and hopes.

The characteristic phrase is "the kingdom of the heavens". This refers to Daniel's prophecy, "And in the days of these kings the God of the heavens shall set up a kingdom which shall not be harmed for the eon, and the kingdom shall not be left to another people. It shall crush and terminate all these kingdoms . . ." (Dan.244). "And the kingdom and the authority and the majesty of the kingdom under all the heavens is granted to the people of the saints of the supremacies . . . (Dan. 727). It is a kingdom in the sense that Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece were kingdoms: it is still future: it is the rule of one people over other nations; yet it will not be destroyed as its predecessors in world dominion, but will last for the eons.

Notwithstanding the fact that Messiah is sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (1524) and that He forbade His apostles to go to the na-

tions or Samaritans (105), the few instances in which the aliens are mentioned are most significant. Four gentile women enter the genealogy (13,5,6). Tamar's sin introduced her into the line of ancestry, Rahab came in by faith. In Ruth's case grace triumphed over the law that would ban a Moabite from the congregation of Jehovah. Bathsheba reminds us of David's great transgression and shows us grace reigning despite sin. The magi come to worship Him, while Herod seeks His life (2^{1-12}) . The centurion exhibits a faith unknown in Israel (85-12). The Canaanitish woman is commended for her confidence in Christ (1521-28). Pilate and his wife refuse responsibility when the Jews seek to condemn Him (2710.24). The centurion at the cross acknowledges that He is the Son of God (2754). It is only at the end of the account, after all authority on earth is in the hands of the King, that the disciples are commissioned to go and make disciples of all nations. This cannot occur until the kingdom comes. Thus the proclamation of the kingdom of the heavens is restricted to the people of whom the prophet Daniel spoke.

The narrative is divided into two distinct periods, each of which begins with His acknowledgement as Son of God by a voice from heaven and closes by its acknowledgment by men, the first by the disciples, the second by the nations. The first extends from John's baptism (316,17), and closes with Peter's confession (1616). During this period the kingdom is proclaimed and rejected, so that He forbids its further proclamation. The second period is occupied with His priestly preparation for the sacrifice on Golgotha. It begins with the transformation on the mount (171-5) where Moses and Elijah spoke of His decease, and continued to the crucifixion, where the centurion said. "Truly this was the Son of God!"

(2754).

1-6 Compare Lu.323-38.

6-11 Compare 1 Chr. 310-16.

12-16 Compare 1 Chr. 317-19.

This is the royal lineage of the Son of David as well as the title to the land granted to Abraham. In contrast to the genealogy given by Luke, we are given the actual physical descent by the male line to Joseph, the husband of Mary, the mother of our Lord. The three sections bring before us three distinct phases of rule and the failure of each. First we have the theocracy until David, which ended when the people clamored for a king (1 Sa. 86-Then comes the period of the kingdom, which was a series of failures, until the Babylonian exile. Since then the nations ruled Israel, until the birth of Messiah, when they were under the Roman voke. It was a dismal descent, and proved conclusively that no male issue of this line would ever be competent to sit upon the throne of Messiah.

David was the greatest of the kings, yet his son Solomon was a living evidence of his terrible sin. And so degenerate did the line of his sons become that at the time of the exile Jechoniah drew down upon himself the curse of Jehovah:

"Thus saith the Lord,
Write this man bereft,
A master who shall not prosper in his
days:
For no man of his seed shall prosper,
Sitting on the throne of David
And ruling any more in Judah'."
(Jer.2230)

Neither Joseph, nor any of his progenitors since the exile, were eligible to the throne. If Christ were his natural son, He also would be debarred. The Messiah cannot be of the seed of Jechoniah. Hence the absolute necessity of the virgin birth. Being begotten by God, the sins of progenitors did not taint His blood, and the curse of Coniah had no claim on Him. Yet, as the Son of Joseph, He inherited the title to the throne and all the honors of the house of David.

8 Between Joram and Ozias, there were three kings, Ahaziah, Joash, and Amaziah, but their names were blotted out according to the law (Deut.2920), because they introduced idolatry into Israel. Ahaziah (or Azariah or Jehoahaz) walked in the ways of Ahab and was slain by Jehu (2 Chron. 223,9).

THE SCROLL OF THE LINEAGE OF JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF DAVID, THE SON OF ABRAHAM.

- ABRAHAM begets Isaac; now Isaac begets Jacob; now Jacob begets Ju-
- 3 das and his brothers. Now Judas begets Phares and Zara of Thamar. Now Phares begets Esrom; now Es-
- 4 rom begets Aram; now Aram begets Aminadab; now Aminadab begets Naasson; now Naasson begets
- 5 Salmon; now Salmon begets Boaz of Rahab; now Boaz begets Obed of
- ⁶ Ruth; now Obed begets Jesse; now Jesse begets David the king.

Now David begets Solomon of ⁷ her of Uriah; now Solomon begets Roboam; now Roboam begets Abijah; now Abijah begets Asaph;

- 8 now Asaph begets Josaphat; now Josaphat begets Joram; now Joram
- 9 begets Ozias; now Ozias begets Joatham; now Joatham begets Achaz; now Achaz begets Hezeki-
- 10 ah; now Hezekiah begets Manasseh; now Manasseh begets Amos;
- 11 now Amos begets Josiah; now Josiah begets Jechoniah and his brothers at the Babylonian exile.
- Now after the Babylonian exile Jechoniah begets Salathiel; now
- ¹³ Salathiel begets Zorobabel; now Zorobabel begets Abiud; now Abiud begets Eliakim; now Eliakim be-

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Joash served Jehovah as long as the priest Jehoiada lived, but afterwards the princes of Judah served idols. He slew the son of Jehoiada, who remonstrated. Hence the servants of King Joash slew him and would not bury him in the tombs of the kings (2 Chr. 24¹⁷,2⁵). Amaziah also bowed down to the gods of the sons of Seir, and was slain by the people of Jerusalem (2 Chr. 25¹⁵,2⁷).

10 Jehoiakim (or Shallum) is omitted from the list of kings because he refused Jeremiah's warnings, forsook the covenant, and turned to other gods (Jer. 221-7). In Chronicles mention is made, not only of his abominations, or idolatry, but to "that which was found on him" (2 Chr. 368). He made cuttings or marks on his flesh as a sign of his allegiance to other gods (Lev. 19 28). Hence he was denied human burial and his name is blotted out of the register of kings (Deut. 2918-20).

Jechoniah's name is shortened to Coniah (Jer. 2224) to show that Jehovah withdrew His support from him. He is not included in the line of kings. None of his seven sons (1 Chr. 317,18) succeeded to the throne. As no man of his seed can prosper, sitting on the throne of David, yet the regal rights are in his line, Messiah must be his Son, but not his seed.

17 In each group there are fourteen generations. From Abraham to, and including, David, are fourteen. From David to and including Josiah are fourteen. From Jechoniah to and including Josiah are fourteen.

ing Christ are fourteen.

By this peculiar Hebrew system of enumeration, the true spiritual values are emphasized. David, as the most important progenitor, is counted twice. By substituting an event in place of a man for the link between the second and third group, Jechoniah is degraded to a place among the private persons of the third group. As a result the twenty kings of Judah are divided into two groups of ten each, the first seven of whom are counted and the last three are blotted out, as on the list herewith.

Each period began with a revival and closed in apostasy. At the end of the first the land was oppressed by the Philistines: at the end of the second it 14 gets Azor; now Azor begets Sadok; now Sadok begets Achim; now

Achim begets Eliud; now Eliud begets Eleazar; now Eleazar begets Matthan; now Matthan begets Ja-

- 16 cob; now Jacob begets Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, Who is termed "Christ".
- Then all the generations from Abraham till David are fourteen generations, and from David till the Babylonian exile are fourteen generations, and from the Babylonian exile till Christ are fourteen generations.
- Now the birth of Jesus Christ was thus: His mother, Mary, being espoused to Joseph, ere their coming together was found pregnant by

19 holy spirit. Now Joseph, her husband, being just and not willing to hold her up to infamy, intended to

dismiss her covertly.

Now at his brooding over these things, lo! a messenger of the Lord appeared to him in a trance, saying, "Joseph, son of David, you should not be afraid to accept Miriam, your wife, for that which is being generated in her is of holy spirit.

Now she shall bring forth a Son, and you shall be calling His name Jesus, for He shall be saving His

people from their sins."

Now the whole of this has occurred that that which is declared by the Lord through the prophet may be fulfilled, saying:

23 "Lo! the virgin will be pregnant, And will bring forth a Son, And they will be calling His name 'Emmanuel'.

1001	MATTHEW	'S ACCOUNT	CHAPTER 1
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COYCINTOONOMAAYTOYEM 2000 CALLING THE NAME OF-Him EM-

was beneath the feet of Babylon; at the end of the third it was under the Roman yoke.

1 David 1 Ozias Solomon Joatham Roboam Achaz 4 Abijah Hezekiah Asaph Josaphat Manasseh Amos Joram Josiah Ahaziah] [Jehoahaz] [Jehoiakim] Jehoashi [Amaziah] [Jechoniah]

18 Compare Lu. 126-38.

19 The law was very strict in an ordinary case of this kind, and demanded that the woman be taken to the entrance of her father's house and the men of her city be required to stone her until she died (Deut. 22²¹). Joseph could not bring himself to this, so intended to divorce her according to the law that when a man had taken a wife and has found some uncleanness in her then he was to write her a bill of divorcement and send her out of his house (Deut.241).

23 In Isaiah, the prophet does not use the usual word for virgin, but olme, damsel (Isa.714). It is not likely that it was a virgin when it first came to pass in the prophet's day. But in this, the proper fulfillment, the spirit changes the word to virgin, as it is in

the Septuagint also.

1-6 Bethlehem, the House of Bread, can be traced back in the family of our Lord to the time of Boaz and Ruth (Ruth 1¹,²). Here David dwelt. It was so insignificant that it is not even mentioned among the cities of Judah by Joshua or Nehemiah. This is seized on by the prophet Micah (5²) to form a background for its future greatness. Nor has any other event of importance transpired there. Its solitary and surpassing glory is the birth of the Shepherd of Israel.

1 The magi represent those who are learned in the lore of nature. All nature leads the true devotee to the worship of Him Whose handiwork it is. Many attempts have been made to explain the star of Bethlehem as a purely normal occurrence—a meteor, a comet, the conjunction of a number of planets, etc. But no such star could guide the magi for a long period and then take its place above Bethlehem, as distinct from Jerusalem. It is much easier to believe that it was an extraordinary star, for it heralded the birth of a most extraordinary Babe.

Which is, construed, 'God with us'."

Now Joseph, being roused from sleep, does as the Lord's messenger bids him, and accepted his wife,

and he knew her not till she brought forth a Son, and he calls

His name Jesus.

2 Now, Jesus being born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, lo! magi from the east came along into Jerusalem, saying, 2 "Where is He Who is being brought forth King of the Jews? For we perceived His star in the east and we came to worship Him."

Now when king Herod hears, he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. And assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he ascertained from them where Christ is born. Now they say to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written

through the prophet,

'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
Are in no respect least among the
governors of Judah,

For out of you will come a Governor

Who shall be shepherding My people Israel'."

Then Herod, covertly calling the magi, ascertains exactly from them the time of the star's appearing.

And, sending them into Bethlehem, he said, "While going enquire exactly concerning the little Boy. Now if you should ever be finding Him, report to me, so that *I*, also, may be coming and worshiping Him."

Now those who hear the king went, and lo! the star which they perceived in the east preceded them

2 ⁰⁰¹ MATTHEW'S	S ACCOUNT CHAPTERS 1-2
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NEYOMENONMEHHMUNOHEO 40 LATED WITH US THE God	ETYNO ANGTOTA PAYTUNTO 40 he-ASCERTAINED-UP BESIDE them ?-where
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3 Herod the Great, as this king was usually called, may have been of Philistine extraction, his ancestors having been brought to Idumea as prisoners of war. He was the first sovereign of the Edomites who reigned over Judea, under Roman supremacy, and began about 40 B. C. His father, Antipater, had been procurator of Judea when Hyrcanus II., the Maccabean, was king. He died not long after these events. He received his kingdom from Antony and the Roman Senate. After the fall of Antony he found favor with the emperor Augustus. His actions tell us that he feared for his throne when the Messiah should come. In this he was in striking contrast with the Maccabean dynasty which he displaced. They took the royal authority with the express reservation of the rights of the Messiah (1 Macc. 1441). He massacred helpless infants in a futile effort to murder the Messiah.

7 It is evident, from the anxiety of Herod to get the exact time when the star first appeared, and his order to kill all the babes under two years, that the magi did not visit Bethlehem when Christ was born, but a long time afterward. He is now a little Boy, and Herod does not consider it safe to allow any child under two years to live. It is probable that they saw the star in the east at His birth, and, after some time for preparation, took their slow journey to Judea.

12 There is a startling contrast between the worshipful adoration of the magi, and the cruel conduct of His own people. The priests and scribes and populace should have exulted at His coming, but they are disturbed and uneasy. The priests should have worshiped Him, but they would not go a two-hours' journey to see Him. The magi traveled for months and brought Him presents. The scribes knew where he was born, but none went thither. The people followed their leaders. His own received Him not!

13 The khan at Bethlehem was the starting point of caravans for Egypt. Such it was in the days of Jeremiah, who lodged with Chimham at Bethlehem on his way to Egypt (Jer.4117). And in his day many Jews went down into Egypt so that there were large Jewish colonies there to which Joseph could go during his exile. Here the

till, coming, it was stationed above ¹⁰ where the little Boy was. Now, perceiving the star, they rejoiced with

a great joy tremendously. And, coming into the house, they perceived the little Boy with Mary, His mother, and falling, they worship Him, and opening up their treasures, they offer Him oblations, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

¹² And, being apprised in a trance not to go back again to Herod, they retire through another way into

their country.

Now, at their retiring into their country, lo! the Lord's messenger is appearing to Joseph in a trance, saying, "Rouse! Take along the little Boy and His mother and flee into Egypt, and be there till I should speak to you, for Herod is about to be seeking the little Boy to destroy Him."

Now, being roused, he took along the little Boy and His mother by night and retires into Egypt,

¹⁵ and He was there till the decease of Herod, in order that that which is declared by the Lord through the prophet may be fulfilled, saying,

"Out of Egypt I call My Son."

Then Herod, perceiving that he was derided by the magi, was very furious, and, dispatching, he massacred all the boys who were in Bethlehem and in all its boundaries, from two years and below, according to the time which he ascertains exactly from the magi.

¹⁷ Then was fulfilled that which is declared through Jeremiah the prophet, saying,

propnet, saying,

18 "A sound is heard in Rama, Lamentation, and much anguish;

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true Image of God would find the first objects to strike His dawning intelligence, and these would probably be the false images and gigantic temples of their idolatrous worship. Here was the center of the world's wisdom, but we do not read that any of the wise men recognized Him in Whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are concealed (Col.23). But here also was the home of the Septuagint, the Greek version of the sacred scrolls which He used in His ministry. From here He, like the nation before Him, was called out of Egypt (Hos.111).

18 Compare Jer. 3115.

18 The name "Rama" was a common one for a site on a hill. There was probably such a place near Bethlehem beside the tomb of Rachel, who died there in sorrow (Gen. 3518-20). There is a beautiful connection between her sorrow and that of the bereaved mothers whose infants Herod slew.

²³ "He will be called a Nazarene" was a *spoken* prophecy. There is no reason to believe it was written or is to be found in the Hebrew scriptures. Much that was spoken by the prophets was never committed to writing, but was preserved by tradition.

1-12 Compare Mk.11-8Lu.31-18Jn.16-8,10-34.

- ³ The wretched roads in the East were seldom repaired unless in preparation for some royal visitor. To see the peasants employed in removing the stones and straightening the road, and leveling its rough places was a sure sign that some one of high rank was expected. John the baptist was the herald of the King, calling on His subjects to prepare His path before Him (Isa. 403).
- 4 There is no reason why this should not be taken literally. The Arabs of those regions still feed on locusts. The American Indians of the western deserts have been known to subsist for weeks on locusts alone. The insect was included among those which it was lawful for a Jew to eat (Lev. 1122). The monks of the dark ages thought this incredible, so they planted locust trees near the grotto in the desert which was supposed to be John's home. The carob is also found in this region and pilgrims have given it the name "St. John's bread" in order to shield him from the charge of eating insects!

Rachel lamenting for her children,
And she did not want to be consoled,
For they are not."

Now at Herod's decease, lo! the Lord's messenger is appearing in a trance to Joseph in Egypt, saying,

20 "Being roused, take along the little Boy and His mother and go into the land of Israel, for those who are seeking the little Boy's soul have died."

Now he, being roused, took the little Boy and His mother along and came into the land of Israel.

²² Yet, hearing that Archelaus is reigning in Judea in the stead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Now, being apprised in a trance, he retires into parts of Gali-

²³ lee. And coming, he dwells in a city termed Nazareth, so that that which is declared through the prophets may be fulfilled, that He will be called a Nazarene.

3 Now in those days John the baptist is coming along, proclaiming in

² the wilderness of Judea, saying: "Repent! for the kingdom of the

3 heavens has drawn near!" For this is He Who is declared through Isaiah the prophet, saying,

"The voice of one imploring in the wilderness,

'Make ready the road of the Lord! Be making His highways straight!'"

4 Now John himself had his apparel of camel's hair and a leather girdle about his loins. Now his nourishment was locusts and wild honey.

5 Then Jerusalem and entire Judea and the entire country about

6 the Jordan went out to him, and they were baptized by him in the

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6 Baptism, or ceremonial washing. was a recognized rite in the Jewish ritual. It was usually performed by the person himself. Since Moses consecrated Aaron and his sons (Ex. 294) no one did it for another. The priests washed themselves at the laver (Ex. 4031). Defiled clothes were to be washed by the man himself (Lev. 11
40). Naaman dipped himself in the Jordan (2 Ki. 514). But, because John did the baptizing, he was called "the baptist".

John came in the spirit and power of Elijah (Mt. 1114; Lu. 117). The superficial ceremonial without a corresponding condition of the heart was offensive to his spirit. He loathed hypocrisy. So he refused to baptize the religious zealots whose lives were not in accord with their profession. True repentance alone could avail to prepare them for the Coming One. Water could only symbolize the inward cleansing. It was not a substitute.

Compare Jn. 833-39.

11 See Ac.151116191-4.

11 There are three baptisms here, water, spirit, and fire. John used water only. This method was continued during our Lord's ministry. But after His resurrection He told them "John. indeed, baptizes in water, yet you shall be baptized in holy spirit not many days hence" (Ac. 15). From Pentecost onward two baptisms obtained. first, those who were baptized in water received the baptism of holy spirit also. Cornelius received the spirit before he was baptized in water (Ac.1044-48). Now there is only one baptism (Eph. 45). In one spirit we all were baptized into one body (1 Co.1213). It is for cleansing, not for power.

12 The baptism of fire is the burning of the chaff. Such was the only baptism which the Pharisees and Sadducees deserved. Those whom He does not baptize in holy spirit, in grace, He will baptize in fire, in judgment. All of this is eonian, and does not determine their ultimate destiny after the eons have passed by.

13-17 Compare Mk.19-11Lu.321,22.

13 The Lord needed no cleansing, for He had no sin. But He needed to identify Himself with those who were cleansed. It was a foreglimpse of His baptism on Golgotha, when He became sin for the sake of His own.

Jordan river, confessing their sins. Now, perceiving many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Progeny of vipers! Who intimates to you to be fleeing from future indignation? Produce, then, fruit wor-

thy of repentance. And you should

not be presuming to be saving among yourselves, 'We have Abraham for a father', for I am saving to you that God is able to rouse children out of these stones to Abraham.

Now the ax is already lying at the root of the trees. Every tree, then, which is not producing fine fruit, is being hewn down and cast

11 into the fire. For I indeed, am baptizing you in water for repentance. yet He Who is coming after me is stronger than I, Whose sandals I am not competent to bear. He will be baptizing you in holy spirit and

12 fire, Whose winnowing shovel is in His hand, and He will be scouring His threshing floor, and will be gathering His wheat into His barn. yet He will be burning up the chaff with inextinguishable fire."

Then Jesus is coming along from Galilee to the Jordan to John to be

¹⁴ baptized by him. Yet John prohibited Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by Thee, and art

15 Thou coming to me?" Yet answering, Jesus said to him, "By your leave, for the present, for thus it is behooving us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he is giving Him leave.

Now, being baptized, Jesus straightway stepped up from the water, and lo! the heavens were

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16-17 Compare Jn. 132-34.

16 As God's spirit has no material form it is figured to us in various ways. which suggest its force and significance. It is usually presented as a blast of air, for this is the primary meaning of the word pneuma, or spirit (Jn.38 Ac.22 Heb17). Other spirits are represented as torches (Un.45). and horns or eyes (Un. 56) to indicate their power and perception. Unclean spirits are figured as frogs (Un. 1613). The exquisite picture presented to the spiritual Israelite by the descending dove is largely lost on us. Our Lord Himself commended their artlessness to the emulation of His disciples. But doubtless a deeper thought lay in its universal use for sacrifice, especially by the poor. When He was presented to the Lord they offered two squabs of the doves (Lu. 224). The spirit of God endues Him with power for the proclamation of the kingdom, not by presenting Him with a sword and mace, not by mounting Him on a white horse or crowning Him with a diadem, but by investing Him with the far more godlike powers of gentleness, artlessness, and sacrifice.

1-11 Compare Mk.112,13Lu.41-13.

- 1 If Christ is to be the King of Israel. He must not only overcome the opposition of men, but first of all, He must conquer the spirit that operates in them and rules the darkness of this world. Christ came to save others, not to please Himself. He refuses to use His power to provide food for Himself, but depends on God alone. He will not go out of His way to try and see if God will perform a miracle to save Him. Neither will He avoid the suffering and shame which lie between Him and the kingdom by accepting it at the Slanderer's hands. The Dove meets the Serpent in the wilderness and conquers it. Utter dependence on God's provision, absolute confidence in His words and ways, and the fullest fealty to His love, are more than a match for the Slanderer.
- 4 Compare Deut. 83.
- 6 Compare Ps. 9111,12.
- 7 Compare Deut. 616.
- Satan is evidently the real head of the fourth kingdom of Daniel's image. Rome's dominion was limited.

opened up to Him, and He perceived God's spirit descending as if it were a dove, and coming on ¹⁷ Him. And *lo!* a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My be-

Him. And lo! a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I delight."
Then Jesus was led up by the

4 Then Jesus was led up by the spirit into the wilderness to be tried by the Slanderer. And, fasting forty days and forty nights, subsequently He hungers. And, approaching, he who is trying Him said to Him, "If you are God's Son, say that these stones may be becoming bread." Yet answering, He said, "It is written, 'Not on bread alone shall man be living, but

through the mouth of God'."

Then the Slanderer is taking Him along into the holy city, and stands Him on the wing of the sanctuary. And he is saying to Him, "If you are God's Son, be casting yourself down, for it is

on every declaration going out

written that

'His messengers shall be directed concerning Thee,

And on their hands shall they be lifting Thee.

Lest at some time Thou shouldst be dashing Thy foot against a stone!"

Jesus averred to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not be putting the Lord, your God, on trial"."

The Slanderer is taking Him along again into a very high mountain, and is showing Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these will I be giving to you if you should be prostrating and be worshiping me."

Then Jesus is saying to him, "Go, Satan, for it is written,

'The Lord your God shall you be worshiping.

And to Him only shall you be offering divine service'."

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- 10 Compare Deut. 6131020.
- 12 Compare Mk.114,15Lu.414,15.
- 12 It is not likely that John was "cast into prison" at this time. The Lord had not yet called His disciples, and John was not yet cast into prison (Jn. 324) until some time later. Several attempts seem to have been made to put him in ward. This is probably the first of these. Hence the Lord left Judea, and spent most of His ministry in Galilee. In John, His messenger, He was rejected in Judea before He even began His proclamation.
- 13-16 Compare Mk.121,22Lu.431,32.
- 15 Compare Isa. 91,2.
- 15 Nazareth, Cana, and the region about, where the Lord commenced His ministry, were in Zabulon. This did not touch the sea of Galilee, but it bordered on Naphtali in the northeast, in which was Capernaum, "His own city," as well as Chorazin and Bethsaida, where so many of His mighty works were done.
- 17 Compare Mk. 114,15.
- 17 "The kingdom of the heavens" would mean but one thing to a Jew in the days of our Lord. In the explanation of the marvelous dream of Nebuchadnezzar, in which he saw a succession of world empires. Daniel says that the last kingdom shall be set up by the God of the heavens (Dan.244). "And in the days of these kings the God of the heavens shall set up a kingdom which shall not be harmed for the eon. and the kingdom shall not be left to another people. It shall crush and terminate all these kingdoms, and it shall rise for the eon." Babylon fell to Medo - Persia, and Medo - Persia Greece. Greece had broken up, and the fourth kingdom, in which the prophet's people under the figure of clay, were to be mingled with mankind, was due to appear. And this was to be followed by the indestructible kingdom of Messiah, for which all the Jews longed.

Again, under the figure of rapacious beasts, Daniel had portrayed the kingdoms of the end time (Dan. 72-27). They are displaced by the kingdom of the heavens. "And the kingdom and authority and the majesty of the kingdom under all the heavens is granted to the people of the saints of the supremacies. The kingdom is an eonian kingdom, and all authorities shall serve

and hearken to it."

Then the Slanderer is leaving Him, and lo! messengers approached and waited on Him.

Now when hearing that John was betraved. He retires into Galilee.

- ¹³ and leaving Nazareth, coming, He dwells in Capernaum, which is by the seaside in the boundaries of Za-
- ¹⁴ bulon and Nephthalim, in order that that which is declared through Isaiah, the prophet, may be fulfilled, saving,
- "The land of Zabulon and the land of Nephthalim, The sea road the other side of Jordan.
- Galilee of the nations--The people sitting in darkness Perceived a great light. And to those sitting in the province and shadow of death, To them light arises."
- Thenceforth Jesus begins proclaiming and saying, "Repent! for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near."
- Now, walking beside the sea of Galilee. He perceived two brothers. Simon, who is termed Peter, and Andrew, his brother, casting a purse net into the sea, for they were
- 19 fishermen. And He is saying to them, "Hither, after Me, and I will be making you fishers of
- 20 men!" Now immediately, leaving the nets, they follow Him.
- And advancing thence, He perceived two other brothers, James of Zebedee and his brother John, in the ship with Zebedee their father. readjusting their nets; and He ²² calls them. Immediately, leaving
- the ship and their father, they follow Him.
- And Jesus led them about in the whole of Galilee, teaching in their

7 ⁰⁰¹ MATTHE	EW'S ACCOUNT CHAPTER 4
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"The kingdom of God" suggests subjection direct to the Deity, whether as individuals or nations. Its sphere cannot be circumscribed. "The kingdom of the heavens", is, however, always concerned with the sovereignty of Israel over the other nations. Just as Babylon ruled the whole earth, so Israel will be supreme. As Medo-Persia brought all nations beneath its sway, so Israel will subjugate every other dominion. As Alexander found no field for further conquest, so Messiah will rule all nations with a club of iron, and all peoples and languages and nations will serve Him and bring their tribute to the land of Israel and the nation He has chosen. This is the kingdom which Christ proclaimed.

The kingdom was proclaimed as "near". This does not imply that it must come soon. The nearness was only tentative. The same word is used of Epaphroditus (Phil. 230), who draws near to death for the work of Christ, but God was merciful, and he drew away from death again. Nearness is a relative term, indicating that not much more is needed to cause contact. Israel was near the land of promise thirtyeight years before they actually entered. Had they believed Caleb and Joshua they would have drawn nearer instead of returning to the wilderness. far from its borders. So it was with Israel and the kingdom. when their forefathers came out of Egypt, so they come near to the national hope, but for thirty-eight years they wandered in the wilderness of unbelief, and perished without entering the land of promise.

- 18-19 Compare Mk.116-18Lu.51-11Jn.140-42.
- 21-22 Compare Mk.119,20Lu.510,11.
- 23 See Mk.121-39.
- 25 Compare Mk. 37,8.
- 1-2 Compare Lu. 620-23.
- The "Sermon on the Mount" was probably varied and repeated many times. Luke gives one of these. That was given on an "even place" (Lu. 617) after His calling of the apostles. It is much abridged. Mark gives scattered allusions here and there. It is fitting that the fullest proclamation of the laws of the kingdom should be given in this account, for it is concerned with the Son of David.

synagogues and proclaiming the evangel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every debility among the people.

And tidings of Him came out into the whole of Syria, and they bring to Him all those who are ill with various diseases and pressing torments, and demoniacs and epileptics and paralytics, and He ²⁵ cures them. And vast throngs follow Him from Galilee and Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and the other side of the Jordan.

- 5 Now on perceiving the throngs, He ascended into the mountain. And when He is seated, His disci-
- ² ples came to Him. And opening His mouth, He taught them, saying,
- "Happy, in spirit, are the poor, seeing that theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.
- Happy are those who mourn now, seeing that they shall be consoled.
- Happy are the meek, seeing that they shall be enjoying the allotment of the land.
- Happy are those who are hungering and thirsting for righteousness, seeing that they shall be satisfied.
- Happy are the merciful, seeing that they shall be shown mercy.
- Happy are the clean in heart, seeing that they shall see God.
- Happy are the peacemakers, seeing that they shall be called God's sons.
- Happy are those persecuted on account of righteousness, seeing that theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.
- Happy are you whenever they should be reproaching and persecuting you and saying every wicked thing against you, falsifying on

to-Him

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THE LEARNERS

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The Beatitudes will find their fulfillment in the kingdom of the heavens. when Messiah comes again and establishes His millennial reign. Till then most of them prove to be a practical disappointment. The merciful often do not obtain mercy. The meek do not receive an allotment in the land or the earth. Not only that, but they never shall. A meek unbeliever will receive no allotment whatever. A meek believpromised every blessedness among the celestials (Eph. 13). would be a bitter disappointment to him to have an allotment on the earth or in the land of Israel. There is no happiness in this beatitude for us.

12 All blessing comes from heaven, but it is not all enjoyed in heaven. The kingdom will be the days of heaven on earth, for the blessing will be heavenly in source and character, though located on earth. The heavenly city, new Jerusalem, is heavenly but comes down out of heaven to the earth. English has no way of distinguishing that which is heavenly in character from that which has its place in heaven, so special care needed to avoid confusion in thought on this theme.

13 See Mk.950Lu.1434,35.

13 The salt of Palestine was usually gathered from marshes. Contact with the ground or exposure to rain or sun soon spoiled it, so that it lost its saltness. As it was very harmful to growing vegetation it was carefully swept up and thrown into the street, and thus trodden under foot.

- 14 Compare Mk.421,22Lu.816,171133.
- 17 See Lu.1616,17Ro.331.
- 18 See 2435.

18 The yod or iota was the smallest of the Hebrew letters. The ceriphs were probably the small projections which distinguished some of the Hebrew letters. The idea of the Massorah, that they were small meaningless ornaments like horns is hardly in line with the spirit of Christ's teaching. He denounced unwarranted, uninspired additions to the scriptures.

19 To obey is always better than sacrifice. The very least precept of the Lord calls for implicit, unquestioning response.

21 Compare Ex. 2013.

12 My account. Be rejoicing and exulting, seeing that vast are your wages in the heavens. For thus they persecute the prophets before

You are the salt of the earth. Now, should the salt be made insipid, with what will it be salted? It is of no further avail except to be cast without, to be trampled by

men.

You are the light of the world. A city located upon a mountain ¹⁵ cannot be hid. Neither are they burning a lamp and placing it under a measure, but on a lampstand, and it is shining to all who are in

¹⁶ the house. Thus let your light shine in front of men, so that they may be perceiving your ideal acts and should be glorifying your Fa-

ther in the heavens.

You should not be inferring that I came to demolish the law or the prophets. I came not to demolish 18 but to fulfill. For verily, I am say-

ing to you, till heaven and earth pass by, one iota or one ceriph may by no means pass by from the law till all should be coming to pass.

Whoever, then, should be annulling one of the least of these precepts, and should be teaching men thus, shall be called the least in the kingdom of the heavens. Yet whoever should be doing and teaching them, he shall be called great in

the kingdom of the heavens. For I am saying to you that, except your righteousness should be superabounding more than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you may by no means be entering into the king-

dom of the heavens.

You hear that it was declared to the ancients, 'You shall not be murdering: yet whoever should be murdering shall be liable to the 22 judgment.' Yet I am saying to

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22 Gehenna, the valley of the son of Hinnom, just below the city of Jerusalem, where idolatrous worship was once carried on and where the city offal was burned, has once more become the incinerator for Jerusalem. In the kingdom it will consume the carcases of criminals as well as the rubbish of the city. It should not be confounded with the unseen, or hades, which is often translated "hell", or with tartarus, similarly translated. Neither is it the lake of fire (Un. 2014), which follows the great white throne judgment for the wicked. Its operation is confined to the temporal judgments of the millennial kingdom. It does not fix ultimate destiny, for it disappears long before the consummation.

²² Raca seems to be a contemptuous epithet from the Aramaic, meaning empty.

23 Instead of removing His hearers from beneath the thunders of the law (as grace has since done), He makes its precepts more pressing, its prohibitions more searching. The appearance counts for nothing with Him unless the heart is also right. He will not even allow them to approach God by means of an oblation, unless they are on terms with their brethren. There is no lenience in this kingdom proclamation. Those who are cast into jail are not delivered until the demands of righteousness have been fully met. A lustful look is a sin of the heart which will not be tolerated in His do-The criminals of that day minions. will be executed and their corpses consigned to the vale of Hinnom, where the offal of Jerusalem is burned. So stringent is this law that if a member of the body sins, the whole is in danger of death in the kingdom.

27 See Ex. 2014.

31 See 193-9 Deut.241,2 Mk.102-12 Lu.1618 1 Co.710,11.

³¹ Because of the hardness of their hearts, Moses made divorce an easy matter. Not so in the kingdom of the heavens. Only one cause will be a ground for separation then. Now, in grace, death alone can come between those whom the Lord has made one flesh (1 Co. 739). We are not living under the law of Sinai or under the kingdom code, but under the far more beneficent reign of grace (Ro. 521).

25-26 Compare Lu. 1258,59. See Prov. 258.

you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to the judgment. Yet whoever may be saying to his brother, 'Raka,' shall be liable to the Sanhedrin. Yet whoever may be saying, 'Stupid', shall be liable to the Gehenna of fire.

23 If, then, you should be offering your oblation on the altar, and there you should be reminded that your brother has aught against 24 you, leave your oblation there in front of the altar and go away. First placate your brother, and then, coming, be offering your oblation.

Be humoring your plaintiff quickly while you are with him on the way, lest at some time the plaintiff should give you up to the judge and the judge to the deputy, and you should be east into jail. Verily, I am saying to you, 'You may by no means be coming out thence till you should be paying the last quadrans' [about .39¢, .75f].

You hear that it was declared, 'You shall not be committing adul-²⁸ tery.' Yet I am saying to you that every man looking at a woman to lust for her commits adultery with ²⁹ her already in his heart. Now if your right eye is snaring you, wrench it out and cast it from you, for it is expedient for you that one of your members should perish and not your whole body be cast into 30 Gehenna. And if your right hand is snaring you, strike it off, and cast it from you, for it is expedient for you that one of your members should perish and not your whole body pass away into Gehenna.

Now it was declared, 'Who ever should be dismissing his wife, let
 him be giving her a divorce.' Yet
 I am saying to you that everyone dismissing his wife (outside of a

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ΗСΤ**ΦΥ**ΠΗΡΕΤΗΚ ΔΙΕΙCΦΥΛ⁶⁰

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33 Compare Lev.1912. See Nu.302 Deut. 2321-23.

34.37 From our Lord's time down to the present, cursing and swearing have been so common in Palestine that little notice is taken of it. They continually profane the name and attributes of God, and swear by anything that comes into their minds. In fact, to swear fluently and artistically is considered quite an accomplishment which deserves cultivation.

39 Compare Ex.2123-25 Lev.2419,20 Deut.

38 Many futile attempts have been made to carry out the principle of nonresistance here laid down, by those who did not see its relation to the kingdom. When the righteous King is on the throne such conduct will be not only right but rational. Grace, however, goes much further than mere non-resistance. It demands active effort on behalf of those who seek to injure or oppress. Recognizing the grave practical difficulty of practising these precepts at the present time, theologians assure us that "these expressions, in their paradox form, must not be taken literally." If these are not plain examples, it is impossible to form any definite idea of the Lord's meaning. It is ideal conduct for an ideal government, such as will be in actual operation when Christ comes again and Satan is bound for the thousand years.

39 Compare Lu. 627-31.

43 Compare Lev. 1918. See Deut. 236.

43 We are exhorted to imitate God. as beloved children, and walk in love. even as Christ loves us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God, for a fragrant odor (Eph. 51,2). The sons of the kingdom are here exhorted to imitate Him in His beneficence in nature. The sun and rain bring all blessing in the physical sphere. Christ brings all blessing in the spiritual sphere. Great is the gift of sunshine, yet how much greater is the gift of Christ! Yet so much brighter is the standard for conduct today as compared with the longed for mil-The saints should always imitate God; yet this should ever be in accord with the particular revelation of Himself given for the time.

44 Compare Lu.627,28,32-362334Ac.7601 Pt. 218-23.

case of prostitution) is making her commit adultery, and who ever should be marrying her who has been dismissed is committing adultery.

Again, you hear that it was declared to the ancients, 'You shall not be perjuring yourselves, yet shall be paying your oaths to the

³⁴ Lord. Yet I am saying to you not to actually swear, neither by heaven, seeing that it is the throne of God;

³⁵ nor by the earth, seeing that it is a footstool for His feet; nor by Jerusalem, seeing that it is the city of the great King; nor should you be

swearing by your head, seeing that you are not able to make one hair ³⁷ white or black. Yet let your word be 'Yes, Yes', 'No, No'. Now what is in excess of these is of the

wicked one.

You hear that it was declared, 'An eye for an eye', and 'A tooth

39 for a tooth'. Yet I am saying to you not to withstand a wicked one, but any one who is slapping you on your right cheek, to him turn the

other also. And he who wants to sue you, and obtain your tunic,

41 leave him your cloak also. And any one who will be conscripting you one mile, go with him two.

42 Give to him who is requesting you, and you may not be turning from him who is wanting to borrow

from you.

You hear that it was declared, 'You shall be loving your associate
and hating your enemy'. Yet I am saying to you, Be loving your enemies, and be praying for those who
are persecuting you, so that you may be becoming sons of your Father Who is in the heavens, seeing that His sun is rising on the wicked and the good, and it is raining on the just and the unjust.

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The kingdom will be, in a special sense, the display of God's goodness on earth; we will be the highest exhibition of God's grace among the celestials (Eph. 27). Hence it is most fitting that conduct, in each case, should correspond to the sphere and character of God's operations. The standard for us is as far beyond these precepts as these are beyond the law. The law demanded love, but limited it to neighbors. In their hard-heartedness they inferred that others should be hated. The Lord does not hesitate to enlarge the law. God is good to all. But we look to the cross and know that there are none righteous in His sight, and see His sacrifice for all. Here alone do we find the motive which should control our conduct. God's perfection in nature is not sufficient to provide the sweet smelling perfume which pleases Him today. It seems to be without any practical effect on the hard hearts of humanity.

- The Pharisees deemed alms-giving, prayer and fasting the three most eminent exhibitions of piety, for alms was the ideal expression of their relation to their neighbor, prayer of their intercourse with God, and fasting of self-discipline. Hence the Lord takes up these three and exposes the hypocrisy which performs them in public and provokes the applause of men, rather than the praise of God.
- 2 The word alms denotes an accompaniment of mercy. Hence we are not surprised that it is entirely absent in the exhortations for the nations which are based on grace. We do not "do" alms, as a work of righteousness, in order to get the approval of men or even the smile of God, but give gratuitously in thankful response for benefits already received by grace. We are not working for wages, but offer our services as a thank-offering for gratuities already ours in Christ, even though we know that He will reward those who serve and suffer for His sake.
- These instructions regarding prayer come very close to us, for our abhormence of hypocrisy should be much more pronounced than theirs. Perhaps a succinct way of putting it is, Never say your prayers; always pray them. Real prayer is possible only under the urge of the holy spirit, and shuns the possible approbation of men, for it is meant for God alone.

ing you, what have you for wages?
Are not the tribute collectors also
doing the same? And should you

be greeting your brothers only, what are you doing that is excessive? Are not the nations also do-

48 ing the same? Then you shall be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Yet take heed not to be doing your righteousness in front of men to be gazed at by them, otherwise you surely have no wages with your Father in the heavens.

Whenever, then, you may be doing alms, you should not be trumpeting in front of you, even as the hypocrites are doing in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they should be glorified by men. Verily, I am saying to you, They have their wages in full. Now you, doing alms, let not your left hand be knowing what your

right is doing, so that your alms may be hidden, and your Father, Who is observing in hiding, will be paying you.

And whenever you may be praying, you shall not be as the hypocrites, seeing that they are fond of praying standing in the synagogues and at the corners of the squares, so that they may be appearing to men. Verily, I am saying to you, They have their wages in full.

Now you, whenever you may be praying, enter into your closet, and, locking your door, pray to your Father in hiding and your Father, Who is observing in hiding, will be paying you. Now, in praying, you should not be wordy, as the nations. For they are supposing that they will be hearkened to

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9-13 Compare Lu. 112-4.

This is not the Lord's prayer, but His model for the disciples' petitions. Since He has just been condemning wordiness and loquacity in prayer, He gives them an example of how to say much with few words. It was far from His intention that this should become a form for repetition, especially in this day of grace when part of it is meaningless and contrary to present truth. "The forgiveness of offenses in accord with the riches of His grace" (Eph. 17) is far, far beyond the measure in which we forgive others. Moreover, our forgiveness is not at all dependent on our extending this favor to others. With them it was probational and temporary; with us it is irrevocable and eternal. The prayers for our emulation are found in Ephesians. The latter half of the first chapter and the whole of the third chapter of that epistle will teach us what to pray for. It is all concerned with a later outpouring of grace which was a profound secret during our Lord's sojourn on earth.

This marvelous prayer is exquisite in its perfections. Its seven petitions are divinely divided into three for the glory of God, and four for the frailty of man. His name, His kingdom, His will. It is His future kingdom which will come when His will is done on earth. At that time we will have our portion in His heavenly administrations, so that our prayers should be much wider in scope than this. Man's needs are sustenance, release from past failures and future trials, and, especially in relation to the kingdom, deliverance from the power of that wicked one who will do his utmost to corrupt and destroy it.

Our Lord would not have them pray for that which God would not give. Every petition in it will be fulfilled, but not until the kingdom has come. Then, and not till then, will they be safe from the wicked one, for he will be bound in the abyss (Un.203). Not till then will their trials be over, their debts remitted, their daily sustenance assured; not till then will His will be done on earth, or His name be hallowed by a holy nation. We may rest assured that every prayer indited by His spirit will be fulfilled in due course. The only uncertain element is time, and that is well known to God.

8 for their loquacity. Do not, then, be like them, for God, your Father, is aware of what you have need before you request Him.

Then you be praying thus: 'Our Father, Who art in the heavens, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Let Thy will come to pass, as in heaven, on earth also.

Be giving us today our dole of
 bread, and remit to us our debts
 as we also remit those of our

13 debtors. And bring us not into trial, but rescue us from the wicked one.

For if you should be forgiving men their offenses, your heavenly Father will be forgiving you, also.

15 Yet if you should not be forgiving men their offenses, neither will your Father be forgiving your offenses.

Now whenever you may be fasting, become not as the hypocrites, with a sad countenance, for they are disguising their faces so that they may be appearing to men to be fasting. Verily, I am saying to you, They have their wages in full. Now you, in fasting, rub

your head with oil and wash your ¹⁸ face, so that you may not be appearing to men to be fasting, but to your Father in hiding, and your Father, Who is observing in hiding,

will be paying you.

Be not hoarding your treasures on earth, where moth and corrosion are causing it to disappear, and where thieves are tunneling and 20 stealing. Yet be hoarding your

treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor corrosion are causing it to disappear, and where thieves are

21 not tunneling or stealing; fo

13001 MATTHEW'S ACCOUNT CHAPTER 6 ΔΕΟΠΑΤΗ ΡΥΜΦΝΑΦΗς ΕΊΤΑ 20 **AAYTONEICAKOYCOHCONT²⁰** THEY-WILL-BE-BEING-INTO-HEARD YET THE FATHER OF-YOUP WILL-BE-FROM-LETTING 81 adds KAI AND AIMHOYNOMOI WOHTEAYTO " ΠΑΡΑΠΤΟΜΑΤΑΥΜΟΝΟΤΑΝΔ 40 THEN YE-MAY-BE-BEING-LIKENED to-them 16 THE BESIDE-FALLS OF-YOUP when-even yer s OOC very small, then erased в+Е ICOIDENTAPOREOCONATH® ENHCTEYHTEMHTINECOED® HAS-PERCEIVED for THE God THE FATHER YE-MAY-BE-fasting NO BE-YE-BECOMING AS s1* omits the PYMONONX PE I ANEXETER P® COTYTOKPITATCKY8POTO® OF-WHICH NEED YE-ARE-HAVING BE-THE hypocrites SAD-VIEWED s1* O face OTOYYMACAITHC AIAYTON 100 ΙΑΦΑΝΙΖΟΥ ΟΙΝΓΑΡΤΑΠΡΟ: FORE OF-THE YOUD Him TO-REQUEST THEY-ARE-UN-APPEARIZING for THE faces 81 * WHON 80. ΟΥΤωςοΥΝΠΡΟς ΕΥΧΕς ΘΕΥ 20 CONACAYTUNONUCOANUCI® 9 thus THEN BE-Draying WHICH-how THEY-MAY-BE-AP-MEICHATE PHMONOENTOIC NTOICANG POROIC NHCTEY PEARING to-THE humans s1* adds □AP for OYPANOICATIACOHT@TOO® ONTECAMENAET COYMINATIE " LET-BE-BEING-HOLYIZED THE NAME I-AM-SAYING to-YOUD THEY-AREве NOMACOYE AGAT WHEACIAG ** XOYCINTONMICOONAYTON® 10 OF-YOU LET-COME THE KINGdom FROM-HAVING THE HIRE or-them 8 € o. I ACOYFENHOHT COTO DE AHM 200 CYAE NHCTEY WNA AE I YAI C 700 OF-YOU LET-BE-BEING-BECOME THE WILL 17 YOU YET fasting **ACOYOCENDYPANOKAIETI20** ΟΥΤΗΝΚΕΦΑΛΗΝΚΑΙΤΟΠΡΟ20 heaven AND YOU THE HEAD THCTON APTONHMUNTONET " **COΠΟΝΟΟΥΝΙΨΑΙΟΠΟΣΜΗΦ #** 11 LAND THE BREAD OF-US ON-BE-OF-YOU WASH which-how no youg fasting to-THE humans IOYCIONAOCHMINCHMEPO** ANHCTOICANO PONOICNHO INGed RE-GIVING TO-US TODAY MAY-BE-APPEARING to-THE humans fasting NKAIAGE CHMINT AQGE IAH ΤΕΥΦΝΑΛΛΑΤωπΑΤΡΙCOΥΤ® FROM-LET to-US THE OWES but. TO-THE FATHER OF-YOU to-MATAHMONOCKAIHMEICA 400 **WENTUKPY** ΦAIUK A IOΠATH ™ OF-US AS AND WE FROM-THE-One IN THE HIDDen PCOYOBAE HUNG NTUK PY \$1 & HKAMENTOICOGELAGTAIC® OWERS OF-YOU THE One-looking LET to-THE IN THE HIDDEN HMONK AIMHEICENETKHCH* I WATO A WEEK COMMENCAY 13 of-us YOU-MAY-BE-INTO-CARRYING US 19 WILL-BE-FROM-GIVING to-YOU NO NO YE-BE-PLACING-MACEICTIÉIPACMONAAAAP® PIZETEYMINOHCAYPOYCE® to-YOUP PLACED-INTO-MORBOWS INTO-MORROW YCAIHMACAROTOYRONHPO® **TITHCTHCOTOYCHCKAIBP®** wicked THE-?-where MOTH AND cue FROM THE 8 Al for G YEANTAPAOHTETOICANOP 400 **OCICADANIZEIKAIOTOYK** 14 IF-EVER for THE-?-where thiev-YE-MAY-BE-FROM-LETTING to-THE huing IS-UN-APPEARIZING AND **ΦΠΟΙ CTAΠΑΡΑΠΤ**ΨΜΑΤΑΆΥ²⁰ ΛΕΠΤΑΙΔΙΟΡΎCCOYCINKA²⁰ THE BESIDE-FALLS or-them ARE-THRU-EXCAVATING 8 0 TONACHCEIK ALYMINOTIAT® IKAENTOYCINOHCAYPIZE* WILL-BE-FROM-LETTING AND to-YOUP THE FATHER 20 ARE-stealing YE-BE-PLACING-INTO-MORROW

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PLACED-INTO-MORROWS IN

14-15 Compare Mk.1125,26.

14 Forgiveness now is according to the riches of His grace (Eph. 17), not according to our forgiveness of others. The believers in Israel failed at this point. Their forgiveness was withdrawn because they refused the same mercy to the other nations. But the believers of the nations were never forgiven in this probationary fashion.

19-21 Compare Lu. 1233-34.

19 Treasures were often hid in concealed pits in the ground, where thieves would need to dig to find them. But nothing is safe on earth. Only that which we give is ours beyond the possibility of loss.

²²⁻²³ Compare Lu.11³³⁻³⁶. See Prov.28²² Mk.7²².

²² The Pharisees tried to make the best of both worlds. They wanted treasure on earth as well as in heaven. Their eyes were afflicted with double sight, which is worse than blindness. They wanted to worship both God and mammon.

24 Compare Lu.1613. See Ja.44 1 Jn.215.

 25 There is a blessed progression in the experience of God's saints as the purpose of His grace becomes more fully known. The Psalmist could sing (Ps. 55^{22}):

"Fling what He grants you on Jehovah, And He will sustain you: He will not allow the righteous to slip for the eon."

Peter sounds a higher strain when he writes to the dispersion, "tossing your entire worry on Him, seeing that He is caring concerning you" (1 Pt. 57). But how much loftier is the position of Paul, as he exhorts us, "Let nothing be worrying you, but in every prayer and petition let your requests be made known to God with thanksgiving, and the peace of God, being superior to every mental state, shall garrison your hearts and your apprehensions in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 46,7). The Psalmist struggled under a burden with the help of God, Peter got rid of the weight, but Paul prevents it, and replaces it with peace and thanksgiving.

25-34 Compare Lu.1222-31.

29 We cannot be certain of the exact flower intended by our Lord from the somewhat general term used, but the brilliant scarlet anemone, which flourwhere your treasure is, there will be your heart also.

22 The lamp of the body is your eye. If, then, your eye should be single, your whole body will be 23 luminous. Yet if your eye should be wicked, your whole body will be dark. If, then, the light which is in you is darkness, how dense is

the darkness!

Now no one can be slaving for two lords, for either he will be hating the one and loving the other, or will be upholding the one and despising the other. You cannot slave for God and mammon.

Therefore I am saying to you, Be not worrying for your soul, what you may be eating, or what you may be drinking, nor yet for your body, what you should be putting on. Is not the soul more than nurture and the body than apparel?

Look at the flying creatures of heaven, that they are not sowing, neither are they reaping, nor are they gathering into barns, and your heavenly Father is nurturing them. Are you not of more conse-

quence than thev?

27 Now which of you by worrying is able to add one cubit to his stature? And why are you worrying about apparel? Study the anemones of the field, how they are growing. They are not toiling nor spin29 ning. Yet I am saying to you that not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed as one of these. Now if God is thus garbing the grass of the field, which today is and tomorrow is being cast into the stovenot much rather you, scant of faith?

Then you should not be worrying, saying, 'What may we be eating?' or 'What may we be drinking?' or 'With what should we see to the 'For for all these the

14 ⁰⁰¹ MATTHEW	'S ACCOUNT	CHAPTER 6
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ishes in all parts of Palestine in great profusion seems to be the only one which fully answers all the conditions. Its great abundance and rich beauty fit it perfectly for the illustration used by our Lord. The figure is full of spiritual refreshment. Clothing is that which meets the eye and corresponds to the character of the wearer. Solomon's robes were tokens of his royal Pharisaic righteousness He has shown to be a hypocritical pretense. The anemones suggest that God can supply His saints with divine apparel more beauteous than that of Solomon. In a word, He not only can clothe them in splendid style, but He can make them kings to rule the nations of the earth.

83 See 1 Ki.313 Ps.349,10 37258411 Mk.1029, 301 Tim.48.

- 1-2 Compare Lu. 637,38.
- This has no reference to God's judgment, but to the relations of man with man, as explained in the next paragraph. Should self-judgment precede the judgment of others it would probably do away with judging. One who has a beam in his eye, and knows it, will think little of the mote in another's eye. So the Lord sought to turn the censorious critics of His day to an examination of their own shortcomings.
- 8-5 Compare Lu.641,42.
- 6 See Prov.97,8239.
- Both dogs and hogs were unclean according to the law. The Lord Himself followed this principle when He spoke in parables to those without, and kept the holy and precious truth for His own disciples. We are hardly justified in "applying" these opprobrious terms to immature saints who are not yet able to bear more than milk.
- 7-11 Compare Lu. 119-13.
- 7 See 2122Jn.1418,141571Jn.322514,15.
- 7 This, of course, is limited to prayer to God. He can and will respond to those who ask for what they need, or seek what is hid, or knock at closed doors. But the answer may not be realized until the kingdom comes. We have no right or reason to expect God to change His plans and purposes in order to carry out our whims. We are not aware what we should be praying for, but the spirit is pleading for us with inarticulate groanings (Ro.826).

nations are seeking. For your heavenly Father is aware that you ³³ are in need of all these. Yet be seeking first the kingdom and its righteousness, and all these shall

34 be added to you. You should not, then, be worrying about the morrow, for the morrow will be worrying of itself. Sufficient for the day is the evil of it.

7 Be not judging lest you may be being judged, for with what judgment you are judging you shall be judged, and with what measure you are measuring, it shall be measured to you.

Now why are you observing the mote in your brother's eye, yet are not considering the beam in your eye? Or how will you be declaring to your brother, 'Brother, let me extract the mote out of your eye?, and lo! the beam is in your eye? Hypocrite! First extract the beam out of your eye, and then you will be keen-sighted to be extracting the mote out of your brother's eye.

You may not be giving that which is holy to the curs, neither should you be casting your pearls in front of hogs, lest at some time they be trampling them with their feet and, turning, they should be tearing you.

Be requesting and it shall be given you. Be seeking and you shall be finding. Be knocking and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who is requesting is obtaining, and he who is seeking is finding, and to him who is knocking it shall be opened.

Or what man of you is there whose son shall be requesting bread—will he be handing him a stone? Or will be requesting a fish, also, will he be handing him a serpent?

CHAPTERS 6-7 PIMNHCHTEAE TONTE CT 1420 ΟΥΟΦΘ ΆΛΜΟΥ CΟΥΚΑΠΔΟΥ²⁰ BE-being-anxious SRVING THE VIEWER OF-YOU AND RE-PERCEIVING AFOMENHTIN I OMENHTING 40 ΗΔΟΚΟCΕ ΝΤΨΟΦΘΆΛΜΨΟΟΥ 40 MAY-BE-EATING OR ANY WE-MAY-BE-DRINKING OR ANY WE-IN THE VIEWER s these for ALL PIBAAOMEGAHANTATAPTA® ΥΠΟΚΡΙΤΆΘΚΒΑΛΘΠΡ**ΦΤΟΝ**® 32 MAY-BE-being-about-cast all for these 5 hypocrite BE-OUT-CASTING BEFORE-most YTATAGONHGMIZHTOYCIN® **EKTOYO**ΦAAMOYCOYTHN∆® THE NATIONS ARE-ON-SEEKING OUT OF-THE VIEWER OF-YOU THE REAM s² had △€ s¹*O⊖€OC THE God adds ΟΙΔΕΝΓΆΡΩΠΑΤΗΡΥΜΌΝΟΟ 100 OKONKAITOTEAIABAEYEI600 HAS-PERCEIVED for THE FATHER OF-YOUP THE heavthen YOU-WILL-BE-THRU-looking в¹ о. о. s omits the heavenly D 0 YPANIOCOTIXPHZETETOY CEKBAAAEINTOKAPOOCEK²⁰ that YE-ARE-needing OF-these TO-BE-OUT-CASTING THE SHRIVEL TONAHANTONZHTE ITEAEH ΤΟΥΟΦΘΑΛΜΟΥΤΟΥΑΔΕΛΦΟΦ OF-ALL (emph.) YE-BE-SEEKING OF-THE brother B JUSTICE AND THE KINGdom POTONTHNBACIACIANKA100 YCOYMHA@TGTOATIONTOI® FORE-most THE KINGdom OF-YOU NO YE-MAY-BE-GIVING THE HOLY to-THE THNAIKAIOCYNHNAYTOYK® CKYCINMHAEBAAHTETOYC® AND dogs YET YE-SH'D-BE-CASTING THE NO AITAYTAN ANTAN POCTERH 200 MAPPAPITACYMUNEMITPOC700 these WILL-BE-BEING-add ED OF-YOUP IN-TOWARD-PLACE CETAIYMINMHOYNMEPIMN20 **BENTONXOIPONMHNOTEKA®** 34 YE-SH'D-BE-being-OF-THE HOGS to-vous No THEN NO 2-when HCHTEGICTHNAYPIONHTA* TANATHCOYCINAYTOYCEN® INTO THE MORROW THE for WILL-BE-trampling them s o. B1 o. = -it PAYPIONMEPIMNHCETEAY® TOICHOCINAYTONK AICTP® WILL-BE-being-anxious OF-them OF-self PERT THCAPKETONTHHME PAHKA® AGENTECPHECOCINYMACAI® THEY-SH'D-BE-BURSTING YOUD BE-REto-THE DAY THE EVIL R+C 8 Al for E KIAAYTHCMHKPINETEINA 300 Teitekalagehcetalymi. or-her NO BE-ITIDGING it-will-be-being-given to-youp THAT OTTESTING AND MHKPIOHTEENOTAPKPIMA® NZHTEITEKAIEYPHCETEK® 2 NO YE-MAY-BE-BEING-JUDGED IN WHICH for JUDGment BE-SEEKING AND YE-WILL-BE-FINDING FRE-POYETEKALANO ITHEETAL® TIKPINGTEKPIOHCECOEK* AND it-WILL-BE-BEING-UP-OPENED YE-ARE-HIDGING YE-WILL-BE-BEING-JUDGED KNOCKING AND AIENOMETPOMETPE ITEME® YMINTACFAPQAITONAAMB® WHICH MEASURE YE-ARE-MEASURING IT-WILL-8 to-your Every for THE one-REQUESTING IS-GETTING-ANGIK ALOZHTONGY PICKE® TPHOHCETALYMINTIAEBA® 3 BE-BEING-MEASURED THE one-SEEKING IS-FINDING to-YOUP ANY YET YOU-ПР IK AITŒKPQYONTIANOITH™ **ΕΠΕΙCΤΟΚ**ΆΡΦΟCΤΟΕΝΤϢΟ₩ ARE-looking THE SHRIVEL THE IN THE to-the one-knocking it-WILL-BE-BEING-B1 omits IS CETAIHTICECTINE XYMON 20 ΦΘΆΛΜωΤΟΥΆΔΕΛΦΟΥΟΟΥΤ²⁰ OF-THE brother 9 UP-OPENED OR ANY IS OUT OF-YOUP OF-YOU THE s1* BEAM +THN THE IN THE YOUR VIEWER s* adds GAN IF-EVER HNAEENTWCWCΦΘΆΛΜWΔΟΚ« ANOPOTOCONAITHCE IOYIO YET IN THE YOUR VIEWER human WHOM WILL-BE-REQUESTING THE SON s1 YOU-ARE-SAYING ∧€ \so. ONOYKATANGE I CHITOCE PE 60 **QCAYTOYAPTONMHAIBONE®** NOT YOU-ARE-DOWN-MINDING OR how YOU'LL-BEor-him BREAD NO STONE в omits brother! Ι CT Φ ΑΔΕΛΦ Ψ C ΟΥ ΑΔΕΛΦΕ Α 80 ΠΙΔΦΕΕΙΑΥΤΦΗΚΑΙΙΧΑΥΝ® declaring to-the brother of-you brother! FROM- 10 BE-ON-GIVING to-him OR AND FISH

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WILL-BE-REQUESTING NO serpent WILL-BE-ON-GIVING

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I-SH'D-BE-OUT-CASTING THE SHRIVEL

12 Compare Lu. 631.

12 To do as we would be done by is an ethical standard far above the world's attainment, yet far beneath the monitions of grace. The law and the prophets demand compliance with this code, yet supply no power to carry it out. Grace gives the ability, yet makes no demands, but rather entreats us to do as we have been done by in our dealings with God, rather than man.

13-14 Compare Lu. 1324.

13 The crowds enter a city by the broad road which passes through the wide gate. The narrow side-paths leading to a narrow gateway in some retired corner were seldom used and were always shut in the daytime and locked at night. Few find or use these paths. This is not an illustration of the gospel, but of the law. It represents an effort to attain life. It is not stated that few find life, but few find the path to it. All life is God's gift and can never be made by man, either in the sphere of religion or of science.

15 The law was exceedingly severe on false prophets. Death was their penalty (Deut. 135). It is generally supposed that a prophet is false if his sign or prediction does not come to pass. Not so. If it comes to pass, yet leads away from the Lord, they were not allowed to hearken (Deut. 131-5). This is being written at the very time when a modern prophetess predicts the end of the world. That prophetess is not false because her vision is not being verified, but because her dreams were not of God and led away from His word. This, however, is a day of grace, and false prophets are not stoned.

But the term prophet includes all who claim a direct revelation from God, apart from His written revelation. As prophets are only in the foundation of the ecclesia (Eph. 220), the mere claim to a personal and direct message from God is evidence in itself that it is false. The word of God is complete (Col. 125), and only those who do not fully apprehend what God has revealed crave further communications. The latest revelations given to the apostle Paul make all further prophecy useless and round out the whole realm of revelation.

16 The figures are finely chosen. The fig tree stands for the righteous gov-

If you, then, being wicked, have perceived how to be giving good gifts to your children, how much rather shall your Father Who is in the heavens give good things to those requesting Him? All then, whatever you may be wanting that men should be doing to you, thus you, also, be doing to them, for

this is the law and the prophets.

Enter through the cramped gate, seeing that wide is the gate and spacious is the way which is leading off into destruction, and many there are who are entering through it.

Yet what a cramped gate and narrow way it is which is leading off into life! And few there are who are finding it.

Take heed of false prophets, who are coming to you in the apparel of sheep, yet inside they are rapa-

16 cious wolves. From their fruits you shall be recognizing them. Is any one culling grapes from thorns,

17 or figs from star thistles? Thus every good tree is producing fine fruit, yet a rotten tree is produc-

18 ing noxious fruit. A good tree cannot be bearing noxious fruit, neither is a rotten tree producing

19 fine fruit. Every tree which is not producing fine fruit is being hewn

20 down and cast into the fire. Consequently, from their fruit you shall surely be recognizing them.

Not everyone who is saying to Me 'Lord! Lord!' shall be entering into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who is doing the will of My Fa-

22 ther Who is in the heavens. Many will be declaring to Me in that day,

16 ⁰⁰¹ MA	ATTHEW'S	ACCOUNT		CHAPTER 7
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15 her YE-BE-heeding TONYEYAON POOHTO	FROM	THE one-DOING	THE WILL	OF-THE FATHER
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ernment of Messiah and the vine the spiritual cheer of His kingdom. In that day each one will sit under his own vine and fig tree (Mic. 44). The kingdom of God is not only feeding on figs and drinking wine, but what these symbolize—righteousness and peace and joy in holy spirit (Ro. 1417). These are the fruits that do not grow on thorns and thistles, and that characterized the true prophet.

21 See 2511,12Lu.1325-30.

21 Many will need to read this passage twice, for it is the popular conviction that any one who can prophesy or cast out demons and do other supernatural deeds is necessarily in the highest intimacy with God. *Many* will claim these powers, yet He refuses to acknowledge them. In itself supernaturalism is no index of divine activity, for the powers of evil win their greatest triumphs in mimicking the manifestations of the holy spirit.

24 That the Lord has not been preaching the evangel of God's grace, but proclaiming the constitution of His kingdom, is convincingly clear from His conclusion. He is not seeking for faith but works. The prudent man is doing them, and the stupid man is not doing them. Now the evangel for us is for him "who is not working, yet is believing" (Ro. 45). "Now if it is out of works, it is no longer grace, else work is no longer work" (Ro. 116). The great storm of which our Lord speaks suggests the terrible judgments which usher in the kingdom. Then it will be "he who endures...will be saved".

24-27 Compare Lu. 647-49.

28-29 Compare Mk.122Lu.432.

²⁹ Jewish scribes always say that Rabbi So-and-so says, or that he says that another Rabbi says, etc. All their teaching is tradition.

² Our Lord cleansed many lepers, and probably dealt similarly with them all. The "parallel" accounts in Mark (140-44) and Luke (512-14) do not "disagree" in details, for they record different occurrences. Our Lord's first testimony must be to the priests. It is not a direct one, for the priests had already rejected the testimony of John the baptist, who was one of them—by birth. if not by office.

4 See 930Mk.543Lev.141-32.

'Lord! Lord! Do we not prophesy in your name, and in your name cast out demons, and in your name ²³ do many powers?' And then will I be avowing to them that 'I never knew you. Be departing from Me, you who are working lawlessness!'

Everyone, then, who is hearing these sayings of Mine and is doing them shall be likened to a prudent man, who builds his house on a trock. And the rain descended, and the torrents came, and the winds blow and lunge at that house, and it does not fall, for it had been founded on a rock.

And everyone who is hearing these sayings of Mine and is not doing them shall be likened to a stupid man who builds his house on the sand. And the rain descended, and the torrents came, and the winds blow, and they dash against that house, and it falls: and great was the fall of it."

And it came to pass, when Jesus finishes these sayings, the throngs were astonished at His teaching, for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

8 Now, at His descending from the mountain, vast throngs follow ² Him. And lo! a leper, coming toward Him, worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if Thou shouldst be willing, Thou canst cleanse me!" And, stretching out His hand, He touches him, saying, "I am willing! Be cleansed!" And immediately his leprosy is cleansed. And Jesus is saying to him, "See that

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They will not hear Him, so He sends these lepers to them, as a sign that He is the One Who can cleanse the leprosy of the sinful nation. They should have known that the One Who can do this is the long-desired Messiah. There is no intimation that they heeded this testimony, so that here we have, in a parable, the same truth with which John begins his evangel: His own people do not accept Him (Jn.111). Indeed, this is more striking. For the priests had before them continually the lesson of the suffering sacrifice. If no other class in the nation could understand His rejection and sorrow and death, they should have recognized that this is the One Who was to be led as a lamb to the slaughter. But, in that deeper wisdom of God, they were also the ones who were ordained to be the slayers of the great Sacrifice.

5-13 Compare Lu. 71-10.

5 This is followed by an intimation that, though rejected by His own, He would be accepted by the nations, as is the case in the book of Acts. The priest was at one end of the religious scale, and the alien centurion at the other. Yet it was the far-off gentile who believed and received, without a sign, without even the Lord's presence, rather than the privileged priest, who had ample opportunity to examine the reality of His cures and to test His claims by the divine oracles of which the priests were the repositories.

10 Like the centurion's servant, the nations who believed, when the evangel went forth after His resurrection, as recorded in Acts, had no personal contact with Him, and never knew His presence. They are saved at a distance, by a faith unequaled in Israel. So, also, there will be many in the future who will find a place in the kingdom, while many even of the priests will be left out.

The paralytic who was healed is most appropriately delineated. He has no strength and needs none. He does nothing. All his salvation is outside his own efforts. It was, of necessity, not of works. It was all of God. Such was the salvation of the nations. In contrast with this the leper called on Him and entreated for the blessing. He came to Him and worshiped Him. Such was the case with the Jewish disciples.

you may speak to no one, but go away, show yourself to the priest, and offer the oblation which Moses bids, for a testimony to them."

Now at His entering into Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, entreating Him and saying, "Lord, my boy is prostrate in the house, a paralytic, dreadfully tormented."

⁷ And He is saying to him, "I will come and cure him."

And answering, the centurion averred, "Lord, I am not competent that Thou mayest enter under my roof, but only say the word and my boy will be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, having soldiers under me, and I am saying to this one, 'Go', and he is going, and to another, 'Come', and he is coming, and to my slave, 'Do this', and he is doing it."

Now Jesus, hearing it, marvels, and said to those who are following, "Verily, I am saying to you, With no one in Israel I found so much

11 faith. Now I am saying to you that many from the east and the west shall be arriving and reclining with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob

12 in the kingdom of the heavens, yet the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There shall be lamentation and gnashing of teeth.''

13 And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! Let it occur to you as you believe!" And the boy was healed in that hour. And the centurion, returning into his house in the same hour, found the boy sound.

14 And Jesus, coming into Peter's

1	8001	MA	TTHEW'S	ACCOUNT		CHAPTER 8
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ENAYTHTHU PACY PENTONT 80 IN SAME THE HOUR FOUND THE boy ALANTIAINONTAKAIEAO 19000 14 being-sound and coming 14-17 Compare Mk.120-34Lu.438-41.

14 There is considerable marshy land near Tell Hum, the probable site of Capernaum. This might account for the fever.

17 Compare Isa. 534. See 1 Pt. 224.

18 Compare Mk.435Lu.822.

19-22 Compare Lu. 957-62.

20 This, the first time He takes the title "Son of Mankind", is full of deep pathos. After He has become wearied with His works of healing, a scribe knows no better than to call Him his "Teacher". How little had he appre-hended of His power and glory! His words have shown Him to be capable of coping with all that Adam's sin has brought into the world. He is his greater Son. He has regained the sovereignty lost by the first man. His realm extends over all mankind, and over the beasts of the field and the birds of heaven. They are among the lowest of His subjects. The jackals have their burrows and may retire to rest; the winged denizens of heaven have their roosts on which to spend the night, yet His weary head. Whose dominion includes all earthly creatures, was denied even the possession of a place of repose! What a contrast is this to the last time we meet this title in the sacred records! Then we see His holy head wreathed with the chaplet of a conqueror (Un. 1414). The victor's wreath adorns the brow they crowned with thorns. And then, as Daniel had foretold, will be given Him authority, and esteem, and a kingdom, that all peoples, races, and languages should serve Him, for His authority is an eonian authority, which shall not pass away (Dan.714).

The title "Son of Mankind" is significant in every occurrence, even though our dull minds may miss it. It is always suggestive of the dignities which devolved on Adam as the sovereign of all earthly creatures and head of the human race. He inherits all these glories and restores them to far more than their pristine perfection in the

coming eon.

24 This event probably occurred at an earlier date than the similar accounts in Mark and Luke. The cause here was an earthquake which started immense tidal waves. In the other cases it was a squall (Mk.435-41Lu.823-25).

home, perceived his mother-in-law prostrate and feverish. And He touches her hand, and the fever leaves her. And she was roused and waited on Him.

Now as it is becoming evening, they bring Him many demoniacs, and He cast out the spirits with a word, and all who are ill He cures,
 so that which is declared through

Isaiah the prophet may be fulfilled, saying,

"He got our infirmities, And bears the diseases."

Now Jesus, perceiving vast throngs about Him, gives an order to come away to the other side. And one scribe, approaching, said to Him, "Teacher, I will be following Thee, wherever Thou shouldst come away."

And Jesus is saying to him, "The jackals have burrows, and the flying creatures of heaven roosts, yet the Son of Mankind has nowhere that He may be reclining His head."

Now a different one of the disciples said to Him, "Lord, permit me first to come away and entomb 22 my father." Yet Jesus is saying to him, "Be following Me, and leave the dead to entomb their own dead."

And as He is stepping into the ship, His disciples follow Him.

And lo! a great quaking occurred in the sea, so that the ship was covered by the billows, yet He
 drowsed. And approaching, they rouse Him saying "Lord! Sayo

rouse Him, saying, "Lord! Save ²⁶ us! We are perishing!" And He is saying to them, "Why are you timid, scant of faith?" Then, being roused, He rebukes the winds

19001		MATTHEW'	S ACCOUNT	W. W. 17 (1)	CHAPTER 8
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25 Ever and anon, while revealing His own glory and exercising the faith of His followers, our Lord presents a marvelous prophetic picture of the course of the kingdom proclamation. Here we have a preview, on a small scale and in physical symbols, of that terrible time of affliction, which will threaten to engulf His disciples at the end of the eon, just before His advent. The winds are the spiritual forces of wickedness, figured by the great dragon (Un. 123), the sea stands for the nations of mankind, led by the wild beast (Un. 131). Together they will well-nigh destroy all hopes of the kingdom. Then it is that Christ will come and rebuke the nations and the spirit powers and usher in the calm of the kingdom, where there will be no more war, the nations will be subdued and Satan will be bound. Till then there will be no possible guarantee of peace among the nations of the earth, notwithstanding every effort to stop war. 28-34 Compare Mk.51-20Lu.826-39.

28 Vaticanus reads this "Gadarenes". Sinaiticus reads "Gazarenes", but the editor (s2) changed this to "Gergesenes", as we have it. Gadara was a well-known city, but is so far from the shores of Galilee, that it was quite impossible for the narrative to have been enacted there. The hogs would have had to run down a mountain, cross the Jermuk river, itself enough to drown them, up its banks, then several miles across a level plain into the water. At one place on the eastern shore of the lake, at a ruined town called Chersa by the Arabs, all the topography is in perfect keeping with the narrative. Behind the town tombs were cut in the rock. A steep mountain rises almost immediately out of the water, so that the hogs, rushing down, could not stop on the narrow beach, but plunged head-long into the lake. It seems evident that this is the true locality and the name Gergesene seems most likely to have been the original of the traditional "Chersa", as it is now known. Gadarene seems misleading, hence we do not use it.

31 As swine's flesh was unclean, the keeping of hogs was illegal, and no wrong was done to their owners by sending them to destruction in the waters of the lake.

1-8 Compare Mk.21-12Lu.517-26.

and the sea, and there became a 27 great calm. Now the men marvel, saying, "What manner [of Man] is this, that even the winds and the sea are obeying Him?"

And while He is coming to the other side to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs, very ferocious, so that no one has the strength to be passing by through that road, coming out of the tombs, meet Him. And lo! they cry, saying, "What is it to us and to Thee, O Son of God? Didst Thou come here before the season to torment 30 us?" Now far from them there was a vast herd of hogs grazing.

Now the demons entreated Him. saying, "If you are casting us out, dispatch us into the herd of hogs."

32 And He said to them "Go!" Now. coming out, they come away into the hogs. And lo! the entire herd rushes down the precipice into the sea, and they died in the waters.

Now the graziers fled, and coming away into the city, they report ³⁴ all, and as to the demoniacs. And lo! the entire city came out to meet Jesus, and, perceiving Him, they entreat that He may be proceeding from their boundaries.

And, stepping into a ship, He ferries over and came into His own city.

And lo! they brought Him a paralytic prostrate on a couch. And Jesus, perceiving their faith, said to the paralytic, "Have courage, child! Your sins are being par-

3 doned!" And lo! some of the

20***			ACCOUNT	Сна	APTERS 8-9
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5 Paralysis and all other human ills are but an effect, of which sin is the cause. Not, indeed, the personal sins of the paralytic, but the sins of mankind in general, for all men are born with a heritage of sin and live in an atmosphere heavy with wrong-doing. But the great truth here taught is that the physical blessings of the coming kingdom have a secure basis in the pardon of sins. So, in this scene, which suggests the believing remnant of Israel who receive Him as their Messiah, the Lord seems to overlook the paralysis at first, and pardons his sins. The delay, and the unbelief of the scribes, suggest the apostasy of the nation and the consequent postponement of physical blessings till the kingdom comes and the authority of the Son of Mankind to pardon sins is in full exercise. followed by the health, strength, and vigor whch will be the portion of mankind in the millennium. If human governments would get beyond the outbreaks and symptoms and deal with sin they would not need to be concerned with all its evil effects. They can never bring health and righteousness.

9-15 Compare Mk.213-20Lu.527-35.

It is a most striking exhibition of God's grace and wisdom, that such a man as Matthew should be chosen for an apostle, and furthermore should be empowered to write this account of Israel's King. This was contrary to all the dictates of human wisdom. Matthew was a "publican" or tribute collector, a class more hated, perhaps, than aliens, and more despised than sinners. The Roman government did not collect its tribute from the nations under its yoke directly, but farmed it out to subordinates. A district was sold for what it would bring, and the collector received his wages by assessing as much more as he could get. Hence they amassed wealth at the expense of their poor countrymen and for the benefit of a foreign government. Yet God chose such a traitor to his country to describe the glories of the His fitness was not by birth King! but of God.

11 See 1119Lu.152.

12 The strong need to be taught their weakness, and the just their sinfulness. Then, and not till then, are they in conscious need of a Saviour.

13 See 127Hos.66Mic.66-8 1Ti.115.

scribes say in themselves. "This man is blaspheming!"

And Jesus, perceiving their sentiments, said "Why are you brooding wickednesses in your hearts? For what is easier, to be saving.

'Your sins are being pardoned,' or to be saying, 'Rouse and walk'?

6 Now, that you may be perceiving that the Son of Mankind has authority on earth to pardon sins"-Then He is saying to the paralytic. "Being roused, pick up your couch

7 and go into your house." And, being roused, he came away into his hou se.

Now, on perceiving this, the throngs were afraid, and they glorify God, Who is giving such authority to men.

And Jesus, passing by thence, perceived a man sitting at the tribute office, termed Matthew, and He is saying to him, "Be following Me!" And rising, he follows Him.

And it occurred at His lying back at table in the house, and lo! many tribute collectors and sinners. coming, lay back at the table together with Jesus and His disciples.

11 And the Pharisees, perceiving it, said to His disciples, "Wherefore is your teacher eating with tribute

12 collectors and sinners?" when He hears it, He said, "The strong have no need of a physician,

13 but the ill. Now go, learn what this means: 'I am wanting mercy and not sacrifice'. For I came, not to call the just, but sinners."

Then the disciples of John are coming to Him, saying, "Wherefore are we and the Pharisees fast-

41	MALINEWS		CHAPTER 9
MATECINE IT AN	IN selves	ETOMENONKA said AND	IAETÉ IAYTO 20 He-18-saying to-him
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ICAYTONEINE or-them said	NINATIENO 80 THAT ANY YE-ARE-IN-	EFENETOAYTO OF-Him	DYANAKE IME 80 UP-LYING mits AND
YMEICOETTONH wickeds s1* € o.	PACNTAICK 100 IN THE HEARTS	NOYENTHOIK IN THE HOME	
APAIAICYMON	TITAPECTI ²⁰ ANY for IS	MANY tribute-collector	AIKAIAMAPT ²⁰
NEYKOROTEPO	NEINEINAO 40 TO-BE-SAYING ARE-be-	WADIE ABONTO	
IENTAICOYALA		INTOTOTHE JESUS	YKAITOICMA 60 AND to-THE LEARN-
EINEINEFEIP	AND BE-ABOUT-TREAD- 1	BHTAICAYTO	KAILAONTE 80 AND PERCEIVING
ATÉINA A E LA 6 ING THAT YET YE-MAY	HTEOTIE Z ²⁰⁰ r-BE-PERCEIVING that author-	COIDAPICAIO THE PHARISEES	Said TONTO 700 to-THE
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WHAPANYTIKO	EFEPOEICA 80 BEING-ROUSED LIFT 1		AKOYCACEIT 80 He-said
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THE tribute-office	AATOAIONA 500 MATTHEW being-	CAIOINHCTEY(MENTOAAA 22000 much

14 It is a most difficult lesson for the saints to learn, that God's dealings with His creatures change, and that their conduct should change accordingly. John's disciples thought that the Lord's followers should do as they did. But the coming of Christ entirely changed the circumstances. He was the Bridegroom. They were the Bride. John had introduced them. How unbecoming it would be for them to fast! They should feast! And this they did. The Lord appeared at Cana, and at many another feast.

16-17 Compare Mk.221-22Lu.536-39.

16 John's ministry was the old cloak. the old wine skins. The Lord's ministry was the unshrunk cloth, the new wine skins. They cannot be associated without disaster. How much more true is this today! Since John's time and Lord's teaching, our transcendent truth has been revealed which He. could not impart to them then. Our conduct should be conformed to this higher and later revelation. Yet most of the saints seem satisfied with doing as John's disciples, or as our Lord's. No wonder the cloth tears, and their covering is ragged. No wonder the wine bursts the skins, and their joy is spilled. Let us keep the new wine which we have received in the new containers God has provided. Let us live and act in accord with the highest revelation, given in Paul's epistles.

18-23 Compare Mk.522-43Lu.841-56.

20 See Nu. 1537-41.

20 How often is there a significant interruption in the performance of a miracle! The dead daughter, representing Israel as a nation, waits for His com-So Ezekiel portrays Israel before His glorious appearing. They are dead. But on the way a woman secretly touches the tassel of His cloak. The tassel speaks of that which finishes the cloak and corresponds to His work on Golgotha, where He finished the robe of righteousness which clothed Him. Contact with that finished work saved many a sinner during the interval between His promise to come again and His advent. While the present interval of grace was a profound secret, and was not even intimated in this touching scene, yet we have here a definite hint of the direction in which God's grace would flow if hindered by the apostasy of Israel.

ing much, yet your disciples are not fasting?" And Jesus said to them, "Can the sons of the bridal chamber be mourning, inasmuch as the bridegroom is with them? Yet the days will be coming whenever the bridegroom may be taken away from them, and then they will be fasting.

Now no one is patching with a patch of unshrunk shred on an old cloak, for that which fills it up is taking away from the cloak, and the rent is becoming worse. Neither are they draining fresh wine into old wine skins, yet if so, surely the wine is spilled, and the wine skins are destroyed. But they are draining fresh wine into new wine skins, and both are preserved."

As He is speaking of these things to them, lo! one approaching Him, a chief, worshiped Him, saying, "My daughter at present deceases, but come and place Thy hand on 19 her, and she shall live." And, being roused, Jesus follows him, and His disciples.

²⁰ And *lo!* a woman with a hemorrhage twelve years, approaching from behind, touches the tassel of ²¹ His cloak, for she said in herself,

"If I should only be touching His 22 cloak, I shall be saved." Now Jesus, being turned and perceiving her, said, "Courage, daughter! Your faith has saved you." And the woman was saved from that hour.

And Jesus, coming into the house of the chief, and perceiving the flutists and the throng in a tu mult, said, "Retire, for the maiden did not die, but is drowsing." And
 they ridiculed Him. Now when the

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27 Blindness is to this day a very common affliction in eastern lands. The glare of the sun or lack of care in infancy costs many their sight. These men evidently had become blind physically, yet had spiritual sight sufficient to see their Saviour. Hence He casts the burden of belief on them. This is in marked contrast to the next case, for the deaf-mute was incapable of faith so long as he was obsessed by the demon.

32 One of the chief features of the coming kingdom will be the absence of Satan and other evil spirits. So every case of casting out demons is a demonstration of His power to take the throne. There could be no better proof that He was the Messiah than His power over the unseen domains of darkness. In the time of the end His great opponent will be the wild beast on the human side (Un. 131). But it is the dragon that gives the beast his power and throne and authority (Un. 132). Hence, not only is the wild beast arrested (Un. 1920), but the dragon is bound for the thousand years (Un. 202).

34 On another occasion we are told that this chief of the demons is Beezeboul (1224). This is the blasphemy against the holy spirit, which cannot be pardoned in this eon or that which is to come (1231). The reason for this is very easily seen. These signs were the powers of the coming eon, intended to convince the nation that Messiah was present, and induce them to believe on Him. Now, if the very signs which should have demonstrated His Messiahship are taken to indicate that He is in league with the powers of darkness, it is impossible that they should repent and believe. The unpardonable sin consists in ascribing to sinister spirits what is the work of God's holy spirit. In this day there is the opposite danger of ascribing all supernatural manifestations to the holy spirit. The spirits must be tested by the word of God. That their teaching and work is a very close imitation, so close as to deceive the great majority of the saints, is according to Paul's predictions concerning the end time. We know that, somewhere in Christendom today, the demons are deceiving the saints, and the fact that they do not know it does not alter it. 35 Compare Mk.66Lu.81-3.

throng was ejected, coming in, He holds her hand, and the maiden ²⁶ was roused. And the fame of this came out into that whole land.

And as Jesus is passing by thence, two blind men follow Him, clamoring and saying, "Be merciful to us,

28 Son of David!" Now as He is coming into the house, the blind men come to Him and Jesus is saying to them, "Are you believing that I am able to do this?" They are say-

²⁹ ing to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touches their eyes, saying, "Let it occur to you according to your

30 faith." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus mutters to them, saying, "See! Let no one

31 know!" Yet on coming out they blaze Him abroad in the whole of that land.

Now on their coming out, lo! they bring to Him a deaf-mute demoniac. And the demon being cast out, the deaf-mute talks. And the throngs marvel, saying, "It never appeared thus in Israel!" Yet the Pharisees said, "By the chief of the demons is He casting out the demons."

the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the evangel of the kingdom and curing every disease and every debility. Now, perceiving the throngs, He is compassionated concerning them, seeing that they were bothered and tossed as if sheep having no shepherd. Then He is saying to His disciples, "The harvest, indeed, is vast, yet the

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Philip

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Ac.113

Peter

John

James

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Matthew

1 Compare Mk.313-19Lu.612-16. See Lu.91. There is some variation in the order of the names, as well as of the names themselves, in the lists of the

twelve apostles, but they are always found in three groups, headed by Peter, Philip and James, as follows:

Mt 102 Mk.316 Lu.614 Simon Simon Simon Peter Peter Peter Andrew James Andrew Zebedee James James Zebedee John

Thomas

Andrew John Andrew Philip Philip Philip Barthol-Barthol-Thomas omew omew Barthol-Matthew Matthew

Thomas

James James James James Alpheus Alpheus Alpheus Alpheus Thaddeus Thaddeus Simon Simon the Zealot the Zealot

Judas Simon Simon Judas Cananite Cananite James James Judas Judas Judas Matthias Iscariot Iscariot Iscariot (Ac.126)

Bartholomew is usually identified with Nathanael (Jn.144-46212). Judas James, in order to distinguish him from Judas Iscariot, was called Thaddeus, and Simon (not Peter), was termed the Zealot, or its Hebrew equivalent the Cananite (not Canaanite). Of course, Matthias takes the place of Judas Iscariot in Acts.

- Compare Mk.67-15Lu.91-11.
- The Lord had been heralding the kingdom alone and had confirmed the proclamation by signs which indicated its nearness. Now He associates twelve of His disciples with Him in this work and dispatches them with authority over disease and death and the demons so that they could prove its proximity by both their words and their works. This is the first kingdom proclamation. The second is not given until after His resurrection (2816-20). They differ on almost every point. This was to be exercised in the land alone. Not even Samaria was to hear it. It was strictly for the lost sheep of Israel's fold and included no others. The second kingdom proclamation is for all nations, except Israel.

This first kingdom proclamation was carried on until the crisis in our Lord's ministry when it became evident that the nation had rejected Him and His message. Then He charged His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus, the Messiah (1620).

- 38 workers are few. Be beseeching, then, the Lord of the harvest, so that He should be ejecting workers into His harvest."
- 10 And calling His twelve disciples to Him, He gives them authority over unclean spirits, so as to be casting them out, and curing every disease and every debility.
- 2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: First, Simon, termed Peter, and Andrew, his brother, and James of Zebedee, and
- John, his brother; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew, the tribute collector, James of Al-

pheus and Thaddeus, Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who is His betraver also.

These twelve Jesus commissions, charging them, saying, should not go off into a road of the nations, and into a city of the Samaritans you should not be enter-

- ing. Yet rather be going to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
- Now go and be proclaiming, saying, 'The kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.' Be curing the in-
- firm, be rousing the dead, be cleansing lepers, be casting out demons. You got gratuitously: be
- giving gratuitously. You should not be acquiring gold, nor silver,
- nor copper in your girdles, nor a beggar's bag for the road, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor club; for the worker is worthy of his nourishment.
- Now into whichever city or village you may be entering, enquire who in it is worthy, and there remain till you should be coming out.

24001 MATTHEW'S ACCOUNT OAYCOIAEEPTATAIOAITO AARECTË I AE NO IH COYCH A²⁰ THE YET ACTERS commissions THE JESUS s1 omils saying I A CHOHTCOYNTOYKYPIOY 40
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Even though Peter and John are given a foretaste of the kingdom on the mount of transformation, He charged them not to tell of the vision until the Son of Mankind should be risen from among the dead (179). From this time until Pentecost this proclamation was interrupted.

Anticipating the renewal of its proclamation during His absence, our Lord gave the keys to Peter when he, in contrast to the apostate nation, acknowledged Him to be the Messiah, the Son of the living God (1619). The door to the kingdom is locked when its proclamation is forbidden. At Pentecost Peter uses the keys and once more proclaims the proximity of the kingdom, conditioned on the repentance of the nation. At first a small proportion of the people accept the message, but it is not long ere the nation, as such, by the murder of Stephen, and the attempts on Peter and Paul, signifies its rejection. At the end of Acts it is formally set aside by Paul's public proclamation of their apostasy.

When God once more turns to Israel in the future it will be proclaimed again and, in the midst of great affliction, the nation, represented by the hundred and forty-four thousand celibates (Un. 73-8) and the vast throng (Un. 79-17), will accept the proclamation and enter the kingdom. Then Peter's epistles will unlock the door. Then all Israel will be saved (Ro. 1120), and the presence of the kingdom will preclude its further proclamation.

This gospel of the kingdom is not concerned with sin or individual salvation. The pardon of sins, based on the sufferings of Christ, is in the commission for mankind in Luke's account (Lu. 2446-49). It was not confined to Israel. Christ had not suffered when this gospel of the kingdom was first proclaimed. It can refer to nothing else than the kingdom promised to Israel in the Hebrew scriptures.

- 10 Compare Lu. 101-16.
- 14 See Neh.513Ac.1351186.
- 16-22 Compare Mk.139-13Lu.2112-18.
- 19 Compare Lu.1211-12. See Ex.412 Jer.17.
- 24 See Lu.640Jn.1520.
- ²⁶ See Mk.4²²Lu.8¹⁷12²,³.
- 32 See Lu.128,9Un.35.
- 33 See Mk.8382 Ti.212.
- 34-36 Compare Lu.1239-53. See Mic.76.

Now on entering into a house, salute it, and if the house should indeed be worthy, let your peace come on it. Yet if it should not be worthy, let your peace be turned

back on you. And who ever should not be receiving you, neither be hearing your words, on coming outside that house or city or village, shake off the dust of your feet.

Verily, I am saying to you, it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and the land of Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city.

Lo! I am dispatching you as sheep in the midst of wolves. Become, then, prudent as serpents and artless as doves. Now take heed of men, for they will be betraying you to Sanhedrins, and they will be scourging you in their synagogues. Now you shall be led to governors and kings also on My

to governors and kings also on My account, for a testimony to them and to the nations.

19 Now whenever they may be betraying you, you should not be worrying about how or what you should be speaking, for in that hour it shall be given you what you 20 should be speaking, for it is not you who are speaking, but the spirit of your Father which is speaking in you.

Now brother shall be betraying brother to death, and father child, and children shall be rising up against parents, and shall be caus-²² ing them to die, and you shall be

hated by all because of My name. Now he who endures to the consum²³ mation, he shall be saved. Now, whenever they may be persecuting you in this city, be fleeing into a different one, for, verily, I am sav-

ing to you, You should under no

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23 The mood of the verb is most important here. The Lord is not telling what would but what may occur. His apostles were frail mortals, easily discouraged, so He does no more than hint at a possible failure of their mission. The common version, by ignoring the subjunctive form of the verbs. has given rise to much perplexity and speculation. This proclamation brought the kingdom very near, so that the Lord's coming in glory and power should not have been delayed much longer. That He did not come at that time is no proof that He was mistaken. but rather of His foreknowledge, for He was careful to phrase the prospect so as to provide for this contingency. 25 Our Lord calls Beezeboul a householder, which, probably, is the meaning of the name. (See note on 1224). The disciples should expect no better treatment than their Lord had received, yet He exhorts them not to be afraid, for even the unseen powers shall be manifested.

28 The soul is the seat of sensation, but is popularly confounded with the spirit. A soulish man is one who is swayed by his senses. He may even be sensual, for such is the usual rendering of Jas. 315. Those of the apostles who were killed later will lose nothing in the kingdom. Their souls will be surfeited with joy in that day. Their death will only add to their soul's delight in the resurrection. They, however, who come under God's judgment in the kingdom will not only have their bodies destroyed in the vale of Hinnom, just below Jerusalem, where the offal of the city is incinerated, but they will miss all the joys which their souls long for in the millennium. The martyrs who die for the sake of the kingdom have nothing to fear. So far as their souls are concerned, death gives them an immediate entrance into the delights of that earthly paradise, even though at their martyrdom it was thousands of years in the future. 29 The greatness of God is as evident in the minute details of His creation as in the vast immensities of stellar space. His microscopic care meets the needs of His creatures, and reaches their hearts. Nothing is too trivial for Him Whose presence pervades the uni-The ultimate electron is as much His providence as the cosmos in its entirety.

circumstances be finishing the cities of Israel till the Son of Mankind may be coming.

A disciple is not over his teach-²⁵ er. neither a slave over his lord. It is sufficient for the disciple that he may be becoming as his teacher, and the slave as his lord. If they surname the householder Beezeboul, how much rather those of his are of more consequence than 26 household? Then be not afraid of them, for nothing is covered, which shall not be revealed, and hidden, ²⁷ which shall not be known. What I am saying to you in darkness, tell in the light. And what you are hearing in the ear, proclaim on the housetops.

And be not afraid of those who are killing the body, yet are not able to kill the soul. Yet be fearing Him rather Who is able to destroy both the soul and the body in ²⁹ Gehenna. Are not two sparrows

being sold for a penny $[1.57\mathfrak{e},$ 3.1f]? And not one of them will be falling on the earth without your 30 Father. Now the hairs of your

³¹ head also are all numbered. Then fear not! You are of more consequence than many sparrows.

Then everyone who shall be avowing Me in front of men, him will I also be avowing in front of My

33 Father Who is in the heavens. Now he who should be disowning Me in front of men, I also will be disowning him in front of My Father Who is in the heavens.

You should not be inferring that I came to be casting peace on the earth: I came not to be casting 35 peace, but a sword. For I came to pit a man against his father, and

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34 The natural inference arising from the proclamation of the kingdom would be that, when Israel believed, the era of the millennium would immediately commence. But it is never wise to reason from God's apparent procedure. He may have deeper plans which do not appear on the surface. proclamation of the kingdom was made in all good faith, yet we know now, as God always has known, that it was not intended to introduce the kingdom at that time. Moreover, He had also revealed that, before it could come, there would be a time of great distress in which His faithful followers would endure such affliction as had not been known on the earth before. Since the kingdom must be established by force, He thrusts in His sword, that peace may follow.

37 See Lu. 1426,27.

38 See 1624Mk.834,35Lu.923,24.

39 This has special reference to the time of Jacob's trouble, at the time of the end, when many will suffer and die rather than worship the image of the wild beast (Un. 1315). They will avoid suffering, or save their souls, only at the risk of God's indignation, and the loss of the pleasures of the kingdom. Those who endure affliction for the kingdom will enjoy the bliss of the kingdom. They destroy their souls to find them. Those who avoid suffering by yielding to the pressure of the adversary, will have no portion in the kingdom. They find their souls for a brief period only to destroy them for the thousand years.

40 When the Son of Mankind comes in His glory to sit upon His throne, then judgment will proceed on the basis, not of personal sinfulness, but of the treatment of His disciples during the time of their need. This principle is a fitting close to His instructions for proclaiming the kingdom. It shows that they are not commissioned to preach the evangel of God, which is for us today.

41 See 1 Ki.17101842 Ki.48Heb.132.

2-4 Compare Lu. 718-28.

2 John was the greatest of all the prophets. Yet even he was not fully aware of the mind of God. If Christ is Messiah, and this he does not doubt, why is he allowed to languish in prisa daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her ³⁶ mother-in-law. And the enemies of a man are his household.

37 He who is fond of father or mother above Me is not worthy of Me. And he who is fond of son or daughter above Me is not worthy of 38 Me. And he who is not taking his cross and following behind Me, is 39 not worthy of Me. He who is finding his soul will be destroying it.

and he who destroys his soul on My

account will be finding it. He who is receiving you is receiving Me, and he who is receiving Me is receiving Him Who commis-⁴¹ sions Me. He who is receiving a prophet in the name of a prophet shall be obtaining a prophet's wages, and he who is receiving a just man in the name of a just man shall be obtaining a just man's 42 wages. And whoever should be giving one of these little ones only a cool cup to drink, in the name of a disciple, verily, I am saying to you, he should by no means be losing his wages."

11 And it occurred, when Jesus finishes prescribing to His twelve disciples, He proceeded thence to be teaching and proclaiming in their cities.

Now John, hearing in the prison of the works of Christ, sending through his disciples, said to Him, "Art Thou the coming One, or may we be hoping for a different One?"
 And answering, Jesus said to them,

"Go, report to John what you are hearing and observing. The blind are recovering sight, and the lame are walking, lepers are being

cleansed, and the deaf-mutes are hearing, and the dead are being

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on? The Jews had difficulty in reconciling the prophecies concerning the Messiah. Some seemed to set Him forth as the Suffering One; others made Him a glorious King. So some looked for Messiahs: one. Messiah Joseph, to suffer, and another, Messiah ben David, to reign. Perhaps some such thought came to John. He had openly rebuked Herod, but the Lord made no effort to get him out of Herod's hands, and did nothing to assert His own power. Was He the Suffering One, and was there to be another to rule with an iron club? We can now see that both Joseph and David were a combination of suffering and glory, and that there was in each case an interval between the two. But this could hardly be made known at the time He was sending out His apostles. It would have disheartened them to know that their proclamation was not destined to succeed. So our Lord does not give a definite reply to John's messengers. but bids them testify to what they saw. He hints that John might be snared by His course. Yet, however inexplicable it may appear to him, He assures him that it is his happy portion to trust where he cannot understand.

- 7 Compare Lu. 724-30.
- 7 The Lord might well have spoken disparagingly of John at this juncture. Instead, He gives him a eulogy which places him on the highest pinnacle of human fame. He gives him a name greater even than Moses and Elijah. The Jews have never accorded him this place, partly because he was the forerunner of the Messiah they have rejected, and partly because his career is eclipsed by the coming and presence of his Lord.
- 10 Compare Mal. 31.
- 12-15 Compare Lu. 1616,17.

12 John's methods were drastic and violent. He would have forced the kingdom on the nation, just as our Lord will do when the two witnesses will withhold rain, and turn waters into blood, and smite the earth with calamities (Un. 113-6). John came in the spirit and power of Elijah. For the time, our Lord was of an entirely different spirit.

- 14 See 1710-13Lu.117Mal.45.
- 16-19 Compare Lu. 781-85.

roused, and the evangel is preached to the poor. And happy is he who should not be snared by Me."

Now, at their going, Jesus begins to speak to the throngs concerning John. "What do you come out into the wilderness to gaze at? A reed shaken by the wind? But what do you come out to perceive? A man in soft garb? Lo! those wearing soft things are in kings' houses. But why do you come out? To perceive a prophet? Yes, I am saying to you, and exceeding10 ly more than a prophet. This is he concerning whom it is written.

'Lo! I am dispatching My messenger before Thy face,
Who will be constructing Thy road in front of Thee'.

Among those born of women there has not been roused a greater than John the baptist. Yet he who is smaller in the kingdom of the heavens is greater than he. Now from the days of John the baptist hitherto, the kingdom of the heavens is being violated and the violent are snatching it. For all the prophets and the law prophesy till John. And if you want to receive him, he is Elijah who is about to be coming. Who has ears to be hearing, let him be hearing!

Now to what shall I be likening this generation? It is like little boys and girls sitting in the markets, who, shouting to the others, ¹⁷ are saying, 'We flute to you and

you do not dance! We wail and 18 you do not grieve!' For John came

neither eating nor drinking, and they are saying 'He has a demon!'

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16 The difference between John's ministry and that of our Lord is further evident. by the different against them. The people were sulky, like little children who will not play at any game, grave or gay. John wailed, yet they would not grieve. The Lord fluted, yet they refused to dance. John was an ascetic, and they charged him with having a demon. Our Lord was the opposite, yet they called Him a glutton and a tippler. They would not be suited. Yet it was the wisdom of God to play these opposites against one another, thus to manifest the incurable stubbornness of the people.

20 The emphatic statement that Tyre and Sidon would have repented if they had been favored like the cities of Galilee makes it quite impossible to doom them to endless destruction without compromising the justice of God, quite apart from His mercy. The unqualified assertion that Sodom would not have been destroyed had it been privileged as Capernaum brings into question God's wisdom and love. Did He stint His favors so that these cities should not repent? The answer is that all is according to that deeper expression of His love which wisely provides for its ultimate display. God's justice will be vindicated in adjusting judgment to accord with privilege. In the consummation His love will be revealed in their salvation.

20-24 Compare Lu. 1013-16.

23 This is a most instructive illustration of the meaning of the word unseen, usually rendered hell or hades. Sodom had subsided to the unseen even in our Lord's day. And today the very site of Capernaum is uncertain. As a city it has passed beyond the sphere of human perception. The unseen is not confined to the death state, but is applied to invisible spirit powers and vanished cities. It is used here in the same sense as heaven in the preceding sentence.

²⁵⁻²⁷ Compare Lu.10²¹⁻²⁴. See Ps.8²1 Co. 1¹⁹⁻²⁷.

²⁵ Though His ministry seems to be a failure, the Lord recognizes the fact that this is in accord with God's unrevealed purpose. He acquiesces in God's evident delight in hiding the truth from those who were wise and intelligent in the things of this life. He does

¹⁹ The Son of Mankind came eating and drinking, and they are saying, 'Lo! a gluttonous man and a tippler, a friend of tribute collectors and sinners!' And wisdom was justified by her acts."

Then He begins to reproach the cities in which the most of His powerful deeds occurred, seeing that

they do not repent. "Woe to you, Chorazin! woe to you, Bethsaida! seeing that, if the powerful deeds which are occurring in you occurred in Tyre and Sidon, they would repent long ago, sitting in 22 sackcloth and ashes. Moreover, I am saying to you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in

the day of judgment than for you.

And you, Capernaum! Are you not being exalted to heaven? You shall subside to the unseen, seeing that, if the powerful deeds which are occurring in you had occurred in Sodom, it should remain unto ²⁴ this day. Moreover, I am saying to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.''

At that season, answering, Jesus, said, "I am acclaiming to Thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that Thou hidest these things from the wise and intelligent and Thou

²⁶ dost reveal them to minors. Yea, Father, seeing that thus it became a delight in front of Thee."

²⁷ "All was given up to Me by My Father, and no one is recognizing the Son except the Father, neither is any one recognizing the Father except the Son and he to whom the Son should be intending to unveil

²⁸ [Him]. Hither to Me, all who are toiling and laden, and I will be giv-

²⁹ ing you rest. Lift My yoke upon you and be learning from Me, see-

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not fret because He cannot reach them. because God's work is apparently without the anticipated results, for He has the consciousness that, in the final analysis, it is God Himself Who is operating all for His own purpose and glory. It is not that those who rejected Him were blinded by some act of their own for which God disclaims responsibilty. They do not see because God positively hides it from them.

27 See Jn.335172.

28 It is this God-consciousness, this recognition of His hand in all things. and more especially in that which is opposed to His apparent will, which gives His slaves heart's ease and rest in spirit. This is especially needed in days of apostasy. When we see the success of His enemies, the failure of His friends, when His own are enmeshed in the delusions of the last days, shall we blame those who must bear this load as they toil? How hard it is for their pride to be involved in failure! How great the temptation to throw off the yoke and insure success by methods of their own! O that they would learn to yoke themselves with Him, to bow humbly beneath the failure that is according to God's underlying purpose! Then they will acquiesce when He blinds, as well as when He blesses. Then the yoke will no longer gall, and the load will float from their aching shoulders. The false thought that failure is not of God and that success is His hall mark, has led His saints to imagine that any flagrant disobedience to His will is fully justified if it only results in apparent success. Let us remember that He has characterized these as days of apostasy, so that it is His will that many should depart from the faith, and, consequently, great success may result in great loss to any slave of His who does not contend lawfully. Our business is to please God by suffering rejection along with Him.

1-8 Compare Mk.223-28Lu.61-5. See Deut. 2325.

1-8 One of the most significant points in many of the miracles accomplished by our Lord is the fact that they were done on the sabbath. How else could He indicate the great truth that, when Israel is cured of all her ills, it would introduce that great sabbatism which is left for the people of God? Instead

ing that I am meek and humble in heart, and you shall be finding rest ³⁰ for your souls, for My yoke is kindly and My load is light."

12 At that season Jesus went through the sowings on the sabbaths. Now His disciples hunger, and they begin to be plucking the ears and to be eating. Now the Pharisees, perceiving it, say to Him. "Lo! Your disciples are doing what is not allowed to be done on the sabbath."

Yet He said to them, "Did you not read what David does when he hungers, and those with him: how he entered into the house of God and they ate the show bread, which he was not allowed to eat, neither those with him, except the priests only?

Or did you not read in the law that on the sabbaths the priests in the sanctuary are profaning the sabbath and are faultless? Now I am saying to you that One greater than the sanctuary is here. Now if vou had known what this is, 'I am wanting mercy and not sacrifice', vou should not convict the fault-8 less, for the Son of Mankind is Lord of the sabbath."

And proceeding thence, He came 10 into their synagogue. And lo! a man having a withered hand. And they inquire of Him, saying, "Is it allowed to cure on the sabbaths?" that they should be accusing Him.

11 Now He said to them, "What man of you will there be, who shall have one sheep, and if this should be falling into a pit on the sabbaths, will not take hold of it and

12 raise it? Of how much more con-

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of stumbling them, it should have proved His Messianic claims. Moreover, the law of the sabbath was not operative in the sanctuary, and He was the real Temple of God.

- 3 See Lev.245-9 1 Sam.211-6.
- ⁵ See Nu.289,10Jn.722,23.
- 7 See 913Hos.66Mic.66-8.
- 9-13 Compare Mk.31-5Lu.66-10. See Lu. 1310-17141-6Jn.916.
- 10 Israel is the man with the withered hand. Instead of being punctilious about doing good on the sabbath, they should have been concerned with the fact that they could not work for God on any day. They will not be healed until the millennial rest, during which they will be busy "breaking" the sabbath.
- 11 See Ex.234,5Deut.224.
- 14-21 Compare Mk.36-12Lu.611,17-19.
- 16 Hitherto He wished to be known. but now He enters a new phase of His ministry, in accord with the fact that God had hid His proclamation from those who would have made it effective. Before this His voice was heard in the squares, so that Isaiah's prophecy could not be truly applied to Him then. Now, however, He is given a special token of God's approbation, not because He has succeeded, but because He has been faithful in failure. It is especially precious to appreciate the comforting fact that God preferred Him and delighted in Him when all the signs indicated that His marvelous ministry was almost unheeded. Only a crushed reed here, or a smouldering flax there, were the results of His efforts. Contrite hearts and feeble flickers of faith were all He could show, when His message, humanly speaking, should have aroused the whole nation and made them His ardent disciples.
- 18 Compare Isa. 421-4.
- ²²⁻²³ Compare Lu. 11¹⁴.
- ²² It is a fact that all human ills have come to the race through the interference of outside malignant spirit forces. Satan introduced sin through Adam. He Who is superior to these invading forces is capable of curing all the ills which man is heir to.
- 24 Compare Mk. 322-26.
- 25 See 94Jn.224,25Un.223.

sequence, then, is a man than a sheep? So that it is allowed to be doing the ideal on the sabbaths."

13 Then He is saying to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretches it out and it was restored, sound as the other.

Now, coming out, the Pharisees held a consultation against Him, so that they should be destroying

15 Him. Now Jesus, knowing it, retires thence. And many follow

16 Him, and He cures them all. And He warns them that they should

¹⁷ not be making Him manifest, that that which is declared through the prophet Isaiah may be fulfilled, saying,

18 "Lo! My Boy Whom I prefer!

My Beloved, in Whom My soul delights!

I shall be placing My spirit on Him.

And He shall be reporting judgment to the nations.

He will not be brawling, nor clamoring,

Nor will any one be hearing His voice in the squares.

He will not be fracturing a crushed reed,

And He will not be extinguishing the smouldering flax,

Till He should be casting out judgment for victory.

21 And on His name the nations will be relying."

Then a blind and deaf-mute demoniac was brought to Him, and He cures him, so that the deafmute is talking and observing.

²³ And all the throngs are amazed and said, "Is not this the Son of David?"

Now the Pharisees, hearing it, said, "This one is not casting out the demons except by Beezeboul, the chief of the demons."

Now, having perceived their sentiments, He said to them, "Every kingdom parted against itself is being desolated, and every city or

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24 It is usual to associate this chief of the demons with the god of Ekron. called Baalzebub, Owner or Lord of Flies (2 Ki. 12). This the Septuagint renders Baal muian, Baal fly. But all the Greek texts have a different ending -boul. This is supposed to be derived from a Rabbinic word meaning dung. But it is not likely that a god of Ekron should be the chief of the demons, though doubtless he was one of them (1 Co. 1020). There is a Hebrew verb zabal (Gen.3020) which means reside. It may be that the name of the chief of the demons is owner-resi-DENCE, the equivalent of Master of the House. Our Lord calls him a householder (1025). There is no real reason for identifying him with Satan, but rather, like Apollyon, he seems to be a subordinate, though head of that division of Satan's kingdom which includes the demons.

²⁹ Compare Mk.3²⁷Lu.11²¹,²². See Isa. 49²⁴5³¹².

30 Compare Lu. 1123. See Lu. 950. 31-32 Compare Mk.328-30Lu.1210.

31 The blasphemy of the spirit consists in attributing the works of Christ, done by the power of God's spirit, to demons or unclean spirits. As these works were the means used to produce repentance and pardon, and this was essential for entrance into the kingdom, it is readily seen that pardon is quite impossible in such a case. The time, however, is limited to this eon or the coming eon of the kingdom.

Eventually, all mankind will be far more than pardoned. They will be justified (Ro. 518) and reconciled (Col. 120). But this will not take place until a full eon later, when the kingdom is

given over to the Father (1 Co.15²⁴). We cannot commit the sin against the holy spirit because our salvation is not based on miracles and signs. It follows faith, not sight. And we are not pardoned, but justified (Ro.3²⁴,²⁶). Condemnation is impossible (Ro. 8¹). Moreover, we are explicitly told that, in the latter eras, some will be withdrawing from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and the teaching of demons. Any spirit manifestation not in perfect accord with the scriptures should be given the most severe tests, lest we be among those who are deceived by them.

33-37 Compare Lu. 648-45. See Jn. 36,7.

house parted against itself will not stand. And if the Satan is casting out the Satan, he is parted against himself. How, then, shall his kingdom stand?

Now if I am casting out demons by Beezeboul, by what are your sons casting them out? Therefore

they shall be your judges.

Now if I am casting out demons by God's spirit, consequently you have a foretaste of the kingdom of God. Or how can any one be entering the house of the strong one.

tering the house of the strong one, and plunder his gear, if he should not first be binding the strong one? And then he will be plundering his

30 house. He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who is not assembling with Me is scattering.

Therefore I am saying to you, Every sin and blasphemy shall be pardoned men, yet the blasphemy of the spirit shall not be pardoned.

32 And who ever might say a word against the Son of Mankind, it will be pardoned him, yet who ever might say aught against the holy spirit, it shall not be pardoned him, neither in this eon nor in that which is future.

Either make the tree fine and its fruit fine, or make the tree rotten and its fruit rotten, for the tree is known by its fruit.

Progeny of vipers! How can you be talking what is good, being wicked? For out of the superabundance of the heart the mouth is talk-

35 ing. The good man out of his good treasure is extracting good things; and the wicked man out of his wicked treasure is extracting

36 wicked things. Now I am saying

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39 What sign can be given to those who attribute His wonderful works to the agency of the demons? No sign shall be given them. They, instead, will provide themselves with a sign by murdering the Messiah. His death, entombment and resurrection is the only sign He will give them. Briefly, they will have one more opportunity to repent after He has been roused from the dead. This is given them in the Pentecostal era.

38 Compare Mk.811,12Jn.218-22. See 1 Co. 122,23.

39-40 Compare Lu. 1129,80.

40 Twelve times in the four accounts of our Lord's life we read that He would be roused "the third day". When speaking to Romans it is twice "after three days". Here only, quoting from the Hebrew, it is "three days and three nights". The designation of time varies much in all languages. Hebrew chronology always counts the smallest part of a year or a day as a whole. The twelve times repeated testimony of our Lord, besides Peter (Ac. 1040), and Paul (1 Co. 154), shows that "the third day" is a literal and this phrase an idiomatic expression.

40 In Jonah this sea monster is called a large fish. The Greek name is now used as a scientific term for sea mammals, such as the whale. We are not told what species of sea monster it was, nor is there any good reason why we should know. Among the Greeks there was a tradition that it was a shark. There is a species in the Meditteranean some of which are so large that a man could stand upright in their outstretched throat. Men have been found whole in their stomachs. There are marine monsters in the depths of the sea, which are seldom seen. These are so large that they could swallow several men at one time.

It is said that an English seaman, thrown into the water when a gigantic sperm whale capsized the boat, was given up for drowned. But two days later, when the whale was cut up, he was found in the stomach of the sea monster, unconscious, but alive. He recovered completely. In some ways this is more remarkable than Jonah's case, for his sea monster had been specially prepared for his reception.

- 41 Compare Lu. 1132. See Jonah 3.
- 42 Compare Lu.1131. See1 Ki.1012 Chr.91.

to you that every idle declaration . which men shall be speaking—they shall be rendering account concerning it in the day of judgment.

37 For by your words you will be justified and by your words you

will be convicted."

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered Him saving. "Teacher, we want to see a sign from vou."

Yet, answering, He said to them, "A wicked and adulterous generation is seeking for a sign: and a sign will not be given to it except 40 the sign of Jonah, the prophet. For even as Jonah was in the bowel of the sea monster three days and three nights, thus will the Son of Mankind be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights. ⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will be rising

in the judgment with this generation and will be condemning it. seeing that they repent at the proclamation of Jonah, and lo! more than Jonah is here.

The queen of the south will be roused in the judgment with this generation and will be condemning it, seeing that she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and lo! more than Solomon is here.

Now whenever the unclean spirit may be coming out from a man, it is passing through waterless places seeking, and is not finding, rest.

44 Then it is saying, 'I will be turning back into my house whence I came out.' And coming, it is finding it unoccupied, and swept and deco-

45 rated. Then it is going and taking along with it seven different spirits more wicked than itself, and coming

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⁴² "The ends of the earth", an expression which does not include the sea, would describe any location on Eurasia or Africa not far from the further coast line.

43-45 Compare Lu. 1124-26.

- ⁴³ Actual idolatry had no place in Israel. That evil spirit had been cast out since the captivity. They were like the empty house, for the spirit of God had not displaced the unclean spirit. Though untenanted, like the temple on Moriah's mount, they kept to the outward form of cleansing and ceremony. But during the time of the end they will receive the false christ and will worship the miracle-working image, and bring down upon the apostates the judgments of the bowls (Un. 15⁵-16²¹). See 13⁵⁵Mk.6³Jn.2¹²7³,⁵Ac.1¹⁴1 Co.9⁵Ga.1¹⁹.
- ⁴⁶ This is not intended to show disrespect and disregard for His own family. Rather it is brought up just at this juncture to indicate the change coming over His ministry. He no longer recognizes a merely physical relationship.

1-9 Compare Mk.41-9Lu.84-8.

The action is significant, and corresponds with His repudiation of His relatives. He takes Himself outside the artificial Jewish system. Though vast throngs come, He does not proclaim the nearness of the kingdom but speaks so they cannot comprehend, concealing His meaning in parables. His subject is still the kingdom, but He is concerned with its past and future history, not its present proclamation. He utters secrets hitherto unrevealed, which even His own disciples could not understand.

8-5 See verses 18 to 21.

3 The removal of the kingdom to a distance in time is indicated by comparing it with the sowing and growing and harvesting of a crop. Had it still been imminent, He would not have called Himself a Sower, but a Reaper, as in the Unveiling, when the kingdom is about to appear (Un. 1414).

The Lord is Himself the Sower, and the parable gives us the results of His past ministry. It shows us why His proclamation had not swept the whole nation into the kingdom. We must now wait until the sowing is ready

for the harvest.

in, is dwelling there. And the last state of that man is becoming worse than the first. Thus will it be to this wicked generation also."

While He is still talking to the throngs, *lo!* His mother and brothers stood outside seeking to talk to

⁴⁷ Him. Now some one of His disciples said, "Lo! Thy mother and Thy brothers stand outside. They are

48 seeking to talk to Thee." Yet answering, He said to the one saying it to Him, "Who is My mother,

49 and who are My brothers?" And, stretching out His hand over His disciples, He said, "Lo! My mother
 50 and My brothers! For who ever

should be doing the will of My Father Who is in the heavens, he is My brother and sister and mother!"

13 In that day Jesus, coming out of the house, sat beside the sea. And vast throngs were assembled to Him, so that He steps into a ship to be sitting, and the entire throng stood on the beach.

And He talks much to them in parables, saying, "Lo! the sower came out to be sowing. And in his sowing some indeed falls beside the road, and the flying creatures came and devoured it. Yet other falls on rocky places, where it had not much earth, and immediately it shoots up, because it has no depth

6 of earth. Now at the rising of the sun, it is scorched and, because it has no root, it is with-

⁷ ered. Yet other falls on thorns, and the thorns come up and smoth-

8 er it. Yet other falls on ideal earth

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The picture presented is true to the life of the Orient. The unfenced fields were allotted to farmers, and the roads ran right through the grain, so that it was quite impossible to avoid sowing some on the hard ground. There were often outcroppings of the country rock and shallow soil near it, and in many places thorns were so thick that the farmers despaired of eradicating them. As their soil, so the people. It takes the sun and rain of heaven to change the rocks into fertile soil. The heart of the people was still hard. It will take the storms of persecution and the fire of affliction to prepare it for the kingdom of Christ.

7-8 See verses 22 and 23.

10-13 Compare Mk.410-13Lu.89,10.

11 It cannot be too strongly emphasized that our Lord's parables were not intended to explain, but to mystify. He veiled His message in figures lest they should understand.

12 Compare Mk.424,25Lu.818.

12 This somewhat enigmatic statement must be understood in connection with its context. Our Lord's disciples had received spiritual gifts which enabled them to receive more. Those who had not believed on Him had no means of receiving what He was now dispensing, for they had no spiritual discernment. Not only would they lose these spiritual benefits but, as a result of the national apostasy, they would also lose the privileges which they had as the people of God.

14 This quotation from the sixth chapter of Isaiah is quoted more frequently than any other passage from the prophets. It occurs at the two great crises in the spiritual history of Israel, the rejection of the kingdom ministry of Christ, and the repudiation of its renewal by the holy spirit in Acts (Ac. 2825-27). It always marks the cessa. tion of the evangel of the kingdom. Henceforth He is not seeking to open their eyes, but to blind them. After Paul's pronunciation of Israel's doom the kingdom proclamation ceased. The history of the kingdom ended. It will not be resumed until the present administration of God's grace, in which the evangel goes direct to the nations apart from Israel's mediacy, is finished. Then once more the evangel will not only go to Israel, but through them to all the nations. G.

and gave fruit, some, indeed, a hundred, yet some sixty, yet some thirty fold. Who has ears to be hearing, let him be hearing."

And the disciples, approaching, say to Him, "Wherefore art Thou

talking to them in parables?" Now answering, He said to them that "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of the heavens, yet to those it has not

been given. For any one who has, to him shall be given and he shall have a superfluity. Yet any one who has not, that also which he has shall be taken away from him.

13 Therefore am I speaking to them in parables, seeing that, observing, they are not observing, and hearing, they are not hearing, neither

14 are they understanding. And in them is filled up the prophecy of Isaiah, which is saying,

"In hearing, you will be hearing, And may by no means be understanding,

And observing, you will be observ-

And may by no means be perceiving."

For the heart of this people is made stout,

And they hear heavily with their ears,

And they shut their eyes, Lest at some time they may be perceiving with their eyes, And should be hearing with their

ears.

And should be understanding with their heart,

And should be turning about, And I shall be healing them.

Now happy are your eyes, seeing that they are observing, and your ears, seeing that they are to you that many prophets and just men yearn to perceive what you are observing, and perceive not, and to hear what you are hearing, and hear not.

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14 Compare Isa. 69-10, Septuagint. See Jn.1237-40Ac.2825-27Ro.117-102 Co.314-16,

16-17 Compare Lu. 1023,24. See 1617.

18-23 Compare Mk.414-20Lu.811-15.

19 Lack of understanding lays the heart open to the inroads of malignant spirit powers. The chief opposition to our Lord's ministry came from superhuman sources. Before He could even enter on His work, Satan tried to turn Him aside. He was continually casting out demons. This satanic opposition continued to the end. Satan sifted Peter and obsessed Judas. Before the kingdom will be established he will be bound (Un.202). Then no evil spirit will mislead mankind until the close of the thousand years.

20 God's present evangel of pure grace expects nothing from man. It thrives in any soil. One who really receives it is never temporary. It will bear fruit in the midst of stones or thorns, for it expects no sustenance from beneath. This parable has no application whatever to the evangel of today. It refers exclusively to the proclamation of the kingdom by our Lord Himself up to the time when it was spoken. Of the many who had heard Him only one class out of four became His disciples.

24-30 See verses 86-88.

24 This parable is concerned with the future course of the kingdom proclamation before it comes. There is the same Sower as in the previous parable. There is no question of the kind of ground, but the kind of seed. The Sower put in ideal seed. His enemy sowed that which was similar in appearance, but poisonous. Darnel is so like wheat or barley before it heads out that it is practically impossible to separate them. It was customary to weed grain fields, but darnel was too like the good stalks to distinguish them. It is a strong soporific poison, and was winnowed and picked out of the wheat, grain by grain, before being ground up for meal.

The darnel represents the horde of hypocrites who took their place with true disciples. There was one even among the twelve apostles. Their number greatly increased in the later years of the Pentecostal era. They will flourish at the time of the end, and perish in the judgments which usher

in the kingdom.

18 You, then, hear the parable of the sowing. At everyone hearing the word of the kingdom and not understanding it, the wicked one is coming and snatching what has been sown in his heart. This is he who is being sown beside the road.

20 Yet he who is being sown on the rocky places this is he who is hear.

rocky places, this is he who is hearing the word and straightway is

getting it with joy. Yet he has no root in himself, but is temporary. Now when affliction or persecution is coming because of the word,

²² straightway he is snared. Now he who is being sown in the thorns, this is he who is hearing the word, and the worry of this eon and the seduction of riches are stifling the word, and it is becoming unfruit²³ ful. Now he who is heing sown on

²³ ful. Now he who is being sown on ideal earth, this is he who is hearing the word and understanding it, who is bearing fruit by all means, and is producing, some, indeed, a hundred, yet some sixty, yet some

thirty."

Another parable He places before them, saying, "The kingdom of the heavens was likened to a man sowing ideal seed in his field.
Yet while the men are drowsing his

25 Yet while the men are drowsing his enemy came and sows darnel over amidst the wheat, and came away.

²⁶ Now when the blade germinates and produces fruit, then the darnel also appeared.

Now the householder's slaves, approaching, said to him, 'Master, do you not sow ideal seed in your field?

Whence, then, has it darnel?' Now he averred to them, 'A man, an enemy, does this.' Now the slaves are saying to him, 'Do you, then, want us to come away that we should be culling it?' Yet he is averring, 'No; lest at some time, while culling the darnel, you should be rooting up the wheat at the same

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31-32 Compare Mk.430-32Lu.1318,19, See Dan.410-12

31 Mustard, like darnel, is a menace to the grain farmer. It is not a healthful food but a condiment. Its quick growth from a small beginning is in striking contrast to the parable of the Sower. Its sinister import is confirmed by the place it gives to the birds. In the first parable these represent the wicked spirits in their opposition to our Lord's proclamation. Now they actually take their place in the branches. At the time of the end there will be an exceedingly rapid development of the kingdom among the Jews, which will head up in false Babylon, which becomes the cage of every hateful bird (Un.18 3), and supports the wicked spirits who once opposed the kingdom proclamation.

33 Compare Lu. 1320,21. See Zech. 55-11.

53 Leaven, in scripture, is always a symbol of evil and corruption. The Jews cleanse all leaven out of their houses once a year at the festival of Unleavened Bread (2617Ex.1115). This the apostle calls evil and wickedness (1 Co.58). All types of Christ had to be without leaven (Ex.2318 3425 Lev. 211617). The meal was good. But the woman covertly introduces evil, which causes it to expand, and makes it palatable for men. The woman can hardly be any one but that false figure of the end time, great Babylon. The apostate nation will so corrupt the proclamation as to please the unregenerate in Israel. Instead of looking to Messiah to establish His reign and give them a place in it, they do as they did in the days of old, when they leaned on Egypt or Assyria, instead of on Jehovah. At the end time Babylon will be supported in millennial splendor by all the nations of the earth. It is true that the leaven of insincerity and falsehood is working in Christendom today, swelling it into a great world force, palatable to men but abominable in the sight of God. but this parable has reference to the kingdom only. Leaven typifies evil. and evil only, at all times.

34-35 Compare Mk. 433-34.

35 This refers to the disruption of the kingdom from the house of David. This is the subject of the so-called seventyeighth psalm, from which this quotation is taken.

30 time with it. Leave both to grow up together until the harvest, and . in the season of the harvest I shall be declaring to the reapers. Cull first the darnel and bind it into bundles to burn it up. Yet gather the wheat into my barn'."

Another parable He places before them, saying, "The kingdom of the heavens is like the kernel of mustard, which a man getting, sows 32 in his field, which, indeed, is smaller than all the seeds, yet, whenever it may be grown, is greater than greens, and is becoming a tree, so that the flying creatures of heaven come and roost among its boughs."

33 Another parable He speaks to them, saying, "The kingdom of the heavens is like leaven which a woman gets and hides in three seahs [about 31/4 pecks] of meal, till

the whole was leavened."

All these things Jesus speaks in parables to the throngs, and apart from a parable He spoke nothing 35 to them, so that that which is declared through the prophet may be fulfilled, saying,

"I shall be opening My mouth in parables.

I shall be emitting what has been hid from the disruption."

36 Then, the throngs being let away, He came into the house. And His disciples come to Him saying, "Elucidate to us the para-37 ble of the darnel of the field." Now, answering, He said, "He Who is sowing the ideal seed is the Son of 38 Mankind. Now the field is the world. Now the ideal seed. these

are the sons of the kingdom. Now the darnel are the sons of the

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37 The history of the kingdom proclamation in Acts and what is predicted in the circumcision epistles and the Unveiling fully bears out our Lord's forecast. There were the seven sons of Sceva (Ac. 1915), the wolves in Ephesus (Ac. 20^{29}), the rich in James (5^1), the false prophets of second Peter (21), and those who follow them, those who slip in, according to Jude (4), and many in the Unveiling, such as the false apostles (22), those who are of the synagogue of Satan (29), the Nicolaitans (215), Jezebel (220), and great Babylon (18-195)—all these hypocrites were as darnel in the field, and have been allowed to flourish hitherto. But when the harvest comes the wicked will be severed from among the just and given up to judgment. No such severance shall take place in the body of Christ. Its members are beyond the sphere of condemnation (Ro. 81). There is no excuse for their having fellowship with unbelievers (2 Co. 614). They should be separate. This passage has no bearing on our conduct. It is concerned with the Circumcision alone.

44 In a country subject to revolutions, invasions, and robbers, it was customary to hide money and valuables in secret cistern-like vaults in the fields. Such are not seldom found by accident, and often cause much excitement. It would be dangerous to dig in another man's field. Hence the buying. Israel is the treasure. The field is the world (see 38). In order to possess Himself of the treasure, the Son of Mankind gives His all and purchases the world. He has overpaid its price by His blood.

⁴⁵ The parable of the pearl is another aspect of the truth revealed by the parable of the treasure hid in the field. The sea is a picture of the nations, among whom Israel is scattered. The dispersion among the nations is the precious pearl sought by the Merchant, Who gave up all His riches to purchase it for Himself. They will be His special treasure in that day.

There is no ground for the popular idea that Christ is the pearl, found by the sinner seeking salvation. He is, indeed precious, but sinners are not seekers. It is always the Saviour Who finds the lost. He is not lost nor hidden. ⁴⁷ Here is another aspect of Israel's dispersion among the nations. In the conclusion of this eon—still future—

39 wicked one. Now the enemy who sows them is the Slanderer. Now the harvest is the conclusion of the eon. Now the reapers are messen-

40 gers. Even as the darnel, then, is being culled and burned up with fire, thus shall it be in the conclu-

41 sion of the eon. The Son of Mankind shall be dispatching His messengers, and they shall be culling out of His kingdom all the snares

⁴² and those doing lawlessness, and they shall be casting them into a furnace of fire. There shall be lamentation and gnashing of teeth.

⁴³ Then shall the righteous be shining out as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who has ears to be hearing, let him be hearing.

The kingdom of the heavens is like treasure hid in a field, finding which, a man hides it, and from the joy of it, is going away, and is selling all whatever he has, and is buying that field.

Again, the kingdom of the heavens is like a man who is a merchant

one very precious pearl, coming away, he has disposed of all, whatever he had, and buys it.

47 Again, the kingdom of the heavens is like a dragnet cast into the sea and gathering of every species,

48 which, when it was filled, they, hauling it up on the beach, and being seated, cull the fine into crocks, yet the rotten they cast out.

⁴⁹ Thus shall it be in the conclusion of the eon. The messengers will be coming out and they will be sever-

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38001	MATTHEW'	S ACCOUNT	CHAPTER 13
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Israel will be drawn from among all peoples. There will be a separation, such as was indicated in the parable of the darnel, and the bad will be destroyed in the terrible judgments of the seven bowls (Un. 155-1621).

53-58 Compare Mk. 61-6.

53 Notwithstanding the treatment He had received when He visited Nazareth before (Lu. 415-30), when they had actually tried to put Him to death, and the fact that His own brethren had declared Him to be mad, He graciously returns to the home of His youth, staying this time as long as He desired. and meeting no open hostility. It may be that He wished to refute the rumors His brethren had spread concerning Him by His presence and by healing their sick. But the Nazarenes found it impossible to put aside their prejudices. How could He, a mere townsman of theirs, amount to anything? They knew all about Him and His family. So it was with the prophets, and continues to this day. No man of God need expect recognition from those with whom he is familiar.

- 54 See Jn. 716,17.
- 55 See Isa, 497532, 3Ac, 114,
- 1-5 Compare Mk.614-20Lu.97-9.
- There are a number of the Herodian family referred to in the scriptures. This one, usually called Herod Antipas, was one of the sons of Herod the Great (Mt.2¹Lu.1⁵) who had sought to kill our Lord soon after His birth. Two of his half-brothers are also mentioned, Herod Philip I. who had first married Herodias (Mt.143 Mk.617 Lu.319), and Herod Philip II. (Lu.31). Archelaus (Mt.222) was his full brother. Another half-brother, Aristobulus, was the father of Herod, king of Chalcis (Ac. 2513), Herod Agrippa I. (Ac. 121-23), and Herodias, whose marriage, first to Herod Philip I., and then to Herod Antipas, was the cause of John the baptist's death. Agrippa II. (Ac. 2513) was a son of Agrippa I. Bernice (Ac. 2513) and Drusilla (Ac. 2424) were his sisters.

Herod the tetrarch, here referred to, was a son of Herod the Great by a Samaritan woman named Malthace. After his father's death the Romans appointed him tetrarch of Galilee and Perea, so that by far the greater part of our Lord's ministry was carried on

ing the wicked from the midst of ⁵⁰ the just. And they shall be casting them into the furnace of fire. There shall be lamentation and ⁵¹ gnashing of teeth. Do you understand all these things?"

They are saying to Him, "Yes."

52 Now He said to them, "Therefore every scribe who is made a disciple of the kingdom of the heavens is like a man, a householder, who is extracting out of his treasure things new and old."

And it occurred, when Jesus finishes these parables, He withdraws thence. And coming into His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they are astonished, and are saying, "Whence has this one this wisdom and powers? Is not this the son of the carpenter? Is not his mother said to be Miriam, and his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence, then, has this one all these?" And they were snared in Him.

Yet Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not dishonored, except in his own country and in his 58 home." And He does not many powerful deeds there because of their unbelief.

14 At that season Herod the te² trarch hears tidings of Jesus, and said to his pages, "This is John the baptist. He was roused from the dead and therefore powers are operating in him." For Herod then, holding John, binds and put him away in jail also, because of

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in his dominions. His first wife was a daughter of Aretas, king of Arabia. who made war with him and conquered him because he had repudiated his daughter in order to marry Herodias, his half-brother Philip's wife. This woman brought him to his ruin. She was exceedingly ambitious and induced him to go to the emperor at Rome and seek the title of king. But Herodias' brother, Herod Agrippa I., brought accusations against him, so that Caligula banished him to Gaul, where he seems to have died.

- See Lev.18162021.
- 6-12 Compare Mk. 621-29.

13-15 Compare Mk.630-36Lu.910-12Jn.61-7.

13 Herod's insistence that the Lord was John the baptist was not very reassuring, for He was almost continually within Herod's jurisdiction, and nothing could be simpler than to arrest Him and imprison Him, as John the baptist had been. His time had not yet come, so He quietly retires to avoid further publicity. But the throngs follow Him into the wilderness.

16 Man shall not live by bread alone, but by the words which issue from the mouth of God. However great may be the marvel of providing food for such a multitude in the wilderness, it cannot compare with the miracle of which it was the sign. The kingdom has been rejected. The Lord's path is now a spiritual parallel with the interval between His rejection and His return to reign. His people will need to be sustained in the wilderness, just as Israel of old needed the manna after they had left Egypt and could not enter the land because of unbelief. The kingdom had come very near to them, just as their fathers had come to Kadesh, only to turn back into the wilderness for forty years. Then they needed physical food. Now they need spiritual sustenance. This provision is supplied by means of twelve cakes of bread, five on this occasion, and seven a little later, representing the twelve portions of scripture which have been given the Circumcision during the period which precedes the kingdom. The two fishes suggest that there is a testimony to the sons of Ham and Japhet who are proselytes in the nations.

In these writings there is more than sufficient to sustain the believing Israelites and a considerable surplus for

Herodias, his brother Philip's wife.

For John said to him, "It is not allowed you to have her." And, wanting to kill him, he was afraid of the throng, seeing that they had him as a prophet.

Now at the coming of Herod's birthdays, the daughter of Herodias dances in the midst and pleases

Herod. Whence, with an oath, he avows to give her whatever she

should be requesting. Now she, being egged on by her mother, is averring, "Give me here, on a platter, the head of John the baptist.".

And the king, being sorry, yet because of the oaths and those lying back at table with him, orders it 10 to be given. And sending, he be-

heads John in the jail.

And his head was brought on a platter and given to the maiden, and she carries it to her mother.

12 And his disciples, approaching, take away his corpse and entomb And coming, they report to it. Jesus.

Now, hearing it, Jesus retires thence in a ship into a wilderness place privately. And hearing of it, the throngs follow Him afoot from

14 the cities. And, coming out, He perceived a vast throng, and has compassion on them and cures those ...

15 of them who are ailing. Now, as it is becoming evening, the disciples come to Him, saying, "The place is a wilderness and the hour passed by already: then dismiss the throngs that, coming away into the villages. they should be buying themselves food."

Yet Jesus said to them. "They

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the nations. It does not, however, make any direct provision for the nations, such as is suggested at the end of Acts (2828). We are no longer called upon to eat the left-overs from Israel's feast (Eph. 219). The writings to the Circumcision, represented by the twelve cakes, are not for the nations. The Lord has given us a banquet such as Israel never knew. We have thirteen of Paul's epistles which, if we would only satiate ourselves with them, would keep us from so much as tasting the scraps which they refuse, or trying to purloin what pertains only to them.

16-21 Compare Mk.637-44Lu.913-17Jn.68-13. 22-23 Compare Mk.645,46Jn.614,15.

23 His ascent into the mountain alone, while His disciples are sent into the midst of the sea, is a lovely little likeness of His ascension and session in the heavens while His disciples are left to the mercy of the nations. Not for naught is the word "torment" used here. It may not fit the effect of the billows, but it certainly is a forceful description of the fearful trials which are the portion of His followers during His absence.

24-27 Compare Mk.647-50Jn.616-20.

²⁵ The Romans divided the night into four watches. There is a hint here that the Lord's absence will be prolonged until near morning. For them it will be night until the day of the Lord dawns.

26 No one will question the actual reality of this miracle who realizes how much greater is the wonder of His control over the turbulent peoples who threaten to swallow up His disciples during His absence in heaven. Some have tried to explain such prodigies on purely natural grounds. Nature is itself a continuous miracle to which we have become accustomed. Even in our present debased condition there are feeble intimations of powers we will possess in resurrection. It is said that consciousness decreases the weight of the body. It is heavier when asleep. It would seem that a sufficiently great increase in its vitality or power would overcome the force of gravitation. This is seen in a much intensified form in His ascension, where He practically became able to walk on air.

have no need to be coming away. You give them something to eat."

¹⁷ Yet they are saying to Him, "We have nothing here except five cakes

18 and two fishes." Now He said, 19 "Bring them here to Me." And,

ordering them here to Me." And, ordering the throngs to recline on the grass, taking the five cakes and the two fishes, looking up into heaven, He blesses them, and, breaking them, gives the cakes to the disciples, yet the disciples to the

²⁰ throngs. And they all ate and are satisfied, and they pick up twelve panniers full of surplus fragments.

²¹ Now those eating were about five thousand men, apart from women and little children.

And immediately He compels His disciples to step into the ship and to be preceding Him to the other side, till He should be dis-

²³ missing the throngs. And, dismissing the throngs, He ascended into the mountain privately to pray. Now, as it is becoming evening, He was there alone.

Now the ship was already many stadia [about 607 feet each] distant from the land, in the midst of the sea, being tormented by the billows, for the wind was contrary.

Now in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on

26 the sea. Now the disciples, perceiving Him walking on the sea, were disturbed, saying that it is a phantom. And they cry out from fear.

²⁷ Now straightway Jesus speaks to them, saying, "Courage! It is I. Fear not!"

Yet Peter, answering Him, said, "Lord, if it is Thou, order me to

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²⁸ Peter here symbolizes the sovereignty of Israel over the turbulent gentiles in the time to come. They are made afraid by the spiritual power of evil, typified by the wind. Peter's cry will be theirs when He reappears in glory. Then all Israel shall be invoking the name of the Lord and shall be saved (Ro.10¹³ 11²⁶). Then Satan will be bound (Un. 20²), even as the wind flags. And then the nation as a whole will worship Him as they never have done before.

32-33 Compare Mk.651Jn.621.

34-36 Compare Mk. 653-56.

36 See Lu.619.

36 As millennial bliss follows the terrors of the end time, so this lovely scene of abounding blessing succeeds the night of stress and storm. His presence dispels disease. They simply touched the tassel of His robe. This is not merely indicative of the most casual contact or a sign of the strength of their faith. It had a deeper significance, derived from Jehovah's instructions in the law (Nu. 1538-40). The garment of an Israelite was bordered by a fringe or tassel, in which was a ribbon of blue. The word blue is from the root meaning to finish. It was to remind them to do all His precepts. It may well be the sign of His complete obedience, especially of its finish on Golgotha. Contact with the cross is the basis of all blessing.

1-6 Compare Mk. 71-13.

Our Lord came to fulfill the law. When He taught that which seemed to be other than its precepts it was because He was above it. He could make it more searching (5^{27-48}) . Being the Temple of God, He and all in His presence could profane the sabbath (121-8). Now, however, He is charged with violating the oral precepts which the Rabbis had not only added to the law, but actually placed above the law. In fact, while they rejected His supremacy above Moses, they arrogated it to themselves. Their choice of a test is most unfortunate for them. While they were hypocritically concerned with the ceremonial cleansing of their hands, their mouths were defiling themselves and all about them with thoughts dishonoring to God. The Lord did not take them up on the subject of washbe coming to Thee on the waters."
Now He said, "Come!" And stepping down from the ship, Peter walks on the waters, to come to Jesus.

Yet, observing the strong wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cries, saying, "Lord, save me!" Now immediately Jesus, stretching out a hand, got hold of him and is saying to him, "Scant of faith, why do you hesitate?"

³² And when they ascend into the ³³ ship the wind flags. Now those in the ship worship Him, saying, "Truly Thou art the Son of God."

And ferrying over, they came to the land in Gennesaret. And the men of that place, recognizing Him, dispatch into that whole country about, and they bring Him all those having ills; and they entreated Him that they should only be touching the tassel of His cloak, and as many as touch were saved through it.

15 Then Pharisees and scribes are coming to Jesus from Jerusalem, saying, "Wherefore are your disciples transgressing the tradition of the elders? For they are not washing their hands whenever they may be eating bread."

Now answering, He said to them, "Wherefore are you also transgressing the precept of God because of your tradition? For God said, 'Be honoring father and mother,' and 'He who is speaking evil of father or mother, let him decease in death.' Yet you are saying, 'Whoever may be saying to a father or mother, "That which you should be benefited by me is an oblation",

6 he shall by no means be honoring

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ing before meals. He may have thought it a harmless rite, to be complied with or not, according to the finer dictates of courtesy. But He does attack the very idea that a tradition is binding, and that He or His were obliged to conform to any human precept. So He chooses one of their traditions, which was nothing less than an attempt to elude their legal obligations, and exposes their hypocrisy in placing their own precepts above the divine enactments. They called it "a hedge around the law", but it was a dagger thrust at the revealed will of God. It did not guard the law, but explained it away. His law was just and good, their perversions of it were unjust and bad.

The fifth precept was a most salutary provision for both parents and children. It is a sign of the degeneracy of our times that little honor is shown to father or mother. The law included in this the parental control of The only way to time or talent. avoid this was to claim that it was dedicated to God, the very One Who had demanded that it be dedicated to parents! The "corban" or approach offering was an oblation intended to win the favor of God. They thought to bribe Him with the results of their disobedience to His word! The same principle applies to all times. To hearken is better than sacrifice, to attend than the suet of rams (1 Sa.1522). Let no one suppose that He is pleased with their oblations, whether it be success in service, or even suffering for His sake, if it is not in fullest accord with His will. It is one of the most insidious and deceitful of delusions to imagine that, since His grace bears with such evil, and sends blessing through it, it receives His approval. Let us not take advantage of His grace or presume upon His love. Such is not the leading of His spirit. Our Lord not only denounces the oblations of disobedient sons, but plainly refutes the teaching that contamination comes from unwashed hands.

- 4 See Ex.20122117.
- 7-9 Compare Mk. 76-8.
- 8 See Isa.2913, Septuagint.
- 10-20 Compare Mk. 714-23.
- 14 See Isa.916Mal.27,8Lu.639.

his father.' And you invalidate
the word of God through your
tradition. Hypocrites! Ideally
Isaiah prophesies concerning you,
saying,

8 "This people is honoring Me with the lips, Yet their heart has its fill at a dis-

tance from Me.

Now in vain are they revering Me, Teaching for teachings the directions of men'."

And, calling to the throng, He said to them, "Hear and understand! Not what is coming into the mouth is contaminating a man, but what is going out of the mouth—this is contaminating a man."

Then the disciples, approaching, said to Him, "Are you aware that the Pharisees are shocked at hear-

ing the word?" Now, answering, He said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father does not plant

14 shall be uprooted. Desert them! They are blind guides of the blind! Now if the blind should be guiding the blind, both shall be falling into a pit."

Now, answering, Peter said to Him, "Decipher the parable for

16 us." Yet He said, "Are you also unintelligent at this point? Are you not as yet apprehending that everything which is going into the mouth is becoming the contents of the bowels, and is being evacuated

18 into the latrine? Now that which is going out of the mouth is coming out of the heart, and those are con-

¹⁹ taminating a man. For out of the heart are coming wicked reasonings, murders, adulteries, prostitutions, thefts, false witnesses, cal-

²⁰ umnies. These are what are contaminating a man. Now to be

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21 Compare Mk. 724-30.

21 The incident of the Canaanitish woman is of surpassing interest to us, for it shows clearly what was the status of the nations in our Lord's ministry. Her very mistakes are instructive. The nations have no part in the Son of David. He is Israel's King. No matter how much she may implore the Son of David, He answers her not a word. Let no one suppose that His heart was not touched or that He did not wish to be gracious. She has come to the wrong door. Yet He will not dismiss her. Finally, He tells why He cannot help. The Son of David, the character she approached, has no commission outside the nation of Israel. An oriental king is considered the father of his people. They are his children. The Canaanitish woman had no claim on His bounty. This is the key to Christ's earthly mission. He was a Servant of the Circumcision, not of the Uncircumcision (Ro. 158). During His ministry the nations did not even have the place they received in the Pentecostal era. Then, after much preparation, the apostles were taught that proselytes, such as Cornelius, could share a little of Israel's spiritual blessings (Ac. 10). Later, at Pisidian Antioch, the door was opened by Paul, to some who were not proselytes (Ac. 1346,47). But it was not until the end of the Acts era that the salvation of God is sent directly to the nations (Ac. 2829). The latter half of the second chapter of Ephesians (2 11-22), is an elaborate statement showing that, in the present administration of God's grace, the nations are no longer in the inferior position accorded them in Paul's earlier ministry.

Christ is Lord of all (Ac. 1036). Under this title even the Canaanitish woman was within His jurisdiction. She worships and calls for help. Yet even thus, she is by no means on an equal footing with the favored nation. Only the scraps are for her. If she will take the place of a cur, she can have a little of the leavings. This is the place we gentiles have in the ministry of Christ. Our position was improved in the succeeding Pentecostal era. But it was not until Paul's imprisonment that we were brought nigh and enter the family of God (Eph.2¹⁸,1⁹). Until then we were still guests at Israel's table, if not puppies under it.

29-31 Compare Mk. 781-87,

eating with unwashed hands is not contaminating a man."

And coming out thence, Jesus retires into the parts of Tyre and
Sidon. And lo! a Canaanitish woman, coming out from those boundaries, cried, saying, "Be merciful to me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is evilly obsessed by demons." Yet He answered her not a word. And His

swered her not a word. And His disciples, approaching, asked Him, saying, "Dismiss her, seeing that she is crying after us."

Now, answering, He said, "I was not commissioned except for the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Yet she, coming, worships Him,
 saying, "Lord, help me!" Yet, answering, He said, "It is not ideal to be taking the children's bread and to be casting it to the
 puppies." Yet she said, "Yes, Lord. For the puppies also are eating of the scraps which are falling from their masters' table."

Then, answering, Jesus said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it come to be with you as you are wanting!" And her daughter was healed from that hour.

And proceeding thence, Jesus came beside the sea of Galilee. And, ascending into the mountain, He sat there. And vast throngs came to Him, having with them the lame, the blind, the deaf-mutes, the maimed, and many others, and they toss them at His feet, and He cures them, so that the throng marvels,

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32-39 Compare Mk. 81-10.

32 The feeding of the four thousand on this occasion is the complement of His previous miracle, when five thousand were satisfied (1416). There are two great lessons to be learned from it which can only be discerned by carefully comparing the two. As a sign the seven cakes, added to the five, make twelve, which corresponds with the spiritual provision for Israel during their stay in the wilderness or before they enter the kingdom. The five cakes are for Israel in the past, being the first three accounts of our Lord's life, Acts and Hebrews. John's account was not written till later and is for the kingdom itself. The interval between the two miracles indicates the period of Israel's dispersion. The seven cakes are the seven epistles provided for their sustenance at the end of this eon. James, first and second Peter, the three epistles of John, and Jude will be their manna in the time of the end.

The need was much greater on this occasion, for the throng had been three days without food. They were faint and in danger of collapse. These conditions will be repeated in Israel in the time to come. Then the believers will be glad to avail themselves of the Circumcision epistles which meet their needs and minister to their wants.

It is sheer robbery for us to take this provision from God's covenant people. Should we purloin their spiritual provision it will not, indeed, diminish their store, but it will reduce our own enjoyment of the superabounding sufficiency supplied to us in Paul's epistles, for we cannot appreciate our own riches while we filch from them.

1-4 Compare Mk.8¹¹-13. See 12³⁸-40Lu. 12⁵⁴-561 Co.1²².

Blind mouths! What was the feeding of the four thousand but a sign from heaven? But if they cannot read a sign from above, He will see that they provide themselves with a sign from beneath. Undoubtedly these very Pharisees and Sadducees were instrumental in putting Him into the heart of the earth. His death and burial and resurrection constituted the great sign to the unbelieving nation. Jonah was a type of their disobedience as well as of His passage through death and of blessing to the nations through Israel.

5-12 Compare Mk. 814-21.

and they glorify the God of Israel. Now Jesus, calling His disciples

to Him, said, "I have compassion on the throng, seeing that three days already they are remaining with Me, and they have nothing that they may be eating, and I am not willing to dismiss them fasting, lest they may be fainting on the

33 road. And the disciples are saying to Him, "Whence, in a wilderness, is so much bread for us, so as to

34 satisfy so much of a throng?" And Jesus is saying to them, "How many cakes have you?" Now they said, "Seven, and a few small fishes."

And, charging the throng to be
 leaning back on the earth, He took the seven cakes and the fishes, and, giving thanks, He breaks and gave to the disciples, yet the disciples to
 the throngs. And they all ate and

are satisfied. And they pick up seven hampers full of the surplus

38 fragments. Now those eating were about four thousand men, apart from women and little children.

³⁹ And dismissing the throngs, He boarded the ship and came into the boundaries of Magadan.

16 And the Pharisees and the Sadducees, approaching, trying Him, inquire to have Him exhibit a sign to them out of heaven.

Now, answering, He said to them, "A wicked and adulterous generation is seeking for a sign, and a sign will not be given to it except the sign of Jonah." And leaving them, He came away.

5 And the disciples, coming to the other side, forgot to get bread.
6 Now Jesus said to them, "See and

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6 Leaven stands for corrupt doctrine (12). Our Lord was concerned that the disciples should not be tainted by digesting the teaching of His enemies. But all that they were concerned about was the possible lack of a meal! And this just after seeing Him feed such a multitude! Even if they had no bread a little calculation in highest mathematics would show them how well provided they were with Him on board. Leaving out of our reckoning the women and children, our Lord satisfied each man of the first five thouand with one-thousandth part of a cake, with a remainder of twelve packed panniers (1420). Now He distributes seven cakes among four thouand. Each man would get nearly twothousandths, or twice as much as on the former occasion. Surely we may expect a much larger surplus! Not so. There are only seven hampers, probably not half as much as before! The more He had to work with, the less there is left! The less He had, the greater the surplus! If we develop these equations to their limits, there would have been no left-overs if they had bought the bread. But, on the other hand, no one can limit the amount of food remaining, if they had not found a single crumb for Him to bless! This is a form of infinitesimal calculus which our mathematicians cannot grasp, yet is well within the range of an infant in the school of God. God needs our lack to display the plenitude of His provision.

6 See Lu.121Ac.238.

9-10 See 1417-211534-38.

13-20 Compare Mk.827-30Lu.918-21.

14 See 141,2Lu.97-9.

16 See Jn.6691 Jn.415.

17 See 1125-27Ga.115,16.

17 We have come to the climax of our Lord's proclamation of the kingdom. The people know Him not. Only a few, led by Peter, recognize Israel's Messiah. These are the new ecclesia, called out from the nation, and separated from them by loyalty to Him. Our Lord's ministry commenced with the descent of the spirit in form as a dove. Peter is inaugurated into his new office by being named the "Son of a Dove". Then our Lord plays on the meaning of "Peter", which is "rock". As such this new ecclesia would be

take heed of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees!"

Now they reasoned among themselves, saying that "We got no bread." Now, knowing it, Jesus said, "Why are you reasoning

among yourselves, scant of faith, that you have no bread? Are you not yet apprehending, neither remembering the five cakes of the

five thousand, and how many pan
10 niers you got? Neither the seven
cakes of the four thousand and

11 how many hampers you got? How is it you are not apprehending that I spoke not to you about cakes? Now take heed of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

Then they understand that He said not to take heed of the leaven of cakes [of bread], but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Now Jesus, coming into the parts of Cæsarea Philippi, asked His disciples, saying, "Who are men say-

14 ing the Son of Mankind is?" Now they say, "Some, indeed, John the baptist; yet others Elijah; yet others Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."

He is saying to them, "Now who are you saying that I am?" Now, answering, Simon Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of

the living God."

Now, answering, Jesus said to him, "Happy are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, seeing that flesh and blood does not reveal it to you, but My Father Who is in the heavens.

Now I, also, am saying to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I shall be building My ecclesia, and the gates of the unseen shall not

be prevailing against it. I shall be giving you the keys of the king-

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16:20-28 Job 30 MATTHEW'S ACCOUNT

built on him. The forms Petros and petra differ only in gender. In the new Jerusalem the twelve will be associated with him in the foundation (Un. 2114). But he alone is the foundation in this ecclesia. He took this place in the Pentecostal era. This is the same ecclesia which will pass through the terrors of the end time, for whom Peter's epistles are especially intended. Then the great dragon and his hosts will not prevail against this ecclesia. used the keys on the day of Pentecost to open the kingdom to Israel. From Peter's confession forward the doors into the kingdom were shut and the Lord no longer proclaimed it. As He would not be present when they were to be opened again, He gave Peter the keys. Peter's dealings with Ananias and Sapphira show the power he possessed. None of this has any connection with the present ecclesia, the body of Christ. We are not built on Peter. None of his teaching is for us. We are associated with Paul. Peter's keys would not be any service to us, for we do not enter that kingdom. Before the powers of the unseen hurl themselves against that ecclesia, we will be safely at home with our Lord (1 Th. 417). 20 The proclamation of the kingdom is definitely postponed, to be taken up again by Peter on the day of Pentecost. 21-28 Compare Mk.831-38Lu.927.

22 Peter was doubtless elated at his wonderful honors, but his spiritual enduement had not yet enabled him to sympathize in his Lord's sufferings. Indeed, he would not hear of them. Herein he was imitating the very tactics of Satan, who proposed to give Christ the kingdom without the suffering. Hence Peter is called a satan, which is Hebrew for adversary.

Our Lord now proclaims the evangel of suffering. Those who shirk—these will save their souls in the meantime, but lose them in the kingdom. Those who suffer—these will reign. There is much in common between the interval reaching from our Lord's rejection to His crucifixion and the present administration. In both the kingdom proclamation gives place to the evangel of His sufferings. In both service is associated with suffering and rejection with reigning. It is never said that the successful servant will reign, but, if we are enduring, we shall also be reigning together (2 Ti.212).

dom of the heavens, and whatever you should be binding on earth shall be binding in the heavens, and whatever you should be loosing on earth shall be loosed in the loosed in the loosed heavens." Then He cautions the disciples that they may be saying to no one that He is the Christ.

Then ceforth Jesus begins to show His disciples that He must be coming away into Jerusalem and to be suffering much from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and to be killed, and to be roused the third day. And Peter, taking Him, be-

gins to rebuke Him, saying, "Be propitious to Thyself, Lord! This will by no means be for Thee!"

Now, being turned, He said to Peter, "Go away behind Me, satan! You are a snare to Me, seeing that you are not disposed to that which is of God, but that which is of men."

Then Jesus said to His disciples: "If any one is wanting to come after Me. let him renounce himself and pick up his cross and be fol-²⁵ lowing Mc. For who ever should be wanting to save his soul will be destroying it. Yet who ever should be destroying his soul on My account ²⁶ will be finding it. For what will a man be benefited, if he should be gaining the whole world, yet be forfeiting his soul? Or what will. a man be giving in exchange for his ²⁷ soul? For the Son of Mankind is about to be coming in the glory of His Father with His messengers, and then He will be paying each in accord with his practise. Verily

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28 See 2 Pt. 116-18.

28 This prediction was fulfilled about a week later when He took His most intimate disciples with Him and they saw His power and presence and were spectators of His magnificence (2 Pt. 1¹⁶). It is fitting that, at this juncture, there should be some plain intimation of the postponement of the kingdom. In the record the promise is immediately followed by its fulfillment, but there is a week's delay. Another cycle must run its course before the proper conditions reappear which precede the kingdom.

1-9 Compare Mk.92-10Lu.928-36.

This was not merely a transfiguration but a transformation. Satan is, at present, transfigured into a messenger of light (2 Co. 11¹⁴). We should be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Ro. 12²). Transfiguration deals with the temporary fashion. Transformation is the permanent appearance. The Lord's flesh was a veil or curtain, which hid His innate splendor. On the mount, the glory shone out so that it became visible to mortal eyes.

3 The mystery concerning Moses' body and the translation of Elijah explains their presence here. While this is a glorious kingdom scene, it is also a preparation for the "exodus" which He was about to complete at Jerusalem (Lu. 931). The scene was glory but the theme was shame. So we do not see David on the holy mountain, but Moses, the great mediator, who led the exodus out of Egypt, and who wrote so much concerning His sacrifice, and we see Elijah, the premier prophet, who must come ere the kingdom is an accomplished fact. These men sympathized with the sufferings which were before Him, but Peter has not yet learned the lesson. He wished to make this a permanent display and thus avoid the cross. But he foolishly places Moses and Elijah in the same class with our Lord. Just as Israel's unbelief dispelled the hope of the kingdom, so now his words draw down a cloud and the glory vanishes.

5 See Mk.1112 Pt.116-18Isa.421.

⁹ Even during our Lord's ministry the kingdom could not be proclaimed because He had been rejected. He has once more been rejected by the nation, as recorded in the book of Acts, hence the kingdom proclamation is once more in abeyance. under no circumstances should be tasting death till they should be perceiving the Son of Mankind coming in His kingdom."

17 And after six days Jesus is taking Peter and James and John, his brother, aside, and is bringing them up privately into a high mountain.

² and was transformed in front of them. And His face shines as the sun, yet His garments became white as the light.

And lo! Moses and Elijah were seen by them conferring with Him.

Now, answering, Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is ideal for us to be here! If Thou art willing, I shall be making three tabernacles here, for Thee one, and Moses one, and

Elijah one." While he is still talking, lo! a luminous cloud overshadows them, and lo! a voice out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son in Whom I delight. Be hearing Him."

And the disciples, hearing it, fall on their faces and were tremendously afraid. And Jesus approached and, touching them, said,

8 "Rouse, and fear not." Now, lifting up their eyes, they perceived no one except Jesus Himself only.

And at their descending out of the mountain, Jesus directs them, saying, "Now you should tell no one of the vision till the Son of Mankind may be roused from among the dead."

And His disciples inquire of Him, saying, "Then why are the scribes saying that Elijah must
 come first?" Now, answering, He said to them that "Elijah is in-

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10 Though John the baptist was not Elijah, who will probably be one of the two witnesses at the time of the end (Un. 11³-12), he came in the spirit and power of Elijah (Lu. 11⁷), and could have performed his mission if the people had been ready to receive him.

11 See Lu.116.17Ac.321.

12-13 See 143-101114.

12 John the baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah, but without his mighty deeds. He did not call down fire on his enemies nor lock heaven as Elijah did (1 Ki. 171) and as he will do again when he reappears as one of the two witnesses (Un. 116). The prophetic testimony closes with the prediction that he must reappear "before the great and fearful day of Jehovah comes" (Mal.45).

14-18 Compare Mk.914-27Lu.937-42.

16 Intimations abound in this period of our Lord's ministry which point to a temporary failure of the kingdom testimony. When the disciples were left alone with epileptic Israel, in the Pentecostal era, they found it impossible to cure them, for lack of faith. The cure will not be effected until His return. If they had had a modicum of faith they could readily have removed the mountain of Roman supremacy far from them and put in its place the mountain of Jehovah. All the future fortunes of the kingdom were known to God, and, in His inimitable way, He is giving us a foreview of its history in the vale of unbelief, as well as a glimpse of its glory on the mountain top. These hidden hints, conveyed by His acts as well as by His words, are full of delightful food for reflection. and glorify the failures that follow.

19-21 Compare Mk.928,29.

20 See 2121Lu.175,61 Co.129132.

22-23 Compare Mk.930-32Lu.943-45.

22 The gloomy shadow of the cross lies athwart the pathway of our Lord throughout the second period of His ministry. More than that, His disciples were blind to it. As the Jews did not understand or accept Him as their King, so now His disciples refuse to entertain the revelation of Himself as their Priest and Sacrifice. So today His own saints turn from Him as the Saviour and seek to press His kingship, which is in abeyance.

deed coming, and will be restoring ¹² all. Yet I am saying to you that Elijah came already, and they recognize him not, but they do to him whatever they will. Thus the Son of Mankind also is about to be suf¹³ fering by them.'' Then the disciples understand that He spoke to

them about John the baptist.

And, coming to the throng, a man came to Him, kneeling to Him, and saying, "Lord, be merciful to my son, seeing that he is epi-

leptic, and is having an evil time, for often he is falling into the fire ¹⁶ and often into the water. And I

bring him to Thy disciples, and they could not cure him."

Now, answering, Jesus then said to them, "O unbelieving and perverted generation, till when shall I be with you? Till when shall I bear with you? Bring him here to

18 Me." And Jesus rebukes him, and the demon came out from him, and the boy was cured from that hour.

Jesus privately, said, "Why could Jesus privately, said, "Why could we not cast it out?" Now He is saying to them, "Because of your scant faith. For verily I am saying to you, Should you have faith as a mustard kernel, you shall be declaring to this mountain, 'Proceed hence—there!' and it will be proceeding. And nothing will be

impossible for you."

Now at their conspiring in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Mankind is about to be betrayed

23 into the hands of men, and they will be killing Him, and the third

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24 See Ex.3011-163825,26.

24 According to the law every one who was numbered in Israel, being over twenty years of age, paid half a shekel to shelter his soul (Ex.3012-14). was used for the temple service, and was known as the temple tribute. This must not be confused with the tribute paid to Cæsar. There never was any question as to its payment by a patriotic Jew, until after the destruction of Jerusalem, when it was sent to Rome. The question is peculiarly appropriate at this time. It certainly was not incumbent on the Lord to support the empty forms of an obsolete sacrificial system, when He Himself was the true Temple of God and the real Sacrifice. He could justly demand the tribute, but give it, never. Peter has not yet learned the great truth of His coming sacrifice or he would not have consented so readily to pay such a tribute. Yet, while the Lord does not pay it from the funds, for the sake of His enemies He condescends to submit to a law which was far beneath Him. But. in doing so, He gives a little inkling of how the temple ought to be supported and how it will be upheld in the coming eon. The sea represents the gentiles. In that day the riches of the nations will flow to Jerusalem (Isa.4922 605,11,16616), and then they will come to the sacred festival of tabernacles each year (Zech. 1416-19). The sons of the kingdom will be free from the payment of tribute or poll tax. They will be ransomed, not with corruptible silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ (1 Pt. 118). So we see that the miracle was not only a marvel of practical power (for who else could catch a fish with exactly the proper amount in its mouth?), but is an even more marvelous sign, indicating the fiscal policy of the great King.

- 1-6 Compare Mk.933-37,42Lu.946-482224-26.
- 1 It seems very strange and sad that the disciples should choose such a time to inquire about their own greatness. He was trying to engage their hearts with His humiliation. They were sorry when He spoke of it, but His words did not sink in. Little did they dream that the only path to true greatness lay through these very sufferings.
- 6 Compare Lu.172.
- 8 See Mk.1014,151 Pt.22Ps.1312.

day He will be roused." And they were tremen dously sorry.

Now at their coming into Capernaum, they who are getting the double drachma approached Peter and say, "Is not your teacher settling the double drachma tribute?" [31¢, 1s 3d 2f].

He is saying, "Yes." And coming into the house, Jesus forestalls him, saying, "What are you supposing, Simon? From whom are the kings of the earth getting tribute or poll tax, from their sons, or from the aliens?" Now he averred, "From the aliens." Now at his

saying "From the aliens," Jesus averred to him, "Consequently the sons, surely, are free. Yet, lest we should be snaring them, go, cast a fish hook into the sea, and pick up the first fish that comes up, and, opening its mouth, you will be finding a stater [63¢, 2s 7d]. Getting that, give it to them for Me

18 Now in that hour the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who, consequently, is greater in the kingdom

and vou."

² of the heavens?" And, calling a little child to Him, He stands it in

3 their midst, and said, "Verily, I am saying to you, should you not be turning and becoming as little children, you may by no means be entering into the kingdom of the

4 heavens. Any one, then, who will be humbling himself as this little child, he is the greater one in the

kingdom of the heavens. And whoever should be receiving one such little child on My name is receiving

⁶ Me. Yet whoever should be snaring one of these little ones who are believing into Me, it is expedient for him that a millstone requiring an ass to turn it may be hanged

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- 7 Compare Lu.17¹1 Co.11¹⁹.
- 7 The application of these sayings apart from their context can only lead to confusion. The Lord is speaking of a place in the millennial kingdom. There will be much to hinder entrance there, hence He impresses on them the need of thrusting aside everything which would interfere. If anything done by the hand is in the way, it should be abandoned. If their foot is leading them astray, the path should not be longer pursued. If their perception is imperiling the prospect of eonian life, it should be repudiated.
 8-9 Compare Mk.943-48. See 529,30.
- ⁹ Gehenna, just below the city of Jerusalem, where the city offal is incinerated, will receive the bodies of criminals in the kingdom (Isa.66²⁴).
- 10 Such a ministry of messengers is never hinted at outside the favored nation. Israel, in its physical standing, is the only nation, as such, which may claim angelic ministration.
- 12 See Lu. 153-7.
- 12 This is a beautiful picture of Israel at the time, and of the work in which He was now engaged. Let us not think that the ninety-nine lay safely in the fold. He left them out on the mountains, subject to the storms and to the attacks of wild beasts. Even thus had He left the nation while He went after the sheep which had strayed. To find it. He too must go into the dark ravine of death, where He went on Golgotha. Thus it was that He found the sheep which had gone astray. The rest of the self-righteous nation, who thought they were safe without Him, give Him no joy. But His bewildered, sin-sick disciples, with all their waywardness, are the joy and rejoicing of His heart. When the nations appear in the judgment which takes place at the com-mencement of the kingdom, they are called kids, in contrast to Israel. The nations are never known as sheep. Nothing in this illustration corresponds with God's present work of grace. The evangel of today is for all. None are left on the mountains. The parable is perfect only in its proper place.
- 15 Compare Lu. 173. See Lev. 1917.
- Our instructions, in such a case, are found in the latter parts of Paul's epistles (Gal. 61). There is no need to go

about his neck, and he should be sinking in the open ocean.

- Woe to the world because of snares! For it is a necessity for snares to be coming. Moreover, woe to that man through whom the snare is coming! Now if your hand or your foot is snaring you, strike it off and cast it from you. Is it ideal for you to be entering into life maimed or lame, or, having two hands or two feet, to be cast into eonian fire?
- And if your eye is snaring you, wrench it out and cast it from you. Is it ideal for you to be entering into life one-eyed, or, having two eyes, to be cast into the Gehenna of fire?
- 10 See! You should not be despising one of these little ones, for I am saying to you that their messengers in the heavens are continually observing the face of My Father Who is in the heavens.
- What are you supposing? If it should be occurring to any man, with a hundred sheep, that one among them should stray, will he not be leaving the ninety-nine sheep on the mountains? And, being gone, he is seeking the one which is ¹³ astray. And if he should come to
- find it, verily, I am saying to you, that he is joying over it, rather than over the ninety-nine which
- 14 have not strayed. Thus it is not the will in front of your Father Who is in the heavens that one of these little ones should be perishing.

Now if your brother should be sinning, go and expose him between you and him alone. If he should be hearing you, you gain 16 your brother. Yet if he should not

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to the writings intended for the Circumcision under circumstances entirely foreign to us. It can only lead to confusion. This course of procedure is clearly confined to one nation, for there is no point to the punishment should we be treated as "one of the nations", or a gentile, for such we are. Neither is it unpatriotic or criminal to be classed among tax collectors. The ecclesia here spoken of was composed of His kingdom disciples who had been called out of the nation of Israel. They were just as prejudiced against the gentiles as the other Jews. And they were even more antagonistic to tribute collectors, though Matthew himself had been one.

- 16 See Deut.1915Jn.817 2 Co.31.
- 18 See 1619.
- 19 The Lord continues in the same vein. If we should attempt to apply these privileges and promises now it would only bring reproach on His name and His word. Our actions are not ratified in heaven. Two or three may solemnly agree in their request, yet now, in this secret administration of God's grace, of which our Lord breathed not a single syllable, and for which He gave no instructions, we sink our own requests and agreements in a profound appreciation of the will of God and acquiescence in the ways of God.
- 21-22 Compare Lu. 174. See 614,15.
- 21 A more harmonious note is struck in our Lord's answer to Peter. Pardon, or forgiveness, is extended almost to the beginnings of grace. Singularly, the verb, pardon or forgive, does not even occur in Paul's epistles except as a quotation from the Hebrew scriptures (Ro. 47). A term is used which goes beyond the seventy times seven of this passage. We are to deal graciously with one another even as God, in Christ, deals graciously with us (Eph. 482Col.313). There are no limits to such grace.
- 33 The parable of the ten thousand talent debtor is a most graphic illustration of the true meaning of pardon or forgiveness. Though so great a debt was remitted, the pardon was afterwards recalled. The permanence of pardon depends on the conduct of the one receiving it. It may be withdrawn. Our "pardon" of sins is in the kingdom of the Son of His love.

be hearing, take still one or two more along with you, that at the mouth of two or three witnesses every declaration may be made to ¹⁷ stand. Now, if he should be disobeying them, speak to the ecclesia. Now, if he should be disobeying the ecclesia also, let him be to you even as one of the nations, and a tribute collector.

Verily, I am saying to you, Whatever you should be binding on earth shall be binding in heaven. And whatever you should be loosing on earth shall be loose in heaven.

19 Again, verily I am saying to you that if two among you should be agreeing on earth concerning any matter of which they should be requesting, it shall come to be to them from My Father Who is in 20 the heavens. For where two or three are assembled into My name, there am I in their midst."

Then Peter, approaching, said to Him, "Lord, how many times shall my brother be sinning against me and I shall be pardoning him? Till seven times?" Jesus is saying to him, "I am not saying to you "Till seven times", but 'Till seventy

times seven'.

23 Therefore the kingdom of the heavens was likened to a man, a king, who wants to settle accounts

24 with his slaves. Now at his beginning to settle, one was brought to him who owed ten thousands of talents [about \$9,415,908, £1,937,508].

25 Now, at his not having wherewith

to pay, the lord orders him and his wife and children and all, whatever he has, to be disposed of, and pay²⁶ ment to be made. Then, prostrating, that slave worshiped him, saying, 'Lord, be patient with me, and I

will pay you all!' Now the lord of that slave, being compassionated, dismisses him, and remits his loan.

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We are justified or vindicated or acquitted, in our judicial standing, for there is no charge against us. God, as Judge, has cleared us of guilt by the blood of Christ (Ro. 324). A judge cannot pardon. That is the prerogative of a governor or king. Only when a kingdom is in view can the pardon of sins be proclaimed.

Justification puts us beyond the sphere of condemnation. It is based entirely on the blood of Christ, is received by faith, apart from works, in order that it may accord with grace (Ro.8145,16). Pardon leads to probation. Unbecoming conduct causes it to be withdrawn. God cancelled it in every case where it was not extended to others.

Those who were pardoned in the Pentecostal era are the ten thousand debtor. They had crucified Christ, the Lord of glory, and were under incalculable obligations to God. Nevertheless, out of the compassion of His heart He pardoned their sins, as Peter proclaimed at Pentecost (Ac.2 38). The nations, who had none of the light and privilege which was Israel's special portion, did not owe nearly so much. They are the debtor who owed only one hundred denarii. But the pardoned believers in Israel had no thought of sharing the mercy they had received with the despised aliens. It took much persuasion before Peter would go to Cornelius, a convert who was already a proselyte to Judaism (Ac. 10). And when he did he found his brethren most antagonistic to the very thought (Ac. 113). But they are far more antagonistic to Paul's ministry among the nations. At his final appearance in Jerusalem these pardoned believers sought to stone him for the very mention of the name of the gentiles. Paul in his speech to them gets as far as the word "nations" (Ac. 22 21), and they refuse to listen further. Consequently their pardon is revoked. It is important to note that this does not apply to the unbelieving part of the nation, for they had not been pardoned. It was true only of those who had "believed". Pardon is probational because it is based on behaviour. Justification is irrevocable because it is based on the blood of Christ, which is ever precious and potent.

35 See 612-15Ja.213.

Yet that slave, coming out, found one of his fellow slaves, who owed him a hundred denarii [about \$15.69, £3 4s 7d], and, holding him, he choked him, saying, 'Pay, if you are owing anything!'

²⁹ Then his fellow slave, prostrating, entreated him, saying, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you all!'

²⁰ Yet he would not, but, coming away, cast him into jail, till he may pay what is owing.

Then his fellow slaves, perceiving what is occurring, were tremendously sorry, and, coming, elucidate to their lord all that is occur-

ring.

Then his lord, calling him, is saying to him, 'Wicked slave! I remit to you that entire debt since you entreat me. Was it not binding on you also to be merciful to

your fellow slave, as I also am mer-³⁴ ciful to you?' And, being indignant, his lord gives him up to the tormentors till he may pay all that

was owing him.

Thus will My heavenly Father, also, be doing to you, should not each one be pardoning his brother

from your hearts."

19 And it occurred, when Jesus finishes these sayings, He withdraws from Galilee and came into the boundaries of Judea, the other side

² of the Jordan. And vast throngs follow Him, and He cures them there.

- 3 And the Pharisees came to Him, trying Him, and saying, "Is it allowed one to dismiss his wife on any charge?"
- 4 Now, answering, He said, "Did you not read that the Maker from

¹⁻² Compare Mk.101Jn.1040-42.

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- 3-12 Compare Mk. 102-12.
- 4 Compare Gen. 127. See Mal. 215.
- Man was originally bi-sexual. Adam had both male and female functions (Gen. 127). Before the woman was taken out of Adam, the sexes were actually one flesh. Marriage is the reverse of this. The woman was not formed from a "rib". The Hebrew word is nowhere else so rendered. It is used of the chambers in the temple building (1 Ki. 65), and denotes a vault or cell. Hence the woman is the complement of the man, and both together constitute the human unit. One is incomplete without the other. The physical union, moreover, is not a mere legal agreement, but actual oneness of flesh, in which each is merged in the other. It is not the work of man merely, but of God. It is contrary to nature and to nature's God to destroy this unity. Originally no separation was contemplated. It is a concession to the hardness of their hearts. Only the infraction and destruction of the physical unity by union with another is given by our Lord as a just cause of separation (9), for, in that case, the unit is already marred beyond repair, in the offending party. It is in fullest harmony with the present grace, in which physical unity has no standing, that even the cause allowed by our Lord is not a valid basis for separation. This corresponds with the overflowing grace in which we are submerged. The only cause now given is where the unbelieving husband or wife gets a divorce. Then the believer is free (1 Co.715). The believer today is to act in perfect grace even to the acknowledgment of a wrongful separation.
- 5 See Gen.2241 Co.616Eph.531.
- 7 See 531,32 Deut.241.
- 9 Compare Lu.16181 Co.710.11.
- 12 As we have no standing in flesh, such matters are not within our sphere. They do not affect our place in Christ. Not so with the kingdom. We read of a male son who will shepherd the nations in that day (Un. 12⁵), and of the hundred and forty-four thousand who are celibates (Un. 14⁴) out of the twelve tribes (Un. 7³). It is more than likely that these are those to whom the special saying of which He spoke has been given.
- 13-15 Compare Mk.1013-16Lu.1815-17.

- the beginning makes them male

 5 and female? And He said, 'On
 this account a man will be leaving
 father and mother and will be
 joined to his wife, and the two will

 6 be one flesh'. So that they are no
 longer two, but one flesh. Then
 that which God yokes together, let
 not man be separating."
 - They are saying to Him, "Then why does Moses direct to give a scroll of divorce and to dismiss her?"
- Jesus is saying to them, that "Moses, in view of your hardheartedness, permits you to dismiss your wives, yet from the beginning it has not come to be thus.
- Now I am saying to you that whoever should be dismissing his wife (not for prostitution) and should be marrying another, is committing adultery, and one who has been dismissed, marrying, is committing adultery." See Juntary all the party and the party an
- The disciples are saying to Him, "If the case of a man with a woman is thus, it is not expedient to marry."
- Yet He said to them, "Not all are containing this saying, but those to whom it has been given.
- 12 For there are eunuchs who are born thus out of their mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who are emasculated by men, and there are eunuchs who emasculate themselves because of the kingdom of the heavens. Who is able to contain it, let him contain it."
- Then little children were brought to Him, that He may be placing His hands on them, and He should be praying. Yet the disciples
- 14 rebuke them. Yet Jesus said to them, "Let the little children be coming to Me, and be forbidding them not, for of such is the king-

54001 MATTHEW'S ACCOUNT BKTIO. - CREATING ΟΠΟΙΗ ΚΑΚΑΠΑΡΧΗ ΚΑΡΚΕΝ CACMOIXATAIAETOYCINA²⁰ FROM ORIGINAL 10 IS-COMMITTING-ADULTERY ARE-SAYING THE One-making s1* omits to-Him s1* omits IF YTOOMAAHTAIGIOYTOCE# KAIGHAYE TO IHCE NAYTOY 40 IF thus female makes them THE LEARNERS CKAIGITENGNEKATOYTOY® CTINHAITIATOYANOPONO® OF-THE human He-said on-account OF-this THE cause 81 * € 0. YMETATHCTYNÄÏKOCOYCY® ΚΆΤΑΛΕΊΨΕΙ ΆΝΘΡΦΠΟCTO® WILL-BE-leaving NOT it-18-behuman THE WOMAN NNATE PAKAITHNMHTE PAK 100 ΜΦΕΡΕΙΓΑΜΗ Ο ΑΙΟΔΕΕΙΠΕ 600 11 ING-expedient TO-MARRY THE YET He-said AND THE MOTHER AND B omits -TOWARD **ΣΙΠΡΟ**ΚΟΛΛΗΘΗCEΤΣΪΤΗ²⁰ NAYTOICOYHANTECX@POY® WILL-BE-BEING-TOWARD-JOINED to-them ARE-SPACING NOT ALL s1 * € o. B omits this RS O **ϹΪΝΤΟΝΛΟΓΟΝΤΟΥΤΟΝΆΛΛ**« TYNAÏKIAYTOYKAIECONT# this but WOMAN or-him WILL-BE THE AND saying SEO. SI* omits for OLGAEAOTALEICINFAPEY 60 ĂĬOI∆YO&ICCĂPKAMIANŒ® AS-BE- 12 to-WHOM it-HAS-been-GIVEN ARE for EUNUCHS THE TWO INTO FLESH ONE CTEOYKETIEICINAYOAAA® NOY XOIOITINECEKKOIAI® SIDES NOT-STILL THEY-ARE TWO but WHO-ANY OUT OF-CAVITY 8 ONE FLESH ACAPEMIAOCYNOGEOCCYN200 **ACMHT POCETENNHOHCANO** 700 ONE WHICH THEN THE God TOGETHER-OF-MOTHER WERE-generated EZEYZEN ANO PUTTOCMHXUP 20 YTOCK AIGICINGY NOY XOI® human YOKES NO LET-BE-AND ARE RUNDORS IZETWAEFOYCINAYTWT1040
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14 See 183.

16-22 Compare Mk.1017-22Lu.1818-23.

16 See Lu. 1027.

16 When Israel entered the land, each one received an allotment sufficient for a living. This could not be sold outright. It could only be mortgaged till the next jubilee. With some exceptions, no one could acquire much land without encroaching on the allotments of others. That is why it is so difficult for a rich man to enter the kingdom. He must of necessity lose his riches and enter poor. That is the position of this rich youth. He had great acquisitions. This was land which God had allotted to others for their living, but which they had lost through poverty. His superfluous wealth meant distress for them. He claimed to keep the law, and no doubt he had never murdered or robbed any one, for he had no provocation to commit flagrant offenses. He even maintained that he loved his associates as himself! The Lord very simply suggests that he act in accordance with his profession. He did not ask him to give up his own means of livelihood. He could never expect him to relinquish his own allotment, for that was given by God. All He desired was that he should return to others their allotments. This is what God's law does at the jubilee. This is what will occur when the kingdom is established. The believing disciples in the Pentecostal era, recognizing the impossibility of carrying possessions and acquisitions, over and above their inherited allotments, into the kingdom, sold all such property and put the proceeds into the common fund (Ac.245). None of these acts have any bearing on present conduct, for our allotment is among the celestials. The Israelite might possibly carry his allotment into the kingdom, but we can take nothing of earth into the realms above. The shrewdest saint is the one who exchanges his terrestrial real estate for celestial currency before it all is taken from him. He knows that his acquisitions on earth will all be forfeited and decrease his balance in the celestial bank.

- 18 Compare Ex. 2012-16.
- 19 See Lev. 1918.
- 21-22 See 619-21Ac.2451 Ti.617-19.
- 23-26 Compare Mk.1023-27Lu.1824-27.
- 23 See 1322.

15 dom of the heavens." And placing His hands on them, He went thence.

16 And lo! one coming to Him said, "Teacher, what good shall I be doing that I should be having eonian life?"

17 Yet He said to him, "Why are you asking Me concerning the good? One is good. Yet if you are wanting to be entering into life, keep the precepts."

He is saying to Him, "Which?"

Now Jesus said, "You shall not be murdering; you shall not be committing adultery; you shall not be stealing; you shall not be testi-¹⁹ fying falsely; be honoring father and mother; and you shall be loving your associate as yourself."

The youth is saying to Him, "All these I maintain. In what

am I deficient still?"

Jesus averred to him, "If you are wanting to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and be giving to the poor, and you will be having treasure in the heavens; and hither, be following Me."

Now, hearing this word, the youth came away sorrowing, for he

had many acquisitions.

Now Jesus said to His disciples, "Verily, I am saying to you that the rich squeamishly will be entering into the kingdom of the heav-

²⁴ ens. Now again, I am saying to you that it is easier for a camel to be entering through the eye of a needle, than for the rich to be entering into the kingdom of God."

Now, hearing it, the disciples were tremendously astonished, saying, "Can any one, consequently,

be saved?"

Now Jesus, looking at them, said to them, "With men this is impossible, yet with God all is possible."

Then, answering, Peter said to

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²³ As the political constitution of the Jewish commonwealth rendered it practically impossible to acquire great possessions without oppressing others, riches were a hindrance and are largely lost in the readjustments of that day. No rich man, as such, will enter.
²⁶ See Jer.32¹⁷Lu.1²⁷.

27-30 Compare Mk.1028-31Lu.1828-30.

27 See 418Lu.511.

27 On the other hand, those sons of that kingdom who lose all, even the enjoyment of their own allotment for the time, will find an overflowing recompense in kind, in the kingdom, not only for the brief space of their mortal life, but for the whole of the coming eon. The apostles, who suffered most, will gain most. The government of the nation will be in their hands. This explains in part why there must be just twelve apostles, one for each tribe. The other nations will come under the jurisdiction of the male son (Un.125), a company out of Israel distinct from the twelve. It will be seen that Paul has no place in the government of that kingdom. He and those connected with his ministry, have a celestial destiny and will judge messengers (Eph.13 1Co.63).

28 See 2021Lu.2228-30.

30 See 2016Lu.1330.

Many of the explanations of this parable ignore the fact that it illustrates the kingdom of the heavens, and is not at all intended to be applied to our service for God. If so applied, it can hardly encourage aught but idleness in the hope that a little labor at the end of life will bring an equal, if not greater, reward than a long career of suffering service. The vineyard is Israel. Those who agree for a denarius a day were under law and got what was their due. The others were recipients of various degrees of grace. The third hour workers were under promise. Though they made no contract, yet they received more than they had a right to expect, because they had mixed their work with a little confidence in the householder. In the sixth and ninth hour we have the same circumstances, but less deserts. eleventh hour workers do not seem to have had even a promise on which to base their expectations. They trusted the householder completely, and had Him, "Lo! we leave all and follow Thee. What, consequently, will it mean to us?"

I am saying to you that you, who follow Me, in the renascence, whenever the Son of Mankind should be sitting on His glorious throne, you, also, shall be seated on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes ²⁹ of Israel. And everyone who leaves a home, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or fields, on account of My name, shall be getting a hundred fold, and be enjoying the allotment ³⁰ of eonian life. Yet many of the first will be last, and the last first.

20 For the kingdom of the heavens is like a man, a householder, who came out with the morning to hire

² workers for his vineyard. Now, agreeing with the workers for a denarius [about 15.7¢, 7d 3f] a day, he dispatches them into his vineyard.

And, coming out about the third hour, he perceived others standing in the market idle. And to those he said, 'You also go away into my vineyard, and whatever may be just I shall be giving you.' Now they came away. Now coming out again about the sixth and ninth hour, he does similarly.

Now, coming out about the eleventh, he found others standing, and he is saying to them, 'Why have you stood here the whole day idle?'
They are saying to him that 'No one hires us.' He is saying to them, 'You also go away into the vineyard.'

Now, as it is becoming evening, the lord of the vineyard is saying to

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very little of their own works to offer him.

At this point we must insert another class, who do not appear in the parable, for the very good reason that they do nothing at all and are not associated with the kingdom. So far as salvation goes, our works have no part in it. We are the twelfth hour "laborers", who have done nothing (Ro. 45), yet receive much more than those who toil under law. This is because we do not depend on our own efforts whatever, but upon the favor of the great Householder. We were lower than the last in the parable, and have become higher than the first. Such is the nature of grace. May we never seek to make a bargain with God! Let us work without a contract or any assurances, but rest wholly on the innate graciousness which He delights to display when His creatures give Him occasion.

Even in the kingdom, it is not the amount of work which determines the reward, but the amount of faith which is blended with it (Heb. 42). Since those who worked the full day are displeased with His goodness, and have a wicked eye, and are last, we may well believe that they will have no part in the kingdom. They are not of faith but of law works. They stumble on the stumbling stone (Ro.932,33):

Lo! I am placing in Zion a stumblingstone and a snare rock, And one believing on Him will not be disgraced.

- 8 See Lev. 1913.
- 16 See 1930.
- 17-19 Compare Mk.1032-34Lu.1831-34.
- 17 Though the Lord is blinding the eyes of the people by parables, He is seeking to open the understanding of His disciples and to engage their hearts with His great sacrifice. It seems strange that they, who had been accustomed to the thought of blood propitiation all their lives, could not entertain His teaching concerning the great Antitype of all their offerings. He did not perplex them with parables, but spoke to them plainly and persistently, and still they do not seem to have grasped His meaning until all He foretold had occurred, and He was roused from among the dead.
- 20-28 Compare Mk. 1035-45.
- 20 See 421.

his manager, 'Call the workers and pay them the wages, beginning from the last, to the first.'

And those coming about the eleventh hour got a denarius
 apiece. And those coming first infer that they will be getting more.
 And they also got a denarius

apiece. Now, getting it, they mur mured against the householder, saying, 'These last do one hour, and you make them equal to us who bear the burden of the day and the
 acceptaint wind 'Not an approximation.

13 scorching wind.' Yet, answering one of them, he said, 'Comrade, I am not injuring you. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?

Pick up what is yours and go away.
Now, should I be wanting to give
to this last one even as to you, is it not allowed me to do what I want with that which is mine? Or is your eye wicked, seeing that I am

16 good?' Thus the last shall be first and the first last.''

Now Jesus, being about to ascend into Jerusalem, took aside the twelve disciples privately, and

We are ascending into Jerusalem and the Son of Mankind will be betrayed to the chief priests and scribes, and they will be condemn-

be betraying Him to the nations, to deride and scourge and crucify, and the third day He will be roused."

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, worshiping and requesting some thing from Him. Now He said to

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20 James and John were the sons of Zebedee (Mk. 1035). Our Lord called them "sons of thunder" (Mk.317), to indicate their tempestuous and violent disposition. The gentleness and love of John's writings are not the reflection of his character, but of the restraint of the inspiring spirit. They certainly were the most ambitious and selfish of all the apostles. The request of their mother shows how little fellowship they had with His downward path to the shame and humiliation of the cross. They could not comprehend that this was the only path to glory. Only those who drink His cup can share His honors. So He grants them the boon of a sip of His sorrow. James was the first to follow his Lord. Herod put him to the sword (Ac. 121). But John remained alive for many years.

21-23 See 19282639-42Lu.1250Ac.122. 24 It is evident from the resentment of the rest that they also coveted the highest place, even if they could not follow Him to the lowest. So He gives them a sorely needed lesson on the true path to greatness. It consists in service, servility, and suffering, the very opposite of the course they were accustomed to associate with human honors. His own example was their cue. Only those who suffer are qualified to reign. The greatness of His glories finds its source in His service as a slave, and the sorrows of His soul, of which He spoke to them in vain.

25 See Lu.2224-27.

²⁶ See 23¹¹Mk.9³⁵1 Pt.5³.

27 See 184.

28 See Jn.1341151,52145 Phil25-7 Isa.5310-12.

29-31 Compare Mk.1046-48Lu.1835-39. See 927-31.

32-34 Compare Mk.1049-52Lu.1840-43.

²⁹ The restoration of two blind men was in itself a marvelous manifestation of His messiahship, but we must not miss the deeper current of thought which lies beneath. He was going out of Jericho, the city of the curse. Does this not speak of His resurrection, the exit from the curse of the cross? Two is the number of testimony. He sent the seventy-two in pairs. He was accompanied on His journey by His apostles, who were to testify concerning Him, but they were blind! They could not see the great central sight of all

her, "What are you wanting?" She is saying to Him, "Say that these, my two sons, should be sitting, one at the right and one at Thy left, in Thy kingdom."

Now Jesus, answering, said, "You are not aware what you are requesting. Are you able to be drinking the cup which I am about to be drinking?" They are saying to Him, "We are able." He is saying to them, "Of My cup, indeed, you shall be drinking. Yet to be seated at My right and at the left is not Mine to give, but is for whom it has been made ready by My Father."

And when the ten hear, they resent about the two brothers. Now Jesus, calling them to Him, said, "You are aware that the chiefs of the nations are lording it over them, and the great men are coercing them. Not thus is it among you. But who ever should be wanting to become great among you, let him be your servant. And who ever may be wanting to be foremost among you, let him be your slave, 28 even as the Son of Mankind came,

not to be served, but to sol. 2.

77.
29 And at their going out from
30 And lo! two blind men, sitting beside the road, hearing that Jesus is passing by, cry, saying, "Lord, be

merciful to us, Son of David!"

31 Yet the throng rebukes them, that
they should be silent. Yet they cry
the louder, saying, "Lord, be merciful to us, Son of David!"

And standing, Jesus summons them and said, "What are you wanting that I shall be doing to you?"

They are saying to Him, "Lord,

58001 MATTHEW'S ACCOUNT s € o. B omits IF-ĬŇĠŊŸMĬŊĠĄĂŎĊĠŊŊĠĠŊĦ® TOYOAGGING NAYTHTIGG A 20 21 THE YET He-said to-her but WHO IF-EVER MAY-BE-WILLING ANY YOU-ARE-B HΔC (s o.) CITICN THE YET said for she-IS-S. to-H. 8 C 0. B GREAT IN YOUP EICAEFEIAYT WEINEINAK# ENYMINMETACTENECHAIE# WILLING she-is-saying to-Him BE-SAVING THAT SH'D-YOUP GREAT TO-BE-BECOMING s1* € B Al for Φ **ARICOCINOYTOIOIAYOYI**® CTOYMONA IAKONOCKA IO CO BE-seating these THE TWO SONS 27 him-be of-youp thru-servitor AND WHO B for IN YOUP has OF-YOUP Waster TO-BES & O. ANOEAHENYMINE INAIMP @ 80 OIMOYEICEKAE ZI WNKAIE® OF-ME ONE OUT OF-RIGHT ONE EVER MAY-BE-WILLING IN YOUP TO-BE BEFORE-most 8 E ICE ZEYWNY MWNCOYENTHB 100 TOCECT@YM@NAOYAOC@C599 LET-him-BE OF-YOUP OUT OF-left OF-YOU IN THE KING-ACIACIACOYATION PIOCICO ΠΕΡΟΥΙΟCΤΟΥ ΆΝΘΡ ΦΠΟΥΟ 20 22 dom OF-THE human OF-YOU answering EVEN THE SON **ΔΕΟΙΗCOYCEΙΠΕΝΟΥΚΟΙΔ**⁴⁰ YKHA0ENATAKONHOHNATA* said TO-BE-THRU-SERVED YET THE JESUS NOT YE-HAVE-CAME ΑΛΆΔΙ ΆΚΟΝΗ ČΑΙΚΑΙΔΟΎΝ® ATETIAITEICHEAYNACHE PERCEIVED ANY YE-ARE-REQUESTING YE-ARE-ABLE TO-THRU-SERVE AND TO-GIVE 8 C 0. TIGINTOTOTHPIONOGE COM® **ΣΙΤΗΝΨΥΧΗΝ ΣΥΤΟΥΛΥΤΡΟ**® soul TO-BE-DRINKING THE DRINK-CUP OF-Him LOOSener WHICH I B 0. 80. EAADHINEINAEFOYCINAY 200 NANTITIONA WINK ALEKTIOPE 700 being-about to-be-drinking they-are-saying to-Him INSTEAD OF-MANY AND OF-OUT-GOING в+С ΤΦΔΥΝΑΜΕΘΑΛΕΓΕΙΑΥΤΟΙ» YOMENWNAYTWNAHOLEPIX²⁰ 23 or-them FROM JERICHO WE-ARE-ABLE He-is-saying to-them s1 omits to-Him CTOME NITOTHPIONMOYNIE **MHKOYOABHCENYALMOXYO** follows to-Him THRONG THE INDEED DRINK-cup OF-ME YE'LL-BE-**CΠΟΛΥCΚΆΙΙΔΟΥΔΥΟΤΥΦΛ**® COETOJEKAOICAIEKAEZIO 30 AND BE-PERCEIVING TWO BLIND-ones DRINKING THE YET TO-be-seated OUT OF-RIGHT MANY вНов **WHONK YIEZEAMNAMMUNOA:** ΟΙΚΆΘΗΜΕΝΟΙΠΆΡΑΤΗΝΟΔ® OF-ME AND OUT OF-left sittING BESIDE THE NOT 81 * O. O. 8 € o. ONAKOYC ANTECOTIIHCOY 800 KECTINEMONDOYNAIAAAO 300 but HEARING that TO-GIVE to-JESUS ICHTOIMACTAIYNOTOYNA20 CHAPATEIEKPAZANAETON20 WHOM it-HAS-been-made-READY by THE FATHER IS-BESIDE-LEADING THEY-CRY SAVING 8º adds YET △€ s adds JESUS IY 82 omits AND s omits Master! TPOCHOYKAI AKOYCANTEC TECKYPIEE AEHCONHMACY " 94 OF-ME AND HEARing Master! BE-MERCIFUL-to пя 8 adds begin (8 A) HPŁANTO 8 I N o. o.
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testimony, the cross of Christ. Hence they could not follow Him in spirit, though they accompanied Him in flesh. When shall their blindness be removed? When He emerges from the curse. And so it was. Not till then did He open up their mind to understand the scriptures (Lu.2445).

1-9 Compare Mk.111-10Lu.1928-44.

The animals on which our Lord was supported on His presentation to Israel were representative of the ransomed. The firstlings had to be ransomed with a lamb (Ex.1313). Thus the whole scene was a typical picture of spiritual truth. The ransomed had been bound, but He has them loosed and brought to own His sovereignty. Only on this occasion does He exercise His prerogative as King and commandeer a mount for His royal entry. He will come some day on a white horse (Un.1911), in might and majesty, and enforce His claims with a gory sword. But not so now. Only the lowly beasts of burden bear Him. Only His own support Him. They offer Him the humble honors and lowly loyalty of their station. Their garments pave His path. Their leafy offerings carpet the royal roadway. Their acclamations proclaim Him King. But what a feeble few they are! The citizens of His capital do not even recognize their Sovereign! They ask "Who is this?" And the best answer they could get was "This is the prophet." They should have said "This is Christ, the King, the Son of God!"

This is the day which Daniel predicted. Sixty-nine heptads had passed by, and the scribes, at least, should have known that Prince Messiah would present Himself to the people on that day (Dan. 925). But they did not expect Him or prepare for Him, so He leaves them until sore affliction shall have taught the nation to say "Blessed is He Who is coming in the name of the Lord." This is the secret of Israel's. present plight. Through discipline they are being prepared for their Messiah. Their sorest trials are yet to come.

- 4-5 Compare Jn. 1212-19.
- 5 See Zech. 99.
- 8 See Lev. 2340.
- 9 Compare Ps. 11825,26.
- 10 Compare Mk. 1111.

- that our eyes may be opened!"
 Now Jesus, being compassionated, touches their eyes, and immediately they recover sight and follow Him.
- 21 And when they draw near to Jerusalem, and came into Bethphage, on the Mount of Olives, then Jesus dispatches two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will be finding an ass hitched and a colt with her. Loosing them, lead
- them to Me. And if any one should be saying anything to you, you shall be declaring that 'The Lord has need of them.' Now straightway he will be dispatching them.''
- ⁴ Now the whole of this has occurred that that may be fulfilled which is declared through the prophet, saying,
- 5 "Say to the daughter of Zion, Lo! your King is coming to you, Meek, and mounted on an ass, And on a colt, the foal of a donkey."
- Now the disciples, going and doing according as Jesus arranges
 with them, led the ass and the colt, and place garments on them, and He sits upon them.
- Now the most of the throng strew their own garments in the road, yet others chopped boughs from the trees and strewed them in the road. Now the throngs which are preceding Him and which are following cried, saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He Who is coming in the name of the Lord! Hosanna among the highest!"
- And at His entering into Jerusalem, the entire city is aquake, ¹¹ saying, "Who is this?" Yet the

throngs said, "This is the prophet

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OYCATICE CTINOYTOCOLA δ 0 this THE YET EOXAOIEAE TONOYTOCE CT 60000 this 18 ¹²⁻¹⁷ Compare Mk.11¹⁵⁻¹⁹Lu.19⁴⁵⁻⁴⁸. See Jn.2¹³⁻¹⁷.

12 His first act as King was to cleanse the temple of idolatry, for covetousness is nothing less (Col.35). The temple tax, or double drachma (1724) had to be paid by even the poorest of the people. Collectors were in each city and in the sanctuary. They began a few weeks before the Passover. The brokers made change at a profit to themselves. They were in the court of the nations, or gentiles, which was added by Herod outside the sanctuary proper. In this, proselytes of other nations might approach with gifts and worship and prayer. It was never intended for a merchant's store (Jn. 216), or a broker's bank. It was a place for God to give, not for man to rob.

The two cleansings of the sanctuary are typical of the two appearances of Christ. The first (Jn. 2¹³-2²), was priestly in its nature, and is connected with His death and resurrection (Jn. 2¹⁹). It is found only in John's account. The second follows His presen-

tation as Messiah.

The sullen, yet silent submission of these robbers is mute evidence of the moral majesty and might with which He did this deed. Violent passion on His part would have been met by physical force, and caused His undoing. It was the righteous wrath of the Shekinah glory overaweing these idolaters which made them flee from the sublime Presence.

13 See Isa.567Jer.711.

14 Having cleansed the sacred precincts, He puts them to their proper use by restoring blind eyes and healing lame legs, so that they can behold the holiness of God and walk in His ways.

15 The chief priests and scribes, however, are not healed. They are too blind to see Him and too lame to keep from stumbling. The little children put them to shame.

16 Compare Psa. 82, Septuagint. See Jn. 1217-19.

18-19 Compare Mk. 1112-14.

19 The fig, the olive, and the vine present varied views of the kingdom. Perhaps we should include the bramble also, as Jotham did in his parable (Jud. 98-15). The bramble is that false flare of authority exercised by great Babylon, which has a kingdom over the kings of the earth (Un. 1718). The

Jesus, from Nazareth, of Galilee."
And Jesus entered into the sanc-

tuary and cast out all who are selling and buying in the sanctuary, and He overturns the tables of the brokers, and the seats of those sell-

13 ing doves. And He is saying to them, "It is written, "My house shall be called a house of prayer," yet you are making it a cave of robbers."

And the blind and lame came to Him in the sanctuary, and He cures them.

Now the chief priests and the scribes, perceiving the marvels which He does, and the boys crying in the sanctuary and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!",

16 resent it, and say to Him, "Are you hearing what these are saying?" Yet Jesus is saying to them, "Yes. Did you never read that

'Out of the mouths of minors and sucklings,

Thou dost attune praise'?"

¹⁷ And, leaving them, He came outside the city into Bethany, and camped out there.

Now in the morning, leading them back into the city, He hun-

gers. And, perceiving one fig tree on the road, He came to it and found nothing on it except leaves only. And He is saying to it, "No longer, by any means, may fruit come of you for the eon." And instantly the fig tree is withered.

And perceiving it, the disciples marvel, saying, "How instantly

the fig tree is withered!"

Now answering, Jesus said to them, "Verily, I am saying to you, If you should be having faith and not be doubting, not only will you be doing this to the fig tree, but should you be saying to this moun-

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vine speaks of that which cheers the heart of God and man. Then will be joy. The olive speaks of light. The fig brings before us its goodness and sweetness. It is national in its scope, and is in contrast with Rome, represented by the wild fig tree (Lu. 17°).

Israel's doom is sealed. It is like a fig tree with leaves but no fruit. The fig tree forms some of its fruit before its leaves, unless it is barren. This fig tree had evidently anticipated the season, and put forth its leaves very early. So were Israel's national pretensions. The Lord's first coming was premature. They made a beautiful show of national righteousness, but there was no genuine reality to their claims. The doom of the fig tree is the doom of the nation. It was withered. But today its branch is tender and it is trying to put forth leaves. In the kingdom it will bear an abundance of luscious fruit.

20-21 Compare Mk. 1120-26.

21 See 1720Lu.176Ja.161 Co.132.

²¹ Faith is not confidence in the fulfillment of our prayers, but of God's word. He had promised that the mountain of gentile supremacy should be removed from the midst of Israel. Had they believed *Him*, it should have occurred. Faith can move no mountains that God has not promised to move. It is His pleasure to accomplish far greater feats in fellowship with the faith of His saints.

22 See 77Ja.5161 Jn.322514.

23-27 Compare Mk.1127-38Lu.201-8.

23 The chief priests and elders imagined that they were the supreme spiritual authority in Israel. They should have been. When they challenged Him to present His credentials, He exposes theirs by asking a simple question. Had their authority been from above they would have believed John the baptist. That it was from beneath is clear from their fawning at the feet of the populace. The high priest should have been the eldest of the line of Aaron, tracing his priestly prerogatives back to the law. Instead he was appointed by political parties and Roman procurators.

26 See 145Mk.620.

28 This parable was for the priests and elders. They made the greatest protestation of obeying the will of God, but did not do it. The sinners who made no tain also, 'Be picked up and cast into the sea!' it will occur. And all things, whatever you should be requesting in prayer, believing, you will be getting.''

And at His coming into the sanctuary, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him, while teaching, saying, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gives you this authority?"

Now, answering, Jesus said to them, "I also shall be asking you one word, which should you be telling Me, I also shall be declaring to you by what authority I am doing

25 these things. The baptism of John
—whence was it? Of heaven or of
men?"

Now they reasoned with themselves, saying, "Should we be saying, 'Of heaven', He will be declaring to us, 'Wherefore, then, do you ²⁶ not believe him?' Yet if we should be saying, 'Of men', we are fearing the throng, for all are having ²⁷ John as a prophet." And, answering Jesus, they said "We are not aware."

He also averred to them, "Neither am I telling you by what authority I am doing these things.

Now what are you supposing? A man had two children. And coming to the first he said 'Child, go today, work in My vineyard.' Yet answering, he said 'I do not want to.' Yet subsequently, regretting it, to he went forth. Now, coming to the second, he said similarly. Now answering, he said, 'I, Lord!' and he went not forth. Which of the two does the father's will?'' They are saying, "The first." Jesus is saying to them, "Verily, I am saying to you that the tribute collectors and the prostitutes are preceding you are into the kingdom of God. For

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profession, whom they despised, actually obeyed God's precept. By His parable He makes the leaders pronounce their own condemnation.

- 31 See Lu. 729,30.
- 32 See 31Lu.312.

32 The Lord now proceeds to show them His authority and to expose their abuse of the privileges entrusted to They were mere tenants of God's vineyard; He was the Owner's Son. Their predecessors had claimed such authority as they were arrogating to themselves. That is why the prophets were persecuted. These men and almost all of the rulers in Israel, whether kings or priests, chiefs or scribes, sought to use the nation for their own profit and not for the glory of God. Had they been faithful, no prophets would have been sent to them. They would have delivered to the Owner of the vineyard the joy and cheer which were His by right. they did not do this, because the priesthood was apostate and the rulers rebellious, He raised up men of God to remind them of their obligations to Himself. Israel boasted in Elijah and all the prophets, which were the badge of their shame. Moreover, their treatment of the prophets confirmed their apostate condition, for none of them escaped persecution at their hands.

But by far the most memorable part of the parable is the prediction of the rejection of His authority and His subsequent murder at their hands. That it was possible for them to proceed in their program of putting Him to death after He had given them this preview of their appalling crime proves the utter depravity of the priesthood, the hopeless immorality of religion when its light has become darkness, and its life turned to death.

⁸³⁻⁴¹ Compare Mk.12¹⁻⁹ Lu.20⁹⁻¹⁶. See Ps.80⁸⁻¹⁶S.S.8¹¹, ¹²Isa.5¹⁻⁷.

- 35 See 51223372 Chr.2418-213615-17Neh.926 Ac.7521 Th.215.
- 39 See 2650Ac.223.
- 41 See Lu. 2124.
- 41 As before, they pronounce their own doom. In the kingdom their rule will be replaced by the sway of the twelve apostles under the Priest-King Whose authority they had dared to question. Then the Lord will enjoy the fruit of His vineyard.

John came to you on the road of righteousness, and you do not believe him; yet the tribute collectors and the prostitutes believe him. Yet you, perceiving it, did not even regret it subsequently, to believe him.

Who was a householder plants a vineyard, and places a stone dike about it, and excavates a trough in it, and builds a tower, and leased

³⁴ it to farmers, and travels. Now when the fruit season draws near, he dispatches his slaves to the far-

35 mers to be getting his fruit. And the farmers, taking his slaves, indeed, lash one, yet kill one, yet pelt

³⁶ one with stones. Again he dispatches other slaves, more than the first. And they do similarly to them.

Yet subsequently he dispatches his son to them, saying, 'They will be respecting my son.' Yet the farmers, perceiving the son, said among themselves, 'This is the enjoyer of the allotment. Hither! We may be killing him and have

³⁹ And getting him, they cast him out of the vineyard and kill him.

the enjoyment of his allotment.'

40 Whenever, then, the lord of the vineyard should be coming, what will he be doing to those farmers?"

- They are saying to Him, "Evil men! Evilly will he be destroying them, and will be leasing the vine-yard to other farmers who will be rendering the fruits to him in their seasons."
- Jesus is saying to them, "Did

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42-46 Compare Mk.1210-12Lu.2017-19. See Ps.11822,23Ac.4111 Pt.26.

42 Not long after this these same chief priests and those with them question Peter's authority. He confirms the word here spoken by our Lord. "If we today are being examined concerning the infirm man's benefaction, by what he has been saved, let it be known to you all and to the entire people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ, the Nazarene. Whom you crucify. Whom God rouses from among the dead, by this One, this man stands before you sound. This is the Stone which is being scorned by you builders, which is becoming the Head of the corner" (Ac.49-11). Yet even this double witness fails to move their hard hearts to repentance.

44 See Isa.814,15 Ro.933 1 Pt.28 Dan.234,35,44,45.

⁴⁵ So long as the chief priests did not fear God the mob did not fear them and had small respect for their authority. Who fears not God fears man. The priests were in an impossible position. Between Pilate and the populace their vaunted authority practically vanished. All they could do was to appeal to Pilate and persuade the people.

1-9 Compare Lu. 1415-24.

This parable should never be used to illustrate the evangel of today. In the first place, none of the nations are called to the wedding in this economy. It will take place in the kingdom, to which we are not invited. Neither is any one invited in the evangel today and subsequently rejected because of unworthiness. That is true of Israel as a nation, to whom our Lord is speaking. The parable refers to the various proclamations of the kingdom. The first was made by the apostles while He was still with them. It had been rejected when our Lord was speaking. The second was made in the Pentecostal era, after all preparations had been made by the sacrifice of Christ. That, too, is rejected, and calls for the destruction of Jerusalem. The last proclamation is still future, when the Lord will deal in judgment and compel them to come in. The apparel at such weddings was provided by the host. God will provide His people with a righteousness in that day. No one can remain, in his own righteousness. you never read in the scriptures,

'The stone which the builders reject,

This came to be for the head of the corner:

This came to be from the Lord, And it is marvelous in our eyes?

43 Therefore I am saying to you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and will be given to a nation producing its fruits.

44 And he who is falling on this stone shall be shattered, yet on whomever it should be falling, it will be scattering him like chaff."

⁴⁵ And the chief priests and the Pharisees, hearing His parables, know that He is saying this con-

46 cerning them. And, seeking to hold Him, they were afraid of the throngs, since they had Him for a prophet.

22 And answering, Jesus said to them again in parables, saying,

2 "The king dom of the heavens was likened to a man, a king, who makes wedding festivities for his son.

3 And he dispatches his slaves to call those invited to the wedding festivities, and they did not want to

d come. Again he dispatches other slaves, saying, 'Say to those invited, ''Lo! my luncheon have I made ready, my bulls and grain-fed animals have been sacrificed, and all is ready. Hither, for the wedding

⁵ festivities!" Yet, caring not, they came away, one, indeed, to his own field, yet one to his merchandise.

Vet the rest, taking hold of his
 slaves, outrage and kill them. Now the king is angered, and, sending his troops, destroys those murder-

ers and sets their city in flames.

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It must be noted that this is quite a distinct figure from that of the bride. Those who accept the invitation here are the guests. The bride does not appear in the picture and should be left entirely out of view in the interpretation. The same saints who are elsewhere seen under the figure of the bride are here seen under the figure of guests, because the truth here is judgment rather than love, and could not be developed in the closer relationship. The main point is that those invited, or called, are not necessarily chosen. In the proclamation of the kingdom in our Lord's day and in the Pentecostal era many were invited, but few chosen. Some, in that day, came at first, and were later rejected because they fell away. The last invitation by no means goes out to the gentiles. It goes out in the same city. The parable of the virgins (251) takes up the relation of the other nations to Israel in the kingdom.

14 See 2016.

15-22 Compare Mk.1213-17Lu.2020-26.

15 Fulsome flattery has proven the undoing of many men, and seldom fails to throw them off their guard. The man of God should beware of it, for it is far more dangerous than calumny. But it did not deceive our Lord. Was He true? Was He unafraid to teach the way of God in truth? Was He unmoved by men? Were their wiles transparent to His gaze? If this was so, and it was, they did not believe it. But He soon demonstrated that their flattery was plain fact. He saw through their trap, and not only answered their question but convicted them of one of the crimes which they hoped to fasten on Him.

He has shown them how little authority they have. They know their helplessness. They must get Him into conflict with the people or with the government. Then they might manage His destruction. They formulate a leading question. If He says "Yes", the Pharisees will inform the people and His popularity will be forfeited. If He says "No", the Herodians will accuse Him to the government and He will be tried for sedition. So He avoids the catch in their question. So long as they accepted the Roman currency they were obliged to acknowledge Rome's ascendency and pay taxes.

Then he is saying to his slaves, 'The wedding, indeed, is ready, yet they who have been invited were not worthy. Be going, then, to the exits of the roads and as many as ever you may be finding call to the wedding festivities.' And, coming out into the roads, those slaves assembled all whom they found, wicked as well as good, and the wedding is filled with those ly-

ing back at table.

11 Now the king, coming in to gaze at those lying back at table, perceived a man there who has not put on wedding apparel. And he is saying to him, 'Comrade, how came you in here having no wedding apparel?' Yet he was still.

13 Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind his feet and hands and cast him out into outer darkness.' There shall be lamentation and gnashing

of teeth. For many are called, yet few are chosen."

Then the Pharisees, being gone, held a consultation, so that they should be trapping Him by word.

16 And they are dispatching to Him their disciples, with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we are aware that you are true, and are teaching the way of God in truth, and you are not caring about any one, for you are not 17 looking at the face of men. Tell

17 looking at the face of men. Tell us, then, what you are supposing, is it allowed to give poll tax to Cæsar, or not?"

Now Jesus, knowing their wick-edness, said, "Why are you trying

19 Me, hypocrites? Exhibit to Me the poll tax currency." Now they

²⁰ bring Him a denarius [15.7¢, 7d 3f]. And He is saying to them,

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The use of Roman currency denoted their subjection to Rome. So long as they were subject they should pay. The use of temple currency showed their subjection to God. To Him, also, they should give His due.

23-33 Compare Mk.1218-27Lu.2027-40. See Ac.238.

23 The Pharisees and Herodians having been silenced, the Sadducees tried their best argument on Him. Like many another theological deduction, it was based on two errors, ignorance of the scriptures and of the power of God. Yet they sought to find a foundation for it in the law. The principle of error which seemed to give weight to their reasoning is still very widespread. It is the lack of proper appor-What Moses said tionment of truth. for their guidance in this life is transported into the life to come. Moses did not legislate for the resurrection, especially not in regard to matters which do not reappear in the life that is to be.

Let us by all means avoid their methods. Even if we think we can involve some passages of scripture in doubt and ridicule by a course of reasoning or questioning, it proves nothing except our lack of discernment and our ability to confuse things which are clear when left in their own place.

Moses made provision that a man's name should not be blotted out of Israel by death (Deut. 255-6). What possible place can this have in the resurrection, where there is no death? Why provide for a contingency which cannot occur? Furthermore, what ground is there for the idea that the marriage state is resumed in resurrection? Nevertheless, a powerful sect in Israel was built on such flimsy bases!

32 Our Lord is proving the necessity of resurrection. Abraham and Isaac and Jacob are dead. God is the God of the dead, if they will not be raised. But He is not the God of the dead. The dead praise not the Lord (Ps. 11517). They know not anything (Ecc. 95). In death there is no remembrance of Him (Ps. 65). Apart from resurrection His saints are lost, our faith is vain, we are still in our sins (1 Co. 1516-19). The dead have no God. He is the God of the living. There must be a resurrection—which was to be proved (Ex.38).

"Whose is this image and inscription?"

21 They are saying, "Cæsar's".

Then He is saying to them, "Be paying, then, what is Cæsar's to Cæsar, and what is God's to God."

²² And hearing it, they marvel, and leaving Him, they come away.

In that day there came to Him Sadducees, who are saying there is no resurrection, and they inquire ²⁴ of Him, saying, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If someone should be dying having no children, his brother shall be marrying his wife and shall be raising up seed for his ²⁵ brother.' Now there were seven brothers with us, and the first, marrying, deceases. And having no seed, he leaves his wife to his ²⁶ brother. Likewise the second also, 27 and the third, till the seven. Now subsequently to all, the woman died. In the resurrection, then, of which of the seven will she be the wife? For they all have had

Now answering, Jesus said to them, "You are deceived, not being acquainted with the scriptures, neither the power of God. For in the resurrection they are neither marrying nor giving in marriage, but are as messengers of God in

her."

heaven. Now concerning the resurrection of the dead, did you not read that which is declared to you by God, saying, 'I am the God of

³² by God, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead, but of the liv-

³³ ing." And the throngs, hearing it, were astonished at His teaching.

Now the Pharisees, hearing that
 He stills the Sadducees, assem bled at the same place. And one

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34 From their subsequent course (Ac. 238), it is evident that the Sadducees were not convinced. Their difficulty was deeper. It was in the heart. Though they could not answer, they could refuse to believe.

35 The Pharisees had failed in fixing a political crime on Him. Now they try to involve Him in a theological heresy, which, to the Jews, was even worse. That He claimed to be the Messiah was bad, but not so blasphemous as calling Himself the Son of God. The expounder of the law hoped to get Him to convict Himself by quoting the first of the ten commandments, especially, "You shall have no other gods above My face" (Ex.203). Or, at least the great rubric, "Hear, O Israel: Jehovah, our God, is one Jehovah!" (Deut.64). He does not ask for the second greatest. The Lord significantly omits this and gives him the following precept: "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might" (Deut. 65). They were prepared to do this in their own way by hating and killing Him. But He forestalls their deduction by quoting another passage which utterly frustrated their argument.

37-40 Compare Mk.1229-34Deut.65.

39 See Lev. 1918.

41-46 Compare Mk.1235-37Lu.2039-44,

42 He now confutes the fanatical element in their monotheism by showing them that they did not even know Whose Son Christ is! Had they known, they would not have accused Him of blasphemy when He claimed to be the Son of God. David, whose son the Messiah was to be, knew better than they, for he called Him his Adon, or Lord. If Christ was merely David's son, he assuredly would not call Him by such a title. Who could there be who was so far above David, yet seated at Jehovah's right hand? They had no room for Him in their theology. But He was in their scriptures. The Pharisees. also, are muzzled. They did not even know that the God of their scriptures was not the invisible Deity, but His Image (Col.1¹⁵), not the One Whose voice is inaudible to human ears, but Word (Jn.11), or Expression. Their Messiah was the Elohim Whom they feared, the Jehovah Whom they reverenced, the Adonai Whom they claimed to serve. 44 Compare Ps. 1101.

lawyer from among them, trying Him, inquires, "Teacher, which is the great precept in the law?"

Now He averred to him, "You shall be loving the Lord your God with your whole heart, and with your whole soul, and with your

38 whole comprehension.' This is the 39 great and foremost precept. Yet the second is like it: 'You shall be loving your associate as yourself.'

40 On these two precepts is hanging the whole law and the prophets."

Now, the Pharisees having assembled, Jesus inquires of them,

42 saying, "What are you supposing concerning Christ? Whose Son is He?"

They are saying to Him, "David's."

43 He is saying to them, "How then is David, in spirit, calling Him Lord, saying,

44 "The Lord said to My Lord, "Be sitting at My right, Till I should be placing Thy enemies underneath Thy feet" '?

⁴⁵ If, then, David is calling Him Lord, how is He his Son?"

46 And no one was able to answer Him a word, neither dares any one, from that day, inquire of Him any longer.

23 Then Jesus speaks to the throngs and to His disciples, saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees are seated

on Moses' seat. All, then, whatever they may be saying to you, do, and be keeping it. Yet be not doing in accord with their acts, for they are saying and not doing.

Now they are binding loads, heavy and hard to bear, and are placing them on men's shoulders, yet they are not willing to stir them with their finger. Now they are doing

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1 Though the Sadducees were probably included in the term scribes, the Pharisees are especially singled out for this final denunciation. For a hundred and fifty years they had enjoyed the highest respect of the populace because of their zeal and rigid observance of the law of Moses. The Sadducees were comparatively few and lacking in influence. It is highly significant that our Lord seldom spoke harshly of the common people. He did not blame the sheep, but the shepherds.

In so far as the Pharisees followed the teaching of Moses our Lord did not censure them, but rather because they did not burden themselves with the observance of the law, but shifted it to the shoulders of others. Their whole religion consisted in self-adulation. It is highly important that we should recognize the fact that our Lord's woes were not directed against the vice and immorality and crime in the lower levels of the social scale. He did not denounce the corruption in politics, and the oppression and rapacity of rulers. The worst offenders, in His anointed eyes, were the acknowledged religious leaders, those who made the strongest protestations of serving God. It is ever thus. The most heinous criminals are not those who make no pretense of serving Him, but those who make a great profession.

- See Neh84-8Mal.27.
- See Lu. 1146.
- Bad as the doctrine of the Pharisees was, their deportment was worse. The Lord now turns from their precepts to warn against their practises.
- 5-14 Compare Mk.1238-40Lu.2045-47.
- See Deut.66-82212Nu.1537-41.
- See Lu. 1143.
- 11 See 2025-28.
- 11 The constant aim of the Pharisees was to receive from men the recognition to which they considered themselves entitled.
- 13 See Lu. 1152.
- 13 Our Lord commenced His ministry with a nine-fold benediction on the poor, the mourners, the meek, those who are hungering and thirsting for righteousness, the merciful, the cleanhearted, the peacemakers, those who are persecuted on account of righteousness, and those reproached falsely on His account (58-11), Where is there the slightest feature of the Pharisees

all their works to be gazed at by men, for they are broadening their amulets and magnifying the tas-

sels. Now they are fond of the first reclining place at dinners, and the front seats in the synagogues, and salutations in the markets, and

to be called by men 'Rabbi'.

Now you may not be called 'Rabbi,' for One is your Teacher, yet you all are brethren. And you should be calling no one your father on earth, for One is your ¹⁰ Father, the heavenly. Neither may you be called preceptors, seeing preceptor. is your that One Christ.

Now he who is greater among 12 you shall be your servant. Yet any one who shall be exalting himself shall be humbled, and any one who shall be humbling himself shall be

13 Now woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! seeing that you are locking the kingdom of the 14 heavens in front of men! For you

are not entering, neither are you letting those entering to be enter-

ing.

- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! seeing that you are going about sea and dry land to make one proselyte, and whenever he should be becoming one, you are making him more than double a son of Gehenna than you are.
- 16 Woe to you, blind guides! who are saying, 'Whoever should be swearing by the temple, it is nothing; yet who ever should be swearing by the gold of the temple is 17 owing.' Stupid and blind! for which is greater, the gold, or the temple which hallows the gold?
- 18 And, 'Who ever should be swearing by the altar, it is nothing; yet whoever should be swearing by the ob-

67 ⁰⁰¹		MATTHEW '	S ACCOUNT	CHAPTER 23
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in these beatitudes? They were as unlike all this as they could be. Hence He closes His ministry with seven maledictions on the hypocrites who hinder others from entering the kingdom, who proselyte for their own party, who elevate that which is hallowed above that which hallows, who distort the proportions of God's precepts, who cleanse the outside but leave the inside full of filth, who outwardly appear just, but are lawless within, who feign themselves more righteous than their progenitors, yet excel them in iniquity.

13 The kingdom of the heavens was locked at that time, not to be opened until Peter uses the keys entrusted to him, on the day of Pentecost. Then once more the Pharisees and scribes lock the kingdom by refusing the testimony of the apostles. It is locked now. It will not be opened until Christ

comes again in glory.

16 The Pharisees had practically annulled the scriptures by false interpretations and especially by human additions. Their commentaries were full of distinctions which destroyed the spiritual force of the law. Externals alone were important. The glitter of the gold on the temple blinded their eyes to the preciousness of the place hallowed by the presence of God. The offering on the altar was, to them, much more sacred than the altar that hallowed it. All the vital values created by contact with God had no appeal to their blind hearts.

19 See Ex. 2937.

21 See 1 Ki.813Ps.268.

²² See 5³⁴Ps.114.

28-24 Compare Lu. 1142.

23 It is probable that these were grown in small quantities for home use and so hardly of as much value as the work involved in tithing them, yet it is well to be punctilious in what pertains to God. But to do this and evade the great moral obligations of the law came near the limits of hypocrisy.

25-26 Compare Lu. 1139-41.

27-28 Compare Lu. 1144. See Ac. 233.

27 It is difficult to imagine a more scathing comparison than the clean, whitewashed tombs and the corrupting corpses within. Yet such is all religion that is outward and ostentatious, that knows nothing of humility of heart and self-abasement.

19 lation upon it, is owing.' Stupid and blind! for which is greater, the oblation, or the altar which is hal-

20 lowing the oblation? He, then, who swears by the altar is swearing by

²¹ it and by all which is upon it. And he who swears by the temple is swearing by it and by Him Who

²² dwells in it. And he who swears by heaven is swearing by the throne of God and by Him Who is

sitting upon it.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! seeing that you are taking tithes of mint and dill and cumin, and leave the weightier matters of the law, judgment and mercy and faith. Now these you must do; and not leave those.

²⁴ Blind guides! straining out a gnat,

yet swallowing a camel!

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! seeing that you are cleansing the outside of the cup and the plate, yet inside they are brimming with rapacity and incon-

²⁶ tinence. Blind Pharisee! Cleanse first the inside of the cup and the plate, that their outside also may

be becoming clean!

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! seeing that you are resembling whitewashed sepulchers, which outside, indeed, are appearing beautiful, yet inside, they are crammed with the bones of

28 the dead and all uncleanness. Thus you, too, outwardly, indeed, are appearing to men to be just, yet inwardly you are distended with hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! seeing that you

68⁰⁰¹ MATTHEW'S ACCOUNT CHAPTER 23 ΔΦΡωτωεπαΝωα**Υ**ΤΟΥΟΦΕ Ι 20 COYAIYMINTPAMMATEICK20 to-youp writers oblation to-THE ON-UP OF-it IS-OWING 25 WOE AND NOT COLUMN WINTERS AND SEC.

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29-33 Compare Lu. 1147-51.

31 See Ac.7511 Th.215,16.

32 Instead of refraining from the evil deeds of their fathers and thus reducing the measure of the nation's guilt, these religious Pharisees were about to go to the very limits of iniquity in the murder of Messiah. All evil is measured by God. When it attains dimensions beyond which it no longer contributes to His purpose, it is restrained.

84 See Ac.540758,592 Co.1124,25.

 84 The record in Acts fulfills this promise. James was killed by the sword (Ac. 12^2). Peter was probably crucified (Jn. 21^{18}).

85 See Gen. 48.

³⁵ Judgment will be based on light and privilege. He who commits a crime which he has deliberately condemned is far more guilty than one who has little knowledge of its moral measure. These men who condemned and crucified Christ were not only killing Him but all who came before Him, for they make it abundantly evident that nothing would have restrained them from the actual act except their absence.

35 There was a Zechariah slain in the court of the house of the Lord in the days of King Joash (2 Chr. 2420-22). But he was the son of Jehoiada, while we are expressly told by our Lord that He has reference to another Zechariah. whose father was named Berechiah. He was one of the minor prophets (Zech. 11), and must have been murdered hundreds of years after the days of Joash. The Pharisees did not actually have a hand in His murder, nor, indeed, did they drive the nails that fastened Him to the cross, but they had the spirit of Cain and all who truly served God were their legitimate prey. The horrors which came upon that generation, up to the destruction of Jerusalem, have hardly had their parallel in the annals of history.

37-39 Compare Lu.1334,35.

37 This affecting farewell closes His mission to the holy city. If they will not have Him, He must leave them exposed to the powers of darkness. With Him the Presence leaves the temple tenantless. Its empty grandeur continues for forty years and is then laid level with the dust.

are building the sepulchers of the prophets and adorning the tombs of the just, and you are saying, 'If we were in the days of our fathers, we would not be participants with them in the blood of the prophets.'

31 So that you are testifying to yourselves that you are the sons of those

32 who murder the prophets. And you fill the measure of your fathers.

33 Serpents! Progeny of vipers! How may you be fleeing from the judgment of Gehenna? Therefore, lo! I am dispatching to you prophets and wise men and scribes. Of them, some you will be killing and crucifying, and of them, some you will be scourging in your synagogues and persecuting from city 35 to city, so that on you should be coming all the just blood shed on the earth, from the blood of just Abel to the blood of Zacharias, son of Barachias, whom you murder between the temple and the altar.

³⁶ Verily, I am saying to you, All these things will be arriving on this

generation.

Jerusalem! Jerusalem! killing the prophets and pelting with stones those who have been dispatched to her!—How many times I want to be assembling your children in the manner a hen is assembling her brood under her wings,

38 and you will not! Lo! your house

39 is left to you desolate, for I am saying to you, you may by no means be acquainted with Me henceforth, till you should be saying, 'Blessed is He Who is coming in the name of the Lord!'"

24 And, coming out, Jesus went from the sanctuary. And His disciples approached to exhibit to ΔΟΜΕ I ΤΕΤΟΥ CT ΑΦΟΥ CT UN 20 BUILDING THE sepulchers OF-THE

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The sanctuary was doomed, for it was no longer even a nominal shrine after He had left its courts. It was almost unbelievable that such buildings. with such enormous stones, so highly venerated, should fall so suddenly into utter ruin. Its destruction was averted for forty years by His prayer upon the cross, and the subsequent Pentecostal proclamation of the kingdom, much of which took place within its walls. At the siege of Jerusalem, not only were the fanatical Jewish factions within the city anxious to save it from destruction, but the Roman general Titus was very desirous of preserving it without damage. But the divine decree had gone forth. Nothing could save it from its doom. And so it was leveled with the ground and no stone remained upon another.

This prophetic outline of events to come before the kingdom can be realized entirely ignores the present secret administration of God's grace, so that we must overlook all that occurs during Israel's unbelief (Ro.11) and consider the future time of the end as following immediately after the close of Acts. It is only as we keep the future before us and the present out of sight, that we can view these scenes

aright.

4 Many false messiahs have come and will come, but the greatest of all will be the white horse rider who comes forth under the first seal (Un. 62).

- 5 See 24Jn.543Un.61,2.
- 6-7 See Un. 63-8.
- ⁶ The wars correspond with the second seal (Un. 6³,⁴), when a red horse comes forth and takes peace from the earth.
- ⁷ The famine is the same one that occurs under the third seal, when wheat and barley will be worth about eight times their normal value.
- 9-14 See 1017 23Jn,162,3Un.69-11.
- ⁹ The great affliction occurs under the fifth seal (Un. 6⁹). It begins at that great chronological crisis, the middle of the last seven years of Daniel's seventy heptads, when the covenant with the false christ will be broken and the daily offering stopped. Many will be martyred. It is their blood which calls down vengeance on the world and leads to the awful judgments on the nations and Babylon.

Him the buildings of the sanctuary.
Yet answering, He said to them,
"Are you not observing all these?
Verily, I am saying to you, Under
no circumstances may a stone here
be left on a stone, which shall not
be demolished."

Now at His sitting on the mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what is the sign of Thy presence and of the conclusion of the eon?"

And answering, Jesus said to them, "Beware that no one should be deceiving you. For many shall be coming on My name, saying, 'I am the Christ!' and shall be deceiving many. Yet you shall be about to be hearing battles, and tidings of battles. See that you are not alarmed, for it must be occurring, but not as yet is the consummation. For nation shall be roused nation, and kingdom against against kingdom, and there shall be famines and quakes in places. 8 Yet all these are the beginning of travails.

Then shall they be giving you up to affliction, and they shall be killing you, and you shall be hated by all of the nations because of My all on ame. And then many shall be snared, and they shall be betraying one another and hating one another. And many false prophets shall be roused, and shall be deceived.

ing many. And, because of the multiplication of lawlessness, the love
 of many shall be cooling. Yet he

13 of many shall be cooling. Yet he who endures to the consummation,

14 he shall be saved. And this evangel of the kingdom shall be proclaimed in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the consummation shall be arriving.

70001	MATTHEW'S	S ACCOUNT	CHAPTER 24
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15-18 Compare Mk.1314-16Lu.1731-83.

15 See Dan. 927.

15 The Septuagint of Daniel may be closely rendered as follows: "And he shall establish a covenant with many one heptad, and in the middle of the heptad My sacrifice and libation shall be suspended, and on the temple is the abomination of desolations, and till the conclusion of the era a conclusion shall be given to the desolation" (Dan. 927). It seems evident that, coincident with the breaking of the covenant, the image spoken of in the Unveiling (1314) will be placed in the holy place as a signal for the greatest anti-Semitic outbreak of all time. Then it is that the dragon is cast out of heaven and persecutes the woman, who flees into the wilderness to be there for the remainder of the seventieth heptad (Un. 12

Through the terrible afflictions the faithful of that day will be gathered in the mountainous wilderness southeast of Judea near the scene of their wanderings of old, when they came out of Egypt. There they will be miraculously preserved for the twelve hundred and sixty days until the coming of Christ.

19-22 Compare Mk. 1317-20.

²¹ See Dan. 12¹Joel 2²Un.7¹⁴.

23-28 Compare Mk.1321-23Lu.1723,24.

²³ Then will the false prophet give spirit to the image of the wild beast and cause it to speak, and cause as many as should not be worshiping the image to be killed, and all must have the emblem of the wild beast on their right hand or their forehead before they will be able to buy or sell (Un. 13¹⁵⁻¹⁷).

²⁴ See Jn.10²⁸⁻²⁹2 Th.2⁸⁻¹²2 Pt.2⁹Un.13.

26 The coming of Christ to the earth for Israel is not a secret, invisible event. That is the sign of the false prophets. His presence will be with the utmost publicity and swiftness. Like a lightning flash will His glory appear, so that no one will be unaware of its startling brightness, or fail to apprehend His presence. We can only enjoy His presence before this by being caught up to Him in the air the moment that He is present there.

28 See Lu.1737Job 3930.

Whenever, then, you may be perceiving the abomination of desolation, which is declared through Daniel, the prophet, standing in the holy place (let him who is reading apprehend), then let those in Ju-

dea be fleeing into the mountains.

17 Let not him who is on the housetop
be descending to pick up aught out

18 of his house. And let not him who is in the field turn back behind

to pick up his cloak.

Now woe to those who are pregnant and suckling in those days!

Now be praying that your flight may not be occurring in winter, nor yet on a sabbath, for then shall be great affliction, such as has not occurred from the beginning of the world till now, neither under any circumstances may be occurring.

²² And except those days were discounted, no flesh at all would be saved, yet because of those who are chosen, those days shall be dis-

counted.

Then, if any one should be saying to you, 'Lo! Here is Christ!' or 'Here!' you should not be be lieving it. For false christs and

false prophets shall be roused, and they shall be giving great signs and miracles, so as to deceive, if possi-

25 ble, even the chosen. Lo! I have

declared it to you before.

If, then, they should be saying to you, 'Lo! He is in the wilderness!' you may not be coming out, 'lo! in the closets!' you should not be be-27 lieving it. For even as the lightning is coming out of the east and is appearing as far as the west,

thus shall be the presence of the Son of Mankind. Wherever the corpse may be, there will the vul-

tures be gathered.

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METATHNOALYINTONHMEP 60 after THE CONSTRICTION OF THE DAYS

ONEKEIN ONOHAIOCKOT 180

COHCETAIKAIHCEAHNHOY 72000
DARKEDED AND THE MOON NOT

29-31 Compare Mk.1324-26Lu.2125-27.

29 See Un.612-17 Isa.1310 Joel 230,31 315 Amos 520.

29 Israel goes through the great affliction, and watches for the Son of Mankind. Who will stand on the mount of Olives, from which He ascended. We have a prior expectation (Eph. 112) and wait (not watch) for the Son of God out of the heavens (1 Th. 110), not to come down to earth, but to meet us in the air (1 Th. 417), according to a secret, not revealed during the ministry of our Lord or His twelve apostles, which tells of the change of our bodies to suit a celestial destiny (1 Co.15 52-54), when these bodies of humiliation will be transfigured to conform them to His glorious body (Phil. 321). In Israel, after His descent to earth, He sends His messengers to gather His saints about Him. Both events will take place with incredible speed. The lightning flash of judgment describes His advent to earth. The upward movement of the eyelid measures the time taken for our transfiguring and gathering together to Him in the air. · 30 See Dan713,14Zech,124-14Un,17.

31 Compare Mk.1327. See Isa.2713.

32-35 Compare Mk.1328-30Lu.2128-33.

32 We do not watch for signs, for, except the apostasy, which is already at full tide, none are given. We look for Him. Israel is given indications of His approach. Among His last acts was the withering of the fig tree, indicating the national decadence of the Jews. Among the first signs to be looked for is their national rejuvenescence. The Zionist movement, the exodus to Palestine, the Jewish university on the top of mount Scopus, the cooperating organizations of Jews in many countries, are the leaves which sprout from the tender stem of Jewish national aspirations. Summer is near for that nation. The Lord's return to earth cannot be long delayed. But, as He must come for us some time before His descent to the mount of Olives, His coming for the members of His body is far more imminent than His later descent to earth for His Bride, the redeemed of Israel. 34 His coming to Israel should have taken place in that generation.

35 See. Ps.10226,27Isa.516Un.2011. 36-39 Compare Mk.1332Lu.1726-30.

36 See Ac.171 Th.52.

darkened and the moon shall not be giving her beam, and the stars shall be falling from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Mankind shall be appearing in heaven, and then all the tribes of the land shall be grieving, and they shall be viewing the Son of Mankind coming on the clouds of heaven with power and much glory.

³¹ And He shall be dispatching His messengers with a loud sounding trumpet, and they shall be assembling His chosen ones from among the four winds, from the extremities of the heavens to their extrem-

ities.

Now be learning a parable from the fig tree. Whenever its bough should already be becoming tender, and the leaves sprouting out, you know that warm weather is near.

33 Thus you, also, whenever you may be perceiving all these things, you know that He is near-at the doors.

Verily, I am saying to you that this generation may by no means be passing by till all these things

35 should be occurring. Heaven and earth shall be passing by, yet My words may by no means be passing

36 by. Now concerning that day and hour no one is aware, neither the messengers of the heavens nor the Son; except the Father only.

For even as the days of Noah, thus shall be the presence of the 38 Son of Mankind. For as in those days before the deluge, they were masticating and drinking and marrying and giving in marriage until the day Noah entered into the ark,

39 and they know not till the deluge came and takes them all away,

ΔΦιέιτοφεγγος αυτής κα 20 OCKALYMETCOTANIAHTER20 WILL-BE-GIVING THE BEAM OF-her AND AND YE when-EVER YE-MAY-BE-PERв+С # OUT CK s these ALL IOIACTEPE CHECOYNTAIA ANTATAYTAT INDCKETEOT THE GLEAMERS WILL-BE-FALLING CEIVING ALL these YE-ARE-KNOWING that FROM **MOTOYOYPANOYKAIAIAYN®** IETTYCECTINETIBYPAIC® THE AND THE ABILITIES He-18 DOORS NEAR ON s omits that **AMHNAEL WANNOLIOAWHU®** AME ICTUNOYPANUNCA/EY® OF-THE heavens WILL-BE-BEING-34 AMEN I-AM-saying to-Youp that NOT NO MAYs omits EVER **OHCONTAIKAITOTEOANHC¹⁰⁰** APEABHHEENEAAYTHEWCA 600 30 SHAKEN then TILL AND WILL-BE-APPEAR-BE-BESIDE-COMING THE generation this 8 € o. s € 0. **ETĂÏTOCHMËIONTOYYIOY**²⁰ NUANTATALALE NHTA100% THE SIGN OF-THE SON these MAY-BE-BECOMING THE heav-ALL s1* omits THE heaven to WILL-BE-BESIDE-COMING ΤΟΥΆΝΘΡωποΥΕΝΟΥΡΆΝωκ 🕫 YPANOCKAIHFHTAPEAEYC® OF-THE human heaven THE LAND WILL-BE-BESIDE-COMING en s1* omit then 8 € o. s1* € o. € **ΑΙΤΌΤΕΚΟΨΟΝΤΑΙΠΑCΑΙΑ**® ETAIOIAE AOFOIMOYOYMH® WILL-BE-STRIKING (selves) ALL THE YET savings OF-ME NOT NO IAYAAITHCTHCKAIOYONT® ΠΑΡΕΛΘΦΟΙΝΠΕΡΙΔΕΤΗCH® tribes OF-THE LAND AND THEY-WILL-BE-36 MAY-BE-BESIDE-COMING ABOUT YET THE C o.BIN=JESUS deleted ΤΟΝΥΙΟΝΤΟΥ ΑΝΘΡ ΌΠΟΥ 200 MEPACEKEINHCK ALWPACO 700 VIEWING THE SON OF-THE human AND NOT EPXOMENONETITONNEGEA20 ΥΔΕΙ**COΙΔΕΝΟΥΔΕΟΙ**ΆΓΓΕ²⁰ HAS-PERCEIVED NOT-YET THE MESSENGERS THE CLOUDS ON YET-ONE 82 cancels NOT-YET THE SON but restored AOITONOYPANONOYAGOYI 40 **UNTOYOYPANOYMETADYNA** OF-THE heaven WITH OF-THE heavens NOT-YET THE SON ΜΕ ΦΟΚ ΔΙΔΟΣΗΟΠΟΛΛΗΟΚΔΦ OCE IMHORATHPMONOCOCTO® 31 AND esteem much 37 NO THE FATHER AND IF NO ΔE YET ONLY IATOCTEAEITOYCAFFEAO® EPPAPAIHMEPAITOYNOGO® He-WILL-BE-COMMISSIONING THE OF-THE NOAH thus MESSENGERS for THE DAYS s1* omits of-the bon **ϓΦ**CECΤΑΙΗΠΑΡΟΥCΙΑΤΟ⁸⁰⁰ YCAYTOYMETACAATIFFOC 300 or-Him WITH TRUMPET WILL-BE G THE BESIDE-BEING OF-THE s omits of-sound **OUNHOMETAAHCKAIETICY**20 ΥΥΙΟΥΤΟΥ ΆΝΘΡ ΦΠΟΥΦΟΓΑ 20 OF-SOUND GREAT AND THEY-WILL-BE-38 OF-THE human as for BON s1* o. o. o. s omits those NAŽÕŸČIŇTOYCEKAEKTOY® PHCANENTAICHMEPAICEK® ON-TOGETHER-LEADING THE chosen-ones THEY-WERE IN THE those DAVE CAYTOYEKTUNTECCAPUNA® **EINAICTAICHPOTOYKATA®** OUT OF-THE FOUR BEFORE THE DOWN-SURGE KAYCMOYTP@FONTECKAITI® NE MUNATIAK PUNCY PANUNE 80 FROM EXTREMITIES OF-heavens CHEWING DRINK-AND s omits the Bs1* omit AND WCTWNAKPWNAYTWNAMOA6 400 **EINONTECKAIFAMOYNTEC**® 22 MARRYING EXTREMITIES OF-them AND BCK for Z KAIFAMIZONTECAXPIHCH20 THCCYKHCM ABETETHNITAP 20 OF-THE FIG-tree BE-LEARNING THE BESIDE-MARRYIZING IINTII. WHICH DAY **ΑΒΟΛΗΝΟΤΑΝΗΔΗΟΚΛΆΔΟΟ** ⁽⁴⁾ MEPACEICHABENNWEEICT® INTO-CAME NOAH CAST when-EVER ALREADY THE bough INTO THE AYTHORE NHTALATI ANDOKA HNKIB @TONKAIOYKETN@C® 39

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33 ING that NEAR

³⁶ The probable time of the Lord's advent to Israel can only be known by the signs, but the exact time will never be known till it arrives. A day or an hour would have sufficed for many to enter the ark in Noah's day. But no date was given.

37 See Gen.63-571-10.

40-41 Compare Lu. 1734-36.

⁴¹ When His messengers gather His elect (³¹) not all will be taken along to stand before the Son of Mankind. Some will be left.

42 See 2513.

43 For them there is not the joyous anticipation of being ever with the Lord (1 Th.417), but a certain dread that, should they not be watching, instead of His coming as a Saviour, He may come as a thief. For us He does not come as a thief (1 Th. 54). Our conduct does not count in His coming for us. Whether we watch or are drowsy we shall live together with Him. The difference between the two events is pictured for us in Peter's recall of Dorcas from death (Ac. 936-41), and Paul's restoration of Eutychus to life (Ac. 209-10). Dorcas was deserving, but Eutychus (like many of His saints today) had nothing to commend him, but that he went to sleep while Paul preached. So it will be when we hear His shout. We may be drowsy or dead, yet grace demands that we live to-gether with Him. We will be dealt with on the ground of His death, not of our deserts.

43-51 Compare Lu.1239-46. See 2 Pt.310 Un.331615.

⁴⁵ The conduct of God's slaves is most vitally affected by their attitude toward the return of Christ. If it is an imminent expectation, their course will correspond. They will act as those who are about to give account. If it is far off, the restraining power of His expected presence will be wanting.

⁵⁰ We, also, must appear in front of the dais of Christ that each should be requited for that which he puts into practise through the body (2 Co. 5¹⁰), but, though fire will be testing the kind of work we have done, we shall all be saved (1 Co. 3¹⁵). In Israel righteousness rather than grace will reign, so that they are subject to condemnation.

thus shall be the presence of the ⁴⁰ Son of Mankind. Then two shall be in the field; one is being taken

⁴¹ along and one left: two grinding at the millstone; one is being taken

⁴² along and one left. Be watching, then, seeing that you are not aware what day your Lord is coming.

Now that you know, that if the householder had been aware what watch the thief is coming, he would watch, and would not leave his

44 house be tunneled into. Therefore you also become ready, seeing that in an hour which you are not supposing the Son of Mankind is coming.

coming.

Who, consequently, is the faithful and prudent slave whom the lord places over his household, to give them nurture in season?

⁴⁶ Happy is that slave whom his lord, coming, will be finding doing thus.

⁴⁷ Verily, I am saying to you that he will be placing him over all his possessions.

Now if that evil slave should be saying in his heart, 'My lord is

delaying,' and should be beginning to beat his fellow slaves, yet may be eating and drinking with the
 drunken, the lord of that slave will

be arriving on a day for which he is not hoping, and in an hour which

bit he knows not, and shall be cutting him asunder, and shall be appointing his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be lamentation and gnashing of teeth.

25 Then shall the kingdom of the heavens be likened to ten virgins, who, getting their own torches, came out to the meeting of the

² bridegroom. Now five of them

73001	MATTHEW'S	ACCOUNT	CHAPTERS 24-25
S adds KAI AND CECTAIHHAPOYC WILL-BE THE BESIDE-BEING	OF-THE SON	NEAB ONOKY THE MAST	PIOCAYTOYEY 20 er of-him WILL-
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KETEOTICIHACIO	OIKOAE 20 ED THE HOME-OWNER	MAY-BE-DRINKING WITH	TUNMESYONT 20 H THE Ones-being-drunk
C TOTHCTO I A YAA ?-THE-WHICH GUARD	THE thief 50		PIOCTOYAOYA 40 HE master of THE SLAVE
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THE BRIDE-groom FIVE YET OUT OF-them APIOCO∆OYAOC€K€INOCO™ WHOM 2 THE BRIDE-groom THE SLAVE that

1 The parable of the ten virgins applies only to the kingdom at the time specified. When the Lord comes in glory to enter into covenant relationship with Israel at the commencement of the day of Jehovah, then the kingdom of the heavens will correspond to a marriage feast. The Lambkin is the Bridegroom (Un. 197), redeemed Israel is the Bride. Who are the virgins?

The wedding feast figures the millennium. The nations will be blessed through and with Israel according to the Abrahamic covenant. Hence they are represented as virgins, invited to share the blessings provided for the holy nation by the Lambkin. As in the parable of the sheep and the kids at the close of this chapter, the place of the nations in that day will depend on their treatment of Israel. Those that are sufficiently illuminated to await Messiah's coming will participate with the Bride in the feast that follows. They are invited to the wedding banquet of the Lambkin (Un.199Ps.4514). The action of this parable is limited to the period immediately preceding the coming of the Messianic kingdom. To "apply" it to individuals or classes at any other crisis is confusing and corrupts the scriptures.

The blessing which will come to the nations as brides-maids of Israel is in striking contrast to the present era of grace. They will wait until Israel is blessed and share her blessings with her. Now Israel is forsaken and divorced. She has no marriage feast to which we could be invited. She has no blessings to share with us. Our supernal bliss comes while she is thrust aside, and depends on her apostasy. Our felicity far transcends not only that of the virgins who attend the Bride, but that of the Bride herself. We have a nearer and dearer place than that which is figured by the marriage bond. We are members of Christ's body. Men may or may not love their wives, but no one ever hated his own flesh. So, in the very nature of things, we are dear to Christ as His own body. We are not called upon to watch for signs of His coming, but to wait for God's Son from heaven. We are blessed with every spiritual blessing among the celestials (Ep.13).

13 See 2442Mk.1333-37.

were stupid, and five prudent. For the stupid, getting their torch-

4 es, got no oil with them, yet the

prudent got oil in the crocks with 5 their own torches. Now, at the bridegroom's delay, they all nod

and drowsed.

Now in the middle of the night a clamor occurs, 'Lo! the bridegroom! Be coming out to meet him!' Then those virgins were all

roused, and they adorn their own 8 torches. Now the stupid said to the

prudent, 'Give us of your oil, seeing that our torches are going out.'

⁹ Yet the prudent answered, saying, 'Not by any means, lest at some time there should not be sufficient for us and you. Go rather to those who are selling and buy for

10 yourselves.' Now at their coming away to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who are ready entered with him into the wedding festivities, and the door is locked.

Now subsequently the rest of the virgins also are coming, saying,

12 'Lord! Lord! Open to us!' Yet answering, he said, 'Verily, I am saying to you, I am not acquainted

with you!'

ately travels.

Be watching, then, seeing that you are not aware of the day, nei-14 ther the hour. For it is even as a man traveling. He calls his own slaves and gives over to them his 15 possessions. And to one, indeed, he gives five talents, yet to one, two, yet to one, one, to each according to his own ability, and immedi-

Now, being gone, the one getting five talents trades with them and 17 gains another five talents.

¹⁴ See 201-16Lu.1911-27.

74 ⁰⁰¹	MATTHEW'	S ACCOUNT	CHAPTER 25
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15 A talent was a large sum of money, variously estimated at from one to two thousand dollars of our present currency. There is doubtless an intended reference to the well-known moneymaking propensity which the Jew has developed since this parable was spoken. Especially at the time of the end. many of the apostate nation will be immensely wealthy, while the faithful remnant will be poor in this world's coin. So the Lord confides to them large sums of spiritual currency, to be used in His service. He to whom God has given one precious truth may double it by communicating it to another.

There is nothing in this parable which can be applied to Christ's dealings with us in this present secret administration of God's grace. It fits perfectly when connected with the kingdom of which He was speaking. He was about to leave them. The nations were not called until long after He had left. There would be no point to His departure if we should seek to apply it now. Nor is it agreeable to the present grace to require service in this manner. And it is most thoroughly out of harmony in the case of the slave who received a single talent. No one who is now called into God's grace could think or act as he did, and no one who has a deposit from God will be condemned for his failure to be faithful. There was a Judas among the twelve apostles but there was no such character among those apostles who were associated with Paul in his later ministries. An administration which is an admixture of faith and works will also have a sprinkling of unbelievers. But an economy of purest grace can lead no one to such an outcome as the slave who hid his talent and hated his lord. For us there is no condemnation (Ro. 81). We are not only saved by grace but for grace (Eph.28). No one who has ever known Him in this day of salvation will be thrust into outer darkness with lamentation and gnashing of teeth.

As our salvation is not based on work, the awards for service at the dais of Christ do not affect our destiny (2 Co.510). Our deeds will be tested by fire, to determine their quality. Yet even if our work burns up, we shall be saved, even though it be through fire (1 Co.313-15).

larly also the one with two; he also gains another two. Yet the one getting one talent, coming away, excavates in the earth and hides his lord's silver.

Now, after much time, the lord of those slaves is coming and settling accounts with them. And the one getting five talents, approaching, brings five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you give up to me five talents. Lo! I gain five other talents besides them.' Now his lord averred to him, 'Well done! good and faithful slave! You were faithful over a few: I will place you

iov of your lord!'

Now, the one also getting two talents, approaching, said, 'Lord, you give up to me two talents. Lo! I gain two other talents besides them.' His lord averred to him, 'Well done! good and faithful slave! You were faithful over a few: I will place you over many. Be entering into the joy of your lord!'

over many. Be entering into the

Now the one also having gotten the one talent, approaching, said, 'Lord, I knew you, that you are a hard man, reaping where you do not sow, and gathering whence you 25 do not scatter. And, being afraid, coming away, I hide your talent in the earth. Lo! you have what is yours!'

yours!'
Now, answering, his lord said to him, 'Wicked and slothful slave! Were you aware that I am reaping where I do not sow, and gathering 27 whence I do not scatter? You were obligated, then, to be depositing my silver with the bankers, and on coming, I should recover what is mine 28 with interest. Then take the talent

28 with interest. Then take the talent away from him and give it to him

75 ⁰⁰¹	MATTHEV	V'S ACCOUNT	CHAPTER 25
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- ²⁹ See 1312Lu.818Jn.152.
- 31 See 1928Mk.838.

31 The many judgments in the scriptures should be carefully distinguished as to time and place and participants and the attending circumstances. There is no "general judgment", for the saints are judged in the cross of Christ. The individual judgment of the unbeliever for his sins does not take place in this life, but in resurrection. All mankind except those who are Christ's will be raised from the dead to stand before the great white throne, which is not set up until after the coming kingdom eon has run its course (Un. 2011). The judgment here presented differs in time, in place, in character and in purpose. It occurs at the commencement of the kingdom, at His coming in glory, while the great white throne session does not take place until after the thousand years. This judgment is on the earth. The earth will flee before the great white throne (Un. 2011). Living nations will appear before the Son of Mankind, but only the dead come before the later tribunal. The nations are judged as such, not for their sins, but according to their treatment of Israel during the time of their affliction.

When God is judging the earth no greater act of righteousness can be done than to feed and shelter His oppressed people. Each faithful Israelite stands in the place of Christ toward the nations. Those who help them do so at the greatest risk, for they may be called to account by the powers that oppose them. This tribunal is not concerned with their ultimate destiny, but with their place in the kingdom. The kingdom will be comprised largely of gentiles, subordinate to Israel politically and religiously, but nevertheless the recipients of much blessing. All that they receive comes to them through Israel, while the present grace which we enjoy comes to us because Israel as a channel is choked, yet the superabundance of the grace overflows all barriers. We have every reason to treat the Jews with the utmost grace. but our conduct toward them is not a factor in our destiny. We do not enter the kingdom, because we have a higher and more honorable allotment among the celestials.

who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has shall be given and he shall have a superfluity, yet from one who has not, that also which he has shall be taken away from him. And cast out the useless slave into outer darkness. There shall be lamentation and gnashing of teeth.'

Now, whenever the Son of Mankind may be coming in His glory, and all the holy messengers with Him, then He shall be seated on ³² the throne of His glory, and in

front of His glory, and in front of Him shall be assembled all nations, and He shall be severing them from one another even as a shepherd is severing the sheep from

33 the kids. And He will be standing the sheep, indeed, at His right, yet the kids at the left.

Then shall the King be declaring to them at His right, 'Hither, blessed of My Father! Enjoy the allotment of the kingdom made ready for you from the disruption

35 of the world. For I hunger and you give Me to eat, I thirst and you give Me drink, I was a stranger
 36 and you took Me in, naked and you

clothed Me, I am infirm and you visit Me, I was in jail and you come to Me.'

Then the just will be answering Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we perceive Thee hungering and nourish Thee, or thirsty and we give

38 Thee drink? Now when did we perceive Thee a stranger and took Thee in, or naked and we clothed

39 Thee? Now when did we perceive Thee infirm, or in jail, and we came to Thee?'

And, answering, the King shall be declaring to them, "Verily, I am saying to you, inasmuch as you

40 See 1042.

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40 The "brethren" of Christ, in the kingdom, are His fellow Israelites, in contrast with those of other nations. These do not appear before this tribunal. Their judgment is dealt with in the preceding parables.

41 The Slanderer and his messengers will be the chief instigators of the fearful anti-Semitic outbreak of the end time. It will be the greatest of all pogroms, and men will be urged on by malignant spirit powers to do all that is possible to exterminate the people who refuse to worship Satan's christ, or to bow down to his image. Being the Slanderer's dupes, they will share his doom. They have their portion in that lake of fire into which the Slanderer is cast more than a millennium later (Un. 2010).

⁴⁶ Eonian chastening is here limited to the nations who will not succor the faithful of Israel in their time of sore distress. It has no bearing on the sins of individuals. It is disciplinary and corrective.

1-5 Compare Mk.14¹,²Lu.22¹,². See Ps.2² Ac.4²⁵-2⁸.

What a transition from the coming glories to the cross of shame! He has been filling their vision with pictures of Himself as an honorable Lord, a happy Bridegroom, a resplendent Sovereign attended by hosts of angelic servitors. No doubt they had little difficulty in accepting such scenes, for such were the characters of Christ which they could understand. All these portravals are fulfillments of the festival of Trumpets and of Tabernacles. still six months away, suggestive of the long interval which has already intervened between His sayings and their still future realization. But the Passover was not so far away! must be fulfilled first! The suffering must precede the glories. Only two days and the first great festival of the Jewish year would find its fulfillment in Him. Already the chief priests were choosing the passover Lamb. They do not want to do it in the festival, but that is the time ordained for the slaying of the type and that is the time when the Antitype must suffer. What a marvelous manifestation of God's wisdom, power and love is concentrated about the cross of Christ!

6-13 Compare Mk.143-9Jn.121-8.

do it to one of these, the least of My brethren, you do it to Me.'

Then shall He be declaring to those also at His left, 'Go from Me, you cursed, into the eonian fire made ready for the Slanderer and his messengers. For I hunger and

you give Me not to eat, I thirst and ⁴³ you give Me no drink, I was a stranger and you took Me not in, naked and you clothed Me not, infirm and in jail and you visit Me

not.'

Then shall they also be answering, saying, 'Lord, when did we perceive you hungering or thirsting, or a stranger, or naked, or infirm, or in jail, and we serve you not?'

45 Then shall He be answering them, saying, 'Verily, I am saying to you, inasmuch as you do it not to one of the least of these, neither

do you it to Me.' And these shall be coming away into eonian chastening, yet the just into eonian life."

26 And it occurred, when Jesus finishes all these sayings, He said to

His disciples, "You are aware that after two days the Passover is occurring, and the Son of Mankind is being betrayed to be crucified."

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people were assembled in the courtyard of the chief priest,

4 who is termed Caiaphas, and they plan that they should be getting hold of Jesus by guile and may be

killing Him. Yet they said, "Not in the festival, lest a tumult should be occurring among the people."

 Now at Jesus' coming to be in Bethany, in the house of Simon the
 leper, a woman came to Him having an alabaster vase of attar, very

77001 CHAPTERS 25-26 MATTHEW'S ACCOUNT B brothers OF-ME THE in margin
TUNTUNAGE APUNMOYTUNG 20 OLEHOLHCATEK ÄLANGAGY²⁰ brothers 46 AND WILL-RE-FROM-COM-OF-ME THE TN-YE-DO CONTAIQYTOIEICKOAACI® **ΛΑΧΙCΤΦΝ**ΕΜΟΙΕΠΟΙΗCΑΤΦ these INTO CHASTENING FERIOR-most to-ME **ETOTEEPEIKAITOICEZEY®** NAI ONIONOI AE AIK AIOI E® 41 He'LL-BE-declaring and to-THE OUT OF-THE YET JUST eonien deleted YTAPETE A Al for E B marain. **ΨΝΥΜΨΝΠΟΡΕΥΕ** CΘΕΆΠΕΜΟ® ICZ WHNAI WNIONK AIETEN® left. RE-GOING FROM ME 26 LIFE eonian AND it-BECAME YOIK ATHP AME NOISICTON 100 **ETOOTEETE** A ECENOIH COY *** THE ones-having-been-down-execrated into the fire when FINISHES CHANTACTOYCAOFOYCTOY 20 YPTOAI@NIONTOHTOIMAC® THE HAVING-been-madethese THE conian THE sayings TOYCEITENTOICMA0HTAI# MENONT@AIABOA@KAITOI@ to-THE THRU-CASTER He-said to-THE AND LEARNERS CAFFEAOICAY TOYETËINA® CAYTOYOIAATEOTIMETAA® MESSENGERS or-him OF-Him YE-HAVE-PERCEIVED that after I-HUNGER B NOT above line A Al for E CATAPKATOYKE DOKATEMO YOHMEPACTONACXALEINE® NOT YE-GIVE AND THE PASSOVER IS-BECOMING IO A TEINE AIVHCAK AIOYK 200 ΤΑΙΚΑΙΟΥΙΟСΤΟΥΆΝΘΡΟΠ™ OF-THE human TO-RE-EATING I-THIRST AND THE SON NOT **ENOTICATEMEZENOCHMHN²⁰** ΟΥΠΑΡΑΔΙΔΟΤΑΙΕΙCΤΟCT²⁰ 43 YE-DRINKIZE ME LODger IS-being-beside-given INTO THE TO-BE-A Al for E KAIOYCYNHFAFETEMETYM® **AYP WOHNAITOTE CYNHXOH** (1) AND NOT YE-TOGETHER-LED ME NAKED 81* omits naked and not ye-about-cast (past) as A1 s o. ME NOCKAIOY IT OF IEBAACTEM 60 3 impaled then WERE-TOGETHER-LED CANOIAPXIEPEICKAIOIN® NOT YE-ABOUT-CAST (past) THE chief-SACRED-ones AND AND THE SEN-PECBYTEPOITOYANOYEIC 80 **EACBENHCKALENGYAAKHK®** AND AND IN GUARD-house OF-THE PEOPLE INTO Alfor C AIOYKETIECKEYACOEMETO 300 NOT YE-ON-NOTE ME then THNAYAHNTOYAPXIEPEWC*** COURT OF-THE chief-SACRED-one s1* omits and TEATION PION CONTAINALA 20 TOYAGTOMENOYKAIAAAKA® WILL-BE-answering AND they 4 THE berng-said AND s had+w but cancels TOIAEFONTECKYPIETOT® ICYNEBOYAEYCANTOINAT* Master! SAVING ?-when THEY-TOGETHER-COUNSEL ECECIDOMENTICINONTAHA® ONIHCOYNDOA OKPATHOU C® WE-PERCEIVED HUNGERING to-FRAUD THEY-SHOULD-BE-HOLD-B AND THEY-MAY-BE-FROM-KILLING in margin IAMULTAHEROUHLAMUOHH® INKAIATIOKTEIN WCINEAE® OR LODGER OR NAKED OR 5 ING AND THEY-MAY-BE-FROM-KILLING THEY-said adds KH ACBENHHEN BY AAKHK A TOY 400 **FONDEMHENTHEOPTHINAM®®** OR IN GUARD-house AND NOT YET NO IN THE FESTIVAL B1 E and A 10K for HK AIHKONHC AMENCOLTOTE A 20 HOOPYBOCFENHTAIENT@A20 45 WE-THRU-SERVE to-you then TUMULT MAY-BE-BECOMING IN THE PEO-**TOKPICHCETALAYTOICAE®** ACTOYAE I HCOYFENOMENO 4

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The Lord was twice anointed during the last week of His life, first, six days before the Passover, and on this occasion. One women anointed His feet, this woman poured the attar on His head. This occurred in connection with His presentation to Jerusalem as the King. When a king was crowned in Israel he was anointed with attar. He came, but no one thought of anointing Him. His very disciples resented it. They grudged the price of the attar for the anointing of Messiah! So He applies it to His burial. Only one unnamed and unknown woman gives Him the honor He deserves!

14-16 Compare Mk.1410,11 Lu.223-6 Zech. 1112,13.

14 What a contrast! The woman "wastes" five times in value what Judas receives for his Lord. This shows their relative estimates of His preciousness. Nothing is wasted which is for His honor. Philanthropy finds its highest expression in the worship of the Man Christ Jesus.

17-19 Compare Mk.1412-16Lu.227-13. See Ex.126-18.

17 "The first [day] of the unleavened [bread]" is explained in Mark as the day on which the passover must be sacrificed (Mk. 1412). Hence it is not the first day of the festival of Unleavened Bread spoken of in the law (Lev. 236 Nu.2817), for that did not come until the day after the Passover proper. It seems that the question was asked at the beginning of the fourteenth of Nisan, just after sundown. As they had little to do in its preparation, but partook of it as guests of an unknown host, there was little time needed to prepare. So that same evening they celebrated it the last time before He Himself became the Passover on the same calendar day. The Jewish days began in the evening and ended the next evening (See Gen. 15). The passover lamb must be slain on the fourteenth of Nisan "between the evenings" (Lev. 235, see verse 32). Hence the Lord fulfilled the law in a double sense. He observed the Passover and was slain as the Passover, all within the limits allowed by the law of Moses. The very wording of the precept was modified to suit the great

20-25 Compare Mk.1417-21Lu.2214,21-28Jn. 1318-30.

precious, and pours it on His head while lying back at table. Now His disciples, perceiving it, resent it, saying, "Why this destruction?

9 For this could be disposed of for much and given to the poor."

Now Jesus, knowing it, said to them, "Why are you affording the woman weariness? for she works

at an ideal work for Me. For you have the poor with yourselves always, yet Me you have not al-

ways. For she, spraying this attar on My body, does it with a view to

¹³ My burial. Verily, I am saying to you, Wherever this evangel may be proclaimed in the whole world, that also which *she* does shall be spoken for a memorial of her."

Then one of the twelve, who is termed Judas Iscariot, being gone

to the chief priests, said, "What are you willing to give me? And I will be betraying Him to you." Now they weigh for him thirty

16 pieces of silver. And then ceforth he sought an opportunity that he may be betraying Him.

bread, the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where art Thou wanting we should be making ready for Thee to be eating the passover?"

18 Now He said, "Go into the city to so and so, and say to him, 'The Teacher is saying, My appointed time is near. With you am I making the passover with My disci-

19 ples'." And the disciples do as Jesus arranges with them, and they make ready the passover.

Now as it is becoming evening, He was lying back at table with the twelve disciples. And at their eat-

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78 ⁰⁰¹	MATTI	HEW'S ACCOU	NT	CHAPTER 26
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23 See Ps. 419.

24 See Ps.22 Isa.53 Dan.926.

24 The case of Judas has an important bearing on the ultimate destiny of the human race and all creation. If it were well for Judas if he had not been born, then there can be no justification of all mankind (Ro. 518) or reconciliation of all creation (Col.120). If he is ultimately justified and reconciled it is well that he has been born. The solution of this difficulty will help us to see the bias which pervades our translations. They deliberately recast the sentence and give it a meaning quite foreign to the text. The Lord speaks of Himself as "Him", and of Judas as "that man". It were ideal for the Lord if Judas were not born. The Lord's impending suffering is in view, not the punishment of Judas, whose ultimate destiny is not under consideration.

²⁶-²⁹ Compare Mk.14²²-²⁵ Lu.22¹⁹-²⁰ 1 Co. 11²³-²⁶.

²⁶ The account given here is for the Circumcision. It is seen as a part of the Passover festival and concerns the new covenant for Israel and the pardon of sins. Were it not that it was given to Paul by a special revelation (1 Co. 11²⁵), after he had been separated to his special ministry (Ac. 13²) among the nations, and with the particular provision that it should continue until the Lord's coming, we would be tempted to class it with the observances intended only for the Circumcision.

26 In Greek, the present tense of the substantive often indicates a figure of speech. If the Lord were speaking literally of His actual body and blood, He would have omitted the word is. It is a metaphor, in which one thing is not merely stated to be like another, but to be another. It is freely used in interpreting parables, as, "the field is the world" (Mt. 1338). Usually it is not used in stating matters of fact. It may be correctly rendered, means, or represents, in practically every place where it occurs. This distinction cannot be carried over into English, for we always express the verb.

28 See Ex.248Lev.1711Jer.3131-34.

²⁹ Compare Lu. 22¹⁵⁻¹⁸.

30-32 Compare Mk.1426-28Lu.2239Jn.1632.

31 See Zech.137Isa.534-11.

32 See 287-16.

ing, He said, "Verily, I am saying to you that one of you shall be be-

22 traying Me." And, sorrowing vehemently, each one of them begins to be saying to Him, "Is it I, Lord?"

Now answering, He said, "He who dips his hand with Me in the

who dips his hand with Me in the 24 dish, he will be betraying Me. The Son of Mankind is indeed going away, according as it is written concerning Him, yet woe to that man through whom the Son of Mankind is being betrayed! Ideal were it for Him if that man were not born!"

Now answering, Judas, who is betraying Him, said, "Is it I, Rab-

bi ?"

Jesus is saying to him, "You

say it."

Now at their eating, Jesus, taking the bread, and blessing, breaks it, and giving to the disciples, said, "Take, eat. This is My breaks." And taking the cup and

giving thanks, He gives it to them, 28 saying, "All drink of it, for this is My blood of the new covenant, being poured out for many for the

29 pardon of sins. Now I am saying to you that I may under no circumstances be drinking henceforth of this, the product of the grapevine, till that day whenever I should be drinking it new with you in the

30 kingdom of My Father." And, singing a hymn, they came out to the mount of Olives.

Then Jesus is saying to them, "You all shall be snared in Me in this night, for it is written,

'I shall be smiting the shepherd, And the sheep of the flock shall be scattered.'

32 Now after I am roused I shall be preceding you into Galilee."

33 Yet answering, Peter said to

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ΙΝΟς ΑΠΟΚΡΙΘΕΊ ΚΑ ΕΙΟΥΔ 25 answering YET JUDAS

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BE-BEFORE-LEADING YOUP INTO THE GALILEE

ALANAHOKPIOEICAEOHET 80000 33 answering YET THE Peter

33-35 Compare Mk.1429-31 Lu.2231-34 Jn. 1336-38

33 The Lord had said distinctly that all of them should be snared. Peter's fall began by refusing to believe that the Lord's all meant all. Of course, it could not include him! By exalting himself above the rest he invited the fate of all who walk in pride, who must be abased. The same spirit is rampant today. We hear the loudest protestations of loyalty and devotion to Christ, which, if carried out, would transform the whole world in one generation. There is no doubt that it is honest. Peter fully intended to stand by his Lord to the very death. But he did not know himself or the impotence of the human will. It is the creature and the sport of circumstance. No man can use the emphatic I, as Peter did, and not fall.

36-38 Compare Mk.1432-34 Lu.2239.40 Jn.

36 How different it was with our Lord! He was about to brave the most awful battle with the hosts of darkness and their human minions, yet not a boast proceeds from His lips. He shrank from it. He implored to be spared. It was not His will. Hitherto His will and the Father's had been in perfect accord. He acquiesced in it even though it meant failure and defeat. He delighted in it though it brought Him opposition and hate. Yet with all His unparalleled loyalty and devotion, the terrors of the curse, the abandonment by God, were beyond the concurrence of His will. But there is a deeper and more powerful force than this. The heart can subdue the will. Christ had not come to do His own will. So He prayed the prayer that befits us far more than Him, "Not as I will, but as Thou!" No man can use the emphatic "I", without the negative, and carry out his vaunting. It is the symbol of defeat, "not I" the banner of victory, though it should lead through the deepest depths to God.

should Gethsemane prepare our hearts for the deep unfoldings of the cross. It transforms it from a mere manifestation of human and satanic hate into a deliberate and foreordained act of God. Our Lord did not beg the chief priests for mercy, or Pilate for clemency. He recognized the fact that. God alone could deliver Him from their power, and, since this was not His will,

Him. "And if all shall be snared in Thee, I shall never be snared!"

Jesus averred to him, "Verily, I am saving to you that in this night, ere a cock crow, you will be renouncing Me thrice."

Peter is saying to Him, "And if ever I must die with Thee, I will under no circumstances be renouncing Thee!" Likewise said

all the disciples also.

Then Jesus is coming with them into the freehold termed Gethsemane, and He is saying to His disciples, "Be seated, till I come away

and may be praying there." And taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, He begins to be

sorrowful and depressed. Then He is saying to them, "My soul is sorrow-stricken to death. Remain here and be watching with Me."

And, coming forward a little. He falls on His face, praying and saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup be passing by from Me. Moreover, not as I will, but as Thou!"

And He is coming to the disciples and is finding them drowsing. And He is saying to Peter, "Is it thus, you have not strength to

⁴¹ watch one hour with Me? Be watching and praying, lest you may be entering into trial. spirit, indeed, is eager: vet the flesh is infirm."

Again, coming away a second [time], He prays, saying, "My Father, if it is not possible for this to pass by from Me except I should be drinking it, let Thy will be done!"

43 And coming again, He found them drowsing, for their eyes were

heavy.

34

36

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He makes not the slightest effort to appease them. Without in the least minimizing the guilt of man or the sin of Satan, we may look beneath all their hateful deeds and see God using them as His puppets in the preparation of the great Sacrifice which had been promised from the beginning. Though apparently and consciously doing their utmost to oppose the will of God, they were carrying it into effect with the same precision as their Victim Who had renounced His own will in favor of His Father's.

The cross of Christ is the touchstone of humanity. Not only is the cowardice of Pilate and the perfidy of the priests exposed to the gaze of all, but His own little band all find their true value in its vicinity. What should we not expect from His own apostles who have been with Him and have seen His mighty power and have felt the attraction of His love? Judas, who was entrusted with the funds, turns traitor. Boastful Peter forswears his Lord. And all the rest, who but a short time since were loud in their protestations of loyalty, desert Him at the first approach of danger.

39-41 Compare Mk.1435-38Lu.2241-46. See Heb.57Jn.638Phil.28.

42-46 Compare Mk. 1439-42.

45-46 Compare Lu. 2245,46.

47-50 Compare Mk.1448-46 Lu.2247,48 Jn. 182-9.

⁴⁷ Judas, one of the twelve. It is necessary that snares should be coming (187). The Lord deliberately chose one of His apostles for the essential duty of betraying Him. He knew from the beginning that Judas was a traitor.

50 See Ps.4195512-14.

51.52 Compare Mk.1447 Lu.2249.51 Jn. 1810-11.

from the hand of God. The disciples evidently could not understand how this could be of God. Their highest thought was to escape evil through divine protection. But our Lord assures them that, however easy it might be to enlist the legions of heaven, it is not His present plan to escape the clutches of His enemies. Evil must needs be, and God controls it so as to accomplish His beneficent purpose.

53 See 2Ki.617.

44 And, leaving them again, coming away, He prays a third time, say45 ing again the same word. Then He is coming to the disciples and is saying to them, 'Drowse on furthermore and rest, for lo! the hour has drawn near, and the Son of Mankind is being betrayed into the

hands of sinners—

Rouse! We may be going. Lo!
My betrayer has drawn near!"

And at His still talking, lo! Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a vast throng with swords and cudgels, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now His betrayer gives them a sign, saying, "Whomever I should be kissing.

He it is. Hold Him."

And immediately, approaching Jesus, he said, "Rejoice, Rabbi!"

Jesus said to him, "Comrade, for what are you present?" Then, approaching, they laid hands on Jesus and hold Him.

51 And lo! one of those with Jesus, stretching out his hand, pulls his sword, and, smiting the slave of the chief priest, amputates the lobe of 52 his ear. Then Jesus is saying to him, "Turn away your sword into its place, for all who are taking the sword shall be destroyed by the 53 sword. Or are you supposing that I am not able to entreat My Father, and at present He will station by My side more than twelve legions 54 of messengers? How, then, may

that it must occur thus?"

In that hour Jesus said to the throngs, "Do you come out with swords and cudgels to apprehend Me as to a robber? Daily was

the scriptures be fulfilled, seeing

81001 MATTHEW'S ACCOUNT CHAPTER 26 8 0.

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55-56 Compare Mk.1448-52Lu.2252,53 55 In the daylight they were afraid. They wanted the mantle of darkness to hide their evil deeds. Nothing could have been simpler than to have the temple guards arrest Him in the sanctuary. Why all this show of force to take an unarmed Man Who never did anything but good? It is often difficult to account for the foolishness of human wisdom and action. Yet here we have the key. The scriptures of the prophets must be fulfilled. And they are given for the revelation of God. Every human action will one day be accounted for and justified by putting it in its right relation to God.

62 Can there be any greater contrast than comes before us in this scene before the chief priest? Christ, the Chief Priest after the new order of Melchisedec, sworn in by God Himself, holy, harmless, undefiled, and higher than the heavens, is about to offer Himself for the sins of the world. Yet He stood alone, forsaken even by His own, charged with blasphemy and liable to death. Caiaphas was appointed for political reasons by the Roman power. He was crafty, deceitful, blasphemous, unfit to officiate at God's altar. Yet such a man dares to condemn the Son of God! Quite shamelessly he seeks for testimony against Him, and accepts what everyone knew was false. No one had heard Him say that He would destroy the temple of God. He said that they would do it. And now their very accusation is itself the crime with which they charge Him! They tried to fasten on Him the destruction of the empty house on mount Moriah. They actually accomplish the destruction of the true Temple. His body.

57-60 Compare Mk.1458-64 Lu.2254-71 Jn. 1812-24.

61 See Jn. 218-22.

62 As the Sacrifice, the Lord was a sign to the priests, for He acted as the animal they were accustomed to lead to the altar (Isa. 537):

He is hard pressed, and He is humil-

iated,
Yet He is not opening His mouth:
He is fetched as a flockling to the slaughter. And as a ewe before its shearers is

mute, So He is not opening His mouth.

63 See Lev. 51.

64 See 2430Ps.1101Dan.713Ac.755,56Un.17.

I seated with you, teaching in the sanctuary, and you do not hold Now the whole of this has occurred that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all of His disciples, deserting Him,

Now those who hold Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas, the chief priest, where the scribes and the elders were gathered. Now Peter followed Him from afar, to the courtvard of the chief priest, and entering within, he sat with the deputies to see the consummation.

Now the chief priests and the elders and the whole Sanhedrin sought false witness against Jesus, so that they should be putting Him 60 to death, and they found none of many false witnesses coming forward they found none. Yet subsequently two false witnesses, coming 61 forward, said, "He averred, 'I am able to demolish the temple of God and to build it during three days'.''

And the chief priest, rising, said to Him, "Are you answering nothing? What are these testifying

63 against you?" Yet Jesus was silent. And answering, the chief priest said to Him, "I am exorcising you by the living God that you may be telling us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

Jesus is saying to him, "You say it! Moreover, I am saying to vou. Henceforth you shall be viewing the Son of Mankind sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Then the chief priest tears his garments, saying that "He blas-

82001	MATTHEW	3 ACCOUNT	CHAPTER 26
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64 When the chief priest invoked the presence of God, Christ was not slow in testifying to the truth. So that all the actual testimony against Him was the great truth to which the priests themselves and all their service in the sanctuary and the temple testified. But we must not forget the divine side. The scriptures must be fulfilled. God's purpose must be served. The business of the priesthood is to slay the sacrifice. All the victims hitherto had been vain repetitions that could only cover sin. They could not take it away. Shall not the priests, therefore, slay the great Antitype, the Lamb Whose blood will yet change all sin into righteousness, all enmity into reconciliation? In the wisdom of God their hatred and malice are simply a knife to slay the true Sacrifice. Can we not see that, in a very real sense, they were carrying out the will of God? And if this is true of the sin of sins, is it not quite possible that God will justify all sins in the same way?

65 See Lev. 2110. 66 See Lev.2416Jn.197.

67-68 Compare Mk.1465 Lu.2263-65. See Isa.506533.

69 Poor Peter! Where is his bravado now? He was quite ready to defend his Lord against the world - but not against a serving maid. His very vehemence betrays him. Now was his opportunity of witnessing for his Lord, and of standing by Him in His trial. He should have shouted "Yes!" and moved forward to take his place beside his Master. But no. He refuses to acknowledge Him. He slinks back to the portal to escape further questioning. But another maid awaits him there, so he adds an oath to his denial, and by his Galilean brogue betrays himself again. And then his exasperation is so great that he actually damns and swears that He is not at all acquainted with the Lord. The cock crows. Its simple sound is the voice of God to Peter. He becomes acquainted with himself, and is sadly disillusioned. Instead of the brave, trusty, faithful disciple and apostle he thought he was, he finds himself to be a cringing, craven coward. He laments bitterly.

69-74 Compare Mk.1466-71 Lu.2254-60 Jn.

75 Compare Mk.1472Lu.2261,62. See 84. 1-2 Compare Mk.151 Lu.231 Jn,1828-82. See Ps.22. colored recorders

phemes! What further need have we of witnesses? Lo! now you 66 hear his blasphemy! What are you

supposing?"

Now they, answering, said, "He 67 is liable to death." Then they spit into His face and buffet 68 Him. Now they slap Him, saying, "Prophesy to us. Christ! Who is it that hits you?"

Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard and one maid came to him, saying, "You also were with 70 Jesus of Galilee." Yet he disowns Him in front of them all, saying, "I am not aware what you are saying!"

Now, at his coming out into the portal, another maid perceived him, and she is saying to them there, "He also was with Jesus the 72 Nazarene." And again he dis-

owns with an oath, that "I am not

acquainted with the man!"

Now, after a little, those standing there, approaching, said to Peter, "Truly you also are of them, for your speech also is mak-74 ing you evident." Then he begins to be damning and swearing that "I am not acquainted with the man!"

And immediately a cock crows. 75 And Peter is reminded of the declaration of Jesus in which He declared to him that "Ere a cock crows you will be renouncing Me thrice." And, coming outside, he laments bitterly.

27 Now, as it is becoming morning. all the chief priests and the elders of the people held a consultation against Jesus, so as to put Him ² to death. And binding Him, they

led Him away and give Him up to Pontius Pilate, the governor.

Then Judas, His betrayer, perceiving that He was condemned, regretting it, turns back the thirty

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3-8 The chief priests, by buying the freehold, which had previously been acquired by Judas, but not paid for (Ac. 116-19), join the betrayer of our Lord in an unlawful act which manifests their lack of faith in God. True believers, who were looking for the kingdom and the consequent redistribution of the land, would not waste money on a freehold which would be worthless in that day. Instead, they sold their freeholds (Ac. 434), and gave the money to the apostles. The account in Acts views this transaction from the standpoint of Judas, and tells why he was rejected from being an apostle. He made arrangements not only to betray His Lord (Who, he supposed, would use His power to circumvent His enemies), but he arranged to use the "wages of unrighteousness" for buying a freehold, contrary to the law. The chief priests and elders, instead of repudiating this illegal act, confirm it by hypocritically refusing to put the money in the temple offerings, and by using it to complete the purchase which Judas had begun. The death of Judas is likewise passed over briefly in Matthew, but elaborated in Acts. He hanged himself, but the rope broke and he fell so hard that his bowels spilled out. Thus worked the woe pronounced upon him by the Lord.

- 5-8 See Ac.118,19.
- ⁹ See Zech. 11¹², ¹⁸.
- 11 Compare Mk.152-5 Lu.232-12 Jn,1833-38. See 1 Ti.613.

11 The priests should have been models of justice and truth, for they had the form of truth in the law. The governor had no divine light to guide his steps. Yet Pilate is far more just than the priests. He knew very well that they would not demand the death of a Jew who conspired against his government. They would aid him. His suspicions of their motive were con- 14 firmed by the Lord's silence. No ordinary man would stand and hear such charges against him without a reply. At no time did the chief priests deceive Pilate. He thought the easiest way out. would be to put it to the people, who, he supposed, would release the prophet. He was so sure of their verdict that he was caught in his own device.

15-18 Compare Mk.156-10 Lu.2313-17 Jn. 1838,39.

pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, "I sinned in betraying innocent blood."

Yet they said, "What is it to us? You should be seeing to that!"

And tossing the pieces of silver into the temple, he retires, and, coming away, strangles himself.

Now the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not allowed to cast them into the corban, since it is the price of blood."
Now, holding a consultation, they buy with them the Field of the Potter for a sepulcher for strangers.

Wherefore that field was called ... "The Field of Blood" till this day.

Then was fulfilled that which is declared through the prophet Jeremiah, saying,

"And they got the thirty pieces of silver,

The price of the Valued One, Whom they value from the sons of Israel.

10 And they give them for the Field of the Potter,
According as the Lord arranges with me."

Now Jesus was standing in front of the governor. And the governor inquires of Him, saying, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Now Jesus averred to him "You are saying it!" And at His accusation by the chief priests and the elders. He answers nothing.

Then Pilate is saying to Him, "Are you not hearing how much they are testifying against you?"

And He answered him not one declaration, so that the governor is marveling very much.

¹⁵ Now at the festival the governor had been accustomed to release one prisoner—whom they wanted—to

the throng. Now they then had a notorious prisoner termed Bar-Ab-

¹⁷ bas. Then, having assembled them, Pilate said to them, "Whom are

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17 Bar-Abbas is another contrast with Christ. A murderer, a leader in sedition, he was just what the chief priests represented the Lord to be. His name is very striking. In Aramaic it means "son of the father". Christ was the Son of the Father, God. Bar-Abbas was the son of another father, the Slanderer.

19 Of all the actors in this tragedy, only one really pleads the cause of Christ, and this one is the most unlikely that could be. It seems almost incredible, when His own nation is against Him, His own disciples afraid to speak a word in His favor, that an alien woman steps in to plead the cause of a just man she may never have heard of before. True, it was the direct effect of divine intervention. But every other act and attitude in this scene can, in its last analysis, be traced to God's foreordination, It must remain a marvelous intimation of God's ways that she alone should voice a solemn protest against the travesty of justice in which Pilate was weak enough to become involved.

20-23 Compare Mk.15¹¹-14 Lu.23¹⁸-23 Jn. 18⁴⁰. See Ac.3¹⁴.

20 The chief priests were aware that they had failed to convince the governor by fair argument, so now they propose to foil his plan of freeing the Lord by persuading the people. It is not necessary to have facts or truth to move the mob. It is the most unjust and unreasonable appeal possible. Had the priests not interfered they undoubtedly would have shouted for His release, as Pilate anticipated.

²³ Now that the priests have caught him in his own device, he tries to persuade the mob. Evil or no evil, they want His blood.

24 See Deut. 216.7.

²⁴ Pilate had the power to release Him, but expedience and selfishness are always more potent in human governments than justice.

25-38 Compare Mk.1524-28 Lu.2332-43 Jn. 1918-24.

25 See Deut.1910Ac.528.

²⁵ The Jews today have good cause to shudder when they read these lines. There is a reason for their terrible history from that day to this.

26 Compare Mk.1515Lu.2324,25Jn.191.

27-31 Compare Mk.1516-20Jn.192-16.

you wanting I should be releasing to you, Bar-Abbas, or Jesus, who is 18 termed Christ?" For he was

aware that it was through envy

they betray Him.

Now at his sitting on the dais, his wife dispatches to him, saying, "Let there be nothing between you and that just man, for I suffered much today in a trance because of him."

Now the chief priests and the elders persuade the throngs that they should be requesting Bar-Abbas, yet should be destroying

Jesus.

Now answering, the governor said to them, "Which of the two are you wanting I should be releasing to you?"

Now they said "Bar-Abbas!"

Pilate is saying to them, "What then shall I be doing with Jesus who is termed Christ?"

They are all saying, "Let him be crucified!"

Yet the governor averred, "Why, what evil does He?"

Yet they cried exceedingly, say-

ing, "Let him be crucified!"

Now Pilate, perceiving that it is of no benefit, but rather a tumult is occurring, getting water, washes off his hands in front of the throng, saying, "I am innocent from the blood of this just man. Be you seeing to it!"

And answering, the entire people said, "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he re-

leases to them Bar-Abbas. Now, whipping Jesus, he gives Him over

that He may be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor, taking Jesus along into the Pretorium, assembled to Him the ²⁸ whole squadron, and, stripping Him, they place a scarlet mantle ²⁹ about Him, and braiding a wreath

85001 MATTHEW'S ACCOUNT s1 * o. **ΟCTINAGEΛΕΤΕΑΠΟΛΎСΟΥ²⁰** ΙΔΕΠΕΡΙ CCΦČΕΚΡΑΖΟΝΛΕ²⁰ ANY YE-ARE-WILLING I-SH'D-BE-FROM-LOOSING toones YET exceedingly CRIED As omit THE FONTECCTAYPOOHTWIAWN® MINTONBAPABBANHIHCOY® LET-Him-BE-BEING-impaleD PERCEIVING YOUP THE Bar-Ahhas OR JESTIS ΔΕΟΠΕΊΛΑΤΟC ΟΤΙΟΥΔΕΝΦ[®] NTONACTOMENONXPICTON® being-said that NOT-YET-ONE it-IS-THE ANOINTED THE PILATE * 0 ΗΔΕΙΓΆΡΟΤΙΔΙΑΦΑΟΝΟΝΠ⁸⁰ **GEAGLAAAAMAAAONOOPYB**® 18 HAD-PERCEIVED for that THRU ENVY benefitric hut PATHER APGAWKANAYTONKAHMEN 100 OCTGINGTALAABONYAOPA600 19 BESIDE-GIVE Him OF-sitting IS-RECOMING GETTING water he-B KAT DOWN-**TENIYATOTACXEIPACATE®** ΟΥΔΕΆΥΤΟΥ ΕΠΙΤΟΥ ΒΗΜΑΤ 20 YET OF-him platform ON THE FROM-WASHES THE NANTITOYOXAOYAGE@NAG@ OCARECTE LAGNIT POCAYTO commissions TOWARD him OF-THE THRONG INSTEAD SAVING UN-PENAL NHTYNHAYTOYAGTOYCAMH® **WOCEIMIANOTOYAIMATOC®** THE WOMAN OF-him NO-YET-I-AM FROM THE B OMIS OF THE JUST-ONS A OF-this THE JUST-ONS TOYALK ALOYTOYTOYYME 180 **ΔENCOIK AIT ΦΔΙΚΑΙ ΦΕΚΕ™** this to-THE JUST-One OF-THE JUST-One to-YOU AND that VE S1.+AC YET SAI FOR COYECOEKAI ANOKPICE 100 ΙΝΦΠΟΛΛΆΓΑΡΕΠΆΘΟΝΟΗΜ200 for I-EMOTIONED LODAY WILL-BE-VIEWING AND answerING **EPONKATONAPALAYTONOL²⁰** TACOAAOCEITENTOAIMAA20 20 according-to TRANCE THRU Him THE EVERY THE PEOPLE said THE BLOOD ΔΕΑΡΧΙΕΡΕΙΟΚΑΙΟΙΠΡΕΟ: **ΥΤΟΥΕΦΗΜΑCΚΑΙΕΠΙΤΑΤΕ**Φ chief-SACRED-ones Him THE offsprings AND THE SENIORS ON US AND ON BYTEPOIETEICANTOYCOX® KNAHMUNTOTEATIEAYCENA® PERSUADE THE THRONGS 26 then he-FROM-LOOSES OF-US **ACYCINAAITHCONTAITON®** YTOICTONB APABBANTONA® THEY-SH'D-BE-REQUESTING THE Rar-Ahhas THE BAPABBANTONAEIHCOYNA300 **ΕΙΗCΟΥΝΦΡΑΓΕΛΛ**ΨΟΑCΠΑ⁸⁰⁰ THE YET JESUS THEY-WHIPPING s² adds AYTOIC to-them but deleted
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- 29 See Ps.6919.20Isa.533.
- 30 See Isa. 506.
- 31 See Isa.537,8Phil.29,10.
- 31 In mockery, our Lord went through the mimic ceremony of being invested with imperial dignity. The shining attire with which Herod clothed Him (Lu. 2311) may have been intended to mark Him as a candidate for royal honors. Pilate's soldiers put on Him the scarlet mantle, a sign of His having attained the imperial throne, and add the crown of thorns and the reed for a scepter, and offer Him the homage due to such exalted rank. Little did they dream of His high honors as earth's Suzerain and heaven's supreme Head! And little do His saints discern that this is the essential ceremony of investiture for the King of kings and Lord of lords. He never could assume the place supreme unless He had descended to the depths. Suffering and shame are the divine preliminaries to joy and honor. Those who suffer-they shall reign.
- ³² Compare Mk.15²¹Lu.23²⁶⁻³¹. See Heb. 13¹², 13.
- 33-34 Compare Mk.15²²,²³ Lu.23³³⁻³⁶ Jn. 19¹⁷.
- 34 See 48 Ps.6921.
- 35 Compare Ps. 2218.
- 35 The crucifixion of Christ is a holy of holies, where speech seems sacrilegious, and silence sacred.
- 38 See Isa. 5312.
- 39-44 Compare Mk. 1529-32; Lu. 2335-43. See Ps. 227,8.
- 39 The whole scene is vibrant with the presence of God, not only in the Victim and the feeble few who followed, but in the very words of those who hated Him. They spoke great truths which they could not comprehend. They were demolishing the true Temple of God. They needed salvation. But it could never come if He saved Himself or descended from the cross. priest could not have uttered a more pregnant or more precious truth. How gladly we echo their words! We only change the note of derision into a song of triumph. "Others He saves: Himself He cannot save!" Surely they were inspired!
- 40 See 2661-64Jn.219.
- 44 There were four others crucified with Christ. Two were malefactors. Two were robbers. One of the male-

- out of thorns, they place it on His head, and a reed in His right hand, and falling on their knees in front of Him, they deride Him, saying,
- 30 "Rejoice, king of the Jews!" And spitting on Him, they got the reed
- 31 and beat Him on His head. And when they deride Him, they strip Him of the mantle and put His garments on Him, and led Him off to crucify.
- Now, coming out, they found a Cyrenian man named Simon. This man they conscript, that he should be picking up His cross.
- 33 And, coming to the place termed "Golgotha", which is termed
- 34 "Skull Place," they give Him wine mixed with gall to drink. And tasting. He does not want to drink.
- Now, crucifying Him, they divide His garments, casting the lot.
- ³⁶ And sitting, they kept Him there.
- ³⁷ And they place above His head His charge written,

THIS IS JESUS,

THE KING OF THE JEWS.

- 38 Then two robbers are being crucial fied together with Him, one at the right and one at the left.
- Now those going by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who are demolishing the temple and building it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, deseend from the
- 41 cross!" Likewise the chief priests also, with the scribes and elders,
- ⁴² deriding, said, "Others he saves: himself he cannot save! If he is

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factors believed on Him. The robbers reproached Him.

45-53 Compare Mk.1533-38 Lu.2344-46 Jn. 1925-30.

45 The dread darkness was but an indication of the withdrawal of the divine Presence from the silent Sufferer. This was incomparably more awful than the opposition of His enemies or the desertion of His friends. Until this darkness enveloped Him, He had always lived in the light of God's smile. Now He was hanging on a tree, and became accursed of God (Gal. 313). Sinless, He became sin (2 Co. 521). Then it was that fire from above entered into His bones (Lam. 113). Then the Lord bruised Him (Isa. 5310). It was the travail of His soul in these dark hours which settled the question of sin. It is only as we see God against Him then that we can appreciate how much He is for us now. Crucified by man at the behest of Satan, and abandoned by God, He was the most forlorn and forsaken creature in the universe. Only after it is past and the light returns is He able to cry to God. And then He utters that most incomprehensible of all questions, unless, indeed, He suffered for the sins of others. For His own sake God would never have abandoned Him. For my sake (and yours, beloved reader), He endured, not merely the physical pain, the mental torture, the moral degradation which men inflicted, but the deeper, direr despair of the awful enmity of God.

- 46 See Ps. 221.
- 48 See Ps. 6921.
- 50 His death was different from all others. He did not linger until life ebbed away, but laid down His soul while still strong by committing His spirit to God. His body was laid in the tomb. His soul went to the unseen. His work was done, and death was His portion until His resurrection.
- 51 See 2 Chr. 314.
- 51 The flesh of Christ was figured by the curtain in the temple which hid the presence of God from the holy place. God was not manifest in His flesh, but in its rending. Our union with Christ does not commence until His crucifixion. We were crucified, entombed, raised, and are ascended and seated in Him.

Israel's king, let him now descend from the cross, and we will be be-43 lieving on him! He has confidence in God. Let Him rescue him now,

in God. Let Him rescue him now, if He is wanting him, for he said that 'I am God's Son'!!' Now the

44 that 'I am God's Son'!" Now the robbers also, who were crucified together with Him, reproached Him with the same.

Now from the sixth hour [about 12 M.] it became dark over the entire land till the ninth hour [about

46 3 P. M.]. Now about the ninth hour Jesus exclaims with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi! Eloi! lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God! My God! why didst Thou abandon

47 Me?" Now some of those standing there, hearing it, said that "He

48 is summoning Elijah." And immediately one from among them, running and getting a sponge, filling it with vinegar and, sticking it

on a reed, gave Him a drink. Yet the rest said, "Let be! We may see if Elijah, coming, will be saving him." Now another, getting a lance head, punctures His side, and out came water and blood.

Now Jesus, crying again with a 51/loud voice, lets out the spirit. And lo! the curtain of the temple is rent in two from above to the bottom, and the earth quaked, and the rocks are rent, and the tombs were opened. And many bodies of the

opened. And many hodies of the reposing saints were roused, and, coming out of the tombs after His rousing, they entered into the holy city and are disclosed to many.

Now the centurion and those with him who are keeping Jesus, perceiving the quake and the occurrences, were tremendously afraid, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

87001 MATTHEW'S ACCOUNT CHAPTER 27 BEITAN Bs omit IF **ΕΛΟΙΠΟΙΈΛΕΓΟΝΑΦΕ**CΙΔΦ²⁰ AIEIBACIAEYCIICPAHAEC20 hias FROM-LET WE-MAYв+С TINKATABATONYNAHOTOY40. MENEIEPXETAIHAIACCOC® LET-Him-be-down-stepping now from the BE-PERCEIVING IF IS-COMING ELTAS SAVING A omits other to BLOOD A 0.8(1) CTAYPOYKAITICTEYCOME® WNAYTONALAOCAEABUNA®
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54-61 Compare Mk.1539-47 Lu.2347-56 Jn. 1938-42.

54 The kingdom proclamation closed with the acknowledgment of Peter that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God (161e). His priestly ministry closes with the centurion's declaration that He is the Son of God. Thus we are given a foretaste of the final effect of both of these ministries. In the day of His return, Israel will exultantly acclaim Him King and the nations of the earth will acknowledge Him their Lord.

- 55 See Lu. 82.3.
- 56 See 1355.

57 The shame and ignominy, as well as the sufferings, are now over. Though they appointed His grave with the law-less, God put Him in a rich man's tomb. The Romans would have left His body till it wasted away or was devoured by birds of prey. The Jews would have put it in a felon's grave. God indicated His mind by providing two honorable men, Joseph and Nicodemus (Jn. 1939), to attend to His entombment. Joseph of Arimathea, translated, means "He adds the heights."

62 The morrow after the preparation was the great sabbath which began the festival of Unleavened Bread. But the religious leaders did not rest nor did they allow Pilate peace. They now realized that they had only fulfilled His own predictions, and that, should He rise from the dead, or even appear to do so, they would be in a worse predicament than ever. From the divine side it was important that they should have ample assurance of His resurrection. Nothing could be more convincing than the story of the guard. Their plan was an excellent one to prove, not disprove, His return to life.

63 See 162117232019.

64 Twelve times we are told that He would rise "the third day". Why do they tell Pilate "after three days", and then set the guard hardly more than a day after His death? Pilate was a Roman. They used the Latin idiom. Mark, who wrote for Romans, also uses this form (Mk. 831; 931; 1034). In Greek it is literal, "the third day". In Latin it is idiomatic, "after three days". In Hebrew it is an idiom which accords with all their chronological computations, "three days and three nights".

Now there were many women there also, beholding from afar, who follow Jesus from Galilee, dis-

⁵⁶ pensing to Him, among whom was Mary Magdalene and Mary, mother of James and Joses, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

Now as it is becoming evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who him-

58 self also is a disciple of Jesus. This man, approaching Pilate, requests the body of Jesus. Then Pilate orders the body to be given back.

⁵⁹ And, getting the body, Joseph folds it in a clean linen wrapper

⁶⁰ and places it in his new tomb which he quarries in the rock. And rolling a large stone on to the door of

61 the tomb, he came away. Now Mary Magdalene was there and the other Mary, sitting in front of the sepulcher.

Now, on the morrow which is after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees were as-

63 sembled with Pilate, saying,
"Lord, we are reminded that that
deceiver said while still living,
"After three days I am being
64 roused." Then order the sepulcher
to be goeward till the third day

to be secured till the third day, lest at some time his disciples, coming, should be stealing him and may be saying to the people, 'He was roused from the dead', and the last deception will be worse than the first.''

65 Yet Pilate averred to them "You have a detail. Go, make it secure, as you are aware."

Now, being gone, they secure the sepulcher, sealing the stone, with

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66 The "detail" of soldiers, was a small squad which, in Latin, was called a custodian. From this we get our word custody. Pilate uses the Latin military term for which the Greek had no exact equivalent. Hence it is transliterated, rather than translated in the sublinear rendering.

- 1 Compare Mk.161-4Lu.241,2Jn.201.
- The enigmatical phrase, "the evening of the sabbaths," when the Roman watch was set, is the key to a problem which astute theologians have declared to be unsolvable. The Hebrew day, in starting at sundown, commenced in the middle of an "evening". The evening of one day lasted till sundown, after that it was counted as the evening of the next day. Thus each day had two evenings, one at its commencement and another at its close. Each evening was in two days. The evening when the watch was set was in two sabbaths. One, the first day of Unleavened Bread, was a special sabbath. coming but once a year. The other was the usual weekly sabbath. The conjunction of these two at their common evening satisfies the phrase "the evening of the sabbaths," and furnishes the key to the chronology of the passion week.

"One of the sabbaths" is the only correct translation of the phrase usually rendered "the first day of the week". The word first is not there. It is simply one, and is applied to the eleventh hour (Mt.2012), which, in that case, was last, not first. The word day is not in the text at all. The word "week" is in the plural, and is precisely the same as the form in the preceding sentence. If it is rendered "sabbaths" there it must also be "sabbaths" here. So there is no recourse but to translate "one of the sabbaths."

The key to this expression lies in the law of the Firstfruits (Lev. 239-14). Ending with the day before Pentecost there were seven sabbaths (Lev. 2315) from the day before the waving of the "sheaf". These are referred to in the phrase "one of the sabbaths". Every mention of this phrase places it between the Passover and Pentecost, (1 Co.162 and 3 Acts 201 and 6). And the other occurrences refer to our Lord's resurrection (Mk.162 Lu.241 Jn. 201-19). He was raised on a sabbath, not the first day of the week, which would be our Sunday. His res-

28 the detail. Now it is the evening of the sabbaths.

At the lighting up into one of the sabbaths came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to behold the ² sepulcher. And lo! a great quake occurred, for a messenger of the Lord, descending out of heaven and approaching, rolls away the stone

- from the door and sat upon it. Now to the perception he was as lightning, and his dress white as if snow.
- ⁴ Now from fear of him the keepers quaked and became as dead.
- Now answering, the messenger said to the women, "Fear you not, for I am aware that you are seeking Jesus, Who has been crucified.
- 6 He is not here, for He was roused according as He said. Hither! Perceive the place where the Lord lay.
- And go swiftly, say to His disciples that He was roused from the dead, and lo! He is preceding you into Galilee. There you will see Him. Lo! I told you!"
- And coming away swiftly from the tomb with fear and great joy, they ran to report to His disciples.
- Now as they went to report to His disciples, lo! Jesus also meets them saying, "Rejoice!" Now they, approaching Him, hold His to feet and worship Him. Then Jesus is saying to them, "Fear not!
 - sus is saying to them, "Fear not! Go, report to My brethren that they may be coming away into Galilee, and there they shall see Me."
- 11 Now at their going, lo! some

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urrection on the sabbath is a token that His work was complete. Redemption is now a matter of entering into His stopping, not the beginning of a new week of toil and labor.

5-8-Compare Mk.165-8Lu.243-11.

9-10 Compare Mk. 169-11. See Jn. 2017.

18 This account is principally concerned with the rejection of the kingdom. How fitting that it should close with a preview of its establishment in the coming eon! The place is signifi-cant. Satan took Him to a high mountain to show Him the kingdoms of the earth. The transformation was on a mountain. The place speaks of His exaltation. This will not be realized until He comes in glory. He has not yet taken His great power (Un. 1117). The apostles never went out to all nations. On the contrary, Peter was opposed when he went to the proselyte Cornelius (Ac. 113). They never baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit. They used the titles of Christ intelligently when they baptized. They used "Jesus Christ" in baptizing Israelites, "Lord Jesus" for Samaritans (Ac. 816). They never used "Christ Jesus", the title of His present heavenly glory. They never used the formula here given because they knew that it was reserved for the future kingdom proclamation. They never discipled the nations, as such. The Lord was not with them till the conclusion of that eon, but left them soon after, when He ascended. This commission cannot be carried out until His return in power and glory to bless all nations through His people Israel.

of the detail, coming into the city, report all that occurs to the chief ¹² priests. And being assembled with the elders, besides holding a consultation, they give a considerable sum of silver to the soldiers, say-

ing, "Say that 'His disciples, coming by night, steal him as we
are reposing.' And if this should be heard by the governor, we will persuade him and we will make you
to be without worry." Now they,

getting the pieces of silver, do according as they were taught. And this word is blazed abroad among the Jews unto this very day.

Now the eleven disciples went into Galilee, into the mountain where Jesus arranges with them.
 And, perceiving Him, they wor-

18 ship Him, yet they hesitate. And, approaching, Jesus speaks to them saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth was given to Me.

Going, then, disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, teaching them to be keeping all, whatever I direct you. And lo! I am with you all the days

till the conclusion of the eon!

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MARK'S ACCOUNT

MARK makes us acquainted with the model Servant. It presents a scene of intense activity. No sooner is a deed done than "straightway" we are engaged with another. The Servant is introduced without a genealogy, for His deeds are sufficient credentials. His birth, His childhood, and His youth are passed over, for in them He was not equipped for service. The account begins with His induction into active ministry by the forerunner, John the baptist.

In Matthew His regal relation to the royal nation, Israel, is emphasized. They are to rule the other nations. Luke's account is wider in its sympathies, and brings blessing to all mankind through the favored people. The scope of Mark is still broader, for it reaches out to all creation. Whereever there is work to be done He is ready with untiring zeal and humble obedience. Seldom is He called "Lord", for here He is in the place of a servant.

We are not so much engaged with Him as with His work. We are told what He did, and why and how. His own feelings are directly related to the

results of His acts.

It is generally supposed that Mark is the writer of this account. If so, it is a striking instance of God's grace and wisdom, for Mark himself, as a servant, was the most notable failure of our Lord's followers. Though the son of a very godly mother, in whose home in Jerusalem the disciples met for worship and prayer (Ac. 1212), and the nephew of Barnabas (Col. 410), and probably a convert of Peter (1 Pt. 513). and once chosen to accompany Barnabas and Paul on their missionary journey, yet he deserted them at Perga and returned to Jerusalem. When he proposed to join their second journey, Paul would not have him and chose rather to separate from Barnabas than to take him along (Ac. 1526-38). Thus the traitorous tax gatherer Matthew tells us of the King; the selfish John gives us the loving Son; the unsuccessful physician Luke portrays the sympathetic Healer; and the discredited servant Mark sets forth the true and faithful Servant of Jehovah.

But we must look beyond Mark's failure to see its true significance. It was used by God to separate Paul from association with Jerusalem. When again they became friendly, Mark retained his physical standing as one of the Circumcision (Col. 411), and thus effectually shut himself out of the new administration of God's grace which was introduced through Paul, which ignores all physical distinctions, and which is the truth for the present time.

This account, then, presents our Lord as a Servant of the Circumcision for the sake of the truth of God, to confirm the patriarchal promises (Ro. 158). He never leaves the land. He does not give the children's bread to puppies (727). Very few crumbs fall from the table for feeding those outside the narrow pale of Israel. And yet through them, after His resurrection, He reaches out with blessing for the whole creation.

Mark's account is characterized by some significant omissions. Except on two special occasions, the Servant is never addressed as Lord. Only after His resurrection is he so styled (16 19,20). The word "law" does not occur, for though His service conforms to the law it is not measured by it but exceeds all legal demands. The Servant does not set forth the manifesto of the kingdom as in Mt. 5-7, and has no "Lord's prayer". The parables are fewer. Passages which set forth the majesty and glory of the Lord are omitted or abbreviated.

The Servant's shrinking from public notice is very evident in Mark as in such passages as 138724,36826. This is exquisitely brought out in 916.25. From the adoration of the overawed throng who perceive some lingering glory of the transformation on the mount He turns in the unresting continuity of filial service to heal the boy before a great multitude gathers, and then speedily withdraws to the privacy of the house. In this account His greatest glory is His humility, making Him the perfect Servant of Jehovah.

²⁻³ Compare Mal. 3¹ Isa. 40³ Mt. 3³ Lu. 3⁴⁻⁶ Jn. 1¹⁵⁻²³.

4-8 Compare Mt.31-12Lu.31-18.

John the baptist was the son of a priest, so that he was entitled to exercise the priestly office and enjoy all its privileges, which assured him a life of ease and comfort. Yet, under the urge of the holy spirit, which filled him even before he was born, he gave up all this for the lowly and austere life of a Nazarite (Nu.62-7). He was not permitted to eat anything which came of the vine, the symbol of that which cheers the heart of God and man (Jud. 913). Like Samson, he let his hair grow long, a symbol of weakness and dishonor (1 Co. 1114). Instead of the linen ephod he wore coarse camel's hair. Instead of living of the altar and eating the best of the sacrifices, he subsisted on locusts and wild honey.

John the baptist was a continual contrast with the Lord. Christ was not a Nazarite. He drank wine, dressed as others did, never wore long hair, and dwelt with His parents until the time for His ministry arrived. John came in the spirit of Elijah, but when the Lord's disciples wished to call down fire from heaven and consume the Samaritans for offending them, as Elijah had done to the men who were sent against him (2 Ki. 110-12), He rebuked them. Christ did not come in the spirit of Elijah at that time. Elijah was an austere proclaimer of righteousness. Christ's message mingled grace with truth. He came, not to condemn sinners, but to save them. In Him conviction was coupled with compassion.

See Lev. 11²².
 Compare Jn. 1¹⁵, 26, 27.

9-11 Compare Mt.313-17Lu.321,22Jn.132-34.

10 The dove is a symbol of peace, of judgment past (Gen.812) and of sacrifice. (Wherever we read "pigeon" in the versions of Leviticus it should read "dove" as in all the other occurrences.) This is an index of the ministry to which it was the introduction. In contrast to John's fierce denunciations of judgment, He went about a meek, harmless, unresisting victim, until He is finally offered up to God. It was in this that God could delight. He was His Son, not merely by birth, but in His likeness to His Father.

12-13 Compare Mt.41-11Lu.41-18.

THE BEGINNING OF THE EVANGEL OF JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD.

According as it is written in Isaiah the prophet.

"Lo! I am dispatching My messenger before Thy face, Who will be constructing Thy road in front of Thee.

A voice of one imploring in the wilderness.

'Make ready the road of the Lord!

Be making His highways straight!"

John the baptist came to be in the wilderness and is proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the pardon of sins. And the entire province of Judea went out to him, and all the Jerusalemites, and they were baptized by him in the Jordan river, confessing their sins.

And John was dressed in camel's hair, and a leather girdle about his loins, and eating locusts and wild honey. And he proclaims, saying, "One stronger than I is coming after me, the thong of Whose sandals I am not competent to stoop and loose. I, indeed, baptize you in water, yet He shall be baptizing you in holy spirit."

And it occurred in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and is baptized in the Jordan by John. And straightway, stepping up out of the water, He perceived the heavens rent, and the spirit, as a dove, descending and remaining on Him. And a voice came out of the heavens, "Thou art My beloved Son: in Thee I de-

light."

12 And straightway the spirit is ejecting Him into the wilderness.

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12 The wilderness trial was especially intended to test His loyalty to God in connection with His royal claims to David's throne and as the obedient Man. Hence Matthew and Luke enlarge upon it. As it is not a record of service for others, Mark mentions it most briefly.

14-15 Compare Mt. 412-17.

14 Before this our Lord had performed miracles, such as that at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, and had gathered a following of disciples, but He waited until John's ministry was ended by his imprisonment before beginning His first evangelistic tour.

15 The era of the nations' rule over Israel was nearing its end, as foretold by Daniel the prophet. Nearly four hundred and eighty years had run their course since Daniel had predicted that four hundred and ninety years should be "cut out" before the fulfillment of his vision (Dan.924). Normally, not much more than ten years would bring them into the kingdom, but this depended on the attitude of the nation.

It is true that Daniel cut the era into periods, and that there is very evidently some delay after the sixty-ninth heptad, in which Messiah was to be cut off. But no intimation is given that this would be any considerable length of time. So that we may consider that our Lord's ministry as a whole was, from the prophetic viewpoint, within something over seven years of the kingdom. This is the force of the oft-repeated expression which was the burden of His proclamation. "The kingdom of God has drawn near." The sixty-ninth heptad of Daniel ended with His triumphal entry (118). Only seven more prophetic years remained, which begin with the confirmation of the covenant with the coming prince (Dan. 927). That it did not come does not in the least disprove the fact that it was near. Epaphroditus draws near unto death (Phil. 230) but he did not die at that time. This word is very carefully chosen. Lord did not predict positively that the kingdom was "at hand" so that it must come in a short time, but relatively, that it needed little time to make it a reality.

16-20 Compare Mt.418-22Lu.51-11.

¹³ And He was in the wilderness forty days, being tried by Satan, and was with the wild beasts. And the messengers waited on Him.

Now, after the betrayal of John, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the evangel of the kingdom of God, saying that "The era has been fulfilled and the kingdom of God has drawn near. Repent, and be believing in the evangel!"

And passing by beside the sea of Galilee, He perceived Simon, and Andrew, Simon's brother, pursenetting in the sea, for they were ¹⁷ fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Hither after Me and I shall be making you become fishers of men!" And immediately, leaving ¹⁸ their nets, they follow Him. And advancing slightly, He perceived James of Zebedee and his brother John, and those in the ship, re-

²⁰ adjusting the nets. And straightway He calls them, and, leaving their father, Zebedee, in the ship with the hired men, they came away after Him.

And they are going into Capernaum. And immediately, on the sabbaths, entering the synagogue,

²² He taught. And they were astonished at His teaching, for He was teaching them as One having authority, and not as the scribes.

And straightway a man was in their synagogue with an unclean
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19 Before a net is used it is important that it is not badly tangled or snarled. The work of these fishermen is a graphic commentary on the word "readjust", which has been rendered by such a variety as mend, perfect, fit, perfectly join, restore, prepare, and frame. We have used readjust, adapt, and attune.

21-23 Compare Mt.413-16Lu.431-32.

24 It is usually supposed that evil spirits would be the last to acknowledge the Lord, or make Him known, and that we should welcome any agencies if they only bear witness to the truth. But our Lord would not have the testimony of demons and bids them be still. It is no test of an evil spirit if he knows and acknowledges Him. A little later (34) we are told that He did not let the demons talk, not because of their ignorance of Him. but because they were aware that He is the Christ.

It is astonishing how much of demon possession was in the land in our Lord's day. We are tempted to suppose that there was unusual activity in the unseen world because of His presence and the nearness of the kingdom. A special outburst of demonism is due in the last days, and is undoubtedly present with us now. Their tactics are the same. They do not deny Christ, but seek rather to associate themselves with Him. Hence they have made marked inroads into the household of faith, under the guise of the holy spirit of God. Let us beware of every revelation or leading which displaces the Word of God or is in the slightest degree out of harmony with His written revelation.

23-28 Compare Lu.433-37.

27 The Lord's authority over unclean spirits, even more than His control of disease, was the marvel of the people and the means of spreading His fame throughout Galilee. None of their teachers had done anything like this.

29-34 Compare Mt. 814-17Lu. 438-41.

32 The intense heat of an Eastern day was quickly over once the sun had set. Then it is that the town springs into life, the women go to the well for water and the men come in from work. On this occasion they probably waited until the sabbath was over at sunset before carrying the sick to Him.

you are—the holy One of God!" ²⁵ And Jesus rebukes him, saying, "Be still, and be coming out of 26 him!" And, convulsing him, and shouting with a loud voice, the un-

clean spirit came out of him.

And they were all awed so as to be discussing with themselves, saving. "What is this? This is some new teaching, seeing that with authority He is enjoining the unclean spirits also, and they 28 are obeying Him!" And straightway tidings of Him came out everywhere into the whole country about Galilee.

And straightway, coming out of the synagogue, they came to the house of Simon and Andrew, with

³⁰ James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying down with a fever, and straightway they are

31 telling Him about her. And approaching, He rouses her, holding her hand. And the fever leaves her immediately, and she waited on them.

Now as it is becoming evening. when the sun sets, they brought to Him all those who are ill and those

33 who are demoniacs. And the whole city was assembled at the door.

34 And He cures many who are ill of various diseases, and many demons He cast out. And He did not let the demons talk, seeing that they were aware that He is the Christ.

And in the morning, rising very early while it was night, He came out and came away into a desolate

³⁶ place, and prayed there. And Simon and those with him trail

37 Him. And they found Him, and are saying to Him that "All are

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85-39 Compare Lu.442-44.

38 Curiosity probably drew many to see Him on the morrow after He did so many wonderful deeds. Yet our Lord did not come to be gazed at but to serve. Hence He eludes them. While it is yet night He leaves the town for private communion with God in preparation for the duties of the day. Nor does He return thither to receive the plaudits of the multitude. He goes on to new fields of labor.

40-45 Compare Mt.82-4Lu.512-16.

40 It would be natural to suppose that the Lord's first efforts to proclaim the kingdom would be among the priests in Jerusalem. They were the religious leaders, and were of great political influence as well. Having gained their support He might hope to reach the lesser lights and the common people. Such would be man's way. But our Lord began with the people. seemed almost to ignore the priests. But this incident shows the way in which He testified to them. Many lepers were cleansed by Him and His disciples. They would all report to the priests and tell the story of their cleansing.

As leprosy is a type of sin, and the priests were continually occupied with the typical covering of sin, it would require but little spiritual insight for them to recognize the One Who cleansed the lepers as the true Sacrifice Which could eliminate sin altogether. The Lord did not by any means leave the priests without a witness, even if He did not personally perform many miracles in Jerusalem.

44 See Lev. 141-32.

44 We cannot help sympathizing with the mistaken zeal of the healed leper. He knew Christ as his Saviour, but hardly as his Lord. He has many followers, who have zeal without knowledge. They say "How can we help telling abroad what is so precious to us? Surely the Lord will not be displeased, even if He has forbidden it!" What was the result? The Lord could not enter the cities as He had planned, but had to remain outside, to their inconvenience and His discomfort. Alas, that we serve Him so stupidly in return for His grace!

1-12 Compare Mt.91-8Lu.517-26.

38 seeking Thee." And He is saying to them, "We may be going elsewhere into the next towns, that there also I should be proclaiming,

39 for I came forth for this." And He came into their synagogues in the whole of Galilee, proclaiming and casting out demons.

And a leper is coming toward Him, entreating Him, and falling on his knees and saying to Him, "Lord, if Thou shouldst be will-

ing, Thou canst cleanse me!"

Now Jesus, being compassionated, stretching out His hand, touches him, and is saying to him, "I am

2 willing he cleansed!" And at High

⁴² willing: be cleansed!" And at His saying this, straightway the leprosy came from him, and he is ⁴³ cleansed. And muttering to him,

44 straightway He casts him out, and is saying to him, "See you may be saying nothing to any one, but go show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses bids, for a testimony to them."

Now on coming out, he begins proclaiming it much, and to blaze abroad the word, so that He could no longer be manifestly entering a city, but was outside in the desolate places. And they came to Him everywhence.

2 And, during the days, entering into Capernaum again, it is heard ² that He is in a house. And immediately many were assembled, so that there was no longer room at all, not even at the door. And He spoke the word to them.

And they are coming, bringing to Him a paralytic being lifted by four. And, not being able to carry him to Him because of the throng, they unroof the roof where He was, and scooping it out, they

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4 Eastern houses have flat roofs with battlements, easily accessible from the ground, and a place of resort, especially in the evening. The roof usually was covered with quite a thickness of earth, laid on wooden supports. All this could readily be replaced. The point in this story seems to lie in the contrast between the physical weakness of the paralytic and the efficacy of faith. A strong man might not have been able to force his way into the Lord's presence, but the faith of his friends is sufficient to bring him to a most favorable audience with Him. In response to this, the Lord seems to ignore the feebleness of his physical frame, and proposes a blessing in correspondence with their faith. Hitherto He had proven His power over demons and disease: now He first proclaims the pardon of sins. The scribes are quick to note this advance. They had not grasped the significance of His power over the spirits or over the ills of humanity, and did not see that they necessarily involved the operation of God's spirit, or they would have been prepared for the next step, the pardon of sins. It is not enough to bind Satan and remove ill health to establish the millennium. Sin must also be quelled. So long as sin separates man from God, the kingdom of God cannot come.

7 See Isa, 4325,

Therefore, the Lord announces His authority as the Son of Mankind, to pardon sins. Sin paralyzes. The best sign that He can offer of His power to pardon it is to remove the physical paralysis, which the scribes can see with their physical eyes, and thus, if possible, open their spiritual eyes to the pardon of sins. No wonder that all were amazed and glorified God, for they had never perceived anything like this before. Let us note, then, that the pardon of sins followed the faith of the paralytic.

13-17 Compare Mt.99-13Lu.527-32.

14 The previously chosen apostles, Peter and Andrew, James and John, were ordinary fishermen. After the pardon of sins is first proclaimed our Lord goes lower in the social scale, and chooses Levi Alpheus, who is usually named Matthew, a collector of tribute for the Roman government. Patriotic, respectable citizens would have no con-

are lowering the pallet whereon
the paralytic was laid. And Jesus,
perceiving their faith, is saying to
the paralytic, "Child, your sins
have been pardoned you."

Now there were some of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning

7 in their hearts, "Who is this talking thus? He is blaspheming! Who is able to pardon sins except

⁸ One—God?" And straightway Jesus, recognizing in His spirit that *they* are reasoning thus among themselves, is saying to them, "Why are you reasoning these

things in your hearts? What is easier to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are being pardoned,' or to be saying, 'Rouse and pick up your pallet and walk'?

Now that you may be perceiving that the Son of Mankind has authority on earth to pardon sins"

11 (He is saying to the paralytic), "I am saying to you, Rouse, and pick up your pallet and go into your

12 house." And he was roused, and, straightway, picking up the pallet, he came out in front of all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying that "We never perceived it thus!"

And again He came out beside the sea. And the entire throng came to Him, and He taught them.

14 And, passing along, He perceived Levi of Alpheus, sitting at the tribute office, and is saying to him, "Be following Me!" And rising, he

15 follows Him. And, at His coming to lie down in his house, many tribute collectors also, and sinners OPYZANTECXAA@CITONKP20 EXCAVATING THEY-ARE-LOWERING THE PALLET в2+В в КвТfaint A СФФ on which for the-?-where ΑΒΑΤΤΟΝΟΠΟΥΟΠΑΡΑΛΥ

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nection with him or his kind, so he is forced to be friendly with sinners. It is impossible for us to apprehend the intense dislike of the Jews for those of their own nation who debased themselves by collecting tribute from their fellow countrymen for the Roman power which oppressed them. Besides, under these conditions, no patriotic and self-respecting Jew would do this work, so that, as a class, they were truly contemptible, though their extortionate methods made them well-to-do. Their only motive for engaging in this opprobrious occupation was sordid avarice.

The choice of Levi and the subsequent'feast is a well-considered effort on the part of our Lord to gradually introduce the great truth that the nation needed a Sacrifice more than a King. To the religious heart His announcement that He came to call sinners, not the just, was incomprehensible. Only the just will have a place in the kingdom, according to the prophets. Sinners will be destroyed in the judgments that precede it. Yet the Lord seemed to teach the opposite. He seeks to open their hearts to see this by comparing sin with disease. He was not needed by the strong. On the part of those who think themselves just there is no conscious desire for the pardon of sins. The kingdom will not come until the whole nation has learned to say (Isa. 536):

All we, as sheep, are straying;
We countenance our own way to a
man,
And Jehovah intercedes in Him for
the lawlessness of us all.

18-22 Compare Mt. 914-17; Lu. 533-39.

18 The general impression that John's ministry was the same in spirit and method as that of our Lord has no foundation in the scriptures. It was right for his disciples to hunger. But it was most unfitting for the Lord's disciples to fast while He was with them. John came in the spirit of stern Elijah (Lu.117), but the Lord did not come in the spirit of Elijah (Lu.954).

21 This is used to press home the difference between John's ministry and that of our Lord. But it may be applied with far more force to the futility of seeking to combine the truth for the present with that for the past. lay back at table with Jesus and His disciples, for there were many, and ¹⁶ they followed Him. And the scribes of the Pharisees, perceiving Him also that He ate with sinners and the tribute collectors, said to His disciples, "Wherefore is your teacher eating and drinking with the tribute collectors and sin- ¹⁷ ners?" And Jesus, hearing, is say-

'ners?'' And Jesus, hearing, is saying to them that "The strong have no need of a physician, but the ill. I came not to call the just, but sinners."

And the disciples of John and the Pharisees were fasting, and they are coming and saying to Him, "Wherefore are the disciples of John and the disciples of the Pharisees fasting, yet your disciples are not fasting?" And Jesus said to them, "Can the sons of the bridal chamber be fasting while the bridegroom is with them? As long a time as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot be fasting. Yet the days will be coming, when-

²⁰ Yet the days will be coming, whenever the bridegroom should be taken away from them, and then they will be fasting in that day.

Now no one is sewing a patch of unshrunk shred on an old cloak; yet if so, that which fills up is taking away from it, the new from the old, and the rent is becoming 22 worse. And no one is draining fresh wine into old wine skins; yet if so, will not the fresh wine be bursting the wine skins? And the wine is spilled, and the wine skins will be destroyed—but fresh wine into new wine skins."

23 And He came to be going by

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23-28 Compare Mt.121-8Lu.61-5.

23 In the law it was written, "For you shall come into that which was raised by your associate and pluck snips with your hand, yet you shall not swing a scythe on that which your associate raises" (Deut.2325). The disciples were perfectly justified in plucking the grain and eating it. What the Pharisees objected to was that they did this work on the sabbath. They had innumerable traditional by-laws as to what could or could not be done on a sabbath, making it a day of restraint rather than repose. The sabbath is for man's benefit. not man for the benefit of the sabbath. The Son of Mankind is Lord of the sabbath.

25 See 1 Sam.211-6.

25 It is notable how little the letter of the law was observed in the presence of God. The priests in the sanctuary profane the sabbath in their ministrations, yet are faultless (Mt. 125). David took the show-bread, fresh from the holy place. All this makes it evident that the law was not meant for those in His presence. It was not meant for the righteous, but sinners. Now the Pharisees are standing in the presence of the Lord of the temple and the Lord of the sabbath. It is they who are at fault with their impudent importation of the law into the precincts of the living Temple of Jehovah.

26 See Lev. 245-9.

1-6 Compare Mt.129-14Lu.66-11.

1 As the Pharisees are blind to His glories. He chooses another and a simpler method of enforcing the truth as to the sabbath. Here is a man who cannot work on the sabbath or any other day, for his hand is withered. Such was the sabbath keeping of the Pharisees, a withered, shrunken, spiritless, soulless form, of no benefit to either God or man. As the great miracle of the restoration of Israel takes place in the great sabbatism of a thousand years, of which all other sabbaths were but a type, and thus it is vital to the kingdom that Jehovah should do good on the sabbath, the Pharisees should have known and believed on Him because so many of His signs were done on that day.

6 See Mt. 2215-16.

through the sowings on the sabbaths, and His disciples begin mak-24 ing a path, plucking the ears. And the Pharisees said to Him, "Lo! Why are they doing what is not ²⁵ allowed on the sabbaths?" And He said to them, "Did you never read what David does, when he had need and hungers, he and 26 those with him—how he entered the house of God to Abiathar the chief priest, and ate the show bread, which no one is allowed to eat except the priests, and he gives also to those who are with him?" 27 And He said to them, "The sab-

And He said to them, "The sabbath came because of mankind, and not mankind because of the sabbath, so that the Son of Mankind is Lord of the sabbath also."

3 And He entered again into the synagogue. And a man was there

² having a withered hand. And they scrutinized Him—if He will be curing him on the sabbaths, that they should be accusing Him.

And He is saying to the man having the withered hand, "Rise in the midst." And He is saying to them, "Is it allowed on the sabbaths to do good or to do evil, to save a soul or to kill?" Yet they were silent. And looking about on them with indignation, commiserating the callousness of their hearts, He is saying to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretches it out, and his hand was restored. And, coming out, the Pharisees straightway had a consultation with the Herodians

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6 Now that the Pharisees had made up their minds to destroy Him, they are reminded of their own impotence. The governor would never countenance an assassination on purely theological grounds. The Jews were always quarrelling about their religious differences, and it would hardly do to make heresy a capital offense, for the various parties all hated one another. Pharisees were against the Herodians, who were loyal to the base Idumean usurpers, who were foreigners quite as much as the Romans so far as their right to reign was concerned.

But what they needed was a political charge. If they could prove Him to be opposed to the powers in possession of the government, it would not be difficult to get Him out of the way. So they lay aside their differences with the Herodians and consult with them how best to accomplish His destruction. Just as Pilate and Herod were reconciled by their common condemnation of Christ, so those who were at enmity among themselves make common cause against Him.

7-12 Compare Mt.1215-21Lu.617-19. 13-19 Compare Mt.101-4Lu.612-16.

14 This first kingdom commission should be carefully compared with the creation commission at the close of this account. As twelve is the number of administration or government, there are just twelve chosen to proclaim the coming kingdom. And, when Judas Iscariot is deprived of his place, Matthias must be chosen to keep the full number (Ac. 126). But the creation commission is given to the eleven (16) 14). The kingdom heralds are limited to the land and the nation of Israel, the preachers of the creation message go into all the world (1615). The form- 15 er was confined to the apostles. In the latter the signs followed in the case of all who believed (1617). The first was never completed. The last was proclaimed everywhere (1620).

14 The chief and foremost object of choosing the apostles is usually overlooked, yet it was deemed essential when a new one was to be chosen to take Judas' place. It was that they might be with Him.

16 See John 142.

16 See the various lists of the twelve apostles given in the note on Mt. 102. against Him, so that they should be destroying Him.

And Jesus with His disciples retires to the sea. And a vast multitude follows Him from Galilee, and from Judea, and from Jerusalem, and from Idumea and the other side of the Jordan, and about Tyre and Sidon. A vast multitude, hearing how much He did, came to

Him. And He spoke to His disciples that a boat should be waiting on Him because of the throng, lest

10 they should be crowding Him, for He cures many, so that they are falling on Him, that as many as had scourges should be touching

11 Him. And the unclean spirits, whenever they beheld Him, prostrated to Him and cried, saying that "You are the Son of God!"

12 And He warned many of them, lest they should be making Him manifest.

13 And He is ascending into the mountain and is calling whom He would, and they came away to Him.

¹⁴ And He makes twelve, whom He also names apostles, that they may be with Him, and that He may be commissioning them to proclaim,

and to have authority to be curing diseases, and to be casting out de-

16 mons. And He makes twelve, and He places the name "Peter" on

¹⁷ Simon; and James of Zebedee and John, the brother of James, on them also He places the name "Boanerges", which is, "Sons of Thun-

18 der"; and Andrew and Philip and Bartholomew and Matthew and Thomas and James of Alpheus and

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18 Simon was called "the Cananite" or "the Zealot" (which means the same) in order to distinguish him from Simon Peter. The term "Cananite" is easily confounded with "Canaanite", an inhabitant of Canaan. But no alien could possibly have been chosen to be an apostle.

19 The choice of Judas Iscariot seems to be a mystery to many. But it is merely one manifestation of the wider problem of evil. Some have supposed that the Lord did not know at the time how he would turn out. But the scriptures assure us that the Lord was not ignorant and knew from the beginning that Judas was to be His betrayer (Jn. 1321). It must needs be that offenses come. It was part of God's plan that Christ should be betrayed, for it had already found a place in the prophetic scriptures. Why, then, should He not choose the intrument?

22-27 Compare Mt.1224-30Lu.1114-23.

22 It is significant that scribes from Jerusalem commit the "unpardonable sin", or, as it is also called, the eonian sin. This consists in ascribing the casting out of unclean spirits to their head, the chief of the demons. In the evangel of the kingdom there is not the appeal to pure, unsupported faith which characterizes the evangel of God or the conciliation, which is the evangel for today. A foretaste is given of the powers of the coming eon, by means of signs, which prove the ability of Christ to cope with the powers of darkness and disease, which must be overthrown before the kingdom can come. But if these are ascribed to the unclean spirits themselves, there is no possibility of repentance and pardon because of its very nature. The sin It cannot be corrected is eonian. for the eons. Such as committed it will have no place in the millennial reign or the subsequent kingdom of the Son in the new earth during the last eon. Their salvation waits until the eons are past. The "unpardonable sin" is not one of such enormity as to be beyond the ability of grace. In this economy grace has no limits. Where sin increases, grace superexceeds (Ro. 521). Grace reigns, and no sin is sufficiently heinous to dethrone it. Its character is what determines the "unpardonable", eonian sin.

Thaddeus and Simon the Cananite, ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who also betravs Him.

And they are coming into a house, and the throng is coming together again, so that they are not even able to be eating bread. And hearing it, those with Him came out to hold it, for they said that the scribes who descend from Jerusalem said that "He has Beel zeboul", and that "By the chief of the demons is He casting out the demons."

And calling them to Him, He said to them, in parables, "How can Satan be casting out Satan?
 And if a king dom should be parted against itself that king dom is not
 able to stand. And if a house should be parted against itself that house will not be able to stand.
 And if Satan rose against himself

and is parted, he cannot stand, but ²⁷ is having a consummation. But no one is able to enter the strong man's house to plunder his gear, should he not first be binding the strong man, and then he will be plundering his house.

Verily, I am saying to you that the penalty of all the sins shall be pardoned the sons of mankind, and the blasphemies, whatever they should be blaspheming, yet whoever should be blaspheming the holy spirit is having no pardon for the eon, but is liable to the penalty of an eonian sin'—seeing that they said, "He has an unclean spirit."

And His mother and His brothers are coming, and, standing outside, they dispatch to Him, call-

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28-30 Compare Mt. 1231-32.

29 Compare Lu. 1210.

31-35 Compare Mt.1246-50Lu.819-21.

32 The Lord's brothers would hardly have summoned Him had they believed on Him, or recognized His true dignity. We are not even told that He met them. Instead, He turns our thoughts to others who are summoning Him, and whose call He cannot but hear. He claims kinship with all who serve God and is too busy serving them to be drawn aside by natural ties.

1-9 Compare Mt.131-9Lu.84-8.

- 1 We now come to a distinct change in our Lord's ministry. He begins to use parables in speaking to the throngs. It is erroneous to suppose that He does this in order to illustrate and simplify the truth. The parable is used in order to put the truth into such veiled and obscure form that those who are not spiritual can never comprehend it. Even His disciples could not understand His parables until He explained them.
- ³ The parable of the sowing is a resume of His ministry hitherto. He Himself was the Sower. The four classes were those in Israel who heard His word.

The usual trinity of evil, Satan, the flesh and the world, hinder its fruitfulness. Only one class out of the four, represented by His disciples, was really fruitful, and only a few of these in abundant measure. A farmer would say that this was a very poor crop. The proclamation of the kingdom has failed to produce the effect necessary for its realization.

His miracles and signs now take on a new note. There is often delay or danger, to indicate that the kingdom is no longer so near, and that it will not be established for some time, and then only after suffering on the part of the disciples.

⁹ The formula "who has ears to be hearing, let him be hearing!" is also significant. Though openly and apparently He speaks to all, it is couched in such language that only those who have spiritual perception will apprehend what He is saying. The rest hear the sound but do not grasp the sense. Parables are puzzles which only they can solve who have the key.

32 ing Him. And the throng sat about Him. And they are saying to Him, "Lo! Thy mother and Thy brothers and Thy sisters are outside

33 seeking Thee." And, answering them, He is saying, "Who is My

34 mother and My brothers?" And looking about on those sitting around Him, He is saying, "Lo!

³⁵ My mother and My brothers! For whoever should be doing the will of God, this one is My brother and sister and mother."

4. And again He begins to teach beside the sea. And the largest throng is being gathered to Him so that, to be sitting, He steps into the ship, in the sea. And the entire throng were toward the sea on the land.

And He taught them much in parables, and said to them in His

teaching, "Hear! Lo! The sower
 came out to sow. And it occurred

in the sowing, some indeed falls beside the road, and the flying creatures came and devoured it. And

other falls on a rocky place where it had not much earth, and straightway it shoots up because it

6 has no depth of earth. And when the sun rises it is scorched, and, because it has no root, it is withered.

And other falls into thorns and the thorns came up and stifle it, and it

gives no fruit. But other falls into ideal earth, and it gave fruit, coming up and growing up, and brought forth, one thirty and one sixty and one a hundred fold."

9 And He said, "Who has ears to be hearing, let him be hearing!"

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10-13 Compare Mt.1310-17Lu.89-10.

11 The kingdom of God had been foretold and typified in their sacred scriptures, but now the Lord is unfolding a phase of its history which was unknown to the prophets. It is not a mystery, in the sense of something mysterious or inexplicable, but merely a secret, easily understood once we are initiated into it. The disciples imagined that the Lord's proclamation of the kingdom would continue until He would gain the support of the populace and then seize the sovereignty for Himself. He could not keep on proclaiming the kingdom and at the same time openly teach that the proclamation would be rejected, so He conveys this important fact to His disciples and those spiritual enough to understand, yet conceals it from the multitude by speaking in parables.

12 It cannot be reiterated too often that parables were not used by our Lord in preaching the evangel that they might receive the pardon of sins, but for the very opposite end. spoke in parables lest the penalty of their sins should be pardoned. It is not gospel, but judgment. To "apply" it to the evangel for this day of grace is utterly contrary to the spirit of the conciliation which we should preach (2 Co.519). We seek to assure men that God is not imputing their offenses to them. We do not veil our message in figures which they cannot understand. The spirit of God has told us explicitly, not in veiled figures, that this economy will end in apostasy $(1 \text{ Ti.} 4^{1})$.

13 The twelve apostles themselves did not perceive the significance of the parable, so He explains its symbols to them. Every detail of the picture He paints was most familiar to them all. In the East there are no fences and the roads go right through the fields of grain. There is but one Sower, the Lord Himself. The figure is important, for it postpones the kingdom until the harvest. He has not been reaping, as the apostles supposed. The end is still far off. By that time three classes who have heard the word will fail of fruition. It is the old kingdom refrain: those who endure to the consummation shall be saved.

14-20 Compare Mt. 1318-23 Lu. 811-15,

And when He came to be alone, those about Him, together with the twelve, asked Him the parables.

11 And He said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, yet to those outside, all is occurring in parables,

12 that

'Observing, they may be observing And may not be perceiving, And hearing, they may be hearing, And may not be understanding, Lest at some time they should be turning about And the penalty of their sins may be pardoned them'."

And He is saying to them, "Have you not perceived this parable? And how will you know all 14 parables? The sower is sowing the 15 word. Now these are they beside the road, where the word is sown, and whenever they should be hearing, straightway Satan is coming and taking away the word which has been sown in them.

And these, likewise, are they being sown on rocky places, who, whenever they should be hearing the word, straightway with joy are 17 getting it. And they have no root in themselves, but are before the season. Thereafter, when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, straightway they are being snared.

And others are they being sown into the thorns. These are they 19 who hear the word; and the worries of this eon, and the seduction of riches and the desires concerning the rest, going in, are stifling the word, and it is becoming unfruitful.

And those are the ones being sown on ideal earth, who are hearing the word, and assenting, and are bearing fruit, one thirty and one sixty and one a hundred fold."

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21-23 Compare Mt. 514-16; Lu. 816,17; 1133. 21 It is evident that the light He has just given them is the lamp of which He speaks. He would not have them hide the light beneath self-satisfaction or indolence, which are suggested under the figure of a measure or couch. It would be very fine for them to enjoy the measure which had been given to them and repose in the illumination which had been granted to them, but that is not the purpose for which He had given them the light.

24-25 Compare Lu.818. See Mt.72Lu.638 1926.

24 In this parable He carries on the previous thought concerning the measure. As they impart to others what they had received their own measure will be increased. Spiritual blessings, unlike the physical, increase the more they are distributed.

25 This enigmatical statement can only be understood in the light of the circumstances in which it was spoken. Those who had received spiritual blessing from Christ were to receive more: those who received none would lose even the physical privileges which they had as Jews.

26 Here they have an even more emphatic hint that the kingdom would not come immediately, but by a gradual process like the growing of grain. Later on in His ministry He postpones the harvest to the conclusion of the eon (Mt.1339). The disciples were anxious to put their sickle to the grain while it was in the blade. Even after His resurrection, when the grain was in the ear, the pentecostal era showed that it was not yet ripe. The kernels will not be full until the end time.

30-32 Compare Mt.1331Lu.1318,19.

30 Ordinarily, wild mustard does not assume such dimensions, but, under favorable conditions, it might well grow into a tree. It was the smallest seed sown by the farmer and became the greatest of all his garden greens. This quick growth is quite in contrast to the previous parable, and the pungent mustard is not food, like grain. The flying creatures of heaven have a sinister significance, being interpreted as Satan in the parable of the sowing. Is not this a forecast of that false premature phase of the kingdom spoken of under the figure of great Babylon? 33-34 Compare Mt. 1334-35.

And He said to them that "Is the lamp coming that it may be placed under a measure or under a couch? Is it not that it may be 22 placed on a lampstand? For there is nothing hidden except that it should be manifested, neither did it become concealed, but that it may 23 be coming into manifestation. If

any one has ears to be hearing, let

him be hearing!"

And He said to them. "Beware In what what you are hearing! measure you are measuring, it will be measured to you, and it will be added to you. For he who has, to him shall be given; and he who has not, from him also shall be

taken away what he has."

And He said, "Thus is the kingdom of God: as if a man should be casting seed on the earth, and he may be drowsing and rousing night and day, and the seed may be germinating and lengthening, as he 28 is not aware. Spontaneously, the earth is bearing fruit, first the

blade, thereafter the ear, there-²⁹ after the full grain in the ear. Now whenever the fruit may be giving way, straightway he is dispatching the sickle, seeing that the harvest is

present."

And He said, "How should we be likening the kingdom of God? Or by what parable may we be placing it? As a kernel of mustard, which, whenever it may be sown on the earth is smaller than all the seeds of those on the earth, and whenever it may be sown, is coming up and becoming greater than all the greens and is making great boughs, so that the flying creatures of heaven can roost un-33 der its shade." And in many such parables He spoke the word to them, according as they were able

34 to be hearing it. Yet apart from

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35-41 Compare Mt.818-27Lu.222-25.

37 The lake of Galilee is subject to sudden squalls when the wind sweeps down from the mountains on the east. In a short time it changes from a placid mirror-like surface to a leaping. boiling cauldron, in which a small ship could hardly live. There must have been a marvelous calm in His own heart or He would have been roused by the pitching of the ship, or at least He would have been disturbed by the terror of His disciples. No mere man could have preserved his calmness in such danger. And how foolish for a mortal to take the wind to task and talk to the sea! But the wind and the waters were obedient to His will!

Again we have a picture of the career of the kingdom, now that its proclamation has not been received. The sea speaks of the nations (Un.1715), the storm of the time of the great affliction, the wind of the spiritual powers which will stir up the nations at the time of the end to persecute and destroy the people of the kingdom. When He comes to rescue His saints then He will say again, "Be still!" And there will be the millennial calm. 1-17 Compare Mt. 828-34 Lu. 826-37. thrice-told story shows the fiercest display of the enemy's power entirely subject to the Lord. Mark dwells more fully than Matthew on the desperate condition of the man, in accord with the scope of this account in which service rendered to man is portraved. The name of this place is so variously given in the MSS. that we have appealed to the topography of the country to settle it, and come to the same conclusion as the editor of Sinaiticus (82). Alexandrinus has it Gadarenes, Vaticanus has Gerasenes, as also Sinaiticus, before being edited. This is probably a variant of Gergesenes. Gadara was a well-known Greek city, celebrated for its temples, its theater, and its warm baths, but it was several hours distant from the southern shore of lake Galilee. The little town of Gergesa, the ruins of which the Arabs call Chersa, is "on the other side" from Galilee, and is the only part of the shore line which combines all the features necessary to the narrative. A steep mountain dips almost immediately into the lake, with hardly any beach. Tombs are cut in the rock above the city. Every natural feature accords

a parable He did not speak to them. Yet privately, to His own disciples, He explained all.

35 And He is saying to them on that day as it becomes evening, "We may pass through to the other side." And, letting away the throng, they are taking Him along, as He was in the ship. And other boats were with Him.

And there is occurring a great storm of wind, and the billows dashed into the ship, so that the ship was already filled to the brim.

And He was in the stern drowsing on a cushion. And they are rousing Him and saying to Him, "Teacher! Carest Thou not that be are perishing?" And, being roused, He rebukes the wind and said to the sea, "Be silent! Be still!" And the wind flags, and a great calm occurred. And He said to them, "Why are you timid? How is it thus? Have you no 41 faith?" And they were afraid

faith?" And they were afraid with a great fear, and said to one another, "Who, consequently, is This, that even the wind and the sea are obeying Him?"

5 And they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the ² Gergesenes. And at His coming out of the ship, straightway there meets Him a man out of the tombs, ³ with an unclean spirit, who had a

dwelling among the tombs, and no one was able any longer to bind him with chains, because, having

often been bound with fetters and chains, the chains were pulled to pieces by him and the fetters crushed, and no one had the strength to tame him. And, con-

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with the inspired account. Hence we have chosen Gergesenes as the true reading.

It is the unusual which should strike us in each of our Lord's signs and miracles, for therein lies the special lesson each of His recorded acts is intended to teach. Here we find a man obsessed with many demons, who do not come out at His first command. and they are sent into the sea. On another occasion the Lord speaks of Israel at the end time as possessing seven times as many demons as formerly (Mt.1243-45). Their last state will be much worse than their first. This is suggested here by the legion of demons who infested the unfortunate demoniac. A Roman legion was about six thousand strong. Israel has kept herself from idolatry for many a century, but when the great image is set up. many will worship the wild beast (Un. 138). The first proclamation of the kingdom is unheeded even as His first charge to the legion who were in the demoniac. But subsequently they find their way into the sea, just as Satan will be sent into the abyss.

15 The previous condition of the demoniac, restless, insubordinate, self-torturing, corresponds to their history under the law. The chains and fetters of the law never were strong enough to hold them. They were often engaged in insane internecine wars among themselves. Judah was fighting against Israel, one party was pitted against another, and to this very day they are inclined to torture themselves. What a change when they, like the demoniac, find rest and righteousness and reason at His feet in the day of the Lord!

16 It is quite probable that there were other herds of hogs being kept contrary to the law, and that their owners feared that they, also, would be destroyed if the Lord remained in that country. It will be noted that the Lord's purpose was to send the demons into the abyss, but they begged to go into the hogs. He only gave His permission, for it was not a part of His mission at this time to enforce the law of God which always conspires to carry out His will, both the keepers of the hogs and the demons were judged in accord with His purpose.

tinually, night and day, he was among the tombs and in the mountains, crying and gashing himself with stones.

And perceiving Jesus from afar,
he runs and worships Him, and,
crying with a loud voice, he is saying, "What is it to me and to Thee,
Jesus, Son of God Most High! I
am adjuring Thee by God: Thou
shouldst not be tormenting me!"

⁸ For He said to it, "Unclean spirit,

be coming out of the man!" And He inquired of it, "What is your name?" And it is saying to Him, "Legion is my name, seeing that

we are many." And it entreated Him much that He should not be dispatching it out of the country.

Now there, toward the mountain,
 was a great herd of hogs, grazing.
 And all the demons entreat Him,

saying, "Send us into the hogs, that we may be entering into them." And Jesus immediately permits them, and the unclean spirits, coming out, entered into the hogs, and the herd rushes down the precipice into the sea. Now there were about two thousand, and they were choked in the sea.

And those grazing them fled, and they report it in the city and in the fields. And they came to see what it is that has occurred.

The And they are coming to Jesus, and beholding the demoniac who had the legion, sitting and garmented and sane, and they were afraid.

And those who perceived it relate

to them how it came to be with the demoniac, and about the hogs. And they begin to be entreating Him to

10 MARA	5 ACCOUNT CHAPTER 5
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18-20 Compare Lu. 838,39.

18 Though they did not desire the Lord's presence in that region, He did not leave them without a witness, but sends the demoniac back among them to bear testimony to His mercy. Decapolis was a considerable district in the allotment of Manasseh, reaching as far as Syria, embracing ten cities of some size, the largest, according to Josephus, being Scythopolis (Wars of the Jews, 3, 9, 7). Gadara, Hippo, and Pella were also of the number.

21-24 Compare Mt.91,18,19Lu.841,42.

22 Again we are treated to a delightful presentation of the course of the kingdom proclamation in an aspect hitherto untouched. The redemption of Israel in Egypt was by blood and by power. They were shielded from God's judgments by the blood on the door posts (Ex. 127). They were delivered from Pharaoh by the waters of the Red Sea. It is possible to have one without the other. The lack of response has made it evident that there will be some delay in the setting up of the kingdom. This is pictured by the time it took Him to reach the home of Jairus. But during the interval He gives us a type of blood redemption. While Israel as a nation lies dead, awaiting His coming, a remnant from among them, who, by faith, come into vital contact with His righteousness, receive the salvation of their souls long before His return in power to raise the nation from death.

25-34 Compare Mt.920-22 Lu.843-48 Lev. 1519-27.

²⁶ Israel had many physicians that promised to cure her. The various sects, such as the Pharisees, Sadducees and Essenes, all claimed to have a sovereign remedy for her ills. Time after time a saviour arose to deliver her from her enemies, but it always led to more bloodshed and severer tyranny.

The difference between this woman and the crowd which jostled Him and crowded Him on all sides was a conscious knowledge of her uncleaness according to the law and her faith. They could come into violent collison with Him and receive no benefit. She barely came into contact with His cloak and instantly received the boon which she craved. So today, His grace abounds to those who know their need.

come away from their boundaries.

And at His stepping into the ship, the demoniac entreated Him

that he may be with Him. And He does not let him, but He is saying to him "Go to your home, to those who are yours, and report to them whatever the Lord has done for you and is merciful to you." And

wou and is merciful to you." And he came away and begins to proclaim in Decapolis whatever Jesus does for him, and they all marveled.

²¹ And at Jesus' ferrying again in the ship to the other side, a vast throng was assembled about Him

²² and He was beside the sea. And lo! one of the chiefs of the synagogue, Jairus by name, is coming, and, perceiving Him, is falling at

23 His feet. And he is entreating Him much, saying that "My little daughter is at the last gasp!" that "Thou, coming, mayest be placing hands on her that she may be saved

²⁴ and should be living!" And He came away with him, and a vast throng followed Him, and they crowded Him.

And a woman having a hemoral rhage twelve years, and suffering much under many physicians, and spending her all and being nothing benefited, but rather coming to be

²⁷ worse, hearing about Jesus, coming in the throng from behind, touches

²⁸ His cloak, for she said "If ever I should be touching even His

²⁹ garments I shall be saved." And straightway the spring of her blood is dried, and she knew in her body that she has been healed of the scourge.

And straightway Jesus, recognizing in Himself the power coming out of Him, turning about in

14 ⁰⁰¹ MARK'S	ACCOUNT CHAPTER 5
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The time and method and character of her salvation are most significant at this juncture in our Lord's ministry. It is, perhaps, the clearest intimation yet given that, while the nation will linger and die, and cannot be raised until His return, a remnant among them will have faith for the salvation which comes by blood, and know the blessedness and power of a personal contact with the Christ Who has not yet arrived at His intended goal-the resurrection of Israel.

Meanwhile, as in Lazarus' case, the delay is fatal. All hope of saving the life of the little girl is gone. He told His disciples that Lazarus was reposing. So here He tells them she is drowsing. He views it from the divine side, but they from the human. To the God of resurrection death is no more than sleep. His voice can as easily rouse the dead as we can awaken those

who are slumbering.

There is a sharp contrast between these two miracles in all their details, all of which are suggestive of the differences between the salvation which comes to the faithful before His future advent and that which He will bring with Him when He comes. In one case there was diffident yet insistent faith, and the salvation is definitely founded on it. In the other, the little girl was beyond believing, and her father's faith was feeble, while the attendants were plainly dubious. In the former the woman pressed through the throng to reach Him. She comes to Christ. In the latter He goes to the little girl. Christ comes to her. In the former the healing is instantaneous. Such was the salvation by faith through His blood which His disciples enjoyed even though the kingdom did not come. In the latter the blessing was delayed until His arrival. Such will be the case when Christ comes again to restore all that the prophets have foretold.

We do not in the least lose our appreciation of His power and mercy as displayed in these signs when we see in them an intimation of much greater and more glorious achievements. To "apply" them to His present work of grace can only lead to confusion. Much of the action can have no proper parallel in His dealings with sinners today. He does not expect the sinner to come to Him. He actually prays the sinner to be conciliated (2 Co. 520). He

the throng, said "Who touches My 31 garments?" And His disciples said to Him. "Thou observest the throng crowding Thee, and art Thou saving, 'Who touches Me?' "

32 And He looked about to see the

one who does this.

Now the woman, being afraid and trembling, being aware of what has occurred to her, came and prostrates to Him, and told Him 34 the entire truth. Now He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has

saved you. Go into peace and be sound from your scourge."

While He is still talking, they are coming from the chief of the synagogue saying that "Your daughter died. Why are you still 36 bothering the Teacher?" Now Jesus immediately, disregarding the word being spoken, is saying to the chief of the synagogue. "Fear not, only be believing!"

And He lets no one follow with Him except Peter and James, and ³⁸ John, the brother of James. And they are coming into the house of the chief of the synagogue, and He is beholding much tumult and lamentation and screaming. And entering, He is saying to them, "Why are you making a tumult and lamenting? The little girl did not die, but is drowsing." And they ridiculed Him. Yet He, ejecting all, is taking along the father of the little girl and the mother and those with Him, and He is going in where the little girl 41 was lying. And, holding the little girl's hand, He is saying to her,

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construed, "Maiden, I am saying to

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does not delay conferring salvation until His coming. All these things are significant only when we associate them with the future course of the kingdom proclamation which He was then preaching.

35-37 Compare Lu. 849-50.

38-43 Compare Mt.923-36Lu.851-56.

1-4 Compare Mt. 1353-57Lu.416-30.

- 1 On a former occasion (Lu. 416) He had gone to Nazareth to speak, and found His old neighbors and friends actually hostile to Him, so that they sought to push Him over the precipice near which the city was built. At that time He simply walked away through the midst of them. Now He returns. They have doubtless heard of His fame and marvel at His wisdom. Yet such is the perversity of human nature that they could not bring themselves to believe that their townsman and relative could possibly be the Elect of God. It is even so with others who seek to speak the word of God. Spiritual values are at an enormous discount among familiars.
- ³ See Jn.642Ga.119.
- There is a delightful contrast between our Lord, the Servant of the Circumcision (Ro.158) and Paul, His minister for the nations (Ro. 1516). Christ was a carpenter, Who built permanent habitations on earth, since the Circumcision, to whom He ministered, will have their eonian dwellings on the earth. Paul was a tent maker, for those to whom he was sent have no allotment down here, but are merely camping, waiting for their eonian dwelling in the heavens. In fullest harmony with this is the fact that we do not know Christ according to the flesh. We are not related to Him by physical ties (as the Circumcision were) nor do we enter any but a purely spiritual association, not on earth, but in the heavens. How fitting, then, that we should make His acquaintance, not on earth, in humiliation, but in the heavens, whither we shall go to meet Him. God has wisely planned that all of these physical details shall be counterparts of spiritual truths. Even Paul's own career changed from an itinerant ministry, to an epistolary, spiritual one.
- 4 See Jn.444.
- 5-6 Compare Mt.1358.
- 7-13 Compare Mt.105-15Lu.91-6.

- ⁴² you, rouse!"). And straightway the maiden rose and walked about, for she was about twelve years. And straightway they were beside themselves with great amazement.
- 43 And He cautions them much that no one should be knowing this.

 And He told them to give her to eat.
- 6 And He came out thence and is coming to His own country, and His disciples are following Him.
- And at the coming of a sabbath He begins to teach in the synagogue. And the majority, hearing, were astonished, saying, "Whence has this man all these things? And what wisdom is being given this man! And such powers are occurring by means of his hands!
- 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they were snared by Him.
- And Jesus said to them that "A prophet is not dishonored, except in his own country and among his relatives and in his home." And He could not do one powerful deed there except that, placing hands on them, He cures a few who
- 6 are ailing. And He marvels because of their unbelief.

And Jesus led them about the villages around, teaching. And He is calling the twelve to Him, and He begins to dispatch them two by two, and gave them authority over unclean spirits. And He charges them that they should be picking up nothing for the road except a club

16⁰⁰¹ ONCOLATOELE LEKALEY to-YOU I-AM-SAYING BE-BOUSING AND straigh**t-**Ew for Y ÖYCÄNECTHTOKOPACIONK# THE maiden way UP-STOOD AITEPIET ATE IHNTAPOCE® she-ABOUT-TROD she-was for AS-IF 8 IB=12 IETONAWAEKAKA IE IECTH® OF-YEARS TWO-TEN AND THEY-OUT-STOOD A omits straightway
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- 8 See Lu. 2235.
- The wisdom of these instructions is not apparent to us of the West. They were going to their fellow countrymen in the neighboring villages, and it would be much the best way to get to their hearts and gain their confidence to throw themselves wholly on their hospitality. It was a point of honor to entertain wayfarers. The villagers would gladly provide them all with bread, they were not to collect anything by begging, and even small sums of money would be refused for such hospitality as they would receive. An extra pair of sandals would only be a burden, and, as they slept in the same tunic which they wore during the day, one would suffice. Their main equipment was the lack of encumbrances which we regard as necessities. 10 Indeed, so hospitable were the villagers, that each one wanted the privilege of entertaining a guest, and so much time would be wasted in useless entertainment, as each new host would insist on some special token of hospitality. So the Lord limited them to a single home in each village. Later, our Lord asked them if they had wanted anything, and they answered, "Nothing" (Lu. 2235).
- 11 See Ac. 1351; 186.
- 13 See Ja. 514.
- 14 Compare Mt. 141,2; Lu. 97-9.
- 14 John the baptist did not perform miracles or wonders. He came in the spirit and power of Elijah. Now, if he was empowered to perform mighty deeds such as Elijah did, Herod might well be afraid. In that case fifty men might be sent to behead him and lose their lives in the attempt. It was well for Herod that John did no mighty deeds, since the baptist had not been slow to denounce him for his sins, and would not have hesitated to judge him accordingly. It seems that John himself was disappointed in the outcome of his work, especially that he should be imprisoned by the man whom he had denounced. He was an intermediate between the sternness of the prophet and the grace of Christ. 15 Compare Mt. 1614.
- 15 Even the disciples did not distinguish His gracious spirit from Elijah's stern and destructive ministry. No wonder some thought Him the greatest prophet of their history.
- 17 Compare Mt. 143-5: Lu. 319.20.

only; no bread, no beggar's bag, no coppers in the girdle; but having soles bound on; and not to be putting on two tunics.

And He said to them, "Wherever you may be entering into a house, be remaining there till you should be coming out thence. And whatever place should not be receiving you, nor yet they should be hearing you, going out thence, shake off the dirt which is underneath your feet for a testimony to them. Verily, I am saying to you, It will be more tolerable for Sodom or Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city."

And, coming out, they proclaim that they should be repenting. And they cast out many demons, and they rubbed many of the ailing with olive oil, and they were cured.

And Herod the king hears, for His name became manifest, and he said that "John the baptist has been roused from among the dead, and because of this the powers are 15 operating in him." Yet others

said that "He is Elijah." Yet others said that "He is a prophet of as one of the prophets." Yet

Herod, hearing, said that "John, whom I behead, he was roused from among the dead."

For Herod himself dispatches and holds John and binds him in jail, because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, seeing that he marries her. For John said to Herod that "You are not allowed

19 to have your brother's wife." Now Herodias hemmed him in, and wanted to kill him, and could not,

²⁰ for Herod feared John, being

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HEROD FEARED THE JOHN

18 It was contrary to the plainest precepts of the law to marry the wife of a brother (Lev. 1816; 2021). This Herod was usually surnamed Antipas, being the son of Herod the great and a Samaritan woman named Mathace. First he married a daughter of Aretas, king of Arabia, but he repudiated her. which brought on a war with Aretas. His marriage to Herodias, the wife of his half-brother Philip, and granddaughter of Herod the Great, brought on him the denunciation of the baptist. This woman caused his ruin, for she induced him to go to Rome to obtain the title of king, for he was only called king by courtesy, being the tetrarch of Galilee and Perea. Instead of receiving added honors he lost his office and was banished by the emperor Caligula to Gaul, where he probably died.

²¹ Compare Mt. 146-9. See Gen. 40²⁰.

23 See Esther 53-6; 72.

21 This is a royal scene. The tetrarch and the government of Galilee are present. It is doubtless inserted here to provide a contrast to the rightful King Who had been gathering His aides about Himself, and Who was proclaiming the kingdom of God. Herod demeans himself to such an extent as to have his own daughter dance before them. Such entertainment was usually provided by low class girls, for a selfrespecting woman was not supposed to be seen in a company of men. The dancing consisted largely in a series of postures and attitudes which were often indecent. And, because this pleased the coarse taste of his guests, he promised the half of his kingdom! That kingdom could not have been worth much! Nor was the king worth any more. Instead of ruling his realm in righteousness, he himself was ruled by his passions and his pride. On account of his bombastic boast, he is afraid to do what is right. What a coward! What a contrast to that uncrowned King Who walks about his realm, unspotted, unafraid! He provides no entertainment but the truth. He attracts by His holiness. Instead of sacrificing a righteous man on the altar of His folly, He becomes the great Sacrifice for sinners.

23 This was only a vain-glorious boast. He could not dispose of the least part of his kingdom, for he was a vassal of

27-29 Compare Mt.1410-12.

Rome.

aware that he is a just and holy man, and preserved him. And hearing him, he was much perplexed, and heard him with relish.

21 And an opportune day came when Herod at his birthdays makes a dinner to his magnates, and captains, and to the foremost men of

²² Galilee. And, at Herodias' daughter's entering and dancing, she pleases Herod and those lying back at table with him. Now the king said to the maiden, "Request of me whatever you should be wanting, and I will give it to you."

²³ And he swears to her that "Whatever you should be requesting me, I will give you, to the half of my king dom."

And, coming out, she said to her mother, "What should I be requesting?" Now she said, "The

²⁵ head of John the baptist.'' And entering straightway with diligence to the king, she requests, saying, "I want that you forthwith may be giving me the head of John

²⁶ the baptist on a platter." And the king, becoming sorrow-stricken, because of the oaths and those lying back at table with him, does not want to repudiate it.

And straightway the king, dispatching, enjoins a life-guardsman to bring his head. And, coming away, he beheads him in the jail,

28 and carries his head on a platter, and gives it to the maiden, and the maiden gives it to her mother.

And his disciples, hearing, came and take away his corpse, and they place it in a tomb.

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30 IN memorial-vault and are-being-together-

80 Compare Lu. 910.

30 As Mark is especially concerned with service, it is in keeping with its character to give some details that particularly pertain to the servants' work. They acknowledged their Lord, as all good servants should, by giving Him a full account of their actions. He, as a reward for their labors, suggests retirement and rest. He and they would leave the multitude, and seek seclusion and refreshment in the wilderness. It is most significant to follow this thought, and see that, when they came to the private place, there were about five thousand men there, and, instead of finding leisure to eat, they feed this vast throng, and, rather than rest themselves, the people repose on the grass and the disciples wait on them. The Lord found rest and refreshment in serving others. Typically, this takes us to the time when the labors of the apostles will be over, and when they, as good shepherds, not only rule over the tribes of Israel, but lead them to verdant oases and to waters of rest. So great is His compassion that He will not refuse to serve until they are satisfied. In that day there will be scant dependence on human provision and foresight. The blessing of God will displace the arduous efforts of men. The very orderliness of the scene suggests the presence of a government which functions perfectly. The numbers used recall to mind the thousand years of His millennial reign, for there was one cake for each thousand men. But, more than all, we must note that the miracle is no strain on His beneficence. His resources are not exhausted by the effort. The fragments which remain fill twelve panniers, incredibly more than the five cakes with which He began. So the millennial blessings are by no means the limit of God's power. They are but the prelude to greater glories in the succeeding eon, which will culminate in the consummation at its end, which will be the final demonstration of God's power and man's impotence. During the eons man toils to provide his own necessities but sinks into defeat and death. And it is in death alone that God can act unembarrassed by the aid of His creatures, and unhindered in the activities of His heart.

81-39 Compare Mt.1413-21Lu.910-17Jn.61-13.

30 And the apostles are gathering to Jesus, and they report to Him all, whatever they do, and whatev31 er they teach. And He is saying to them, "You yourselves come hither into a private place in the wilderness and rest briefly", for many were coming and going, and they had not yet an opportunity 32 to eat. And they came away in the ship into a private place in the wil-

derness.
33 And they perceived them going

away, and many recognize them.

And they ran together there afoot from all the cities, and they came before them and ran together to

34 Him. And, coming out, Jesus perceived a vast throng, and He has compassion on them, seeing that they were as sheep having no shepherd, and He begins to teach them much.

And already coming to be a late hour, His disciples, coming to Him, said that "The place is a wilderness and the hour is already much ³⁶ advanced. Dismiss them that, coming away into the fields and villages around, they should be buying bread for themselves. For they have nothing that they may 37 be eating." Yet, answering, He said to them, "You be giving them to eat." And they are saying to Him, "Should we, coming away, be buying two hundred denarii [\$31.40, £6.9s.2d] of bread and give them to eat?"

Now He is saying to them, "How many cakes have you? Go and see." And knowing, they are saying to Him, "Five, and two "shes." And He enjoins them to

make them all recline, company by do company, on the green grass. And they lean back, plot by plot, by hundreds and by fifties.

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43 To fully appreciate the import of this sign, it must be compared with a similar one which occurred some time later. The cumulative contrast cannot be fully seen in an inaccurate version, but is readily observed when it is noted that the numbers are confirmed by the kinds of "baskets" and that the twelve large panniers which were left after feeding five thousand with five cakes were packed (Jn. 613) while the seven smaller hampers left after feeding the four thousand with seven cakes, were simply full. And yet, after seeing both of these signs, the disciples worry because they forgot to get bread! It is almost impossible for us to believe that God can do most when man's aid is least.

45-51 Compare Mt. 1422-33; Jn. 614-21.

45 There is a new setting of the scenes. The separation from the disciples and ascent into a mountain for intercession with God pictures His ascension and priestly mediacy for Israel during their apostasy. Their torment in rowing corresponds to the fearful affliction of the time of the end, such as has not yet occurred, neither will occur again. The contrary wind gives us the cause of their torment, the terrible, yet unseen spiritual powers which will seek to destroy them, by stirring up the nations against them. His walking on the sea symbolizes His control of the turbulent upheavals of mankind. When He comes to them the wind dies down. When He comes to Israel the spiritual powers are seized and Satan

It is blessed to see, in this miracle, a proof of His power over the wind and the waves. It is wonderful to see Him walk on the water. But is it not more marvelous to see in all this a sign of His far greater power over the rebellious hordes of the unseen world and the surging masses of mankind? When He comes again, then He will indeed speak peace to the trembling hearts of His terrified disciples. Such scenes as this will give confidence to His saints in that awful time of trouble which is impending over the earth today. The powers of evil may swoop down upon them. They may stir the nations into still greater hatred of the Jew. Yet those of them who know Him will wait for Him to arise and calm His creatures.

41 And taking the five cakes and the two fishes, looking up into heaven He blesses and breaks up the cakes, and gave to His disciples, that they may place them before them. And He parts the two fishes

42 to all. And they all ate and are
 43 satisfied. And they pick up twelve pannierfulls of fragments, and

44 from the fishes. And those eating the cakes were five thousand men.

45 And straightway He compels
His disciples to step into the ship
and precede Him to the other side
to Bethsaida, till He is dismissing
46 the throng. And taking leave of

46 the throng. And, taking leave of them, He came away into the mountain to pray.

⁴⁷ And as it became evening the ship was in the middle of the sea,

⁴⁸ and He was alone on the land. And perceiving them tormented in rowing, for the wind was contrary to them, about the fourth watch of the night, He is coming toward them, walking on the sea. And He wanted to pass by them.

49 Yet those who are perceiving Him walking on the sea suppose that He is a phantom, and they cry

out. For they all perceived Him and were disturbed. Yet straightway He talks with them and is saying to them, "Courage! It is I!

⁵¹ Fear not!" And He stepped up to them into the ship and the wind flags. And they are amazed to very excess among themselves and mar-

⁵² veled. For they understand not about the cakes, but their heart was calloused.

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53-56 Compare Mt. 1434-36.

53 The lake of Galilee was so named from its western shore, but it was also called Tiberias, for the city of that name, and Gennesaret, from the region on its northwestern strand. Josephus is eloquent in his praises of the natural advantages of this part of Galilee. Though far below sea level, the climate seems to have been most equable. All sorts of fruits flourished in its fertile soil. It was abundantly watered from copious springs and streamlets. Does not this suggest that this is another prophetic preview of the kingdom, in which the whole earth will produce abundantly of all good things? He has come down from above and rescued His own from the wind and the sea. just as He will save Israel from the clutches of Satan and the nations. Now the time of blessing is due. Hence we find Him in fertile and flourishing Gennesaret, carrying health and blessing wherever He goes. Happy, indeed, was that land, for He Who had stilled the fears of His people, now lays His healing hand on their afflictions, a prophecy of the day when the Sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in His wings (Mal. 42). The merest contact with His robe brings salvation. Touching the tassel entitles all to participate in His finished righteousness.

1-13 Compare Mt. 151-9.

1 It was the custom to eat with the fingers. No forks or spoons were used in conveying food to the mouth. Yet the Pharisees were not worried about cleanliness or table manners, but about conformity to tradition. Instead of cleansing the inside of the hands which touched the food, they rinsed the outside, clenching their fists when they washed. Going to market involved contact with others, which they deemed contaminating, hence they would not eat until they had been sprinkled. The baptizing of cups and ewers and copper vessels and couches, was not for cleanliness, but ceremonial purity, and the most perfunctory application of water in almost any way was deemed highly devout. The word baptism is really Greek, and differs from sprinkling or washing or bathing only in the fact that it was ceremonial rather than practical. Its cleansing was spiritual, not physical.

53 And ferrying to land, they came to Gennesaret and are moored.
54 And at their coming out of the ship, the men of that place straight55 way recognizing Him, ran about that whole country and begin to be carrying about those who are ill on pallets to where they heard that to villages or cities or fields, they place the infirm in the markets, and entreated Him that they should be touching even the tassel of His cloak. And as many as ever touch

it were saved.

written that

And the Pharisees and some of the scribes coming from Jerusalem are assembling with Him. perceiving some of His disciples, that they are eating bread with contaminated (that is, unwashed) 3 hands (for the Pharisees and all the Jews are eating not except they should be washing the clenched hands, holding the tradition of the elders; and from the market, except they should be sprinkled, they are eating not; and there are many other things which they accepted to hold, the baptizing of cups and ewers and copper vessels and of ⁵ couches), the Pharisees also, and the scribes are inquiring of Him, "Wherefore are your disciples not walking in accord with the tradition of the elders, but are eating bread with unwashed hands?" ⁶ Yet He, answering, said to them that "Ideally Isaiah prophesies concerning you hypocrites, as it is

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6-7 Compare Isa. 2913.

- ⁶ The religious Jew delighted in forms and ceremonies, pious ejaculations and protracted prayers, yet at heart he was not vitally concerned with the things of God. No better test could have been made than to bring them into the presence of Him Who was the Image of God and the Word of God. Instead of worshiping, they criticised Him.
- The writer of these notes cannot help uttering a heartfelt prayer that they will never be taken for more than what they are intended to be-suggestive thoughts which lead to and not from the sacred text. He would rather they would all vanish than that they should stand between any one and the living oracles. May we never be tainted with the spirit of the ancient Rabbis who did not scruple to place their words above the sacred scrolls. In the Talmud we read: "The words of the scribes are more noble than the words of the law: for the words of the law are both hard and easy [to understand], but the words of the scribes are all easy." Another traditional saying was "He who deals with scripture does a thing indifferent; he who reads the Mishna has a reward; but he who devotes himself to the Gemara is most meritorious of all." In the same way the commentaries and confessions and creeds of Christendom have a stronger hold on the hearts of many of His saints, than the inspired scriptures. May He grant that many will return to the fountain undefiled!
- Sad to say, even in this day some of the saints have been led to practically repudiate God's word for the tenets of those who propose to explain it. No teacher is worthy of the name who supplants the scriptures.
- ⁹ The "Corban" was the approach offering, by means of which the offerer sought the favor of God. All a young man had to do to be free from the support of his parents was to say this word and he was free from all further obligation. In theory he was giving God a greater place than his parents. In fact, he was not only dishonoring his progenitors, but God, and invalidating His law.
- 10 Compare Ex. 2012; 2117.
- 14-23 Compare Mt. 1510-20.

- "This people is honoring Me with the lips
- Yet their heart is having its fill at a distance from Me.
- 7 Yet in vain are they revering Me, Teaching for teachings the directions of men.'
- ⁸ For, deserting the precept of God, you are holding the tradition of men. Baptizing ewers and cups and many such like things you are doing."
- And He said to them, "Ideally you are repudiating the precept of God, that you should be keeping
- your tradition. For Moses said, 'Be honoring your father and your mother', and 'He who is speaking evil of father or mother, let him de-
- 11 cease in death'. Yet you are saying, 'If a man should be saying to father or mother, "Corban (which is "oblation") whatever you should be
- benefited by me'', you no longer are letting him do anything for his
- 13 father or his mother, invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you give beside, and many such like things you are doing."
- And calling the throng to Him again, He said to them, "Hear Me
 all, and understand. There is nothing outside of a man, going into
 - him, which can contaminate him, but what is going out of a man is
- ¹⁶ what is contaminating the man. If anyone has ears to be hearing, let
- 17 him be hearing!" And when He entered into the house from the throng. His disciples inquired of
- 18 Him about the parable. And He is saying to them, "Are you also, thus unintelligent? Are you not yet apprehending that everything from the outside, going into a man, can-

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20 The supercilious Pharisees, who were so concerned lest they should be contaminated by contact with their inferiors, or by eating food with hands ceremonially unclean, were themselves the most contaminating of all. Their pride and evil reasonings were most defiling even when they complained of the disciples who ate with unwashed hands.

24-30 Compare Mt. 1521-28.

24 Our Lord now comes near the borders of the land. This is most instructive and interesting to all who are outside the pale of the promises. Hitherto He had been blessing His own people and proselytes to Judaism. Now He comes into contact with a Greek, a Syro-Phenician woman. How will He act in the presence of this foreigner? He shows none of the arrogant hatred of the Jew, yet insists that she take the place to which the prophets assign the nations. She has no right at the table or to the food on it. This is for Israel. Our Lord was a Servant of the Circumcision (Ro. 158). He was not sent but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. He had nothing for this alien. Instead of defending her nation and claiming equality with the favored Jew, she acknowledges their priority and superiority. But she was satisfied that His blessing was so bountiful that Israel could not contain it, and would leave an overplus for the nations. Thus she glorified God and believed His word. Such is the blessing of the nations in the kingdom.

Even during Paul's itinerant ministry, the nations partook of Israel's spiritual things. They were debtors, (Ro. 1527). In the millennium they will be blessed with and through Israel. But, now that the secret of the present administration of grace has been revealed, we are no longer guests. We are not puppies, glad to get the scraps, but members of God's family (Eph. 219). The Syro-Phenician woman's place was far below Israel's. The transcendent riches of God's grace which are ours in Christ Jesus place us immeasurably above them. During the period from the call of Saul to his imprisonment in Rome the nations were Israel's guests, but gradually, as Israel's provision failed, they were given food of their own, until they needed none from Israel.

is not going into his heart but into the bowels, and is going out into the latrine—cleansing all foods?"

²⁰ Yet He said that "What is going out of a man, that is contaminat-

²¹ ing the man. For inside, out of the heart of men, are going out evil reasonings, prostitutions, thefts,

²² murders, adulteries, greediness, wickedness, guile, wantonness, a wicked eye, calumny, pride, impru-

²³ dence. All these wicked inside things are going out; and they are contaminating the man."

Now, rising thence, He came away into the frontiers of Tyre and Sidon. And entering into a house, He wants no one to know

²⁵ and He cannot elude them, but straightway, a woman, whose little daughter had an unclean spirit, hearing about Him, entering, pros-

²⁶ trates at His feet. Now the woman was a Greek, a native of Syro-Phœnicia, and she asked Him that He should be casting the demon out of

²⁷ her daughter. Yet Jesus said to her, "Let the children first be satisfied, for it is not ideal to take the children's bread and cast it to the puppies."

Now she answered and is saying to Him, "Yes, Lord. For the puppies also, underneath the table, are eating of the little chil-

²⁹ dren's scraps." And He said to her, "Because of this saying, go. The demon has come out of your

30 daughter." And coming away in-

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31-37 Compare Mt. 1529-31,

32 The meeting with the Greek woman of Syro-Phenicia suggests a phase of kingdom service for which Israel, in our Lord's day, was utterly incapable. In Jehovah's day the Lord's word will go forth from Jerusalem. The evangel will be proclaimed in every corner of the earth. The knowledge of Jehovah will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. It will be the greatest missionary program the earth has ever seen, and the first to be fully successful.

But the nation of Israel in our Lord's day was no more fitted to proclaim the evangel than a deaf-mute. They did not hear Him themselves, and they would not proclaim His message because they could not hear. This is the setting which suggests itself when they bring the Lord a deaf-mute. and He heals him. The peculiar method of healing has remained quite a mystery to theologians, who are at a loss why He should not heal him with a word, instead of putting His fingers in his ears and touching his tongue. Some have suggested that saliva is a healing agent! But the saliva was not put on his tongue. Little significance can be gathered from His actions unless we interpret their symbolism along rational lines.

There are three elements in their preparation for the millennial ministry: His works, His words, His sufferings. His works will force themselves on their attention. This is signified by His thrusting His fingers in the deaf man's ears. His words are signified by the saliva which came out of His mouth, and, accompanied by the touching of his tongue, enable them to talk. He will put His words in their mouths. His groan are the signs of His sufferings. Through them Israel will be saved. And the unrestrainable proc-·lamation was but a small rehearsal of that glorious day when the glad tidings will be heard in every land. The Jews are the great missionary nation. They are now being schooled in the great university of experience for the future evangelization of the world. They are inured to every climate, familiar with every language, at home in every country. Sustained by the authority of the King of kings, they will carry out the first successful world missionary movement.

to her own house, she found the little girl cast on the couch, and the demon come out.

And again coming out of the boundaries of Tyre, He came through Sidon to the sea of Galilee, amidst the boundaries of Decap-32 olis. And they are bringing to Him

a deaf-mute and stammerer, and they are entreating Him that He

33 may place His hand on him. And, getting him away from the throng privately, He thrusts His fingers into his ears, and, spitting, touches

³⁴ his tongue. And, looking up into heaven, He groans, and is saying to him, "Ephphatha", which is,

35 "Be opened". And immediately his hearing was opened and straightway the bond of his tongue was loosed, and he talked correctly.

³⁶ And He cautions them that they may be telling no one, yet, as much as He cautioned them, they rather proclaimed it more exceedingly.

³⁷ And they were superexceedingly astonished, saying, "He has done all ideally, and the deaf-mutes He is making to be hearing, and the dumb to be talking."

8 In those days, there being again a vast throng having nothing they may be eating, He, calling to His ² disciples, is saying to them, "I have compassion on the throng, seeing that already three days they are remaining with Me and they have nothing they may be eating.

3 And should I be dismissing them to their homes fasting, they will faint on the road, and some of them have arrived from afar."

4 And His disciples answered Him

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1-3 Compare Mt. 1532-34.

1 Why were there two different occasions on which our Lord fed a great company of people? Why five cakes in one instance and seven in the other? Great as is the miracle performed on these two occasions, we are not satisfied until we can read the sign. What did it signify?

Man shall not live on bread only, but on every word which proceeds out of the mouth of God. The written and the living Word are the true bread of God. The living Word cannot be divided. But the written word is composed of separate books. These may well be represented by the cakes given

to the multitude.

These signs are in the wilderness, hence cannot be in the kingdom, but give us His provision for His people before the kingdom comes. The kingdom testimony is divided into two distinct periods, one, in the first century, which is past, and one, still to come, at the end of the eon, which is future. The first sign, where there were five cakes, brings before us the past means of subsistence, of the kingdom saints, the first three "gospels", Acts and Hebrews. (John is intended for the kingdom itself.) It was this spiritual food that sufficed for so many, and left such an abundant surplus. May we not distribute these scraps to the nations, according to the previous sign? Nothing is said of what was done with them, but we know that the nations came in for some blessing, as recorded in the book of Acts.

God has made provision for the future wilderness needs of His kingdom people by means of seven epistles, corresponding to the seven cakes in the second sign. These are James, first and second Peter, first, second and third John, and Jude. Though the scraps are not so abundant, we know that there will be some among the nations who will find some crumbs even at that time.

6-10 Compare Mt. 1535-39.

11-21 Compare Mt. 161-12. See Lu. 121-3.

12 After giving them this marvelous sign they ask for a sign! His exclamation shows how hopeless He thought them. Suppose He should? They would not recognize it. It is useless to speak to the deaf or put a picture before the eyes of the blind.

that "Whence can any one satisfy these with bread here in a wilderness?" And He inquired of them,

"How many cakes have you?"

6 Now they say "Seven". And He is charging the throng to be leaning back on the earth, and taking the seven cakes, giving thanks, He breaks and gave to His disciples, that they may place them before them. And they place them before 7 the throng. And they had a few small fishes. And blessing them.

He said, "Place these also before them." And they all ate and are

satisfied. And they pick up seven hampers of the surplus fragments.

9 Now those eating were about four thousand. And He dismisses them.

And straightway He, stepping into the ship with His disciples, came into the parts of Dalmanu-

¹¹ tha. And the Pharisees came out and begin to discuss with Him, seeking to see a sign from Him

12 from heaven, trying Him. And sighing in His spirit, He is saying, "Why is this generation seeking for a sign? Verily I am saying to you, If a sign shall be given to

13 this generation—!" And leaving them, again stepping into a ship, He came away to the other side.

And they forgot to get bread, and, except one cake, they had none

with them in the ship. And He cautioned them, saying, "See! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod."

¹⁶ And they reasoned with one another, saying that "We have no

17 bread!" And, knowing it, Jesus is saying to them, "Why are you reasoning that you have no bread?

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19-20 See 641-4487-9

19 The comparison here suggested by our Lord is most striking and important. He is seeking to show them that God's blessing comes in inverse ratio to human provision. This is the highest mathematics, and quite beyond the powers of the unspiritual mind. If reasoning could devise a way to satisfy five thousand with five cakes and leave a remainder, then the remainder would be smaller than seven divided among only four thousand. But the opposite is true. Every word used, when carefully translated, emphasizes the great truth that the less of man's work in God's operations the greater the work and the larger the excess. The following list of words will help to fix this on our minds and in our hearts:

> five cakes five thousand twelve panniers packed (Jn. 613)

seven cakes four thousand seven hampers filled

Let us not be like the apostles who failed to figure out the formula for these equations, and could not apply it in their own experience.

22 Many explanations have been offered for this most peculiar method of healing, all of which seem to be no clearer than the sight of the blind man at first. It is questionable whether any explanation can or ought to be offered on natural grounds. The Lord could have healed him completely in an instant, but He did not choose to do so. It is evidently another sign, and we will find its meaning in the restoration of Israel's spiritual sight. The cure was accomplished by that which proceeded out of His mouth—the word of God. As was so often the case there was an interval. At first the blind man's sight was blurred. man's sight was blurred. Later he saw clearly. So it was with Israel. In the past they saw that there would be a gradual growth, like a tree, until the kingdom. But it will take another application of His hands in the future to restore them. Then they will no longer be puzzled by the course of events. Throughout the past proclamation of the kingdom, especially in the Pentecostal era, the prospect of the kingdom was vague. It will not be so at the time of the end.

27-31 Compare Mt.1613-21Lu.918-22.

Are you not yet apprehending, neither understanding? Is your 18 heart still calloused? Having eyes, are you not observing? And, having ears, are you not hearing? And are you not remembering? 19 When I break the five cakes [of bread] for the five thousand, how many panniers full of fragments do you pick up?" They are saying 20 to Him, "Twelve". "And when the seven cakes [of bread] are for

20 to Him, "Twelve". "And when the seven cakes [of bread] are for the four thousand, how many hampers filled up with fragments do you pick up?" And they are 21 saying to Him, "Seven". And He

said to them, "How is it you are not yet understanding?"

And they are coming to Bethsaida, and are bringing to Him a blind man and entreating Him that He should be touching him.

²³ And getting hold of the blind man's hand, He brings him outside of the village, and spitting into his eyes, placing hands on him, He inquired of him, "Are

²⁴ you observing anything?" And looking up, he said "I am observing men, that I am seeing as trees,

²⁵ walking." Thereafter again He places hands on his eyes, and he is keen-sighted and was restored and he looked at everything distinctly.

²⁶ And He dispatches him into his home, saying, "You may neither be entering the village, nor be speaking to anyone in the village."

27 And Jesus and His disciples came out into the villages of Cæsarea Philippi, and on the way He inquired of His disciples, saying to them, "Who are men saying that I

28 am?" Now those speaking say to Him, "John the baptist", and others 'Elijah', yet others that He

29 is 'one of the prophets', ' And

28

26⁰⁰¹ TONOGITEOYACCY NICTEC 20 YE-ARE-MINDING NOT-YET YE-ARE-understanding TITETOPOMENHNEXETETH STILL HAVING-been-CALLOUSED YE-ARE-HAVING THE ΝΚΑΡΔΙΑΝΥΜΦΝΟΦΑλΑΜΟΥ® 18 HEART OF-YOUP VIEWers AS Al S1 om, AND CEXONTECOYBAE TETEKA 180

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29 Here we find the first sharp distinction between the unbelieving nation and the little band of believers, represented by Peter. This marks the great crisis in His ministry. Henceforth He is no longer concerned with proclaiming the kingdom to the nation, but is teaching His own disciples concerning His sufferings. In fact, He warns them not to tell that He is the Christ. The nation has rejected Him and His proclamation. The kingdom that drew near is now receding. The result of His labors lies in the confession of a few, of whom Peter is the type, who recognize Him as the Messiah, and as the Son of God. Now He begins His new ministry. and, strange to say, His message is immediately opposed by Peter. Notwithstanding all that He taught them concerning His sufferings in the period now begun, it was not till after they were over that the apostles received and believed His words. They wished to persist in proclaiming the kingdom. A similar condition exists today. The kingdom was once more proclaimed during the period covered by the book of Acts, and once more rejected. Still some persist, like Peter, in keeping up its proclamation.

32-33 Compare Mt. 1622,23.

33 The term "satan", here applied to Peter, is Hebrew for adversary. It is a common noun except when used of him who is otherwise called the Serpent and Slanderer.

34-38 Compare Mt.1624-27Lu.923-26.

34 Not only does the Lord now look forward to sufferings for Himself, but His followers also must taste of His cup. While proclaiming the kingdom, they anticipated wearing a crown. Now they must renounce all of self and bear a cross.

35 Soul never means life. Life depends on spirit. Soul is the conscious sensation resulting from the union of the body with the spirit. He who wants to save his soul, will seek his own pleasure and comfort and shrink from self-denial and cross-bearing. In the kingdom there will be every delight the soul can crave. Hence the disciple that does not suffer for His sake and so loses his place in the kingdom, saves his soul for the time, but loses it in the kingdom. Anyone who should gain the whole world, yet not be able to enjoy it, loses his soul.

He inquired of them, "Now you, who are you saying that I am?" And answering, Peter is saying to Him, "Thou art the Christ, the 30 Son of God." And He warns them, that they may be telling no one about Him. And He begins to teach them that the Son of Mankind must be suffering much and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise.

32 And He spoke the word boldly. And Peter, taking Him to him, be33 gins to be rebuking Him. Now, Jesus, being turned about and perceiving His disciples, rebukes Peter, and is saying, "Go behind Me, satan! seeing that you are not disposed to that which is of God but that which is of men."

And, calling the throng to Him, together with His disciples. He said to them, "If anyone wants to come after Me, let him renounce himself and pick up his own cross and 35 be following Me. For whoever should be wanting to save his own soul, will be destroying it, yet whoever shall be destroying his soul on account of Me and of the 36 evangel, will be saving it. For what is it benefiting a man to gain the whole world and forfeit 37 his soul? For what may a man give in exchange for his own soul? 38 For whoever should be ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinning generation, of him the Son of Mankind also will be ashamed, whenever He may be coming in the glory of His Father,

with the holy messengers."

See Information

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1 Compare Mt.1628Lu.9272 Pet.116-18.

It is most fitting that the kingdom proclamation should close with a demonstration of its glory and power. It should have come immediately and for all, yet now it is put far into the future. Some should live to see it. This is shortened to six typical days, a week of work, leading up to the seventh day. or sabbatism, as the kingdom is called. Only Peter, James, and John are taken, for they represent three different classes in Israel who will enter the kingdom. James stands for those who died in faith in the past, for he was assassinated by Herod (Ac. 121). Peter, by his epistles, ministers to those who will be in the great affliction of the end time. He also dies a martyr. John suggests those who will live through the end time and enter the kingdom alive (Jn. 2118-23). These all enter the kingdom and behold His glory, and meet Moses and Elijah, representatives of the two ministries, the law and the prophets.

The glory of the kingdom did not consist in the lightnings of Sinai, or spectacular scenes of bliss, but in the transformation of Christ. No longer was His glory veiled beneath the form more marred than any man's, but the immanent splendor of His person shone through His glistening gar-

ments.

2-10 Compare Mt. 171-9; Lu. 936.

5 Alas, poor Peter! The presence of Moses and Elijah, who were held in highest veneration by the Jews, quite overcame his reason. The solitary sublimity of the transformed Christ should have so filled his vision that Moses and Elijah would hardly appear. The kingdom is not going to be a triumvirate. Moses and Elijah will be completely eclipsed by Christ. It is the same error that the unbelieving nation has made. They thought Him a prophet or even Elijah. Why should Peter put them on a level with Him? There must be only one tabernacle in Israel, and that one is Christ Himself, the embodiment of the complement of the Deity (Col. 29). No wonder a cloud blotted out the vision, and a voice corrected his misconception. No longer were they to hearken to the prophets. "This is My beloved Son. Be hearing Him!"

And He said to them, "Verily, I am saying to you, that there are some standing here who under no circumstances should be tasting death till they should be perceiving the kingdom of God having come in power." And after six days Jesus is taking aside Peter and James and John and is bringing them up into a very high mountain alone privately. And He was transformed in front of them. And His garments became glistening, very white, as snow, such as no fuller on

earth is able thus to whiten. And Elijah, with Moses, was seen by them, and they were conferring with Jesus.

And answering, Peter is saying to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is ideal for us to be here! And we should be making three tabernacles, for Thee one, and Moses one, and Elijah one."

For he was not aware what he should answer, for they became
terrified. And there came a cloud, overshadowing them. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Be hearing Him!" And suddenly look.

8 ing Him!" And suddenly, looking about, they no longer perceived anyone, except Jesus only, with themselves.

And at their descending from the mountain, He cautions them that they should not be relating to any one what they perceived, except when the Son of Mankind should be rising from among the dead. And they hold the word, discussing with themselves what is the rising from among the dead.

¹¹ And they inquired of Him, saying that "The Pharisees and the scribes

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11-13 Compare Mt. 1710-13.

¹¹ The Minor Prophets close with the promise (Mal. 45,6):

Lo! I send you Elijah the prophet Before the great and fearful day of Jehovah comes
And he restores the heart of the fathers to the sons,
And the heart of the sons to their fathers,
Lest I should come and smite the earth to its doom.

John the baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah, and would have done his work had the people repented. But he did not exercise the destructive power of that prophet. So Elijah must come again, before the kingdom is established. There is little doubt that one of the two witnesses of the end time is Elijah (Un. 113-12), for they perform similar prodigies. Both cause a drought for three and a half years. Both destroy their enemies by supernatural fire. Elijah did not die, but was taken up heavenward in a tempest His appearance on the (2 Ki. 2¹¹). mount, an actual spectator of Christ's glory, qualifies Him for the testimony which the two witnesses will uphold.

13 See Mt.1114Lu.117.

14-27 Compare Mt.1714-21Lu.937-42.

14 Having descended from the mountain, the Lord now faces Golgotha. Instead of the power and glory, He speaks of weakness and shame. will not allow them to even mention what they have seen, until the time to proclaim the kingdom once more ar-The first symptom of this change has already been made manifest to the disciples He has left behind. They are unable to cast out the demon from the dumb boy. Their power over the unseen world is on the wane! The demons have perceived the unbelief of the nation, and are well aware of the great change which is coming over His ministry. He no longer wishes to display His power, or that of His apostles. Rather, He is laboring to teach them a far more difficult lesson-that of His weakness and death. He does not wish them to go about proclaiming the kingdom, so He withdraws the power that they had received over demons.

19 It is not that they had not faith enough to cast out the demon, but they refused to recognize the change which

are saying that Elijah must come 12 first." Now He avers to them, Elijah, indeed, coming first, is restoring all. And how is it written of the Son of Mankind that He may be suffering much and may be 13 scorned? But I am saying to you that Elijah, also, has come, and they do to him whatever they wanted,

according as it is written of him."

And coming to the disciples, they perceived a vast throng about them, and scribes discussing with them. And straightway the entire throng, perceiving Him, were over-

throng, perceiving Him, were overawed and racing toward Him, ¹⁶ saluted Him. And He inquires of

the scribes, "What are you dis17 cussing with yourselves?" And
one of the throng answered Him,
"Teacher, I bring my son to

Thee, having a dumb spirit. And wherever it may be getting him down, it is tearing him, and he is frothing and grating his teeth, and is withering away. And I say to Thy disciples that they should be casting it out and they have not the strength."

Now, answering, He is saying to them, "O unbelieving generation! Till when shall I be with you? Till when shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they bring him to Him, and the spirit, perceiving Him, straightway violently convulses him, and, falling on the earth, he wallowed, frothing.

21 And He inquires of his father, "How long a time is it since this has come upon him?" Now he said 22 "From a little boy. And often it cast him into the fire also, and into

waters, that it should be destroying him. But if Thou art anyway able, help us, having compassion on

29001 MARK'S ACCOUNT CHAPTER 9 ICAIOIKAIOIFPAMMATEI* **EXONTATINEYM AAAAAONKA²⁰** AND THE WRITERS 18 HAVING spirit s1* omits IF-EVER COTIHÃE I ANA E I E A DE INT. ΙΟΠΟΥΘΆΝΑΥΤΟΝΚΑΤΑΛΆΒ 40 ELIAS it-IS-BINDING TO-BE-COMING BE-THE-?-where IF-EVER him it MAY-BE-DOWN-GETT-A for He-AVERBED has ANOKPIGEICEITIEN 8 0. POTONOACE PHAYTOICHAE 60 s omits him HPHCCETAYTONKALA OPIZ® 12 FORE-most THE YET He-AVERRED to-them ELIAS ING it-IS-BURSTING him AND he-is-prothizing Ι Α CME ΝΕ ΛΘ ΦΝΠ ΡωΤΟΝΑΠΟ ** **EIKAITPIZEITOYCO∆ONT®** INDEED COMING BEFORE-most IS-restor-THE IS-GRATING B¹g¹* T g¹* A for | 8 o. A according-As Θ o. KAOICTANE INANTAKAINO 100 A according-As O o. Bs omit or-him ACAYTOYKAIZHPAÏNETAI® AND he-is-being-dried ALL AND how OF-him A ON for A KAIGINATOICMAGHTAICC® CLELDAUTAIEUITONAION3 it-HAS-been-WRITTEN ON THE SON T-SAY to-THE LEARNers ΤΟΥΑΝΘΡωποΥΙΝΑΠΟΛΛΑΠΦ OYINAAYTOEKBAAQCINKA* OF-THE human THAT much THEY-SH'D-BE-OUT-CASTING AND YOU THAT IL 8 **0** вН aohkaiezoyaenwoha*aa*a® ΙΟΥΚΙCΧΥCΑΝΟΔΕ ΑΠΟΚΡΙΘ 13 MAY-BE-EMOTIONING AND MAY-BE-BEING-SCORNED but THEY-are-STRONG THE YET answering s1* omits that 8 0. **AETOYMINOTIKAIHAEIAC® BEICAYTOICAEFEI@FENE®** I-AM-saying to-Youp that AND He-IS-SAYING O! generation ELIAS s² adds €N EAHAYOENKAIETTOIHCANA200 AATICTOCEWCTOTETPOCY 700 HAS-COME AND THEY-DO to-A-WILL HCAN YTWOCAHOE AONKAOWCTET 20 UN-BELIEVING TILL ?-when TOWARD YOU'D MACECOMA IE COCTIOTE ANG 220 him as much-as THEY-WILLED according-as it-HAS-I-SHALL-BE TILL ?-when I-SHALL-BE-ΡΑΠΤΑΙΘΠΑΥΤΟΝΚΑΙΘΛΑΟ ΟΜΑΙΥΜΦΝΦΕΡΕΤΕΑΥΤΟΝΠ 40 14 been-written on him AND tolerating of-Your BE-CARRYING him ΝΤΈ ΕΠΡΟ ΚΤΟΥ ΚΜΑΘΗΤΑΚΕ ** POCEMEK A I HNETKANAYTO THEY- 20 WARD ME TOWARD THE LEARNers AND THEY-CARRY A C and B1 A ΙΔΟΝΟΧΛΟΝΠΟΛΥΝΠΕΡΙΑΥ: ΝΠΡΟCAYΤΟΝΚ ΑΙΙΔΩΝΑΥΤ® AND PERCEIVING Him PERCEIVED THRONG MANY TOWARD Him A immediately THE spirit for Y has $\Theta \oplus A$ om. TOGETHER-ONTONNEYMAEY OYCCYNEC 800 TOYCKAIT PAMMATE ICCYN:00 AND WRITERS TOGETHER-THE spirit straightway TOGETHER-CON-A omits TOWARD s1*+C ZHTOŶŇŤĂĊĦPOĊĂYTOŶĊĸº ΠΑΡΑΣΕΝΑΥΤΟΝΚΑΙΠΕСΦΝ²⁰ 15 SEEKING TOWARD them him AND AND FALLING AIEYOYCH ACOOXAOCIAON в+€ ETITHCTHCEKY/JIETOAOP"

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His new attitude involved, which would keep them from attempting such a miracle. The great lesson in this sign is that the demon will not come out of Israel under the ministry of the apostles, as set forth in the book of Acts. Their effort is a failure. Even after that there is a delay, during which there are convulsions. The demon will go out of the nation in the midst of the severest throes, leaving it almost lifeless. The experience of the demoniac is a parallel to the experience of Israel, beginning with the renewed proclamation of the kingdom by the apostles, during the Lord's absence. Hence there is such insistence on faith and such a protracted period taken up in his healing. We may be sure that the apostles did not understand the significance of their own failure, neither could He explain this to them at that time without revealing secrets God had reserved. Had they known it they could not have entered whole-heartedly into their Pentecostal ministry. It is just such scenes as this. so meaningless and tedious to unbelief, yet so significant to the anointed eye. which overwhelm us with a sense of the divine presence on the sacred page.

30-32 Compare Mt.1722,23Lu.948-45.

30 How unlike his former journeys which were crowded with the powers of the coming eon! He spread abroad blessing with a lavish hand. The sick sought Him and were cured. The unclean spirits left at His slightest word. He scarcely had time to eat or sleep, so fully was He occupied in relieving the infirmities of the people. There is a season for every act under the sun; a time when it should, and a time when it should not be done. It had pleased God to testify to the proclamation of the kingdom by appropriate powers and signs. But now that season is past. The heralding has been hushed. The signs cease. He walks a lonely Wanderer, rejected, proscribed, threatened. Seeking to enlist the sympathy of His disciples, His words thrust them from Him, for they cannot comprehend, and His manner makes them afraid to ask. Lonely in the midst of His people! Lonely in the midst of His intimate friends! And so He sets His face toward the cross whose chill shadow is already casting its pall about Him.

²³ us!" Now Jesus said to him, "If you are able to believe—all is possible to him who is believing."

24 Straightway, crying, the father of the little boy said, with tears, "I am believing! Help me in unbelief!"

Now Jesus, perceiving that the throng is racing on together, rebukes the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Dumb and deaf-mute spirit, I am enjoining you to come out of him, and by no means may you be entering into him any longer."

²⁶ And crying and convulsing him much, it came out, and he became as if dead, so that the majority said

²⁷ that he died. Now Jesus, holding his hand, rouses him, and he rose.

²⁸ And at His entering the house, His disciples inquired privately of Him, "Wherefore could we not

²⁹ cast it out?" And He said to them, "This species can come out by nothing except by prayer and fasting."

30 And coming out thence, they went along through Galilee, and He did not want any one to know.

³¹ For He taught His disciples and said to them that "The Son of Mankind is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will be killing Him. And being killed, after ³² three days He will rise." Yet they

32 three days He will rise." Yet they were ignorant of the declaration, and they were afraid to inquire of Him.

And they came into Capernaum, and, being come into the house, He inquired of them, "What did you reason with yourselves on the road?" Yet they were silent, for they argued with one another on the

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33-34 Compare Mt.181Lu.946.

34 While the Son of God was in sad contemplation of the deep humiliation of the cross. His disciples were puffed up with pride, arguing about their own greatness. They could hardly have been further removed from Him in spirit. He Who had been above all was now sinking beneath all. Higher than the archangels was His primeval position; lower than the lowest of sinners is the appalling place to which His path is winding. Higher! is the selfish shout of man, intent on his own exaltation, though he tread his fellows under foot to reach his proud pinnacle. Lower! was the cry of Christ, intent on the weal of others, though He be trodden in the mire to serve them. True greatness can never be attained by striving for self. It lies only in service for others.

85-87 Compare Mt.182-6Lu.947,482224-30.

38-41 Compare Lu. 949-50.

38 It was not long since the disciples had failed to cast out a demon. They were doubtless jealous of this man, for they wished to monopolize all the privileges of discipleship. The spirit of this act of the apostles has been a curse in Christendom. We are apt to think that only those who follow with us are countenanced by the Lord. or have a right to a place in His service. But the incident seems to point to a wider thought. The Lord evidently was not present when John used his authority to stop the offending miracle-worker. So, after His ascension, a whole group of men arose with Paul at their head, who did not follow with the twelve. It took much careful work to persuade the apostles that he had a ministry from the Lord as well as they (Gal. 22). There was a great work done, including the actual casting out of demons (Ac. 1618), in which the twelve apostles had no part. We are not associated with the twelve apostles, but with this Because the believing Jews would not allow the nations a place in the kingdom or the pardon of sins, their own pardon was recalled. The work here hinted at and commended by our Lord in time displaced the ministry of the twelve apostles. It is only by a grasp of their dispensational application that we may read these signs.

35 road as to who is greater. And, being seated, He summons the twelve and is saying to them, "If any one wants to be first, he will be last of

³⁶ all, and servant of all." And taking a little child, He stands it in their midst, and clasping it in His

should be receiving one of such little children on My name, is receiving Me: and whoever should be receiving Me, is not receiving Me, but Him Who commissions

Me.''

John averred to Him, saying, "Teacher, we perceived someone casting out demons in Thy name, who is not following with us, and we forbade him, seeing that he fol-

³⁹ lowed not with us." Yet Jesus said, "Be not forbidding him, for there is no one who will be doing powers on My name, and will be able swiftly to speak evil of Me.

⁴⁰ For who is not against us is for us.
⁴¹ For who ever should be giving you a cup of water to drink in the Name, seeing that you are Christ's, verily I am saying to you that he should by no means be losing his

wages.

42 And who ever should be snaring one of these little ones who are believing into Me, it were ideal for him rather if a millstone requiring an ass to turn it were lying about his neck and he were cast into the 43 sea. And if your hand should ever be snaring you, strike it off. It is ideal for you to be entering into life maimed, rather than, having two hands, to come away into Gehenna, into the inextinguishable 44 fire where their worm is not deceasing and the fire is not being extin-

45 guished. And if your foot should

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40 See Mt.1230Lu.1123.

41 See Mt. 1040-42.

42 Compare Mt. 186.

43 Compare Mt.530. See Deut.136-11Isa. 33146624.

45 Gehenna, the valley of Hinnom just below Jerusalem, must not be confounded with the lake of fire, or Tartarus, or the unseen, commonly called "hell" or hades. Its fire and worms are quite as literal as can be, for the city offal is burned there. No living beings are cast into this incinerator. It is the worms, which feed on the carcases of criminals, who do not die. The fire is kept burning at all times. This will be the place where bodies of executed malefactors will be cast during the kingdom era.

⁴⁹ Since the kingdom has been rejected, entrance into it is necessarily a path of judgment. Salt is a preservative. During the kingdom era corruption will be stayed. The salt that counteracts the corruption of that day will be fire, a judgment. As already elaborated, nothing that offends can enter that kingdom. It must be judged. If not, it will drag down those who harbor it into Gehenna and its fires.

47-48 Compare Mt. 529.

49 See Lev.218Eze.4324.

⁵⁰ See Mt.513Lu.1434,35Col.46. 1-12 Compare Mt. 191-12.

1 Our Lord is now in Perea, over which Herod held sway. Herod had dismissed his wife for no other reason than that he wanted to marry Herodias, his brother's wife. It was John the baptist's protest against this which really cost him his life. Hence the Pharisees hope to put the Lord on the horns of a dilemma. If He countenances Herod's act, that could easily be used against Him. If He condemns it. that could be used to inflame the Herodians, if not Herod himself. But the Lord is equal to the occasion. He is greater than Moses. He knew the hardness of their hearts. He, therefore, revokes the law, and bases the union of man and wife on the original creation. Adam was both male and female in one body when he was first created (Gen.127). Later God took from Adam, not a rib, but a cell, and builded a woman. Marriage is the reversal of this. A male and a female are joined together to make one complete human being, as Adam was at his creation. God, Who took Eve out of Adam, and be snaring you, strike it off. For it is ideal for you to be entering into life maimed or lame, rather than, having two feet, to be cast into the Gehenna, into the inex-

46 tinguishable fire where their worm is not deceasing, and the fire is not

being extinguished. And if your eye should be snaring you, cast it out. It is ideal for you to be entering into the kingdom of God one-eyed, rather than, having two eyes, to be cast into the Gehenna of fire

48 where their worm is not deceasing and the fire is not being ex-

49 tinguished. For every one will be salted with fire, and every sacrifice
50 will be salted with salt. Salt is ideal, yet if the salt should be becoming savorless, with what will you be seasoning it? Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one

another."

10 And rising from thence. He is coming into the boundaries of Judea and the other side of the Jordan, and again throngs are going to Him, and again, as He had been accustomed, He taught them. And the Pharisees, approaching, inquired of Him if a husband is allowed to dismiss a wife, trying ³ Him. Yet answering, He said to them. "What does Moses direct you?" Yet they say, "Moses permits us to write a scroll of divorce. and to dismiss her." And answering. Jesus said to them. "In view of your hardheartedness he writes this precept for you. Yet from the beginning of creation God makes them male and female. On this account a man will be leaving his father and mother and will be joined to 8 his wife, and the two will be for

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thus made the separation, yokes them together again in marriage. They become a physiological unit. No man should destroy such a union. Only one cause was given by our Lord as a ground for divorce (Mt.532). In this day of grace even this is not valid. Only desertion by an unbelieving husband or wife breaks the bonds of matrimony (1 Co.715). The reason for this lies in the character of this economy. It is the opposite of the administration of a stony law over hard hearts. God is now dealing in pure, unadulterated grace, which forgives offenses and pleads for reconciliation in the most desperate circumstances. should be reflected in all our social relations, especially in the marriage bond.

See Deut.241Mt.531,32.

See Gen.12752.

See Gen.224LXX 1 Co.616Eph.531. 12 See Lu.1618Ro.731 Co.710,11.

13-16 Compare Mt.1913-15Lu.1815-17.

13 Children were not supposed to be capable of understanding Him, hence, hardly candidates for the kingdom. But they had the very essential which was so lacking among His disciples at this time. They had implicit faith in what they were told, and trusted those who told them. The disciples, alas, were also immature in understanding. They did not apprehend the need of the cross which He was seeking to sink into their hearts. Yet they lacked the child-like faith which believes, though it cannot comprehend. 20 The incident of the rich man contains the line of thought suggested by the little children. He was their opposite. He had confidence in himself, in his accomplishments, in his ideas. He wanted to work his way into the kingdom. As a matter of fact what he had done so far had resulted in a condition quite the opposite of the kingdom. His many acquisitions, the result of his activities. meant so much loss to his poorer neighbors. He had been anything but good to them. Had the kingdom come at that moment, he must have lost all except his own allotment. If then, he really had faith in that kingdom, and wished to enter it and enjoy eonian life, the only practical way to prove it would be to do all he could to bring about kingdom conditions. It would be absolutely impossible to hold on

one flesh, so that they are no longer two, but one flesh. What God, then, yokes together, let no

man be separating."

And in the house again, His disciples inquired of Him concerning 11 this. And He is saying to them, "Whoever should be dismissing his wife and should be marrying another is committing adultery with 12 her. And if she, dismissing her husband, should be marrying another,

she is committing adultery."

And they brought little children to Him that He should be touching them, yet the disciples rebuke 14 them. Yet Jesus, perceiving it, resents it, and said to them, "Let the little children be coming to Me, and be forbidding them not, for of 15 such is the kingdom of God. Verily, I am saying to you, who ever should not be receiving the kingdom of God as a little child, may under no circumstances be enter-16 ing into it." And clasping them in His arms. He is placing His hands on them in benediction.

And at His going out into the road. lo! one certain rich man, running toward Him and falling on his knees, inquired of Him, "Good Teacher! What shall I be doing that I should be enjoying the allot-18 ment of eonian life?" Now Jesus

said to him, "Why are you terming Me good? No one is good ex-19 cept One, God. You are acquainted with the precepts, 'You should not be murdering; you should not be committing adultery; you should not be stealing; you should not be testifying falsely; you should not

be cheating; be honoring your father and mother."

Now he averred to Him. "Teacher, all these I maintain from my 21 youth." Now Jesus, looking at

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to his lands in that day, for it will be redistributed according to each one's need. The disciples in the Pentecostal era acted on the principles of the kingdom. They did not sell their own allotments, but disposed of the allotments of others which they had acquired, using the proceeds to help those who were in need (Ac. 245).

15 See Mt.182.3.

17-22 Compare Mt.1916-22Lu.1818-23.

19 See Ex.2012-16.

21 See Mt.619-21Lu.1233,34169.

22-27 Compare Mt.1923-26Lu.1824-27.

23 All human kingdoms have a high place for those who have wealth. They have no difficulty in entering. Indeed, it has come to the point where the wealth of the world is the controlling factor in government. Policies are dictated, laws are passed, treaties are made, wars are fought, all to protect invested capital or to promote the accumulation of wealth. The majority of mankind have become the slaves of the minority, who hold them by bonds of gold. There is no human remedy. In God's kingdom all this will be reversed. No rich man, as such, will enter, for his riches will bave been destroyed in the previous judgment era, or will not be recognized. But the greatest hindrance is the lack of confidence in Christ.

24 See Job 3124Ps.496-91 Ti.617-19.

27 See Jer.3217Lu.137.

28-31 Compare Mt.1927-30Lu.1828-30.

30 This has proven a stumbling block to many, who seek to apply it to the present grace. They have left all, but do not receive either a hundred fold or indeed a hundredth part of what they have lost. The reference is strictly confined to the Jewish disciples in the era in which the kingdom was proclaimed. After Pentecost the disciples had all things in common, so that all had an interest in and enjoyment of hundreds of houses and fields (Ac. 244432), being bound by more than natural ties to thousands of fellow believers, who cared for their welfare, so that there were none indigent among them (Ac. 434). There was a daily dispensation which took in all, even the widows who might have been in sore straits under any other dispensation. But today there is no temporal profit in standing true. Our greatest privhim, loves him, and said to him, "In one thing you are still wanting. Go, sell whatever you have, and be giving to the poor, and you will be having treasure in heaven.

And come hither: be following Me, picking up the cross." Yet he, being somber at the word, came away sorrowing, for he had many acqui-

sitions.

3 And, looking about, Jes

23 And, looking about, Jesus is saying to His disciples, "How squeamishly shall those who have money be entering into the king-24 dom of God!" Now the disciples were awed at His words. Yet Jesus, again, answering, is saying to them, "Children, how squeamish it is for those who have confidence in money to be entering into the king-25 dom of God! It is easier for a camel to come through the eye of a needle than for the rich to be entering into the kingdom of God."

Now they were exceedingly astonished, saying to Him, "And can
any one be saved?" Now, looking at them, Jesus is saying, "With men it is impossible, but not with God, for all is possible with God."

²⁸ Peter begins to say to Him, "Lo! we leave all and follow Thee! What consequently, will there be

²⁹ for us?" Jesus averred to him, "Verily, I am saying to you that there is no one who leaves a house, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or fields, on My account and on ac-³⁰ count of the evangel, who should

ocunt of the evangel, who should not be getting back a hundredfold now, in this era, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and father and children and fields,

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ilege is to suffer. Our reward is in the heavens. It is most mischievous to "appropriate" such promises, for they cannot be fulfilled. The motive that underlies them is utterly foreign to the truth for today. Present advantage is not a bait to catch the unbeliever now, and future reward is not in lands, but in the celestial realms.

31 See Lu. 1330.

31 Those who forsook all their worldly properties and prospects were the poorest and last, yet these are the ones who will become first in the kingdom. Even in the Pentecostal era this was true. Peter could truly say "Silver and gold I do not possess" (Ac. 3°). No one had less of wealth. The high priests controlled great stores of treasure beside their personal fortunes. Yet who was lower than they? Material and spiritual values are usually in inverse ratio. 32-34 Compare Mt.2017-19Lu.1831-34.

35-41 Compare Mt. 2020-24. 35 There were only two places of great honor next to the king in an eastern monarchy. One was at his right and the other at his left. But among our Lord's apostles three were foremost and privileged. These were Peter, James, and John. This is evidently a piece of petty diplomacy on the part of John and James, intended to prevent Peter from getting the first place. Such selfish insistence completely dissipates the usual conception of the "sons of thunder", as our Lord called them. John was not at all the meek, mild, gentle, amiable character he is popularly supposed to be. He was loud, egotistic, selfish. His writings do not reveal his natural characteristics, but rather the power of grace to counteract them. Would the apostle of love seek to supplant Peter? Yet the exquisiteness of that same grace is seen when it takes the boastings of the flesh and makes them good. They were not able to drink the cup which He was drinking. Yet the spirit later made them able. James was assassinated by Herod (Ac. 122). It is quite possible that this passage supports the tradition that John also was killed by the Jews. The fact that his written ministry applies to the time of the Lord's return does not allow of a record of his death in the scriptures. See Jn. 2120.

What makes this request so terribly atrocious is its utter antagonism to the spirit of Christ, at this time.

with persecutions, and in the coming eon, eonian life. Yet many
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first."

Now they were on the road, ascending into Jerusalem, and Jesus was preceding them. And they were awed, yet those following feared. And, again taking the twelve aside, He begins to tell them what is about to be befalling 33 Him. "Lo! we are ascending into

Jerusalem, and the Son of Mankind will be betrayed to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will be condemning Him to death, and will be betraying Him to the

nations, and will be deriding Him, and spitting on Him, and scourging Him, and killing Him, and after three days He will be rising."

And James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, are going to Him, saying to Him, "Teacher, we want that, whatever we should be requesting of Thee, Thou shouldst be doing for us." Yet He said to

them, "What are you wanting I shall be doing for you?" Now they said to Him, "Grant to us that we should be sitting, one at Thy right and one at Thy left, in Thy glory."

38 Yet Jesus said to them, "You are not aware what you are requesting. Are you able to drink the cup which I am drinking, or to be baptized with the baptism with 39 which I am being heatiged?" Yet

which I am being baptized?" Yet they say to Him, "We are able." Yet Jesus said to them, "The cup indeed which I am drinking shall you be drinking, and you shall be baptized with the baptism with

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41 The other apostles are no better than the sons of Zebedee. They all want place, power, prestige. They little know the kind of kingdom they are to enter. They dream of some oriental despotism in which the whims of the ruling class, and their desires, are the only law. But in the kingdom all sovereignty will be based on service. None will rule there who have not suffered. They will rule the people as a shepherd tends his sheep. They will lead them and feed them and protect them. So the great King and Shepherd served them when He suffered for their ransom.

42-45 Compare Mt.2025-28Lu.2224-27.

46-52 Compare Mt.2029-84Lu.1885-48. See also Mt.927-31.

46 There were probably four blind men healed at Jericho, one as He was nearing the city (Lu. 1835), Bar Timeus, at His going out, and two more, at about the same time (Mt.2029). To the spiritual mind there is a delightful harmony between all our Lord's words and ways. He did not go down to Jericho, the city of the curse (Josh. 626) until He had been rejected. It is most fitting that He should pass through it on this journey. The contrast between the single blind man before He entered the city and the three after leaving it is very suggestive. So far as we know, only Mary, of all His disciples, had her eyes opened to the truth that He was to enter the place of the curse and die (Mt.2612). But, after He had passed through, the eyes of many were opened.

To this very day an accursed Christ, a suffering Saviour, is distasteful to the human heart. As a Leader or Example He is welcome and is accorded the place supreme among the sons of Adam. As such, He supports the selfrighteous attitude of the sons of Cain. They are glad to enlist under His banner, as one like Him, ready to fight an external foe. But to find that foe in themselves, to see in His humiliation and shame an intimation of their own, and acknowledge His accursed death as their deserts, requires a miracle on God's part greater in its way than any He ever wrought. And he who knows the power of this in his own heart cannot doubt the lesser miracles of holy writ.

is not Mine to give, but is for whom it has been made ready by My Father."

And when the ten hear, they begin to be resentful about James and John. And calling them to Him, Jesus is saying to them, "You are aware that those of the nations who are presuming to be chief are lording over them, and their great men are coercing them. Yet not thus is it among you. But whoever should be wanting to become great among you, will be your servant. And whoever should be wanting to

be foremost among you, will be the slave of all. For the Son of Mankind, also, came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His soul a ransom for many."

And they are coming into Jericho. And at His going out from Jericho, and His disciples and a considerable throng, the son of Timeus, Bar-Timeus, blind and a beggar, sat beside the road.

And hearing that it is Jesus the Nazarene, he begins to cry and say, "Jesus, Son of David, be merciful

48 to me!" And many rebuked him, that he should be silent. Yet much rather he cried, "Son of David, be merciful to me!"

49 And standing, Jesus said, "Summon him." And they are summoning the blind man, saying to him, "Courage! Rouse, He is 50 summoning you." Now, casting off his cloak, springing up, he came to 51 Jesus. And answering him Jesus

51 Jesus. And, answering him, Jesus said, "What do you want I shall be doing to you?" Now the blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I 52 should be recovering sight!" Now

Jesus said to him, "Go. Your faith has saved you." And straightway

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1-7 Compare Mt. 211-7 Lu. 1928-36.

1 Strange as it may seem, there are only seven recorded visits of Christ to Jerusalem. And it was the temple rather than the city which drew Him. for He came only to fulfill the law, and to keep the festivals. The first was His own dedication to God (Lu. 222). The second was at twelve years of age. when He became "a son of the law" (Lu.242). The third and fourth were for the Passover festivals at the beginning of His public ministry. Then we find Him in the temple for the festival of Tabernacles $(Jn.7^2,1^0)$ and Dedications $(Jn. 10^{22})$. The last occasion, here referred to, was for the Passover festival. Only on this last visit is He spoken of as being in the city itself, once at Bethesda (Jn. 52), and again in the upper room (1415). At His first visit a sacrifice was offered for Him, at the last He Himself became the Sacrifice.

2 The animal on which our Lord is mounted is always in keeping with His immediate concerns. When He will come forth to battle with His enemies, He will be seated on a white horse, at once a symbol of exalted rank and of war (Un.1911). Indeed, His very lack of a mount on His journeys is in harmony with His humiliation. Now He. for the first time in His career exercising the right which is accorded to every oriental king, commandeers a colt for His entry into Jerusalem. But kings do not ride on colts. Nothing less than a chariot or a white horse befits their rank. As the prophets predicted. He is humble, riding on the foal of an ass (Zech.99). His glory is in His humility. His majesty is in His meekness.

But there is more than lowliness. There is salvation, or rather redemption. The firstling of an ass must be ransomed with a flockling (Ex. 1312). The animal He rode was a type of the ransomed who supported Him in His humiliation. Hence He does not go to the palace of the king, but to the sanctuary. There must be redemption before there can be a righteous reign. Herein lies the point of the whole picture. As King He comes with salvation.

8-10 Compare Mt.218,9Lu.1937-44Jn.1212-16.

- 9 See Ps. 11825,26.
- 10 See Ps. 1481.

he recovers sight and followed Himon the road.

11 And when they are drawing near to Jerusalem and to Bethphage and to Bethany, toward the mount of Olives, He is dispatching two of His disciples, and He is saying to them, "Go into the village facing you, and straightway, going into it, you will be finding a colt hitched, on which no man as yet is seated. Loose it and bring it. And if any one should be saying to you, "What is this you are doing?" say that 'The Lord is having need of it, and straightway He is dis-

patching it here again.'"

And they came away and found the colt hitched to the door outside on the encircling road, and they are loosing it. And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, loosing the colt?" Now they told them according as Jesus said, and they let them. And they are bringing the colt to Jesus, and they are casting their own garments on it, and He is seated on it.

And many strew their own garments in the road, yet others, soft foliage, chopping it out of the fields, and strewed it on the road.

And those preceding and those following cried, saying, "Hosanna! Blessed be the One coming in the name of the Lord! And blessed be the coming kingdom of our father David in the name of the Lord! Hosanna among the highest!"

And Jesus entered into Jerusalem and into the sanctuary. And looking all about, it being already 37001 MARK'S ACCOUNT EKAIEY OYCANEBAEYENKA20 CTINOIGITE AYONTECTON²⁰ straightway he-UP-looks ANY YE-ARE-DOING LOOSING ΙΗΚΟΛΟΥΘΕΙΑΥΤΌΕ ΝΤΗΟΔ ** Π ΦΛΟΝΟΙΔΕΕΙΠΌΝ ΑΥΤΟΙΟ 4 to-Him THE YET THEY-SAID to-them
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11 See Mt. 2110,11.

12-14 Compare Mt. 2118,19.

12 A beautiful figure of the condition of Israel at that time is found in the barren fig tree. On a fruitful fig tree the figs form before the leaves, and the first crop should be ready to eat when the tree is in full leaf. It was evidently too early in the season to expect figs, yet there was one tree which seemed to be in advance of its time. What a marvelously accurate delineation of the nation! God's due time had not yet come. Yet they pretended to all the righteousness and sweetness and goodness which will characterize the kingdom. They were a vain show. Love, joy, and peace were not to be found on the branches of their profes-They were a pious sham. This seems to be the only time He used His miraculous power for destruction. As we look upon Israel today, with even the leaves of their profession withered, let us remember that they are no less miracles than the fig tree by which they were prefigured. The cursing of the fig tree took place immediately after His formal presentation to Jerusalem as their King, and is a standing symbol of their rejection. The present movement to reëstablish Zion is an effort of the fig tree to put forth leaves once again.

15-19 Compare Mt.2112-16Lu.1945-48. See Jn.213-17.

15 He now gives His final judgment of the spiritual side of their apostasy by entering the sanctuary and driving out the traders as He had done at the beginning of His ministry (Jn. 213). Covetousness is leaven and idolatry The Passover was (1 Co.5¹⁰Col.3⁵). approaching. So He cleanses His Father's house from leaven and rebukes them for worshiping money instead of praising God.

17 Compare Isa. 567 Jer. 711.

20-23 Compare Mt.2120-22. See Mt.1720 Lu.1761 Co.132.

20 There is a close connection between the fig tree-Israel politically-and the mountain-Rome's oppressive tyranny -as well as between the cursing of the fig tree and the removal of the mountain into the sea. If Israel had believed, the Roman oppressors would have been scattered among the nations, whence they came.

the evening hour. He came out to Bethany with the twelve.

And on the morrow, at their coming out from Bethany. He hungers.

¹³ And perceiving one fig tree from afar having leaves, He came. if. consequently. He will be finding anything on it. And, coming to it, He found nothing except leaves. for it was not the season of figs.

¹⁴ And answering, He said to it, "No longer may any one be eating fruit of you for the eon." And His dis-

ciples heard.

And they are coming into Jerusalem. And Jesus, entering into the sanctuary, begins to be casting out those selling and those buying in the sanctuary, and He overturns the tables of the brokers, and the 16 seats of those selling doves, and did not give leave that any one should be carrying an article through the 17 sanctuary. And He taught and said to them, "Is it not written that 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'? Yet you make it a cave of robbers."

And the chief priests and scribes hear, and they sought how they should be destroying Him, for they feared Him, for the entire throng was astonished at His teaching.

19 And whenever it came to be evening, they went outside the city.

And going by in the morning, they perceived the fig tree withered 21 from the roots. And, recollecting, Peter is saying to Him, "Rabbi! Lo! The fig tree which Thou didst

22 curse has withered!" And answering, Jesus is saying to them, "If

23 you have faith of God, verily, I am saying to you, that who ever should be saving to this mountain. OYCHCTHCWPACEZHAOENG 20
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24 See Ja.15,61 Jn.514,15.

24 Whatever prayer is offered in accord with the will of God will be answered in His time. Whatever is not in line with His purpose need not expect to be fulfilled.

25 See Mt.614,151835Col.313.

25 We have the forgiveness of offenses according to the *riches* of His *grace* (Eph. 17). There are no conditions, no qualifications, no demands that we cannot fulfill, in God's dealings with us. But with Israel nationally, forgiveness was on a much lower level. It depended on their response and could be revoked. The confusion which exists today would be largely dispelled if we would get a grasp of our own transcendent position in grace and revel in it, and refuse to drag it down to the precarious position here indicated. This is not grace, far less the rich and redundant favor which is ours in Christ Jesus.

26 See Ja. 213.

27-33 Compare Mt.2123-27Lu.201-8.

27 The chief priests were in supreme authority in the sanctuary. should have cleansed its courts of this pernicious traffic. But it was probably their own covetousness that countenanced the desecration. They feel that He has gone beyond His rights, and think they can curb Him by demanding His credentials. But they were not only hypocrites, but cowards. knew that they would not dare to question His acts if He were popular with the people. He knew that they would not dare question the authority of John the baptist, for the people never lost their faith in him. So He exposes their hypocrisy by a simple question. The proud priests confess that they are afraid to answer Him. Yet worse than this, they convict themselves of the utmost incapacity for their office. They should be able to discern whether John's baptism was of God or not, for it was their function to know the mind of God and to teach the people. Seeking to undermine His authority they effectually destroy their own. Man's every attempt to deny the authority of conscience or revelation can end only in the eventual unmasking of his own pretentions. His defiance only strengthens his ultimate conviction of the supremacy of God.

'Be picked up and cast into the sea', and should not be doubting in his heart, but should be believing that what he is speaking is occurring, it shall be his, whatever he

ring, it shall be his, whatever he may be saying. Therefore I am saying to you, All, whatever you are praying and requesting, be believing that you obtained, and it will be yours. And whenever you may be standing praying, be forgiving, if you have anything against any one, that your Father also, Who is in the heavens, may be forgiving you your offenses. Now if you are not forgiving, neither will your Father Who is in the heavens be forgiving

your offenses."

And they are coming into Jerusalem again, and at His walking in the sanctuary, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders are com-28 ing to Him, and they said to Him, "By what authority are you doing these things, or who gives you this authority, that you may be doing 29 these things?" Now Jesus, answering, said to them, "I also will be inquiring of you one word, and answer Me. and I will be declaring to you by what authority I 30 am doing these things. The baptism of John-whence was it? Was it out of heaven or out of men? 31 Answer Me!" And they reasoned with themselves, saying, "If we should be saying 'Out of heaven', he will be declaring, 'Wherefore, then, do you not believe him?' 32 But should we be saying 'Out of

men'?" They feared the people, for all had it that John really was ³³ a prophet. And, answering Jesus, they are saying, "We are not aware." And answering, Jesus is saying to them, "Neither am I telling you by what authority I am doing these things."

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1-12 Compare Mt.2133-46Lu.209-19.

1 This was a most familiar illustration for His hearers. Vineyards were usually planted on stony ground. After clearing, the stones were built into a broad stone fence, sometimes not much more than a carefully piled heap, without cement. The vat, into which the grapes were cast for pressing, was usually cut in the natural rock on a hillside, with an opening in the bottom for the juice to escape. When the grapes were ripe a watchman was on guard at all times, being stationed on the tower, which overlooked the whole vineyard.

Israel is the vineyard of Jehovah (Isa. 57). The parable describes the treatment accorded God's messengers and prophets, whom He sent to recall them to their duty to Him. It was one long story of rebellion and violence. Each generation prided itself that it would not persecute the prophets as its fathers had done, yet, when put to the test, exceeded them in their mistreatment of His slaves. The priests and scribes and elders were the farmers to whose care the vineyard had been committed. The Lord boldly predicts their course with regard to Himself, and, incidentally, He answers their question as to His authority. They were simply hirelings, with no authority whatever when He was on the scene. The vineyard was His Father's. They were answerable to Him. Perhaps nowhere is the darkness of man's mind and the hardness of his heart more apparent than when, in stubborn rebellion against God, he carries out the revealed will of God. Though this was a parable, they knew that He was speaking of them. Why, then, did they persist in doing what He said they would do? They will have no place or power in the kingdom.

10 Compare Ps. 11822,23. See 1 Pt. 24-8.

10 The capstone of the corner is usually the most ornate on a building. The very finest block of stone would ordinarily be reserved for it. But the rulers in Israel refused to give Him any place in the edifice. He was rejected and despised. But when it is finished He will have the highest and most glorious position. How blind they must have been, after this plain prediction, to go on in senseless rage to fulfill His words to the letter!

12 And He begins to talk to them in parables: "A man plants a vine-yard and places a stone dike about it and excavates a vat and builds a tower and leased it to farmers, and travels. And he dispatches a slave, at the season, to the farmers, that he may be getting from the fruit of the vineyard from the farmers.

3 And taking him, they lash him 4 and dispatch him empty. And again he dispatches to them another slave, and that one, pelting with stones, summarily they dispatch in

dishonor. And again he dispatches another and that one they kill, and many others, lashing these, indeed, yet killing these.

He still had one son, his beloved. He dispatches him also last to them, saying that 'They will be respecting my son.' Yet those farmers say to themselves that 'This is the enjoyer of the allotment. Hither! We may be killing him, and the enjoyment of the allotment will be ours!' And taking him, they

kill him and cast him outside of the vineyard.

What, then, will the lord of the vineyard be doing? He will be coming and destroying the farmers and will be giving the vineyard to others. Did you not read this scripture?

'The stone which the builders reject,

This came to be for the head of the corner.

This came from the Lord, And it is marvelous in our eyes."

12 And they sought to hold Him, and they were afraid of the throng, for they know that He spoke the para-

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13-17 Compare Mt.2215-22Lu.2019-26.

13 There were many insurrections and disturbances in Palestine during the first century due to hatred of the foreign domination, and especially be-cause of taxation. The poll tax was a practical pledge of allegiance to Cæsar, or rather a badge of subjection. Some of the Jews were in doubt whether it was right to pay it. But it was a most dangerous dilemma in which they hoped to place Him. His followers would soon desert a Messiah Who openly counseled subjection to a gentile tyrant, and the authorities would make no delay in executing any popular leader who spoke against the poll tax. The crafty hypocrites who planned this trap were careful to keep clear of it themselves, for they were afraid it might lead them into complications. So they sent some of the two opposing parties, one of whom, they were sure, would cause His downfall.

He first tears off their hypocritical mask. "Why are you trying Me?" Each word is worthy of separate emphasis. Their motive was wrong. They were not conscientious patriots seeking counsel from the true King of Israel, but false traitors seeking to assassinate Him. How pathetic was His next appeal! Cæsar was collecting coffers on coffers of denarii, yet He did not number a single one among His acquaintances! The usurper is satiated with tribute; the rightful Sovereign is penniless.

By accepting the Roman currency, they virtually acknowledged their subjection to Cæsar. It was only just that they should fulfill their obligations to him so long as it was God's will that they should suffer for their insubordination to Him. But the rest of the reply was not demanded by the question. It may refer partly to the payment of the temple taxes (Mt. 1724-27; Ex. 3011-16) for the services of the sanctuary, but, in a broader sense, included all their obligations to God. This would, of course, first of all involve paying Him the loyalty and honor due Him as God's King. sought to show that He was a traitor to Rome. He exposed their disloyalty to God.

18-25 Compare Mt.2223-30. See Lu.2027-36.18 See Ac. 238.

19 See Deut. 255,6.

ble with them in view. And, leaving Him, they came away.

And they are dispatching to Him some of the Pharisees and of the Herodians that they should the Herodians that they should the thin by word. And, coming, they are saying to Him, "Teacher, we are aware that you are true, and you are not caring about any one, for you are not looking at the face of men, but of a truth you are teaching the way of God. Is it allowed to give poll-tax to Cæsar or not? May we be giving, or may we not be giving?" Now He, having perceived their

hypocrisy, said to them, "Why are you trying Me? Bring Me a denarius that I may make its acquaintance." Now they bring it. And He is saying to them, "Whose

is this image and inscription?"
Now they say to Him, "Cæsar's."
Now Jesus said to them, "What is

Cæsar's pay to Cæsar, and what is God's to God." And they were astounded at Him.

 And Sadducees are coming to Him, who are saying there is no resurrection, and they inquired of
 Him, saying, "Teacher, Moses

writes to us that, if someone's brother should be dying, and leaving a wife and leaving no child, that his brother may be taking his wife and should be raising up seed

²⁰ to his brother. There were seven brothers, and the first got a wife

²¹ and, dying, leaves no seed. And the second got her, and died, leaving no seed, and the third similarly.

²² And the seven also took her similarly and leave no seed. Last of all

²³ the woman also died. In the resurrection, then, whenever they may

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18 Now that He has answered the hardest question of the Pharisees and Herodians, the Sadducees bring Him their best argument against the truth of resurrection. There is the constant tendency, even among the household of faith, to present practical difficulties in order to discredit the truth. And the answer is always the same. Those who do not believe God are deceived because they are not acquainted with the scriptures or the power of God. The difficulties are of their own making. The marriage state is not carried over into the resurrection.

26-27 Compare Mt.2281-38Lu.2087,38. See p 32 Ex.36.

26 According to the Sadducees, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will never be raised from the dead, hence will never live, and God is the God of the dead. The Lord does not affirm that they are alive, for then they would not be raised. His argument demands that they be dead, and that resurrection be a necessity to bring them back to life. There were those in the Corinthian ecclesia who followed the Sadducees on this very subject (1 Co.15¹²⁻²⁸). They denied the resurrection of any: Paul proves the vivification of all. Not only will all be raised from the dead, but all will be given life beyond death at the consummation. Then it will be seen that God is indeed a God, not of the dead, but of the living. This could never be true if there were no resurrection. Far less could it prove the necessity of resurrection if there were no death.

28-34 Compare Mt. 2234-46.

28 We would expect the Lord to choose one of the "ten commandments". But not one of these compares with the one He selected. Mere negative precepts—thou shalt not—are not in the same class with this positive, lofty conception of conduct based on love. The second would displace all human legislation, were it possible to enforce it. But how much better is the grand truth that we rest on His love to us, not ours to Him! He loves us with all the ardor of His heart. This is unutterably better than the best precept.

- 29 Compare Deut. 64,5.
- 31 See Lev.1918Ro.138-10Ga.514Ja.28.
- 32 See Deut. 439 Isa. 416-14.

be rising, whose will the woman be? For the seven have had her as wife."

Jesus averred to them, "Are you not therefore deceived, not being acquainted with the scriptures, nei-25 ther the power of God? whenever they should be rising from among the dead, they are neither marrying nor being given in marriage, but are as the messengers which are in the heavens. Now concerning the dead, that they are roused, did you not read in the scroll of Moses, at the thorn bush, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of ²⁷ Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You, then,

are much deceived." And one of the scribes, approaching, hearing them discussing, perceiving that He answered them ideally, inquires of Him, "What is the foremost precept of ²⁹ all?" Jesus answered him that "The foremost precept of all is 'Hear, Israel! the Lord our God is 30 one Lord. And you shall be loving the Lord your God with your whole heart, and with your whole soul, and with your whole comprehension, and with your whole strength.' This is the foremost precept. And the second is like it: 'You shall be loving your associate as yourself.' Now no other precept is greater than these." 32 And the scribe said to Him, "Of a truth, Teacher, Thou sayest ideally that He is One, and there is no 33 other more than He, and to be lov-

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- 33 See 1 Sa.1522Hos.66Mic.66-8.
- 34 Compare Lu. 2039,40.
- 35 Compare Mt.2241.45Lu.2041-44.

35 Now that the Lord has answered all His opposers. He propounds a question which they do not attempt to answer. The Messiah was the great central figure of prophecy. The scribes had many traditions about Him. Perhaps the best known title given Him was Messiah ben David, for the son of Jesse was the greatest national hero, and to him was given the kingdom covenant. But they utterly failed to see that He was also the Son of God, and was identical with the One David called his Lord. None of the theophanies, or manifestations of God, in ancient times could have been appearances of the one invisible God (Col.115 1 Tim.117). No one has ever seen God: the only begotten God ... He unfolds Him (Jn.118). Jacob saw Elohim at Peniel face to face (Gen.3230). Isaiah saw Jehovah Tsebahoth (Isa.65 Jn. 1241). These and others of like nature can be no other than the One Who is the Image of the invisible God (Col. 115; 2 Co. 44). The God of the scriptures is one God. He has His spirit, which is identical with Him in personality. Otherwise Christ had two fathers, for He is the only-begotten of the Father (Jn. 114) and of the holy spirit (Mt. 118). Just as a man and his spirit are one, so God and His spirit are one. The Son of God is a distinct personality, as David shows when he says "The Lord said to my Lord." Yet there is the closest unity, the same as exists between an idea and its verbal expression, a person and his statue or image. God can be known to human creatures only through His Word and His Image, Who is Christ. the Son of God.

36-37 See 2 Sa.232Ps.1101.

38-40 Compare Mt.231-14Lu.2045-47.

38 While the scribes were degrading Christ to the level of a mere descendant of David, they were seeking to exalt themselves in the eyes of the people.

- 41-44 Compare Lu. 211-4.
- 41 See 2 Ki. 129.
- 42 The magnitude of a gift to God is not measured by its size but by the remainder which is left. True giving is a venture of faith.

the associate as yourself, is excessively more than all the holocausts and the sacrifices."

And Jesus, perceiving him, that he answered apprehendingly, said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And no one dared to inquire of Him any more.

And answering, Jesus teaching in the sanctuary, "How are the scribes saving that the

36 Christ is the Son of David? For David himself said, in the holy spirit.

'The Lord said to my Lord. "Be sitting at My right, Till I should be placing Thy ene-For a footstool of Thy feet."'

³⁷ David himself, then, is terming Him 'Lord', and whence is He his Son?" And the vast throng hears Him with relish.

And in His teaching He said to them, "Beware of the scribes, who are wanting to walk in robes, and

salutations in the markets, and front seats in the synagogues, and the first reclining places at the din-

ners, who are devouring the houses of widows and for a pretense are prolix in praying. These will be getting more excessive judgment."

And Jesus, being seated facing \mathbf{the} treasury, beheld how the throng is casting the coppers into the treasury. And many rich cast

42 in much. And one woman, a poor widow, coming, cast in two mites, which is a quadrans [.39¢, .75f].

43 And calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Verily, I am saying to you that this poor widow cast in more than all who are casting

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- 44 See 2 Co. 812.
- 1-8 Compare Mt. 241-8; Lu. 215-11.
- It took forty-six years to build the temple (Jn. 220). Our Lord had already hinted that it would be razed to the ground. While He was within the sacred precincts, it was the abode of God. Now that He has left it for the last time, it is a tenantless shell, forsaken by Jehovah. Hence He foretells its destruction. In the spiritual habitation which takes its place, Peter speaks of the saints of the Circumcision as living stones (1 Pt. 25). Hence these stones of the temple may well stand for the whole structure of the priesthood, for not only the sanctuary. but the whole Levitical system was demolished at the siege of Jerusalem, about four decades later.

5 It must be remembered that the present interval of God's transcendent grace was an absolute secret, concealed in God (Eph. 39) and that even the times and eras of the kingdom could not be revealed at that time (Ac.17). If these are left out of sight, the events here spoken of by our Lord go right on from His time to the time of the end, just before the kingdom comes. We are in the interval between the demolition of the sanctuary (about 70 A. D.) and the still future course of events which are given in fuller detail under the first four seals in the Unveiling.

The white horse rider (Un. 62) is the false messiah who comes in His name, the fiery red horse brings on the battles, the black horse corresponds to the famine here foretold, while the fifth seal brings us the fate of those

who testify in that day.

10 This is not the evangel of God's grace which we proclaim, but the evangel of the kingdom, which will be heralded once again in the great judgment era which immediately precedes the coming of Christ to reign over the earth. It will be carried on by an elect company in Israel who, like the two witnesses (Un. 113), will be upheld by divine power. His coming for us is not contingent on any missionary program of the "church".

- 6 Compare Un. 62. First Seal.
- 7 Compare Un. 64. Second Seal.
- 8 Compare Un. 65-8. Third and Fourth Seals.
- 9-13 Compare Mt.249-14Lu.2112-19.

- 44 into the treasury. For all cast out of their superfluity, yet she, out of her want, cast in all, as much as she had—her whole livelihood."
- 13 And at His going out of the sanctuary, one of His disciples is saying to Him, "Teacher! Lo! what manner of stones and what manner of buildings!" And answering, Jesus said to him, "Are you observing these great buildings? Under no circumstances may a stone be left upon a stone here which may not by all means be demolished."
- And at His sitting on the mount of Olives, facing the sanctuary, Peter and James and John and Andrew inquired of Him privately, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what is the sign when all this should be about to be concluded?"
- Now Jesus, answering, begins to say to them, "Beware that no one should be deceiving you! For many will be coming on My name, saying that 'I am!' and they will be deceiving many. whenever you should be hearing battles and tidings of battles, see that you are not alarmed, for it must be occurring, but not as yet is the consummation. For nation will be roused against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. there will be quakes in places. And there will be famines and disturbances. These are the beginning of travails. Yet you be looking to yourselves. For they will be betraying you to the sanhedrins and you will be lashed in synagogues, and yet you will stand before governors and kings on Mv account, for a testimony to them.

¹⁰ And the evangel must first be proclaimed to all nations.

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was to intervene they never could have carried on their Pentecostal ministry, and God could not have used Israel's defection as the basis of a much greater and grander exhibition of grace than the kingdom contemplates.

35 While the Son did not know the day or hour, we can now see that He was aware that there would be a delay. He is the light of the world. His absence is night. He might have come at evening. This probably refers to the early Pentecostal proclamation (Ac. 320). The great crisis, or midnight, was when Israel was repudiated (Ac. 2826. 27). Perhaps the present awakening in Israel is the cock-crowing. The darkest hour still lies ahead. But in the morning He will surely come. When these signs begin to come to pass then it will be possible to watch events. We, however, do not watch the events which accompany the wrath of God, but wait for God's Son to rescue us from the coming indignation (1 Th. 110).

83-37 Compare Mt. 2445-51.

1-2 Compare Mt. 261-5 Lu. 221-2.

- The actual festival of Unleavened Bread did not commence until the day after the Passover (Lev. 235,6), but, since all leaven was removed on the day of the Passover, and it was eaten with unleavened bread (Ex. 128), it came to be included in "unleavened bread".
- 2 How blind they were! The Passover must be killed before the festival, not because it might create a tumult of the people, but because this was God's order. They were at great pains and trouble, in their rabid rebellion against God, that they might fulfill the will of God! So it is always. God's enemies are carrying out His will in their very opposition. The Lamb must be slain on the fourteenth, and God can use the fearfulness of the priests to fulfill it, so long as He cannot use their faithfulness.
- 3-9 Compare Mt. 266-13; Jn. 121-8. See Lu. 736-38.
- 3 How precious to the heart of our Lord must have been the intelligent, sacrificing worship of this woman! She alone seems to have understood Him concerning His impending death, or appreciated, in some measure, its preciousness. It is the time, the effort,

authority, and to each his work, and he directs the doorkeeper that

35 he may be watching. Be watching, then, for you are not aware when the lord of the house is coming, at evening, or midnight, or cock-

36 crowing, or morning, lest, coming suddenly, he may be finding you
 37 drowsing. Now what I am saying

to you I am saying to all: 'Be

watching!''

14. Now after two days was the Passover, and the unleavened bread. And the chief priests and scribes sought how, laying hold of Him by guile, they may be killing ² Him. For they said, "Not in the festival, lest at some time there

will be a tumult of the people."

And at His being in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, at His lying down, a woman came, having an alabaster vase of veritable nard attar, costly. And crushing the alabaster vase, she pours it down on His head.

Now some were resenting it to themselves and saying, "For what has this destruction of the attar occurred? For this attar could have been disposed of for above three hundred denarii [\$47.07, £9 13s 9d] and given to the poor."
And they muttered against her. Yet Jesus said, "Leave her! Why are

she works an ideal work in Me.

7 For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you may want you can always do well to them,

you affording her weariness? For

yet Me you have not always. She does with what she had. She gets beforehand to anoint My body
 with attar for burial. Now verily

I with attar for burial. Now verily I am saying to you, wherever this evangel may be proclaimed in the whole world, this also which she does shall be spoken of for a memorial of her."

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the treasure, that we "waste" in our worship of Him that gains His gratitude and touches His heart. "Practical" religion provides for the poor; spiritual worship lavishes its all on Him. Benefactors receive their reward in the gratitude of those whom they help. But when has even such a costly gift been so richly rewarded? Men have given as much as a million times the sum she did for philanthropy. But whose name can be mentioned with hers? Yet she simply did with what she had. We do not need to have much. but only give our best and our reward will be beyond all calculation.

10 The woman gave, Judas got. They resented the woman's act and would have taken her treasure from her had they known. The chief priests rejoiced and promised Judas a substantial reward. Who would like to earn thirty pieces of silver? Religious men who know not Christ are always ready to pay for His betrayal.

10-16 Compare Mt. 2614-19: Lu. 223-13.

12 "The first day of the unleavened bread" was not, as might be supposed, the first day of the festival of unleavened bread (Lev. 237), but the day before, the day of the Passover proper. Similarly, the term Passover was often applied to the festival which followed. 12 The passover must be sacrificed on the fourteenth day of the first month "between [not in] the [two] evenings [of one day]" (Ex. 12^6). This made it possible for our Lord to eat the passover and be the Passover all in one day, between the sunset which began the fourteenth of Nisan, and the sunset which closed it.

Bearing water jars was "women's work" and it was a singular sight to see a man with a water jar. There probably was not another in all Jerusalem. His household must have been small, hence he could accommodate so many extra guests at the Passover. It was the custom for families to join into groups large enough to eat a whole lamb (Ex. 124).

17-21 Compare Mt.2620-25 Lu.2214,21-23 Jn. 1318-80.

17 With what mingled feelings would our Lord eat this passover! Joy to see the fruit of His labors, sorrow at the treachery of Judas, while over all was the shadow of the cross.

And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, came away to the chief priests that he may be betraying

11 Him to them. Now, when hearing, they rejoiced, and promise to give him silver, and he sought how he may be opportunely betraying

Him.

And on the first day of the unleavened bread, when they sacrificed the passover. His disciples are saying to Him, "Where dost Thou want us to come away and make ready that Thou mayest eat the

13 passover?" And He is dispatching two of His disciples and is saying to them, "A man going into the city will be meeting you, bearing a jar of water. Follow

¹⁴ him. And wherever he should be entering, say to the householder 'The Teacher is saying, that "Where is My caravansary, where I may be eating the passover with

15 My disciples?", And he will be showing you a large upper room ready, with places spread, and

16 there make ready for us." And His disciples came out and came into the city and they found it according as He said to them. they make ready the passover.

And as it is becoming evening. 18 He is coming with the twelve. And, at their lying back at table and eating, Jesus said, "Verily, I am saving to you that one of you, who is eating with Me, shall betray

19 Me." Now they begin to be sorrowful and are saying to Him, one by one, "It is not I, Rabbi?" and

20 another, "It is not I?" Now answering. He said to them, "It is one of the twelve who is dipping

21 his hand in the dish with Me; seeing that the Son of Mankind is indeed

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21 So atrocious was the treachery of Judas Iscariot that we sympathize with those who find it difficult to see how God's grace can ever reach him. But Paul was a greater sinner (1 Tim. 115). Judas did not commit his crime until after the Slanderer had put it into his heart (Jn. 132). He regretted his action (Mt. 273). Not so Paul. We can have no sympathy, however, with the attempts to twist the translation to agree with their thoughts. The phrase "that man" refers to Judas in one sentence, so must also refer to him in the next. The Lord is thinking of His own sufferings and Judas' share in them. not of Judas' fate.

22-25 Compare Mt.2626-29 Lu.2215-20 1 Co.

1123-25. 22 It is notable that in this account, as in Matthew, the last dinner is considered a part of the Passover and no mention is made of any memorial for their future observance. The simple figure of speech here used has caused much misunderstanding. The Greek and Hebrew substantive, to be, is not expressed when dealing with matters of fact. But when a figure is intended, the verb must be used. "This IS My body" means that the bread represents His body. "This My body" (without is) could be used only when He was actually speaking of His own physical frame. The sustenance and joy of all believers in Christ is symbolized by partaking of the bread and drinking of the cup. The flesh is benefiting nothing. The spirit is that which is vivifying (Jn. 663). It is the spiritual and hearty appropriation of Christ's sufferings which brings satisfaction and delight. This will be ours in its fullness when we are with Him. Till He comes we are reminded of it by partaking of the broken bread and poured out wine. 24 The new covenant is with the nation of Israel (Jer. 3132; 3240; Eze. 3624-30; Heb. 87-12; 1015-17) even as the old one was. The first was dedicated with the blood of calves and he-goats (Ex. 248), but the new with the precious blood of Christ (Heb.915-27). The first was conditioned on their obedience, the second on His.

26-28 Compare Mt.2630-32Lu.2235-39.

27 Compare Zech. 137.

29-31 Compare Mt.2633-35 Lu.2231-34 Jn. 1336-38.

82-42 Compare Mt.2636-46Lu.2246Jn.181,2.

going according as it is written concerning Him, yet woe to that man through whom the Son of Mankind is being betrayed! Ideal were it for Him if that man were not born!"

And at their eating, Jesus, taking bread, blessing, breaks it, and gives to them and said, "Take: this

is My body." And, taking the cup, giving thanks, He gives it to them,

²⁴ and they all drank of it. And He said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant being poured out

for many. Verily, I am saying to you, that no longer under any circumstances may I be drinking of the product of the grape vine till that day whenever I should be drinking it new in the kingdom of God."

²⁶ And, singing a hymn, they came out to the mount of Olives.

And Jesus is saying to them that "You all shall be snared in Me in this night, seeing that it is written,

'I shall be smiting the shepherd And the sheep shall be scattered.'

²⁸ But after I am roused I shall be
 ²⁹ preceding you into Galilee. Yet Peter averred to Him, "And if all shall be snared, nevertheless not
 ³⁰ I!" And Jesus is saying to him,

"Verily, I am saying to you that you, today, in this night, ere the cock crows twice, will be renounc-

31 ing Me thrice." Yet Peter spoke still more extravagantly, "If ever I must die with Thee, I shall under no circumstances be renouncing Thee!" Now all also said similarly.

And they are coming into a freehold, the name of which is Gethsemane. And He is saying to His disciples, "Be seated he is taken

33 may be praying." And He is tak-

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34 The problem of evil is solved for us in the dark shadows of Gethsemane. No one will dispute that He did not deserve to drink the cup that His Father set before Him. No one will find fault with His will, though it was not in line with His Father's. How easily it might have passed from Him! A word would have sufficed to destroy all His enemies. But He had not come to do His own will. And now that the will of God led Him into the sorest suffering and deepest distress, He receives this evil from the hand of God. Who makes it the basis of boundless blessing, not only to mankind and all creation, but to Christ Himself and to His own glory and praise. The evil was short, sharp and temporary. The results will be without limits in time or space. The terrible treatment of the Holy One by the God Whom He so faithfully served is a far more perplexing problem than the introduction of evil into the creation. In both cases it is a temporary infliction fraught with infinite blessing for God and all His creatures. 36 See Heb. 57.8.

³⁶ It was quite possible for God to have spared Christ the sufferings of the cross. But it could only be done at the cost of untold loss to God, to His creatures and to Christ Himself. God's love could never be known apart from this bitter cup. His grace could never flow forth apart from it. Let us thank Him that He is not doing merely what is possible and easy, but what is for our highest good and His greatest glory.

37 The indifference of the apostles in this, His hour of deepest trial, seems unutterably sad. More and more He is becoming the Lonely One. His nearest friends are far from Him in spirit. God alone is with Him. And soon He also will abandon Him. Only the betrayer is active. He is not drowsing. Neither is the vast throng of His enemies. And then the apostles also become alert. His sufferings did not seem sufficiently serious to ward off sleep. But when they were in danger of suffering themselves, they are suddenly wide awake, and feel no more need of sleep.

43-46 Compare Mt.2647-50 Lu.2247,48 Jn. 183-9.

47-50 Compare Mt.26⁵¹-56Lu.22⁴⁹-53. See Jn.18¹⁰, 11.

ing Peter and James and John aside with Himself, and He begins

34 to be overawed and depressed. And He is saying to them, "My soul is sorrow-stricken to death. Remain

35 here and be watching." And coming forward a little, He fell on the earth and prayed that if it is possible the hour may pass by from

36 Him. And He said, "Abba, Father, all is possible to Thee. Have this cup carried aside from Me. But not what I will, but what Thou!"

And He is coming and finding them drowsing. And He is saying to Peter, "Simon, are you drowsing? Have you not the strength to watch one hour? Be watching and praying lest you may be entering into trial. The spirit, indeed, is eager; yet the flesh is in-

firm."

And again, coming away, He prays, saying the same words. And coming again, He found them drowsing, for their eyes were torpid. And they were not aware that they may answer Him. And He is coming the third time and saying to them, "Drowse on furthermore and rest! It is having its fill. The hour came. Lo! The Son of Mankind is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

he who is betraying Me has drawn he ar!" And straightway, while He is still talking, Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, is coming along, and with him a vast throng, with swords and cudgels, from the chief priests and scribes and elders.

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AND THE BENIORS MENTINGYMATIPORYMONHAG 500 REPORE-FEEL THE YET 44 E PWNAGAWKE I AGOTTAP AAI 51000 INDEED spirit BEFORE-FEEL THE OTHER STATES OF SEBILDE-GIVING 45 The perfidious kiss of Judas was the last token of affection He received from His apostles. Judas was among those who so recently vowed to stand by Him to the death, if need be. He had been entrusted with the funds (Jn.126 1329), though he was a thief. There is reason to believe that he was above the peasant class in the social scale, and so of superior breeding to the rest of the apostles. The betrayal of his Lord was an awful crime, and yet it seems ten times more terrible, the way he sought to conceal it under a show of affection. May God keep us from hypocrisy! It is ever so much better to be an open enemy of Christ than to cover an alien and avaricious heart with the cloak of Christianity.

47 How often do the Lord's servants show such zeal! By some swift sword thrust they cut off a hearing for their message.

48 See Lu.2444.

48 All this show of force was a symptom of fear. If they wanted to arrest Him, why did they not do it on the previous day when He was in their stronghold, the sanctuary? Nothing could have been simpler. There were temple guards, the Sanhedrin and the high priest's house were near at hand, and, if need be, the Roman soldiers were within call. That ought to suffice to arrest a harmless unarmed Man, even if He has a few followers. But they were afraid of the populace. It was a deed of darkness best done in the night. So the chief priests arm their followers, and hire the traitor, and get false witnesses, and stir up the people, and put political pressure on Pilate, all to secure the demolition of the true Temple and the murder of the true Messiah. How terrible is religion apart from the grace of God! Yet beneath it all we can see that, unconsciously, they are carrying out the purpose of God. Though they fail to worship their God, they do not fail to sacrifice the Lamb of God. It was the work of the priests. No one else could do it. Such is the wisdom of God that He uses their hatred to fulfill His will.

52 Linen, used as clothing, typifies righteousness. No one could fly from Him in His hour of need without exposing his own shame and utter lack of righteousness.

a signal, saying, "Whomever I should be kissing is He. Hold Him, and lead Him away secure-

45 lv." And coming, straightway approaching Him, he is saving, "Rabbi, Rabbi," and he kisses Him

46 fondly. Now they laid their hands 47 on Him and hold Him. Now a cer-

tain one of those standing by, pulling a sword, hits the chief priest's slave and amputates the lobe of his

48 And answering, Jesus said to them, "Do you come out with swords and cudgels to apprehend

⁴⁹ Me as after a robber? Daily was I with you in the sanctuary, teaching, and you do not hold Me. but that the scriptures may be ful-

50 filled." And deserting Him, they ⁵¹ all fled. And one, a certain youth, was following with Him clothed in

a linen wrapper on his naked body, and the youths are holding him.

⁵² Yet he, leaving the linen wrapper. fled from them naked.

And they led Jesus away to the chief priest Caiaphas, and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes are coming together to Him.

⁵⁴ And Peter follows Him from afar. till within the court yard of the chief priest, and was sitting together with the deputies, and warming himself at the light.

55 Now the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin sought false testimony against Jesus, to put Him to

⁵⁶ death, and they found none, for many testified against Him falsely, and the testimonies were not con-

⁵⁷ sistent. And some, rising, testified

44 ⁰⁰¹	. '		MARK'S	ACCOUNT		APTERS 12-13
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11 The method of salvation varies according to God's administration. To say that it is for those who endure to the end, in this economy of pure unmixed grace, would be most misleading. Only at the time specified, just before the consummation which ushers in the kingdom, is salvation accorded to those who endure. The same is true of preparation in speaking. It has no reference to the preaching of the evangel today, but to the defense of those who answer for their lives in the great affliction.

12-13 See Lu. 1251-53.

14-17 Compare Mt. 2415-22.

14 See Dan. 9271211.

14 The great chronological monument for the time of the end is the middle of the seventieth heptad, when the prince breaks his covenant with Israel, the daily offering ceases and the detestation of desolation is given (Dan.1211). This marks the beginning of the great unparalleled affliction, such as has never yet been known even to the persecuted Jew. So terrible will it be that not a soul would be saved through it if God did not cut it short. There seems to be some asylum for those who flee into the mountains of Judea. In the Unveiling this flight is spoken of under the figure of a woman. "And the woman fled into the wilderness where she has a place made ready by God, that they may be nurturing her there a thousand two hundred sixty days" (Un.126). To the wild fastnesses southeast of Judea they fly before the fury of the Satanic onslaught, with no preparations, no provisions, nothing to preserve them alive for their three and a half years' sojourn. Yet they will be miraculously fed and sheltered, as they were once before in the forty years' wanderings in the same wilderness. In the inclement weather of a Palestine winter such a flight would be beyond endurance, especially to those not inured to hardship. Yet amidst it all, their safety is assured, for God has already predicted their preservation and salvation, and He is well able to care for His own.

- 15 See Lu.1731-33.
- 19 See Dan.121Un.69-11. Fifth Seal.
- 21-23 Compare Mt. 2423-28. See Lu. 1722-24.
 21 The coming of Christ for His body,
- 21 The coming of Christ for His body, the ecclesia to which we belong, will

And whenever they may be leading you to betrayal, do not worry beforehand what you should be speaking, neither be meditating, but whatever may be given to you in that hour, this be speaking, for it is not you who are speaking, but

12 the holy spirit. And brother will be betraying brother to death, and father, child. And children will be rising against parents, and

13 will be causing them to die. And you will be hated by all because of My name. Yet he who endures to the consummation, he shall be saved.

Now whenever you may be perceiving the abomination of desolation which is declared by Daniel the prophet standing where it must not (let him who is reading apprehend), then let those in Judea be fleeing

into the mountains. Now let not him who is on the housetop descend into the house, neither let him enter to pick up anything out

of his house. And let not him who is in the field turn back to that behind, to pick up his cloak.

Now woe to those who are pregnant and suckling in those days!
Yet be praying that your flight

may not be occurring in winter, ¹⁹ for those days will be affliction, such as has not occurred from the beginning of the creation which God creates till now, and under no circumstances may be occurring.

20 And, except the Lord discounts the days, no flesh at all would be saved. But because of the chosen whom He chooses, He discounts the days.

And then, if any one should be saying to you 'Lo! Here is Christ!' and 'Lo! There!' be not believing.

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take place more than three and a half years before this time, possibly as many as thirty-seven or sixty-seven. But no one will be able to say when he will come to Israel until the abomination of desolation is set up and the great affliction begins. Then all may be assured that He will net come for three and a half years. By this they will recognize the many false messiahs who will rise at that time.

But after three and a half years marvelous portents in the sky will herald the advent of the long-desired Messiah. He will come as a lightning flash, clothed in glorious majesty and might. His first act will be to gather the trembling outcasts of Israel from all quarters of the earth about Him, for theirs is the kingdom for the eons of the eons.

23 See 2 Pt. 317.

24-27 Compare Mt.2429-31 Lu.2125-27 Un. 612-17. Sixth Seal.

26 See Dan.713,142 Th.17-10Un.17.

28-32 Compare Mt.2432-36Lu.2129-31.

28 The fig tree is political Israel. None of the signs here spoken of have yet occurred, so that we cannot say that its leaves are sprouting out. But much that has occurred in recent years indicates that its boughs are becoming tender. The Zionist movement, the Balfour declaration, recognizing the right of the Jews to their ancient homeland, the British mandate, under which there is a greater exodus to Palestine than under Moses, the Jewish colonization, the new Hebrew university on mount Scopus, the change of attitude on the part of many Jews toward Christ-all these acts and facts indicate that Israel is practically a political unit with a land, a flag, a national anthem, a patriotic spirit—but without a king. It is time for the fig tree to put forth its leaves! But before that Christ will come to the air to catch us away to be with Himself. Before He can declare war with the earth His ambassadors of peace must be withdrawn.

30 These things should have occurred in that generation. Yet He warms them that no one knows the time. It is a secret which God has not confided to men, nor to His heavenly messengers—not even to the Son. The reason is clear. Had the apostles known all that

²² For false christs and false prophets will be roused, and they will be giving signs and miracles to lead astray, if possible, even those who

²³ are chosen. Now you beware! Lo! I have declared it all to you before.

²⁴ But in those days, after that affliction, the sun shall be darkened and the moon shall not be giving her

²⁵ beams. And the stars shall be falling out of heaven, and the powers in the heavens shall be shaken.

²⁶ And then shall they be viewing the Son of Mankind coming in clouds

²⁷ with much power and glory. And then He will be dispatching His messengers and assembling His chosen ones from the four winds, from the extremity of the earth to the extremity of heaven.

Now be learning a parable from the fig tree. Whenever its bough may already be becoming tender and the leaves sprouting out, you know that warm weather is near.

Thus also you, whenever you may be perceiving these things occurring, know that it is near—at the

30 doors. Verily, I am saying to you that this generation may by no means be passing by until all these things should be occurring.

31 Heaven and earth shall be passing by, yet My words shall by no means be passing by.

Now concerning that day or hour no one is aware—neither the messengers in heaven, nor the Son

33 — except the Father. Beware! Be vigilant and praying, for you are not aware when the era is.

34 It is as a man, a traveler, leaving his home and giving his slaves

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66 Poor Peter! Recklessly brave when his courage was called into question, he finds himself a contemptible coward, in spite of all his protestations. Only a few hours before he was ready to die for His Master and was proud of being not merely one of His disciples, but one of the three most intimate with Him. Of course, all the others might renounce Christ, but not he! His thoughts should have remained fixed on the fate of his Master. Instead he is concerned about himself and does not hesitate to find comfort in the enemy's camp. He was not risking his life to save his Master, but deserting his Master to save his own life.

But let us not blame Peter too severely. He is the great and fearless apostle in the making. Satan is sifting the chaff out of him. God is teaching him the lesson of his own untrustworthy self, and leading him to confidence in Himself.

66-71 Compare Mt.2669-74 Lu.2255-60 Jn. 1815-18.

· 69-71 Compare Jn. 1825-27.

72 Compare Mt.2675Lu.2261,62.

1-8 Compare Mt.271,2,11-12 Lu.231-17 Jn. 1828-39. See Ps.22.

The Sanhedrin had jurisdiction in religious affairs only. They did not have the power of death. That was reserved by the civil authorities. Hence it was necessary to secure Pilate's sentence in order to have Him executed. The governor was not interested in their religious differences. His only concern was to guard the state. Hence his first question was concerning His royal pretentions. Christ does not deny that He is a king. In John's account we are told that He explained to Pilate that, at that time His kingdom was not of this world, and that His deputies would not fight (Jn.1836). That was all that Pilate needed to know. If Christ was not planning violence. He was no menace to the Roman power. Moreover, when the Lord calmly told Pilate that he had no authority over Him at all except what was given him from above (Jn. 1911). He practically takes the scepter from his hand and assumes the government Himself. The despised Prisoner is kingly, sublime; the cringing governor nothing but a political pawn.

⁵ See Isa.537.

69 And the maid, perceiving him, begins again to say to those standing by that "This is one of them."

⁷⁰ Yet he denied again. And after a little, those standing by said again to Peter, "Truly you are of them, for you are a Galilean also, and

71 your speech is alike." Now he begins to be anathematizing and swearing that "I am not acquainted with this man of whom you are

72 telling!" And, straightway, a cock crows a second [time]. And Peter recollects the declaration, as Jesus said to him that "Ere a cock crow twice, you will be renouncing Me thrice." And, reflecting, he lamented.

And straightway in the morning the chief priests with the elders and the scribes and the whole Sanhedrin hold a consultation. Binding Jesus, they carry Him away and give Him over to Pilate. And Pilate inquires of Him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Now, answering him, He is saying, "You are saying it." And the chief priests accused Him much. Now Pilate inquires of Him again, saving, "Are you answering nothing at all? Lo! of how much they are accusing you!" Yet Jesus no longer answered anything, so that Pilate is marveling.

Now at the festival he released one prisoner to them, even whom they requested. Now there was one termed Bar-Abbas, bound with the insurrectionists who had done some murder in the insurrection.

And the throng, exclaiming, begins to be requesting according as he
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Bar-Abbas, which means son of the father, had committed the political crime against the Roman government which they tried to fasten on our Lord. He was a murderer. The Lord was a life giver. Yet, because he was the son of their father, the Slanderer (Jn. 844), they preferred him to the Beloved Son of God. It seems, however, that the people might have made a different choice had they not been excited by the priests. So that we may trace the crucifixion of Christ backward, with varying degrees of responsibility, through Pilate, the strong governor, who weakly yielded to the people, who were swayed by the priests, who were controlled by Satan, who was carrying out the purpose of God. Most of these were bitterly opposed to God, and none of them had any desire to work His will, yet all are moved by motives of which they are unconscious. to do what He has determined shall be done.

9-15 Compare Mt.2717-26Lu.2316-25Jn.1839.

11 Compare Jn. 1840. See Ac. 314.

12 Compared to the malignant hatred of the priests, Pilate's weak submission to the will of the people is merely censurable. Indeed, they are to be contrasted, for Pilate, in his ignorance, was much impressed by the claims of Christ, and sought to release Him. The priests, whose whole life had been devoted to a study of God's law, were blind to the plainest indications of His messiahship. Pilate marveled that He did not reply to the priests. They should have known Him by His silence, even if they had no ears for His words, for the prophet had foretold (Isa. 537):

He is hard pressed, and He is humiliated, Yet He is not opening His mouth: He is fetched as a flockling to the slaughter,

And as a ewe before its shearers is mute. So He is not opening His mouth.

His silence before the deaf leaders of religion was not dictated by haughty contempt. It was useless to speak. They could not hear. So His silence is the God-given sign which they should have heeded.

14 Compare Jn. 194-16. 16-20 Compare Mt.2727-32Jn.191-3.

19 See Mic. 51.

answered them, saying, "Are you wanting that I should be releasing

10 to you the king of the Jews?" For he recognized that the chief priests had betrayed Him through envy.

11 Now the chief priests excite the throng, that he should rather be releasing Bar-Abbas to them.

Now Pilate, answering again, said to them, "What then are you wanting that I shall be doing to him whom you are terming the king

13 of the Jews?" Now again they 14 cry, saying, "Crucify him!" Yet Pilate said to them, "For, what evil does he?" Yet they cry exceedingly, saying, "Crucify him!"

15 Now Pilate, intending to do enough for the throng, releases Bar-Abbas to them and gives up Jesus for a whipping, that He may be crucified.

Now the soldiers led Him away within the courtyard, which is the Pretorium, and they are calling to-

¹⁷ gether the whole squadron. And they are dressing Him in purple, and, braiding a thorny wreath,

18 they are placing it about Him. And they begin to salute Him and say, "Rejoice! King of the Jews!"

19 And they beat His head with a reed, and spat on Him, and kneel-

²⁰ ing, they worshiped Him. when they deride Him, they strip Him of the purple and put His own garments on Him, and they are leading Him out that they should be crucifying Him.

And they are conscripting a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, passing along, coming from the field, the father of Alexander and Rufus. that he should be picking up His

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YKAIPOYOOYINAAPHTONC 55000 AND OF-RUFUS THAT HE-BH'D-BE-LIFTING THE 21 Compare Lu.2326-31Jn.1917. 22-28 Compare Mt.2733-38 Lu.2336-43 Jn. 1917-24, See Ps.69212218.

²⁶ Mark, with characteristic brevity, gives only the charge on the inscription. This was probably included in the full title, which probably read

THIS IS JESUS THE NAZARENE THE KING OF THE JEWS

John's account has almost all of it (Jn. 1919), Matthew says nothing of the appellation "Nazarene" (Mt.2737), Luke (2338) and Mark omit His personal name. These were written in the three languages of the day, Greek, Latin, and Hebrew. It is not likely that Pilate allowed any changes to be made after he said "What I have written, I have written!" (Jn.1922). Each account accords with its peculiar character. Mark, as befits the record of a Servant's death, gives only the charge, and says nothing of the various languages. In the inspired accounts of this inscription we have an illustration of the way in which the spirit culls only such facts for each account of our Lord's life as are pertinent to the particular aspect of His character which is being presented.

27 See Isa.5312.

29-30 Compare Mt.2739-44 Lu.2335-37 Jn. 219-21

29 How profanely silly are man's comments on the cross of Christ! He had never said that He would demolish the temple of God. They were doing that! Should He descend He could not fulfill this word that they are casting in His teeth. Likewise, the insufferable stupidity of the priests could not apprehend that, if He would save others, He could not save Himself.

R3-34 Compare Mt. 2745,46; Lu. 2344-45. 33 God draws the veil of darkness over the scene during the awful hours in which He abandoned His Son. Then it was that He was accursed (Deut.2123 Ga.313). Then it was that it pleased Jehovah to bruise Him, to put Him to grief, to make His soul a trespass offering (Isa. 5310). Here is a holy of holies into which we dare not come but with bowed hearts and unshod feet. It was the moral crisis of universal history, the grand, long-heralded event that will make this earth the shrine of all creation.

34 Ps.221. 35-36 Compare Mt.2747-49; Jn.1925:29. ²² cross. And they are bringing Him to Golgotha Place, which is, being

²³ construed, "Skull Place." And they gave Him wine with myrrh to drink, yet He did not take it.

²⁴ And, crucifying Him, they are dividing His garments, casting a lot for them, what any should be tak-

25 ing away. Now it was the third hour [about 9 A. M.], and they cru-

²⁶ cify Him. And there was an inscription with His charge inscribed,

"THE KING OF THE JEWS."

And together with Him they are crucifying two robbers, one at the right and one at the left of Him.

²⁹ And those going by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who are demolishing the temple and building it in

³⁰ three days, save yourself by de-³¹ scending from the cross!" Likewise the chief priests also, with the scribes, scoffing with one another, said, "Others he saves, himself ne

of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may be perceiving and should be believing!" And those crucified together with Him reproached Him.

And at the coming of the sixth heur [about noon] it came to be dark over the whole land till the 34 ninth hour [about 3 P.M.]. And at the ninth hour Jesus implores with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi! Eloi! Lema sabachthani?", which is being construed, "My God! My God!

Why didst Thou abandon Me?"

35 And some of these standing by, hearing it, said, "Lo! He is sum36 moning Elijah!" Now, some one, running, and soaking a sponge with vinegar, sticking it on a reed,

55 ⁰⁰¹ M	IARK'S ACCOUNT	CHAPTER 15
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26 See Ps. 6921.

37-39 Compare Mt.2750-54 Lu.2345-47 Jn. 1930-37.

37 No man could take His life from Him. All the weariness and wounds did not exhaust His vitality. At the very last He cries out with a loud voice. He laid down His soul of His own will. No mere man could die as He did. Thus it was that the Roman centurion recognized His divinity. And thus it is that the alien nations have learned that He is indeed God's Son.
39 See Heb.1019,20.

38 The curtain of the temple was a symbol of His physical body. It is a mistake to suppose that God was manifest in His flesh (1 Tim.3¹⁶). He was veiled, just as the curtain in the holy place veiled the holiest of all from view. It was the rending of the curtain by God which made manifest the way into the presence of God. So His rending on the cross, not the body of His humiliation, clears the way for all into the inmost precincts of God's dwelling.

41 See Lu.83.

42.47 Compare Mt.2757-66 Lu.2350-56 Jn. 1938-42.

42 The Passover was always on the fourteenth day of the first month, and the festival of unleavened bread began on the fifteenth. The first day of unleavened bread was a special sabbath. This was followed by the weekly sabbath (Mt.281), so that two sabbaths came together on this occasion. The Lord was crucified on the preparation day before the great sabbath and rose on the weekly sabbath which followed.

42 The sufferings of Christ are over. His humiliation is past. Henceforth no honors are too high for Him, no glories too great. Even before His resurrection we see the symptoms of His exaltation. Joseph of Arimathea may be construed as "the heights shall be added". His name is a prophecy of coming glories. He comes without fear and takes the incorruptible body to the tomb. As the prophet foretold, He was given a tomb with the wicked, nevertheless, He was with the rich in His death (Isa.539).

43 See Lu.225-88.

40.47 Compare Mt.27⁵⁰-66 Lu.23⁵³-56 Jn. 1938-42.

gave Him a drink, saying, "Let be! We may see if Elijah is coming to take Him down."

Now Jesus, letting out a loud
 sound, expires. And the curtain of the temple is rent in two from

above to the bottom. Now the centurion, who stood by in front of Him, perceiving that, crying thus, He expires, said, "Truly, this man

was God's Son!" Now there were women also, beholding from afar, among whom was Mary Magdalene also, and Mary of James the Little.

⁴¹ and Joses' mother and Salome, who followed Him when He was in Galilee, and dispensed to Him, and many others who ascend with Him into Jerusalem.

And, already coming to be evening, since it was the preparation
 which is for the sabbath, Joseph

from Arimathea, a respectable counselor, who himself also was anticipating the kingdom of God, coming with daring, entered in to Pilate and requests the body of Jesus.

⁴⁴ Now Pilate marvels if He has died already, and, calling to the centurion, inquires of him if He died

45 long ago. And knowing it from the centurion, he presents the corpse to Joseph.

And buying a linen wrapper, and taking Him down, he wraps Him in the linen wrapper, and places Him in a tomb which was quarried out of rock. And he rolls a large stone on to the door of the

⁴⁷ tomb. Now Mary Magdalene and Mary of Joses beheld where He has been placed.

56 ⁰⁰¹	MARK'S	ACCOUNT	CHAPTERS 15-16
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16?-where He-has-been-placed and of-thru-becoming

- Compare Lu.2356.
- In the hot climate of the orient it is necessary to embalm the bodies of the dead promptly. As the first sabbath of the festival of unleavened bread was so near, in which no servile work could be undertaken (Lev.237), they simply swathed the body in a mixture of myrrh and aloes, until the time when they could rub it with spices and prepare it properly, for they were not aware how unnecessary this was in His case, seeing that He was not tainted with corruption even in death. At first it seems very strange that they should so hurriedly buy the spices that evening, before the sabbath came, for they could not use them until the sabbath was past. We would expect them to wait until the day after the sabbath.

The reason for this lies in the fact that there were two sabbaths in conjunction. The weekly sabbath followed immediately after the first day of unleavened bread, hence they could not buy spices on it. His own teaching would give them leave to do this good work on an ordinary sabbath. Hence their haste in buying the spices on the day of preparation.

2-4 Compare Mt.281Lu.241,2.

- 5-7 Compare Mt.282-7Lu.243-7.
- See 1428.
- Compare Mt.288-10Lu.248-12. See Mt. 2811-15.
- 9-11 Compare Jn. 201-18.
- 9 "The first sabbath", which elsewhere is called "one of the sabbaths" was the first of the series of seven sabbaths from the waving of Firstfruits till Pentecost. Our Lord was roused from the dead on the day which denoted a finished work, not upon the day that began the weekly toil.
- 9-12 Both Vaticanus and Sinaiticus omit the last twelve verses, but s tacitly admits a longer conclusion to Mark, by spacing out the text of the last few pages, and by the fact that the last four pages are "cancel leaves", written by a different scribe. The original conclusion of Mark was torn out, and a shorter one substituted for it. Likewise, B admits a longer conclusion by leaving a blank column after verse eight, the only blank column in the whole manuscript. Our text is taken from Alexandrinus.

16 And at the elapsing of the sabbath, Mary Magdalene and Mary of James and Salome buy spices that, coming, they should be rubbing Him. And very early in the morning on one of the sabbaths they are coming to the tomb at the rising of 3 the sun. And they said to themselves, "Who will be rolling the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" And, looking up, they behold that the stone has been rolled back, for it was tremendously great.

And, entering the tomb, they perceived a youth sitting at the right, clothed with a white robe. and they were overawed. Now he is saying to them, "Be not overawed! You are seeking Jesus the Nazarean Who has been crucified. He was roused! He is not here! Lo! the place where they place Him! 7 But go, say to His disciples and to Peter, that He is preceding you in-There you shall see to Galilee. Him, according as He said to you." 8 And, coming out, they fled from the tomb, for trembling and amazement had them. And they said

Now, rising in the morning, in the first sabbath, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom He 10 had cast out seven demons. She, being gone, reports to those coming to be with Him, who are mourning 11 and lamenting. And they, hearing that He is living, and was gazed

nothing to any one, for they were

afraid.

12 upon by her, disbelieve. Yet after > these things He was manifested in a different form to two of them as they are walking, going into a field.

13 And they, coming away, report to

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The reason for these omissions is plain from the character of the narrative. Failing to see the proper place of this commission, and that the recorditself says that it was fulfilled (1620), the proclamation was found to be impracticable, hence was considered spurious. Those who took this commission on themselves found they could not cast out demons, take up serpents, drink poison, or raise the dead, though they might seem to speak new languages or help the ailing.

This commission is for all creation. It is not confined to Israel, or mankind, but is directed to men as a part of the wider realm of creation. Originally, Adam was on close terms with the lower creatures. This commission will be restored in the kingdom.

Paul, in his earlier ministries, had a part in this proclamation. While on the island of Melita, a viper fastens on his hand. The natives looked for him to become inflamed or suddenly fall dead, but he twitched it off into the fire and felt no ill effects (Ac. 28 1-6). There, too, he heals the father of Publius and others in the island. The strange part of this is that this occurred after he himself had a physical disability and did not cure his friends. The reason is that this gospel was to be preached to every creature, and had not reached Melita before. When this narrative was closed it had been proclaimed everywhere, and was confirmed with signs following. Connected with the kingdom, it now awaits its fullest fruitage in that glorious day. Its signs reverse the curse of Eden. The serpent is rendered harmless and poison is powerless to produce death. 12-13 Compare Lu. 2413-35.

14 Compare Lu.2436-44 Jn.2019-25. See 1 Co. 155.

15 See Mt.2818-20Lu.2445-49Col.123.

16 See Ac.1629-34,

17 See Ac.285932-35Ja.514.15.

19 Compare Lu.24⁵⁰-53Ac.11-11. See Ps. 1101.

20 See Ac.512Heb.24.

the rest. Neither do they believe them.

Now subsequently He was manifested to the eleven as they are lying back at table, and reproaches their unbelief and hardheartedness, seeing that they believe not those who gaze on Him having been roused from among the dead.

¹⁵ And He said to them, "Going into all the world, proclaim the evangel

16 to the entire creation. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved, yet he who disbelieves shall

17 be condemned. Now these signs shall fully follow those who believe: In My name they shall be casting out demons; they will be

18 talking in new languages; they will be picking up serpents; and if they should be drinking anything deadly, it may under no circumstances be harming them; they will be placing hands on those who are ailing, and it will be well with them."

19 The Lord, indeed, then, after talking with them, was taken up into heaven and is seated at the 20 right hand of God. Now they, coming away, proclaim everywhere, the Lord coöperating with them and confirming the word by signs following.

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THE HUMANITY of our Lord is most prominent in this portrayal. Matthew's genealogy records His regal ancestry through Joseph, His mother's husband, to David and Abraham. Luke traces His descent through Mary and her father Heli to Adam and God. One places the emphasis on the King, the Son of David, the other sets Him forth as the Son of Mankind. Consequently, this life of our Lord has a scope wider than the chosen people, and its sympathies reach out to those beyond the pale of Judaism.

In the introduction to the book of Acts the author characterizes this as "the former account...concerning all which Jesus begins to do as well as to teach until the day on which He was taken up". Thus this biography links up with the labors of the apostles in Acts, and leads on to Paul's special evangel to the nations, and is not eclipsed until Israel is set aside. Hence it approaches more closely to the grace we enjoy than any of the other accounts.

In this biography we have the ideal Man. He is a King, as in Matthew, He serves as in Mark, He is divine as in John, but these aspects are subordinated to bring into strong relief the sympathetic, gracious, human side of His character. His birth and childhood are given much place. His maturity is announced before He enters His public ministry. His kinship with the whole race is emphasized in the commission He gives His disciples.

It is the longest account we have of our Lord's life and records six miracles and eleven parables not found elsewhere. These are characteristic of the sympathetic Saviour and Healer of His people. The miraculous draft of fishes (54-11), convinces Peter of his own sinfulness and makes him a fisher of men. The raising of the widow of Nain's son (711-18), restores him to his disconsolate mother. The woman with a spirit of infirmity is released (1311-18). The man with the dropsy is healed on the sabbath (141-6). The ten lepers are cleansed and the Samaritan alone returns to thank Him (1712-19). One of those who came to arrest Him having his ear cut off by an impetuous disciple. He arrests His captors long enough to heal it. Such scenes of sympathy and salvation pervade this portrayal of our Lord.

The author of this account was not an apostle, like Matthew and John, nor a local Jew, like Mark, nor was he an actual witness of any of the matters of which he writes, but he was closely associated with those who had been with Him from the beginning. Hence this account is in the nature of a biography drawn from existing sources and eye witnesses. Many similar accounts were written at the time, but, not possessing the vitality of a divine revelation, they were ephemeral and perished.

Luke's close connection with the apostle Paul has led some to believe that this account is really a Pauline production and sets forth the life of our Lord in accord with the teaching of the apostle to the nations. there is only a slight element of truth in this position. Luke's commission, conveying repentance and the pardon of sins to all nations, based on the sufferings of Christ (2446-47) was used by Paul in his earliest ministry (Ac.1328, 47), when he was proclaiming Christ according to the flesh (2 Co.516). Paul's later ministries, especially that for today, as set forth in his prison epistles, are based on His celestial glories, not on His terrestrial humiliation. All depends on the absence of all the features of God's operations which we find in Luke. Both cannot be true at the same time.

Luke brings blessing to the nations according to the place they occupy in the Pentecostal era. They are the Uncircumcision who are merely guests at Israel's board. The revelation of the secret administration in which we find ourselves is in gracious contrast with all this. We are no longer guests but members of God's family. We are not aliens but fellow citizens (Eph.2¹¹-2²). Our blessings do not come through Israel but in spite of their apostasy. They are not on earth, but in the heavens.

Luke lets a little stream of blessing trickle through to the nations. Paul submerges us in celestial bliss far beyond the highest hopes held out to the favored nation.

Many biographies of the life of our blessed Lord were composed during the lifetime of those who had known Him. Luke had exceptional opportunities for such a work and proposes to write an account which would be accurate and consecutive. Being trained as a gentile, and writing to one, he would naturally fall in line with the spirit's design to cover an aspect of His life which supplements Matthew's King and Mark's Servant and John's Son. He presented Him as God's ideal Man. He carefully checked all the material by first hand evidence. His historical references have all been found to be exact. We may rest assured that all the facts have been fully confirmed.

The expression "from the very first" may also be rendered "from above", as when the curtain of the temple was rent from the top (Mt. 27⁵¹). It would then signify that this account was a special revelation from heaven. This is true, but it is not the point in this passage. Though inspired from above, the evidence here given is rather the human side. The expression contains the Greek element ana up, which also means back, or anew (Jn.33,7). Paul could not possibly mean that the Jews who hated him had a revelation of him "from above", but, rather, they knew him "from the very first" (Ac. 265). So here, Luke could not follow "from above". In space, the expression means "from above"; in time, "from the very first", or "anew".

5 This is Herod the Great, father of Herod Antipas (31) and grandfather of Herod Agrippa I. (Ac.121) and great grandfather of Agrippa II. (Ac. 2518).

⁵ Zacharias means "Jehovah remembers" and Elizabeth signifies "what God swears". Jehovah is now about to remember what He has sworn to do for His people Israel. The result of their union is John, "Jehovah is gracious".

Abijah, was the eighth of the twentyfour into which Aaron's descendants were divided (1 Chr. 2410). Each ministered in the temple for a week.

13 We are not told what was Zacharias' petition because it was always the greatest desire of any man to have a son, and he, though just and blameless, had been denied this divine favor.

Since, in fact, even many take in hand to compose a narrative concerning the matters of which we have been fully assured among ourselves, according as those who, from the beginning, becoming eyewitnesses and deputies of the word, give them over to us, it seems good to me also, having fully followed all accurately from the very first, to write to you consecutively, most mighty Theophilus, that you may be recognizing the certainty of the words concerning which you were instructed.

There came to be, in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest, named Zacharias, of the routine of Abia, and his wife, of the daughters of Aaron, and her name is Elizabeth. Now they were both just in front of God, going in all the precepts and just statutes of the Lord blameless. And they had no child, forasmuch as Elizabeth was barren, and both of them were advanced in their days.

Now it occurred, in his priestly duties in the order of his routine
 in front of God, according to the custom of the priestly office, he

chanced to burn incense, entering ¹⁰ into the temple of the Lord. And the entire multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of

¹¹ incense. Now a messenger of the Lord was seen by him standing at the right of the altar of incense.

¹² And Zacharias, perceiving it, was disturbed, and fear fell on him.

Now the messenger said to him, "Fear not, Zacharias, because your petition is hearkened to, and your wife Elizabeth shall be bearing you a son, and you shall be

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14 We have here a marvelous characterization of John the baptist and his career. His name indicates the return of Jehovah's favor to Israel in sending them the greatest of all the prophets after His long silence. The honor of being his parents will bring joy beyond the possession of many sons.

15 It is implied that John will not be great in the eyes of the world. He had none of the marks of earthly rank or power. His robes were rude, his food forbidding, his palace a place in the wilderness. The high priests were clothed in glorious garments and dwelt in Jehovah's temple, yet were contemptible in His sight. Greatness in God's sight involves meanness in the sight of men.

15 John seems to have been a perpetual Nazarite, at least in the matter of wine. (Of the Nazarites an account is given in the sixth chapter of Numbers.) This involved a lonely and consecrated life until his public ministry. The spirit of God came on the prophets occasionally, but John was filled with holy spirit before his birth. What an equipment for his marvelous ministry! 15 Nazarite is from Hebrew nahzar, to sequester, and has no connection with Nazareth, which means a scion. Our Lord, who is presented to us in Luke's account as "the Man Whose name is the Sprout" (Zech.612) was called a Nazarene, or Nazarean, being an inhabitant of Nazareth. He was not a Nazarite.

17 The last of the prophets promised that Elijah should return (Mal.45,6).

Lo! I send you Elijah the prophet Before the great and fearful day of Jehovah comes
And he restores the heart of the fathers to the sons,
And the heart of the sons to their fathers,
Lest I should come and smite the earth to its doom.

John the baptist was not Elijah, but came with the same spirit and power. He was capable of performing the same work. When the scribes objected, saying that Elijah must come first, the Lord acknowledged the fact (Mt. 1710). Hence he is probably one of the two witnesses (Un. 113-12) who come just before the kingdom is established. Meanwhile, had the nation been able to receive it, his work could have been done by John the baptist.

calling his name John. And you shall have joy and exultation, and many shall be rejoicing at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and may under no circumstances be drinking wine and intoxicant, and he will be filled with holy spirit while still of his mother's womb. And many of the sons of Israel shall he be turning

he shall be coming before in His sight in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn back the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the stubborn to the prudence of the just, to make ready a people formed for the Lord."

And Zacharias said to the messenger, "By what shall I be knowing this? For I am aged, and my wife is advanced in her days."

19 And, answering, the messenger said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stand before God., and I was dispatched to speak to you and to bring you this evangel. And lo! you shall be silent and unable to talk until the day on which these things may be occurring, because you do not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their season."

And the people were hoping for Zacharias, and they marveled at his delay in the temple. Yet, on coming out, he was not able to talk to them, and they recognize that he has seen an apparition in the temple. And he was motioning to them and continued a deaf-mute. And it occurred, as the days of his ministry are fulfilled, he came away into his home.

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18 Zacharias does not believe the glad news. Hence he is stricken dumb, for unbelief has no right to speak of the things of God.

19 Gabriel gave Daniel the explanation of two of his visions (Dan. 816,921).

24 The joyful faith of Elizabeth is in striking contrast to the doubts of Zacharias. There is also a double contrast to Abraham and Sarah, who were also denied a child until their old age. But in their case Sarah was sceptical and Abraham believed God. both cases the promise was performed. 26 No fact in the scriptures is more guardedly and circumspectly presented than the virgin birth of our Lord. The great issues involved, not merely the reputation of His mother, but the value of His relationship to both God and man, depend upon the question of His paternity. Once we see that He had no human father, the miracle of His sinless life, the value of His sacrificial death, the secret of His celestial Sonship are all revealed. No man. descended on both sides from Adam, has ever approached a sinless life. All deserve death and cannot save themselves, much less others. There must be a cause for His unapproachable perfection, and it is found only in the fact that He was born, not of bloods, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

To protect the name of Miriam as well as to link Him with the regal line of David, He is born within wedlock, and Joseph, the husband, is assured of the facts in a dream (Mt. 1 ²⁰). Miriam is presented as chaste and God-fearing, but her most blessed place among women is not awarded to her as of merit but of divine favor.

31 The name Jesus is a compound signifying Jehovah the Saviour. It is the same as Joshua, whose first name, Hoshea, salvation, was changed to Jehoshua, salvation of Jehovah. He was a type of Israel's Messiah, Who will lead them into the promised place of blessing.

33 The reign of Christ is for the eons, a long but limited period. He then gives up the kingdom to God the Father, so that the kingdom itself is endless (1 Co. 15²⁴). The negative is the only means used in the scriptures to denote endlessness.

Now after these days Elizabeth, his wife, conceived, and kept herself close five months, saying, that "Thus has the Lord done to me, in the days in which he took notice to eliminate my reproach among men."

Now in the sixth month the messenger Gabriel was dispatched from God to a city of Galilee, ramed Nazareth, to a virgin, espoused to a man named Joseph, of the house and kindred of David. And the name of the virgin is Miriam. And entering to her the messenger said, "Rejoice, O favored one! The Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women!" Now perceiving it, she was agitated at his word, and she reasoned what manner of salutation this may be.

And the messenger said to her, "Fear not, Miriam, for you found favor with God. And lo! you shall be conceiving and pregnant and be bringing forth a Son, and you shall be calling His name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God shall be giving Him the throne of David, His father, and He shall be reigning over the house of Jacob for the eons, and of His kingdom there shall be no consummation."

Yet Miriam said to the messenger, "How shall this be, since I am not knowing a man?" And, answering, the messenger said to her, "Holy spirit shall be coming on you, and the power of the Most High shall be overshadowing you; wherefore the holy One Who is being generated also, shall be called the Son of God. And lo! Elizabeth, your relative, she also has conceived a son, in her decrepitude,

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39 John was sent to prepare the path of the Lord, and this he does even before he is born. Miriam doubtless kept her holy secret to herself, reflecting that God would make it known to whom it was necessary in His own time. Yet the moment she comes into the presence of the spirit-filled forerunner, unborn babe that he was, he recognized and rejoiced in the presence of his Lord. The effect of this on Miriam was wonderful. The messenger had told her of Elizabeth, and Elizabeth's words reveal the fact that she shares her secret.

In the joy and exultation of these two blessed women we have a small foretaste of what the coming of Christ means to the world. Beginning with these two Jewish mothers, its widening circle will include His faithful followers, then the whole nation, and through them all the nations of the earth. And even before this He will have gone out in grace to the nations, during the apostasy of Israel, and chosen those who will wing the exultant note to the furthest bounds of the creation. Elizabeth begins the song that swells into the anthem of the universe at the consummation.

46 Miriam responds with her magnificat. Its keynote is simple, yet sublime. Those who magnify the Lord cannot be else but happy. Those who humble themselves are sure to be blessed. She takes the place of the slave and rejoices to own Him her Lord. She knows herself an obscure. despised fellaheen, and suddenly she has become the most favored of mortals, a woman to whom all women will yield the palm of blessedness! her thoughts are not of herself alone. Her case is but a pledge that God will scatter the proud and exalt the low. He will visit down-trodden Israel and place them on the throne. Now that He has begun to show mercy to His people. He will perform all the promises made to Abraham and the proph-For whatever promises are of God, are in Him "Yes" (2 Co.120). He is the pledge of the performance of every promise God has made, for the Seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head, and by His bruised heel' bring in blessing far beyond the prophets' most entrancing predictions. The bliss begins with His mother Mary.

and this is the sixth month with her who is called barren, seeing that no declaration shall be impossible with God."

Now Miriam said, "Lo! the slave of the Lord! May it come to be with me according to your declaration!" And the messenger came away from her.

Now in these days Miriam, rising, went with diligence into the mountains, into a city of Judah.

⁴⁰ And she entered into the house of Zacharias, and salutes Elizabeth.

⁴¹ And it occurred, as Elizabeth hears the salutation of Miriam, the babe jumps in her womb, and Eliz-

42 abeth is filled with holy spirit, and she shouts out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of 43 your womb! And whence is this

to me, that the mother of my Lord 44 may be coming to me? For lo! as the sound of your salutation came into my ears, the babe jumps with

45 exultation in my womb. And happy is she who believes that there shall be a maturing of what has been spoken to her by the Lord!"

46 And Miriam said,

"My soul is magnifying the Lord,
And my spirit exults in God my
Saviour.

Seeing that He looks on the humiliation of His slave.

For lo! from now on all generations will count me happy,

49 Seeing that the Power does great things for me,

And holy is His name,

50 And His mercy is for generations and generations To those fearing Him.

3001	LUKES	ACCOUNT		CHAPTER I
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56 Miriam remains with Elizabeth until it is time for John to be born. Though nothing further is told us of their communion, we may easily imagine the overflowing fullness of joy which characterized their intercourse. Then she returns to Nazareth.

57 The birth of a boy is always the cause of great rejoicing in the East, where sons are counted the crown of the marriage relation, especially if it be the firstborn. In the case of John the baptist this was enhanced by the fact that his parents were old and had little hope of having a child. Above all this was the sense of overpowering awe inspired by the supernatural manifestations that accompanied his generation. His father remained dumb until he had learned to believe the promise of God and needed his speech to prophesy His praise.

59 The eighth day after the birth of a boy was, and still is, a great event in Israel. Until then the mother is unclean (Lev. 122). On that day the relatives gather to circumcise the infant according to the law (Lev. 123). Then, also, they give it its given name. It was the custom to choose the name from among its ancestors or relatives, and, in this case, they concluded to give it the name of its father. Zacha-This means "Remembered by Jehovah", most fitting for John's father, but not at all suitable for him. In him Jehovah favors Israel, hence he is named John. How his mother learned this name we are not told. unless by that spiritual intuition which controlled her greeting of Miriam. They do not hearken to her, but ask her husband. He had been commanded by the messenger to name him John (Lu.113), hence he confirms his wife's selection. Only the Lord knows what names to give to His instruments.

65 Such marvels soon spread in a land like Israel, especially as the time for the fulfillment of the prophecies drew near. Their holy scriptures contained many promises of future greatness for the nation, and they all converged in the coming Messiah for Whom some of them were looking. It was well known that Elijah would come even before the Messiah, to prepare His path (Mal.45). It was a day of expectation.

He does mightly with His arm, He scatters the proud in the comprehension of their hearts,

52 He pulls down potentates from

thrones,

And exalts the low.

53 He fills the hungry with good things,
And the rich He sends away

empty. He supported Israel His boy.

To be reminded of mercies

(According as He speaks to our fathers)To Abraham and to his seed, for the eon."

the eon.

Now Miriam remains with her about three months, and returns to her home.

Now Elizabeth's time is fulfilled for her to be bringing forth, and she

bears a son. And the homes about and her relatives hear that the Lord magnifies His mercy with her and they rejoiced with her.

And it occurred on the eighth day they came to circumcise the little boy, and they called him by the name of his father, Zacharias.

60 And answering, his mother said, "No. But he shall be called John."

61 And they said to her that "There is not one of your relationship who

62 is called by this name." Now they nodded to his father, what he should be wanting it to be called.

63 And requesting a tablet, he writes, saying, "John is his name." And

64 they all marvel. Now, instantly, his mouth was opened, and his tongue, and he talked, blessing God.

And fear came on all the homes about them, and in the whole of mountainous Judea all these dec-

4001	LUKE'S A	CCOUNT	CHAPTER 1
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67 Never, in the temple worship, had Zacharias intoned a psalm of praise so full of goodness and glory for the people of Israel as burst from his spirit-filled lips when his tongue once more found utterance. First, like a true priest, he leads his hearers' hearts to worship Jehovah. Then he turns to his own child and portrays his mission. He begins with a tribute to the Messiah, yet unborn, Who, though He will follow John, was before him. This is very fine, and shows the touch of the divine spirit. Merely knowledge and devotion would have caused him to pen a pean of praise in honor of his son, the greatest of all the prophets. Yet the moral greatness of John is most clearly revealed in his constant note of abnegation. "I must be inferior", was his insistent claim for himself. And here we see his father before him forgetting for a while his great son, to celebrate the praise of his son's greater Lord.

The nation of Israel is continually before him in this psalm. The Lord is the God of Israel. The redemption is for the same people. The salvation is national, arising from the house of David. It is from their enemies, the Romans, who rule them with rigor, and who even interfere with their religion. His highest hope, as a priest, is to fearlessly offer divine service to Jehovah in benignity and righteousness all his days (75). That was the worst feature of the Roman rule. The worship of God in the temple was always in danger of interruption or restraint. Now he begins to see the dawn of a day when His worship will be fearless and free from foreign domination. The chief priest was being continually displaced by another who was more favorable to the ruling power.

76 No longer is Zacharias unbelieving. The messenger's announcement of John's ministry is reiterated in his description of his son's mission. It is the custom, in the East, to prepare the roads for the passage of a great potentate. His most trusted servant goes before to see that it has been repaired. So John was sent to prepare the hearts of the people for the Most High. He was the greatest of all the prophets before the coming of Messiah.

66 larations were talked about. And all who hear pondered in their hearts, saying, "What, consequently, will this little boy be?" For the hand also of the Lord was with it.

⁶⁷ And Zacharias, its father, is filled with holy spirit and prophe-

sies, saying,

68 "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, Seeing that He visits And makes a redemption for His people

59 And rouses a horn of salvation for us

In the house of David His boy
According as He speaks through
the mouth of His holy prophets
Who are from the eon,

71 Salvation from our enemies, And out of the hand of all those who are hating us,

72 To do mercy with our fathers, And to be reminded of His holy covenant,

73 The oath which he swears to Abraham our father,

74 To grant to us, being rescued out of the hand of our enemies, To be fearlessly offering divine

service to Him

In benignity and righteousness before Him all our days.

76 Now you, also, little boy, shall be called a prophet of the Most High.

For you shall be going before in sight of the Lord

To make His roads ready.

77 To give the knowledge of salvation to His people

In the pardon of their sins,
78 Through the merciful compassions
of our God,

In which the Day-spring from on high visits us.

To make Its advent to those sitting in darkness and the shadow of death,

To direct our feet into the path of peace."

Now the little boy grows up and became staunch in spirit and was in the wildernesses till the day of his indication to Israel.

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We have here a most notable example of God's overruling providence. Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth. and Christ must be born in Bethlehem. How is this to be brought about? Little did Cæsar dream that this is the real reason for his arrogant decree to register the entire earth. He had no right to make such a decree and could not enforce it, for his dominions did not include the entire earth. To the north Ireland and Scotland were not his. Nor did his sway reach to farther Germany or India. He would like to have enrolled all men in his empire. but Rome never was a world kingdom such as Alexander and Nebuchadnezzar ruled. So Cæsar, at exactly the right time, orders Joseph and Miriam to journey to Bethlehem, that the scriptures may be fulfilled, as it is written (Micah 52):

And thou, Bethlehem Ephratah,
Too mean to be among the thousands
of Judah,
From you He comes forth to Me to be
Ruler in Israel
And His coming forth is from formerly, from conian days.

It seems most probable that Christ was born in a limestone cave used as a cattle shed in the courtyard of the caravansary at Bethlehem. Salmon and Rahab, the parents of Boaz, seem to have been the first to settle in Bethlehem, and may have built this place, where David was born. The king seems to have given it to Chimham (2 Sa. 19³⁷⁻⁴⁰) as a reward for his father's faithfulness, and his descendant converted it into a khan. Thus it was that David's Lord was born in David's home.

From David's day to the present, the country about Bethlehem has had its hardy shepherds, who guard their flocks from the wild beasts which infest the deep ravines and gorges leading to the Dead Sea on the east and the plains of Philistia on the west, as well as the wilder robbers from the desert and raiders from the coast. At night the flock is driven into an enclosure surrounded by a wall of loose stones and the shepherd closes the entrance with his own body, thus becoming the door (Jn. 107). Such were guarding their flocks on the night of the nativity, when the great Shepherd of Israel was born.

2 Now it occurred, in those days, that a decree came out from Cæsar Augustus that the entire inhabited

² earth be registered. This first registration occurred during Quir-

3 inus' governing of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his

own city.

Now Joseph also ascended from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, into the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because of his being of the house and kin-

5 dred of David, to be registered together with Miriam, his espoused

wife, who is parturient. Now it occurred as they were there, the days for her to be bringing forth are

fulfilled. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and swaddles Him and cradles Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the caravansary.

And there were shepherds in the

same district out in the field fold, maintaining guard over their flock at night. And lo! a messenger of

the Lord stood by them, and the glory of God shines about them, and they were afraid with a great

fear. And the messenger said to them, "Fear not, for lo! I am bringing you an evangel of great joy, which will be for the entire

¹¹ people, seeing that today was brought forth to you a Saviour, Who is Christ, the Lord, in the city

of David. And this is the sign to you: you will be finding a Babe, swaddled and lying in a manger."

And suddenly with the messenger there came to be a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

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multitude of-host heavenly

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When the darkness is suddenly illumined by a celestial splendor and the Lord's messengers stood by them, their courage fled and they were afraid. But the messenger reassures them and announces the great event which has occurred. Men may sleep, utterly oblivious of the birth that brings blessing to all mankind, but the heavenly hosts hail His humanity with exultation and cannot contain their joy.

14 The far-flung effects of the incarnation are not confined to humanity. They reach from the highest of heaven's hosts to the lowest of humankind. It is the ultimate that is in view here. Peace has not yet appeared on earth, or delight among men. Even the heavenly hosts have had but a beginning of the glory that shall be. messengers may not have known the method, they may not have understood the long delay, but they gained a glimpse of the goal. Through the birth of this Babe all God's great purposes of blessing will flow to the utmost bounds of creation. It is the pledge of all that heart can wish or God desire.

15 The shepherds did not delay, but hurried to confirm the marvelous message which they had heard. What a contrast with the wonderful words was the humble scene they witnessed! No pomp, no state, not even a human habitation! They found the lowly family, and the Babe cradled in a manger! Such glory as was there was spiritual. Heaven alone celebrated the Saviour's birth. The magi who saw his star in the East did not offer their oblations until a later date.

21 In all things the Lord fulfilled the law. Even in His infancy its letter and spirit were observed. Not only was He circumcised, but the special statutes for the firstborn were respected (Ex. 132). After the season of forty days for purification were observed (Lev.122-4), they brought an atonement for Miriam for a sin offering. Had they been able, they doubtless would have brought a lamb for an ascending offering (Lev. 128). But such was their poverty, that they used the substitute provided for the poor. And, indeed, no lamb was necessary, for the true Lamb would be offered in due time.

14 "Glory to God among the highest!
And on earth peace,
Delight among men!"

And it occurred, as the messengers came away from them into heaven, the shepherds spoke to one another, saying, "By all means we should be passing through to Bethlehem, and we may be perceiving this declaration which has come to pass, which the Lord makes

16 known to us." And they came hurrying, and they found Miriam as well as Joseph, and the Babe

17 lying in the manger. Now, perceiving it, they make known concerning the declaration which is spoken to

18 them about this little Boy. And all who hear marvel concerning that which is being spoken to them by
19 the shepherds. Now Mirjam pre-

the shepherds. Now Miriam preserved all these declarations, par leving in her heart. And the shep-

herds return, glorifying and praising God for all that they hear and perceived, according as it was spoken to them.

And when the eight days to His circumcision are fulfilled, and His name was called Jesus, which He was called by the messenger before

22 His conception in the womb, and when the days of their cleansing are fulfilled according to the law of Moses, they led Him up into Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord,

²³ (according as it is written in the law of the Lord, that "Every male opening the matrix shall be called

holy to the Lord"), and to give a sacrifice according to that which is declared in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtle doves or two squabs of the doves."

25 And lo! there was a man in Je-

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25 Simeon signifies to hear, and is representative of those in Judah whose ears were open to the law of the Lord and who looked for the fulfillment of the prophetic promises. As the years spoken of by Daniel the prophet had nearly elapsed, and the sixty-nine heptads had almost run their course (Dan. 925-26) it was time for Messiah to appear, and such aged saints as Simeon would seek no greater boon than to set their eyes on the Lord's Anointed before they fell asleep. We may compare them with those in these dark days who see the signs of His impending presence, and pray for the privilege of surviving for His advent. There is no hope or consolation in anything, but He will transcend all our expectations.

28 The faith of Simeon was Abrahamic in its scope: He saw Israel, not merely blessed, but a blessing to the other nations. Not only was he not so narrow as the nation and their hopes, but he was aware of their apostasy. Hence he intimates something of the sufferings of Christ and His rejection by the unregenerate nation. Thus, even in His infancy, the somber shadows of the accursed tree loomed up in the distance. Few, indeed, were there like Simeon who could see it afar.

35 The sufferings of Miriam, the mother of our Lord, are merely hinted on occasion, and can be better imagined than described. She harbored in her heart all the glorious things that were said of Him. The messenger's first announcement, the dream of Joseph, the salutation of Elizabeth, the story of the shepherds, the solemn words of Simeon, the later visit of the magi. and the warning which sent them into Egypt all conspired to raise high hopes in her heart, yet left her without a full comprehension of His mission. When He was left behind in the temple, she sought Him sorrowing. His reply that she should have known that He must be in that which is His Father's shows that she could not understand Him. Later, in His ministry, when she sought to see Him, He almost disavowed all physical bonds for spiritual ties. This must have seemed hard for her. And, after all her high hopes, to stand beneath His shameful cross-surely then it was that a saber passed through her suffering soul!

rusalem whose name is Simeon. And this man was just and pious, anticipating the consolation of Israel, and holy spirit was on him.

²⁶ And he was apprised by the holy spirit that he would not be acquainted with death ere he should be acquainted with the Lord's

²⁷ Christ. And he came, in the spirit, into the sanctuary, and as the parents of the little Boy Jesus are leading Him in for them to do according to the custom of the law con-

²⁸ cerning Him, he also receives Him, clasping Him in his arms, and blesses God, and said,

29 "Now, O Owner, art Thou dismissing Thy slave in peace, According to Thy declaration,

Seeing that my eyes perceived Thy Salvation,

31 Which Thou dost make ready before the face of all the peoples, 32 A Light for the revelation to the

A Light for the revelation to the nations,

And the Glory of Thy people Israel."

³³ And His father and mother were marveling at that which is being ³⁴ spoken concerning Him. And Simeon blesses them and said to Miriam, His mother,

"Lo! He is lying for the fall and resurrection of many in Israel, And for a sign contradicted.

35 Yet a saber shall be passing through your own soul also, So that the reasonings of many hearts should be revealed."

And there was a prophetess, Anna, a daughter of Phanuel, out of the tribe of Asher (she was much advanced in days, living with a husband seven years from her virgrity, and she is a widow of eighty-four years) who does not

eighty-four years) who does not withdraw from the sanctuary,

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36 Anna, or Hannah (1 Sa.120), meaning gracious, being of the tribe of Asher, probably represents the remnant in Israel who were true to Jehovah, as Simeon represents those of Judah. This is further intimated by her long life of celibacy after the death of her husband. It was exceedingly rare for a widow to remain unmarried, and it reflects great credit on her spirituality and desire to serve God. Like her, the ten tribes had long been without a husband. They were divorced (Hos. 22) and were to abide many days before they could be His again (Hos. 33; Jer. 31). As Anna responded to Simeon's utterance, so will Israel be joined to Judah in the days of their restoration.

39 Between the presentation in the temple and the return to Nazareth the events recorded in Matthew's account probably took place. The visit of the magi and the sojourn in Egypt must have come after the fortieth day, when they went into the temple, for they could not and would not have come from Egypt as long as Herod sought the life of the Babe. These incidents, however, have no bearing on Luke's biography, but pertain to the kingdom account, as given by Matthew. The magi sought the King of Israel. Herod did not fear Him as a man but as a Each account seprospective King. lects only such incidents in His life as pertain to its peculiar theme.

39 Only in this account, as is fitting, do we find any reference to His youth and private character. Matthew huries us on to His proclamation of the kingdom, Mark begins with His baptism and ministry, and John omits His early life. It is well that His varied glories should each have a separate presentation, for even thus He is too glorious for our grasp.

41 Up to twelve years of age a Jewish youth was not expected to be present at the Passover in Jerusalem or responsible for his acts. At twelve years, however, he became "a son of the law", and must keep the festival, and assume a direct relationship to the law as an individual. This is why, at that age, He went with His parents and acted independently of them by associating with the teachers of the law in

with fasts and petitions offering divine service night and day. And standing by in the same hour, she made a response to God, and spoke concerning Him to all who are anticipating redemption in Jerusalem.

And, as they accomplish all according to the law of the Lord, they turn back into Galilee, into their own city, Nazareth. Now the little Boy grows up and became staunch in spirit, being filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on Him.

And His parents went yearly into Jerusalem to the Passover festival. And when He came to be twelve years, at their going up into Jerusalem according to the custom of the festival, and finishing the days, at their return the Boy Jesus remains behind in Jerusalem, and His parents know it not. Now, inferring that He is in the caravan, they came on the way a day, and they hunted Him among the relatives and those known to them.

And it occurred, after three days they found Him in the sanctuary, seated in the midst of the teachers, both hearing them and inquiring of them. Now all those hearing Him are amazed at His understanding and answers. And per-

into Jerusalem hunting Him.

ceiving Him, they were astonished.

And His mother said to Him,

"Child, why do you thus to us?

Lo! your father and I painfully
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E LEZHTOYMENCEKALEITEÑ 10000 49 BOUGHT YOU AND He-Baid the temple, and did not return with them after the seven days of the festival were over. He was now free to begin His preparation for His future ministry. He must, at some time, begin the breach which would bring Him entirely under the will and work of God, and this was the time and place to do it most delicately and effectively.

48 Though Herod was dead and Archelaus had been banished by this time. the absence of their Son no doubt revived the dread, inspired by the massacre of the babes of Bethlehem, which caused them to dwell in Nazareth. This may have been the first time they had taken Him outside Galilee, since their return from Egypt, for fear that His royal rights would endanger His life. Hence His absence would mean much more to them than that He had been lost among the thousands who crowded the roads from the holy city. And, indeed, His astonishing discourse with the doctors could easily have reminded some of the previous prodigies and predictions that accompanied His But, no doubt, He was alinfancy. ready conscious of God's will for Him, and that His time had not yet come. So He returns to Nazareth until His majority, or about thirty years of age. Not till then could He take up His public ministry.

This is the most precise chronological memorandum in the scriptures. Yet, even so, the various chronologies are only approximately agreed, partly because, in expressing years in figures, no account is taken of their overlap. Assuming that John the baptist began his ministry at thirty years, according to custom, our Lord's age at this time would be six months less, or twentynine and a half. This makes the fifteenth year of Tiberius and the twentyninth year of our Lord the same for more than half of their extent.

According to Roman reckoning, the first year of Tiberius was probably 765, two years before the death of Augustus in 767. This would make the fifteenth of Tiberius 780 A.U.C. Pilate was governor from 779 to 789. Herod, tetrarch of Galilee was in power from 750 to 792, while his brother Philip continued to his death in 786.

2-11 Compare Mt.31-10Mk.12-5Jn.16-8,19-23.

them, "Why is it that you sought Me? Had you not perceived that I must be in that which is My Fa-50 ther's?" And they do not understand the declaration which He

speaks to them.

And He descended with them and came into Nazareth, and was subject to them. And His mother carefully kept all these declarations, parleying them in her heart.

52 And Jesus progressed in wisdom and stature, and favor with God

and men.

- Now in the fifteenth year of the government of Tiberius Cæsar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, yet Philip his brother being tetrarch of the province of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias being tetrarch of Abilene, Annas
- ² being tetrarch of Abilene, Annas and Caiaphas being chief priests, came the declaration of God to John, the son of Zacharias, in the
- wilderness. And he came into the entire country about the Jordan, proclaiming the baptism of repent-
- ance for the pardon of sins, as it is written in the scroll of the sayings of Isaiah the prophet, saying,

"A voice imploring in the wilderness,

'Make ready the road of the Lord! Be making His highways straight! Every ravine shall be filled,

And every mountain and hill shall be made low,

And the crooked shall be straight, And the rough roads smooth,

And all flesh shall be viewing the salvation of God'."

7 He said, then, to the throngs going out to be baptized by him, "Progeny of vipers! Who intim-

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At this time John had attained his majority, and, according to the law (Nu.188-24) was entitled to the easy, comfortable and honorable career of a ministering one week twenty-four in the temple service. clothed in the sacred vestments, fed at the altar, and supported by the tithes of the people. He, however, forsakes the forms and ceremonies of divine worship for those vital functions in which the priesthood had failed. They should have brought the people to repentance and prepared them for Messiah. Instead, we find them His sorest opponents.

John's work was to smooth the path of the coming Christ. In a most serious sense, it was not a success. Though he made many disciples, and baptized multitudes more, when Christ came His path was far from smooth, His

road was very rough.

John's gospel was essentially one of works. He looked for fruit. When he was asked, What shall we do? he did not urge them to believe, but advised them as to their conduct. He aimed at a reformation in the nation, similar to that demanded by the prophets that went before him. He had no illusions as to the effect of his baptism. Unless accompanied by heartfelt repentance it would be useless. He had no difficulty in getting them to submit to baptism, but was furious in his denunciation of those who wished it without conforming their lives to its spiritual import. The cleansing of baptism in water is external and ceremonial: the purification he wished to produce was internal and spiritual.

- 10 The lack of love among the people seems to have led to unlawful selfishness. The poor were not being provided for. Hence he exhorts them to observe a measure of that commandment which bade them love their associate as themselves.
- 12 The tribute collectors were notably unjust in raising their assessments to their own profit. They kept the peasants impoverished.
- 14 The soldiers took advantage of their position to extort money by force or blackmail, and thus harassed the people.

15-18 Compare Mt.3¹¹, ¹² Mk.1⁷, ⁸ Jn.1¹⁵, ²⁶, ²⁷, ³⁰. ³⁴.

ates to you to be fleeing from future indignation? — Then produce fruits worthy of repentance. And you should not begin to be saying among yourselves, 'We have Abraham for father', for I am saying to you that God is able to rouse children to Abraham out of these stones. Now the ax also is already lying at the root of the trees. Every tree, then, which is not producing fine fruit is being hewn down and cast into the fire."

And the throngs inquired of him, saying, "What then should the be doing?" Now answering, he said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him be sharing with him who has none, and let him who has food be doing likewise."

Now tribute collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we be do ing?" Now he said to them, "Impose nothing more than has been

prescribed to you."

Now soldiers also inquired of him, saying, "What should we also be doing?" And he said to them, "You should intimidate no one, neither be blackmailing, and be sufficed with your rations."

Now as the people were hoping, and all reasoning in their hearts concerning John, if perchance he may be the Christ, John answers, saying to all, "I, indeed, am baptizing you with water, yet One stronger than I is coming, the thong of Whose sandals I am not competent to loose. He will be baptizing you in holy spirit and fire, Whose winnowing shovel is in His hand, and He will be scouring His

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15 John was a faithful forerunner who refused to receive the glory due to his Master. He often seems to have insisted that he was not the Christ. The difference between them was expressed in the two baptisms, his in water, and that in holy spirit and with fire. Water failed to separate the true from the false. But spirit makes them manifest. The Lord Himself never baptized in water, but left that for His disciples. He did not baptize in spirit until after His ascension.

19 Compare Mt.143-5Mk.617,18.

¹⁹ Herod's treatment of John is here inserted ahead of time to close the account of John's ministry before opening that of his Master's.

21-22 Compare Mt.313-17Mk.19-11Jn.132-34.

23 Maturity and sonship, as distinguished from nativity and minority, were not attained at birth, but waited until the thirtieth year. The genealogy here given does not deal with birth or begettal, but with sonship. Hence it is not introduced until He arrives at His full manhood, and God Himself claims Him as His Son. The following pedigree is hardly intended to prove Him a descendant of Adam, but rather to show that this line, through which He came as to flesh, was absolutely incapable of producing the Sinless One, apart from His divine paternity.

23 This genealogy gives us the "Seed of the woman" (Gen.315) Who shall crush the serpent's head. Unlike Matthew's pedigree, it does not trace the physical male ancestry, but the legal line, through Mary back to Adam.

Christ is first proclaimed as the Son of God. Then He is shown to be the legal (not physical) son of Joseph. Joseph, also, is not the offspring of Heli, whose son he is said to be, for in Matthew we read that he was begotten by Jacob. He was, therefore, the son-inlaw of Heli, by his marriage with Mary, Heli's daughter. As Heli had no son of his own his allotment passed to his daughter's husband (Nu. 278) and so Joseph is the legal son of Heli and the physical son of Jacob.

²⁷ The lines meet in Zerubbabel and Salathiel (Mt. 1¹²), just after the captivity, because the line of Nathan died out in Neri, so that Jechoniah's son

threshing floor and be gathering the grain into His barn, yet He shall burn up the chaff with inex-

18 tinguishable fire." Indeed, then, entreating many different things also, he preached the evangel to the people.

Now Herod, the tetrarch, being exposed by him concerning Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, and concerning all the wickedness which Herod does adds this also to

which Herod does, adds this also to all: he locks up John in jail also.

Now it occurred, as all the people are baptized, and as Jesus is being baptized and praying, heaven

²² is opened, and the holy spirit descends on Him in bodily appearance as if a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, saying, "Thou art My beloved Son: in Thee I delight."

²³ And Jesus Himself, when He began, was about thirty years, being a son (as to the law) of Joseph, of

²⁴ Heli, of Matthat, of Levi, of Melchi,

²⁵ of Jannai, of Joseph, of Mattathias, of Amos, of Nahum, of Esli, of

²⁶ Naggai, of Maath, of Mattathias,

²⁷ of Semein, of Josech, of Joda, of Joannas, of Rhesa, of Zerubbabel,

²⁸ of Salathiel, of Neri, of Melchi, of Addi, of Cosam, of Elmadam, of

²⁹ Er, of Jesus, of Eliezer, of Jorim,

30 of Matthat, of Levi, of Simeon, of Judah, of Joseph, of Jonam, of Eli-

31 akim, of Melea, of Menna, of Mat-

³² tatha, of Nathan, of David, of Jesse, of Obed, of Boaz, of Salmon, of

33 Naasson, of Aminadab, of Admein,

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Salathiel was also the legal son and heir of Neri. From thence it is traced back to the second surviving son of Bathsheba the wife of David. From David back to Abraham this corresponds with Matthew's genealogy.

When Eve bore Cain she supposed that he was the promised Seed, so she said "I have acquired a man, Jehovah", and she names him "Cain", that is "Acquired". But before his brother Abel was born she realized her mistake, and called him "Abel", Vanity. The Seed was not to be the seed of Adam, but the Seed of the woman. This lesson is emphasized again when the male line dies out in Neri, and the allotment passes through a woman to a legal son, and this is repeated when Joseph becomes the son of Heli through his wife Mary. Not a single man in the whole list was capable of generating the One Who was to bruise the serpent's head. It is a broken, sinful pedigree. Hence the absolute necessity that He should be begotten, not of man, nor of the will of the flesh, but of God, and that a virgin should bring forth Emmanuel.

36 As this Cainan is not found in the Hebrew text and seems to have been unknown to some of the early fathers, some are inclined to regard it as a very early corruption of the text. But, if we retain it we have the notable number, seventy-seven, as the full total, and, when all names found also in Matthew's genealogy are omitted, we discover three groups of exactly twenty names each.

1-13 Compare Mt.41-11Mk.112,13.

² The Slanderer is the suzerain of the kingdoms of the earth. Before proclaiming the kingdom it was necessary that he should be met and overcome. He took the dominion away from mankind through his deception in the garden (1 Ti.2¹⁴).

Adam was in no need of food, yet he sinned. Christ was famished from a forty-day fast, yet He withstood the temptation to provide Himself with food. Adam was in a beautiful garden, the head of all creatures on earth, yet he yielded to Satan. Christ was in a wilderness among the wild beasts, yet He refused to do homage even though it should give Him the headship which was rightfully His.

of Arni, of Esrom, of Phares, of ³⁴ Judah, of Jacob, of Isaac, of Abra-³⁵ ham, of Thara, of Nachor, of Seruch, of Ragau, of Phalec, of Eber,

³⁶ of Sala, of Cainan, of Arphaxad, of
 ³⁷ Shem, of Noah, of Lamech, of Methuselah, of Enoch, of Jared, of

38 Maleleel, of Cainan, of Enos, of Seth, of Adam, of God.

4 Now Jesus, full of holy spirit, returns from the Jordan, and was led in the spirit in the wilderness

forty days, being tried by the Slanderer. And He are nothing in those days, and subsequently, at

their conclusion, He hungers. Now the Slanderer said to Him, "If you are God's son, speak to this stone that it may be becoming bread."

And Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written that, 'Not on bread alone shall man be living, but on every declaration of God'."

And the Slanderer, leading Him up into a high mountain, shows Him all the kingdoms of the inhabited earth in a second of time.

⁶ And the Slanderer said to Him, "To you shall I be giving all this authority and the glory of them, seeing that it has been given up to me, and to whomever I will, I am
⁷ giving it. If you, then, should be

worshiping before me, it will all be yours." And answering, Jesus said to him, "Go behind Me, Satan! It is written, 'The Lord your God shall you be worshiping, and to Him only shall you be offering divine service'."

Now he led Him into Jerusalem and he stands Him on the wing of the sanctuary, and he said to Him, "If you are God's son, be casting.

yourself down hence, for it is written that TOYAPNE ITOYECPUMTOY 20
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Adam questioned God's goodness and offended Him by seeking that which He withheld. Our Lord refused to doubt His love, though every token of it seemed to have vanished. He would not put it to a test. On every point in which the first man failed, the second Man, though tempted many times more searchingly, stood the test triumphantly. No mere son of Adam could have stood. Had He not been the Son of God the stress would have been too great.

- "It is written" is the sword of the spirit, that destroys the insinuations of the Slanderer. And if he counters with a passage (for error is best supported by an appeal to holy writ), the only defense is another stroke of "It is written!"
- A wing of the sanctuary overhangs the steep and deep declivity looking down into the vale of Kedron. dizzy depth, rather than an eminence on the temple building is intended. The "sanctuary", including the whole temple area, must always be distinguished from the temple proper.
- 14-15 Compare Mt.412Mk.114,15.
- 14 At this point Luke, Matthew and events covering about one year, in- 13.14 the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was cluding the miracle at Cana of Galilee, 16:13 handed to Him and, opening the the Samaritan the meeting with woman and the healing of the noble-man's son, which are recorded in John's account. Most of this time was spent in Capernaum, which became His own city during His ministry after His expulsion from Nazareth.
- 16 The greatest Prophet of all did not receive recognition in His own city. It seems to be human nature to find God only in that which is far off and dim. When He returned to the people with whom He had lived and toiled most of His life, He seems to have had no expectation of a hearing from them and spoke accordingly. But their terrible treatment of Him on this occasion did not deter Him from visiting them again a year or so later (Mt. 1353-58; Mk. 61-6). Then He was able to heal a few of the sick, but could do no mighty deeds because of their unbelief and hardness of heart. All that His adopted city gave Him was a despised name. He was the only good that ever came out of it.

'His messengers shall be directed concerning Thee. to protect Thee.'

11 and that

'On their hands shall they be lifting Thee.

Lest at any time Thou shouldst be dashing Thy foot against a stone'."

12 And answering, Jesus said to him that "It has been declared, 'You shall not be putting the Lord your God on trial?."

And, concluding every trial, the Slanderer withdrew from Him un-14 til an appointed time. And Jesus

returns, in the power of the spirit. into Galilee, and the fame of Him came out in the whole of the coun-15 try about. And He taught in their

synagogues, being glorified by all. And He came to Nazareth. where he was reared, and, accord-

ing to His custom, He entered into the synagogue on the day of the 17 sabbaths and rose to read. And

scroll. He found the place where it is written.

"The spirit of the Lord is on Me. On account of which He anoints

> To preach the evangel to the poor. He has commissioned Me To heal the crushed in heart,

To proclaim a pardon to the captives,

And the recovering of sight to the

To dispatch the oppressed with a pardon.

To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

And furling the scroll, giving it back to the deputy. He is seated. And the eyes of all in the syna-

²¹ gogue were staring at Him. Now He begins to be saying to them that "Today this scripture has been

22 fulfilled in your ears." And all

14001	LUKE'S A	CCOUNT	CHAPTER 4
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18 What more blessed or precious portion could the Lord have read than the passage from Isaiah? Perhaps nowhere else is such a delightful portrayal of His mission (Isa. 611,2). No wonder they marveled at the gracious words which came from Him! even more marvelous is the message conveyed by His silence. Had He read another sentence, He would have plunged them into "The day of vengeance of our God". The two are closely allied-much closer than appears, except in the prophecy. vengeance will be visited on His enemies when He redeems His people. But Christ's ministry was confined to the proclamation of the acceptable year. Let us note the contrast between the acceptable year and the day of vengeance. God is swift in judgment, but delights to delay in blessing. He might have used the last two thousand years for vengeance, for the prophet gives no hint of aught else before His glorious appearing. Instead, He fills it with transcendent manifestations of His grace.

28 The fame of Christ's miracles in Capernaum had reached His own neighbors. They were jealous in their With marvelous skill He unbelief. touches the sore spot and shows how thoroughly in accord with their own scriptures His ministry is. Even in the prophets blessing broke forth to outsiders when those within the covenant were in want. Sidon and Syria had no claim on Jehovah's mercy. Yet Elijah and Elisha, at a time of great need in Israel, are sent to convey God's mercies to the despised aliens. No doubt His language implied that there was a famine in Nazareth just as there was in Israel in Elijah's day (1 Ki.17), only that then heaven was locked three years and six months and physical sustenance failed, yet now heaven is opened for a like period (for Christ's ministry seems to have been about this length) and they famish in the midst of plenty. So, too, His words hinted that there were lepers in Nazareth as in Israel in Elisha's day (2 Ki. 5), yet they are not cured, though a greater than Elisha is in their midst. How pitiful is their prejudice and impotent rage! He does not flee from them, but fearlessly wends His way through their very midst.

testified of Him and marveled at the gracious words which went out of His mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" And He said to them, "Undoubtedly you will be declaring this parable to Me, 'Physician, cure yourself!' 'Whatever we hear occurring in Capernaum do here also in your own country'."

Now He said, "Verily, I am saying to you that no prophet is accep-25 table in his own country. Now of a truth I am saving to you, that there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when heaven is locked three years and six months, as a great famine came to ²⁶ be over the entire land, and to none of them was Elijah sent, except into Sarepta of Sidonia, to a widow And there were many lepers in Israel with Elisha the prophet, and none of them is cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.''

- 28 And those in the synagogue are all filled with fury at hearing 29 these things, and, rising, they cast Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the mountain on which their city had been built, so as to push Him over the precipice.
- 30 Yet He, coming through their midst, went.
- And He came down into Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and He was teaching them on the sabbaths.
- ³² And they were astonished at His teaching, seeing that His word was with authority.
- And there was a man in the synagogue having the spirit of an un-

15 ⁰⁰¹ LUKE'S	ACCOUNT CHAPTER 4
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HNIATPEGEPAREYCONCEA 20 YOUTSELF	29 and up-standing they-out-
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THREE AND MONTHS ав+6 ENETO AIMOCMET ACETITA . FAMINE

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∆I∆ACKŒNAYTOYCENTOIC²⁰

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31-32 Compare Mt.413-17Mk.121,22.

31 His rejection in "His own country" led to His making Capernaum "His own city". From this as a base, He circled about on His evangelistic tours, returning thither at their end. Much of His work was done in it, for it was on some of the main highways of traffic.

33-35 Compare Mk. 123-26.

33 Since the serpent deceived Eve in Eden, man has been subject, to some extent, to the spirits of the unseen world. One of the most marked features of the millennial eon is the absence of the evil influences which now actuate mankind from without. Satan bound. Subordinate will then be spirits will not be able to prey on humanity. To inaugurate this kingdom Messiah must be able to cope with demons and destroy their power over its subjects. Hence, every time that He cast out demons by His word, it was a sign that the kingdom of God was near, and that the King was present to dispossess the evil powers that opposed Him.

34 It is a sad commentary on the darkness of the human heart, when the demons show an intelligence far superior to the people who possessed the special revelation which was given to identify the Messiah. They wondered and questioned, but the demons knew Him and dared not disobey His word. needed a special revelation from God to teach Him who Christ was, yet these wicked spirits knew and acknowledged that He was the Christ, the Son of God. So far is spirit superior to flesh that these demons readily recognized His divine Sonship, while few of His professed followers fully entered into His messianic glories.

38-39 Compare Mt.814,15Mk.129-31.

ss A fever usually runs its course. Indeed, it is dangerous to stop it. So the ills of mankind will never be cured of a sudden until the great Physician speaks the word. When He appears again Israel will be in the most awful pressure, but will be relieved the moment He arrives. Then they will serve Him as never before. Not only will bodily ills be healed, but the social and political diseases that mar man's day will disappear when He is on the scene.

clean demon, and he cries out with ³⁴ a loud voice, saying, "Ha! what is it to us and to you, Jesus the Nazarean? Did you come to destroy us? I am aware who you are—
³⁵ the holy One of God!" And Jesus rebukes it, saying, "Be still, and be coming out from him!" And, pitching him into their midst, the demon came out from him, not harming him at all.

And awe came on all, and they conferred with one another, saying, "What word is this? seeing that He is enjoining the unclean spirits with authority and power and they are coming out!" And a hubbub about Him went forth to every place in the country about.

Now, rising from the synagogue, Jesus entered into the house of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was pressed by a high fever, and they ask Him about her. And

standing by above her, He rebukes the fever, and the fever leaves her. Now, rising instantly, she waited on them.

Now at sunset all, as many as had those who are infirm with various diseases, led them also to Him. Now, placing His hands on each

41 one of them, He cures them. Now demons also came out from many, clamoring and saying that "You are the Christ, the Son of God!" And, rebuking them, He did not let them talk, seeing that they had perceived that He is the Christ.

Now at the coming of day, coming out, He went into a desolate place. And the throngs sought for Him, and they came to Him and

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40-41 Compare Mt.816,17Mk,132-34. 42-44 Compare Mk.135-39.

44 No one who attentively reads the accounts of our Lord's ministry will fail to wonder why He confined Himself to Galilee and never evangelized the cities of Judea. Except for His seven visits to Jerusalem and journeys to Bethany beyond Jordan, it appears as if He absolutely ignored the most important section of the nation in His proclamation. On His journeys to and from Jerusalem He taught and healed, but, in accepted texts and versions, we have no account whatever of any proclamation in the synagogues of Judea. The solution of this lies in the reading we have followed in this passage. Both of our best manuscripts read Judea here instead of Galilee. The fact that Matthew and Mark speak of a journey through Galilee at about this time is no clear proof that He did not visit Judea also. These so-called parallel passages explain why some manuscripts have the reading Galilee. It is an attempt to "harmonize" what appears to be a discrepancy. It is not at all likely that it would be changed to Judea when the other accounts read Galilee. The editor has personally checked the reading in the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus MSS. That these two great manuscripts should have this reading unchallenged by correctors or editors seems to be proof sufficient to sustain it. It is a relief to know that He did not absolutely ignore that part of the country which, in some respects, had the greatest claim on His ministry. Our Lord sprang from the tribe of Judah, and could hardly complete His course without proclaiming to His own tribe.

- 1-3 Compare Mt.418Mk.116.
- 4 See Jn. 211-8.
- 4 There are three principal methods of fishing spoken of in the scriptures. There was the hook and line (Mt. 1727) with which Peter caught the fish that had the poll-tax money in its mouth. There was the seine, or drag net (Mt. 1347), which was played out from a boat and dragged to the shore. Then there were other, smaller nets, operated from boats. These had to be used at night. It was considered foolish to even attempt to net fish in the day time. Hence Peter's mild remon-

detained Him lest He should be going from them. Now He said to
them that "In other cities also, I
must preach the evangel of the
kingdom of God, seeing that for

44 this was I commissioned." And He was proclaiming in the synagogues

of Judea.

5 Now it occurred, as the throng is importuning Him and is hearing the word of God, He also was standing beside lake Gennesaret, and He perceived two ships standing beside the lake. Now the fishers, stepping from them, rinse off the nets. Now, stepping into one of the ships, which was Simon's, He asks him to be backing up slightly from the land. Now, being seated, He taught the throngs out

of the ship.

Now as He ceases speaking, He said to Simon, "Back up into the depth, and lower your nets for a catch." And answering, Simon said to Him, "Doctor, toiling through the whole night, we got nothing, yet, at Thy declaration I shall be lowering the nets." And doing this, they impound a vast

multitude of fishes. Now their nets
were torn through, and they beckon to their partners in the other
ship to come and join in taking
them. And they came, and they
fill both the ships so that they were

submerged.

Now Simon Peter, perceiving it, prostrates before Jesus' knees, saying, "Come away from me, seeing that I am a man, a sinner, Lord!"

For awe engulfs him and all those with him at the catch of fishes

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strance. If they could not catch any fish at night, why even try in broad daylight? But Peter is impressed by the One Who spoke as no man ever spoke, and did as he was bid, without the least expectation. It would be difficult to imagine his awe and consternation at the enormous catch. To fill two boats with a single catch would be almost a miracle at night. It certainly demonstrated that the Man Who bade them do it was the most remarkable Fisherman they had ever seen! And this was the purpose of the miracle: to portray Him as the great Fisher of men, and to set forth His ministry. The fish represent the disciples that He caught during His proclamation of the kingdom. The broken net pathetically pictures His sufferings for their sakes. Even the action of Peter and John in salvaging the fish and the submergence of the ships are significant of their ministries in the eras that followed His death.

8-11 Compare Mt.419-22Mk.120.

11 This is the marvelous manner in which He recalls them. In a few minutes He gives them a preview of the mission which they are to fill, and then summons them to go fishing with Him. Henceforth they will catch men.

12-14 Compare Mt.81-4Mk.140-44.

12 What a series of striking contrasts do we see in this scene! A loathsome leper with a vigorous and wholesome spirit, which does not doubt the Lord's ability, yet leaves Him to work His will. Whoever should touch him would be defiled and unclean. Instead, the One Who touches him not only remains undefiled but cleanses the leper! The priests should have hearkened to the prophet like Moses. Instead they are given the testimony of an outcast!

The cleansing of a leper included a beautiful type of the death and resurrection of Christ (Lev. 14). Two birds were taken, one was killed and the other, dipped in its blood, was set free to fly into the heavens. Besides this, the priest must offer various sacrifices and anoint his ear and hand and foot and head with oil, a symbol of the spirit. This erstwhile leper must have made good use of this timely opportunity to testify to the priests at Jerusalem, during the days of his cleansing.

15-16 Compare Mk. 145.

which they jointly took. Now likewise are James also and John, Zebedee's sons, who were Simon's mates. And Jesus said to Simon, "Fear not! From now on you will

¹¹ be catching men alive!" And bringing the ships to the land, leaving all, they follow Him.

And it occurred, as He is in one of the cities, and lo! a man full of leprosy. Now, perceiving Jesus, falling on his face, he besought Him, saying, "Lord, if Thou shouldst be willing, Thou canst

13 cleanse me!" And, stretching out a hand, He touches him, saying, "I am willing! Be cleansed!" And immediately the leprosy came

14 from him. And He charges him to be speaking to no one. "But come away and show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing, according as Moses bids, for a testimony to them."

Yet rather the account concerning Him passed through, and vast throngs came together to hear and to be cured of their infirmities by

¹⁶ Him. Now He was retreating in the wildernesses and praying.

And it occurred on one of the days, and He was teaching, and the Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting, who were come out of every village of Galilee and of Judea and Jerusalem, and there was power of the Lord for their heal-

18 ing. And lo! men carrying on a couch a man who was paralyzed, and they sought to be carrying him in and to place him before Him.

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17-26 Compare Mt.91-8Mk.21-12.

17 The fame of the Lord must have been very great at this time to gather so large and so representative a throng. Galilee alone had over two hundred villages, according to Josephus, and we may suppose that Judea had at least half as many. It is notable that, though He did not go about in Judea as He did in Galilee, the Judeans came to Him.

18 There is nothing unusual in the setting of this scene for an Oriental. To let down a bed through the steep roofs usually found in the West would be a feat in itself. But Eastern houses had flat roofs with battlements, easily accessible, often by a staircase on the side, and a place of continual resort. The roofing was readily removed, and this was often done in taking a corpse out of the house, for they had a superstitious fear of carrying a dead man through the doors.

20 A well man could hardly have pressed his way into the presence of the Lord in such a crowd, so what could a poor paralytic do? faith of the friends was far from paralyzed. It was very vigorous, indeed. It was manifested by their act. And it was this faith, rather than the piti-able paralysis of the patient, that challenged the attention of the Lord. Such faith was far more than sufficient for the healing of his body. So He ignores his paralysis and addresses Himself to its cause.

Disease is the result of sin. This is true racially rather than individually. As individuals, our sufferings are not confined to the result of our own sins, but spring from the most complex combinations of heredity and environment. In the kingdom health will be an effect, not a cause, and the basis will be the pardon of sins. The lesser is included in the greater.

24 Pardon is executive clemency based on authority. Only a high government official can pardon. Sin can be pardoned only by God and the One to Whom He delegates this authority. His mastery of paralysis proves that He can pardon sins. This proclaims Him the Son of Mankind, the coming One Who can banish both sin and sickness from the earth. This will not be fully accomplished until the final consummation.

19 And not finding how they may carry him in because of the throng. going up on the housetop they let him down, with the cot, through the tiles into the midst in front of Je-20 sus. And, perceiving their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins

have been pardoned you."

And the scribes and the Pharisees begin to reason, saying, "Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who is able to pardon sins except God only?"

22 Now Jesus, recognizing their answering. reasonings. said to them, "What are you reasoning in ²³ your hearts? Which is easier, to be saying, 'Your sins have been pardoned you,' or to be saving, 'Rouse and walk'?

Now, that you may be perceiving that the Son of Mankind has authority on earth to pardon sins (He said to the paralytic) I am saying to you. 'Rouse and pick up your 25 cot and go into your house'." And rising instantly before them, picking up that on which he was laid, he came away into his house, glorify-²⁶ ing God. And they were all taken with amazement and glorified God. and are filled with fear, saying that "We perceived paradoxes today!"

And after these things He came out and gazes at a tribute collector named Levi, sitting at the tribute office, and said to him, "Be follow-28 ing Me." And leaving all, rising, he ²⁹ follows Him. And Levi makes a great reception for Him in his

house, and there was a vast throng

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27 Human wisdom and expedience would have urged our Lord to choose for His apostles men of the highest character and reputation. Instead. He chooses those that were despised and abhorred. Not without cause were the collectors of revenue for Rome hated for their traitorous occupation and extortionate greed. John the baptist, in telling them to assess no more than what had been prescribed (313), pointed out their most reprehensible prac-They collected far in excess of tise. the government's requirements and kept the balance themselves. This opportunity to enrich themselves at the expense of their fellow-countrymen was the only motive which could tempt a Jew into this hated occupation. They were always classed with sinners.

Our Lord does not seek to cover His call of Levi, or Matthew, as he is usually named. He goes right to the tribute office and takes him from his work. He does not wait until he can meet him elsewhere, or until he changes his occupation, or has been put on probation. It is evident that He wishes to impress the people with the fact that He came to call the unrighteous and sinners, in order to magnify God's love and mercy rather than His justice.

29-32 Compare Mt.910-13Mk.215-17.

31 What subtle irony there is in these words! The Pharisees and scribes were foully diseased within in spite of their pious appearance. Yet their ailment was like some insidious plague that deadens the nerves to its presence. The truth remains, the Lord could not call those who thought themselves whole, however serious their real condition.

33-35 Compare Mt.914,15Mk.218-20.

33 How little did they realize the privilege of His presence! Not even John, let alone the Pharisees, could provide a spiritual banquet. Why should they have a physical feast?

- 36 Compare Mt.916Mk.221.
- 37-39 Compare Mt.917Mk.222.
- 36 The Pharisees were trying to patch up their old cloak by tearing a piece from His new one. Their old skin bottles were empty and decayed. They had no joy and the forms which once contained it had become corrupted

of tribute collectors and others who were lying down with them.

And the Pharisees and the scribes murmured about them to His disciples, saying, "Wherefore are you eating and drinking with tribute collectors and sinners?" And answering, Jesus said to them, "Those who are sound have no need of a physician, but those who are ill. I

physician, but those who are ill. I have not come to call the just, but sinners, to repentance."

Yet they said to Him, "John's disciples are fasting frequently and are making petitions; likewise also those of the Pharisees; yet yours are eating and drinking."

Now Jesus said to them, "Can you make the sons of the bridal chamber fast while the bridegroom is with them? Yet days will be coming, whenever the bridegroom should be taken from them also, then, in those days, they will be fasting."

so, that "No one, rending a patch from a new cloak, is patching it on an old cloak. Yet if so, surely the new will be rending it, and the patch from the new will not be agreeing with the old.

And no one is draining fresh wine into old wine skins. Yet if so, surely the fresh wine will be bursting the wine skins, and it will be spilled, and the wine skins will be destroyed. But fresh wine is to be drained into new wine skins, and

39 both are preserved. And no one, drinking the old, immediately wants fresh, for he is saying, 'The old is mellower.''

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and decayed. The wine the Lord gave them was full of cheer and gladness, and could not find expression in fasting and asceticism. All this was said, doubtless, at the reception of Levi, to defend the feasting and the joy, and to dispel the gloom which they sought to cast over it.

- 1-5 Compare Mt.121-8Mk.223-28Deut.2325.
- The somewhat enigmatical word second-first in the Greek has proved so inexplicable that many texts have omitted it, and few editors retain it. Many explanations have been offered. but most of them are based on conjecture. The solution seems simple. The Jews had several sabbaths besides the seventh day of the week. The fifteenth and the twenty-second of Nisan were sabbaths, being the first and last days of the festival of Unleavened When the weekly sabbath came on the sixteenth, two sabbaths would come together, one a "great day" (Jn. 1981), and the next an ordinary sabbath. To distinguish the fifteenth-sixteenth sabbath from the double sabbath a week later it was called the first, and to distinguish the second day from the first it was called the second-first (Lev. 236-8). This was probably the day of His resurrection.
- 2 According to the law (Deut.2325), the disciples had a perfect right to pluck the ears and eat them, though this is not legal in the Western world. The Pharisees do not object to that, but to the act of rubbing, which they interpreted as work unlawful on the sabbath day. If we tear off the mask, we shall find that they were breaking the law, not the disciples. It was probably the festival of Unleavened Bread. The disciples eating the grain as it came from the stalks, certainly ate unleavened bread! But, in the spiritual realm, hypocrisy is leaven (121), and they were guilty of hypocrisy, they were using leaven, at the very beginning of the feast, which was unlawful!
- 3 Though the disciples had committed no breach of the law, what if they had? The priests labor in the temple, David ate before God (1 Sa. 211-8), and they were in the presence of the Lord of the Sabbath Himself. If He is not offended, why should they be?
- 6-11 Compare Mt.129-14Mk.31-6.

6 Now it occurred on the second first sabbath, He is going through the sowings, and His disciples plucked the ears and ate, rubbing ² them together in their hands. Now some of the Pharisees said to them, "Why are you doing what is not allowed to be done on the sabbaths?" And answering, Jesus said to them, "Now did you not read this that David does, when he hungers, he and those who are with him, how he entered into the house of God, and taking the show bread, he ate also, and gives to those with him also, that which no one is allowed to eat except only the priests?" And He said to them that "The Son of Mankind is

Lord of the sabbath also." Now it occurred on a different sabbath also, He is entering into the synagogue and teaching. And there was a man there, and his ⁷ right hand was withered. Now the scribes and the Pharisees scrutinized Him, to see if He is curing on the sabbath, that they may be find-⁸ ing an accusation against Him. Yet He had perceived their reasonings. Now He said to the man having the withered hand, "Rouse and stand in the midst." And rising, he stood. Now Jesus said to them, "I will be enquiring of you if it is allowed on the sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save a soul or to de-10 stroy?" And looking about on them all, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." Now he does it, and his hand was restored 11 as the other. Now they are filled

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Jewish tradition carried sabbath observance to ridiculous lengths. gravely discussed whether it is lawful to put out one's hand to give to a beggar, and how far! They disagreed as to whether it is allowable to comfort the sick on that day! It is striking how many times the Lord is reported as healing on the sabbath. The reason is clear. These instances are signs indicative of the healing of the nation. But when the nation is cured it will enter into the great sabbatism of the day of the Lord, commonly called the millennium. Healing brings relaxation, rest. How fitting that it should be on the sabbath!

12 Communion with God is the only proper and adequate preparation for His work. The apostles were not chosen without God's guidance. They were not chosen for their own excellence, but for their fitness to fulfill the will of God and carry out His purpose. Thus one of them was actually selected from the beginning to betray his Lord.

13-16 Compare Mt.101-4Mk.313-19.

13 The name "apostle" is really our "commissioner". They were to be His authoritative representatives, when He was not present. As God had given Him a commission, with authority to enforce it, so He delegated it to them. After His ascension they became the recognized leaders until the increasing apostasy deposed them and put James, the Lord's brother according to the flesh, in their place. In the kingdom they will rule the twelve tribes, with Matthias in the place of Judas.

14 Simon, or Peter, is always first among the apostles. His name hitherto was Simon, meaning Hearing, but the Lord changes it to Peter, meaning Rock, as he is the first stone in the spiritual edifice He is about to build. His father's name was John, but this is also changed by our Lord to Jonah, meaning Dove, a symbol of the spirit, and of Peter's spiritual paternity. Simon, son of John, is the physical man, Peter, son of Jonah, the spiritual. 17-19 Compare Mt.1215-21Mk.37-12.

20-23 Compare Mt. 51-12.

20 There is no reason for creating a difficulty by insisting that this is Luke's version of the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew's account, with folly, and they talked about it to one another, saying, "Whatever should they be doing to Jesus?"

12 Now it occurred in these days
He came away into the mountain to
pray, and throughout the night He
13 was in the prayer of God. And
when it became day He shouts to
His disciples, and chooses from
them twelve, whom He names apos14 they also a Simon, whom He names

14 tles also: Simon, whom He names also Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip
15 and Porthalmer

¹⁵ and Bartholomew, and Matthew and Thomas, and James of Alpheus
¹⁶ and Simon called the Zealet, and

¹⁶ and Simon, called the Zealot, and Judas of James and Judas Iscariot, who also became a traitor.

And descending with them He stood on an even place. And a vast throng of His disciples and a vast multitude of people from entire Judea and Jerusalem and maritime Tyre and Sidon, who came to labeled of their diseases and who are annoyed by unclean spirits, were cured. And the entire throng sought to touch Him, seeing that power came out of Him, and He healed all.

And He, lifting up His eyes to His disciples, said, "Happy are the poor, seeing that yours is the likingdom of God. Happy are they who are hungering now, seeing that you shall be satisfied. Happy are they who are lamenting now, seeing that you shall be laughing.
Happy are you whenever men may

22 ⁰⁰¹	LUKE'S	ACCOUNT	CHAPTER (
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WHO AND BECAME BEFORE- 22 YE-WILL-BE-LAUGHING HAPPY YE-ARE

Our Lord undoubtedly repeated much of His message to fresh audiences. The variations and differences in detail are intentional and correspond with the character of the account. Matthew takes Him up into a mountain and surrounds Him with His disciples. Luke takes Him down to an even place and surrounds Him with a vast concourse, though He spoke only to the disciples.

20 The weal and woe pronounced on the poor and rich, the hungry and the full, the lamenting and the laughing. those who are hated and those who are flattered, is strictly limited by the word now. Conditions on earth preceding the coming of the kingdom involve the true disciple in poverty, hunger, distress, and hatred. same conditions will prevail again just before the kingdom actually ap-These beatitudes will be fulfilled in the vast throng who come out of the great affliction (Un. 713-17). Of them it is said "They shall be hungering no longer . . . and every tear shall God be brushing away from their eves." The woes are equally applicable in the same period to the apostates in great Babylon. The rich apostate Jews represented by the false woman of the apocalypse (Un. 17, 18) who indulge themselves and have no sorrow -these shall suffer death and mourning and famine. And those who see their judgment will repeat our Lord's words: "Woe! Woe!" (Un.1810). the present interval of God's transcendent grace, while blessing comes to the nations because of Israel's rejection of the kingdom, there is no woe pronounced on the rich, but they are charged to use their riches for God (1 Tim. 617-19).

- 24 Compare Ja.51-6.
- 25 Compare Prov. 1413.
- 26 Compare Jn.1519 Ja.44.
- 27.31 Compare Mt.538-44 712 Ex.234 Prov. 2521Ro.1220.
- 27.31 These precepts reflect the persecutions preceding the kingdom, and give the conduct proper to those who enter it.
- 28 Compare 2334Ac.760.
- 29 Compare 1 Co. 67.
- so Compare Deut. 157,8,10.
- 81 Compare Gal. 514.

be hating you, and whenever they should be severing from you, and reproaching you and casting out your name as wicked, on account of the Son of Mankind. You may be rejoicing in that day and frisk, for lo! your wages in heaven are vast, for their fathers did the same to ²⁴ the prophets. Moreover, Woe to you rich, seeing that you have your consolation in full! Woe to you who are full now, seeing that you shall be hungering! Woe to you who are laughing now, seeing that you shall be mourning, and lamenting! Woe, whenever all men should

say fine things of you, for their fathers did the same to the false prophets!

But to you who are hearing am I saying: Be loving your enemies, be doing the ideal thing to 28 those who are hating you. Be blessing those who are cursing you. Be praying concerning those who are traducing you. To him who is beating you on the cheek, tender the other also. And you should not be preventing him who is taking away your cloak from taking your tunic also. Now be giving to everyone who is requesting you, and from him who is taking away what is 31 yours be not demanding. And, according as you are wanting that men may be doing to you, you also

be doing likewise to them.

And if you are loving those loving you, what thanks is there to you? For sinners also are loving those loving them. And if you should be doing good to those doing good to you, what thanks is there to you? For sinners also are doing the same. And if you should be lending to them from whom you

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32-36 Compare Mt. 544-48.

³⁵ We have here the substance of the new covenant which the Lord will make with Israel when He restores them to their land and to His favor (Jer.31²⁷⁻³⁴). After those days, He says

I put My law within them, And I will write it on their hearts.

The second greatest commandment. to love your associate as yourself. never had more than a superficial and perfunctory observance. But Ezekiel declares that in that day He will give them a new heart and a new spirit, and will take away the stony heart and give them a heart of flesh (Eze. This is the essential basis of the kingdom in Israel. The law will not be enforced from without but by a vital power within. They will actually care for the welfare of others rather than their own. So long as each one is concerned for himself alone, the best that government can do is to restrain the resultant evil. This happy form of rule will not extend beyond the people of the covenant. tions will be ruled with an iron club (Un. 1915). Their obedience will not be from the heart but compulsory, so that, when Satan is loosed, they are ready to rebel against the most beneficent form of government the world has ever seen (Un.207-10).

³⁶ The *principle* underlying these precepts is quite applicable in this day of grace, but a literal fulfillment of the promises is out of the question. Indeed, grace goes far beyond the spirit of this passage, for it gives freely without the promise of a recompense.

37-38 Compare Mt.71,2Prov.1917Ja.213.

38 The figure is very expressive to one who has seen grain measured in the East. By squeezing down, shaking together and piling high until it runs over, the quantity of grain in a given measure is vastly increased. Grain was carried in the loose folds of the bosom of their garments.

⁸⁹ Compare Mt. 15¹⁴.

³⁹ Besides its general application, the Lord undoubtedly referred especially to the religious leaders in Israel. On several occasions He characterized the scribes and Pharisees as blind guides (Mt. 15¹⁴; 23¹⁶,²⁴). The light that was in them was darkness, hence it was very dense.

are expecting to get back, what thanks is there to you? For sinners also are lending to sinners that they may get back the equivalent.

Moreover, be loving your enemies, and be doing good, and be lending, expecting nothing from them, and your wages will be vast in the heavens, and you will be sons of the Most High, seeing that He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

Become, then, pitiful, according 37 as your Father also is pitiful. And be not judging, and under no circumstances may you be judged, and do not convict, and under no circumstances may you be convicted: be releasing and you shall 38 bereleasing and you shall 38 bereleasing and your shall are proposed to the same and you shall are proposed to the same are proposed to th

be released. Be giving and it will be given to you, an ideal measure, squeezed down and shaken together and running over, shall they be giving into your bosom. For the same measure with which you are measuring will be measured to you again."

Now He told them a parable also, "Can any one who is blind be guiding the blind? Will not both

⁴⁰ be falling into a pit? The disciple is not over his teacher, yet every one who is readjusted will be as his teacher.

Now why are you observing the mote in your brother's eye, yet are not considering the beam in your ⁴² own eye? Or how can you be saying to your brother, 'Brother, let me extract the mote in your eye,' yourself not observing the beam in your eye? Hypocrite! First extract the beam out of your eye, and then you will be keen-sighted

to be extracting the mote in your ⁴³ brother's eye. For a fine tree is not

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KAPOCTOENTWOOGAAMWT25000 SHRIVEL THE.IN THE VIEWER OF- ⁴⁰ Compare Mt.10²⁴,²⁵Jn.12³⁶.

⁴¹⁻⁴² Compare Mt. 7³-5.

41 Even those who are not blind should distrust their own eyesight. We can all see the obstructions in the discernment of others. Heredity, environment, religious associations, all intrude into our perception of things divine. If each one were more anxious to discover his own defects, he would be more fitted to help others. how shall we extract the beam in our own eye? By carefully comparing our conclusions with evidences of revela-Too many of us stereotype "truth" rather than hold to the facts on which all truth depends. that does not bear a microscopic comparison with the minutest fact of the inspired scriptures has no right to the name. A careful presentation of all the facts in available form should be the most efficient of all aids to remove our prejudices and reveal the truth.

43-45 Compare Mt.716-201233-37.

43 In the kingdom "they shall site every man under his vine and under his fig tree" (Mic. 44). The fig tree figures their righteous government, hence the prophet adds, "and none shall make them afraid". The vine portrays the gladness and joy that ensue. The nation of Israel will never produce figs or grapes so long as they are thorns and thorn bushes. Far less can the nations of the world who have not received the cultivation accorded the people of the covenant. Good government and happy homes come from the heart and cannot be imposed on the unregenerate by penal laws.

46-48 Compare Mt.721-25Isa.263,42816ICo. 310,11.

46 This parable presents the permanent character of the kingdom. Its foundation is laid deep in the solid stratum of God's purpose rather than the insecure sand of human expedi-The superstructure may look safe, but the stress of political storms will wreck every state but the one which will displace them and have no end. So, also, are those who are allied with these kingdoms. Those who heard and obeyed Him built a house whose foundations would last for the eon. Those who do not obey are caught in the crash preceding the kingdom. 1-10 Compare Mt. 85-13.

producing rotten fruit, neither, again, is a rotten tree producing fine fruit. For each tree is known by its own fruit, for they are not culling figs from thorns, neither may they be picking grapes from

thorn bushes.

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart is bringing forth what is good, and the wicked man out of the wicked treasure of his heart is bringing forth what is wicked, for out of the superabundance of the heart his mouth is speaking.

46 Now why are you calling Me 'Lord', 'Lord', and are not doing

47 what I am saying? Every one coming to Me and hearing My words and doing them—I shall be inti-

s mating to you what he is like. He is like a man building a house, who digs and deepens, and places the foundation on a rock. Now, as an inundation occurs, the river bursts through to that house, and it has not the strength to shake it, because it is built ideally.

Now he who hears and does not is like a man building a house on the earth without a foundation, to which the river bursts through, and straightway it collapses, and the crash of that house became great."

7 Since, in fact, He completes all His declarations in the hearing of the people, He entered into Caper-

² naum. Now a certain centurion's slave, who was held in honor by him, being ill, was about to decease.

Now, hearing concerning Jesus, he dispatches to Him elders of the OYAAEAФOYCOYOYFAPECT²⁰
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2 What He has said has neither interpretation nor application to nations outside the Israelitish fold. None of those present could so have understood His words, for their prejudice against the gentile nations was extreme, and He made no effort to disabuse their minds on this score. But we know that the nations will have a place in the kingdom, and that blessing will flow out to them through Israel. Does He give no hint of this? The centurion's slave gives us a graphic picture of the benefits which come to the nations through the mediacy of Israel.

The centurion himself is undoubtedly a proselyte to the Jewish faith or he certainly would not build a synagogue for them. The slave represents the subservient position of the nations in that day. But the most remarkable similarity is suggested by the distance between the Healer and the one who is healed. In Israel, all healing was done in His presence. They were at great pains to bring their sick from afar: they broke through the roof: His touch or the sound of His voice seemed essential to secure the desired blessing. And so it is with Israel. His future presence, they have no hope of partaking in the promises of the prophets. His feet will stand on the mount of Olives, His capital will be Jerusalem. The other nations, though at a distance, will also receive His healing balm as did the centurion's slave. There is no necessity for identifying this incident with that in Matthew's account. The lesson is the same, but the time and setting seem different.

The great principle of blessing at a distance through faith is followed much further in God's dealings with the nations in the present secret administration (Eph. 39). Though Christ has not returned, and though Israel is not blessed, yet by faith we receive a blessing far superior to anything suggested by this scene. We are not slaves of Israel and do not depend on any intervention through Israel, but we have a place and a portion among the celestials which is immeasurably beyond both.

11 Death was defeated whenever it entered the presence of Christ. This was the greatest sign of His messiahship. For the kingdom will consist, to a large extent, of those who have died

Jews, asking Him so that He. coming, should be saving his slave through it. Now those coming along to Jesus, entreat Him diligently, saying to Him that "He is worthy to whom He may tender this, for he is loving our nation,

and he builds us a synagogue."

Now Jesus went with them. Now, as He is already not far distant from the house, the centurion sends friends to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do not bother, for I am not enough that Thou mayst enter under my roof. Wherefore neither count I myself worthy to come to Thee. But say the word, and my boy will be healed. For I also, am a man set under authority, having soldiers under me, and I am saying to this one, 'Go!', and he is going, and to another, 'Come!', and he is coming, and to my slave 'Do this', and he is doing it."

Now Jesus, hearing these things, marvels at him, and, turning to the throng following Him, said, "I am saying to you that not even in Is-10 rael found I so much faith." And returning into the house, those being sent found the infirm slave sound.

11 And it occurred next, He went into a city called Nain. And a considerable number of His disciples and a vast throng went with Him.

Now as He nears the gate of the city, lo! an only begotten son of his mother, having died, was fetched out-and she was a widow. And a considerable throng of the city was

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in expectation, not having received the promises. Abraham will be there and David, but how can they enter except through resurrection? Therefore, Christ is the Resurrection and the Life. He that can raise the dead is the Messiah of Israel, He is the Son of God. Besides the rousing of Jairus' daughter, He brought Lazarus back from the tomb. The little girl had scarcely died, the widow's son was on his way to the tomb, and Lazarus had been dead three days. One was but a child, one a youth, the other a mature man. But each one responded to His word, and passed from death back into Thus will it be in the former resurrection, which will occur some thirteen hundred and thirty-five days after the middle of the seventieth heptad of the ninth of Daniel (Dan. 1212) or about seventy-five days after His epiphany. The faithful in Israel will arise to die no more, but the unbelieving will not awake until the close of the day of the Lord (Dan. 122).

18-20 Compare Mt. 112-3.

18 By this time John had been in prison more than a year. Reports of the wonderful works of Christ probably brought to him the question of his own release. He had lived his whole life in the wide open spaces and close confinement must have been most depressing to his spirit, and led him to brood over his own fate. The news that he received concerning Christ seemed to cover only one phase of the activities of the One he had heralded. He baptized in holy spirit but not in fire. He did not burn up the chaff with fire. Were there to be two Messiahs? one did only good and no evil. He could not hope to be released from prison by Him. Would He later execute the judgment foretold or was that the work of a different One? Such seems to be the trend of John's thoughts. He was anticipating the day of vengeance, when Christ would take His great power and reign. To have answered his question would involve the revelation of secrets which were not due to be known at that time. The kingdom was still being proclaimed. Its rejection could not be predicted without nullifying its proclamation. Hence the Lord does not reply to John's question, but bids those sent by him to note the character of the works 24 Now, John's messengers coming

13 with her. And perceiving her, the Lord has compassion on her, and said to her, "Be not lamenting!"

¹⁴ And approaching, He touches the bier. Now those bearing it stand. And He said, "Youth, I am saying

15 to you, be roused!" And the dead sits up and begins to be talking. And He gives him back to his mother.

Now fear got all, and they glorified God, saying that "A great prophet was roused among us!" and that, "God visits His peo-

17 ple!" And this saying concerning Him came out in the whole of Judea and in the entire country about.

And his disciples report to John 19 concerning all these things. And, calling a certain two of his disciples to him, John sends to Jesus, saying, "Art Thou the coming One, or may we be hoping for a dif-20 ferent One?" Now coming along

to Him, the men say, "John the baptist dispatches us to Thee, saying, 'Art Thou the coming One, or may we be hoping for another

²¹ One'?'' In that hour He cures many of diseases and scourges and wicked spirits, and to many blind

²² He graciously granted sight. And answering. Jesus said to them. "Go and report to John what you perceived and hear, that the blind are recovering sight, the lame walking, lepers are being cleansed, and the deaf-mutes are hearing, the dead

are being roused, and the evangel ²³ is being preached to the poor. And happy is he who is not being shocked by Me."

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He is doing. This may be taken as a personal message to John that his suffering would be relieved even to the extent of rousing him from the dead.

19 As the form of the Greek word for

19 As the form of the Greek word for DIFFERENT or "another" is indefinite as to gender, it may be rendered "a different thing" or "another thing". That is, John may have hoped that Christ was about to change His ministry of mercy to one of judgment, in which case he would be delivered.

21-23 Compare Mt. 114-6.

24-28 Compare Mt. 117-15.

24 Notwithstanding his question, John was no weakling or lover of luxury. He was not wavering in his confidence in Christ or desirous to escape merely for his own comfort. No one could call him a reed subject to the whim of every current of air! His imprisonment was proof of this, for he stood against the storm when he boldly accused Herod of his sin. His camel's hair garment proved that he was nosilk robed courtier. They came out to see a prophet and that was what they saw. His present imprisonment was only an added proof of that, for such was the treatment which they usually gave a man of God. John, as the immediate forerunner of Christ, was the greatest of all the prophets.

27 Compare Mal. 31.

29 Compare 312.

29 John's call to repentance was to the whole nation, but the Pharisees and lawyers could not accept God's estimate of their lives. They justified themselves. The rest justified God. The common people and the tribute collectors, by undergoing his baptism at least acknowledged their own sinfulness. To this day the same principle obtains. Self-condemnation is a sure road to righteousness; self-justification is the road to ruin.

31 Compare Mt. 1116-19.

31 Those who wish to oppose God's work have no difficulty in finding fault, for every virtue, fitly displayed, is turned into a vice by the distorting eyes of jealousy and hate. John's subject was sin, so he was an ascetic. It was not his work to lead them into the joys of the kingdom. That was for Messiah. He satisfied their souls with

away, He begins to say to the throngs concerning John, "What do you come out into the wilderness to gaze at? A reed, shaken by the wind? But what do you come out to perceive? A man garbed in soft garments? Lo! those in glorious vesture and subsisting in luxury are among royal
26 ty. But why have you come out? To perceive a prophet? Yes, I am saying to you, and exceedingly more than a prophet. This is he concerning whom it is written.

'Lo! I am dispatching My messenger before Thy face,
Who will be constructing Thy road in front of Thee.'

Among those born of women there is no greater prophet than John the baptist. Yet he who is smaller in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

And when all the people and the tribute collectors also hear, they justify God, being baptized with the baptism of John. Yet the Pharisees and the lawyers repudiate the counsel of God for themselves, not

being baptized by him. To what, then, shall I be likening the men of this generation, and what are they
 like? They are like little boys and girls sitting in the market and

and girls sitting in the market and shouting to one another, and saying, 'We flute to you, and you do not dance! We wail to you and

you do not lament!' For John the baptist has come neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you

34 are saying 'He has a demon.' The Son of Mankind has come eating and drinking, and you are saying, 'Lo! a gluttonous man and a tip-

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33 Compare 115.

36 Truth is best conveyed by contrast. In fact, all human knowledge is relative. We know nothing absolutely, but by its relation to other things. Herein lies the loveliness of this incident. The Pharisee was at the top, the woman at the bottom of the social scale. It is very striking and instructive to see these two brought together and to note their different reactions to the grace of Christ. The greatest glory of the Saviour was His love for sinners and His holiness which remained unspotted in contact with them. The touch of this woman of ill repute would have sent a shudder through the self-righteous Pharisee. It thrilled Him with compassion.

This Simon did not apprehend. He thought his Guest must be ignorant of her character to allow caresses, hence did not have even the insight of a prophet. But the ignorance was not on the Lord's part. He soon proved that by His parable. Neither was it on the woman's part. Her tears, her worship, all she did, show the deepest consciousness of her own sinfulness and of His salvation. It was Simon himself who was ignorant. He did not know his own sinfulness. He did not recognize his Saviour. He did not honor Him with the common courtesies of Oriental hospitality. If he had known Him he would have shown Him the utmost attention and rejoiced in the woman's worship.

There is no reason whatever for identifying this woman with Mary Magdalene. She had been a demoniac, not a sinner.

41 This simple parable contains the whole philosophy of sin. However hateful in itself, its ultimate effect is to produce an abundant response to God's love. The greatest triumphs of grace are in the darkest depths of degradation. The Pharisee, instead of being immensely superior to the social outcast, as he supposed, was at a vast disadvantage. His love for the Saviour was shallow, his response to His grace

pler, a friend of tribute collectors ³⁵ and sinners.' And Wisdom was justified by all her offspring.''

Now a certain one of the Pharisees asked Him that He may be eating with him. And entering into the Pharisee's house, He reclined.

37 And lo! there was a certain woman in the city, a sinner. And recognizing that He is lying back at table in the Pharisee's house, fetching an alabaster vase of attar, 38 and standing behind, beside the

feet of Jesus, lamenting, she begins to rain tears on His feet and wipes them off with the hairs of her head, and fondly kissed His feet, and rubbed with the attar. Now the Pharisee who invites Him, perceiving it, said in himself, saying, "This one, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman it is who is touching Him, seeing that she is a

40 And answering, Jesus said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." Now he is averring, "Teacher, say it!".

sinner."

41 "A certain creditor had two debtors [paying] usury. The one owed five hundred denarii [\$78.47, £16 2s 10d], yet the other fifty

42 [\$7.847, £1 12s 6d]. Now, they having nothing to pay, he deals graciously with both. Which of them, then, will be loving him more?"

43 Now, answering, Simon said, "I take it that it is he with whom he deals more graciously." Now He said to him, "You decide correctly."

44 And, turning to the woman, He averred to Simon, "Are you observing this woman? I entered into your house; you do not give water for My feet, yet she rains tears on My feet and wipes them

ΑΡ**ϢΠΟ**CΦΆΓΟCΚΆΙΟΙΝΟΠΟ²⁰ **ETEIN DCKEN ANTICKAITTO®** EVER ANY AND EATER man TARHHEYNHHTIC ARTETAL® THCOI AOCTE A WN WN KAIAM® THE WOMAN WHO-ANY IS-TOUCHING FOND-One OF-tribute-collectors AND OF-migg. PROM B has C above the line **AYTOYOTIAMAPTOAOCECT®** APTO AONKAI EAIKAI OHH 35 ers AND WAS-JUSTIFIED OF-Him that misser 8º cancels ALL A THE O. OF-her ALL & EPFUN COOLAANONANTONTONTEK® INKALAΠΟΚΡΙΘΕΙCOIHCO® offsprings 40 WIEDOM FROM ALL THE AND ' answering NUNAYTHCHPUTADETIC AY 100 YCEITENT POCAYTONCIMO 600 36 OF-her askED YET ANY said TOWARD him SIMON в+6 s o.Bl above line A-ЕФН TONTONOÃPICALONINAOA20 NEXOCOITIEINEINOAEAI® OF-THE PHARISEES тнат Не-мау-I-AM-HAVING to-YOU ANY TO-BE-SAYING THE YET TEACH-A omits He-IS-AVERRING THMETAYTOYKAIEICEAOO# **ΔΑCΚΑΛΕΕΙΠΕΦΗCΙΝΔΥΟΧ**Φ BE-SAYING he-IS-AVERBING TWO USE-BE-EATING WITH him AND INTO-COMING 41 er! IA for O NEICTONOIRONTOYON PICO PEÖĞÉLAETALHCANAÄNIC® INTO THE HOME OF THE PHARISEE AANO. 81*CITO AIOYKATCKAIOHKAILAOY® WERE to-LOANER THTINIOEIC COOR JANAHN® AND BE-PERCEIVING 37 He-WAS-DOWN-CLINED THE ONE OWED ANY DENABIT B1 0. A IN THE CITY WHO-ANY WAS for E YNHHTICHNENTHNOAEIA200 APIAMENTAKOCIAOAEETE 700 WHO-ANY WAS IN THE CITY miss-FIVE-hundred THE YET DIFFER-MAPTO AOCKAIGHITNOYCA²⁰ POCHENTHKONTAMHEXONT²⁰ 42 ENT AND ON-ENOWING FIVE-TY NO OF-HAVING OTIKATAKEITÄIENTHOIK® **ΦΝΔΕΑΥΤ**ΨΝΑΠΟΔΟΥΝΑΙ ΑΜ« that He-is-down-Lying TO-FROM-GIVE THE HOME to-both IATOYOAPICAIOYKOMICA® **POTEPOICEXAPICATOTIC®** OF-THE PHARISEE requiting (FETCH-He-graces ANY Bs omit on A him WILL-BE-CAAABACTPONMYPOYKAI® ΟΥΝΑΥΤΦΝΕΠΙΠΛΕΙΟΝΑΓΑ® THEN OF-them 38 ing) ALABASTER OF-ATTAR ON MORE WILL-BE-A BESIDE THE FEET OF-THE JESUS BEHIND LOVING СТАСАОПІСШПАРАТОУСПО ΠΗCEΙΑΥΤΟΝΑΠΟΚΡΙΑΘΙC® BESIDE THE 43 LOVING STANDING him BEHIND answering BS AYTOY OF Him for OF THE JESUS AACTOYIHCOYKAALOYC AT 20 B omits YET Bs omit THE DEOCIMONEITTENYTOAAMB 20 YET THE SIMON OF-THE JESUS LAMENTING tosaid I-AM-UNDER-GETTING begins to-be-raining the feet of-Him to-the tears OIC DAKPYCINHPEATOBPE" ANDOTIOTONÄËIONEXAPI« THE TEARS begins TO-REthat to-whom THE MORE **ΧΕΙΝΤΟΎ** CΠΟΔΑ CΑΥΤΟΎΚΑ ⁶⁰ **CATQO∆€€ΙΠΕΝΑΥΤΦΟΡ**ΘΦ® BAINING THE PERT THE YET said to-him ERECTIV в+С ITAICOPIZINTHCKEOAAH® CEKPINACKAICTPAGEICH® HAIRS OF-THE HEAD 44 YOU-JUDGE AND BEING-TURNED TO-CAYTHCE ZEMACCENKAIK A400 POCTHNTYNAIKATUCIMON 900 WOMAN or-her she-our-wires AND DOWN-WARD THE to-THE SIMON **ІЕФНВ**ЛЕПЁІСТА**У**ТНИТНИ№ ΤΕΦΙΛΕΙΤΟΥ CΠΟΔΑ CAΥΤΟ 20 He-AVERBED YOU-ARE-looking this or-Him FONDED THE PEET TYNAIKAEICH ABONG OYEI 4 YKAIHAEIФENTWMYPWIAW# 39 AND PERCEIV-WOMAN I-INTO-CAME OF-YOU INTO RUBBED to-THE ATTAR B to-ME |

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feeble, because he had no dire sense of sin. Without in the least encouraging or countenancing sin, we must acknowledge its place in God's purpose to establish and strengthen cordial relations between Himself and His creatures, and such communion as is quite out of the question by any other means. And the more serious the sin the more certain and loyal will be our love to the One Who delivers us from it. This is the only revealed or rational solution of the temporary presence of sin.

- 44 An honored guest would not only be given water, but would have had his feet washed by a slave; he would have been given a kiss of welcome by his host; and he would have been sprayed or rubbed with the fragrant essential oils or attars which are so common among the upper classes in the Orient. All these Simon had neglected, manifesting the poverty of his appreciation. All these the woman supplied in lavish measure and method, and so manifested the opulence of her love.
- ⁴⁸ Undoubtedly, according to the parable, the Lord deals graciously with Simon as well as with the sinner. But it is to her alone He speaks the word of pardon and salvation. And, lest her act, the fruit of her faith, be confounded with it and be made the ground of her salvation, He concludes, "Your faith has saved you."
- ² Compare Mt.27⁵⁵, ⁵⁶Mk.16⁹.
- 2 Many of the Lord's disciples have been misjudged, but the case of Mary Magdalene seems to be the most fla-The name now stands for a repentant harlot, whereas there is not the least ground for fastening such a sin on Mary Magdalene. She was a demoniac. Seven demons had gone out of her. Now she, with other women, followed Him and the apostles in their journeys. They seem to have had the honor of supplying His wants out of their own wealth. This does not at all accord with the account of the woman who was a sinner in the city of Simon the Pharisee (737). Mary was from Magdala, on the western shore of the lake of Galilee, not far from Tiberias.
- 4-8 Compare Mt.131-9Mk.41-9.
- 5 The parable of the sower seems to have been repeated with some varia-

45 off with her hair; you do not give Me a kiss, yet she, since I entered did not intermit fondly kissing My

46 feet; you rub not My head with oil, yet she rubs My feet with

⁴⁷ attar. On behalf of which, I am saying to you, her many sins have been pardoned, seeing that she loves much. Now to whom there is scant pardoning, there is scant

48 loving." Now He said to her, "Your sins have been pardoned."

49 And those lying back at table with Him begin to be saying among themselves, "Who is this who is

50 pardoning sins, also?" Now He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go into peace."

And it occurred consecutively, He also traverses by city and village, proclaiming and preaching the evangel of the kingdom of God, and with Him the twelve, and some women who have been cured of wicked spirits and infirmities: Mary, who is called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had come out, and Joanna, wife of Chuza, Herod's manager, and Susanna and many others, who dispensed to Him out of their possessions.

Now a vast throng being together, and those of the city going out to Him, He said through a parable, "The sower came out to sow his seed, and in his sowing, some indeed, falls beside the road and was trampled, and the flying creatures of heaven devoured it. And other falls down on the rock, and, sprouting, is withered because of

30001 LUKE'S ACCOUNT CHAPTERS 7-8 NBACIACIANTOYOCOYKAI® **ΣΕΝΜΟΥΤΟΥΟΠΟΔΑCΚΑΙΤΑ**²⁰ KINGdom OF-THE God OF-ME THE FRET AND A H ICOPIZINAYTHCG ZGMAZG# OIAQAEKACYNAYTQKAIFY* OR-her 2 THE TWO-TEN TOGETHER to-Him AND OTIT-WIPES NOTAHMAMOTOYKEA@KACA® NAIKECTINECAIHCANTER® 45 FOND-effect to-MR NOT YOU-GIVE WHO WERE ΥΤΗΔΕΆΦΗ**CEICH**ΛΘΟΝΟΥΔ® GPATIGYMEN ALATIOTINGYMA® YET FROM WHICH I-INTO-CAME one NOT THRUbeen-cured FROM spirits 8 AKAOAPTWN unclean ΙΕΛΙΠΕΝΚΑΤΑΦΙΛΟΥCAMO™ TONTIONH PONKATACOENEI 500 DOWN-FONDING wicked AND IIN-FIRMS **ΥΤΟΥ**CΠΟΔΑCΕΛΑΙ ΦΤΗΝΚΕ²⁰ **WANTED THE STATE OF THE STATE** to-OLIVE (oil) THE 46 THE PERT HEAD MARY THE beING-CALLED MAGDA-ΦΑΛΗΝΜΟΥΟΥΚΗΛΈΙΨΑC ΑΥ« ΔΑΛΗΝΗ**λΦΗ** CΔΑΙΜΌΝΙ Άς π# this-FROM WHOM demons OF-ME NOT YOU-RUR SEVEN 8 OF-ME THE FEET THACMYPOHACIYENTOYCH® TAE ZE∧H∧Y06|KA||@ANN® FEET 3 one YET to-ATTAR RUBS THE HAD-OUT-COME AND JOANNA 81* CITION ΟΛΑΚΜΟΥΟΥΧΑΡΙΝΛΕΓΦΟΟ® **ALANHXOATSELLEDOUOAH®** OF-ME OF-WHICH grace I-AM-SEVING to-YOU WOMAN OF-CHUSA permitter *1* O B THE misses or-her LAGE ONTALAYTHCALAMAP 200 P@∆OYKAICOYCANNAKAI6™ HAVE-heen-FROM-LET OF-her THE misses HEROD AND SUSANNA AND A Al for C ΤΙΔΙΔΙΠΟΛΛΔΙΟΤΙΗΓΔΠΗ20 TEPAIΠΟΛΛΑΙΑΙΤΙΝΕCAI²⁰ THE MANY that she-LOVES PERENT MANY WHO-ANY THRIT-B OIC for W **ΗΚΟΝΟΥΝΑΥΤ**ΨΕΚΤΨΝΥΠΑΡ 40 **CEΝΠΟΛΥΦΔΕΟΛΙΓΟΝΆΦΙΑ**# to-Him to-whom yet few IS-being-from- SERVED OUT OF-THE belongings ε¹ ΦN ο. s1* o. B adds KAI AND ΤΑΙΟΛΙΓΟΝΑΓΑΠΑΘΙΠΕΝΔ® XONTONAYTĂÎČCYNÎONTO® 48 LET FEW IS-LOVING He-said YET to-them OF-TOGETHER-BEING **EAYTHA¢EĞNTAICOYAIAM® CΔ6ΟΧΛΟΥΠΟΛΛΟΥΚΑΙΤΏΝ**[®] HAVE-been-FROM-LET OF-YOU THE misses YET OF-THRONG MANY AND APTIAIKAIHP £ ANTOOICY 300 KATAHOAINEHIHOPEYOME 800 begin THE ORES-TOaccording-to city OF-ON-GOING NONTIPOCAYTONE ITENAIA® NANAKEIMENOI ÆFEINEN® Him THRU GETHER-UP-LYING TO-BE-SAVING IN TOWARD He-said **EAYTOICTICOYTOCECTIN®** ΠΑΡΑΒΟΛΗ CEZHAΘENOCHE this 5 BESIDE-CAST OUT-CAME THE ONS-B2+C very small OCKAIAMAPTIA CAOIHCIN® IPONTOYCHEIPAITONCHO® IS-FROM-LETTING OF-THE TO-SOW WHO AND misses seed B8 0. 8 0 **EITHENDETPOCTHNTYNAIK®** PONE AYTOYKAIENT CHEIN or-self IN THE TO-BE-SOW-ING AND

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tions on various occasions at this period of His ministry. He had been proclaiming the kingdom for some considerable time and had noted the effects of His message. This is the gist of the parable. The picture presented was one so common that all His hearers were familiar with it. The roads ran right through the fields. rocks and the thorns were plentiful. Every Spring they could see this parable repeated before their eyes. usual to use this parable indiscriminately of every proclamation of the evangel. But that is surely a serious error. The evangel is preached today to open blind eyes to the salvation of Christ. This parable was spoken that, hearing, they should not be understanding. Only those who already believe can grasp the meaning of a parable. Even they often fail to apprehend its force. The disciples did not understand. How, then, could the multitude possibly discern its hidden meaning?

In Israel the festivals represented a cycle of their spiritual history. First-fruits and Pentecost and Ingathering were intended to tell of a spiritual harvest. Now He tells them of the sowing of the seed. There is only one Sower.

The usual elements of opposition were present when the Lord proclaimed the kingdom. The Slanderer, the flesh and the world were the three forces that frustrated His First, there was the opposition of the Slanderer that hindered many from believing at all. Among these were the scribes and Pharisees whom He called the children of the Slanderer, and whom John the baptist had called the offspring of vipers. Then, there was the mass of His disciples who, indeed, believed, in a sense, yet were not fit for the kingdom. The kingdom can be entered only through great trial and it will be most difficult for a rich man to get in. The great affliction (Un. 7 14) will take its toll of the half-hearted, leaving only the poor and honest hearts for the kingdom. Any attempt to "apply" this parable to the present grace will find its chief interest in the confusion that it creates. The kingdom proclamation demands ance; the evangel of God's grace supplies it.

7 having no moisture. And other falls in the midst of thorns, and, sprouting together, the thorns

smother it. And other falls into good earth, and, sprouting, produces fruit a hundredfold." Saying these things, He shouted, "Who has ears to be hearing, let him be hearing!"

Now His disciples inquired of Him, saying, "What may this par-

able be?"

Now He said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, yet to the rest by parables, that, observing, they should not be observing, and hearing, they should not be understanding.

11 Now this is the parable: The 12 seed is the word of God. Now they beside the road are they who hear; thereafter the Slanderer is coming and is picking up the word from their heart, lest, believing,

13 they may be saved. Now that on the rock are they who, whenever they should be hearing, are receiving the word with joy, and these have no root, who are believing for a season, and in a season of trial

¹⁴ are withdrawing. Now that falling among thorns, these are they who hear and, being stifled by worries and riches, and by the gratifications of the life they lead, and are bringing nothing to maturity.

Now that in the ideal earth, these are they who, in an ideal and good heart, hearing the word, are retaining it and are bearing fruit with endurance.

Now no one lighting a lamp is covering it with a vessel or is placing it underneath a couch, but is placing it on a lampstand, that those going in may be observing

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- 9-10 Compare Mt.1310-17Mk.410-13Isa.69. 11-12 Compare Mt.1318,19Mk.414,15.
- 13 Compare Mt.1320,21Mk.416,17.
- 14-15 Compare Mt.1322,23Mk,418-20,
- 16-18 Compare 1133-36Mt.515,16Mk.421-25.
- 16 To enable His disciples to discern the difference between the fruitful and unfruitful hearers, He gives a further illustration. The hearty believer places his light on a stand. He makes the message known. The half-hearted one is slothful. He hides it under a couch. The worldly one puts his business first, and hides it under a vessel. These two shall lose the light they have, but the former shall receive more light.
- 17 Compare 122Mt.1026.
- 18 Compare 1926Mt.13122529.
- 18 In grace no one is deprived of the light he has, no matter how feebly it may flicker, yet the other part of the principle applies to all. He who has some light is on the way to further illumination.
- 19 The crowding out of His physical relations is symbolic of the trend of His ministry at this time. He was allying Himself with those of like spirit, and strengthening His union with them.
- 22-25 Compare Mt.818-27Mk.435-41.
- 23 A lovely little likeness we have here of that great spiritual storm which engulfed them at His crucifix-The wind would represent the unseen powers of evil, one of which entered into Judas, and the waters the people who were whipped into fury under their influence. Had the Lord been absent, as on another occasion, we would refer this trial to the time of the end. But He is with them. Does not His sleep speak of His death, and the consternation of the apostles the fear which His decease inspired? And His awakening—did not His resurrection proclaim Him Sovereign over all the powers of evil? Not only wind and wave, but sovereignties and dependencies obey His will.
- 26-31 Compare Mt.828,29Mk.51-10.
- ²⁶ Some manuscripts read Gadarenes for Gergesenes, or Gerasenes. Gadara is usually identified with the modern Um Keis, a place about three hours' travel from the lake shore on the far

- ¹⁷ the light. For there is nothing hid which shall not become apparent, neither concealed which should not by all means be known and come to
- be apparent. Beware, then, how you are hearing! For whoever may have, to him shall be given, and whoever may not have, from him shall be taken away also what he is supposing to have."

Now His mother and His brothers came along to Him, and they were not able to fall in with Him be-

- ²⁰ cause of the throng. Now it was reported to Him, saying that "Thy mother and Thy brothers stand outside wanting to see Thee."
- Now, answering, He said to them, "These are My mother and My brethren, who are hearing and doing the word of God."
- Now it occurred on one of the days, He, as well as His disciples, stepped into a ship, and He said to them, "We may be passing through to the other side of the
- ²³ lake.' And they set out. Now while they are sailing He falls asleep, and a storm of wind descended to the lake, and they were foundered and in danger.
- Now, approaching, they rouse Him, saying, "Doctor! Doctor! We are perishing!" Now, being roused, He rebukes the wind and the surging of the water, and they cease, and it became calm. Now He said to them "Where is your faith?" Yet, being afraid, they marvel, saying to one another, "Who, consequently, is this, seeing that He is enjoining the winds also, and the water, and they are obeying Him!"
- And they sail down into the country of the Gergesenes, which is across from Galilee.
- Now at His coming out on the

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side of the Jermuk river. This location does not at all suit the circumstances surrounding this miracle. Except at Tiberias there is no overhanging cliff on lake Galilee, but at the site of some ancient ruins called Chersa there is a steep declivity, and beyond the ruins are tombs in the mountain side. This site is "across from Galilee", on the eastern shore of the lake. The shore is so narrow at the base of the mountain that a herd of hogs, rushing down its steep sides, would not be able to stop before being drowned in the water. These facts, together with the manuscript evidence, seem sufficient to justify us in adopting the reading Gergesenes, rather than the usual Gadarenes.

28 The demons never seemed to be at a loss to identify the Lord. It might take a miracle to make men admit Him to be the Messiah. Few saw Him to be God's Son. But the demons usually insisted on giving Him this title and acknowledged His authority over them. In spiritual intelligence they were certainly far superior to any of His disciples. Hence they feared Him, realizing the lawlessness of their obsession of human beings.

In some abnormal trance states it is possible for a person to entirely yield control of his body to another mind. In this condition the thoughts of the directing mind find a response in the subject, before they can be uttered and conveyed through the usual channels. If one man can control another in this fashion, it is not difficult to see how demons can break down the human will and impose themselves on their victims. This was largely the case before the deluge, and is the reason why mankind was given a flesh diet thereafter. The present time is characterized by the activity of deceiving spirits (1 Ti.41). Satan is transfigured into an angel of light, and those under him seek to simulate the operations of God's holy spirit.

32-33 Compare Mt.830-32Mk.511-15Lev.117-81 Ki.2222.

32 Hog raising was contrary to the law of Moses. Swine were unclean animals, unfit for food. Hence the Lord was quite justified in being the cause of their destruction. Indeed, there was a fitness in furnishing the unclean demons with unclean habitations.

land, there meets Him a certain man out of the city who had demons, and for a considerable time puts on no cloak, and remained in no house, but in the tombs.

Now, perceiving Jesus, and crying out, he prostrates to Him and said in a loud voice, "What is it to me and to Thee, Jesus, Son of God Most High? I am beseeching Thee, Thou shouldst not be tormenting me." For He charged the unclean spirit to be coming out of the man, for many times it had gripped him, and he was bound with chains and fetters, under guard, and bursting through the bonds he was driven by the demon into the wildernesses.

Now Jesus inquires of him, saying, "What is your name?" Now he said "Legion", seeing that many demons entered into him.

31 And they entreated Him that He should not enjoin them to be com-

ing away into the abyss.

Now there was a considerable herd of hogs there, grazing on the mountain, and they entreat Him that He should permit them to be entering into them. And He per
33 mits them. Now the demons, coming out from the man, entered into the hogs, and the herd rushes down the precipice into the lake and was smothered.

Now the graziers, perceiving what has occurred, fled and report it in the city and in the fields. Now they came out to perceive what has occurred, and they came to Jesus and they found the man, from whom the demons came out, garmented and sane, sitting at the feet of Jesus, and they were afraid. Yet

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34-37 Compare Mt.833,34Mk.514-17.

34 It is evident that the Gergesenes thought more of their hogs than of human beings. It is likely that there were other herds and other lawless practises which His presence would condemn. How terrible is the perversity that prefers darkness to light, because of the evil which it harbors! He seems to have remained but a little while, acceding to their request, but He does not leave them without a witness to His power and love, for the erstwhile demoniac carries on the work by proclaiming his cure to the whole city. The Lord seldom visited that side of the lake and may never have preached to them again.

38-39 Compare Mk. 518-20.

40 Compare Mt.91Mk.521.

41-42 Compare Mt.918Mk.522-24.

41 Undoubtedly, there is an intended contrast between this Jew, with the highest of privileges, who is at the head of a synagogue in Capernaum. and the centurion proselyte who had built them a synagogue. But the centurion is humble and confident in the Lord's power. He did not deem himself worthy of having the Lord enter his home. He saw no necessity for One so great as He to come into personal contact with the case. He recognized His lordship. As a result he received an instantaneous response. His slave was healed immediately (72-8). Not so Jairus. The centurion felt unqualified to come himself, but Jairus comes and casts himself at His feet, and desires His presence in his house. Surely the chief of the synagogue is worthy to have Him enter his home! Had his equaled the centurion's, daughter could have been saved long before. He is delayed. The throngs are so thick that He cannot hurry. So it is with Israel. Their faith is feeble. They cannot grasp His power to bless unless He is present.

⁴³ Meanwhile one who has a larger measure of faith is healed. Whether guided by intuition or by intelligence, she touches the tassel of His cloak. The "blossom", a fringe or tassel, was put on all garments as a reminder of the commandments (Nu.1587-41). On it was a ribbon of blue. The robe speaks of righteousness, the fringe or

those also who are perceiving how the demoniac was saved report to ³⁷ them. And the entire multitude of the country about the Gergesenes asks Him to be coming away from them, seeing that they were pressed with a great fear.

Now He, stepping into the ship, returns. Now the man from whom the demons had come out besought Him to be with Him, yet Jesus dismisses him, saying, "Be returning to your home and relate how much God does for you." And he came away to the whole city proclaiming how much Jesus does for him.

40 Now it occurred, at Jesus' return, the throng welcomes Him, for they were all hoping for Him.

41 And lo! a man came whose name was Jairus, and he possessed the chieftainship of the synagogue.

And, falling at the feet of Jesus, he entreated Him to be entering

42 into his house, seeing that he had

an only begotten daughter of about twelve years, and she died.

Now, at His going away, the throngs stifled Him, and a woman having a hemorrhage for twelve years, whose whole livelihood being consumed by physicians, has not the strength to be cured by any one. Approaching from behind, she touches the tassel of His cloak, and instantly her hemorrhage was stanched.

⁴⁵ And Jesus said, "Who touches Me?" Now, at all denying it, Peter and those with Him, said, "Doctor, the throngs are pressing Thee and jostling, and art Thou ⁴⁶ saying "Who touches Me?" Yet

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tassel of its finish. Indeed, the Hebrew word for blue is formed from the word which means to finish. which finished or completed our Lord's righteousness was His obedience to death. So that the woman may well figure that remnant in Israel who receive the salvation of their souls while the nation lies dead (1 Pet. 19). The soul (not life) of the flesh is in the blood (Lev. 1714). Hers was a salvation of blood by blood. His suffering provided a blood redemption for the faithful few while the nation as such waited for redemption by power.

43-48 Compare Mt.920-22Mk.525-34.

49-50 Compare Mk. 535,36.

49 The hopelessness of Israel's state is well figured by death. If we take all the disabilities and diseases which are given as signs of her spiritual condition, their sum would be death. And it is notable that in this case, as well as that of Lazarus, there was delay on His part. This is most marked with Lazarus, and there the Lord gives us the reason for His deliberate delay. He did not want to cure Lazarus: He wanted him to die, in order that God's glory might be manifested thereby (Jn. 114).

So it is with Israel nationally. He could long ago have come and restored them to life. But, for their greater good and God's greater glory, He is deliberately delaying His return. He will wait until their condition is beyond all human help, until its very hopelessness will proclaim the power of His salvation.

51-56 Compare Mt.923-26Mk.537-43.

1-6 Compare Mt.101-15Mk.67-13.

Hitherto, it seems, the apostles had remained with him as disciples, to learn His words and ways. Now, however, they are empowered as apostles, to represent Him and carry the proclamation into communities which He Himself did not visit. We can well imagine the ardor with which they would assume their new powers and responsibilities. This was not a general commission for all time. It continued only so long as He Himself proclaimed the kingdom and was withdrawn when it was rejected and He made known His sufferings. In that the apostles could take no part.

Jesus said "Someone touches Me, for I knew that power has come out

47 from Me." Now the woman, perceiving that she did not elude Him, came trembling, and prostrating to Him, reports in front of the entire people for what cause she touches Him, and so was healed instantly.

48 Now He said to her, "Courage, daughter! Your faith has saved

you! Go into peace!"

While He is still talking, someone of the chief of the synagogue is coming, saying to him that "Your daughter has died. Bother the

⁵⁰ teacher no longer." Yet Jesus. hearing it, answered him, saving. "Fear not, only believe, and she

shall be saved."

Now, coming into the house, He lets no one enter with Him except Peter and James and John and the father of the girl and the mother.

52 Now they all lamented and they grieved for her. Now He said, "Be not lamenting, for she did not

53 die, but is drowsing." And they ridiculed Him, being aware that

54 she died. Yet He, casting all outside and holding her hand, shouts,

55 saying, "Girl, be roused!" And her spirit turns back, and she rose instantly, and He prescribes that she

⁵⁶ be given something to eat. And her parents were amazed. Yet He charges them to tell no one what has occurred.

Now, calling together the twelve apostles. He gives them power and authority over all the demons and

to be curing diseases. And He commissions them to be proclaiming the kingdom of God and to be heal-

35001 LUKE'S ACCOUNT B JOHN AND JACOBUS EICTICOAYAMENOCMOYOD20 BONKAII WANNHNKAITONT 20 46 ING THE one-Touching OF-ME THE YET JOHN AND **EIHCOYCEITENHYATOMOY ΑΤΕΡΑΤΗ** CΠΑΙΔΟCΚΑΙΤΗΝ Φ TOUCHES OF-ME OF-THE girl AND THE TICEF OF A PE F NO NA Y NAMI® MHTEPAEKAAIONAETIANTE® for KNEW 52 MOTHER LAMENTED NG 16 YOYCAN ABILLITY CKAIEKONTONTOAYTHNOA® HAVING-OUT-COME FROM ME THEY-STRUCK-(themselves) her s1 omits perceiving to came A omits for ΔΟΥCAΔΕΗΓΥΝΗΟΤΙΟΥΚΕΛ 100 GEITTENMHKANIETEÖYFAP ... YET THE WOMAN that NOT CEIVING she-mas-He-said NO BE-YE-LAMENTING NOT for ABENTPEMOYCAHABENKAI²⁰ **ΆΠΕΘΆΝΕΝΑΛΛΆΚΑΘΕΥΔΕΙ**²⁰ OBLIVIOUS TREMBLING CAME she-FROM-DIED BITT she-is-down-lounging s omits WHICH to -FROM-ΠΡΟCΠΕCΟΥCAAΥΤΦΔΙΗΝΑ 40 KAIKATEFEAWNAYTOYEI∆® to-Him TOWARD-FALLING THRU WHICH 53 AND THEY-DOWN-LAUGHED or-Him ΙΤΙΑΝΗΨΑΤΟ ΑΥΤΟΥ ΑΠΗΓΓ® отесотіапенанен<u>а</u>утос: she-touches of-Him she-from-messag- 54 perceived that she-from-died BS omit OUT-CASTING to AND **ΕΙΛΕΝΕΝΦΠΙΟΝΠΑΝΤΟ**CΤΟ™ **ΔEEKB AΛΩΝΠΑΝΤΑCE ΞϢΚΑ™** ES IN-VIEW OF-EVERY THE YET OUT-CASTING ALL ΥΛΑΟΥΚΑΙΦΟΙΑΘΗΠΑΡΑΧΡ 200 IKPATHCACTHCX61POCAY*** PEOPLE AND AS WAS-HEALED instantly HOLDing OF-THE HAND HMAOΔEEIΠENAYTHΘΑΡCE²⁰ B C above line THEEOUNHEENAEFUNHTAL. THE YET He-said to-her SOUNDS BE-COURAGE-ING SAVING вН CETEI PEKAIENECTPEYEN® IOYFATEPHILCTICCOYCE* DATIGHTED THE BELIEF OF-YOU HAS-BE-ROUSING AND ON-TURNS s1 omits AND she-UP-STOOD instantly COKENCE TO PEYOYE I CE I P ... TORNEYMAAYTHCKALANEC® YOU BE-GOING INTO PEACE. THE spirit or-her AND she-HP-STOOD HNHNGTIAYTOYAAAOYNTO® THRAPAXPHMAKAIAIGTAE® 49 sтил of-Him instantly TALKING AND He-prescribes A ATIO FROM ENAYTHAOOHNAIOATEINK 800 CEPXETAITICHAPATOYAP 300 ANY chiefto-her TO-BE-GIVEN BESIDE THE TO-BE-EATING AND Bs omit to-him XICYNAΓΦΓΟΥΛΕΓΦΝΆΥΤΦ²⁰ AIE IECTHCANOIFONEICA® OUT-STOOD THE parents of-together-lead SAYING to-him OTITEONHKENHOYFATHPC* THE YET He-chargES that HAS-DIED THE DAUGHTER A omits -NOT-STILL OYMHKETICKYAAETONAIA ...

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The conditions under which the twelve apostles were sent forth had regard to the customs and usages of the land. They were going to their own countrymen and the most direct road to their hearts and confidence would be to depend entirely on their Such was the custom hospitality. then, and until very lately a poor peasant could travel all over that region without a purse, or provisions, or extra apparel. They slept in the same garments which they wore during the day. Strict etiquette demanded that every villager should invite them to eat with him. Indeed, on this point the Lord goes contrary to the established custom. To move from house to house would lead to much distraction and consume much time, so they remain in the first house they enter, so long as they are in the neighborhood. The villagers would not seriously object to this arrangement, for it saved them much toil and trouble. Each new lodging required special preparations and feasting and other courtesies which became burdensome and of no real benefit. Otherwise they were careful to keep the customs, and avoid needless persecution.

7-9 Compare 238Mt.141,2Mk.614-16.

Notwithstanding that John had exposed Herod's sin in marrying his brother Philip's wife, as well as all his other wickedness, and that Herod had locked up John in jail, the tetrarch had a high opinion of him and feared him and was sorry to be trapped into putting him to death (Mk. 620-26). He seems to have clung to the idea that the Lord was John, risen from the dead, and expressed a desire to make His acquaintance and was eager to see Him perform a miracle in his presence. It seems strange that he was not able to gratify his wish, and did not see the Lord until He stood before him on the night of His betrayal. Herod was glad indeed of the opportunity, but all his talking did not draw a single word from His mouth. That was the only sign that was given to Herod, and it should have sufficed (Isa.537):

He is hard pressed and He is humiliated, Yet He is not opening His mouth.

10-11 Compare Mt.1413-14Mk.630-34Jn.61-4.

3 ing the infirm. And He said to them, "Be picking up nothing for the road, neither staff, nor beggar's bag, nor bread, nor silver, nor

have two tunics apiece. And into whatever house you may be entering, be remaining there, and be

5 coming away thence. And as many as should not be receiving you, coming out from that city, twitch off even the dust from your feet for a testimony to them."

Now, coming out, they passed through each of the villages preaching the evangel and curing

everywhere.

Now Herod the tetrarch hears all that is occurring by Him, and was bewildered because it was said by some that John was roused from among the dead, yet by some that Elijah appeared, yet others that some prophet of the ancients arose.

Now Herod said, "John I behead, yet who is this about whom I am hearing such things?" And he sought to become acquainted with Him.

10 And, returning, the apostles relate to Him whatever they do and whatever they teach. And taking them along He retreats privately 11 into a city celled Botheride. Now

11 into a city called Bethsaida. Now the throngs, knowing it, follow Him. And, welcoming them, He talked to them concerning the kingdom of God, and those having need of a cure, He healed.

12 Now the day begins to be declining. Now the twelve, approaching, said to Him, "Dismiss the throng, that they, going into the villages and fields around, should be putting up for the night and finding

36001	LUKE'S A	CCOUNT	CHAPTER 9
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11 Bethsaida was probably situated on both sides of the mouth of the Jordan, as it enters the lake of Galilee. This makes it unnecessary to suppose there are two cities of the same name. Moreover there is a spot not far away which seems to answer to all that we know of the site. It is a desert place, not far from the lake, near a mountain, and a grassy spot large enough to seat the multitude.

12-17 Compare Mt.1415-21Mk.635-44Jn.65-13.

13 This is one of the seven signs of John's account, which were given to prove that He was the Messiah. is the true Bread, able to sustain His people even in a desert place. lesson in this sign is more marvelous still if we carefully compare it with a similar occasion, when four thousand were fed on seven cakes. astonishing thing is that the frag-ments left from feeding the greater number with the five cakes was much in excess of the fragments from feeding the smaller number with seven cakes. His power is not limited by the means He uses. We need never be discouraged because we have so little for Him to work with. On the contrary, He can do more with little than with much. Human aid hinders rather than helps Him.

18-20 Compare Mt.1618-19Mk.827-29.

18 At this point a gloomy cloud begins to throw its sombre shadow over the little band of true disciples. It has become increasingly evident that the throngs utterly fail to recognize Him as the Messiah. They eagerly eat the food which His power provides, but cannot understand His words. them He is no more than a wonderworking prophet. The power displayed in His prodigies amazed them, but the significance of His signs escaped them. They have rejected Him and His message. The pathway that led to a crown now leads to a cross. His messianic claims are laid aside. He actually warns them not to make Him known as the Christ. He enters the path of suffering. But, even as the multitude did not believe His words, so now His disciples fail to follow when He speaks of His death. The path to the cross was lonely. He could not make the message known, for His own apostles did not believe it.

forage, seeing that we are here in ¹³ a desolate place." Yet He said to them, "You be giving them to eat." Yet they say, "We have not more than five cakes and two fishes, unless we go and should be buying ¹⁴ food for all these people." For there were about five thousand men.

Now He said to His disciples, "Have them recline in groups of ¹⁵ about fifty apiece." And thus they ¹⁶ do, and cause all to recline. Now, getting the five cakes and the two fishes, looking up into heaven, He blesses them, and breaks them up, and gave to the disciples to place ¹⁷ before the throng. And they all ate and are satisfied. And twelve panniers of their surplus fragments were picked up.

And it occurred as He was praying alone, the disciples were together with Him, and Jesus inquires of them, saying, "Who are the 19 throngs saying that I am?" Now they, answering, say, "'John the baptist', yet others 'Elijah', yet others that 'some prophet of the 20 ancients rose'." Now He said to them, "Yet who are you saying that I am?" Now Peter, answering, 21 said, "The Christ of God". Now, warning them, He charges them ²² to tell no one this, saying that "The Son of Mankind must be suffering much and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes. and be killed, and be roused the third day."

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the kingdom.

21-25 Compare Mt.1619-26Mk.830-37. 23 With His prospects changed from a glorious kingdom to one of rejection and death, those of His disciples are altered, also. It will cost them much to follow Him in His path of rejection. It will mean daily renunciation of self. It will mean the carrying of a load which will bring them shame and suffering. Yet the highest honors of the kingdom are for such. Those who suffer with Him, reign with Him. If any of His disciples prefer to avoid this suffering and thus save his soul (not his life), he will lose the joys and honors of the kingdom. If any choose to lose or destroy his soul by association with Him in His rejection, he will

26-27 Compare Mt.1627,28Mk.838-91.

save it, for his place will be high in

²⁶ This is in anticipation, for hitherto there has been little cause to be ashamed of Him. To nerve them for the ordeal He gives them a glimpse of that future day when His shame will give place to glory, when He, instead of being the despised Nazarene, will be the most glorious Potentate of all the earth. No one will be ashamed of Him then! Yet He will be ashamed of those who are not loyal to Him in His humiliation.

27 This solemn statement seems to have been the cause of endless speculation. To one who has intelligently followed the narrative thus far it seems most appropriate. Had the kingdom proclamation been received by Israel, then it surely would have been set up in that generation. Even though it is rejected, the proclaiming has been faithfully done, and demands recognition. The private life of our Lord was pleasing to God, so He publicly acknowledged Him at His baptism, saying "This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I delight!" We have now reached the conclusion of the kingdom proclamation, and what is more fitting than to give a foretaste of that day. and thus approve His ministry? in anticipation, the kingdom is set up.

Peter, in his second epistle, considers this scene as a confirmation of the prophetic word. Not only will Christ have glory in the future day of His presence and power, but He has already been clothed with glory and

honor.

Now He said to all, "If anyone wants to be coming behind Me, let him disown himself and pick up his cross daily and be following Me.

²⁴ For whoever should be wanting to save his soul shall be destroying it, yet whoever should be destroying his soul on My account, he shall be

²⁵ saving it. For what is a man benefited, gaining the whole world, yet destroying or forfeiting himself?

For whoever should be ashamed of Me and of My words, of this one the Son of Mankind shall be ashamed, whenever He should be coming in the glory of Him and of the Father and of the holy messen-²⁷ gers. Now I am saying to you, truly there are some of those standing here who under no circumstances should be tasting death till they should be perceiving the kingdom of God."

Now it occurred about eight days after these sayings, taking along Peter and John and James also, He ascended into the moun-²⁹ tain to pray. And it occurred, in His praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His ³⁰ vesture glittering white. And lo! two men conferred with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, who, being seen in glory, spoke of His exodus, which He was about to be completing in Jerusalem.

Now Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep. Yet, becoming alert, they perceived His glory and the two men who stand with Him. And it occurred, as they were detached from Him, Peter said

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28-33 Compare Mt.171-4Mk.92-6.

33 Peter could not bear to hear the Lord speak of His sufferings, but here was a scene that was more to his lik-He desired to make it permanent, so proposes to build booths for the prophets and the Lord. But that was not at all the object in view. They were not yet occupied with the glory but with the Lord's suffering. Peter was premature. The time had not yet come. So the glory is swallowed up by a cloud, in which the solitary Sufferer appears alone. The Voice which came from heaven was a rebuke to Peter's proposal as well as an expression of the delight God had in His Son. Christ had been speaking to His disciples of His suffering, and Peter's words showed how utterly he ignored his Master's words. Moreover. he seemed to put Moses and Elijah on a level with the Lord. So the Voice directs him away from them, and they vanish from the scene.

34-36 Compare Mt.175-9Mk.97,82 Pt.116-18. 87-42 Compare Mt.1714-18Mk.914-27.

37 What a change awaits Him when He descends from the glories of the holy mountain! There He was enveloped in the majesty and dignity of His high station. There He found Moses and Elijah in fellowship with the thoughts that filled His mind. Now thoughts that filled His mind. He veils His glory and descends to a curious throng and to unbelieving disciples, the best of whom ignored the heavy cloud which hung over His The first thing which meets soul. Him suggests the change which has come over the spirit of His ministry. His disciples have been unable to cope with the evil spirit. Undoubtedly the unseen world of wickedness was well aware of the fact that they had succeeded in turning the leaders and people against Him. Hence the spirit re-fuses to obey the disciples. But their time had not yet fully come, so He rebukes the unclean spirit and heals the This is a sign of the future failure of the kingdom proclamation under the apostles, as detailed in the book of Acts. As their message was refused by the nation, the signs and miracles which accompanied its proclamation gradually vanished. will not be restored until His presence in the future.

to Jesus, "Doctor, it is ideal for us to be here. And we should be making three tabernacles, one for Thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not being aware what he is ³⁴ saying. Now at his saying these things a cloud came and overshadows them. Now they were afraid

at their entering into the cloud.

And a voice came out of the cloud saying, "This is My chosen Son—
be hearing Him." And at the coming of the voice, Jesus was found alone. And they hush, and in those days they report nothing to any one of what they have seen.

Now it occurred on the next day, at their coming down from the mountain, a vast throng meets
with Him. And lo! a man from the throng implores, saying, "Teacher, I beseech Thee, look on my son, for he is my only begotten!

³⁹ And *lo!* a spirit is getting him, and suddenly he is crying out and it is tearing and convulsing him, with froth, and is departing with difficulty from him, crushing him.

40 And I besought Thy disciples that they should cast it out and they could not."

Now, answering, Jesus said, "O unbelieving and perverted generation, till when shall I be with you and bear with you? Lead your son

42 here to Me." Yet, while He is still approaching, the demon tears and violently convulses him. Yet Jesus rebukes the unclean spirit and He heals the boy and gives him back to

⁴³ his father. Now they were all astonished at the magnificence of God.

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45 The Lord was not misled by the amazement of the multitude. He knew their fickleness and unbelief. But He was concerned more particularly that His disciples should not be deceived by the great impression which His miracle had produced. Coming immediately after the marvelous manifestation in the mountain, Peter, James. and John would naturally come to the conclusion that this was the time to restore the kingdom. They evidently were entirely unaware what "exodus" Moses and Elijah had been talking to Him about. So the Lord solemnly prefaces His repeated declaration of His sufferings with a request that they take due note of the present applause, and contrast it with the bitter words that were about to break forth after His betrayal, so that they, too, may learn what is in man, and learn to put no confidence in the flesh.

Now and again a "plain scripture" is asked for to prove a point of doctrine, on the supposition that no one could refuse to believe if such were pro-But alas, unbelief can stare the plainest passage out of countenance and never see its force. So the disciples were being continually reminded, in the plainest speech, that He was to suffer and die. but it did not affect them enough to

arouse their questions.

46 This was a most shameful proceeding! How could the disciples think of nothing but their own exaltation at the very time that He was seeking to engage their hearts with His humiliation? In some sense, it is a far more miserable manifestation of human perversity than the unbelief of the multitude.

49 It could have been nothing less than pride and jealousy that caused the disciples to forbid any one to use the Lord's name in casting out de-Perhaps they were smarting under their own failure, while the Lord was in the holy mountain. John seems to speak of it in a kind of confession, wrought by the Lord's rebuke. They wished to be greater than others, and each one wished to be the greatest of them all. While He was descending into the depths alone, craving their understanding and sympathy, they were seeking for place and power with no thought of paying the price.

Now at their all marveling at all which Jesus did, He said to His dis-44 ciples, "You be laying up these sayings in your ears, for the Son of Mankind is about to be betrayed in-45 to the hands of men." Yet they were ignorant of this declaration, and it was screened from them, that they should not be sensing it, and they were afraid to ask Him concerning this declaration.

Now a reasoning entered among them, which of them should be 47 greater. Now Jesus, perceiving the reasoning of their hearts, getting hold of a little child, stands it 48 beside Himself, and said to them, "Who ever should be receiving this little child in My name, is receiving Me, and who ever should be receiving Me is receiving Him Who commissioned Me. for he who possesses more of littleness among you all, he is great."

Now, answering, John "Doctor, we perceived someone casting out demons in Thy name, and we forbade him, seeing that he

50 is not following with us." Yet Jesus said to him, "Be not forbidding, for who is not against you is for you."

51 Now it occurred in the fulfillment of the days of His taking up, and He fixes His face steadfastly

52 to go to Jerusalem. And He dispatches messengers before His face. And, being gone, they entered into a village of the Samaritans,

53 so as to make ready for Him. And they receive Him not, seeing that His face was going to Jerusalem.

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VILLAGE OF-SAMARITARIS

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51 As the Jews are not beholden to the Samaritans (Jn.49), it is no wonder that they retaliated at times and would have no intercourse with But in this case there seems to have been a special reason. Jews worshiped in Jerusalem and the Samaritans claimed that Mt. Gerizim was the proper place to worship. It was just before the feast of Tabernacles, and caravans of Jews were going through Samaria, from Galilee, to worship at Jerusalem. Hence the affront offered to His disciples. But the Lord had very kindly feelings toward the Samaritans and had disciples among them (Jn. 439-42).

54 The long standing antagonism between the two peoples finds expression in this harsh proposal. It goes to show how feebly even the dearest of His disciples, one of whom is sometimes called the apostle of love, followed the gracious spirit of His mission. It is of the utmost importance that we do not follow Biblical examples blindly, but discriminate spirit which becomes us in Christ. 58 The Son of Mankind is the allottee of all the power and dignity forfeited by Adam. The beasts of the field and the birds of the air are among the meanest subjects in His dominion, for Adam was lord not only of his posterity, but of the whole creation under heaven. He named the animals and they obeyed him. As the eighth psalm

Thou art causing him to rule what
Thy hands have made.
Thou dost put all under his feet,
Sheep and cows—all of them—
And even the beasts of the field,
The birds of the heavens, and the fish
of the sea,
That which crosses the paths of the
seas.

What pathos lies in this comparison! The lowest creatures in His realm are provided for, yet He, their Head, is homeless, and without a place to pillow His head!

⁵⁹ Only about half a year remained of His ministry. He was on His way to the feast of Tabernacles, and six months later, at the Passover festival, He was to be offered up. Hence He urges the utmost diligence. The social ceremonies of entombment and leavetaking were tedious and distracting at such a crisis.

54 Now His disciples, James and John, perceiving it, say, "Lord, art Thou willing—may we be calling fire to descend from heaven and consume

55 them as Elijah also does?" Now, being turned, He rebukes them.

⁵⁶ And they went into a different village.

And at their going in the road, some one said to Him, "I shall be following Thee wherever Thou mayest be coming away, Lord!"

58 And Jesus said to him, "The jackals have burrows, and the flying creatures of the heaven roosts, yet the Son of Mankind has not where He may be reclining His head."

59 Now He said to a different one, "Follow Me!" Yet he said, "Lord, permit me first to come 60 away to entomb my father." Yet He said to him, "Let the dead entomb their own dead. Yet you, coming away, be publishing the

kingdom of God."

Now a different one also said, "I shall be following Thee, Lord! Yet first permit me to take leave of those in my home." Yet Jesus said to him, "No one, putting his hand to the plow and looking behind, is fit in the kingdom of God."

10 Now after these things the Lord indicates seventy-two others also, and He dispatches them two by two before His face into every city and place where He was about to be entering. Now He said to them, "The harvest, indeed, is vast, yet the workers are few. Beseech then the Lord of the harvest, so that He

©ΠΟΝΑΥΤΟΥΗΝΠΟΡΕΥΟΜΕΝ²⁰

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YPIOYTOY86PICMOY0TWC 42000 ter OF-THE harvest WHICH-how 1 As the Lord was on His way to celebrate the festival of Ingathering, this was actually the time of harvest and He was comparing the physical to the spiritual state of the country. At harvest time there is much to do, so He appoints six times the original number of apostles to assist in the harvest work.

He has no illusions concerning the attitude of the people. They are hostile. They are wolves. Each house or city is now to be tested to see whether it contains friends or foes. In the case of a city there is a message for that which will not receive them, just the same as for that which will. The kingdom has drawn nigh whether they

will have it or not.

4 This must be understood in its oriental setting. To this day special messengers on important business are required to forego the formal flattery and tedious etiquette of the Eastern salaam. These salutations included endless inquires and as many answers. It was considered highly proper to intrude into any discussion and even take a part in any bargaining that happened to be under way. These instructions were quite necessary if these apostles are to discharge their mission.

The common custom of the East is for each villager to have the privilege of entertaining a stranger. And each move from house to house would stir up a great deal of pride and hypocrisy and lead to some ill feeling, besides taking much time and distracting them and destroying their efficiency. At each house they would be feasted and be indulged with a general good time, all of which was entirely out of harmony with the spirit of their mission.

12 The sins of Sodom were so terrible that fire has effaced its very site. Yet these sins were not as offensive in God's sight as the rejection of His messengers. One was sin done in darkness. The other was a sin against light. The judgment of God will be absolutely fair to all.

13 Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum, "His own city", were the most favored of all places, for in them most of His mighty works were done. Yet now they, like Sodom, have disappeared, so that their sites are in dispute. They are cast down to "hell".

should be thrusting workers into His harvest.

Go! Lo! I am dispatching you as lambs in the midst of wolves. Be bearing no purse, nor beggar's bag, nor yet sandals, and you should be greeting no one by the way.

Now into whatever house you may be entering, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if a son of peace should be there, your peace shall be resting on it, otherwise, it will come back again on you. Now be remaining in this house, eating and drinking what they have, for the worker is worthy of his wages. Be not proceeding from house to house.

And into whatever city you may be entering, and they should be receiving you, be eating what is placed before you, and be curing the infirm in it, and be saying to them, 'The kingdom of God has drawn near you.'

Now into whatever city you should be entering, and they should not be receiving you, coming out into its square, say, 'The dust also which is clinging to us out of your city we are wiping from our feet before you. Moreover, be knowing this, that the kingdom of God has drawn near you.' Now I am saying to you that it will be more tolerable for Sodom in that day than for that city.
Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to

you, Bethsaida! seeing that, if the powers which are occurring in you occurred in Tyre and Sidon, long ago they would repent, sitting in ¹⁴ sackcloth and ashes. Moreover, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the judgment than for ¹⁵ you. And you, Capernaum, are you

42 ⁰⁰¹	LUKE'S ACC	DUNT	CHAPTER 10
B ACTERS HE-SH'D-BE-OUT-CASTING EKBAAHEPFATACEI He-SH'D-BE-OUT-CASTING ACTERS INTO	CTONO ²⁰ FI	KENE ON YOUP THE	BACIACIA ²⁰
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17 But a short time before, nine of the apostles had tried without success to cast out a demon (940). The Lord had not specifically empowered the disciples for this work. Under these circumstances they had much cause to rejoice at the power in their posses-The Lord, being in intimate touch with the spirit world, had noted that its head had come down, no doubt at a signal of distress from his minions. This, of course, has no connection with the so-called "fall of Satan", of which we never read in the scriptures, but has reference to Satan's action in response to their ejection of demons in Christ's name. the power of the enemy, and what He and His disciples would yet suffer at his hands, our Lord seeks to put their joy on a more secure footing. Indeed, unless their names are engraven in heaven, and thus under the protection of the Almighty, these spiritual powers over which they are triumphing, will try them beyond endurance.

21 This is a most delightful glimpse of the inner thoughts of the Son of God. No doubt He had noticed from the very first that His message had little appeal to such as we would naturally suppose would be most eager and appreciative. He was continually clashing with the most intelligent classes. He had a following largely recruited from the lower stratum of society, the fellaheen, mostly fishermen and farmers, men who toiled for their living, while the professional scholars, scribes, priests, and teachers of the law, were antagonistic. Nevertheless, seeing that this was evidently God's will, He does not endure it, or bear with it, but acquiesces and exults. Let us not endure but enjoy the will of God, no matter how unsatisfactory it seems. He is working for His glory and His creatures' good. We desire success and recognition for our small share of service, with little thought of His larger purpose. It is God's way to turn the wisdom of the wise into folly, and to use that which is despised to effect His will, so that no flesh should be able to boast itself in His presence. The thought that God positively conceals His truth from some shows how impossible it is for His slaves to be "successful" in the accepted meaning of the term.

not being exalted to heaven? You shall subside to the unseen!

He who is hearing you is hearing Me. And he who is repudiating you is repudiating Me. Yet he who is repudiating Me is repudiating Him Who commissions Me."

Now the seventy-two return with joy, saying, "Lord, the demons also are subject to us in Thy name!"
Yet He said to them, "I beheld Sa-

tan as lightning falling out of heaven. Lo! I have given you authority
to be treading upon serpents and
scorpions and on the entire power
which is of the enemy, and nothing
will be injuring you under any circumstances. However, be not rejoicing in this, that the spirits are
subject to you. Yet be rejoicing

the heavens."

In this hour He exults in the holy spirit and said, "I am acclaiming Thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, seeing that Thou dost conceal these things from the wise and intelligent and dost reveal them to minors. Yea, Father, seeing that thus it became a delight in Thy

that your names are engraved in

presence!"

And being turned to the disciples He said, "All was given up to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and to whom the Son should be intending to unveil Him."

And being turned to His disciples, He said privately, "Happy are the eyes which are observing what
 you are observing! For I am saying to you that many prophets and kings want to be perceiving what you are observing, and they perceive not, and to hear of Me what

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AND TO-HEAR OF-ME WHICH YE-ARE-HEABING

25 A lawyer, or one versed in the law of Moses, especially in making it a burden for others than themselves (1146). would naturally be interested in the Lord's opinion as to what deeds would merit eonian life. From the standpoint of the law, this was very simple. Moses had written: "And keep My statutes. and My judgments: which a man should do, and live in them. I am Jehovah" (Lev.185). Hence the Lord reminds him of the law he is supposed to understand. He correctly comprehends the whole law in the greatest commandment-love to God-and its complement-love to man. The lawyer knew the law. All that he neded to do was to keep it! Could he keep the law he would never die. But the law was not given to impart life. It came to cause death.

But the law had evidently done some of the work for which it was really intended, and he is conscious that his love to his associate is not up to its standard. Instead of acknowledging this and taking refuge in God's grace, he seeks to justify his failing by a quibble as to who is included in the term "associate". Such quibbling was the stock in trade of the expounders of the Jewish law. They were always seeking a loophole to escape its rigid requirements.

To show him the futility of laws and ceremonies the Lord tells him the story of the good Samaritan. The Samaritans were cordially despised by the Jews, who would not be beholden to them at all (Jn.49). The lawyer would never acknowledge such to be his associate! But the Lord Himself was despised and rejected, hence He enters the story as a hated Samaritan.

The lawyer is the man who descended from Jerusalem to Jericho and is half dead. Jerusalem is the place of blessing and life. Such is his if he keeps the law. Jericho is the place of the curse. Such is his if he breaks the law, for "accursed is everyone who is not remaining in all things which have been written in the scroll of the law to do them" (Deut. 2726; Gal. 310). He is condemned even while he seeks to justify himself. He has hopes that the religious rites will help him. these are dashed to the ground when a priest comes along, but keeps as far from him as he can. The law does not you are hearing, and they hear not." And lo! a certain lawver rose. putting Him on trial and saving, "Teacher, by doing what should I enjoy the allotment of ²⁶ eonian life?" Now He said to him, "What is written in the law? How ²⁷ are you reading?" Now, answering, he said, "You shall be loving the Lord your God out of your whole heart, and in your whole soul, and in your whole strength, and in your whole comprehension, and your associate as yourself." 28 Now He said to him, "You answered correctly. This be doing

and you shall be living."

Yet he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my associate?"

Now Jesus, taking him up, said, "A certain man descended from Jerusalem to Jericho. And he falls among robbers, who, stripping him also, and pounding him, came away, leaving him half dead. Now, by a chance coincidence, a certain priest descended by that road, and, perceiving him, passed by on the other side. Now likewise, a Levite also, coming to the place and perceiving him, passed by on the other side.

Now a certain Samaritan, on his way, came by him, and perceiving him, he has compassion, and coming to him he bandages his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine. Now, mounting him on his own beast, he led him to a khan and had him cared for. And coming away on the morrow, extracting two denarii [about 31¢, 16d] he gives them to the khan keeper and said to him, 'Take care of him, and whatever you should be expending,

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44 ⁰⁰¹	LUKE'S	ACCOUNT	CHAPTER 10
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allow a priest to defile himself with the dead. It is not that he is hard hearted. His holy office brooks no defilement. The Levite likewise dare not be defiled with the dead. The lawyer will learn, when the law has had its full effect, that it cannot touch a man in his condition. These two men, like the law, came along casually, not to cure, but to condemn sin. But the Samaritan, that is, the Lord, was on a definite mission. The wounded man does not repel, but rather attracts Him, and draws out His compassion. He is not defiled and disabled by contact with death or sin. While the priest and Levite, with all their holiness, are helpless to manifest the love the law demands, the despised Samaritan, who would doubtless be hated by the helpless Jew under other circumstances, comes to his rescue and actually displays a love for his enemy which rises above the law's demands.

So does the Lord seek to drive the lawyer from his own defective doing, even his own reluctant love, to the real source of life, eonian and abundant, found in His grace and love as the Good Samaritan.

38 In Mary and Martha we have a much needed contrast between service and study, and our Lord's estimate of each. Service has its place, and Martha could hardly have been excused if she had not supplied His simple wants. But then, as now, His slaves are tempted to overdo service to the neglect of the more necessary and vital acquaintance with God's will which alone fits for the highest forms of service and worship. Service without a clear knowledge of God's plans is often worse than wasted, but a heart acquaintance with His grace is the preliminary to such worship as most gratifies His heart. The one thing most needful today, as then, is a close acquaintance with His word gained by humbly sitting at His feet.

² This, though usually called the Lord's prayer, is the disciples' prayer. Every part of it is in close accord with the kingdom ministry of our Lord and can be used intelligently only by those of the Circumcision who are anticipating the kingdom spoken of by the prophets.

The prayers for us to follow in our

at my coming back, I will be paying you.'

36 Which, then, of these three are you supposing to have become an associate of the one falling in 37 with the robbers?" Now he said, "The one who shows him mercy." Now Jesus said to him, "You also, go and be doing likewise."

Now, in their going, He entered into a certain village. Now a certain woman, named Martha, enter-

³⁹ tains Him in her house. And there was yet a sister called Mary, who, seated also at the Lord's feet, heard His word.

Now Martha was distracted about much serving. Now, standing by, she said, "Lord, art Thou not caring that my sister left me to serve alone? Then speak to her that she may be aiding me."

Now, answering, the Lord said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worrying and in a tumult concern-

⁴² ing many things. Yet there is scant need but of one thing. For Mary chooses the good part which shall not be wrested from her."

11 And He came to be in a certain place, praying. As He ceases, some of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, according as John also teaches his disciples."

Now He said to them, "When ever you may be praying, be saying, 'Our Father Who art in the heavens: hallowed be Thy name! Thy

kingdom come! Thy will come to pass, as in heaven, on earth also. Be giving us our daily dole of bread,

4 and pardon us our sins, for we, ourselves, also, are pardoning every one who is owing us. And bring us

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AND for SAME WE-ARE-FROM-LETTING topetitions are found in Ephesians (Eph. 1^{15-23} ; 3^{14-21}). All here is from the standpoint of earth: all there is from the vantage of heaven. These disciples will be used to enforce His will on earth: we will rule among the celestials. Even in regard to our present life, few of us can conscientiously ask for a daily dole of bread, for we are usually provided with more than that. We surely cannot ask for pardon, for that is an admission of guilt, and we have been pronounced not guilty, or justified. By no means can we base a request for pardon on our own lenience toward others, for our acquittal is by undiluted grace. And the last petition is a definite reference to the great affliction, which will precede the coming of the kingdom, in which we will not be involved. It is only those unacquainted with the calling above. which is ours in Christ Jesus, who can conscientiously repeat this form. cannot but cloud their apprehension of God's marvelous favor to the nations for the present secret economy to use a prayer every item of which is fitted for an entirely different administration. The custom of constantly repeating this prayer has done much to blind the minds of the saints to the great secrets which lie at the foundation of the truth for the present, and to confound justification with pardon. Those who are merely pardoned are on probation, and need continual renew-Those who are justified are at rest concerning their sins and need not pray continually for that which they already have.

11 The secret of acceptable prayer today is conformity to the will and purpose of God at this present time. If we ask amiss. He is not so unkind as to grant our requests, neither can He change His purpose to suit the whims of His erring children. To pray intelligently we must understand what He is about, and fall in line with His plans. No amount of importunity will swerve Him from His course, or pleading of His promises to others divert Him from His present operations. He cannot follow the advice offered by those ignorant of His ways and unresponsive to the transcendent grace which He is lavishing upon them. Those who know Him never advise Him.

not into trial, but rescue us from the wicked one'.''

And He said to them, "Which of you will be having a friend and will be going to him at midnight and may be saying to him, 'Friend, let me use three cakes, since, in fact, a friend of mine came along out of the road to me, and I have nought to place before him,' and he, inside, answering may be saying, 'Do not afford me weariness: the door has already been locked, and my little children are with me in bed; I cannot rise to give you'? I am saying to you, and if he will not rise to give to him because of his being his friend, surely because of his pestering, being roused, he will be giving him whatever he needs.

And I am saying to you, Be requesting, and it will be given to you. Be seeking and you will be finding. Be knocking and it will be opened to you. For everyone who is requesting is obtaining, and who is seeking is finding, and to the one knocking it will be opened.

Now, a son will be requesting some father among you for bread—will he be handing him a stone?
Or a fish, also—instead of a fish will he be handing him a serpent?
Or he will also be requesting an egg

—will he be handing him a scor13 pion? If you, then, belonging to the
wicked, are aware how to give good
gifts to your children, how much
rather will the Father out of heaven be giving holy spirit to those
requesting Him!"

And He was casting out a demon, and it was a deaf-mute. Now it occurred, at the coming out of the demon, the deaf-mute talks.

And the throngs marvel. Yet some from among them said, "By Beel-

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17 Few signs were so impressively suggestive of spiritual power as the casting out of demons. That they were the emissaries and subordinates of Satan is implied in our Lord's argument, and every one compelled to leave its victim was a sign of the ejection of Satan himself when the kingdom is set up. Indeed, the most important factor in the millennial reign is the absence of Satan, who will be bound during the entire period (Un. 201-3). From the primeval temptation in Eden up to that time, man's enmity to God is largely the result of wicked spiritual influences from without. Man is the pawn, played by Satan, in his efforts to overthrow God's sovereignty. To release mankind from this thralldom is the first essential to the establishment of a righteous government. Men's efforts are a dismal failure chiefly because they do not reckon with this unknown influence and could not cope with it even if they were aware of its presence.

Satan's influence over mankind will culminate when he is cast down to earth and, as the seven-headed dragon, assumes the leadership of man's campaign against God at the time of the end. Then it is that Christ will descend and cut his career short by confining him for the thousand years. Every time He or His disciples cast out a demon it was a foretaste of that blessed kingdom. Only a stronger One than Satan could invade his realm and defeat his deputies.

When they could not question the reality of His miracles, and must give some adequate cause, they became desperate, and committed the sin which could not be pardoned even in the coming eon. To attribute the work of God's spirit to Satan's power is the limit of iniquity.

24 Israel as a nation is here pictured as a man out of whom the unclean spirit of idolatry has been cast. Ever since the Babylonian captivity they have been held back from breaking the first commandment. But freedom from idolatry has not been followed by the worship of God. The place once occupied by idols is empty. At the time of the end the unbelieving nation will be forced to worship the image of the wild beast, and their state will be far worse than their previous plight.

zeboul, the chief of the demons, is he casting out the demons." Yet, answering, He said, "How can Satan be casting out Satan?"

Yet others, trying Him, sought a sign out of heaven from Him.
 Yet He, aware of their cogitations, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is being desolated, and house against house is

18 falling. Now if Satan, also, is divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand, seeing that you are saying I am casting out demons

by Beelzeboul? Now if *I*, by Beelzeboul, am casting out demons, by what are your sons casting them out? Therefore they shall be your

²⁰ judges. Now if *I*, by the finger of God, am casting out demons, consequently you have a foretaste of the kingdom of God.

Whenever the strong one armed may be guarding his own court-yard, his possessions are in peace.

²² Yet if ever a stronger than he should be coming on and conquering him, he is taking away his panoply in which he had confidence,

²³ and is distributing his spoils. He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who is not assembling with Me is scattering.

Whenever the unclean spirit may be coming out from a man, it is passing through waterless places, seeking and not finding rest, then it is saying, 'I will be returning into my house whence I came 25 out.' And coming, it is finding it unoccupied, swept and decorated.

²⁶ Then it is going and taking along seven other spirits with itself more wicked than itself, and entering, it

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YENTAKAIEICEABONTAKA 48000 BEYEN AND INTO-COMING IS-DOWN- 27 This is a delicate yet decisive thrust at the slightest tendency toward Mariolatry. Mary was indeed most blessed to be chosen to bear such a Son, but it was a physical relationship, such as He sustained in some slight degree to all who were descendants of Jacob. Happiness did not inhere in this. It springs from a spiritual source. Hence He ignores the remark as to Mary, and turns it so as to include His spiritual relatives.

29 These were hard sayings for the religious Jews. For such a saying His townsmen at Nazareth sought to kill Him (424-80). They could not bear to hear of blessing coming to gentile curs while they are passed by. They did not see that privilege, in itself, does not bring happiness. It entails suffering if it be unheeded or spurned. He who is under the light of law will be judged by its illumination. Those in darkness will not be held responsible for a light they never had.

31 The resurrection of judgment is not altogether a matter of condemnation. The queen of Sheba will be commended for coming to hear Solomon. The repentance of the men of Nineveh will be recognized and rewarded.

31 Solomon, with all his wisdom, cannot compare with his greater Son. His
reign closed under a cloud which
caused the division of the kingdom. He
did that which displeased Jehovah.
But Christ's wisdom extended beyond
His words to His ways. What He
said and did were both in constant accord with the mind of God.

32 Jonah's conduct, both before and after his proclamation, shows how lacking he was in sympathy with his message and the One Who sent him. Jonah was exceedingly displeased and very angry when he found that God was gracious and merciful and of great kindness, so that He actually did not fulfill His threats of doom. Jonah was angry again because a gourd was destroyed by a worm. He cared only for his own comfort, and, to him, the withering of the gourd which sheltered him was of more consequence than the destruction of the great city with its thousands of God's creatures. God's judgments are not vindictive but remedial. He does not desire to condemn but to save. Judgment is His strange work.

is dwelling there. And the last state of that man is becoming worse than the first."

Now it occurred as He is saying the se things, a certain woman out of the throng, lifting up her voice, said to Him, "Happy the womb which bears Thee, and the breasts which suckle Thee!" Yet He said, "Happy indeed, then, are they who are hearing the word of God

and are maintaining it!"

Now, the throngs being convened, He begins to be saying, "This generation is a wicked generation. It is seeking a sign, and a sign shall not be given to it except the sign of longh the prophet. For exampling

30 Jonah the prophet. For according as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, thus the Son of Mankind,

31 also, will be to this generation. The queen of the south will be roused in the judgment with the men of this generation, and will be condemning them, seeing that she came out from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and lo! more than Solomon is

32 here! Ninevite men will be rising in the judgment with this generation and they will be condemning it, seeing that they repent at the proclamation of Jonah, and lo! more than Jonah is here!

Now no one, lighting a lamp, is placing it in hiding, or under a measure, but on a lampstand, that those going in may be observing

34 the light. The lamp of the body is your eye. Whenever, then, your eye may be single, your whole body, also, is illumined, yet if ever it should be wicked, your body,

³⁵ also, is dark. Be noting, then, that ³⁶ the light in you is not darkness. If,

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NTOYOGOYKAIOYAACCONT 40
OF-THE GOD AND GUARDING
s1 adds TONAOFONTOYOGOYTHE SAVING OF-THE GOD
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29 OF-THE YET THRONGS bEING-ON-CONVENED

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OF-SOUTH WILL-BE-BEING-ROUSED IN

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MON AND BE-PERCEIVING MORE OF-

OAOMONOCOAEANA PECNIN 20 32 solomon here men nine-

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NCOICKOTOCECTINE IOYN 49000

36 That light may become darkness seems, at first sight, incomprehensible. But this was the case with the worst of our Lord's enemies, and is often true today. As an example, the truth that Christ should come from Bethlehem was a pure ray from the word of God. But His enemies turned it to dense darkness for themselves when they took it for granted that He had been born in Nazareth. What should have proven Him to be the Christ was made an argument to disprove it. the same way today many a precious truth is supposed to deny another, equally precious, because they seem to be irreconcilable. If the scribes had made a careful inquiry, as they should have done, they would have known that, though the Lord was reared in Nazareth, He was born in Bethlehem. And if we seek for the facts accurately and carefully, the truth which we have will not eclipse some other truth. Let us labor that the light in us does not become darkness.

38 Compare Mk. 71-8.

38 Baptism is simply ceremonial washing. The merest dipping of the hands in water would suffice for luncheon. No such ceremony was commanded by the law. It was one of the precepts of men which they had added to His statutes. The Pharisees made much of externals and non-essentials so as to have the appearance of sanctity. But their fastidiousness did not extend to the vital realities of life. Alas! not this the condition of the great religious world today? There is form and ceremony, but vital power is not present.

39 Compare Mt. 2325,26. 42 Compare Mt. 2323.

42 "Judgment" in this connection can only mean the correction of wrongs. There is no good English equivalent for the Greek word krisis. By leaving the term uniformly "judgment" we hope to rid it of the sense of condemnation and attach to it the neutral idea of executing justice to the deserving as well as the undeserving. Judgment awards for good as well as punishes for evil.

43 Compare Mt.236,7Mk.1238,39.

44 Compare Mt.2327,28.

45 English needs a special term to distinguish these teachers of the law of Moses from the legal profession. They seem to have been a special class tak-

then, your whole body is illumined, no part has any darkness. The whole will be illumined as whenever a lamp, in its flashing, may be illuminating you."

Now in His talk a certain Pharisee is asking Him to lunch with him. Now coming in, He leans back at table. Now the Pharisee, perceiving it, marvels that He is not first baptized before lunch. Yet the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees are cleansing the outside of the cup and the platter, yet your inside is brimming with rapactity and wickedness. Imprudent ones! Does not He Who makes

the outside make the inside also?

41 Moreover, be giving what is within for alms, and lo! all is clean to you.

But woe to you, Pharisees! seeing that you are taking tithes from mint and rue and all greens, and you are passing by judgment and the love of God. Now these you were obligated to do and not to be do devoid of those. Woe to you, Phar-

isees! seeing that you are loving the front seat in the synagogues, and the salutations in the markets. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypo-

crites! seeing that you are as the obscure tombs, and the men that are walking upon them are not aware of it,"

Now, answering, a certain one of the lawyers is saying to Him,

"Teacher, in saying these things, you are outraging us also." Yet He said, "Woe to you lawyers also! seeing that you are loading men with loads hard to bear, and you yourselves are not touching the

⁴⁷ loads with one of your fingers. Woe

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ing upon themselves what really pertained to the priesthood. The failure of the priests seems to have led to the rise of "lawyers" to expound the law of Moses, and to determine its application in practical life. This gave them an advantage of which they were not slow to avail themselves. Whenever men are given a divine monopoly they abuse it. When the exposition of the scriptures is usurped by a special class they not only fail to unfold them but they effectively hinder others from discovering the truth for themselves.

46 Compare Mt. 234.

47 Compare Mt. 2329-36.

51 Compare Gen. 482 Chr. 2420,21.

51 Men are to be judged by what they know as well as by what they do. To do that which you condemn in others convicts you of their crime as well as your own. Cain was a religious man: in fact he is the first to bring an offering to Jehovah (Gen. 43). But his works were evil (1 Jn. 312). The first murder was committed by an outwardly religious, but inwardly wicked man. It is rather remarkable that there were three different men, named Zacharias, murdered in the court of the temple. One was Zechariah the son of Jehoiada, who testified against them. And they conspired against him, and stoned him in the court of the house of the Lord. When he died he said "Jehovah is seeing and inquiring," which corresponds closely with "exacting", here used by our Lord (2 Chr.24²⁰-²²). As Chronicles is the end of the Hebrew canon, from Abel to this Zechariah would comprise all the religious murders of the book.

But the Zacharias here may be the same as in Matthew, where he is called the son of Berechiah, that is, the author of the book of Zechariah (Zech. 11). He also testified of their evil ways. We have no other record of the manner of his death, but our Lord knew that he was slain where only a priest could have done the deed. From Abel to this Zechariah would stretch over their whole inspired history.

Over thirty years later another Zacharias was foully slain in the outer temple (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book IV, chapter 5). This was near the end of their stay in the land.

52 Compare Mt. 2313.

54 Compare Mk. 1213.

to you! seeing that you are building the tombs of the prophets, yet 48 your fathers kill them. Consequently you are witnesses and are endorsing the acts of your fathers, seeing that they, indeed, kill them, yet you are building their tombs.

⁴⁹ Therefore, also, the Wisdom of God said, 'I shall be dispatching to them prophets and apostles, and they will be killing and banishing ⁵⁰ some of them,' that the blood of all

the prophets which is being shed from the disruption of the world may be exacted from this genera-⁵¹ tion, from the blood of Abel to the

blood of Zacharias, who perished between the altar and the house. Yea, I am saying to you, it will be 2 exacted from this generation. Work

52 exacted from this generation. Woe to you lawyers! seeing that you take away the key of knowledge. You enter not yourselves, and those who are entering you prevent."

And at His coming out thence, the scribes and the Pharisees begin to hem Him in dreadfully and to be quizzing Him concerning more
 things, ambushing Him, seeking to pounce upon something out of His

mouth, that they shall be accusing 12 Him, at which, a throng of tens of thousands being assembled so as to be trampling one another, He begins first to be saying to His disci-

ples, "Take heed to yourselves of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. Now nothing is cov-

is hypocrisy. Now nothing is covvered up which shall not be revealed, and hidden which shall not be

3 known, because whatever you say

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- Compare Mt.166-12Mk.815-21.
- Though hypocrisy, in all its forms, is most hateful to God, yet it seems most prevalent in the sphere of reli-The most potent preventive is the great truth here enunciated. Once we realize that pretense of any kind is but a temporary expedient which will react with fearful effect in the future it will make us slow to claim to be what we are not. We may be successful now in concealing our deeds of darkness from our fellows, but they are surely known to God and just as surely will be manifest to men. Happy is he who is not concerned with present appearances but so lives that his acts will be approved in the light! 2-5 Compare Mt.1026-28.
- Gehenna, the valley of the son of Hinnom just below Jerusalem, is the place where the refuse and offal of the city is burned. In the kingdom the bodies of criminals will be cast into its flames. The distinction here drawn is between the believer, whose death, especially if endured for the Lord's sake, will make him eligible to a high place in the kingdom at the resurrection of the just, and the rebellious, who, even if they should be in the kingdom, will suffer its stern condem-The enemies of Christ can nation. kill, and thousands will be slain as witnesses to the truth, yet their act has an effect exactly opposite to what they intend, for it enhances the felicity of the saints in the resurrection. Not so with those whom He executes. They forfeit the joys of the kingdom.
- The infinitude of God's care in creation surpasses all human comprehen-There is no detail of our lives too small for His microscopic concern, nothing too trivial to touch His tender solicitude.
- 8-9 Compare Mt. 1032-33.
- 10 Compare Mt.1231,32Mk.328-30.
- 10 The unpardonable sin of Israel was not the crucifixion of Christ, but the subsequent rejection of the holy spirit's testimony through His apostles. This has brought on their present dispersion for the eon.
- 11 Compare Mt.1019,20Mk.1311.
- 11 This has no reference to the preaching of the evangel today, but to the proclamation of the kingdom.
- 12 Compare Ac. 4872,55.

in the darkness shall be heard in the light, and what you talk in the ear in the closets shall be proclaimed on the housetops.

Now I am saying to you, My friends, be not afraid of those who are killing the body and after this have nothing more to do. Now I shall be intimating to you of Whom you should be afraid. Be afraid of Him Who, after killing, has authority to be casting into the Gehenna. Yea, I am saying to you, of this One be afraid!

Are not five sparrows selling for two pence $[3.14\mathfrak{e}, 1d\ 2f]$?—and not one of them is forgotten before God. But the hairs of your head also have all been numbered. Then fear not! You are of more consequence than many sparrows.

Now I am saying to you, that everyone whoever shall be avowing Me in front of men, him shall the Son of Mankind also be avowing in front of the messengers of God.

9 Now he who is disowning Me before men will be renounced before 10 the messengers of God. And everyone who shall be declaring a word against the Son of Mankind, it shall be pardoned him, yet the one who blasphemes the holy spirit

shall not be pardoned.

Now whenever they may bringing you before synagogues and chiefs and the authorities, you should not be worrying about how or what your defense should be or 12 what you may say, for the holy

spirit will be teaching you in the same hour what you must be saying."

13 Now some one of the throng said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to part the enjoyment of the allot-14 ment with me." Now He said to

him, "Man! who constitutes Me a

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- 14 See Ex. 214.
- 15 Compare 1 Ti. 66-10.
- 15 A telling truth which would do more to ameliorate the ills of humanity than all government, were it heeded, is embodied in the phrase, "the superfluity of his possessions". Life does not consist in having, but in being. The moment that our possessions exceed our needs they become a burden. The only place that treasure can be safely and sanely deposited is in the heavens. This is illustrated in the following parable.
- 18 In Palestine it was customary to store grain and other products in sealed, air tight, cistern-like pits, dug on a hill side or in a field, where the ground was sufficiently dry. In these food was kept unspoiled for long periods, safe from marauders and mice and ants. It would be difficult to preserve grain or food stuffs for many years in barns such as are used in the West.
- 19 Compare Prov. 1811.
- 19 This is an excellent passage to teach us the significance of the soul. It is now spoken of as though it were the spirit. The soul craves food and drink and merriment. It expresses itself in the appetite and physical desires. The rich man had made no provision for his spirit. His hoard was of grain and wine and oil, good only for the life that now is. The soul is satisfied by the senses. Taste, smell, hearing, sight, and touch are the means of its exercise.
- 20 See Job 2716-22.
- 21 Compare 29-34Ja.25.
- 22-26 Compare Mt. 625-27.
- ²² From the world's standpoint this man was most prudent, for he provided for the future. But his death turned his prudence into folly.
- 22 Man has become the slave of his desires. Instead of eating and drinking to live, he spends his life in laboring for the means of living according to his liking.
- 24 The lower ranks of creation are a daily display of God's care and provision. No one can study the marvels of nature without some sense of the overseeing providence of God. They are better provided for than men.

justice or a parter over you?"

Now He said to them, "See and be guarding against all greed, seeing that one's life is not in the superfluity of his possessions."

Now He told them a parable, saying, "The country place of a certain rich man bears well. And he reasoned in himself, saying, 'What shall I be doing, seeing that I have nowhere to gather my fruits?' And he said, 'This shall I be doing: I will pull down my barns, and I will build greater, and there will I be gathering all my

¹⁹ grain and my goods. And I shall be declaring to my soul, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years. Rest, eat, drink, make merry.'

Yet God said to him, 'Imprudent one! This night are they demanding your soul from you. Now, for whom will be what you make ready?' Thus is he who is hoarding for himself and is not rich for God.''

Now He said to His disciples, "Therefore I am saying to you, Do not worry about the soul, what you may be eating, nor yet your body, what you should be putting on, for the soul is more than nur-

ture and the body than apparel.

24 Consider the ravens, that they are not sowing, neither are they reaping, who have no storeroom nor barn, and God is nurturing them.

Of how much more consequence are

²⁵ you than the flying creatures! Now who of you by worrying is able to

26 add one cubit to his stature? If, then, you are not able for the least, why are you worrying about the rest?

Consider the anemones, how they are growing. They are not toil-

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I for G OHCATETAKPINANUCAY ZA53000 THE ANEMONES how it-IS-GROW-

27-28 Compare Mt.628-30.

²⁷ There are many beautiful flowers in Palestine but the scriptures do not mention any varieties, hence it is difficult to fix upon the one specially alluded to. Some have thought that He referred to a beautiful species of iris, colored dark purple and white. There are also brilliant hued tulips. these flowers are not abundant enough to warrant the general allusion made by our Lord. There are other flowers. more numerous and quite as glorious, which carpet the fields of Palestine. Among these the most gorgeous and conspicuous in the Spring is the Anemone coronaria, usually a brilliant scarlet, which is found in all parts of the land. It abounds in the plains and on the mountains, along the shores of Galilee and on the bare hills of Judea. The richness of its tints and the profusion with which it appears everywhere combine to give point to our Lord's comparison. Though the commonest of flowers, it is also among the loveliest. The Arabs include it among the flowers called susan, which is equivalent to the Hebrew shushan and the Greek krinon, the word here used. This is, however, the common name for any brilliantly colored flower like a lily or tulip, or ranunculus or anemone.

29 Compare Mt. 631-34.

82-84 Compare Mt.619-21.

33 See Hag. 16.

33 This advice must be understood in the light of the property laws in Israel and the imminence of the kingdom. Each one had his allotment, on which his living depended. Our Lord was not asking them to sell this. It was property over and above this which He advised them to sell, as it would be worthless to them in the redistribution of the land in the kingdom. only way of securing it was to use its price in helping the poor in Israel. Thus they would transfer their interests into the coming kingdom.

36 Compare Mt. 221-14.

38 The Lord's return is always left indefinite as to time so that it may be continually imminent to the hearts of His people. We should remember that our next conscious moment may be in His presence. There is nothing to compare with this to give joy and power in service.

ing, neither are they spinning, yet I am saying to you that not even Solomon in all his glory was cloth-28 ed as one of these. Now if God is thus garbing the grass in the field, which is today and tomorrow is being cast into the stove, how much rather you, scant of faith?

And do not you be seeking what you may be eating and what you may be drinking, and be not in sus-30 pense. For all these things the nations of the world are seeking. Now your Father is aware that you need

Moreover, be seeking the kingdom of God and all these

things will be added to you.

Fear not, little flocklet, seeing that your Father delights to give 33 you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and be giving alms. Make vourselves purses which do not grow old, a treasure which does not default, in the heavens where the thief is not nearing, neither moth is 34 causing decay. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Let your loins be girded about, ³⁶ and lamps burning, and you be like men anticipating their own lord, when he should break loose from the wedding festivities, that at his coming and knocking, they should immediately be opening up

³⁷ for him. Happy are those slaves, whom the Lord, coming, will be finding watching. Verily, I am saying to you that He will be girding Himself, and, causing them to recline, and, passing along, will be serving them.

And if He should be coming in the second watch, and if in the third watch, and should be finding them thus, happy are those slaves.

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39-40 Compare Mt.2443,44 1 Thes.51-11 Un. 331615.

41-44 Compare Mt.2445-471 Co.41-5.

45 Compare Mt. 2448-51.

59 As most of the houses in Palestine were built of sun-dried clay, or adobe, a thief could best effect an entrance by digging his way through the walls. They literally burrowed their way into a house they wished to rob.

40 The coming of Christ as Son of Mankind is to be a complete surprise even to those in Israel who are waiting for Him. This coming as a thief is connected with the day of the Lord (1 Th. 52), and the sudden destruction of those in darkness. But we are not in darkness, so that that day will not overtake us as a thief. God did not appoint us to indignation. We look for Him, not as an enemy, but as a Saviour (Phil.320). For us salvation has a past, a present, and a future tense. The bodies of our humiliation have not yet been saved. They will be at His coming.

41 The Lord's coming for us is a matter of pure grace in accord with all His dealings in this secret administration. We should not be drowsing, but this will not cost us our place in His presence. Our salvation depends on His death, not on our faithfulness. Whether we are watching or are drowsing, we shall live at the same time together with Him (1 Th.510). It will not be so in His coming to Israel. Peter's question brings out the parable which shows that, while some will be rewarded for service at His coming, others will be cut asunder for unfaithfulness. They are dealt with as slaves and their place in the kingdom depends on what they do during His absence, but we are subjects of grace and, whatever loss we may suffer for unfaithfulness, we ourselves will be saved $(1 \text{ Co. } 3^{15})$.

47 All God's judgments are tempered by attending circumstances. He does not require His creatures to live up to light which they do not have. Yet His judgments increase in severity according to the privileges enjoyed. Thus it is that Israel is subject to the most awful of the inflictions of the end time. How thankful we should be that His grace not only bestows transcendent privilege but brings immunity from judgment as well! 39 Now this you know, that, if the householder had been aware at what hour the thief is coming, he would watch and would not let his house

40 be tunneled into. You also become ready, then, seeing that, in an hour which you are not supposing, the Son of Mankind is coming."

Now Peter said to Him, "Lord, art thou saying this parable to us,

42 or also to all?" And the Lord said, "Who, consequently, is the faithful and prudent steward, whom the lord will be placing over his retainers, who is giving the measure

43 of wheat in season? Happy is that slave, whom his master, coming,

⁴⁴ will be finding doing thus. Truly, I am saying to you that he will be placing him over all his possessions.

Now if that slave should say in his heart, 'My lord is delaying coming,' and should be beginning to beat the boys and the maids, as well as to be eating and drinking,

46 and to be drunk, the lord of that slave will be arriving on a day for which he is not hoping and at an hour which he knows not, and shall be cutting him asunder, and shall be appointing his part with the unfaithful.

Now that slave who knows the will of his own lord, and neither makes ready nor yet does aught with a view to his will, shall have

48 many lashes. Now he who knows not, yet does what deserves blows, shall have few lashes. Now to everyone to whom much was given, from him much will be sought, and to whom they committed much, of him they will be requesting more excessively.

⁴⁹ I came to be casting fire on the earth, and what will I if it was al-

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49 We are now approaching the great crisis in His ministry. Instead of being believed and received, the proclamation of the kingdom has caused strife and contention. Its rejection is evident. The baptism with which it began must have its counterpart in another baptism at its end. The shadow of the cross lay athwart His path henceforth, and its awful pressure lay heavily on His spirit. Until it shall have been accomplished the kingdom cannot come. Until then the opposition must increase. The kingdom of God was thrice rejected. They rejected Jehovah when Saul was chosen king. They rejected Christ. They rejected the preaching of the apostles.

- 50 Compare Mt. 2022.
- 51 Compare Mt. 1034-36.
- 51 At His birth the heavenly hosts sang of peace on earth (214). The kingdom foretold by the prophets was to end all strife. He was to be the Prince of Peace, and of the increase of peace there was to be no end (Isa. 9 6,7). Hence they had good reason to suppose that He had come to give peace to the earth. And that He will. do when He comes again. But the time from His rejection until His return has been and will be a period of strife and division. This will reach its climax in the coming time of Jacob's trouble, when the kingdom is once more proclaimed and faithfulness to God will tear families asunder and destroy the tenderest ties of nature. But when He comes all strife will vanish and peace will preside over all the earth for the thousand years.
- 52 Compare Micah 76.
- 54 The Lord now turns from the disciples to the throngs. In spirit, He sees a great storm coming, yet they are utterly oblivious of the signs. They were experts at foretelling the weather. Clouds in the west, over the Mediterranean, with a southwest wind, would be sure to bring a rainstorm. wind shifts to the north it is soon over. The south wind, off the desert. always brings heat. With all this discernment they did not see that the current of opinion in Israel was leading to a violent storm. There was little peace for them, and they were finally driven out of the land and scattered among the nations.

50 ready kindled? Yet I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how am I being pressed till it should be 51 accomplished! Are you supposing that I came along to give peace to the earth? No, I am saying to you,

the earth? No, I am saying to you,
52 but rather division. For from now
on there will be five in one home
divided, three against two, and two
53 will be divided against three, father against son and son against father, and mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against the bride and

the bride against her mother-inlaw."

Now He said to the throngs, also,
"Whenever you should be perceiving a cloud rising in the west, immediately you are saying that a
rainstorm is coming, and it is oc
turing thus. And whenever it is
blowing from the south, you are
saying that there will be a scorching wind, and it is occurring.

Hypocrites! You are aware how
to be testing the aspect of the sky
and the earth, yet you are not
aware how to be testing this era!

57 Now why, even of yourselves, are 58 you not deciding what is just? For as you are going with your plaintiff to the magistrate, take action on the way to be cleared from him, lest at some time he should be dragging you to the judge, and the judge will be giving you over to the sheriff, and the sheriff will be 59 casting you into iail. I am saying

casting you into jail. I am saying to you, Under no circumstances may you be coming out thence till you may be paying even the last mite [about .196¢, .375f]."

13 Now there were some present on the same occasion reporting to Him concerning the Galileans whose blood Pilate mixes with their sacri-² fices. And, answering, Jesus said

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COYCEITEN AYTOICAOKE 156000 said to-them YE-ARE-SEEMING

57-59 Compare Mt.525,26Prov.258.

- There is a strong natural tendency to connect calamity with sin. Hardly any great disaster occurs but someone seeks to justify it on the ground that the victims must have been extraordinary sinners. Job's friends reasoned In their minds his calamities must have been occasioned by some secret offenses, and were sent as a punishment for his wrong doing. while sin often does entail suffering in this life, much of it does not. And suffering is not sent simply as a punishment for sin, but also as a means by which God reveals Himself. Job was vindicated by God, yet he abhorred Through his trials he was led to a greater blessing and a closer knowledge of God than could otherwise be. He had heard of Him before: now he saw Him (Job 425). not judge those who suffer, as though they deserved what they endure. God is not now judging or sentencing His creatures. That is past for believers and future for unbelievers. In the great white throne judgment those who appear before it will be dealt with according to their sins. Then it will be possible to deduce their delinquency from the character and severity of their sentence. But all such reasoning is foolish now. The Galileans whom Pilate killed were no worse than others of their kind, and the tower of Siloam did not fall on the most vicious in Jerusalem.
- 1 Compare Ac. 537.
- 2 Compare Jn. 92.3.
- 4 Compare Neh.315Jn.97.
- 6-9 Compare Isa.51-7Mt.2119.
- sought to find fruit from Israel as a nation. Little did Israel think that their rejection of His proclamation was dooming all their national aspirations. The same truth is taught in the cursing of the fig tree (Mt. 2119; Mk. 1113), which, indeed, may stand for the hewing down. The next miracle shows Him still laboring in a final effort to produce fruit.
- 10 Israel's doom is figured by a soulless tree; her deliverance is shown by the restoration of the infirm woman. This recognizes the reason for Israel's weakness, which was the possession of a spirit at variance with God. The

to them, "Are you supposing that these Galileans came to be sinners beyond all the Galileans, seeing that

3 they have suffered such things? I am saying to you, No! But if you should not be repenting, you will

⁴ all be perishing likewise. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam falls, and kills them, are you supposing that *they* came to be debtors beyond all men dwelling in

Jerusalem? I am saying to you, No! But if you should not be repenting, you will all be perishing

similarly."

Now He told this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came, seeking fruit on it and found it not."
Now he said to the vineyardist, 'Lo! For three years I am coming

seeking fruit on this fig tree and I am not finding it. Hew it down, then, for why is it wasting the land

also?' Yet answering, he is saying to him, 'Lord, leave it this year also, till I shall be digging about it

and manuring it. And, if indeed, it should be producing fruit in the future—yet if not, you shall surely be hewing it down'."

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbaths.

¹¹ And *lo!* there was a woman having a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and she was bending together and

¹² utterly unable to unbend. Now Jesus, perceiving her, shouts and said to her, "Woman, you have been re-

13 leased from your infirmity!" And He places His hands on her, and instantly she was made erect again, and glorified God.

Now the chief of the synagogue, answering, resenting that Jesus

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ruler of the synagogue displayed this same spirit, so that, in a sense, the physical plight of the woman becomes his in spirit. He, like the whole nation, was opposing the Lord and His work, in a pretended zeal for God's law. The moral effect of the miracle seems to have kept the chief of the synagogue from forbidding the Lord to work, so he turns to the people and forbids them to come to be cured. He was blind to the great truth that salvation is of God, when man cannot work, hence is far more fitting on the Sabbath than during the week.

- 14 Compare Mt. 129,10.
- 15 Compare 143-6Mt.1211,12.
- 16 A significant note is sounded when our Lord terms the infirm woman a daughter of Abraham. It suggests that she had faith, and that the salvation which it prefigured will be confined to those who have the faith of their great forefather Abraham.
- 18-19 Compare Mt.1331,32Mk.430-32.
- 18 As both birds (Mt. 134,19) and leaven (Lu. 121) are figures of that which is evil, and this is spoken, like the thirteenth chapter of Matthew, after the rejection of the King, we see in these comparisons a representation of the course of the kingdom before He returns in righteousness. At the end of the eon it will be again proclaimed and have an amazing growth, but will harbor wicked spirits and evil practises.
- 19 Compare Dan. 410-12.
- 20-21 Compare Mt.1333Zech.55-11.
- 22-27 Compare Mt. 718,14,21-23.

23 The Lord avoids a direct answer to the question, and turns the questioner's thoughts upon himself. It would seem that at this time, the wide gates into the kingdom had been closed, and access could be had only through the private entrances, which are locked when evening comes. The proclamation of the kingdom had opened the gates wide up to this time, and it was easy to enter by repentance and baptism. But at this crisis the proclamation was withdrawn, hence many of those who struggled could not enter.

By no means should this parable be applied indiscriminately to the evangel, either of the kingdom or of the grace of God. God's good news is nevcures on the sabbath, said to the throng that "There are six days on which one must be working. Come on them, then, to be cured,"

15 and not on the sabbath day." Yet the Lord answered him and said, "Hypocrites! Is not each of you, on the sabbath, loosing his ox or ass from the manger, and leading it

away to drink? Now this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan binds, lo! eighteen years—must she not be loosed from this bond on the sabbath

day?" And at His saying these things, all those opposing Him were mortified, and the entire throng rejoiced at all the glorious things coming to pass by Him.

18 Then He said, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to 19 what shall I be likening it? It is like a mustard kernel, which a man got and cast into his own garden. And it grows and became a great tree, and the flying creatures of heaven roost among its boughs."

20 And again He said, "To what shall I be likening the kingdom of

²¹ God? It is like leaven, which, a woman getting, hides in three seahs [about 31/4 pecks] of meal, till the whole was leavened."

²² And He went through by the cities and villages, teaching and making headway into Jerusalem.

Now someone said to Him, "Lord, are there few being saved?" Now

He said to them, "Be struggling to be entering through the cramped door, seeing that many, I am saying to you, will be seeking to be enCAF AN AKTONOTITUCABBA²⁰ that to-the sabbath

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er narrow or cramped. In the tabernacle in the wilderness the gate, which opened into the court where the altar and laver were stationed, was very wide, and the entrance into the holy place occupied the whole front side of the tent. It could not have been wid-These were types of the way of God during the proclamation of the kingdom. The evangel for today is wider still, for it embraces all nations and imposes no conditions. Faith in God's word cannot be obtained by any struggle. Neither is there any reluctance on God's part, but He is beseeching all men to be conciliated. This can be understood of those only who have neglected to enter while the wide gates of the kingdom evangel were open, and now seek an entrance after the proclamation has been closed.

25 Compare Mt.2510-12.

27 Compare 2 Ti. 219.

29 Eastern etiquette is most stringent as to the placing of guests at a banquet. The most honorable must have the first place and the least the last. So it will be in the kingdom. It is probable that none of the great ones of His day, should they find an entrance, would maintain their dignities. Poor, despised fishermen, among the lowest social layer of the land, will be first, for they will rule the twelve tribes. And some, no doubt, of those in high standing in the past, will take a humble place, glad to be honored by the presence of those whom they once despised.

30 Compare Heb. 1139,40.

31 Compare 237.

31 Herod had been interested in the Lord and wanted to see Him do some sign (238). He had killed John, but the Lord does not fear him. Calling him a jackal, or fox, He sends him word that He will continue His ministry as planned, and will spend three more days in his territory, on His way to Jerusalem. There the sacrifice must be offered. He knew that the hatred of men would be restrained so that He could not be killed far from the holy city. If an Israelite wanted to sacrifice to God he could not offer it any place. He must bring it to Jerusalem or turn it into money to purchase his offering there. God will not go counter to His law. He leads the Victim to the proper place.

tering and will not have the 25 strength. Whenever the householder should be roused and latching the door, and you should be beginning to stand outside, and be knocking at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open up to us!' answering also, he will be declaring to you, 'I am not aware whence you are!' Then should you be beginning to say, 'We ate and drank before you, and you teach in our 27 squares!' He also will be declaring. 'I am saying to you, I am not aware whence you are! Be withdrawing from me. all workers of

injustice!'

28 There will be lamentation and gnashing of teeth, whenever you should be viewing Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, yet you 29 being cast outside. And they will

be arriving from east and west and from north and south and will be reclined in the kingdom of God.

30 And lo! they are last who will be first, and they are first who will be last."

31 In the same hour some Pharisees approached, saying to Him, "Come out and go hence, seeing that Her-

32 od is wanting to kill you." And He said to them, "Go and say to this jackal, 'Lo! I am casting out demons, and performing healings today and tomorrow, and the third

33 day I am being perfected.' Moreover I must go today and tomorrow and the coming one, seeing that it is not credible that a prophet be destroyed outside of Jerusalem.

Jerusalem! Jerusalem! killing the prophets and pelting with stones those who are dispatched to her! How many times I want to AGEINKAIOYKICXYCOYCI20
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AND STONE-CASTING THE ONES-

ECTAMENOYCHPOCAYTHN 59000 HAVING-been-commissioned TOWARD her 34-35 Compare Mt.2337-39Ps.11826.

34 Jerusalem, the center of rule and religion in Israel, the most favored city on the face of the earth, was also the center of apostasy and rebellion. Had the priests of her temple remained true to God, there would have been no need for prophets and special messengers to recall them to Jehovah. But they would not heed the prophets and, instead of leading the people in the ways of righteousness and holiness, they turned them against God's spokesmen. These thoughts awakened in His mind by the threat of Herod. While He had no fear of him, He well knew what would befall Him at the hands of the priests and rulers of Israel, who should have shielded Him from Herod. though the accredited representatives of God, were more thirsty for His blood than the Edomite. apart from the spirit of God, is the most vicious and immoral of human motives.

1-6 Compare 1310-17Mt.129-18Deut.224.

- It seems improbable that a chief Pharisee should invite Him to his home without some sinister design. This seems to have been a trap, for it is most unlikely that a dropsical man would be a guest at such a feast. This is confirmed by the fact that he was dismissed after being healed. seems to have been used as a test. If the Lord did not heal him, they could claim that He was not able. If He did, they could accuse Him of desecrating the Sabbath. Either way they had Him at a disadvantage. That is why they watched Him so closely. But the Lord saw the snare and caught them in their own craftiness (1 Co.319). He closed their mouths completely.
- 7 No doubt our Lord followed His own admonition and took the last place at this feast and was allowed to keep it! He was but a poor peasant. They were lawyers and Pharisees! Their action at the feast was but an index of their general character. They exalted themselves and were due to be abased. To grasp the full force of this illustration we must remember that, among the Jews at that time, such matters were deemed of serious importance. We can sit anywhere at a banquet without feeling offended, but

assemble your children after the manner a hen her own brood under her wings, and you will not! Lo! your house is left to you. Yet I am saying to you that under no circumstances may you be acquainted with Me till the time will be arriving when you should say, 'Blessed is He Who is coming in the name of the Lord!''

14 And it occurred at His coming into the house of a certain one of the chief Pharisees on the sabbath to eat bread, and they were scrutinizing Him. And lo! a certain man in front of Him was dropsical. And answering, Jesus spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it allowed to cure on the sabbath or not?" Now they are quieted. And, getting hold, He heals and dismisses him. And answering, He said to them, "Whose son or ox will be falling into a well and he will not immediately be pulling him up on the sabbath day?" And they have not the strength to answer Him again to these things.

Now He spoke a parable to those

who have been invited, attending how they chose the first reclining places, saying to them, "Whenever you may be invited by any one to wedding festivities, you should not recline in the first reclining place, lest at some time one held in honor more than you should be invited by him, and when he who invites you and him comes he will be declaring to you 'Give place to this one.' And then, with shame, you should be beginning to retain the last 10 place. But whenever you may be invited, going, lean back in the last place, that whenever he who has invited you may be coming, he will be declaring to you, 'Friend, step further up.' Then you will have

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with them the rank of each guest must be scrupulously acknowledged by placing him above all his inferiors. It was properly the duty of the host to attend to this. The principle may well be applied at all times. Are we taking a high place? If so, our great Host may need to call us down. Are we in the lowest? Then we need not fear, for the lowest cannot make room below themselves.

10 Compare Prov. 256-7.

12 The pure joy of giving is largely lost when it degenerates into a trade. Yet it seems from this that we cannot give without being recompensed. If we give to get we may, indeed, be disappointed, but if we give with the single thought of blessing others, we are doubly repaid. There is the happiness that attends the giving, and the repayment in the resurrection. grasping gift gets but little that is It defeats itself. worth while. gracious gift gains all that it seems to forego and brings happiness to the recipient, to the giver, and to God.

13 Compare Neh.810-12.

15-21 Compare Mt.221-10Prov.91-5.

15 This remark seems to be an adroit attempt to turn the conversation into a safer and more comfortable channel. But this man was probably one of the lawyers or Pharisees (there were no others present) who was refusing the invitation to God's great dinner. Thence the Lord takes him up, and suggests that the happiness of eating in the kingdom is only for those who The picture He draws is in come. striking contrast with the feast He was attending. All who were invited came to this feast and deemed it an honor to be present. No poor or crippled or blind or lame were admitted, except the dropsical man, and he was dismissed before the feasting began, though he no longer was a cripple.

The great dinner of the kingdom will be quite the opposite of this. The men of substance refused the invitation. The scribes, lawyers, and Pharisees would not come and they will know nothing of the happiness of those who eat bread in the kingdom. But the outcasts, those whom the proud religionists would spurn from their table, these will enjoy the happiness which comes from tasting God's provision and plenty. The rejection of the

glory before all those lying back at table with you, seeing that every one who is exalting himself shall be humbled and who is humbling himself shall be exalted."

Now He said to him also who has invited Him, "Whenever you may be making a lunch or a dinner, do not be summoning your friends, nor yet your brothers, nor yet your relatives, nor yet rich neighbors, lest at some time they also should be inviting you in return, and re
13 payment should come to you. But whenever you may be making a reception, invite the poor, the

14 cripples, the lame, the blind, and happy will you be, seeing that they have naught to repay you, for it will be repaid you in the resurrection of the just."

Now someone of those lying back at table with Him, hearing these things, said to Him, "Happy is he who shall be eating bread in the

16 kingdom of God!" Now He said to him, "A certain man made a great dinner, and invites many.

¹⁷ And he dispatches his slave at the dinner hour to say to those who have been invited, 'Come, seeing

begin, one and all, to make excuse.
The first said to him, 'I buy a field, and it is necessary to come out to see it. I ask you to have me

19 excused.' And a different one said,
'I buy five yoke of oxen, and I am
going to test them. I ask you to

20 have me excused.' And a different one said, 'I marry a wife, and because of this I cannot be coming.'

And the slave, coming along, reports these things to his lord. Then, being indignant, the householder

3/2

60001 LUKE'S ACCOUNT BN WTEPON in margin He-said, s* adds it after said, but s2 after to-Him **BIANOTEPONTOTEECTAIC®** ALAPTONENTHBACIAEIAT20 UPPer then WILL BE BREAD IN THE KINGdom to-YOU by s* after then
OIDOZAE NOTIONTANTONT s1* omits to-him ΟΥΘΕΟΥΟΔΕΕΙΠΕΝΑΥΤΦΑΝ# 16 THE God THE YET He-said to-him OF-A ETIOIHCEN ASO θΡΦΠΟCΤΙĊΕΠΟΙΕΙΔΕΙΠΝ[®] **WNCYNAN AKEIMENWNCOIO®** 11 THE ones-TOGETHER-UP-LYING to-you that ANY made DINDER A8 0. B' adds and cancels N TIMACOYYONE AYTONTAME ** ONMETAKAIEKAAECENTOA® EVERY THE ons-HEIGHTENING self WILL-BE-BEING-GREAT AND CALLS A8 0. INDOHCETAIKAIOTANEIN 100 ΛΟΥCΚΑΙ ΆΠΕCΤΕΙ ΛΕΝΤΟΝ ⁶⁰⁰ THE one-making-Low AND he-commissions AND **WNEATTONY AND HOETALE 120** ΔΟΥΛΟΝ ΑΥΤΟΥΤΗ ΘΡΑΤΟΥΔ 20 12 WILL-BE-BEING-HEIGHTENED Heor-him to-the hour of-the din-**SLAVE** A+N **ELENVEKYILOKEKYHKOLI ΕΙΠΝΟΥΕΙΠΕΙΝΤΟΙCKEΚΑ**Φ YET AND to-THE one-HAVING-CALLED to-THE ner . , TO-BE-SayING ones-HAVING-AS Al for E **AYTONOTANHOLHCAPICTO®** HMENOICEPXECOEOTIHAH® Him when-EVER YOU-MAY-BE-making LUNCH BE-COMING that ALREADY been-CALLED EICIN AS*+TANTA 8 erased ΝΗΔΕΙΠΝΟΝΜΗΦΦΝΕΙΤΟΥC[®] **ETOIMAECTINKAIHPZANT®** OR DINner NO YOU-BE-SOUNDING THE 18 BEADY THEY-begin it-18 AND OANOMI ACHANTECH APAIT 700 ΦΙΛΟΥССΟΥΜΗΔΕΤΟΥСΆΔ6 200 brothers FOND-ones OF-YOU NO-YET THE FROM ONE A CO. A40YCCOYMHAETOYCCYFF20 EICHAIONPOTOCEINENAY" THE BEFORE-most said OF-YOU NO-YET THE TOGETHER-B1 o. s omits of-you B omits yet s o. ENGICCOYMHAGEGITONAC" ΤΦΑΓΡΟΝΗΓΟΡΆΘΑΚΑΙΘΧω# generateds OF-YOU NO-YET NEIGHBORS I-BUY AND I-AM-HAVING B above line N A CI A+KAI AND ANAFKHNEZEABONIAGINA® ΠΛΟΥCΙΟΥСΜΗΠΟΤΕΚΆΙΑΥ® NO ?-when thev necessity OUT-COMING TO-RE-PERCEIV-AND A YOU SHOULD-BE-INSTEAD-CALLING
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20 ING-been-refused

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ΙΝΚΑΙΠΑΡΑΓΕΝΟΜΕΝΟΟΟΔ40 AND BESIDE-BECOMING THE SLAVE

ΟΥΛΟCΑΠΗΓΓΕΙΛΕΝΤΦΚΥΡ® he-from-messages to-THE master

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invitation is a plain intimation of our Lord's rejection by the influential leaders of Israel, the self-righteous, who thought they needed no repentance. They were not hungry; they felt no necessity. They were busy in acquiring the land of their poorer countrymen by purchase, or they were getting control of more acreage by adding to their oxen, for the land was allotted to each man according to his ability to farm it. They were laying up treasures on earth. They had no ear for the invitation and shall have no place in the kingdom.

23 Compare Mk. 1615.

23 There is only one slave here, consequently we must limit the scope of this parable to our Lord's ministry. He never went to the nations outside the land, but He did reach the Samaritans and the Syro-Phenician woman, who were outside the narrow pale of ultra-Judaism.

24 Compare Ac. 1346.

25 This saying has proved a stumbling stone to many, and it is usual to tone down the word "hating" to some mild-But it is the same word er term. which undoubtedly means hate in oth-The solution of the er connections. difficulty lies in the tense of the verbs. It is not a saying for all time, especially not for the present, but was applicable only during those closing days of His ministry when His disciples were to withstand the opposition of their loved ones, and the seduction of their own souls, which would shrink from the suffering in which faithfulness to Christ would involve them. It is only in this connection that the hate was to be exercised. It is its scope, rather than its intensity, which was limited. Such an attitude toward our relatives is utterly foreign to the spirit of grace which pervades the present.

26 Compare Deut.136-11339 Mt.1037,38 Un. 1211.

28 Compare Prov. 2427.

28-33 The leaving of all possessions (above their allotments of land) was another special requirement, in view of the coming kingdom.

34 Holding on to possessions or compromising with those dear to them at such a time would make them like inspid salt, quite useless for the purpose for which it is designed.

said to his slave, 'Come out quickly into the squares and streets of the city, and lead in here the poor, and cripples, and blind, and lame.'

And the slave said to him, 'Lord, what you enjoin is done and still there is place.' And the lord said to the slave, 'Come out into the roads and stone dikes and compel them to enter, that my house the may be crammed. For I am saying

4 may be crammed. For I am saying to you that not one of those men who were invited shall taste of my

dinner.' "

Now vast throngs went with Him, and, being turned, He said to ²⁶ them, "If any one is coming to Me and is not hating his father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, and further, his own soul besides, he cannot be ²⁷ My disciple. And any one who is not bearing his own cross and coming behind Me cannot be My disciple.

For which of you, wanting to build a tower, does not first sit down to calculate the expense, whether he has the where withal?—

²⁹ lest at some time, laying its foundation and not having the strength to finish up, all who behold should be beginning to be deriding him,

30 saying that 'This man begins building and has not the strength

to finish up!'

or what king going to engage another king in battle will not, being seated, first plan if he is able to meet with ten thousand him who is coming against him with twenty

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34-35 Compare Mt.513Mk.950.

1 Compare 734,35Mt.910-13.

² Our Lord's liking for sinners led the proud, self-righteous Pharisees and scribes to utter a most precious truth. though they, indeed, did not intend it "This man is receiving sinners ...!" Far from denying the charge, He makes it the basis of a five-fold parable in which He emphasizes the vital fact that God is not concerned with the righteous, but with sinners. The term parable is used at the beginning and includes, not only that of the lost sheep, but also the lost coin. and the prodigal son, and the unjust steward, and the rich man and Laza-They are five different parts of one parable, which deals with the nation of Israel and the various classes in it. First we are shown the Saviour's attitude toward the lost in the story of the lost sheep. The following pair, concerning the lost coin and the prodigal son, are strikingly like the last two, concerning the unjust steward, and the rich man and Lazarus.

Two of these stories have to do with money, and the story of the prodigal son is closely matched by that of the

rich man.

Like all the Lord's parables, these are not merely apt illustrations of divine truth, but pictorial parables of spiritual facts as they existed in the nation to which He was sent.

3 Our Lord was not sent to any but the straying sheep of the house of Israel (Mt. 1524). He had no commission for any other nation and He never left the land of Israel to reach others. The hundred sheep, therefore, bring before us the nation of the covenant. The Lord is the good Shepherd, Who gives His soul for the sheep (Jn. The ninety and nine are the self-righteous majority of the nation, who, like the Pharisees and scribes, to whom He was speaking, thought they had no need of repentance. They were not safe within the shelter of the fold. but out in the wilderness, left without the protection of the Shepherd, and open to the attacks of the wild beasts. They merely thought themselves safe. But they did not stir His heart or call for His succor. A single silly sheep astray from the flock causes Him more suffering and more joy than all the 32 thousand? Otherwise, at his being still distant, he, dispatching an embassy, is asking for peace terms.

33 Thus, then, everyone of you who is not taking leave of all of his own possessions, cannot be My disciple.

Salt, then, is ideal, yet if even the salt should be insipid, with

35 what shall it be seasoned? It is fit neither for the land nor for manure. They are casting it outside. Who has ears to be hearing, let him be hearing!"

15 Now all the tribute collectors and sinners were nearing Him to be

hearing Him. And the Pharisees as well as the scribes grumbled, saying that "This man is receiving sinners and is eating together with them!"

Now He told them this parable, saying, "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, and, losing one of them, is not leaving the ninety-nine in the wilderness and is going after that which is lost, until he may be finding it? And, finding it, he is placing it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And, coming into the house, he is calling together the friends and neighbors, say-

I found my sheep that was lost!',

I am saying to you that thus there will be joy in heaven over one sinner repenting, more than over ninety-nine just persons who have no need of repentance.

ing to them, 'Rejoice with me that

or what woman, having ten drachmas [about 16 cents each], if she should be losing one drachma, is not lighting a lamp, and sweeping the house and seeking carefully until she should be finding it?

And, finding it, she is calling to-

62001	LUKE'S	ACCOUNT	CHAPTERS 14-15
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rest. God could get little satisfaction out of Israel because of their selfrighteousness. The tax gatherers and sinners heard Him gladly, and they alone responded to His love and mercy. He received sinners because no others would have Him or felt their need of Him.

The hunt for a lost sheep in the wilds of Judea was a hazardous and dangerous task, and may well remind us of His suffering unto death on the The descent into a deep and cross. dark ravine infested with savage beasts, is a fit picture of His descent

into the depths of Golgotha.

The lost sheep gives us God's side. The lost coin gives us Israel's side. The nation is often seen under the figure of a woman. To this very day it is the custom among the women of the land to wear silver coins for a headdress. These are their most prized ornaments, and mean much more to them than the mere money value. Israel had been decked with ornaments by Jehovah, and it was one of these that was lost. And each sinner among them who repented had a foretaste of the day when the redemption money is found for Israel's ransom.

Compare 1910 Isa. 5361 Pt. 225.

11 In the parable of the two sons we have a portrait of the two classes in Israel to illustrate their moral distance from God. The prodigal was far from the father's house; the elder brother was far from his heart. the Pharisees and scribes boast of a ceremonial nearness to Jehovah, but their hearts are far from Him. tax collectors and sinners are outcasts. yet they know their plight and yearn for the compassionate mercy of God.

The point in this portion of the fivefold parable lies in the contrast between the two sons. Natural religion. such as the self-righteous Pharisees and scribes possessed, prides itself on conduct such as characterized the elder son, which consists in doing right and living up to the law as best they could. But such deportment, even if sincere and true, gives no occasion for the father to reveal His affection.

The prodigal is a composite picture of the sinner and the publican. His dissipation and profligacy set him forth as a sodden sinner, mired in imgether the friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me that I found the drachma which I lose!'

¹⁰ Thus, I am saying to you, there is coming to be joy before the messengers of God over one sinner repenting."

Now He said. "A certain man 12 had two sons. And the younger of them said to the father, 'Father, give me the part of the estate accruing to me.' Now, he apportion-

13 ed them the livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son, gathering all together, travels into a far country and there dissipates his estate, living profligately.

Now, his all being spent, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he begins to be in want.

¹⁵ And going, he joined one of the citizens of that country, and he sends him into his fields to graze

16 hogs. And he yearned to be satisfied with the little carob pods which. the hogs ate, and no one gave to him.

Now, coming to himself, he avers, 'How many of my father's hired men are surfeited with bread, yet I am perishing here of famine!

18 Rising, I will go to my father and declare to him, "Father, I sinned against heaven and in your sight.

¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me as one of your

²⁰ hired men.", And rising, he came

to his father.

Now, at his being still far distant, his father perceived him and has compassion, and running, falls on his neck and fondly kisses him.

63⁰⁰¹ LUKE'S ACCOUNT A+TAI Bs omit THE AAEITACOIAACKAITACTE 20 **ONTHCXOPACEKEINHCKA120** CALLING THE FOND-ones AND THE NEIGH- · OF-THE SPACE A8 N ΙΤΟΝ ΆCΛΕΓΟΥΚΑΚΥΓΧΑΡΗ« ETEMYENAYTONE ICTOYCA" BE-TOGETHER-JOYING he-sends him INTO THE TEMOIOTIEYPONTHNAPAX® **FPOYCAYTOYBOCKGINXOI**® to-ME that I-FOUND THE drachma or-him TO-BE-HERBING HOGS A for TO-be-satisfied OUT FEMICAL РОУСКА ЕПЕНУМЕ І ХОРТА: MHNHNATIWAECAOYTWCAET® 10 he-on-FELT WHICH I-destroy thus 16 I-AM-SAV-AND TO-BE-satisfied THNKOIAIANAYTOYATIO TO-REPLETE-IZE THE

COHNAIGKTÜNKE PATIUNU 600 A JOY IS-BECOMING **WYMINTEINETAIXAPAENO**100 ING to-YOUP IS-BECOMING JOY OUT OF-THE little-carob-pods B omits OF-THE CAVITY OF-him FROM NHCOLONOLXOLDOLKALOY® ΠΙΟΝΤΦΝ ΆΓΓΕΛΨΝΤΟΥΘΕΟ²⁰ OF-THE MESSENGERS OF-THE God WHICH ATE THE HOGS AND NOT-YET-B had A **AEICEAIAOYAYTŒEICEAY**® **ΥΕΠΙΕΝΙΑΜΑΡΤΦΑΦΜΕΤΑΝ**⁴⁰ ONE misser 17 one GAVE to-him INTO A CIΠCN he-said OOYNTIGITIEN DE ANOPO TO " ΤΟΝΔΕΕΛΘΦΝΕΦΗΠΟΟΟΙΜΙ® He-said YET human YET COMING he-Avers how-many HIRED-CTICEIXENAYOYIOYCKAI® СӨІОІТОҰП АТРОСМОҰПЕР® TWO BONB OF-THE FATHER OF-ME ARE-being-ICCEYONTALAPTONETOAE 700 **EITENONEUTE POCAYTUNT²⁰⁰** exceedED hias THE YOUNGER OF-them to-OF-BREADS 1 FATHER by 85 A omits here **ΦΠΑΤΡΙΠΑΤΈΡΔΟ** CMOΙΤΟ 6²⁰ λεΙΜΦΦΔΕ**λπολλ**ΥΜΑΙΑΝΑ²⁰ FATHER BE-GIVING to-ME THE ON-18 to-FAMINE here AM-being-destroyed s¹* adds △€ YET **TIBAAAONMEPOCTHCOYCI®** CTACHOPEYCOMAINPOCTO# OF-THE BEING I-SHALL-BE-GOING CASTING PART TOWARD THE 814 KAI AND for THE YET ACOAE AIE! AENAY TOICTO 60 NITATE PAMOYK AIE POD AYTO THE YET he-apportionED to-them OF-ME AND I-SHALL-BE-declaring to-**TATEPHMAPTONEICTONOY®** NBIONKAIMETOΥΠΟΛΛΆCΗ® 13 livelihood AND after NOT MANY him FATHER I-missED DAYS INTO THE MEPACCYNAΓΑΓωΝΑΠΑΝΤΑ³⁰⁰ PANONK A I EN OUT I ON COYOY™ TOGETHER-LEADING ALL (emph.) AND IN-VIEW OF-VOIL NOT-ONE TEPOCY IOCATE AHMH 20 KETIEIMI A ZIOCKAHAHNA 20 STILL. I-AM WORTHY THE YOUNGER TO-BE-CALLED CENEICX@PANMAKPANKAI* IYIOCCOYTOIHCONME@CE# or-you make ME AS INTO SPACE FAR ONE **ΕΚΕΙΔΙΕCΚΟΡΠΙCENTHNO**® NATONMICOUNCOYKAIAN® THRU-SCATTERS THE BE-OF-THE HIRED-ones OF-YOU AND 8+6 81 repeats EICXWPANMAKPAN YCI AN AYTOYZWN ACWTWCA80 **ΑCTACHΛΘ€ΝΠΡΟCΤΟΝΠΑΤ**[®] 14 ING OF-him LIVING profligately STANDING he-came TOWARD THE OFfor LIVING profligately ΑΠΑΝΗCΑΝΤΟCΔΕ ΑΥΤΟΥΠΑ⁴⁰⁰ **EPAEAYTOYETI∆EAYTOYM**900 or-self SPENDing YET OF-him ALL STILL YET OF-him NTACTE NETOĀČIMOCICXY 20 FAMINE STRONG ΑΚΡΆΝΑΠΕ XONTOCEIΔΕΝΑ²⁰ FROM-HAVING PERCEIVED PAKATATHNX@PANEKEINH® **ΥΤΟΝΟΠΆΤΗΡΑΥΤΟΥΚΑΙΕС**⁴⁰ that or-him according-to THE SPACE THE FATHER AND IS-com-Bs omit of-the NK ALAYTOCHP £ATOTOYYC® ΠΛΑΓΧΝΙΟΘΗΚΑΙΔΡΑΜΦΝΘ

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morality. His alliance with the citizen of a foreign country, his herding of the hogs and his desire to eat the diet of the unclean creatures, is a deft delineation of the traitorous tax collector, who joined with Rome in oppressing God's people. He had been far worse than a mere "prodigal". He recognizes himself as a sinner.

- 13 Compare Job 2114-15.
- 17 Compare Jer. 3118-20.

17 The first desire of the prodigal and of all awakened sinners is to do something themselves to ameliorate their "What must I do to evil condition. be saved?" This is their constant cry, because they do not know the Father. and misjudge His love. So the prodigal proposes to plead for a place in his father's service. He rehearses his little speech, and his highest expectation is a place among the servants in his father's house.

But how far is all this from the father's thoughts! He saw him afar off, and heard his confession, and ignored his plea. Instead of the menial place of servility he gives him the highest place of honor. The choicest robe and the daintiest viands all proclaim the delight of the father at receiving his son back again. There was feasting and merriment, which began, but has no end.

So with the sinners and outcasts. The Lord frankly forgave them. They were not put on probation, or set to the task of redeeming their character by meritorious conduct and perseverance in rectitude. They were clothed in garments of salvation and satisfied with the sacrifice of God's providing. They joyed in the God of grace. The bliss of the kingdom, the exultant rejoicing of all creation in the consummation, will not be built upon obedience, but on the disobedience that led to destruction and death; yet rather on the love that saves the lost and gives life to the dead.

Sin is a temporary necessity in God's great purpose to reveal Himself. It is the background which brings out the high lights of His grace. It is the foil which sets forth the depths of His affections. It was provided for before its entrance into the world, hence is not of man's choosing. It will be restrained in the eons of the eons and be entirely removed at the consummation. 21 Now the son said to him, 'Father, I sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make 22 me as one of your hired men.' Yet the father said to his slaves. 'Quick! Carry out the first robe, and put it on him, and give him a ring for his hand, and sandals for 23 his feet, and bring the grain-fed calf, sacrifice it, and eating, we ²⁴ may be merry, seeing that this my

son was dead and revives, he was lost and was found.' And they begin to be merry.

Now his elder son was in the field, and as, on coming, he nears the house, he hears music and cho-²⁶ ral dancing, and calling to one of the boys he ascertained whatever ²⁷ this may be. Now he said to him that 'Your brother is arriving, and your father sacrifices the grain-fed calf, seeing that he got him back 28 sound.' Now he is indignant and did not want to enter. Yet his father, coming out, entreated him. ²⁹ Now, answering, he said to his fa-

ther, 'Lo! so many years am I slaving for you, and I never passed by your precept, and you never give me a kid that I may make merry 30 with my friends. Yet when this son of yours came, who is devouring

your livelihood with prostitutes. you sacrifice for him the grain-fed

calf!'

Now he said to him, 'Child, you are always with me, and all mine 32 is yours. Yet we must make merry and rejoice, seeing that this your brother was dead, and revives,

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- 18 Compare Isa.556,7Hos.141-3Ps.513,4.
- 20 Compare Job 3327,28Ps.8651038-13.
- 22 Compare Isa.6110Gen.4142.
- 28 Compare Ac.2221,22Ro.10192 Co.520.
- 29 Compare Mt.1920Ro.320,27Mal.314
- 31 Compare Ro. 94,5,
- 1 The parable of the unjust steward confines itself to the Pharisees and scribes, the stewards of Israel's wealth. They were dissipating His treasures and were fond of money and served their own greed for gain rather than ministering to the glory of God. They were prudent in the things of this life to the extent of jeopardizing their prospects in the eons to come.
- 8 Compare Jn.1236Eph.581 Th.55.
- 9 Compare Mt.619,201 Ti.617-19.
- The emphatic I shows that there is a contrast intended between the lord of the unjust steward and Christ. This cannot be expressed in the indicative. Moreover, the Lord does not commend unrighteousness, and advise deceit. Besides, the sentiment immediately following is quite opposed to such double dealing. Faithfulness, not shrewdness, is the requisite for honors in the kingdom.

Money or means of any kind are only trivial and temporary factors in the life of faith, unless we view them as tests with a view to the acquisition of the true riches. Those who are faithful stewards of material wealth, which is theirs only to use for a time. and not to possess forever, may expect a reward in kind in the kingdom. The Pharisees died rich, and will have no place in the glories of the Messianic reign. Christ died in the most abject poverty, yet He will be weighted with the wealth of all earth's highest glories. Even in this day of sovereign grace, present riches are too often a hindrance to future reward, when they may well be a means of preferment by their faithful and gracious dispensa-Neither the most conservative investment nor the most fortunate speculation will yield as safe or as profitable proceeds as a share in the concerns of God. It yields, not only temporary returns, but eternal dividends.

and was lost and was found.'''

16 Now He said to His disciples also, "A certain man, who was rich, had a steward, and this man was slandered to him as dissipating his possessions. And summoning him, he said to him, "What is this I am hearing concerning you? Render an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward."

Now the steward said in himself, 'What shall I be doing, seeing that my lord will be wresting the stewardship from me? I have not the strength to dig. I am ashamed to be a mendicant. I know what I

shall be doing, that whenever I should be deposed from the stewardship, they should be receiving

me into their homes.'

And, calling each one of the debtors [paying] usury to his lord to him, he said to the first, 'How much are you owing my lord?'
Now he said to him, 'A hundred baths [about 8½ gallons each] of olive oil.' Now he said to him, 'Indorse your bills, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' Thereupon he said to another, 'Now how much are you owing?' Now he said, 'A hundred cors [about 32 pecks 1 pint each] of wheat.' And he is saying to him, 'Indorse your bills, and write eighty.'

And the lord applauds the unjust steward, seeing that he does prudently, seeing that the sons of this eon are more prudent, for their own generation, than the sons

of light.

And am I saying to you, 'Make for yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness, that, whenever it may be defaulting, they should be receiving you into the eonian tabernacles'? He who is

faithful in the least is faithful in

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- 13 Compare Mt. 624Ga. 110 Ja. 44.
- 13 God wants the wholehearted service of His slaves. This is not possible where other motives than His glory. or other objects than His exaltation are given the first place in the hearts of those who seek to serve Him. The lure of riches is one of the most seductive to lead His own away from His work.
- 15 Compare 1811,12 1Sam,167,
- 15 We all naturally share the desire of the Pharisees to appear right before our fellow men rather than to actually be right before God. But it is better to appear wrong before mankind and await that day when the secrets of all hearts will be revealed than to hide under a cloak of hypocrisy which will be torn aside by the divine presence.
- 16-17 Compare Mt.417517,181112,13.
- 16 God's revelation was made by many modes, each appropriate to the time when it was used. "The law and the prophets", a title of the Hebrew scriptures, which we now misname "the Old Testament", was His means of dealing with Israel until John the baptist, the greatest of all the prophets. He was the forerunner of a new method of divine revelation through the incarnation of Christ. The proclamation of the kingdom did not receive the rethe law, but rather awakened a desire 1717 for its establishment by carnal means. At one time they would have taken Christ by force, because He had satisfied their hunger, and would have made Him King. This would have meant a revolt and war and bloodshed.
- 18 Compare Mt.532199Mk.1011,12.
- 18 Not only does He intimate that the Pharisees are to be dismissed from the stewardship, but this apparently unconnected statement suggests that the nation is to be divorced from Jehovah. and left desolate. This is a fitting link to lead us up to the final section of this five-fold parable, in which Israel's fate during her divorce is discussed.
- 19 The cambric of the priest and the purple of the king in the rich man's garments indicate Israel as the royal priesthood. His merry times are due to Israel's special blessings. Pharisees looked down upon the sinners and publicans and gave them a

- much also, and he who is unjust in 11 the least is unjust in much also. If, then, you became unfaithful in the unjust mammon, who will be trust-
- 12 ing you with the true? And if you became unfaithful in that which is an outsider's, who will be giving
- 13 you yours? No domestic can slave for two lords, for either he will be hating one and loving the other, or upholding one and despising the other. You cannot slave for God and mammon."
- Now the Pharisees also, belonging to those who are fond of money, heard all these things and they 15 scouted Him. And He said to them, "You are those who are justifying yourselves before men, yet God is knowing your hearts, seeing that what is high among men is
- an abomination before God. The law and the prophets are as far as John: then ceforth the evangel of the kingdom of God is being preached, and every one is violentof the kingdom did not receive the response of contrite hearts, according to by forcing into it, and the violent are snatching it. Yet it is easier for heaven and earth to pass by than for one ceriph of the law to fall.
 - 18 Every one dismissing his wife and marrying another is committing adultery. And every one having been dismissed from a husband, marrying, is committing adultery.
 - Now a certain man was rich and dressed in purple and cambric, daily making merry splendidly. ²⁰ Now there was a certain poor man named Lazarus, who had been cast
 - ²¹ at his portal, having ulcers, and yearning to be satisfied from the scraps which are falling from the rich man's table. But the curs al-

66 ⁰⁰¹	LUKE'S	ACCOUNT	CHAPTER 16
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place like that of Lazarus, outside, with the dogs, even as the prodigal was afar off with the swine. They had little more than the unclean aliens, who were called curs by the religious Jews.

The prodigal, the rich man, and Lazarus all are represented as being dead. The prodigal and the rich man show the nation in apostasy. Lazarus, being comforted in Abraham's bosom, represents the faithful remnant. long as the nation, as such, is dead, neither Lazarus nor the rich man can claim the blessings of the kingdom. The continued persecution and hatred of the Jews by all nations is aptly pictured by the flames in which one of them found himself. The place in Abraham's bosom is no less faithful a figure of the comfort which came to those who believed. Abraham's bosom cannot be literal, for he is dead and even were he alive the picture of thousands of believers in his literal bosom is preposterous. Since this is so it follows that all of the scene is figurative, for if Abraham is not literally there, neither is Lazarus nor the rich man.

- 22 Compare Ps.1137Heb.114.
- 23 Compare 1328-30Mt.811,12.
- 24 Compare Mk. 943. 48.
- 25 Compare 624.
- 27 Even the rich man's request has its counterpart in Israel's apostasy. After One rose from the dead He was proclaimed in (1) Jerusalem, (2) Judea, (3) Samaria, (4) to the limits of the land (Ac. 18), and (5) to the dispersed among the nations. The message was based on the Lord's resurrection from the dead. Those receiving this fivefold testimony correspond to the five brethren. Yet, even as the Lord foretold, they did not, as a nation, repent. Some of their sufferings, until the terrible tragedy of the siege of Jerusalem, are recounted by Josephus. To this very day the Jew is being tormented in the flames of national hatred. But the time of their restoration is drawing near (Ro.11). But before their torment ceases it will be much intensified in the terror of the greatest of all Jewish persecutions.
- ²⁹ Compare Jn.5³⁹-4⁷Ac.15²¹.
- $^{31}\ Compare\ Mt.28^{11\text{-}13}Jn.12^{9\text{-}11}.$
- 1-2 Compare Mt.186,7Mk.9421 Co.1119.

22 so, coming, licked his ulcers. Now the poor man came to die and he is carried away by the messengers into Abraham's bosom. Now the rich man also died, and was entombed.

²³ And in the unseen, lifting up his eyes, existing in torments, he is seeing Abraham from afar, and Laza-

²⁴ rus in his bosom. And he, shouting, said, 'Father Abraham, be merciful to me, and send Lazarus that he should be dipping the tip of his finger in water and cooling my tongue, seeing that I am pained in this flame.'

Now Abraham said, 'Child, be reminded that you got your good in your life, and Lazarus likewise evil. Yet now here he is consoled, yet you are in pain. And in all this, between us and you a great chasm has been established, so that those wanting to cross hence to you may not be able, neither those thence may be ferrying to us.'

Yet he said, 'I am asking you then, father, that you should be sending him into my father's ²⁸ house, for I have five brothers, so that he may be certifying to them lest they also may be coming into ²⁹ this place of torment.' Yet Abraham is saying to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them 30 hear them!' Yet he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone should be going to them from the 31 dead they will be repenting.' Yet he said to him, 'If they are not hearing Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if some one should be rising from among the dead.'"

67 ⁰⁰¹	LUKE'S .	ACCOUNT	CHAPTER 16
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- The Lord is through with the unbelievers and now addresses His own dis-He anticipates the fact that, even among themselves, there would be much to cause them to stumble and fall. He seeks to warn them against becoming the occasion of a brother's And, in case of sin, He urges them to conform to the spirit of their proclamation, which promised a pardon or forgiveness on the ground of repentance. Repentance, or a change of mind, brought pardon from God for the unbeliever, and repentance should bring forgiveness among brethren, no matter how often it is required. transcendent grace shown to us should lead us to a still more loving attitude. We are to be gracious to one another apart from any repentance.
- 3-4 Compare Mt.1815,21,22 Lev.1917 Eph. 431,32.
- 5-6 Compare Mt.17202121Mk.923.
- Every-day conduct is a greater drain on faith than the working of miracles. It may be far more difficult to forgive a seventh offense than to say to a leper "Be clean!" The apostles realize their lack, and desire to augment their slender stock of faith.
- Israel, politically, was figured by a The black mulberry is a fig tree. species of wild fig. It represents the sovereignty of Rome. The nations are compared to the restless sea, Israel to the stable land. So that the underlying thought in our Lord's mind seems to be that with faith sufficient they could uproot Rome's rule from the land of Israel and remove it to the nations where it belonged. In other words, the kingdom would come. was lack of faith that kept the kingdom from being realized. The mustard kernel is also suggestive. He had already compared the kingdom to it (1319). In apostasy the nation will attain a place of rule in imitation of the kingdom. Great Babylon will be the mustard plant which attains to a sovereignty of the earth apart from God.
- Slavery is not out of date in things divine. The true servant of God will delight to acknowledge that he has been purchased by God, and is not his own. All that he can do is not at all what he feels he ought to do.
- 10 Compare Job 222,3357,81 Co.916,17.

17 Now He said to His disciples, "It is incredible for snares not to be coming. However, woe to him

through whom they are coming! It were an advantage to him if a millstone were lying about his neck and he were pitched into the sea, rather than that he should be snaring one

of these little ones. Take heed to yourselves. Yet if your brother should be sinning, rebuke him, and should he indeed be repenting, for-

give him. And if he should be sinning against you seven times a day, and should be turning about seven times a day to you, saying, 'I am repenting,' you shall be forgiving him."

And the apostles say to the Lord, "Add to our faith." Yet the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard kernel, you would say to this black mulberry, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

Now who of you, having a slave plowing or tending sheep, entering from the field, will be declaring to him, 'Come along immediately, lean back at table'? But will he not be declaring to him, 'Make something ready for me. I should be dining. And being girded, serve me till I should be eating and drinking, and after this you shall be eating and drinking.

Has that slave thanks, seeing that he does what is prescribed? I presume not! Thus, you, also, whenever you should be doing all this which is prescribed you, be saying that 'We are useless slaves. have done what we ought to do.'"

And it occurred, in His going into Jerusalem. He also came through the middle of Samaria and

12 Galilee. And, at His entering into

68 ⁰⁰¹	LUKE'S A	CCOUNT	CHAPTER 17
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12 Compare Lev. 1345, 46 Nu. 52, 3.

12 Our Lord was on His last long journey to Jerusalem. He knew what kind of reception awaited Him there. This miracle seems to be directed as a testimony to the priests. It was a sign that He came in accord with the law of Moses. Though the priests could not cleanse away sin, they had the right to pass upon the cleansing. If the lepers were cleansed they could not deny the presence of the power of God. Not only do they fail to give Him the praise which was His due, but it seems that they even dissuaded the lepers themselves from returning to Him. What a contrast is the despised Samaritan! He does not wait to show himself to his priest, but, as soon as he is cleansed, he returns and worships. The nine Jews had the correct formula for worship but a corrupt heart. The Samaritan was wrong in his religion, but he soon found that the true place of worship was at His feet.

14 Compare Lev.132142Mt.84.

15 Compare Ps. 3011,12.

20 That the coming of the kingdom of God will be a visible, observable event the scriptures amply testify. It will come like a lightning flash (24), accompanied by signs and portents in heaven as well as on earth. But it will not be a small, local occurrence, known only to those who are watching closely. This is the force of the word usually rendered "observation". notes scrutiny, a careful inspection lest something elude observation. Thus they "watched" the gates of Damascus day and night in order to apprehend Saul of Tarsus. This suggests quite the opposite thought, that it comes with such apparent and public "observation" that careful scrutiny is use-

21 Compare Ro. 1417.

21 It will not be confined to any locality, but will instantly cover the whole earth. Hence it would be useless to investigate or follow up any report that the kingdom is here or there, for it will be everywhere. Moreover, unlike other kingdoms, which fail for lack of an inward response to outward regulations, the kingdom of God will be founded on a moral force within men's hearts. This does not deny it an outward polity. But the point for

a certain village, ten men, lepers, meet Him, who stand at a distance.

¹³ And they lift their voices, saying, "Jesus, Doctor, be merciful to

14 us!" And perceiving it, He said to them, "Go, exhibit yourselves to the priests." And in their going away it came to be that they are cleansed.

Now one of them, perceiving that he was healed, returns, glori-

16 fying God with a loud voice. And he falls on his face at His feet, thanking Him. And he was a Sa-

¹⁷ maritan. Now answering, Jesus said, "Are there not ten cleansed?

Yet where are the nine? Were none found returning to give glory to God except this foreigner?"

¹⁹ And He said to him, "Rise. Go. Your faith has saved you."

Now, being inquired of by the Pharisees, as to when the kingdom of God is coming, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with scrutiny.

21 Neither shall they be declaring 'Lo! Here!' or 'Lo! There!' for lo! the kingdom of God is inside of you."

²² Yet He said to His disciples, "The days will be coming when you will be yearning to perceive one of the days of the Son of Manthey shall be declaring to you, 'Lo!"

There!' or 'Lo! Here!' Do not come away, neither should you be pur-

²⁴ suing. For even as the lightning, flashing out from under heaven to under heaven, is shining, thus will be the Son of Mankind in His day.

²⁵ Yet first He must be suffering much and be rejected by this generation.

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the Pharisees, to whom He was speaking, is that, like Nicodemus, they needed an inward renewal, rather than a keen and curious scrutiny of local occurrences, in order to enter the kingdom. It has been suggested that this should be rendered, "the kingdom of God is among you", that is, in the person of the King. But the word here used certainly means inside, as witnesses its only other occurrence (Mt. 2328), which speaks of the inside of the cup and the plate in contrast with their outside.

²²⁻²⁵ Compare 5³⁵Mt.2⁴²³⁻²⁷Mk.13²¹⁻²³Jn. 13³³.

25 Compare 922.

26-27 Compare Mt.2437-39Gen.7.

26 The unexpected suddenness of the coming of the Son of Mankind is further enforced by a comparison with the days of Noah. It will be a day of fancied security and swift destruction. Most of the divine processes are a gradual growth and changes are introduced slowly. The present economy of grace was brought in by instalments during a considerable period of time, from Paul's call to his imprison-But God's judgments are always swift and sudden. Now that it is evident that the kingdom will not be established as a result of His proclamation, but will be introduced by judgment, its coming takes on the characteristics of the previous judgments of the irreverent.

28 Compare Gen. 1916,24,25.

80 Compare 2 Th. 16-10.

81-83 Compare Mt.2415-18 Mk.1314-16 Gen. 1926.

31 Oriental houses usually have an outside stair to the roof, so that, in great haste, it is not necessary to go into the house to get down from the flat roof.

32 The soul is distinct from the life, for we can hardly say that one who is destroying his *life* is causing it to *live*. It is those who shrink from suffering who seek to preserve their souls, and thus forfeit the joys of the kingdom.

34-36 Compare Mt.2440,411 Th.417.

²⁷ Elsewhere the nations are represented as wild beasts. Here they are like birds of prey gathering about Israel in her last extremity.

37 Compare Mt.2428Job 3930.

And according as it occurred in the days of Noah, thus will it be also in the days of the Son of Man-²⁷ kind. They ate, they drank, they married, they gave in marriage, until the day Noah entered into the ark, and the deluge came and destroys them all. Likewise, according as it occurred in the days of Lot. They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, 29 they built, yet the day in which Lot came out from Sodom, fire and sulphur rains from heaven and de-30 stroys them all. In accord with this will be the day in which the Son of Mankind is unveiled.

In that day, he who shall be on the housetop and his gear in his house, let him not be descending to pick it up. And let him who is in the field likewise not turn back to that behind him. Remember 33 Lot's wife. Whoever should be seeking to procure his soul will be destroying it, yet whoever should be destroying it will cause it to live.

I am saying to you, on this night there will be two on one couch; the one shall be taken along and the one shall be left. There will be two grinding at the same place; the one shall be taken along, yet the one shall be left." And, answering, they are saying to Him, "Where, Lord?" Yet He said to them, "Where the body is, there the vultures also will be assembled."

18 Now He told them a parable also, with this in view that they must always be praying and not

be despondent, saying, "In a certain city was a certain judge who feared not God nor respected man.

3 Now there was a widow in that

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THE FIELD LIKE-AS NO LET-him-on-Turn

1 This parable follows most naturally from the foregoing prophecy concerning the coming of the Son of Mankind. for then it is that the saints in Israel clamor for vengeance, as figured in the souls under the altar (Un. 69-11). Indeed, it is the importunity of the blood of the martyrs which brings on the judgments of the sixth seal.

We, too, are told to pray without intermission (1 Th. 517). But a prayer for vengeance is utterly foreign to the spirit of grace which is ours in Christ Jesus. We can quite understand that God should need much urging and continued importunity before He visits their adversaries with vengeance. That is His strange work. It is not in direct accord with His heart. But there is a question whether such urgency is necessary for Him to answer those of our prayers which are in accord with His will. Above all, let us not make this parable an excuse for senseless repetition or stubbornness in petitioning for that which is contrary to God's pres-The closing ent attitude of grace. words of the parable emphasize its close connection with the judgments which attend the coming of the Son of Mankind.

- Compare 2 Th. 16,7.
- This Pharisee is intensely typical of those self-righteous ones, who imagine that God is pleased with their sham religion. Self is the center and the circumference of all their worship. Though so fully pleased with themselves, they are the most pitiable of men, blind to their sins, dead to their own corruption. The traitorous tax gatherer, on the other hand, showed a spiritual intelligence seldom seen during our Lord's ministry, as is indicated by his use of the word propitiate. From where he stood he could doubtless see the smoke of the sacrifice ascending to God, and he grasped the great truth of propitiation, that, sinner though he was, he could approach and obtain favor of God on the ground of sacrifice. Thus did the Saviour call their attention once again to the sacrifice He was about to offer so that He may become the great Propitiatory or meeting place of God and man.
- 13 Compare Ps.4012511-3Jer.3118,19.
- 14 Compare Ro. 319-26.

city, and she came to him, saying, 'Avenge me from my plaintiff.' 4 Now for a time he would not,

vet afterward he said in himself, 'Even if I am not fearing God nor respecting man, surely because of

the weariness this widow is affording me I shall be avenging her, seeing that, not coming to a consum-

mation, she should belabor me.'"

Now the Lord said. "Hear what the unjust judge is saying. Yet should not God by all means be doing the avenging of His chosen ones who are imploring Him day and night? And He is patient with them. I am saying to you that He

will be doing the avenging of them swiftly. Moreover, consequently, at the coming of the Son of Mankind, will He be finding the faith

on the earth?" Reac

Now He said to some, also, who have confidence in themselves that they are just and are scorning the 10 rest, this parable: "Two men went up into the sanctuary to pray, the one a Pharisee, and the other a 11 tribute collector. The Pharisee, standing, prayed this to himself: 'O God, I am thanking you that I am not even as the rest of men. rapacious, unjust, adulterers, or ¹² even as this tribute collector. I am fasting twice of a sabbath, I am taking tithes from all whatever ¹³ I am acquiring.' Now the tribute

collector, having taken a stand afar off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his chest, saying, 'O God, be propitiated to

14 me, the sinner!' I am saying to you, this man descended justified to his home, rather than that one,

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BE-BEING-PROPITIATED to-ME

15-17 Compare Mt.1913-15 Mk.1013-16 Mt. 183.

15 It was customary for rabbis and great teachers to invoke a blessing on those who desired it, especially on children who were not mature enough to derive benefit from their words. It was a touching tribute to the esteem in which some, at least, still held Him. Theirs was a child-like faith, uninfluenced by the current of opposition which was setting in against Him. Hence it was specially acceptable to Him to bless the babes, for in them was reflected the sincere and unwavering faith which was so satisfying to His heart.

18-23 Compare Mt.1916-22 Mk.1017-22 Ex. 2012-16.

¹⁸ The law was never given to impart life (Ga. 3²¹). Its function was to make sin more sinful by turning it into transgression. Its mission was to reveal the presence of sin, not to remove it. Only those who continued to do all its precepts could claim life.

The chief approaches the Lord with the wrong expression. The word "good" suggested a certain lenience which was not in the law. If eonian life is to be the wages of lawkeeping. it must be on the ground of justice rather than goodness. But the Lord does not allow the opportunity to go by to assure the chief that God is good. Passing over the greatest commandments, love to God and to his associates, the Lord first mentions those grosser sins which usually pass as the principal precepts of the law. But when He puts before him a practical test to determine whether he kept the two great precepts, his chances for eonian life vanish.

The social economy in Israel was such that it was hardly possible to be very rich without oppressing the poor. After the land had been divided by lot the only way to get more was to encroach on the allotments of others who were compelled to sell until the jubilee. At that time the Jews were not traders and could not take interest, so wealth was almost always in cattle or land. When the kingdom is established the land will be redistributed according to the lines laid down in the prophets (Eze.4713.4835). A rich man will have no claim whatever on his

seeing that every one who is exalting himself shall be humbled, yet he who is humbling himself shall be exalted."

Now they brought the babes also to Him, that He may be touching them. Now the disciples, perceiving it, rebuked them. Yet Jesus calls them to Him, saying, "Let the little children be coming to Me, and be forbidding them not, for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily, I am saying to you, whoever should not be receiving the kingdom of God as a little boy or girl, may un-

not be receiving the kingdom of God as a little boy or girl, may under no circumstances be entering into it."

And a certain chief inquires of

Him, saying, "Good Teacher, by doing what should I enjoy the allot
19 ment of eonian life?" Now Jesus said to him, "Why are you terming Me good? No one is good ex
20 cept One, God. You are acquainted with the precepts: You should not be committing adultery; you should not be murdering; you should not be stealing; you should not be testifying falsely; be honoring your father and your mother."

21 Yet he said, "All these I maintain 22 from my youth." Now, hearing this, Jesus said to him, "One thing you still are lacking. Sell all, whatever you have, and distribute to the poor, and you will be having treasure in the heavens, and hither, be following Me."

Yet he who hears all these things became sorrow-stricken, for he was tremen dously rich. Now Jesus, perceiving him becoming sorrow-stricken, said, "How squeamishly shall those having money be entering into the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to be entering through the eye of a bodkin, than for a rich man to be entering into the kingdom of God."

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lands. He cannot carry his wealth with him into the kingdom. It is not likely that any great difference in the distribution of wealth will be possible under the laws of that day. Property will be practically unknown. Land will be held as an allotment from Jehovah, Who will retain its control in His own hands, but will allot its use.

22 Compare 1 Ti.617-19.

24-27 Compare Mt.1923-26 Mk.1023-27 1 Ti. 69,10.

28-30 Compare Mt.1927-30Mk.1028-31.

28 This saying of our Lord has occasioned much genuine distress among those who "apply" all scripture to themselves, with no regard to the great changes in God's dealings. In actual practise we do not get back what we give up for Christ in this day of grace. Paul, our pattern, suffered the loss of all, and was rewarded with a prison. If we restrict this to those to whom our Lord was talking the difficulty vanishes. The apostles were greatly compensated even at that time for their sacrifices for the kingdom.

31-34 Compare Mt.2017-19Mk.1032-34Ps.22 Isa.53.

31 The twelve were very keen as to their own petty privations and the consequent reward, but painfully obtuse on the subject of His great sacrifice. It is not hard to see how the nation could slay Him in their ignorance and thus fulfill the prophets which were read constantly in their synagogues, when His own disciples could not understand the plainest predictions of His sufferings, though repeated and emphasized throughout this last journey to Jerusalem.

The Lord undoubtedly did many miracles of the same kind. He healed many blind men as a sign that He would open the eyes of the blind nation. There were probably four distinct blind men healed on this journey through Jericho. The many differences in detail between Mt. 2022-34; Mk.1046-48, and this passage do not need to be "harmonized" but believed. The different circumstances of each case do not denote discrepancies, but divine accuracies the force of which our present spiritual microscopes are not powerful enough to reveal.

35-43 Compare Mt.2029-34Mk.1046-52

Now those hearing it said, "And who can be saved?" Yet He said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

Now Peter said, "Lo! we, leaving our own, follow Thee." Now He said to them, "Verily, I am saying to you that there is no one who leaves home, or wife, or brothers, or parents, or offspring, on account of the kingdom of God,

30 who may not by all means be getting back many fold in this era, and in the coming eon, eonian life."

Now, taking the twelve aside, He said to them, "Lo! we are ascending into Jerusalem, and all will be accomplished in the Son of Mankind which has been written

through the prophets. For He shall be given up to the nations and will be derided and outraged and spat
upon, and, scourging Him, they

will be killing Him, and the third day He will be rising." And they understand none of these things, and this declaration was hid from them, and they knew not what was said.

Now it occurred at His nearing Jericho, a certain blind man sat beside the road, a mendicant. Now at hearing the throng going through, he ascertained what this may be.

³⁷ Now they report to him that "Jesus, the Nazarene, is passing ³⁸ by." And he implores, saying,

"Jesus, Son of David, be merciful to me!" And those preceding rebuked him, that he should be silent. Yet he much the more cried, "Jesus, Son of David, be merciful

40 to me!" Now Jesus, standing, orders him to be led to Him. Now, at his drawing near, He inquires of

IT CANTECATION TENOYCI20 **ΦθΗΝΑΙΟΔΕΕΙΠΕΝΤΆλΔΥΝ²⁰** THEY-WILL-BE-FROM-KILLING 27 SAVED THE YET He-said THE UN-ABLE NAYTONK AITHHMEPATHTP® **ΑΤΑΠΑΡΑΆΝΘΡΦΠΟΙ CAYNA#** to-THE DAY THE third AND humans TANAPATORE CTINE INC. ITHANACTHCETAIKAIAYT® AND He-WILL-BE-UP-STANDING THE God said BESIDE 18 N∆€ОПЄТРОСІ∆ОУНЙЁІС»® OLOYAENTOYTONCYNHKAN® NOT-YET-ONE OF-these YET THE Peter BE-PERCEIVING WE FROM81* HKAMENNANTAKAI=WE-FROM-LET ALL AND
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- Compare Josh.6261 Ki.1634.
- ² The case of Zaccheus meant much more to a patriotic Jew than we can possibly imagine. The most hated and unpopular class in the whole nation were the tax farmers, who paid the taxes for a district and then collected it from the people, adding their own charges to it. Not only were the taxes oppressive, but the collectors usually imposed enough to enrich themselves. Now Zaccheus was evidently a leader in this nefarious business and was cordially disliked by his countrymen.

The Lord is proclaiming a kingdom. How strange it must have seemed for Him not only to have one of these hated collectors among His apostles, but to invite Himself to the house of a chief of these unpatriotic traitors! Few acts in His career showed more clearly that He came to call sinners, not the righteous. It was a difficult lesson for them to learn, so He chooses the most striking means of impressing it on their minds.

- 3 Compare Jn. 1221.
- There is a delightful parallel between Zaccheus' physical state and his spiritual condition. His small stature suggests the small esteem in which he was held by his countrymen. As we would say, they looked down on him. But he managed to elevate himself by means of a fig-mulberry, or wild fig tree, an excellent representation of the Roman rule, which gave him his position and wealth. Israel, politically, is figured by the tame fig tree.

It was not the Lord's will that he should remain there, hence His word, "Hurry! Descend!" The effect of the Lord's favor is immediately apparent. Without any prompting, he announces his intention to give half of his possessions to the poor, and to more than right any wrong doing which may have occurred in his dealings. What a contrast with the rich self-righteous chief (1818) who, though urged to do so, and promised a great reward, would not part with his possessions, and this chief of sinners, whose riches are given freely, without even a suggestion from the Lord! It is the compulsion of love which springs only from the depths of sin.

- 8 Compare 38,12,13Ja.221-24Ex.221.
- 9 Compare Ro.411,12Ga.37.

him, "What are you wanting I shall be doing to you?" Now he said, "Lord, that I should be re covering sight!" And Jesus said

to him, "Recover sight! Your

- faith has saved you." And instantly he recovers sight and followed Him, glorifying God. And the entire people, perceiving it, give praise to God.
- 19 And entering, He came through
 ² Jericho. And *lo!* a man whose
 name is called Zaccheus, and *he*was chief tribute collector, and he

3 is rich. And he sought to see Jesus, what He is, and was not able from the throng, seeing that he was

⁴ little of stature. And, running before in front, he climbed up on a fig mulberry, that he may see Him, seeing that He was about to

- be coming through that way. And as He came to the place, looking up, Jesus perceived him and said to him, "Zaccheus! Hurry! Descend, for today I must remain in your
- 6 house." And, hurrying, he descended, and entertains Him with
- joy. And, perceiving it, all grumbled, saying that He entered to put up for the night with a man who is a sinner.
- Now Zaccheus, standing, said to the Lord, "Lo! the half of my possessions, Lord, I am giving to the poor! And if I get anything from any one by blackmail, I am giving

back fourfold." Now Jesus said to him that "Today salvation came to this home, for as much as he also

of Mankind came to seek and to save that which is lost."

Now at their hearing these things, He spoke, adding a parable because He is near Jerusalem, and

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11-27 Compare Mt.2514-30Ac.16.

12 Compare Dan.713,14Ac.111.

12 The picture presented in this parable was well known to His hearers. Native noblemen were obliged to go to Rome to "obtain a kingdom". The first Herod and Archelaus both repaired to Rome to be elevated to the throne. The latter had built a palace in Jericho near which this parable was spoken, and doubtless his hearers remembered that, when he returned as Ethnarch of Judea and Samaria, he had rewarded his adherents and had slain his enemies.

His disciples seemed absolutely deaf to His repeated warnings that He was about to suffer, rather than to reign. Even the multitude seemed to sense the great fact that the time for the kingdom had come, but did not realize the growing opposition. So He, with marvelous discernment, seizes on a parallel which they did understand, in order to explain to them what seemed so difficult. He did not deny their expectation of a kingdom; rather He confirmed it. Like the Herods, He, too, was going away to receive a kingdom. The reason for this is hinted in the hatred of the citizens. Even so the Jews had sent an embassy to the emperor Augustus and besought him to unite their country with Syria rather than that they should have an Idumean for their king. But their protestations were in vain and Archelaus was made tetrarch. They only brought down his vengeance on their heads when he returned. That the Lord will follow a similar course, and slay His enemies when He sets up the kingdom, shows that this is not the present period of grace, but the literal sovereignty of our Lord which will be preceded by the terrors of the apocalyptic judg-

The main thought seems to be centered on the service of His slaves during His absence. Here, too, this parable is vastly different from present truth. There may be some similarity between us and the first two slaves, but it is contrary to the spirit we have received to think and act like the wicked slave. What genuine believer in Christ Jesus, who has tasted of His love and grace, would think of calling Him harsh and grasping? We, one and all, no matter how slight our

they are supposing that the kingdom of God is about to be looming ¹² up instantly. Then He said, "A certain nobleman was gone into a far country to obtain a kingdom for himself and return. Now, calling ten of his own slaves, he gives to them ten minas [about \$19.70 each] and said to them, 'Go into ¹⁴ business while I am coming.' Now his citizens hated him, and they dispatch an embassy after him, say-

his citizens hated him, and they dispatch an embassy after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us!'

And it occurred at his coming back, obtaining the kingdom, he said also to summon to him these slaves to whom he had given the silver, that he may be knowing what business they do. Now the first came along, saying, 'Lord, your mina earns ten minas.' And he said to him 'Well done, good slave! Seeing that you became faithful in the least, be having authority over ten cities.' And the second came, saying, 'Your mina, lord, makes

19 five minas.' Now he said to this one also, 'And you become over five cities.'

And a different one came, saying, 'Lord, lo! your mina, which I had reserved in a handkerchief.
 For I feared you, seeing that you

are a harsh man, picking up what you do not lay down, and reaping ²² what you do not sow.' Now he is saying to him, 'Out of your mouth shall I judge you, wicked slave! You were aware that I am a harsh man, picking up what I do not lay down, and reaping what I do not

²³ sow. And wherefore do you not give my silver to the bank, and I, coming, might utilize it together

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knowledge of Him, think Him loving and generous. However little we may do for Him, or however faulty that little is, the lack is hardly due to such ungrateful motives as this slave's excuse.

- 14 Compare Jn.1111915.
- 27 Compare Un. 1911-21.
- 28-36 Compare Mt.211-8Mk.111-8.

28 This entry into Jerusalem marks one of the most important days in the history of the holy people. The seventy heptads of Daniel's prophecy are divided into seven, sixty-two, and one. The sixty-ninth heptad, after which Messiah was to be cut off (Dan. 926). must be fulfilled before the crucifixion. Nothing in His life heretofore corresponds to His presentation to the people as a Prince. His birth, His baptism, the beginning of His ministry. none of these so fully satisfy the words "unto Prince Messiah", as His entry as recorded on this day. Hitherto He had trudged along as any wayfarer, but now He comes as a king should come, riding on a colt, over a path strewn with the garments of His loyal subjects.

31 This is perhaps the only act in which He exercises His regal authority. A king could commandeer anything in his kingdom, so He, as the King of Israel and the Lord of all in the realm (yet too poor to have a mount of His own!) has no hesitancy in sending for the colt. He has no royal trappings but the garments of His lowly escort. 37-38 Compare Mt.219-11 Mk.119-10 Jn.

37 How solemn and inspiring was the scene as the cavalcade, nearing the descent of Olivet, stood revealed to the gaze of the holy city! Long had Jerusalem waited for that day! Prophets had perceived it and saints had sighed for it, yet where was the response from the city as the procession came into view? A few of His own rend the air with their acclamations, but the great city with its priests and chiefs is represented by the sullen Pharisees who resented His royal assumptions. Much has the sacred city suffered for its neglect of Him since that day. Blessed, indeed, will be that future day when, once again, He stands on Olivet and claims the royal honors which they then refused (Zech. 144).

24 with interest?' And to those standing by he said, 'Take the mina from him and give it to him who

25 has the ten minas.' And they say to him, 'Lord, he has ten minas!'

For I am saying to you that to every one who has shall be given. vet from him who has not, even what he has shall be taken away

²⁷ from him. 'Moreover, these, my enemies, who do not want me to reign over them-lead them here and slav them in front of me'."

And, saving these things, He went in front, ascending into ²⁹ Jerusalem. And it occurred, as He nears Bethphage and Bethany at the mount called Olivet. He dis-³⁰ patches two of His disciples, saving.

"Go away to the village facing us. going into which, you will be finding a colt hitched, on which no man ever yet is seated, and, loosing, be leading it.

And if any one should be asking you, 'Why are you loosing it?' thus shall you be declaring to him, that 'The Lord is having need of it.' ''

Now, coming away, those who have been dispatched found it ac-33 cording as He said to them. Now. at their loosing the colt, its lords

say to them, "Why are you ³⁴ loosing the colt?" Now they say

that "The Lord is having need 35 of it." And they led it to Jesus. and tossing their garments on the

36 the colt, they mount Jesus. Now, at His going, they strewed their

garments in the road.

Now at His already nearing the descent of the mount of Olives, the entire multitude of the disciples begins rejoicing, praising God with

76001	LUKE'S ACCOUNT	CHAPTER 19
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- 38 Compare 214Ps.11826.
- 40 Compare Hab. 211.
- 40 There is a marked change manifest in the attitude of our Lord. Since His rejection by the nation was evident, He has been restraining His disciples from making Him known. He closed the proclamation of the kingdom and would not allow it to be heralded. Now, however, He receives the acclamation of the disciples, and rebukes the remonstrance of the Pharisees instead of rebuking His disciples. They were fulfilling the scripture (Zech. 99):

Exult exceedingly, daughter of Zion, Shout, daughter of Jerusalem. Lo! your King is coming to you, He is just and being saved: He is humble and rides on an ass, And on a colt, the foal of an ass.

- 41 Compare Hos.118.
- 42 Compare Deut.529Isa.4818.

⁴² This was the day so long foretold by Daniel the prophet (Dan. 9²⁵) when Messiah the Prince should come. Since the coming forth of the king's word to restore and to build Jerusalem, sixty-nine heptads had run their course. Exactly four hundred and eighty-three years of three hundred and sixty days each had passed since the edict of Artaxerxes (Neh. 2).

All the previous ministry of Messiah was with a view to His public proclamation on this day. Hence His lament over the apostate city. The day of her visitation had come and she was utterly oblivious of it. The scribes could actually have demonstrated mathematically that He was the Messiah by counting the days of Daniel's prophecy, yet they are so blind that they reject Him. It was Jerusalem's last opportunity. Seven times had He visited the city and had given ample proof of His messiahship. This was final. Had they received Him her portion would have been peace. Now that they reject Him there can be no permanent peace until she reverses her decision at His return in power.

43 Compare 2120Dan.926.

⁴³ All of this was literally fulfilled at the siege of Jerusalem by Titus and the later destruction under the emperor Hadrian. Jerusalem has seen little of peace except in its desolation. The recent capture of the city is but the prelude to the terrible times that are still to come.

a loud voice, concerning all the powers which they perceived, saying, "Blessed be the King coming in the name of the Lord! In heaven peace, and glory among the highest!"

And some of the Pharisees from the throng say to Him, "Teacher, to rebuke your disciples!" And answering, He said to them, "I am saying to you that, should these be silent, the stones will be crying."

And as He draws near, perceiving the city, He laments over it,
 saying that, "If you knew, even you, at least in this day, what is for your peace!—yet now it was hid

from your eyes, seeing that the days will be arriving on you and your enemies will cast up a rampart about you, and they will be surrounding you and will be press-

44 ing you everywhere, and they will be leveling you and your children in you, and they shall not leave a stone on a stone in you, because you knew not the era of your visitation."

45 And, entering the sanctuary, He begins to cast out those who are 46 selling and buying in it, saying to them, "It is written, "And My house shall be a house of prayer," yet you make it a cave of robbers."

⁴⁷ And He was teaching daily in the sanctuary, yet the chief priests and the scribes and the foremost of the

⁴⁸ people sought to destroy Him. And they found not what they should be doing, for all the people, hearing, hung on Him.

20 And it occurred on one of those days, at His teaching the people in the sanctuary and preaching the

77001		LUKE'S	ACCOUNT	CHAPTERS 19-20
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91* | EYALLEVIZONENOAELECT.8000 OF-WELL-MESSAGIZING

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or-Him

- 44 Compare Mic.312Mt.242.
- 45-48 Compare Mt.2112-17Mk.1111.15-19.
- ⁴⁵ His kingdom will be a combination of church and state and He will be the Head of both. Hence He not only presents Himself as King, but enters the temple and cleanses it of its unlawful traffic.
- 46 Compare Isa.567Jer.711.
- 48 Compare Jn.1217-19.
- 1-8 Compare Mt.2123-27Mk.1127-33.
- The Rabbis had a great conceit of their powers of debate, so they deemed it best to lay a snare for Him. The question itself seems innocent enough, and had they honestly asked for information, He doubtless would have answered them. But He seldom listened to men's words. He read their hearts. Those who sought to catch Him were always taken in their own toils. In an indirect way His question contained the answer that they desired. If the baptist was commissioned by God to prepare His path, surely then His authority must far exceed that of John, for he repeatedly renounced himself in favor of the One Whose sandal thong he was not worthy to loose. What a humiliating confession they were forced to make to cover their hypocrisy! Of what use is truth to such So He wisely refuses to tell men? them what any blind man could see if he did not wish to hold to his error at any cost.

9-12 Compare Mt.2133-36Mk.121-5Isa.51-7.
9 The parable grows out of the attitude of the Pharisees, as just made manifest. Most skilfully He uses incidents well known to them and figures with which they are familiar to trace the attitude of Israel toward those who had been sent with divine authority in the past. All the prophets—even Moses—suffered at their unbelieving hands. They always persecuted the messengers of God, and, for that reason, they were about to kill Him.

The sad history of Israel, their continual defection and rejection of God, does not seem to affect their hearts. They are ready to do as did their forefathers, even though they condemn them. They boast in the very prophets that their fathers persecuted. Does not all this show the total failure of law and ritual as a link between God and man? Religion so radically viti-

evangel, the chief priests and the scribes, together with the elders. stand by. And they said, speaking to Him, "Tell us, by what authority are you doing these things, or, who is giving you this authority?" ³ Now, answering, He said to them, "I also shall be asking you one 4 word, and you tell Me: The baptism of John-was it out of heaven, or of men?" Now they reckon together among themselves, saying that "If we should be saying, 'Out of heaven'. He will be declaring, 'Why, then, do you not believe him?' Yet if we should say, 'Of men,' the people all will be stoning us, for they are persuaded that John is a prophet." And they answered, "Whence is not to be per-

swered, "Whence is not to be per
series, "And Jesus said to them,
"Neither am I telling you by what
authority I am doing these things."

Now He begins to be telling the

people this parable, "A certain man plants a vineyard and he leased it to farmers, and travels a considerable time. And in season he dispatches a slave to the farmers, that they shall give him of the fruit of the vineyard. Yet the farmers, lashing him, send him away and in addition he sent a different slave, yet that one also,

lashing and dishonoring him, they send away empty. And in addition, he sent a third. Yet wounding this one also, they cast him out.

Now the lord of the vineyard said, 'What shall I be doing? I shall be sending my beloved son.

Him they will be respecting equal-

14 ly [with me].' Now on perceiving him, the farmers reasoned with

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78001	LUKE'S A	CCOUNT	CHAPTER 20
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ates the standard of human morals that it is reserved for religious men to commit the crime of crimes.

11 Compare Ac. 752.

13-15 Compare Mt.2137-39Mk.126-81Th.215. 13 It was only reasonable to suppose that even if the nation had maltreated the messengers of God, they would not be nearly so likely to mistreat the Son. Previous messengers often came unannounced, with few credentials, and often with a most unpalatable message. But the Son came according to many prophecies which foretold minute details of His career. He was the only Prophet to be introduced by a forerunner. None approached Him in the number and wonders of His works. 15-18 Compare Mt.2140-44Mk.129-11. See Ac.4111 Pt.24-7.

16 The destruction of Jerusalem and the nation was directly due to the murder of Messiah. Their misfortunes from that day to this and the evils still in store for them in the greatest of all afflictions, at the time of the end, all would have been avoided, humanly speaking, had they hailed Him as their King.

17 Compare Eph.110214Ps.11822.

17 The head corner stone of a building is the most ornamental and honorable in the whole structure. Lying on the ground, they stumbled over it and refused it. So have the builders of Israel hurt themselves on Him.

18 Compare Dan. 284,85.

19 Compare Mt.2145,46Mk.1212.

19 The object of the scribes and chief priests now seems to be to put Him in a quandary. Either He will be discredited in the eyes of the people or come to a clash with the civil rulers. So long as He had a following they were afraid. Nor were they willing to risk an open debate. So they keep out of it entirely and send others with what, at first sight, seems to be a simple question of conscience. They hope to get Him to say that they should not pay taxes to Rome so they can accuse Him to the government. So they use fine flatteries to destruction. But His first response tears off the veil of hypocrisy and reveals the true intent of their inquiry. They wish to try Him, not to quiet their conscience.

20-26 Compare Mt.2215-22Mk.1213-17.

22 Compare Deut. 2847, 48.

one another, saying, 'This is the enjoyer of the allotment. Hither! We may be killing him, that the enjoyment of the allotment may be becoming ours.' And, casting him outside of the vineyard, they kill him. What, then, will the lord of the vineyard be doing to them? He will be coming and destroying these farmers and will be giving the vineyard to others.''

Now those hearing say, "May 17 it not come to that!" Yet He, looking at them, said, "What, then, is this which is written,

"The stone which the builders reject,
This came to be for the head of the corner'?

18 Every one falling on that stone shall be shattered, yet on whomever it should be falling it will be scattering him like chaff."

And the scribes and the chief priests seek to lay hands on Him in this hour, and they were afraid of the people, for they know that He told this parable against them. ²⁰ And, scrutinizing Him, they dispatch eavesdroppers, feigning themselves to be just, that they may get hold of a word of His, so as to give Him up to the sovereignty and ²¹ jurisdiction of the governor. And they inquire of Him, saying, "Teacher, we are aware that you are saving and teaching correctly. and are not taking the surface, but of a truth you are teaching the way ²² of God. Is it allowed us to give a 23 tax to Cæsar, or not?" Now, considering their craftiness, He said to 24 them, "Why are you trying Me? Show Me a denarius." Now they show Him one, and He said,

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24 Two kinds of coins were in circulation, the Roman and the Jewish. The temple taxes had to be paid in the Jewish shekel, the Roman in the foreign currency. The fact that they had accepted the conquerors' money shows that they regarded themselves as his subjects. Indeed, not long after this they insisted that they had no king but Cæsar. To pay taxes, therefore, was only the fulfillment of an obligation they had already undertaken. Hence, instead of branding Him with sedition. as they hoped. He fastens on them the disgrace of national servitude. to emphasize the divine obligations. He insists on their paying the shekel of the sanctuary, which they doubtless did in fact but not in spirit.

Our attitude toward rulers is set forth in Ro. 131-7. We look at the civil authorities as but a part of the sovereign supervising government of God, even though they are oblivious of Him or actually opposed to Him.

27-36 Compare Mt.2223-30Mk.1218-25.

27 Compare Ac. 236-8.

27 The law made extraordinary provision for the perpetuation of the name and family of an Israelite. Should he die without issue, it was the duty of his brother to marry his widow and the son of such a union would take his name, so that it would not be blotted out (Deut. 255,6). The Sadducees seize on this custom to formulate a difficulty which was evidently a stock argument in their encounters with the Pharisees.

It is evident that they had a most superficial understanding of the law and paid no attention to the underlying reason for its enactments. The law in question was necessitated by the disturbing element of death. Apart from this it has no place. In the resurrection of the just, where there is no more death, it can have no application. Marriage, similarly, has no place in the resurrection, so the question really revealed the ignorance of the Sadducees, rather than their fancied acuteness.

- 28 Compare Deut. 255.
- 37 Compare Mt.2231,32Mk.1226,27Ex.36.
- 37 The real issue is now taken up by the Lord. They denied the resurrection. They appealed to Moses, so He also uses Moses as the basis of His

it?" Now answering, they say, 25 "Cæsar's." Now He said to them, "Now then, be paying Cæsar's to

²⁶ Cæsar, and God's to God." And they have not the strength to get hold of a declaration of His in front of the people. And, marveling at His answer, they hush.

Now some of the Sadducees approach, who say there is no resurrection. They inquire of Him, say-28 ing. "Teacher, Moses writes to us, if any man's brother, having a wife, should be dying, and this one should be dying childless, that his brother may be getting the wife, and should be raising up seed to his 29 brother. There were, then, seven brothers, and the first, getting a

30 wife, died childless. And the second got the wife, and this one died

31 childless. And the third got her. Now, similarly, the seven also left

32 no children, and they died. Now subsequently to all, the woman also

33 died. Of which of them, then, is the woman becoming the wife in the resurrection? For the seven have had her as wife."

And, answering, Jesus said to them, "The sons of this eon are marrying and are given in marriage. Yet those deemed worthy to

happen upon that eon and the resurrection from among the dead are neither marrying nor giving in

marriage, for neither can they be dying any more, for they are equal to messengers, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

Now that the dead are being roused Moses also divulges at the thorn bush, as he is saying, 'Lord,

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argument. The God of Abraham is pre-eminently the God of promises and covenants. These have not been fulfilled and cannot be carried out if Abraham is not roused from the dead. All the virtue of the title "the God of Abraham" is lost if we consider it merely in connection with the past life of the patriarch. He did not receive the promises. It demands that he shall be raised from the dead.

³⁸ There is no question here of the death state. Abraham is not living now. It is only in a secondary sense that all are living to God. He deals with His creatures in life, not in death. The Lord is not seeking to prove that death is life, but that there is a life after death in resurrection.

89-44 Compare Mt.2223-46Mk.1228-37.

41 He has brought them to a point where they no longer dare to question Him, so now He turns to question them. He goes straight to the heart of the whole situation. Often had He been hailed as the Son of David, and He always acknowledged this evidence of faith in Him. But how few, even among His disciples, knew Him as David's Lord! That this Lord, Who was in the form of God, should empty Himself and be found in fashion as a Man (Phil. 25-8), was a truth so utterly beyond their comprehension that He did not even stop for an answer. The Hebrew scriptures use the titles "Lord", "God", etc. of the Image of God as freely as of absolute Deity. There are two Personalities bear these divine appellations, nor need we often be concerned which One is uppermost in any passage, for They are one, as the Image is one with Him Whom It represents. The lowly Man of the evangelists is the divine Lord of the prophets.

42 Compare Ps. 1101.

45-47 Compare Mt.231-7,14Mk.1238-40.

1-4 Compare Mk. 1241-44.

8 Compare 2 Co. 812.

of the sacrifices of the giver. Its commercial value means little to Him, Who owns all things, and Who accepts nothing except as a token of esteem. The rich seldom labor for a living, hence their offerings, unless very great, can mean little to them or to God. But such a drudge as this widow, who had nothing except the pittance she could earn,

the God of Abraham and the God of 38 Isaac and the God of Jacob.' Now He is not a God of the dead, but of the living, for all are living, to

39 Him." Now, answering, some of the scribes say to Him, "Teacher,

40 you say ideally." For they no longer dared to be inquiring anything of Him.

Now He said to them, "How are some saving that Christ is David's

⁴² Son? For David himself is saying in the scroll of the Psalms,

'The Lord said to my Lord, "Be sitting at my right,

43 Till I should be placing Thy enemies

For a footstool of Thy feet."

44 David, then, is calling Him Lord, and how is He his Son?"

Now, in the he aring of the entire people, He said to His disciples,
 "Take heed of the scribes who are wanting to walk in robes, and fond of salutations in the markets, and front seats in the synagogues, and the first reclining places at the din-

⁴⁷ ners, who are devouring the homes of widows and for a pretense are prolix in prayer. These will be getting more excessive judgment.

21 Now, looking up, He perceived the rich casting their oblations into

² the treasury. Yet He perceived a certain drudging widow also, casting there two mites [about .39¢,

³ .75f]. And He said, "Truly, I am saying to you that this poor

4 widow cast in more than all. For these all cast out of their superfluity into the oblations of God, yet this woman, out of her want cast in all the livelihood which she had."

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was at a great advantage. However little she might give, it would be great in God's eyes. And if she should give all, as this dear woman did, she would actually bring greater wealth to God than the combined total of all the large oblations. No one lacks the means to give much to God.

5-7 Compare Mt.241-3Mk.131-4Mic.312.

- The present interval being an absolute secret, we must banish it from our view entirely when considering the prophetic forecast here given. It is contained in the "eras of the nations" (24) but the vision of the future is as though we were looking at two mountain ranges, one before the other, which look like one, and hide the valley that lies between. We see here the turbulent times of the Jewish wars, the destruction of the temple at the siege of Jerusalem, the dispersion-all long past—and then find ourselves in the future terrors of the sixth seal. and the coming of the Son of Mankind. 8-11 Compare Mt.244-8Mk.135-8.
- ⁸ It is said that more than sixty different ones have come with messianic claims and the greatest of them is still to come at the time of the end. The rider on the white horse, under the first seal of the sixth chapter of the Unveiling, will be the false messiah of the end time.
- 10-11 The second seal (Un. 63,4) takes peace from the earth. It corresponds with the conflict of nation with nation and seems to indicate a world war with universal conscription, whole nations hurling themselves at one another rather than merely sending small contingents of fighting men. Famine is indicated by the black horse with the balances (Un.65,6). A day's labor will barely buy one day's food. The fourth seal, with its sallow greenish horse (Un. 67,8) corresponds with the pestilences here predicted.

12-19 Compare Mt.249-14Mk.139-13.

12 From verses twelve to twenty-five we have an outline of the siege of Jerusalem, the dispersion among the nations, the occupation of the holy city, and the persecutions which will be endured before the time of the end. We should remember that the perspective here and in all similar prophecies such that the great affliction which is yet to come appears to follow soon

the sanctuary, that it is adorned with fine stones and votive offerings, He said, "These which you are beholding—there will be coming days in which not a stone will be left here on a stone, which will not be demolished."

Now they inquire of Him, saying, "Teacher, when, then, will these things be, and what is the sign whenever these things may be about to occur?" Now He said, "Beware! You should not be deceived, for many shall be coming in My name, saying that 'I am!' and 'The season has drawn near!' You should not then be going after them. Now, whenever you should be hearing battles and turbulences you should not be dismayed, for these things must occur first, but not immediately is the consummation."

10 Then He said to them, "Nation shall be roused against nation, and ¹¹ kingdom against kingdom. Besides, in places, there will be great quakes and famines and pestilences. There will be fearful sights and great 12 signs from heaven as well. Yet before all these things they will be laying their hands on you and they will be persecuting [you], giving you up into the synagogues and jails, being led off to kings and governors on account of My name. 13 Yet it will be even tuating to you for ¹⁴ a testimony. Ponder, then, in your hearts not to be premeditating a de-¹⁵ fense, for I will be giving you a mouth and wisdom, which all who are opposing you will not be able ¹⁶ to withstand or contradict. Yet you will be betrayed also by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will be causing 17 some of you to die. And you will be hated by all because of My

LUKE'S ACCOUNT YIEPOYOTIAIOOICKAAOI20 A omits AND A adds KAI ΓΑΛΟΙΚΑΙΚΑΤΑΤΟΠΟΎ ΕΛΕ 20 SACRED-place that to-stones IDEAL AND according-to PLACES A8 E B PESTILENCES AND FAMINES CKAIANA BHMACINKEKOCM® IMOIKALAOIMOIECONTAL® AND UP-PLACINGS HAS-been-SYSTEMED AND PESTILENCES THEY-WILL-BE HTAIGITIENTAYTAAGE OPE O ΦOBH ΘΡΑΤΕΚΑΙ CHMEIAAΠ® these WHICH YE-ARE-be-BESIDES AND SIGNS B FROM heaven SIGNS 8 GREAT FROM heaven ITEEAEYCONTAIHMEPAIE® ΟΥΡΆΝΟΥΜΕΓΑΛΆΕ CΤΑΙΠΡ® holding they-will-be-coming 12 heaven DAYS GREAT WILL-BE NAICOYK AGEGHCETAIAIO 100 **ΟΔΕΤΟΥΤΌΝ ΠΑΝΤΌΝΕΠΙΒΑ** 600 WHICH NOT WILL-BE-BEING-FROM-LET STONE YET OF-these ALL THEY-WILL-BEs2 ON A omits here 81 EΠΑΥΤΟΥC on them 8 0.
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after the dispersion. The present in-

terval is practically ignored.

20 The siege of Jerusalem under Titus was one of the most terrible of all time. After the city was once invested, the opportunity for escape was cut off, and many who attempted it were slain. Thousands were crucified and many deserters were disemboweled because of a rumor that they sought to conceal their money by swallowing it. Others over-ate and burst asunder. More than a million perished miserably and nearly a hundred thousand were enslaved and carried off to Egypt and elsewhere. The city was almost completely demolished. It is said that the Christians in the city took warning and fled to the mountains of Judea in time to escape the terrible affliction. 24 Jerusalem has been in the hands of alien nations ever since. Even the crusades did not restore it to the Jews. Its change from Turkish rule to British sovereignty is a most favorable sign, but by no means gives the city back to the holy nation. It is still trodden (not trodden down, as usually misquoted) by a foreign power. This may be the last era of the nations, but it is not yet the end of "the times of the gentiles".

25-27 Compare Mt. 2429-31.

25 The end of the eras of the nations will be accomplished by marvelous indications of divine intervention. This is brought before us under the sixth seal (Un. 612-17) of the Unveiling. The sun becomes black as sackcloth of hair and the moon as blood, and the stars of heaven fall to the earth. It is the time of divine indignation and only those in Israel who are preserved by divine power will be able to stand. The hundred and forty-four thousand will be sealed and saved through this great affliction as well as the innumerable throng (Un. 72-17). which perplex and appal mankind will presage their deliverance.

29-33 Compare Mt.2432-35Mk.1328-31.

29 The fig tree pictures Israel political-Like that one which the Lord cursed, the nation in this aspect withered away and has had no political status until recent years. When their right to a home in Palestine was acknowledged, and they became the subject of international diplomacy, it became necessary to recognize them as a nation. Zionism has kindled their na18 name. And a hair of your head 19 should by no means perish. By your endurance you shall be acquiring your souls.

Now whenever you may be perceiving Jerusalem surrounded by encampments, then know that her ²¹ desolation has drawn near. Then let those in Judea be fleeing into the mountains, and let those in her midst be coming out into the country, and let not those in the coun-22 try be entering into her, seeing that

these are the days of vengeance, to fulfill all that has been written.

²³ Yet woe to those who are pregnant, and to those suckling in those days; for there will be great necessity in the land and indignation

on this people. And they shall be falling by the edge of the sword and shall be led into captivity into all nations. And Jerusalem shall be trodden by the nations until the eras of the na-²⁵ tions may be fulfilled. And there shall be signs in the sun and the moon and the constellations, and on the earth, pressure of nations in perplexity, a resounding of the ²⁶ sea and agitation, a chilling of men from fear and apprehensiveness of that which is coming on the inhabited earth, for the powers of the heav-²⁷ ens shall be shaken. And then they shall be viewing the Son of Mankind coming in a cloud with 28 much power and glory. Now at the beginning of these occurrences, unbend and lift up your heads, because your deliverance is drawing near."

And He told them a parable, "Lo! the fig tree and all the trees— 30 whenever they should be already budding, you, observing for your-

83001	LUKE'S ACCOUNT	CHAPTER 21
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tional aspirations and was a token that the branches of the fig tree were preparing to bud. The British declaration giving them a home in Palestine, and their efforts to reclaim and repopulate the land of their forefathers, are sure indications that Israel's winter is nearly past and her summer is near. 82 It is evident that all these things did not take place in that generation. Nor did the Lord say that they would. He simply said that they should. He could not at that time reveal to them the failure of the Pentecostal economy. The present grace was an absolute se-These must be left out of this prophecy. Leaving these out, all these things would have taken place in a single generation. Peter, at Pentecost, shows that repentance of the nation alone stood between them and the day of the Lord. Had the nation received his message, the times of refreshing would have come (Ac. 319). This passage, instead of being an insoluble difficulty, is really the key to the proper apprehension of this whole prophecy. It shows that the whole is viewed as an immediate possibility, and does not include the Pentecostal or the present economy in its scope. 1-2 Compare Mt.261-5Mk.141,2.

In our Lord's day the popular names of the sacred festivals were not used with the clear exactitude of the Hebrew scriptures. There the Passover is used of the day before the festival of Unleavened Bread, not of the festival itself. The passover was not sacrificed in the festival (Lev. 235-8). As one followed immediately after the other they seem to have been combined. It was practically necessary to put away leaven on the Passover, so it was included in the days of unleavened bread. Then, as the passover was sacrificed on this day, the whole festival, which lasted seven more days, was popularly known as the Passover.

3-6 Compare Mt.2614-16Mk.1410,11.
3 Is is evident that Judas, of his own volition, would not have betrayed his Lord. It was only when actually obsessed by Satan that he does such a dastardly deed. This fact must greatly modify our judgment of him. It is a question whether any of His disciples, or even of His apostles, could have done otherwise when under the control of the Adversary.

selves, know that it is because warm weather is already near. Thus you also, whenever you may be perceiving these things occurring, know that the kingdom of God is near.

Verily, I am saying to you that this generation may by no means be passing by till all should be 33 occurring. Heaven and earth shall be passing by, yet My words shall

by no means be passing by.

34 Now take heed to yourselves, lest at some time your hearts should be burdened with crapulence and drunkenness and the worries of a livelihood, and that day may be 35 standing by you unawares, as a trap, for it will intrude on all those sitting on the surface of the entire 36 earth. Now be vigilant, beseeching on every occasion that you may be prevailing to escape all these things which are about to occur, and to be stationed in front of the Son of Mankind."

Now He was teaching in the sanctuary by day, yet at night, coming out, He camped out in the mount called Olivet. And the en-

tire people came to Him early in

the sanctuary to hear Him.

22 Now the festival of unleavened bread, termed the Passover, drew
2 near. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they may be assassinating Him, for they
3 feared the people. Yet Satan entered into Judas, called Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.

⁴ And, coming away, he confers with the chief priests and officers how he ⁵ may betray Him to them. And

⁵ may betray Him to them. And they rejoiced and they agreed to

give him silver. And he acquiesces, and sought an opportunity to betray Him to them minus the throng.

84001 LUKE'S ACCOUNT 81* repeats YE-ARE-K. BS Omit THRU- 8 NEAR IS ALREADY INDCKETEAIOTIHAHELLY EMPPOCHENTOYYIOYTOYA 20 KNOWING THRU-that ALREADY NEAR IN-TOWARD-PLACE OF-THE SON THE WARM CTOBE POCECTINOYTOCKA 40 ΝΘΡωπογηνδεταςημέρας « 31 THE WARM IS thus 37 man He-WAS YET THE B TEACHING IN THE SACRED-place IYMEICOTANIAHTETAYTA® ENTOIEPOSISACKUNTACS. YE when-EVER YE-MAY-BE-PERCEIVING these SACRED-place TEACHING THE YET B1 Al ΔΙΗ *TEINOMENATEINDCKETEO®* **ENYKTACEZEPXOMENOCHY®** BECOMING YE-ARE-KNOWING that OUT-COMING He-TIEFFYCECTINHBACIAE 1100 AIZETO€ICTOOPOCTOK&A∞ NEAR THE KINGdom COURTIZED INTO THE mountain THE one-being-**ATOY6EOYAMHNAET@YMIN™** OYMENONE A A I WNK A I TI A CO20 32 OF-THE God AMEN I-AM-SAVING to-YOUP 38 CALLED OF-OLIVES AND EVERY THE **ΟΤΙΟΥΜΗΠΆΡΕΛΘΗΗΓΈΝΕΆ**Φ **ΛΆΟ**CΦΡΘΡΙΖΕΝΠΡΟCΆΥΤΟΦ NOT NO MAY-BE-BESIDE-COMING THE generation PEOPLE EARLYIZED Him TOWARD s omits EVER **AYTHEWCAN HANTALENHTA®** NENTOIEPOAKOYEIN AYTO IN THE SACRED-place TO-BE-HEARING OF-Him TILE. EVER ALL MAY-RE-RECOMING ΙΟΟΥΡΆΝΟΟΚΑΙΗΓΗΠΑΡΕΛΏ YHFFIZENAEHEOPTHTONA: 22 NEARED 33 THE heaven AND THE LAND WILL-BE-BE-YET THE PESTIVAL **eycontaioi∆e**∧ofoimo**y**∞ ZYMONHAEFOMENH TIACXAK 700 SIDE-COMING THE YET Savings 2 FERMENTED THE-one being-said OF-ME PASSOVER A OWCIN AIEZHTOYNOIAPXIEPEIC²⁰ ΟΥΜΗΠΑΡΕΛΕΎ CONTAINPO 34 NOT NO WILL-BE-BESIDE-COMING THE chief-SACRED-ones 8 omits yet CEXETEAGEAYTOICMHTOT! KAIQIFPAMMATEICTOROC# THE WRITERS YET to-selves NO ?-when THE how A Al for E 8 OF-YOUP THE HEARTS EBAPHO OCINAIKAPAIAIY® ANEAOCINAYTONE 40BOYN ** MAY-BE-BEING-HEAVIED THE HEARTS THEY-MAY-BE-UP-LIFTING Him A8B¹ € 0. MONENK PAITTANHKAIMEOH® TOFAPTONAAONEICHAAEN® AND YOUD IN SKULL-WRESTLE DRUNKenness THE PEOPLE INTO-CAME KAIMEPIMNAICBIOTIKAI*** **∆CATANACEICIQY∆ANTO**■ livelihoodic YET SATAN (Heb. adversary) INTO JUDAS to-anxieties A8 C 0. A+GTI -ON-UN-APPEAR-P. MAY-BE-ON-S. ON YOUP CKAIETICTHE OYMACAION® NKAAOYMENONICKAPIOTH® AND MAY-BE-ON-STANDING ON YOUP UN-APPEARone-being-called ISCARIOT ΙΔΙΟCΗΗΜΕΡΑΕΚΕΙΝΗΦΟΠ« NONTACKTOYAPIOMOYTON* OUT OF-THE NUMBER 35 PERCEIVED THE DAY that FAST-AS OF-THE ASB¹ 0, AS 0, 0. (S erases | C) A for it-will-on-1.-c.
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7-13 Compare Mt.2617-19Mk.1412-16.

7 "The day of unleavened bread" here refers to the day before the first day of the festival, the fourteenth of Nisan, on which the Passover lamb was sacrificed. According to the law the festival proper did not commence until the fifteenth of Nisan (Num. 28 16,17).

s According to Josephus, the passover was always eaten by a company of not less than ten, and often by twenty or more. It seems that, in this case, the apostles had made no preparations until the very day had come. But this Passover had been before Him for a long time, and He had put

it into the heart of someone to provide

the place, possibly without any clear

knowledge of the object of the preparations.

10 Carrying water jars was "women's work", seldom done by a man. So that a man bearing a jar of water was an unmistakable sign. Possibly he was the only one in the whole city who demeaned himself thus.

14-18 Compare Mt.2620-29Mk.1417-25.

15 Even to His apostles this last Passover must have seemed exceedingly solemn, but what shall we say of His feelings, knowing as He did that He, as the great Antitype, must suffer before the day is done? Well did He know that He was the true Lamb, and that His previous ministry was but the prelude and preparation for His sacrificial death. Just as the Passover lamb was taken on the tenth day of the month and kept till the fourteenth (Ex. 123-6), so He had been chosen by John the baptist (Jn.129) for the day which was now at hand. The lamb for the Passover must be perfect, without blemish (Ex. 125). His holy life of peerless perfection, pure, though in constant contact with sin, was without parallel in the annals of mankind. All who sought to find a flaw in Him were confounded.

The Passover was about to be fulfilled by His decease. Hence, in the midst of this final celebration, He introduces a new memorial of His death. The Passover was kept not only in remembrance of the exodus out of Egypt, but also as a type of the greater deliverance which comes through His sacrifice. But the new observance is based on an accomplished work, on

Now the day of unleavened bread came, in which the passover must be sacrificed. And He dispatches Peter and John, saying, "Go and make ready the passover for us, that we may be eating."
Yet they say to Him. "Where dost

Yet they say to Him, "Where dost Thou want that we should be making ready to be eating the pass-

on your entering into them. "Lo! on your entering into the city a man will meet with you, bearing a jar of water. Follow him into the house into which he is going.

11 And you will be declaring to the householder of the house, saying, 'The Teacher is saying to you, 'Where is My caravansary where I may be eating the passover with

12 My disciples?''' And that man will be showing you a large upper room with places spread. There

13 make ready. Now, coming away, they found it according as He had declared to them. And they make ready the passover.

14 And when the hour came, He leans back at table and the twelve apostles with Him. And He said to them, "With yearning I yearn to eat this passover with you before

16 My suffering. For I am saying to you that I may under no circumstances be eating of it till it may be fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

¹⁷ And, receiving the cup, giving thanks, He said, "Take this and di-

18 vide it among yourselves. For I am saying to you that under no circumstances may I be drinking from now on of the product of the grapevine till the kingdom of God

bread, giving thanks, He breaks and gives to them, saying, "Take. This is My body, given for your sakes. Be doing this for a recollection of

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suffering endured, on redemption attained. In its kingdom aspect it was given to remind them of His sufferings, during the interval of His absence. A special revelation of this observance was given to the apostle Paul, who passes it on to the Corinthians. Hence this account, as well as those in Matthew and Mark, are intended for the Circumcision only.

¹⁹⁻²⁰ Compare Mt.26²⁶⁻²⁸ Mk.14²²⁻²⁴ 1 Co. 11²³⁻²⁶.

21-23 Compare Mt.2621-25 Mk.1418-21 Jn. 1318-30Ps.419.

23 How sad it is to see the self-centered apostles, whose hearts should have been overflowing with sorrow and sympathy for Him as He confides to them the significance of the symbols and the nearness of His betrayal, forget His part and think only of themselves! They were concerned lest they should be thought guilty of disloyalty, yet worse still, at such a solemn time, when He was revealing the depths of His humiliation, each one seeks his own exaltation. The contrast is a most vivid illustration of how far the very best of men sink below the moral grandeur of the peerless One. He finds few rivals in His descent from highest glory to deepest shame! They were content to let Him tread that path alone.

24-27 Compare Mt.2025-28Mk.1042-45.

²⁵ They deserved a stern rebuke, yet He gently chides them while explaining the true essence of greatness. His own example should have taught them better, for His superiority consisted in service. Hence He received the homage of men's hearts, not the adulation of their lips.

- 27 Compare Mt.2028Phil.25-8Jn.133-17.
- 28 Compare Mt. 1928.

28 Trial leads to the throne. Not service or success, but endurance in failure fitted the twelve apostles to sit at the table of the great King and to be associated with Him in the government of Israel.

31-34 Compare Mt.2630-35 Mk.1426-31 Jn. 1336-38.

31 Both the betrayal and denial of the Lord were the work of Satan. Judas was actually possessed by the enemy, while Peter was the object of an outward attack. Wheat is sifted to get rid 20 Me." Similarly, the cup also, after the dinner, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for your sakes.

²¹ Moreover, *lo!* the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table.

²² seeing that the Son of Mankind is indeed going, according as it has been specified. Moreover, woe to that man through whom He is being betrayed!"

And they begin to discuss among themselves consequently which of them it may be who is about to com-

²⁴ mit this thing. Now there came to be a rivalry also among themselves, which of them is seeming to be greater.

Now He said to them, "The kings of the nations are mastering them, and those in authority over

26 them are called benefactors. Yet you are not thus, but let the greater among you become as the younger, and he who is leading as he 27 who is serving. For who is greater.

the one lying back at table or the one serving? Is it not the one lying back? Yet I am in the midst of you as the One Who is serving.

Now you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. And I am covenanting a covenant with you according as My Father covenanted the kingdom to Me, that you may be eating and drinking at My table in My kingdom. And you will be seated on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Now the Lord said, "Simon, Simon, lo! Satan claims you [men],

to sift as grain. Yet I besought, concerning you, that your faith may not be defaulting. And once you turn back, establish your
 brethren.' Now he said to Him,

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of the chaff. So Peter was rid of the self-conceit which hindered the exercise of the sterling qualities he possessed. He may not have been more selfish than the rest, for they all clamored for the highest place, but, as it was the Lord's will that he should be the chief of the twelve, it was necessary to humiliate him first. Satan's claim is limited by the Lord, for the adversary is allowed to do only so much evil as will eventuate in good. It is a sober truth that Satan had a hand in preparing Peter for his high place among the apostles. In the same way all his efforts will be turned to beneficial account.

32 Compare Jn. 2115-17.

35 Compare 93.

35 Isaiah's prophecy concerning Him indicates a great change in His relations to His fellow men. Hitherto He was anything but a criminal, and His disciples were welcomed and freely en-To intimate this enmity, tertained. He counsels them to buy swords. But, as usual, the apostles fail to catch the drift of His figure, and produce two swords, without evidently perceiving the irony of His words "It is enough." Two swords would be of little avail for twelve men, especially if they should attack the Roman empire! Later, when one of them uses his sword, the Lord corrects the false impression, and restores the severed ear of His enemy.

37 Compare Isa.5312Mk.1528.

39-40 Compare Mt.2636-38 Mk.1432-34 Jn. 181.2.

39 Compare 2137.

40 Compare Mt. 613.

40 The great conflict between good and evil is here seen in its most intense exercise. The Lord well knew the evil that lay ahead of Him, for He had been speaking of it again and again. Moreover, He was well aware of the immeasurable benefits of His death to God, and to all His creation. Does He therefore meet it with stony indifference and stoicism? Are the sufferings less real because they are known and come from God? Not at all! In the face of trial He urges His apostles to pray that they should not enter it. He Himself does not wish to drink the cup. The sufferings of Christ are not His will, but the will of His Father. Hitherto there had been perfect unani"Lord, I am ready to be going to jail also and to death with Thee!"

Yet He said, "I am saying to you, Peter, the cock will under no circumstances be crowing today till you will be thrice abjuring acquaintance with Me."

And He said to them, "When I dispatch you minus purse and beggar's bag and sandals, do you want anything?" Yet they say,

36 "Nothing." Now He said to them,
"But now, he who has a purse let
him pick it up, and likewise a beggar's bag; and he who has none, let
him sell his cloak and buy a sword.

³⁷ For I am saying to you that this which has been written must be ac-

complished in Me:

'And He is reckoned with the lawless,'

for that also which concerns Me is 38 having a consummation.' Now they say, "Lord, lo! here are two swords." Now He said to them, "It is enough."

And, coming out, He is gone, as customary, into the mount of Olives. Now the disciples also fol-

40 low Him. Now, coming to be at the place, He said to them, "Be praying not to be entering into

41 trial." And He is pulled away from them about a stone's throw,

⁴² and kneeling, He prayed, saying, "Father, if it is Thy intention, carry aside this cup from Me. However, not My will, but Thine,

43 come to pass!" Now a messenger from heaven was seen by Him,

44 strengthening Him. And coming to be in a struggle, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat became as if clots of blood descending on the earth.

And rising from prayer, coming toward the disciples, He found
 them reposing for sorrow. And He

87 ⁰⁰¹ LUI	KE'S ACCOUNT	CHAPTER 22
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mity between the will of the Father and that of the Son, but in this extreme agony of soul, acquiescence gives place to submission. From the dawn of creation He had delighted in the will of God. He had gladly emptied Himself of the glories of the form divine and took the form of a slave, and entered into the humiliation of humanity, but when it came to the death of the cross His soul revolted and His will refused to follow. Our wills are instinctively in conflict with God's, so it seems almost impossible for us to realize the awful gulf revealed in the agonizing words, "not My will, but Thine, be done!"

41-46 Compare Mt.2639-46Mk.1435-42. 44 Compare Heb. 57,8.

47-48 Compare Mt.2647-50 Mk.1443-46 Jn.

48 The gentle forbearance is the most crushing quality of this question. The Lord does not berate him for his act. He does not denounce him for his deed. But it hurts His heart that he should cover his crime with a show of affection.

49-51 Compare Mt. 2651-54 Mk. 1447 Jn. 1810,11.

⁴⁹ Doubtless the Lord allowed the apostles to harbor the mistaken impression that He was about to meet force with force so as to afford Him an opportunity to reveal His true attitude in a most striking and instructive manner. So far as we know, He had never healed His enemies. Blessing was reserved for the faithful and friends. So that, in this simple miracle of healing the ear of the high priest's slave, we can see a moral glory which is nowhere else displayed.

⁵²⁻⁵⁴ Compare Mt.26⁵⁵⁻⁵⁷Mk.14⁴⁸⁻⁵³.

52 Behind all the acts of men the Lord always saw the sovereignty of God. Since it was His Father's will that He should suffer on the Passover, He knew that His enemies would be helpless to take Him until the proper time. So He had calmly ignored the threatening attitude of the chiefs, and taught openly in the very temple itself. Now the day had come for Him to be offered up. Now, since it was God's time. it was their hour.

54 Compare Jn. 1812-14. 55-60 Compare Mt. 2658, 69-74 Mk. 1454, 66-71 Jn. 1815-18. said to them, "Why are you drowsing? Rise and be praying, lest you should be entering into trial."

⁴⁷ At His still speaking, lo! a throng, and he who is termed Judas, one of the twelve, came before them, and he draws near Jesus to

48 kiss Him. Now Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Mankind with a kiss?"

Now those about Him, perceiving what will be, say to Him, "Lord, shall we be smiting with a

50 sword?" And some one of them smites a slave of the chief priest

51 and amputates his right ear. Now, answering, Jesus said, "Give leave till this—" And touching the ear, He heals him.

Now Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the sanctuary and elders who came along after Him, "Do you come out with swords and cudgels as after a rob53 ber? At My being daily with you in the sanctuary, you do not stretch out your hands for Me, but this is

your hour and the jurisdiction of darkness." Now, apprehending Him, they led Him. And they led Him into the chief priest's house.

Now Peter followed afar off.

55 Now at their kindling a fire in the middle of the court and being seated together, Peter sat in their

56 midst. Now, perceiving him, a certain maid, sitting toward the light and staring at him, said, "This one

⁵⁷ also was with Him!" Yet he denies, saying, "I am not acquainted

bit, a different one, perceiving him, averred, "You, too, are of them!" Yet Peter averred, "Man,

59 I am not!" And after an inter-

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OCEOHANO PUTEOYKEIMIK 89000 59 AVERBED HUMAN! NOT I-AM AND 55 That Peter really intended to be loyal to his Lord cannot be doubted, especially as he did not run away but followed as closely as he dared, keeping Him in sight. It demanded some courage to enter into the courtyard of the chief priest. But there was nothing in what he saw of the trial to give him confidence. If they maltreated his Master as they were doing what would they do to His disciples? What a vast difference between his conduct here and his magnificent courage in the Pentecostal era! Now he is afraid of a mere maid, then he defies the whole Sanhedrin. Yet this failure was the very foundation of his future firmness. From the instant that the Lord looked at Peter he was a changed man. Bitter self-reproach takes the place of boasting. Confidence in Christ replaces self-conceit. He has learned the lesson of true greatness, as he writes in his first epistle: "Be humbled, then, under the mighty hand of God, that He may be exalting you in due season" (1 Pet.56).

61-62 Compare Mt.2675Mk.1472.

63-65 Compare Mt.2667,68Mk.1465.

66-71 Compare Mt.26⁵⁹-66 Mk.14⁵⁵-64 Jn. 18¹⁹-24.

66 The Sanhedrin was the highest religious court in Israel and should logically have been the one to pass upon His claims and confirm them. they been at all what they were supposed to be, He could easily have convinced them. But they were so utterly apostate that the Lord recognized the futility of having anything to do with them. They were not sincerely inquiring into His claims but were seeking evidence to convict Him. He well knew that they wanted Him to claim to be Christ that they might use it against Him. They wanted Him to say that He was the Son of God that this might be evidence of blasphemy and lead to His death. This is why He says "You are saying that I am!" If He did not claim it they would have no case against Him. And even thus, though He refused to speak the words, they catch at His retort. What a travesty of righteousness! What a mockery of religion is this highest and holiest of Jewish tribunals! Pilate had some sense of justice left, but they were utterly shameless. Their light had become darkness.

val of about one hour some other one stoutly insisted, saying, "Of a truth, this man also was with Him,

60 for he is a Galilean also." Yet Peter said, "Man, I am not aware what you are saying." And, instantly, at his still talking, a cock crows.

61 And, being turned, the Lord looks at Peter, and Peter is reminded of the Lord's declaration, as He said to him, "Ere a cock crows today, you will be renounc62 ing Me thrice." And Peter, com-

ing outside, laments bitterly.

And the men who are pressing for Jesus derided Him, lashing and covering Him about, they beat His face and they inquired of Him, saying, "Prophesy! Who is it for that hits you?" And they said many different things against

Him, blaspheming.

And as it became day, the eldership of the people was gathered, chief priests as well as scribes, and they led Him away into their ⁶⁷ Sanhedrin, saying, "If you are the Christ, tell us." Yet He said to them, "If I should tell you, you would under no circumstances be ⁶⁸ believing. Yet if I also should be asking, under no circumstances

would you be answering or releas-69 ing Me. Yet from now on the Son of Mankind shall be sitting at the

right hand of the power of God."

70 Now they all say, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" Yet He averred to them, "You are saying that I

- 71 am!" Now they said, "What further need have we of testimony? For we ourselves hear from His mouth!"
- 23 And the entire multitude of them, rising, led Him to Pilate.

Him

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89001	LUKE'S A	ACCOUNT	CHAPTERS 22-2
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- 1-5 Compare Mt.271-14Mk.152-5Jn.1828-38.

 1 The trial now takes on a new character. It passes from the religious to the political phase. It would be quite useless to bring the Sanhedrin's findings before Pilate, because he was not to be drawn into their religious quarrels, so long as these did not affect the state. So they modify the indictment accordingly.
- Compare Mt.2217-21Ac.177.
- 3 To us the Lord's reply to Pilate seems to be an admission of the charge that He was a king, and consequently, a rival of Cæsar. But the turn of thought lies in the emphasis. John's account there is a fuller discussion, in which the Lord makes it plain to Pilate that, at that time, He was not pressing this claim. "You are [not I am] saying it," indicates that the accusation springs from the desire of His enemies to have it so, rather than any evidence they can furnish. Pilate understood it, and bluntly told the Jews that, if anyone was at fault. they were, and not their Prisoner.
- 4 Compare Ac. 314,15.
- They hoped, by the mention of Galilee, to rouse the procurator's animosity, for it was well known that he and Herod, the tetrarch of Galilee, were enemies. But Pilate knew that Herod was well acquainted with the religious quarrels of the Jews and might possibly be able to find the real cause of their animosity. Hence he sends Him to the Idumean.
- 7 Compare 31,2. 8 Compare 99.
- Herod, having beheaded John the baptist, became greatly interested in this new Prophet Who more than took John's place. He never had met Him. As the Lord was not of Galilee, but of Bethlehem, Judea, Herod had no jurisdiction over His case. His father. Herod the Great, had indeed held sway in Judea, and used his power to massacre the babes of Bethlehem, in order to make sure of His destruction. They were a bloody race, and with divine dignity Christ scorns to speak to the haughty Herod. Yet even he could find no ground for the accusations of His enemies.
- 11 Compare Isa. 533.
- 12 Compare Ac. 425-28.
- ¹⁸⁻¹⁷ Compare Mt.27¹⁵⁻¹⁹ Mk.15⁶⁻¹⁰ Jn. 18³⁸, ³⁹19⁴Ac.13²⁸.

- 2 Now they begin to accuse Him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation and forbidding to be giving taxes to Cæsar, and saying himself to be Christ, the king."
- 3 Now Pilate inquires of Him, saying, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Now, answering him, He averred, "You are saying it!"
- 4 Now Pilate said to the chief priests and the throngs, "I am not finding a single fault in this man."
- ⁵ Yet they were insistent, saying that "He is exciting the people, teaching down the whole of Judea, beginning even from Galilee as far
- 6 as here." Now Pilate, hearing "Galilee", inquires if the man is
- 7 a Galilean. And realizing that He is of Herod's jurisdiction, he sends Him up to Herod, he also being in Jerusalem in these days.
- Now Herod, perceiving Jesus, was overjoyed, for he was for a considerable time wanting to become acquainted with Him, because of hearing much concerning Him, and he expected to be perceiving some
- 9 sign occurring by Him. Now he inquired of Him with ample words,
- 10 yet He answers him nothing. Now the chief priests and the scribes had stood strenuously accusing
- 11 Him. Now, scorning and deriding Him, Herod, together with his troops, clothing Him in splendid attire, sends Him back to Pilate.
- 12 Now Herod and Pilate became friends with one another on that same day, for before this they were at enmity between themselves.

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14 Every civil charge against the Lord was found to be false. His long so-journ in Galilee and the miracles He had performed were reported to Herod, but he had not been informed of a single disturbance, though the Roman government was constantly on the alert to crush any insurrection in its beginning. Bar-Abbas had headed one that very year. The religious rulers were none too loyal to Rome, and any charge coming from them, unless well authenticated, was to be viewed with suspicion.

The utter hypocrisy of the whole proceeding comes to a climax in their request for the release of Bar-Abbas. He was actually guilty of the charge brought against the Lord, with the added distinction of having committed murder (while the Lord had roused the dead), yet they wanted him released! But the Lord, Who was not guilty, must be crucified! We cannot help seeing in these two an illustration of the wonderful salvation which springs from the murder of the Just One. He suffered, the Just One for the unjust, that He might bring them to God. If Christ had been released Bar-Abbas would have been executed, as he deserved. He is a type of the mass of unbelievers, who are saved without faith, at the consummation.

18-23 Compare Mt.2720-23 Mk.1511-14 Jn. 1840.

22 The act of Pilate in crucifying Christ is as nothing compared with the guilt of the religious leaders of the Jews. They had the oracles of God which foretold the coming of the Blessed One. Pilate may never have even heard of the Messiah. They had the light of a holy and just law. Yet than an instinctive sense of justice (for no statute was involved) was far more righteous. Three times he bears record that he cannot find a single fault worthy of death. His real weakness lay in the form of government. Pilate's office, to some extent, depended on his pandering to the populace. They were always ready to accuse their governors of disloyalty to Cæsar if they displeased them.

24-25 Compare Mt.2724-26Mk.1515Jn.1916. 26 Simon is the type of those who follow Him, bearing His cross. Now Pilate, calling together the chief priests and the chiefs and the
 people, said to them, "You bring me this man as one who is turning

me this man, as one who is turning away the people, and lo! I, examining him before you, found in this man not a single fault of which you

15 are accusing him. Nay, neither Herod, for he sends him back to us, and lo! nothing deserving of

16 death is committed by him. Then, disciplining him, I will be releasing him."

Now of necessity he had to release one for them at the festival.

18 Yet all as one multitude cried out, saying, "Away with this one! Yet

19 release Bar-Abbas for us'—who was cast into jail because of a certain insurrection and murder oc-

curring in the city. Now Pilate,
 willing to release Jesus, again
 shouts to them. Yet they retorted,

saying, "Crucify! Crucify him!"

Now the third time he said to them, "For what evil does this man? I found not a single cause of death in him. Disciplining him, then, I will be releasing him."

²³ Yet they importuned with loud voices, requesting that He be crucified. And their voices and the chief

the Roman governor, with little more than an instinctive sense of justice (for no statute was involved) was for judges that it occur as they request.

Now he releases him whom they requested, who had been cast into jail because of insurrection and murder, yet he gives Jesus up to their will.

²⁶ And as they led Him away, getting hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, coming from the field, they place the cross on him to carry it

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26 Compare Mt.2732Mk.1521Jn.1917

26 Tradition has sought to surround the cross with a false glamour by making it cross-shaped, instead of a single upright stake. The word "cross" itself has so embedded itself in the hearts of the saints that it would seem cruel to tear it out. Yet those who are spiritual will recognize the great truth that the crucifixion was designed to sound the depths of shame and ignominy, and any attempt to embellish it only detracts from its true moral glory.

²⁸ In the midst of His sufferings He did not forget the fate of that unhappy people, who were sowing the seed of countless sorrows when they crucified their Messiah. It is probable that most of the women and children then alive died of violence in the Jewish wars and the siege of Jerusalem.

- 80 Compare Isa.219Hos.108Un.616.
- 32 Compare Isa. 5312.
- 32 These two malefactors must not be confused with the two robbers who were crucified later.
- 33-38 Compare Mt.2733-43 Mk.1522-32 Jn. 1917-24Ps.2216-18.
- 33 There is no good reason for using the Latin equivalent "Calvary". The Greek is the usual word for "skull", from which we derive *cranium*. It was doubtless so called from a resemblance to the human skull.
- 34 Though some important manuscripts omit this, the first recorded saying of our Lord on the cross, there is no reasonable doubt that it is genuine. When we consider how improbable it is that any man could show such compassion or even invent such a gracious thought, we are compelled to admit its inspiration. Its answer is found in the renewed proclamation of pardon or forgiveness after His ascension by the apostles He had chosen. This is the sin against the Son of Mankind, which was forgiven. The sin against the holy spirit, the rejection of the apostles' ministry, could not be forgiven for the eon. Hence the nation was thrust aside, as they are today.
- 35-37 Compare Ps. 226-8.
- 39-43 Compare Mt.2744Mk.1532.
- 39 Only in Luke's account do we read of these two malefactors. Matthew and Mark speak of two others who were crucified later, who were robbers.

- ²⁷ behind Jesus. Now a vast multitude of the people followed Him, and women who grieved and wailed
- over Him. Now, being turned toward them, Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem! Be not lamenting over Me! However, be lamenting over yourselves and over your
- ²⁹ children, seeing that, *lo!* the days are coming in which they will be declaring, 'Happy are the sterile, and the wombs which bear not, and the breasts which nurture not!'
- 30 Then they will be beginning to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and
- 31 to the hills, 'Cover us!' seeing that, if they are doing this in the wet wood, what may be occurring in the withered?''
- Now two others also, malefactors, were led to be despatched together with Him. And when they came away to the place called a "skull", there they crucify Him, and the malefactors, one, indeed, at the right, yet the other at the left.

Now Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they are not aware what they are doing." Now, dividing His garments, they cast the lot.

Now the chiefs also with them scouted, saying, "Other he saves! Let him save himself, if this is the Christ, the Chosen of God!"

³⁶ Yet the soldiers also deride Him, approaching, offering Him

³⁷ vinegar, and saying, "If you are the king of the Jews, save your-

- 38 self!" Now there was an inscription, also, written over Him, in Greek and Roman and Hebrew letters,
 - "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS."

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47-49 Compare Mt.2754-56Mk.1539-41

There were no "thieves", unless the malefactors were guilty of this crime. The penitent malefactor did not speak against the Lord at first, as is usually supposed. He begins by rebuking his companion, and acknowledging the justice of his fate, and then justifies the Sufferer at his side. He reveals his faith in Christ by his appeal to be remembered in the kingdom.

42 Compare Ps. 1064-8.

43 As this verse is the center of so much controversy it has been deemed best to render it as literally as possible, though the English result is somewhat stilted.

43 Paradise is the Persian word for park. It is used in the Septuagint of the garden of Eden, and elsewhere of the future renewed earth in the kingdom. The Lord will not come into His kingdom until after the great judgments which commence the Lord's day (Un.1115). The Lord assured the malefactor that his request will be granted, and that his present sufferings shall be exchanged for the delights of that day.

44-46 Compare Mt.2745-53Mk.1533-38.

44 The physical darkness was but a sign of the spiritual gloom which enveloped the great Sacrifice due to His abandonment by God when He became the sin offering. Not only were His enemies against Him, but His friends forsook Him, and, most dreadful and inexplicable of all, His Father turned from Him, seeing that He occupied the place of the curse and bore the sins of the world.

45 The rending of the curtain of the temple signified that the way into God's presence was now open. Hitherto God had hid behind His flesh, now He was revealed through it.

46 Compare Jn.1928-30Ps.315.

46 The spirit of the Lord returned to God (Ecc. 127), His soul went to the unseen (Ac. 227), but His body was not returned to the soil (Gen. 319). His resurrection consisted in the return of His spirit to the body, and the consequent return of the consciousness, or soul.

50-53 Thus the words of Isaiah were fulfilled. He should have been buried

Now one of the hanged malefactors blasphemed Him, saving, "Are not you the Christ? Save yourself 40 and us!" Yet, answering, the other one, rebuking him, averred, "Yet you are not fearing God, seeing that you are in the same 41 judgment! And we, indeed, justly, for we are getting back the deserts of what we commit, yet this

42 One commits nothing amiss." And he said to Jesus, "Be reminded of me, Lord, whenever Thou mayest be coming in Thy kingdom."

And Jesus said to him, "Verily to you I am saying today, with Me you shall be in the paradise."

And it was already about the sixth hour [about noon] and darkness came over the whole land till

45 the ninth hour [about 3 p. m.], at the defaulting of the sun. Now the curtain of the temple is rent in

46 the middle. And shouting with a loud voice, Jesus said, "Father, into Thy hands I am committing My spirit." Now, saying this, He expires.

Now the centurion, perceiving what occurs, glorified God, saying that "Really, this Man was just!"

48 And all the throngs which came along together to behold this, beholding the occurrences, returned

⁴⁹ beating their chests. Now all those known to Him, and the women who follow with Him from Galilee, stood afar off, seeing these things.

And lo! a man named Joseph, from Arimathea, a city of the Jews. belonging to the council, and a good man and just (he has not con-50-54 Compare Mt.2757-60 Mk.1542-46 Jn. 2:25 curred in their counsel and what

they had committed), and who also himself anticipated the kingdom

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in the place appointed for criminals, but His work was done. His shame was past, so He is entombed with the rich (Isa.539).

55 Compare Mt.2761Mk.1547.

1-11 Compare Mt.281-10Mk.161-8Jn.201-18. The resurrection did not occur on Sunday, or "the first day of the week", but on the first one of the seven sabbaths which led from Firstfruits to Pentecost. The notable phrase "one of the sabbaths" is always found in the interval between Passover and Pentecost, never at any other time of the year. It may refer to any sabbath of the seven. It is usually used of the resurrection day (Mt. 281; Mk. 161-2; Jn. 201-19), which would be during the days of unleavened bread, but also of a sabbath after this (Ac. 206,7), any time up to Pentecost (1 Co. 162,8). Scholars are divided as to the reason for the rendering "first day of the week". It was usual to say that "one" is sometimes used for first, and that "sabbaths" sometimes means week, but the latest attempt to justify the accepted rendering is that "one of the sabbaths" is equivalent to "the first day after the sabbath". As the day after the sabbath was commonly called the "morrow of the sabbath" (Lev. 23 15, LXX), this seems far fetched. Even if we take "one" to mean first in this case, the sense is not changed, for the resurrection actually was on the first of a series of sabbaths, as we read in Mark (169). But in no case was sabbaths ever used for "week". That is always represented by hebdomad, or seven. The only exception would be when a number of sabbaths measure the same space of time as so many hebdomads. As the expression "first day of the week" can be so readily expressed in Greek there are grave grounds for refusing to use these words as the equivalent of "one of the sabbaths".

- 4 How little heed their hearts had given to the Lord's constant predictions of His death and resurrection is evident from their bewilderment at the empty tomb. After the sufferings had been fulfilled according to His word, they should have reckoned on His resurrection. Instead, they doubt.
- 7 Compare 922.
- 10 Compare 82,3.

⁵² of God—this man, approaching Pilate, requests the body of Jesus.

And, taking it down, he folds it in a linen wrapper, and he places Him in a rock-hewn tomb, where no one was lying as yet.

And it was the day of preparation, and a sabbath lighted up.

- 55 Now the women, following after, who were come together out of Galilee with Him, gaze at the tomb, and how His body was placed.
- Now, returning, they make ready spices and attars. And on the sabbath, indeed, they are quiet, according to the precept.
- 24 Now in the early depths of one of the sabbaths, they and certain together with them, came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they make ready. Now they found the stone has been rolled away from the tomb. Now, entering also, they found not the body of the Lord

Jesus.

- And it occurred, in their perplexity concerning this, lo! two men also stand by them in flashing attire. Now, at their becoming affrighted and inclining their faces to the earth, they say to them, "Why are you seeking the living with the dead? He is not here, but was roused. Be reminded how He speaks to you, being still in Galilee, saying that 'The Son of Mankind must be given up into the hands of sinning men, and be crucified, and rise the third day'." And they are reminded of His declarations.
- ⁹ And, returning from the tomb, they report all these things to the ¹⁰ eleven and to all the rest. Now

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12 Compare Jn. 202-10.

12 Peter had good cause to remember the Lord's first announcement of His death and resurrection, for he had objected to it, and had been severely rebuked (Mt. 16²¹⁻²³). The Lord had actually called him satan, because he wanted the kingdom to come without suffering. It is usual to suppose that all evil is of the Adversary, but the crucifixion, the climax of all evil, was by the specific counsel and foreknowledge of God (Ac.2²³).

13-17 Compare Mk. 1612,13.

14 Compare Mal. 316.

15 In resurrection, before His ascension, the Lord was present for forty days, manifesting Himself to His disciples at will. He was not invested with the supernal glory in which Paul saw Him after His ascension. forty days give us a sample of the terrestrial bodies of Israel's saints, the vision of Paul revealed the body glorious which will be the portion of those who partake of His celestial glory. It is too bright for earth. It was dimmed to suit the sight of His disciples. But it had powers far beyond the present He could change its human body. form, vanish or appear at will, and move without hindrance through any material obstacle. It does not take much faith to perceive the possibility of such a body. Even in its present imperfect approximations to physical truth, science could formulate a theory to explain it. The properties of matter change greatly according to the latent powers they contain. Thus water is solid ice when cold, fluid water when warm, and gaseous, invisible steam when hot. So a human body, with sufficient vital force, might change its own constitution and actually become invisible or luminous.

¹⁶ Compare 24³¹Jn.20¹⁴21⁴.

18 The crucifixion of Christ must have been known to almost all in Jerusalem. As it was the Passover, several million people were there, and through them it would spread rapidly through the land.

21 Compare 238Ac.16.

²¹ The resurrection, when plainly foretold, was always to occur on the third day. The tomb is empty and the messengers declare Him to be alive, yet there were the Magdalene Mary and Joanna and Mary of James and the rest together with them, who told these things to the apos-

11 tles. And these declarations appear in their sight as if nonsense,

and they believed them not.

12 Yet Peter, rising, ran to the tomb, and stooping over, is observing the swathing only. And he came away marveling to himself at what has occurred.

And lo! two of them in the same day were going into a village sixty stadia [6.89 miles] distant from Jerusalem, which is named Emma-

14 us. And they conversed with one another concerning all of these

things which have befallen. And it occurred, in their conversation and discussion, Jesus Himself also, drawing near, went together with

them. Yet their eyes were held so as not to recognize Him.

Now He said to them, "What words are these which you are bandying one with another while walking?" And they stood with a sad

countenance.

Now answering, the one named Cleopas said to Him, "Are you so-journing alone in Jerusalem, and did you not know what is occurring in her in these days?"

Now they say to Him, "That which concerns Jesus the Nazarean, a Man Who came to be a Prophet powerful in work and in word, in front of God and the entire people,

20 so that both our chief priests and chiefs betray Him to the judgment of death, and they crucify Him.

²¹ Yet we expected that He is the One

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still they do not believe! No wonder He chides them for their dullness of both head and heart! Besides, they had the scriptures, and it is to these He appeals to explain the sufferings which they could not understand. Doubtless He spoke of the rejection of Moses himself by his brethren and of David the king, and especially of Hezekiah, who was smitten for the nation's sins, the type of the suffering Messiah. Many a passage in the Psalms of David is charged with a deeper doctrine and a higher thought than appears upon the surface. Peter, on the day of Pentecost, shows that David, in the socalled sixteenth Psalm, speaks of Him Who was his Lord and Son, when he gives a detailed account of the body and soul of Christ in death (Ps. 169-10; Ac.225-28). The concluding verse of the Psalm, "Thou makest known to Me the paths of life", accounts for His spirit, for it is the spirit that imparts life. Thus fully did David predict Messiah's death. Once our eyes are opened, the pages of the scriptures become aglow with the things concerning Christ. As the dwelling place of God, the tabernacle and the temple were faint shadows of Him and His varied offices. The ritual, the sacrifices, the priesthood, the festivals—all pointed to the Coming One and His work. So much is So much is there of Him that He could not have given much more than an outline on the road to Emmaus. Even then they do not seem to have fully realized the import of His words. They do not express any conviction that Christ must have been raised, and that the rumors they had heard must be true. inability to see Him in the stranger was but a sign that they were still unable to see Him in the scriptures. No doubt they had heard of the new observance which He had given the twelve, and knew that the broken bread was a figure of His body, broken for them. The symbolic act of blessing and breaking the bread opened their eyes at last, and they finally awoke to the reality of His resurrection. His task accomplished, the Lord vanishes, but they are eager to report the marvelous truth to the apostles. and return to Jerusalem.

22 Compare 1-11.

24 Compare 12 Jn.202-16.

86-40 Compare Mk.1614Jn.2019-23.

about to be redeeming Israel. But surely, together with all these things also, it is leading in this third day from which these things

²² occurred. But some of our women also amaze us, coming to be at the

23 tomb early, and, not finding His body, they came saying that they had seen an apparition of messengers also, who are saying that He is

²⁴ living. And some of those with us came away to the tomb, and they found it thus, according as the women also said, yet they perceived

Him not."

And He said to them, "O foolish and tardy of heart to be believing on all which the prophets speak!

²⁶ Must not the Christ be suffering these things, and be entering into

27 His glory?" And beginning from Moses He interprets to them from all the prophets also, in all the scriptures, that which concerns Himself.

28 And they draw near to the village where they went, and He does as though He were going further.

²⁹ And they urge Him, saying, "Remain with us, seeing that it is toward dusk and the day has already declined." And He entered

30 to remain with them. And it occurred, at His reclining with them, taking bread, He blesses it, and, breaking, He handed it to them.

³¹ Now their eyes were opened, and they recognize Him. And *He* became unapparent to them.

And they say to one another, "Was not our heart burning in us as He spake to us on the road and

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36-40 Compare Mk.1614Jn.2019-23.

39 The nature of our Lord's resurrection is nowhere more clearly revealed than in His efforts to convince the trembling disciples. The Lord was human in the full sense of the word, and had a body, soul, and spirit before His death. He lost none of these in res-Had He been a spirit, as urrection. some of the disciples supposed at first. then He would not have had a body. with flesh and bones. The fact that His body did not decompose in death. that it still had the wounds which came at the crucifixion, that it is never said to have blood, all go to show that it was as real a body as before, but changed in its powers and mode of living. The bodies of the saints will be changed from soulish bodies, sustained in life through the medium of the blood. into spiritual (not spirit) bodies, vivified directly by means of spirit.

- 44 Compare 6,5 1831-33.
- 45 Compare Ps. 11918.
- 46 Compare 26,27 Ps.22 Isa.53.
- 46 This commission, for all mankind, in contrast to the kingdom commissions of Matthew (Mt.105-8 2816-20), is concerned with sins and the suffering of Christ. It promises a pardon to all who repent. In actual practise it was often combined with the other commissions, as recorded in the book of Acts. It was not in force until Pentecost. There Peter proclaims: "Repent . . . for the pardon of your sins . . . (Ac. 238). He used it again in preaching to Cornelius: "everyone who is believing in Him is to be obtaining the pardon of sins through His name" (Ac. 1043). Peter and the eleven do not seem to have left the land of Israel in the proclamation of pardon. Paul was appointed to carry it to the nations. His first commission was to the effect that the nations were "to get a pardon of sins" (Ac. 2618). After his separation (Ac. 132) he coupled this with justification (Ac. 1338,39), and drops pardon when he no longer proclaims Christ after the flesh (2 Co. 516-21). Pardon is administered by the executive of a government, for those who are proven guilty; justification acquits those who are reckoned not guilty.
- 47 Compare Ac.238.

as He opened to us the scrip-33 tures?" And, rising in the same hour, they return to Jerusalem and found the eleven convened together 34 and those with them, saying that

the Lord was really roused and ³⁵ was seen by Simon. And they unfolded what was on the road, and how He is known to them in the

breaking of the bread.

Now, at their speaking these things, Jesus Himself stood in their midst and is saying to them,

³⁷ "Peace to you!" Yet, becoming dismayed and affrighted, they supposed they are beholding a spirit.

38 And He said to them, "Why are you disturbed? And wherefore are reasonings coming up in your

³⁹ hearts? Perceive My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and perceive, seeing that a spirit has not flesh and bones according

40 as you behold Me having." And, saying this, He exhibits to them

⁴¹ His hands and feet. Now, at their still disbelieving from joy, and marveling, He said to them, "Have

42 you any food in this place?" Now they hand Him part of a broiled
 43 fish, and, taking it, He ate before

43 fish, and, taking it, He ate before them.

Now He said to them, "These are My words, which I speak to you still being with you, seeing that all must be fulfilled which has been written in the law of Moses and the prophets and psalms concerning

Me." Then He opens up their mind to understand the scriptures,
 and said to them that "Thus it is

written, and thus the Christ must be suffering and rise from among

47 the dead the third day. And repent-

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49 Compare Jn.1415-17,26167.

⁴⁹ The sequel to Luke's account is in the book of Acts. There the thread of the kingdom proclamation is taken up by the twelve apostles, after their enduement with power at Pentecost.

50-51 Compare Mk.1619Ac.19-11.

50 The Lord seems to have lingered only long enough to establish the fact of His resurrection and prepare the apostles for their future ministry. There is no hint here of His high heavenly honors, but all His teaching is confined within the sphere of Israel's restoration to become earth's suzerain, according to the prophets, and to the blessing of the nations through them.

52 Compare Ac. 112.

53 Compare Ac.246,47542.

ance for the pardon of sins is to be proclaimed, on His name, to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

48 Now you shall be witnesses of these

the promise of My Father on you. Now you be seated in the city of Jerusalem till you should be putting on power from on high."

Now He led them out as far as to Bethany, and lifting up His hands.

51 He blesses them. And it occurred as He is blessing them, He put an interval between them, and He was
 52 carried up into heaven. And they.

worshiping Him, return into Jeru-53 salem with great joy. And they

were continually in the sanctuary, praising and blessing God. Amen!

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JOHN'S ACCOUNT

This account presents our Lord in the character of the Son of God. Matthew portrays Him as the Son of David and the Son of Abraham. Luke impresses us with His humanity, Mark with His service, but here we rise above these lesser glories, and learn of His divine relationship. The genealogies of Matthew and Luke are each in accord with the truth they teach, Mark needs none for the Servant, but John unveils Him as the Word before His advent in fleshly form.

The keynote is struck in the first sentence. He is the Word, the Expression, the Logos. God is revealing Himself here through the medium of sound. He appeals to human ears. While this is a higher method than an appeal to power or acts, it is a much lower means than that used in this day of grace, for to us He is presented as the Image of God. He appeals to our spiritual sight.

A comparison of John's ministry and Paul's for the nations is suggested by the name given to John. In recognition of His tempestuous character, the Lord calls him a "son of thunder". Paul's first meeting with the Lord was like the lightning. The light of a flash travels about a million times as fast as the thunderclap which it occasions, and perhaps a billion times as far. No sound reaches us except from earth and even then, at no great distance. We can see stars so far from us that no human speech can more than suggest their remoteness.

So then, John presents the Son of God as the Word, in His relation to the earth. Paul also presents Him as the Son of His love, but rather in relation to the celestial universe. And, high as the spiritual flights of the beloved disciple, the apostle of the nations reveals a transcendent realm of truth to which John was a stranger. He was a minister of the Circumcision, and such blessing as he doles out to the nations is entirely dependent on Israel's prior bliss. Paul bases all his blessing for the nations on Israel's previous apos-

tasy. It is a notable fact that this account was not written until after the apostolic ministry had closed. sibly none of the other apostles even saw it. They never used it in the period comprised by the Acts. Paul never read it. He was able to fulfill the most marvelous of all ministries without a single glance into this narrative. deed, his later ministries were not concerned with Christ after the flesh and it would have had but little appeal to him so far as its proclamation was concerned. Being, then, given after all present need for it was past, it undoubtedly is intended for the Israel of the future, especially in the millennial era. Unlike the other accounts, it suggests Christ's rejection at the commencement, and soon unveils a preview of the marriage of the Lambkin which takes place during the thousand years, and gives a series of seven signs, all of which find their fulfillment in the day of Jehovah.

The seven signs are specially designed to support the central thought that He is the incarnate Word. Unlike the accounts elsewhere, there is no personal contact, or action. He speaks and it is done.

His word has power because of what He is. The water blushed into wine at the word of Him Who was the true Vine (151). He not only said "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life" (146), but could tell the courtier, "Go. Your son is living" (450). He is the Door (107) through which the impotent man was saved. He is the Bread (635) that fed the five thousand (65-14). As the Good Shepherd (1011) He seeks His sheep in the storm (618). As the Light (95) He opens the blind man's eyes (97). As the Resurrection and the Life (1125) He rouses Lazarus (11) from the tomb. It is the word of "I AM" which displays its potency in the seven signs of this evangel. Briefly, the words of Christ are substantiated by a divine sign language which only those who knew the Word of God could understand.

8 ?

1 As God always was, there is no absolute beginning brought before us in the Scriptures. Both here and in Gen. 11 the article the is lacking in the originals, showing that it refers to the commencement of the subject in hand. In Genesis it is the beginning of creation. Here it is the beginning of revelation. The phrase might be rendered idiomatically, "To begin with".

The Logos, or Saying, or Expression, or Word, brings before us the revelation of God through sound, which appeals to the ears of His creatures. It is inferior to and in contrast with the revelation in which Christ is presented to sight, as the Image of God. Paul was saved by a sight of His transcendent glory. John was called by His word. Sound is slow and confined to the earth. Sight is swift and searches the heavens. This suggests the limited sphere of John's ministry.

"With" suggests two Greek words neither of which is used here, hence for accuracy's sake it is best to translate literally "toward". "With God" has no cogency in this connection. "Toward" indicates that the revealed Word pointed the creature in the direction of God. Take every "thus saith the Lord" in the Hebrew Scriptures and they all point us to God, and reveal some attribute of the divine character.

It is impossible for the mind to entertain the two thoughts that the Word was toward (or with) God, and the Word was God. Nothing which is toward (or with) an object can actually be that object. The difficulty lies in the difference between English and Greek idiom. "Was" and "is" are usually omitted in Greek, unless they are used in a figurative sense. Thus "This is my body" does not mean that the bread of the communion actually is the Lord's body but represents it. As the bread stands for the Lord's body, so the Word took the place of God. The God of the Hebrew Scriptures spoke: it was an oral revelation. He was revealed as Elohim, Jehovah, Adonai, etc., by means of utterances which came to the fathers through the prophets. while His essence was concealed. As at Sinai, His voice was heard, but He was hid.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was toward God, and God was the Word. This was 3 in the beginning toward God. All came into being through It, and

apart from It not one thing came into being which has come into be-

4 ing. In It was life, and the life was 5 the light of men. And the light is appearing in the darkness, and the

darkness grasped it not.

There came to be a man commissioned by God, named John. This one came for a witness, that he should be testifying concerning the Light, that all should be believing 8 through It. He was not the Light,

but that he should be testifying 9 concerning the Light. It was the true Light, which is enlightening

every man, coming into the world. 10 In the world He was, and the world came into being through Him,

¹¹ and the world knew Him not. Into His own He came, and those who 12 are His own accepted Him not. Yet as many as obtained Him, to them

He gives the right to become children of God, to those who are believ-13 ing into His name, who were begot-

ten, not of bloods, neither of the will of the flesh, neither of the will of a man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh, and tabernacles among us, and we gaze at His glory, a glory as of an only

begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John is testifying concerning Him and has cried, saying, "This was He of Whom I said. 'He Who is coming behind me, has come to be in front of me, seeing that He

16 was before me', seeing that we all obtained of that which fills Him,

¹⁷ and grace for grace, seeing that the law was given through Moses,

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Tindale, the first translator of our English Bible, used the pronoun "it" in referring to the Word, nor did he ever change it in his revisions.

Being is based on the Word of God: creation is connected with Christ as the Image of God (Col. 115-17). The reason of all existence is evident. It provides a field for God's self-revelation. Sounds without ears are nothing and sights without eyes are vain. God wishes to be known: hence the need of creatures and a medium of revelation which is also the means of creation.

The Word of God is presented as the channel of life in both the physical (Gen.111,20,24,27) and spiritual spheres (Ps.11925); as well as a light in the prevailing darkness (Ps.119105). Yet even the nation to whom the Word of God came remained in dense darkness. The opening paragraph is a summary of the Hebrew revelation. The law and the prophets were until John. He, too, belonged to that period, and concluded the testimony to the Coming One.

13 An ancient reading, preserved by one of the early Fathers, is exceedingly apt and suggestive. It has "Who was begotten" and refers this statement to the incarnation of the Word. rather than to the spiritual birth of believers.

14 The pre-existence of Christ is clearly implied in the statement that the Word became flesh. The Word had assumed a human form before, but now It becomes a human being. In this way grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ. The divine expressions of the Hebrew Scriptures now converge in the Man. His previous place is further confirmed by John, when he insists that He was before him, though, as to flesh, He was after him.

18 The various theophanies of the Hebrew Scriptures, such as Isaiah saw (Isa.61), were not actual discoveries of the Deity, but sights of the Son at the time when He subsisted in the form of God (Phil. 26).

19 The Jews did well in sending priests to John. But the priests had no sense of sin, so do not inquire about a sacrifice, but whether he is the ruler or prophet for whom they are looking.

grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ. Now no one has ever seen God: the only-begotten God, Who is in the bosom of the Father, He unfolds Him.

And this is the testimony of John when the Jews of Jerusalem ' dispatch to him priests and Levites that they should be inquiring of 20 him, "Who are you?" And he avows and denies not and avows ²¹ that "I am not the Christ." they ask him again, "Who are you, then? Are you Elijah?" And he is saying, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, 22 "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you?—that we may be giving an answer to those who send us. What are you saying con-²³ cerning yourself?" He averred. "I am a voice imploring in the wilderness, 'Straighten the road of the Lord!' according as said Isaiah the prophet."

And those who have been dispatched were of the Pharisees.

²⁵ And they ask him and said to him, "Why, then, are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, neither ²⁶ Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John

answered them, saying, "I am baptizing in water. Now in the midst of you is standing One of Whom

you are not aware. He it is Who, coming behind me, has come to be in front of me, of Whom I am not worthy that I should be loosing the

28 thong of His sandal." things occurred in Bethany, the other side of Jordan river, where John was, baptizing.

On the morrow he is observing Jesus coming toward him, and is saying, "Lo! the Lamb of God Which is taking away the sin of the ³⁰ world! This is He concerning Whom I said, 'Behind me is com-

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Government and education are still the panaceas proposed by the majority of priest-craft. But John wisely withdraws himself from their notice, and as the Voice, heralds the coming of Jehovah Himself.

²¹⁻³⁴ Compare Mt. 3³⁻¹⁷; Mk. 1²⁻¹¹; Lu. 3⁴⁻²², 2⁹⁻³⁶.

29 First John points out God's Lamb for the sinner, then for the saint. No other animal was so freely used in the sacrifices of the Mosaic ritual. Not only was a lamb slain at the passover (Ex.133), but it might be used as a sin offering (Lev.432) or a guilt offering (Lev.56) and was prescribed for the cleansing of a leper (Lev.1412). But never, as here, did it take away the sin of the whole world. But it was not slain for sin only, but for worship and communion. Every morning and every evening witnessed the smoke of an ascending offering (Lev.2938). It was used as a peace offering (Ex.37). Besides this it was offered with the wave offering (Lev.2311), a symbol of the resurrection. Thus on seven different occasions a lamb was used to depict the sacrificial work of the Messiah. deed, His ministry of approximately four years may well be viewed as the antitype of the four days during which the passover lamb was kept before it could be offered (Ex.126). During this period He displayed His marvelous perfections to the world. Not a blemish was found in Him. No wonder that the disciples, when they found the true Lamb of God, left John, and followed Him!

40 The call of Simon Peter is worthy of careful consideration, as it is undoubtedly an index of his ministry. It is especially instructive when viewed in contrast with the call of Paul. He was introduced to Messiah by a blood relation. Hence he, in turn, proclaims Christ to the Circumcision. Paul met Christ Himself come down from heaven, outside the land, hence he goes to the Uncircumcision with a heavenly message. Peter was a disciple of John, who was eager to welcome the Messiah. Paul was His most malignant enemy. Hence Paul preaches an evangel of undiluted transcendent grace, such as Peter himself never even apprehended.

ing a Man Who has come to be in front of me', seeing that He was be-

31 fore me. And I was not aware of Him. But that He may be manifested to Israel, therefore came I, baptizing in water."

32 And John testifies, saying that "I have gazed upon the spirit descending out of heaven as a dove, and it remains on Him. And I was not aware of Him, but He Who sends me to be baptizing in water, That One said to me, 'Upon Whomever you may be perceiving the spirit descending and remaining on Him, This is He Who is bap34 tizing in holy spirit.' And I have

⁸⁴ tizing in holy spirit.' And I have seen and have testified that This One is the Son of God."

On the morrow John again stood
 and two of his disciples. And, looking at Jesus walking, he is saying,
 "Lo! the Lamb of God!" And

the two disciples hear him speaking and they follow Jesus.

Now Jesus, being turned and gazing at them following, is saying to them, "What are you seeking?" Yet they said to Him, "Rabbi" (which, being construed, is termed "Teacher"), "Where art Thou remaining?" He is saying to them,

"Come and see." They came, then, and perceived where He is remaining, and they remain with Him that day. It was about the tenth hour.

Now Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two with John who hear and follow Him.

⁴¹ This one first is finding his own brother, Simon, and is saying to him, "We have found the Messiah!" (which is, being construed,

42 "Christ"). And he led him to Jesus. Looking at him, Jesus said,

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42 The contrast between Paul and Peter is further emphasized by their names. Simon, or Simeon, is Hebrew for "hear", or "hearken". He hearkened to the Word incarnate, and became His disciple. "Saul" suggests the disobedience of Israel's first king, and the words of Samuel, "Behold, to hearken is better than sacrifice, to attend than the suet of rams" (1 Sam. Simon was saved by sound. Saul was saved by sight. One was rewarded for his obedience, the other was favored because of his disobedience. One is the leading exponent of God's mercy to Israel, the other of God's transcendent and gratuitous grace to the nations.

Both were given new names to accord with the character of their commissions. Simon was called Cephas or Peter, meaning "rock", because he was to be used as a foundation. Saul was called Paul, because his ministry filled the "interval" between the repudiation of Israel in the past and their reception in the future.

44 This is the western Bethsaida.

46 A devout Jew had good cause to question whether the Messiah should come out of Nazareth, unless he knew that He had been born in Bethlehem and His parents had gone there as a refuge from Herod's successor (Mt. 222). Moreover, though there was a spoken prophecy that He should be called a Nazarene (Mt. 223), the name does not occur even once in the Hebrew Scriptures, or in the Talmud. "The Nazarene" was a term of reproach, and was used only by those who wished to insult Him.

47 Nathanael (gift of God) is a delightful type of the faithful in Israel. His position "under the fig tree" suggests those who longed for Messiah's kingdom and were looking for redemption in Israel, knowing from the Scriptures that the time spoken of by Daniel drew near. Nathanael heard His proclamation and acknowledged His right to the throne, and His higher glories as the Son of God. To such He promises a place in the coming kingdom. The opened heaven is a millennial picture, when all like Nathanael will enjoy the blessedness of heaven and earth united under the rule of their Messiah.

"You are Simon, the son of John.
You shall be called Cephas"
(which is, being translated, "Peter").

On the morrow He wants to come away into Galilee, and He is finding Philip. And Jesus is saying to him, "Be following Me."

44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, out of the city of Andrew and Pe-

ter. Philip is finding Nathanael and is saying to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the law, and the prophets write, Jesus, a son of Joseph, from Nazareth."

46 And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good be of Nazareth?" Philip is saying to him, "Come and

see!"

⁴⁷ Jesus perceived Nathanael coming toward Him, and is saying concerning him, "Lo! truly an Israelite in whom there is no guile!"

48 Nathanael is saying to Him, "Whence do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip summons you, being under the fig tree, I perceived you."

49 Nathanael answered and is saying to him, "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God! Thou art the King of Is-

50 rael!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Seeing that I said to you that 'I perceived you underneath the fig tree, are you believing? You should be viewing greater things

than these!" And He is saying to him, "Verily, verily, I am saying to you, henceforth you shall be viewing heaven opened up and the messengers of God ascending and descending on the Son of Mankind."

2 And on the third day a wedding occurred in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

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Cana, in Hebrew, means "acquire". The marriage feast is a sign of the time when the Son acquires the kingdom, and as the bridegroom is elated over the bride, so will He be elated over Israel (Isa. 623,5). So long as they trust in the law, which was graven on stone, they will be in want of the wine which gladdens the heart of God and mortals (Jud.913). When they are restored to Jehovah, He will write His laws on their hearts. This is the new covenant He will make with them in that day (Jer.3131-33). Then He will perform the much greater miracle of turning right into rejoicing and justice into joy. The power to transmute water into wine was the sign that He is competent to fill their hearts with the joy and gladness which can come only with the kingdom. He is the true Vine. Hence He is the Messiah. In general, it reveals the principle that God has the best still in reserve for His creatures, and that their lack is a lesson to lead them into an appreciation of His goodness. Men put their best forward at first, but God leaves His for the last. His saints will be satisfied but never satiated with Him Who is the neverfailing source of joy. The best is always on before. Yet the poor wine serves its purpose to commend the

13 As the Passover was at hand, and every Jewish family was preparing for it by banishing all leaven from their houses (Ex.1215), the Lord went up to His Father's house to cleanse it from the leaven of covetousness (1 Co.510). Little did the priests dream that the dreaded leaven was in the most sacred place in all the land! While the meanest house was being cleansed of literal leaven, the priests actually allowed spiritual leaven in the courts of Jehovah. More than this, covetousness is idolatry (Col.35). They boasted that they abhorred all idolatry, and here we find it in the very house of God! No wonder, when the Lord went up to Jerusalem, He found it necessary to cleanse His Father's house in preparation for the coming Passover. He drove out the beasts with a small whip, and ordered the culprits out of the temple precincts. Idolatry and leaven should find no harbor in the house of His Father!

3 wedding, and His disciples. And, at their being in want of wine, the mother of Jesus is saying to Him,

4 "They have no wine." And Jesus is saying to her, "What is that to Me and to thee, woman! My hour 5 is not yet arriving." His mother

is not yet arriving." His mother is saying to the servants, "Whatever He may be saying to you, do."

Now there were six stone water pots lying there, according to the cleansing of the Jews, containing two or three measures [nearly 9 gallons each] apiece. And Jesus is saying to them, "Fill the water pots with water to the brim." And they fill them up to the brim. And He is saying to them, "Draw now and bring to the chief of the dining

room." Now they bring it.

Now as the chief of the dining room tastes the water become wine, and was not aware whence it is (yet the servants who have drawn the water were aware), the chief of the dining room is summoning the 10 bridegroom and is saying to him,

"Every man is placing the fine wine first, and whenever they should be drunk, then the inferior. Yet you have kept the fine wine hitherto."

This beginning of the signs Jesus does in Cana of Galilee, and makes His glory manifest, and His dis-

ciples believe into Him.

¹² After this He descended into Capernaum, He and His mother and His brothers and His disciples, and there they remain not many days.

And the Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up into

¹⁴ Jerusalem. And He found in the sanctuary those selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money ¹⁵ changers sitting. And, making a

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18 The Jews ask for a sign. But if they have become so dense that they utterly fail to read the significance of His act in cleansing the temple of its spiritual leaven, how can they understand when He reveals its end? Priesthood had apostatized, sacrifice had failed, the temple was doomed. Hence He points them away from the type to the Antitype. The temple was defiled, but He was holy. God had deserted it. but now He dwelt in His Son. sacrifices were of no avail, they only wearied Jehovah. Then it was that He came to do God's will (Heb.105-10). They would shudder at the thought of razing Herod's temple. They would never be guilty of such an awful crime against God! Yet their very zeal for Jehovah led them to destroy the true temple, His body. Mere religion, even if it is divine, only darkens the mind and hardens the heart. Forms are futile; it is the spirit that gives life. The very priests are ignorant of sacrifice. They not only defile the literal temple with leaven, but are absolutely blind to the true temple of God when He appears in their midst. Even when He speaks of it they fail to find the force of the figure.

24 Our Lord's intimate insight into humanity is fully illustrated in this very evangel. No matter of what class or spiritual condition, all hearts were open to His gaze. He discovered the spiritual ignorance of Nicodemus, the teacher in Israel (310), yet recognized in Peter, the fellaheen fisherman, a spiritual (142) and a fond and faithful friend (2117). Guileless Nathanael is amazed at His acumen (147), while Judas' treachery was ever before Him from the very first (1311). The woman of Samaria concluded that He knew all her past (417), and the impotent man at Bethesda found that He fully understood his former failure (56). The applause of the crowd did not blind Him to the motive which prompted it. He knew that they had no hunger for spiritual food. He is aware of all things (2117). Our character, our conduct, our condition, our inmost motives are transparent to His view. No wonder He did not entrust Himself to faith secured by signs!

whip of ropes, He cast all out of the sanctuary, the sheep as well as the oxen, and He pours out the change of the brokers and overturns the

16 tables. And to those selling the doves He said, "Take these away hence, and do not be making My Father's house a merchant's store."

17 Now His disciples are reminded that it has been written: "The zeal of Thy house will be devouring Me."

The Jews, then, answered and said to Him, "What sign are you showing us, seeing that you are do-

19 ing these things?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Raze this temple and in three days I will raise it

²⁰ up.'' Then the Jews said, "In forty and six years was this temple built, and you will be raising it

²¹ up in three days!" Yet *He* said it concerning the temple of His body.

²² When, then, He was roused from among the dead, His disciples are reminded that He said this, and they believe the scripture and the word which Jesus said.

Now as He was in Jerusalem at the Passover at the festival, many believe into His name, beholding

24 the signs which He did. Yet Jesus Himself did not entrust Himself to

²⁵ them, because He knows all, and He had no need that anyone should be testifying concerning mankind, for *He* knew what was in mankind.

3 Now there was a man from among the Pharisees, Nicodemus ² his name, a chief of the Jews. This 5⁰⁰¹ JOHN'S ACCOUNT AθΗΜ€ΝΟΎCΚΑΙΠΟΙΗCEN ΝΦC+ ΔΒ²ν Φο. ΙΝΟΙΚΟΔΟΜΗΘΗΟΝ ΑΟCOYT» 15 ting making WAS-HOME-BUILDED THE TEMPLE this AND 81* adds AND KAI s omits IN PACEANIONEKCXOINI ONTO OCKAICYENTPICINHMEPA* AND (Latin) OUT OF-RUSHES YOU IN THREE ANTACE ZEBAJENEKTOYIE® ICETEPEICAYTONEKEINO® He-out-cast OUT OF-THE SA-21 WILL-BE-ROUSING s omits BESIDES 82 KAI AND adds and deletes POYTATE TPOBATAKAITOY. **CAGE**Λ**6**Γ**6**ΝΠ**6**Ρ**ΙΤΟΥΝΑΟΥ**¹⁰ YET said CRED-place THE BESIDES SHEEP AND TEMPLE THE ABOUT THE ** onits OF-Him

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1 We have found an unholy temple, an unspiritual priesthood, and now we are introduced to an ignorant teacher! Intense application to a single text book for a whole life had not taught him the elements of the truth! Nicodemus, however, was impressed with Lord's works, little as he understood His words. Like the rest, he takes literally what is figurative. He should have known from Ezekiel, the prophet. that Israel could not enter the kingdom without a new spirit (Eze.3626). Spiritual regeneration, the one imperative condition, apart from which the kingdom cannot be entered, is utterly beyond his erudition. All that he considered vital was physical relationship with the favored nation.

The Lord did not give out regeneration as good news, but as bad news. This is not the gospel, even for the Circumcision. The evangel is always concerned with God and His Christ, never with man and his needs or efforts. Of the latter nothing good can be said, no evangel can be formulated. The new birth is not an evangel in any sense. It makes a demand he has no means of meeting.

For one like Nicodemus, expecting to enter the kingdom by physical generation, it would be quite a blow to demand spiritual regeneration. Men are utterly helpless in regard to their physical generation. They can do no more to accomplish their spiritual regeneration. It is the sovereign work of God's spirit.

Searching as the figure is, it does not probe nearly so deeply into human helplessness as the truth for the present economy of God's grace. Now, if any one is in Christ, there is a new creation (2 Co.517). In spirit, we skip the era of the kingdom, the renascence. and enter the new creation, over a thousand years later. A new birth will fit them for a life on earth during the millennial eon. The new creation fits us for our celestial destiny. They will receive a rejuvenation of the faculties, we will be changed at the resurrection and receive powers and capacities far beyond our present possibilities. Regeneration keeps company with repentance and baptism. new creation accompanies the dispensation of the conciliation (2 Co.518).

one came to Him by night and said to Him: "Rabbi, we are aware that Thou art a Teacher come from God, for no one can be doing these signs which *Thou* art doing, except God should be with Him."

Jesus answered and said to him. "Verily, verily, I am saying to you, except anyone should be begotten anew, he cannot perceive the kingdom of God. Nicodemus is saying to Him, "How can a man, being a veteran, be begotten? He cannot be entering into the womb of his mother a second time and be begotten!" Jesus answered. "Verily, verily, I am saving to you, except anyone should be begotten of water and spirit, he cannot be entering into the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is begotten by the flesh is flesh and that which is begotten by the spirit is spirit. You should not be marveling that I said to you. 'You must be begotten anew.' The blast is blowing where it wills.

The blast is blowing where it wills, and you are hearing the sound of it, but you are not aware whence it is coming and whither it is going. Thus is everyone begotten by the water and the spirit."

Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things occur?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you a teacher of Israel and know not these things?
Verily, verily, I am saying to you

that we are speaking of that which we have perceived, and are testifying to that which we have seen, and you are not getting our testimony.

12 If I tell you of the terrestrial and you are not believing, how shall you be believing if I should be telling you of the celestial?

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14 Nicodemus chose the cover of night, to save his reputation; for he was a proud Pharisee who would not care to have his name coupled with Christ's. How it must have humbled him to be compared with the serpent-bitten Israelites of the wilderness! Scholar that he was, he could not understand regeneration, but the most foolish could look away from themselves to the serpent and find life. This he undoubtedly did, for later he ventured to speak in Christ's behalf (750) and he came openly in the day time to bring spices for His burial (1939).

16 This gives us, not the measure, but the character of God's love-not "so". but "thus". Nor is it a thing of the past-"loved". The gift of His Only Begotten is an expression of His timeless love. Whenever man's love is mentioned it is circumscribed in time and extent. But God's love knows no bounds except those it imposes on it-The character of the God Nicodemus knew confined Him within Israel's narrow pale, and represented Him as a Lawgiver, demanding, and giving only as a reward. Now His love breaks through the narrow confines of the favored nation and shows Him a munificent Giver, imparting eonian life to all who believe. This evangel is especially adapted to the coming eon. when Israel is once more the channel of blessing to the nations. Good as it is, it falls far below the outflow of favor for the present economy. Now we have not only eonian life, but justification and reconciliation. Now God's love urges Him to actually beseech His enemies to be conciliated to Him. Grace will flow out through Israel to the nations in the regeneration. Now it overflows to the nations in far more lavish measure. Compare the grace here revealed with that displayed in Romans and especially Ephesians. Life alone is promised here: there we have righteousness and peace and exaltation to celestial honors far beyond the range of the fullest interpretation of this passage.

17 While it was not the mission of Christ to condemn, yet, being the Light, He exposed the darkness. The priests and Pharisees were judged by their hatred of the Light. And no one has ascended into heaven except He Who descended out of heaven, the Son of Mankind

Who is in heaven. And, according as Moses exalts the serpent in the wilderness, thus must the Son of

Mankind be exalted, that everyone who is believing on Him should not be perishing but have eonian life.

16 For thus God loves the world, so that He gives His only begotten Son, that everyone who is believing into Him should not be perishing, but have eonian life.

For God does not dispatch His Son into the world that He should be judging the world, but that the world may be saved through Him.

18 He who is believing into Him is not being judged: yet he who is not believing has been judged already, seeing that he has not believed into the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19 Now this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world and men love darkness rather than light, for their acts were wicked.

For everyone who is committing bad things is hating the light and is not coming to the light, lest his

acts should be exposed. Now he who is doing the truth is coming to the light, that his acts may be made manifest, that they have been wrought in God."

After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea. And there He tarried with them and baptized. Now John also was baptizing in Enon near Salim (seeing that there was much water there) and they came along and

²⁴ were baptized, for John was not yet cast into jail.

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25 Ceremonial cleansing is the true definition of baptism. Before this, baptisms were a common feature of the Jewish ceremonial system, but were usually connected with the temple and the laver and were done by the person himself. John was called "the baptist" because he introduced the new method of doing it for others. This created a new unity. All baptized by John were distinguished from the rest of the nation by their cleansing. Now, however, the Lord's disciples baptize and John's disciples are going to Him, thus forming a new group and threatening to absorb John's disciples. So John defines his relation to Christ. He is simply a forerunner. He is glad to have his disciples leave him for the Messiah, his Master.

29 Christ is the Bridegroom. The baptized Israelites are the bride. John the baptist is the friend. Israel of old was the wife of Jehovah, having been espoused to Him in the wilderness (Jer. 22:3132). She treacherously departed from Him (Eze. 168,15,59,60). vorced her (Jer.38-16). Though the law does not allow it (Deut. 241-4), yet He will invite her back again (Jer. 31-14). She will yet marry Him under the new covenant (Jer. 3131-37). Meanwhile He has pledged Himself to keep her for Himself (Hos. 35). Babylon is the false bride, for it will be an imitation of the true. The new Jerusalem, containing the twelve tribes of Israel, will be the bride of the Lambkin (Un. 212-9). The nations are outside (Un.2124). So far as we are aware, marriage is confined to the earth. It is not a figure of heavenly realities, but of earthly bliss. It is for the faithful in Israel. We have a nearer and dearer place, as members of Christ's body. So close are we that He cannot hate us, but nourishes and cherishes us as we do the members of our own body (Eph.529).

31 John the baptist was of the earth like other men: the Lord came from above.

36 This must be left to the time in which John was speaking. God is conciliated now, since Christ has died and Israel has been set aside, so that His indignation is not against the stubborn now. He is beseeching all to be conciliated (2 Co.519).

There occurred, then, a questioning of the disciples of John with a Jew concerning cleansing.

²⁶ And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He Who was with you on the other side of the Jordan, to Whom you have testified, lo! this One is baptizing and all are coming to Him."

John answered and said, "No man can get anything if it should not have been given him out of

28 heaven. You yourselves are witnessing to me that I said, 'I am not the Christ', but that 'I am dis-

²⁹ patched in front of That One'. He Who has the bride is the Bridegroom. Yet the friend of the Bridegroom, who has stood and is hearing Him, is rejoicing with joy because of the Bridegroom's voice. This, my joy, then, has been ful-

³⁰ filled. He must be growing, yet I am to be inferior.

He Who is coming from above is above all. He who is of the earth is of the earth and is speaking of the earth: He Who is coming out of

heaven is above all. What He has seen and hears, this He is testifying, and no one is getting His testimony. He who is getting His testimony.

mony, He seals, seeing that God is

34 true. For He Whom God commissions is speaking God's declarations, for God is not giving the

The Father is loving the Son and has given all into His hand.

spirit by measure.

36 He who is believing into the Son has eonian life, yet he who is stubborn as to the Son, shall not be seeing life, but the indignation of God is remaining on him."

4 As, then, the Lord knew that the Pharisees hear that Jesus is mak-

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4 He must come through Samaria. This is the compulsion of grace, for Samaria had small claim upon His consideration. The seventeenth of second Kings shows us what a mongrel race they were, and how incurably idolatrous. They never had conformed to the divine ritual. The Jews had no intercourse with them. We do not wonder, then, that the Lord meets an outcast woman at Jacob's spring. Nicodemus was too proud to visit the Lord during daylight. The woman was too shamed to visit the spring in the evening, when all other women came. So she endures the heat of the midday sun to avoid their insults. Nicodemus offered the Lord no refreshment. The woman thought she could give Him none. But it is from sinners, not the self-righteous, that God derives joy.

This scene suggests a marvelous thought. The Lord first presents His need, and then hers. This is the true order. It is God Who is thirsty, first of all. He needs and desires the affectionate fellowship of His creatures. He would not condescend to make His desires known to a haughty Pharisee, but to the humiliated outcast He does not hesitate, even though it was considered a disgrace to talk to a woman in such circumstances.

11 Like Nicodemus, she fails to fathom the figure of speech. As physical life is dependent on water, so spiritual life is sustained by the spirit and word of God. We are so accustomed to a plentiful supply of water that the force of the figure is largely lost with us. the arid East, the thirsty traveler knows something of the delight of a drink of pure water. There the professional water seller carries a porous clay jar, which keeps the water cool by evaporation, and two tinkling cups, in which he serves it to customers, as he goes along shouting Isa. 551. A spring was a prized possession. They often cost enormous labor, and were very deep. A whole town depended on this spring for its very life.

But a physical figure of spiritual realities always falls short. Jacob's spring was a deep well. There was no windlass or bucket. Travelers were expected to carry their own long leather buckets. But the Lord and His dis-

ing and baptizing more disciples
than John (though, to be sure,
Jesus Himself did not baptize, but
His disciples), He leaves Judea
and came away again into Galilee.

Now He must come through Samaria. He is coming, then, to a
city of Samaria termed Sychar,
nigh the freehold which Jacob gives
his son Joseph. Now Jacob's
spring was there. Jesus, then,
weary with the journey, was seated
thus at the spring. It was about

the sixth hour. NOON

A certain woman of Samaria is coming to draw water. Jesus is saying to her, "Give Me a drink," for His disciples had come away into the city that they should be buying nourishment. The Samaritan woman, then, is saying to Him, "How are you, being a Jew, requesting a drink from me, being a Samaritan woman?" For the Jews are not beholden to the Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, "If you were aware of the gratuity of God, and Who it is Who is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would request Him, and He would give you living wa-11 ter." The woman is saying to Him, "Lord, you have not even a bucket, and the well is deep. Whence, 12 then, have you living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, $P_{5/2}$ who gives us the well, and he drank/46/15 of it and his sons and what was nurtured by him?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who is drinking of this

Jesus answered and said to her,
 "Everyone who is drinking of this water will be thirsting again, yet who ever may be drinking of the water which I shall be giving him, shall under no circumstances be thirsting for the eon, but the water

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ciples were not equipped with comforts. This was well, for it gave Him a good excuse to break the stringent etiquette which forbade a man speaking to a strange woman.

How different is the spirit He imparts! It is an artesian spring welling up and overflowing with blessing to all around. No need to draw, or a bucket to lift a scant supply! No need to walk a long distance with huge water jars! The spirit is within and becomes a stream surging forth to others,

19 The ancient controversy between Jerusalem and Samaria was most bitter in connection with the proper place of worship. Of course Jerusalem was right and Samaria was wrong, for God had chosen the city of David for His dwelling place. Yet now we are confronted with the strange contradiction that, whereas He found idolatry in the temple at Jerusalem, He finds true adoration in Samaria! We would go to the magnificent ritual at Jerusalem to find pure worship. We would go to the rebellious unauthorized shrine at. Samaria for idolatry. Not so He.

The same is true of our Lord's message. We would have demanded a new birth from the moral outcast and discussed the nature of God and worship with the religious Jew. But He, with wisdom from above, insists on regeneration when dealing with the respectable religionist, and reveals His spiritual secrets to the moral leper of Samaria.

24 True worship is not a matter of place or of ritual, but must correspond with its Object, Who is spirit. In the present era of grace, we worship Him wherever and whenever we please, and He deigns to dwell in us. Heartfelt adoration is hindered by forms and set ceremonies. Prayer that flows forth freely; praise that pours forth spontaneously; beseeching that breaks the bands of convention and precedent, mean more to God than petitions repeated like a prayer wheel and supported by custom or habit. The religious "exercises" of Christendom are like the sacrifices of old, which He could not bear. Let us not draw near with our lips when our hearts are far from Him.

27 In the stringent etiquette of the

which I shall be giving him will become in him a spring of water, 15 leaping up into eonian life." The woman is saying to Him, "Lord, be giving me this water, that I may not be thirsting, neither coming to

this place to draw."

Jesus is saying to her, "Go, summon your husband and come to this place." The woman answered and said to Him, "I have no husband."

Jesus is saying to her, "You said ideally that 'I have no husband," for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband: this you have declared truly."

The woman is saying to Him, "Lord, I behold that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worship in this mountain, and you are saying that in Jerusalem is the place where one must be worshiping." Jesus is saying to her, "Believe Me, woman, that the hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will ²² you be worshiping the Father. You are worshiping that of which you are not aware: we are worshiping that of which we are aware, seeing 23 that salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming and now is, when the true worshipers will be worshiping the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father also is seeking such to be worshiping Him. 24 God is spirit, and those who are worshiping Him must be worshiping in spirit and truth."

The woman is saying to Him, "We are aware that Messiah is coming, Who is termed 'Christ'. Whenever that One should be coming He will be informing us of all things." Jesus is saying to her; "I. Who am speaking to you, am He."

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27 TALKING to-YOU AND ON this CAME

East it was not proper for a man to speak to a woman. Only such an excuse as a drink of water made it possible for Him to address her at all. 28 The fruitfulness of God's grace shines forth in this narrative. need was great and it became the measure of her satisfaction. mus knew little lack and did not feel constrained to tell his joy to his friends and neighbors. We know of none who were reached through his efforts. But this poor woman is so filled with joy that she forgets how her message reflects on her own sad life. Here was a Man Who knew all her sordid past, and yet she did not shun Him! His grace had captured her heart and filled it overfull. She must share her joy with others. Her fervor was infectious. The men of the city did not murmur at the morals of the messenger, but marveled at her message. She did not ask them to believe her, but constrained them to come and hear Such are the blessed results when grace grows in the fertile field of sin.

31 Perhaps the most notable result of this marvelous meeting was the satisfaction which it brought to Christ. And this is still more marvelous when we reflect that it is the indirect result of the most sordid of sins. Throughout His ministry He emphasized the fact that sinners were a necessary complement to His message of love and grace, but this seems to be all unheeded in this self-righteous generation. Sin is a necessary factor in the revelation of God to man and indirectly essential to the satisfaction of His love. Love cannot be lavished on those who are deserving. But to be undeserving presupposes sin and all its train of evils.

There can be no Saviour without a sinner, no Healer apart from sickness, no Justifier where there is no unrighteousness, no Reconciler unless first there be enmity. Let us enjoy the great satisfaction of knowing that the evil influences in the world are not merely beneath the control of God so that they cannot get beyond bounds but their limited exercise provides the most potent ingredient, not only in the ultimate bliss of His creatures, but in that of the Creator.

27 And at this His disciples came, and they marveled that He spoke with a woman. Howbeit, no one said to Him, "What art Thou seeking?" or "Why art Thou speaking with her?" The woman, then, leaves her water pot and came away into the city, and is 29 saying to the men, "Come hither! Lo! there is a Man Who told me all whatever I do. Is not this the 30 Christ?" Then they came out of

30 Christ?" Then they came out of the city and came to Him.

Now in the meantime the dis-

ciples asked, saying, "Rabbi, eat."

Yet He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you are not aware."

The disciples, then, said to one another, "No one brings Him aught

34 to eat?" Jesus is saying to them, "My food is that I should be doing the will of Him Who sends Me, and should be perfecting His work.

Are you not saying that 'It is still four months and the harvest is coming'? Lo! I am saying to you, Lift up your eyes and gaze on the countrysides, seeing that they are white for harvest already. And

he who is reaping is getting wages and is gathering fruit for eonian life, that the sower and the reaper

37 likewise may be rejoicing. For in this is the saying true, that 'One is

38 sowing and another is reaping'. I commission you to reap that for which you have not toiled. Others have toiled and you have entered into their toil."

Now many of the Samaritans of that city believe into Him because of the word of the woman, testifying that "He told me all whatever

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46 The first sign, at Cana, signifies the blessing of Israel in the kingdom. This, the second sign, is also at Cana, hence is also concerned with the coming kingdom. The wine prefigured the joy of the favored nation. This second sign foreshadows the healing of that nation. The effect of human government is aptly figured by a burning fever. Never was this more evident than after the great European conflict. The delirium, the weakness. the oppression, the dread of death, possesses the nations. It will be far worse at the time of the end. It will not be cured by human medicaments, but by the coming of Christ. The seventh hour is suggestive of the seventh seal, and the seventh trumpet which proclaims that the world kingdom became our Lord's and His Christ's . . . (Un. 1115). Christ is the Way and the Truth and the Life. He will assuage the pain and unrest which possesses Israel today. He will change their feverish delirium into a quiet restful peace.

for the earth's political ills. The resort to arms has not healed but rather aggravated the sores which caused it. Instead of being the last war it seems to be the seed of further conflict. Even if the war weary world should patch up a truce, it would not last. There is no other cure but "Lord, descend!"

This sign does not signify blessing to the nations now, during Israel's defection. At present the fever of the nations continues unabated and all our blessings are spiritual and celestial. The fact that the courtier was connected with the king, suggests that the rule of Israel over the nations is in view, and that they are included in the blessing. The Lord does not visit the son, but heals him at a distance. So He will deal with the nations in the millennial era. When He comes for us we are snatched away to meet Him in the air and enter His very presence, and remain with Him, and share His heavenly rule for the eons. The nations on earth in that day will not be so highly blessed.

⁵² Yesterday, that is, before sunset of the same day.

⁴⁰ I do." As, then, the Samaritans came together to Him, they asked Him to remain with them. And He

⁴¹ remains there two days. And many more believe because of His

word. Besides, to the woman they said that "We are believing no longer because of your speaking, for we have heard Him, and we are aware that this truly is the Saviour of the world, the Christ."

Now after the two days He came out thence and came away into

44 Galilee, for Jesus Himself testifies that a prophet has no honor in his

⁴⁵ own country. When, then, He came into Galilee, the Galileans receive Him, having seen all as much as He does in Jerusalem at the festival, for *they* also came to the festival.

Jesus came again, then, into Cana of Galilee, where He makes the water wine. And there was a certain courtier whose son was in-

47 firm in Capernaum. This one, hearing that Jesus is arriving in Galilee, out of Judea, came away to Him and asked Him that He may be descending and should be healing his son, for he was about to

48 be dying. Jesus, then, said to Him,
"If you should not be perceiving signs and miracles, you should under no circumstances be believ-

49 ing." The courtier is saying to Him, "Lord, descend ere my little

50 boy dies!" Jesus is saying to him.
"Go. Your son is living." And
the man believes in the word which
Jesus said to him, and went.

Now as he is already descending, the slaves meet him, and they re-

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ALREADY YET OF-him

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1 The third sign brings before us another picture of Israel before and after His advent. They are not only joyless, but weak, infirm through the flesh (Ro. 83), unable to put into practise the precepts of that holy law which had been given to them. They cannot walk in the commandments. The occasional presence of a prophet sent from God stirred them up and recalled them to righteousness. But it had been a long time since a prophet had risen in Israel and they became almost hopeless of such help. They lay in the portico, outside. Christ is the Door.

Here we have Israel under the old covenant, which they are powerless to fulfill. Their infirmity followed the breaking of its precepts (14). It was given to teach them the excessive sinfulness of sin, and, by transforming sin into transgression, show them their utter helplessness to fulfill His will apart from His enabling grace.

The sign signifies that none other than Messiah had given strength to the infirm man, even as He will do for the whole nation when He confirms a new covenant with them, in the days of His coming. Then, like the infirm man, they will have a due sense of their own impotence, and will be looking for some one outside of themselves to introduce them into the sphere of God's healing power. But, as it will be in the future, His Word will be sufficient to turn their weakness into strength. He will put His law in their inward parts, and write it on their hearts . . . He will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more (Jer. 3133,34).

2 "Bethesda", in Hebrew, signifies "House of Mercy", an apt designation for Israel's abode under the law of Moses, with its five books.

In that day, instead of ineffectual efforts to fulfill the law, and being dispersed among the nations for their failure, He will gather them together from the peoples, and gather them from all of the lands in which they have been scattered and give them the land of Israel. And He will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. He will take away their stony heart and give them a heart of flesh, to walk in His statutes (Eze.1117-20).

port, saying that his boy is living.

52 He, then, ascertained from them the hour in which he was better. And they said, then, to him that "Yesterday at the seventh hour [about one o'clock] the fever leaves.

53 him '' Whe fether have then that

53 him." The father knew, then, that it is in that hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son is living." And he believes, he and his whole house.

Now this, again, is the second sign Jesus does, coming out of Judea into Galilee.

5 After these things there was a festival of the Jews and Jesus went ² up into Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem, at the sheep gate, a pool, which is termed, in Hebrew, "Bethesda", having five porticos.

In these were laid down a multitude of the infirm, blind, lame, withered, waiting for the stirring
 of the water, for a messenger of

the Lord at a certain season bathed in the pool and disturbed the water. The first one, then, who steps in after the disturbance of the water, became sound, whatsoever disease held him.

Now there was a certain man there having been in his infirmity thirty-eight years. Jesus, perceiving this one lying and knowing that he has already spent much time, is saying to him, "Do you want to become sound?" The infirm man answered Him, "Lord, I have no man that, whenever the water may be disturbed, should be casting me into the pool. Now while I am coming another is stepping down before me." Jesus is saying to him, "Rouse and pick up your pallet and walk!" And immedi-

3 ING

13001	JOHN'S ACCOU	NT.	CHAPTERS 4-5
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LIFT-YOU THE PALLET

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10 The day on which the cure was effected indicates that its fulfillment will find place in that great sabbatism that remains for God's people of the Circumcision (Heb. 49). As a pallet was a mere bundle of bedding, the only burden which the Lord put upon the man who had been infirm was the means of rest. The Jews had no rest in their spirits even on the sabbath. So we have the astonishing absurdity of Jews striving to take away the means of rest on the plea that it was work! They, rather, were breaking the sabbath. They did not hesitate to try to kill Him, no matter what the day might be. This is one of the delusions which blinds all who seek to keep the law. They do not allow themselves real rest even on the sabbath, and those who are burdened with the rest of God are deemed lawbreakers. All rest for man can only be based on God's work.

18 The charge of equality with God brings out a clear statement of the relationship of the Son to the Father. Of Himself the Son is unable to do anything. He does not claim divine power independent of the Father. does He claim to exercise His own That is God's prerogative (80). As He has neither the ability nor the will of the Father, the charge of making Himself equal with God was false. Nevertheless, because He did not exercise His own will and because He did nothing except by the power and sanction of the Father, and was sent and commissioned by Him, He is entitled to all the honor due to the Father, for only thus can the Father receive the homage of His creatures. The healing of the impotent man was done by the power and will of the Father. If it was a desecration of the sabbath. then the Father was responsible.

How few today really enter into God's rest! His grace and love are bartered for so much faithfulness or service. Instead of the exultant consciousness of His settled smile, there is a constant striving to do something to appease His wrath or fulfill His imaginary demands. God will not have our hands without our hearts. He does not want us to work for Him. He wishes to work through us.

ately the man became sound, and he was roused and picks up his pallet and walked.

Now it was the sabbath on that day. The Jews, then, said to him who has been cured, "It is the sabbath, and it is not allowed you to 11 pick up your pallet!" Yet he

answered them, "He Who makes me sound, that One said to me, 'Pick up your pallet and walk'."

12 Then they ask him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Pick up your pallet and walk'?"

Now he who is being healed had not perceived Who He is, for Jesus evades him, a throng being in the

14 place. After these things Jesus is finding him in the sanctuary, and said to him, "Lo! you have become sound. By no means be sinning longer, lest something worse should be coming to you."

And the man, then, came away and informs the Jews that Jesus is

16 He Who makes him sound. And because of this the Jews persecuted Jesus and sought to kill Him, seeing that He did these things on

¹⁷ a sabbath. Yet Jesus answers them, "My Father is working hitherto,

18 and I am working." Therefore, then, the Jews sought the more to kill Him, seeing that He not only annulled the sabbath, but said His own Father also is God, making Himself equal to God.

Then Jesus answers and said to them, "Verily, verily, I am saying to you, the Son can be doing nothing of Himself if it is not what He should be observing the Father doing, for whatever He may be doing, this the Son also is

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20 The Father's fondness for the Son is one of the most intimate and delightful revelations of holy writ. The fondness is not the love which flows out to those least deserving it, but the affection founded on the fellowship of purpose and of work, and agreeable association. It is liking rather than love. It is the great Master Workman initiating His Associate into His great designs.

21 To appreciate fully the greatness of the work of the Son we must grasp the fact that He is more than the Resur-He is the Resurrection and the Life (1125). Great as resurrection is, vivification far surpasses it. Resurrection is for the dead. Vivification is for the living or those who have been raised (1126). Resurrection imparts physical life, subject to decay Vivification is the life and death. abundant. Those who have it do not die for the eons. All who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, yet for some it will be a resurrection of judgment, for others it will be a resurrection of life. As all resurrection implies life in its ordinary sense, the resurrection of life must impart life in a superlative sense.

22 Judgment is not, in itself, condemnation. It consists in setting things to rights. It is the prerogative of the Son to correct all wrongs, whether done to God or man. He is the Supreme Arbiter and Adjudicator of the universe. All men must submit their cases to His decision. Hence the honors due to God are accorded Him. As the accredited representative of the Father all affronts He receives are affronts to the Father Who sends Him.

24 Belief is followed by eonian life, or vivification. For such there is no judgment possible, for they receive much more than is right in the gift of life for the eons.

25 This is vivification, for only those who hear shall live. It is for those who believe. It will be fulfilled in the former resurrection (Un. 206).

28 This is resurrection, for all hear His voice. Both believers and unbelievers are included. This will be fulfilled at the great white throne judgment (Un.2012).

20 doing likewise. For the Father is fond of the Son and is showing Him all that He is doing.

And greater works than these will He be showing Him, that you ²¹ may be marveling. For even as the Father is rousing the dead and vivifying them, thus the Son also is 22 vivifying whom He will. For neither is the Father judging anyone, but has given all judgment to 23 the Son, that all may be honoring the Son, according as they are hon-

oring the Father. He who honors not the Son is not honoring the Father Who sends Him.

Verily, verily, I am saying to you that he who is hearing My word and believing in Him Who sends Me has eonian life, and is not coming into judgment, but has proceeded out of death into life. ²⁵ Verily, verily, I am saying to you that the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall be hearing

the voice of the Son of God, and ²⁶ those who hear shall be living. For even as the Father has life in Himself, thus also He gives to the Son to have life in Himself.

And He gives Him authority to be doing judgment, seeing that He 28 is a son of mankind. Marvel not at this, seeing that the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will be hearing His voice, and those who do good things shall be going out into a resurrection of life, yet those who commit bad

I can do nothing of Myself. According as I am hearing am I judging; and My judgment is just, seeing that I am not seeking My will, but the will of Him Who sends Me.

into a resurrection of judgment.

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31 The usual rendering, "If I bear witness of Myself My witness is not true", is not true! The Lord Himself insisted, on another occasion, that His testimony concerning Himself was true. "And if I should be testifying about Myself, My testimony is true..." (Jn. 814). He was not like other men who need references from others to establish the truth of their own account of themselves. Though John the baptist had come for the very purpose of bearing witness to the Coming One, yet He is not dependent on any human testimony whatever.

The credibility of Christ's account concerning Himself may be tested in two ways, by His acts and by His fulfillment of the scriptures. John the baptist did no signs or miracles, but He did many, every one of which was an attestation to His messianic claims. The sign under discussion is an example of this. The correspondence between the thirty-eight years of Israel's wanderings after the spying out of the land and the length of time the infirm man had suffered implies that the One Who can bring Israel into the kingdom is present. The very point to which they objected—healing on the Sabbath -should have spoken in His favor, for when Israel is healed it will be the great millennial sabbatism for them.

39 The Jews prided themselves greatly on being the depository of the oracles of God, and on knowing His will. How could they fail to see in Him the long promised Messiah? Does it not seem strange that He should ask them to search the Scriptures. They search them to disprove His claims (752), but their search was neither accurate nor honest. Instead of finding that Isaiah (91-2) foretold His ministry in Galilee, they were offended at it and used it against Him. searched and found that Christ should be born in Bethlehem, and inferred without reason that that should be His home as well. We, as well as they, need to search and believe accurately, honestly, whole-heartedly, if we are to enjoy the fullness there is in the scriptures.

41 Who else could say this? The true servant of God may be known by this mark. Is he seeking to please men or God? Popularity is often a mark of

apostasy.

cerning Myself, is My testimony
32 not true? There is another who
is testifying concerning Me, and
I am aware that the testimony
which he is testifying concerning

33 Me is true. You have dispatched to John, and he has testified to the

truth. Yet I am not getting the testimony from a man, but I am saying these things that you may be
 saved. He was the lamp, burning

and appearing, yet you will exult

an hour in its light.

Now I have a greater testimony than John's, for the works which the Father has given Me that I should be perfecting them, the works themselves which I am doing are testifying concerning Me that the Father has commissioned

Me. And the Father Who sends Me, He has testified concerning Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor have you seen His

³⁸ appearance. And you have not His word remaining in you, seeing that you are not believing the One Whom He commissions.

Be searching the scriptures, seeing that in them you are supposing you have eonian life, and those are they which are testifying concerning Me, and you will not be com-

ing to Me that you may have life.

I am not getting glory from

⁴² men. But I know you, that you have not the love of God in your⁴³ selves. I have come in the name of

²³ selves. I have come in the name of My Father, and you are not getting Me. If another should come in his own name, him you will get.

44 How can you believe, getting glory from one another, and are not seeking the glory which is from God alone?

ΕΟΥΤΕΕΙΔΟΚΑΥΤΟΥΕΦΡΑΚ¹⁰ MARTYPIAMOYOYKECTINA²⁰ NOT-BESIDES PERCEPTION OF-Him OF-ME NOT 18 TRUE witness **AHOHCAAAOCECTINOMAPT®** ATEKAITON/OFONAYTOYO" OF-Him NOT THE witness-AND THE saying 81* adds T Al REMAINING IN YOUP YKEXETEENYMINMENONTA® YPONTIEPIEMOYKAI OI A A O O AND I-HAVE-PERCEIVED YE-ARE-HAVING IN YOUP REMAINING ABOUT ME OTIONAMECTÉ LA ENEKÉ IN® TIANHOH CECTINHMAPTYP® that-One wном He-commissions THE witness that that TRUE IAHNMAPTYPEITEPIEMOY100 OCTOYTOYMEICOYTICTEY... to-this-One WHICH He-IS-witnessING NOT ARE-BELIEVING ABOUT Al 8B1 A ΥΜΕΙ**CAΠΕ**CΤΑΛΚΑΤΕΠΡΟC²⁰ **ΕΤΕΕΡΕΥΝΑΤΕΤΑСΓΡΑΦΑС®** 33 YE HAVE-commissionED TOWARD 39 YE-RE-SEARCHING WRITINGS THE R O. OTIYMEICAOKEITEENAYT" I WANNINKAIMEMAPTYPHK® that YE them AND he-HAS-witnessED JOHN B8 0 AICZ OHNAIONIONEXEINK® **ΕΝΤΗΣΛΗΘΕΙΣΕΓΏΔΕΟΥΠΣ**® 34 to-THE TRUTH YET NOT BESIDE eonian TO-BE-HAVING AND **ΡΑΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΥΤΗΝΜΑΡΤΥΡΙ**⁸⁰ AIEKEINAIEICINAIMAPT® witness those THE ones-witnesshuman THE ARE ANAAMBANWAAAATAYTAA6200 YPOYCAITEPIEMOYKAIOY⁷⁰⁰ AM-GETTING-UP 40 ING but these I-AM-ABOUT MR TO INAYME ICCOOHTEEKE 120 **BEAGTEGABGIN∏POCMGIN™** MAY-BE-BEING-SAVED that-one YE-ARE-WILLING TO-BE-COMING TOWARD 35 SAYING THAT YE MR THAT NOCHNOAYXNOCOKAIOMEN® **ΑΖϢΗΝΕΧΗΤΕΔΟΣΑΝΠΑΡΑΑ**Φ THE BURNING LIFE YE-MAY-BE-HAVING esteem BESIDE WAS THE LAMP hu_ s o. s1* omits yet Ahuman OY OCKA I PAINONYMĚ I CĂĚHO ΝΘΡωπωΝΟΥΛΑΜΒΑΝωΑΛΛΑΘ APPEARING YET WILL NOT I-AM-GETTING-UP YE but A TOWARD HOUR TO-BE-exultED ernωκλυμας ογκεχέτε εγιωκλυμας οτιτηναγαπ:» Al EAHCATEATAAAIABHNAIT® TO-BE-exultED I-HAVE-KNOWN YOUP that THE LOVE ΗΝΤΟΥΘΕΟΥΟΫ́Κ̈ĒΧΕΤḖΕΝΕ™ POCO PANENTO POTIAYTOY IN THE LIGHT or-it OF-THE God WARD HOUR NOT YE-ARE-HAVING IN selves s omits the GTWAGEX WTHNMAPTYPIAN²⁰ AYTOICET WEAHAY BAENT W20 YET AM-HAVING THE witness 36 I HAVE-COME MEIZ WNTOYIWAN NOYTAFA ΟΝΟΜΑΤΙΤΟΥΠΑΤΡΟΚΜΟΥΚΦ OF-THE JOHN NAME OF-THE FATHER OF-ME AND GREATER ΡΕΡΓΑΙΔΕΔΦΚΕΝΜΟΙΟΠΑΤ⁶⁰ AIOYAAMBANETEMEEANAA® WHICH HAS-GIVEN TO-ME THE PATHER NOT YE-ARE-GETTING-UP ME, IF-EVER other s omits IN HPINATE ACIOCOAYTAAYT® **AOCEABHENTWONOMATITO®** THAT I-SHOULD-BE-maturing them they MAY-BE-COMING IN THE NAME to-TRE ATAGPTAAHOI WMAPTYPE I ΙΔΙΦΕΚΕΙΝΟΝΛΗΜΨΕCΘΕΠ *** WHICH I-AM-DOING IS-WITNESSING 44 own that-one YE-WILL-BE-GETTING 81*+C **ΦCAYNACHEYMÉICΠICTEY**²⁰ періємоуотіопатнрмеа20 that THE FATHER YE TO-BELIEVE ABOUT AGIN В 0. **ΠΕCΤΑΛΚΕΝΚΑΙΟΠΕΜΨΑCΜ**[®] **ΚΑΙΔΟΣΑΝ ΠΑΡΆΑΛΛΗΛϢΝΛ**Φ AND THE One-SENDING ME one-another 37 commissionED esteem BESIDE GET-A AYTOC SAME ENATHPEKEINOCMEMAPTY® AMB ANONTECKAITHNAO2A® that-One HAS-witnessed TING-TIP THE B omits God **ΡΗΚΕΝΠΕΡΙΕΜΟΥΟΥΤΕΦϢΝ**[®] ΝΤΗΝΠΆΡΑΤΟΥΜΟΝΟΥΘΕΟΥ»

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God

1-13 Compare Mt. 1413-21; Mk. 631-44; Lu. 910-17.

1 This is the fourth sign in this account. The first figured Israel's joy in the coming kingdom (21), the second the healing of the nations (446). The third showed the source of its power $(5^2).$ The fourth deals with its sus-Christ is the Life of the tenance. world. He is the true Bread. kind is figured by the five thousand, hungry and far from food. The spiritual famine will become so acute that what might suffice for five is all there is for five thousand. Even the great literal famine of the end time does not approach this (Un. 66). Then food will be eight times its normal price. Here the lack is a thousand fold. does this signify?

We know that man shall not be living on bread alone, but on every declaration going out through mouth (Mt. 44). The coming eon will be a time of plenty (Amos 913), but the life of the world is not sustained by the stomach, but by the head and heart. It comes from the knowledge of God. In the day when Jehovah shall acquire the remnant of His people, the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea (Isa. 119-11). Such was the spiritual dearth in the nation when our Lord came the first time that their spiritual sustenance was but a thousandth part of what it should be and what it will be when Messiah comes. The feeding of the multitude is a sign of His pres-

A comparison of this sign with the feeding of the four thousand is startling and instructive (Mt.1532-38; Mk.8 1-9). God's provision comes in inverse ratio to human help. When seven loaves and some fishes were used to feed four thousand they gathered seven hampers full of fragments. Surely when only five loaves and two fishes are distributed among five thousand the remnants will be scarce! Not so! For, after feeding the larger number with the smaller provision, there is a larger surplus left. Seven loaves among four thousand left seven hampers. Twelve large panniers remained after the five thousand were fed with only five loaves. And, while the hampers 45 Be not supposing that I shall be accusing you to the Father. He who is accusing you to the Father 46 is Moses, in whom you rely. For if you believed in Moses, you would believe in Me, for he writes 47 concerning Me. Now if you are not believing in his writings, how will you be believing in My declare.

you be believing in My declarations?"

6 After these things Jesus came away to the other side of the sea of Galilee of Tiberias. Now a vast

Galilee of Tiberias. Now a vast throng followed Him, seeing that they beheld the signs which He did
 on the infirm. Now Jesus came

up into the mountain, and there
He sat with His disciples. Now the
Passover, the festival of the Jews.

b was near. Jesus, then, lifting up His eyes and gazing, seeing that a vast throng is coming to Him, is saying to Philip, "When ce should we be buying bread that these may be

s eating?" Now this He said to try him, for He had been aware what he was about to be doing. Then Philip answered Him "Two hum

Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth [\$31.40, £6 9s 2d] of bread is not sufficient for them, that each may get a bit."

One of His disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, is saying to Him, "There is a lad here who has five barley cakes and two food fishes. But what are these for so many?" Yet Jesus said, "Make the people lean back". Now there

the people lean back." Now there was much grass in the place. The people then lean back, the men in number about five thousand.

¹¹ Then Jesus took the bread, and, giving thanks, He distributes it to

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were full, the panniers were packed. crammed to their utmost. It is evident that, the less there is of human help, the greater is His grace. This principle applies to His dealings with Israel and the world at the coming of Christ. The spiritual plenty of that day will not be approached gradually by natural development, by character building and education, but by a miraculous diffusion and multiplication of the knowledge of God. In its personal application, we may deduce that the possession of natural talents is not essential to God's operations. He prefers a famine, where He can furnish food, to a feast where His hand is not needed and His heart is unheeded. He can use the humblest means and mediums to accomplish His miracles.

15 Exactly a year later (1212-16) He presented Himself to them as their King. This effort to make Him King was premature and arose from the fact that they had not comprehended the significance of the sign. They had not been filled with the knowledge of God, the true sustenance, but with perishable provisions. His kingdom is not food and drink (Ro. 1417). It will not be established by human hands, but by divine power. It will not be set up in man's day, but in Jehovah's day. Most significantly He retires into a mountain alone and His disciples descend to the sea. So He later ascended to His heavenly throne, while His followers were dispersed among the nations.

16-21 Compare Mt.1422-33; Mk.645-52.

16 The parallel is continued. Israel is now in darkness, tossed about by the raging sea of the nations, which has been stirred up by the spiritual forces of wickedness who rule the world during the absence of the Messiah. Jews will be scattered among the nations and hated and persecuted with the utmost cruelty and injustice and inhumanity. It is evident to all who have studied their history that there must be some cause which cannot be seen. Just as the wind lashed the waves of Galilee into a fury and threatened to drown the fearful disciples, so malignant spirit forces are at work, stirring up hatred to the Jews, for they know God's purpose concernthose lying back at table. Likewise also of the food fish, as much as they wanted.

Jesus, then, knowing that they are about to come and snatch Him, that they should be making Him king, retires again into the mountain Himself alone. Now as it became evening, His disciples de
17 scend to the sea. And stepping into the ship, they came to the other side of the sea to Capernaum.

And it had already become dark,

and Jesus had not as yet come to

18 them. Besides the sea was roused

19 by the blowing of a great wind. As, then, they have rowed about twenty-five or thirty stadia [2.87—3.44 miles] they are beholding Jesus walking on the sea, and coming to be near the ship, and they were

20 afraid. Yet He is saying to them,

21 "It is I. Be not afraid!" They wanted, then, to take Him into the ship. And immediately the ship came to be at the land to which they went.

On the morrow the throng standing on the other side of the sea perceived that no other boat was there except one, and that Jesus did not

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ing the nation, and resent it, and would prevent it if they could. For this reason men persecute the Jews without reason, and both men and demons carry out the doom they decreed for themselves when they cried that His blood be on them and on their children (Mt. 2725).

But when Christ comes He will still the wind and the waves and bring them to their desired haven. He will bind Satan (Un. 202) and judge the nations (Mt. 25³¹⁻⁴⁶), and establish the kingdom (Un. 11¹⁵). Then, and not till then, will His word be fully fulfilled, "It is I, be not afraid!" This is the fifth sign.

26 The miracle of feeding the five thousand brought the Lord to the highest pitch of His popularity. Up to this time He had not been despised and rejected. The turning point came when He filled them with food, and they were too blind to see its significance. Now that He explains this to them, they stop following Him.

He is not flattered by the large following which flocks after Him, and does not hesitate to offend them by disclosing their own hearts to them. They came to be filled with food and cared nothing for the spiritual sustenance for which it stood. They wanted food and needed faith. Instead of reading this sign and recognizing the Messiah, the Son of God, they actually asked Him for a sign! He had just given them that. They further display their blindness by reminding Him of the manna which God gave their forefathers in the wilderness (Ex. 16: Ps. 7823-25). The true Manna was with them and they ask Him for a sign such He Himself was all as Moses gave! that the manna signified.

28 After being fed gratuitously, and having heard that God would give them the true bread, we would expect them to see that God had not put a price on His presents. But, instead of this, like Jacob their forefather, they try to strike a bargain with God. Blind pride demands that they do something. Thus today, though man is taught in all spheres how dependent he is on what God does, the moment he gets into the presence of God, it is "what must I do?" Faith, not deeds, is what God demands.

enter the ship together with His disciples, but His disciples came
²³ away alone. But boats out of Tiberias came near the place where they ate the bread for which the
²⁴ Lord gave thanks. When, then, the

Lord gave thanks. When, then, the throng perceived that Jesus is not there, neither His disciples, they step into the ships and came to

²⁵ Capernaum, seeking Jesus. And finding Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when camest Thou to be here?"

Jesus answered them and said, "Verily, verily, I am saying to you, you are seeking Me, not that you perceived signs, but that you ate of the bread and are satisfied.

27 Be not working for the food which

is perishing, but for food which is remaining for eonian life, which the Son of Mankind will be giving to you, for this One God,

28 the Father, seals." They said, then, to Him, "What may we be doing that we may be working the 29 works of God?" Jesus answered

and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you should be believing into One Whom He commissions."

They said, then, to Him, "What sign, then, are you doing, that we may be perceiving and should be believing you? What are you working? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, according as it is written, 'He gives them bread ³² out of heaven to be eating.' Jesus, then, said to them, "Verily, verily, I am saying to you, Moses has not given you the bread out of heaven, but My Father is giving

33 for the Bread of God is He Who is

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YOYPANOYTONAAHOINONO 80 33 heaven TRE TRUE TREE

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34 Eating to supply the demands of physical hunger and thirst is but a symbol of the spiritual satisfaction apart from which life is debased to mere existence. Desires and aspirations for spiritual sustenance can never be finally filled apart from the One Who came down from heaven. It is only as we have every heart hunger satisfied in Him that we cease to feel the pangs of famine. It is only as we find all our spiritual aspirations realized in God's Son that our thirst is assuaged. How slow we are to learn that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of God's mouth! It is because Christ is set forth as the Word in this evangel that so much is made of eating and drinking.

37 How marvelously serene and sure are God's operations! The Jews may murmur and misunderstand Him, but how could they do otherwise? There was nothing in Him to attract them to Him. He is not moved by their murmurs, but tells them plainly that God alone, in His sovereign pleasure, picks out those who come to Him. They are a gift from the Father to the Son. Such not only desire to come to Him, but cannot fail to reach Him, and when they find Him, He counts them as precious presents from His Father. prized much for themselves but most for the Giver. Nothing can possibly arise to estrange Him from them. They are not only His for life, but He will rob death itself to restore them to Him in the resurrection.

⁴⁰ That the life here bestowed on the believer is not *everlasting* is clear from the context, for it is not continuous, but waits until the resurrection. Those who received this life died. Their life lasted only a few years. But they will be raised to live for the eons. The life is eonian, not everlasting.

41 The great truth which begins and pervades John's account, that the Lord was the Logos, and corresponds to the One Who appeared to Adam and to Abraham and to Moses and to Isaiah, Who was known as Elohim and Jehovah and Adonai—the God in Whom they boasted—never reached their hearts.

45 See Isa. 5413; Jer. 3134.

descending out of heaven and giving life to the world."

They said, then, to Him, "Lord! 35 always give us this bread!" Jesus, then, said to them, "I am the Bread of life. He who is coming to Me should under no circumstances be hungering, and he who is believing into Me should under no circumstances be thirsting at 36 any time. But I said to you that

³⁶ any time. But I said to you that you have also seen Me and you are
 ³⁷ not believing in Me. Everyone

whom the Father is giving Me shall be reaching to Me, and he who is coming to Me I should under no 38 circumstances be casting out, seeing that I have descended from

ing that I have descended from heaven, not that I should be doing My will, but the will of Him Who

39 sends Me. Now this is the will of Him Who sends Me, that everyone whom He has given to Me, of these I should be losing none, but shall be

oraising him in the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who is beholding the Son and is believing into Him may have eonian life, and I shall be raising him in the last day."

The Jews, then, murmured concerning Him, that He said, "I am the Bread which descends out of

42 heaven." And they said "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we are acquainted with? How is he then saying that 'I have descended out

43 of heaven'?'' Jesus, then, answered and said to them, "Be not murmuring against one another.

44 No one can come to Me if the Father Who sends Me should not be drawing him. And I shall be rais 45 ing him in the last day. It is written in the prophets 'And they shall

ten in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught of God.' Everyone,

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38 BE-OUT-CASTING OUT that I-HAVE-DOWN-STEPPED

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IAAKTOIOEOY NACOYNOAK21000 ed OF-God EVERY THEN THE ONE-

47 This passage should be studied carefully in order to correct the erroneous impression that believers have "eternal" or "everlasting" life. may be applied only to that which had no beginning and will have no end. No one but God has eternal life. lasting should be used only of that which continues without intermission Not a single one of the endlessly. Lord's personal followers is alive today. None of them received "everlasting" life. They are dead. If everlasting life permits of interruption by death now, why not in the resurrection also? All of these expressions denote definite periods of time, measured by eons, or ages. Eonian life begins in the next eon.

Now it is evident that the Lord had no thought of a life lasting for ever. In that case how could He be raising him in the last day? The life here spoken of was to be bestowed in resurrection. There could be no resurrection apart from a previous death. In short, our Lord spoke in such a way that we are sure that "everlasting" life, so-called, does not commence until He calls His own from the grave.

As this life has a definite beginning, it also has an end. But as the end does not come until death is abolished. it changes from "eonian" life into actual "everlasting" life. This will be the portion of all. It is not the special privilege of the believer. The peculiar kind of life promised to faith begins at Christ's presence, when those who are His will be vivified, and continues through the last two eons, embracing the millennium and the succeeding eon in the new earth, until the eons end, and the last enemy, death, is abol-Hence the life received in vivification is actually "everlasting", though never so called in the Word of God.

see The term "masticate" is not the usual word for "eat", and presents some difficulty in translation, for English usage prefers the broader term "eat" in such passages as this. If means to chew, gnaw, hence suggests the only process in digestion which is voluntary. It represents the actual appropriation of the life of Christ as our own.

then, who hears from the Father and is learning the truth is coming 46 to Me. Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One being from God, This One has seen the ⁴⁷ Father. Verily, verily, I am saving to you, he who is believing 48 into Me has eonian life. I am the ⁴⁹ Bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and 50 died. This is the Bread which is descending out of heaven that anyone may be eating of it and may 51 not be dying. I am the living Bread which descends out of heaven. If anyone should be eating of this Bread, he shall be living for the eon. Now the Bread also, which I shall be giving for the sake

flesh."

The Jews, then, fought with one another, saying, "How then can this one give us his flesh to eat?"

of the life of the world, is My

53 Jesus, then, said to them, "Verily, verily, I am saying to you, if you should not be eating the flesh of the Son of Mankind and drinking His blood, you have no eonian life

⁵⁴ in yourselves. He who is masticating My flesh and drinking My blood has eonian life, and I shall be

55 raising him at the last day, for My flesh is the true food, and My blood is the true drink.

He who is masticating My flesh and drinking My blood is remaining in Me, and I in him. According as the living Father commissions Me, I, also, am living because of the Father. And he who is masticating Me, even he will be living because of Me. This is the Bread which descends out of heaven; not according as the fathers ate and died. He who is masticating this Bread shall be living for the eon."

21001	JOHN'S	ACCOUNT	CHAPTER (
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ONTONAPTONZHCE I E I CTO 22000 THE BREAD WILL-BE-LIVING INTO THE

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THEY-FROM-DIED

56 Just as Nicodemus failed to see the figure when our Lord spoke to him about the new birth, so now His followers fail to understand when He speaks of feeding on His flesh and blood. There is a subtle irony here, for their religion was primarily a Their title to blessing fleshly one. from Messiah was based entirely on their blood relationship to Him. that case, if He is to give Himself to them. He must give His physical flesh and actual blood. They can see how preposterous such an idea is, but do not discern how it cuts from beneath them the whole foundation of blessing through a physical channel. should have seen that life divine is not transmitted by flesh but by spirit. Not material forms, but spiritual realities count with a God Who is spirit. His thoughts, as conveyed to them by the Lord's declarations, are the vital principle from which all life and felicity flow.

70 Peter and the rest of the apostles probably had the impression that they had chosen Christ, and in this crisis, they seem to be confirming their choice of Him. With this background. how strange to hear Him reverse their thoughts and emphatically affirm His choice of them! On another occasion He asserted that they had not chosen Him. He reserves the right to choose His own. A realization of this principle gives strength and stability to vacillating mortals, who look within and find no soundness, and look without on turmoil and strife, and fear for the future of which they know nothing. To be chosen by One Who has power to keep and knows all gives satisfaction and rest. It is infinitely more precious to be His choice than to have the questionable satisfaction of feeling that we were free to choose Him. If we were. we would have chosen another. There is none that seeketh after God.

70 Judas was one of "the elect". The Lord "elected" or chose him while fully aware of his future. It was not Judas who chose Christ and then went back on Him. Indeed, he greatly regretted his action and publicly repudiated it. This Peter did not do. He did not betray his Lord until Satan entered into him. ⁵⁹ These things He said, teaching in a synagogue in Capernaum.

60 Many of His disciples, then, hearing it, said, "This is a hard saying! Who can be hearing it?"

61 Now Jesus, being aware in Himself that His disciples are murmuring concerning this, said to them, "Is

62 this snaring you? If, then, you should be beholding the Son of Mankind ascending where He was

63 formerly? The spirit is that which is vivifying. The flesh is benefiting nothing. The declarations which I have spoken to you are spirit and

64 are life. But there are some of you who are not believing." For Jesus had perceived from the beginning there are some who are not believing, and who is betraying

65 Him. And He said, "Therefore have I declared to you that no one can come to Me except it should be

66 given him of the Father." At this, then, many of His disciples came away, dropping behind, and walked no longer with Him.

General Jesus, then, said to the twelve, "Are you also wanting to go General Summary?" Simon Peter answered

Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go?

Thou hast declarations of eonian

69 life! And we have believed and

69 life! And we have believed and know that Thou art the Holy One of God."

Jesus answered and said to them, "Do I not choose you, the twelve, and of you one is a slanderer?"

71 Now He said it of Judas of Simon Iscariot, for this man was about to betray Him, being one of the twelve.

22001	JOHN'S A
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I-HAVE-declarED to-YOUP

THRU this

CCOUNT CHAPTERS 6-7 INOTIOYAÉ ICAYNAT AIE A® that NOT-YET-ONE IS-ABLE **ӨЕІМПРОСЕМЕЕ АММННДЕД 40** COMING TOWARD ME IF-EVER NO MAY-BE HAVING-OMENONAYTWEKTOYNATPO to-him OUT OF-THE FATHER been-given CEKTOYTOYOYN TO A S om its OUT our or-this THEN MANY s omits or-Him Τωνμαθητωναλίτολαμηνθω OF-THE LEARNERS or-Him FROM-CAME ONEICTAONICOKAIOYKET® THE BEHIND AND NOT-STILL IMETAYTOY NEPIGNATOYN # Him WITH ABOUT-TROD EITENOYNOIHCOYCTOICA® THEN THE JESUS to-THE TWO-**WACKAMHKAIYMEICOGACT®** TEN NO AND YE ϾϒΠΑΓΕΙΝΑΠΕΚΡΙΘΗΑΥΤΦ™ TO-BE-UNDER-LEADING answered to-Him CIMONNET POCKY PIET POC²⁰ Peter RIMON Master! TOWARD TIN ΆλΠΕΛΕΥCOMEΘΆΡΗΜΑ« WE-SHALL-BE-FROM-COMING declarations TAZOHCAIONIOYEXEICKA® eonian OF-LIFE YOU-ARE-HAVING AND IHMETCHETTICTEYKAMENK® HAVE-BELIEVED AIETNOKAMENOTICYE 10A WE-HAVE-KNOWN that YOU ARE THE HO-B adds to-them THE A ΓΙΟ Ο ΤΟΥΘΕΟΥΑΠΕΚΡΙΘΗΙΩ 0 LY-One OF-THE GOD ANSWERED JE-YTOICO Bomits and said to-them HCOYCK AIGITENAYTOICO AND said SUS to-them NOT YKE TWYMACTOYCAWAEKAE ® YOUD THE TWO-TEN choose s1* omits one B out of-youp one ZEAEIAMHNKAIEICEIYM**©**® AND ONE OUT OF-YOUP. NAIABOAOCECTINEAETEN® THRU-CASTER 18 said el* omits the 81* adds FROM ATIO ∆ETONIOY∆ANCIM@NOCIC® YET THE JUDAS OF-SIMON 8 adds K Al AND s1* Y KAPIOTOYOYTOCTAPEMEA CARIOT this-one for 81* O # Him TO-BE-BESIDE-GIVING

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There were seven sacred festivals in Israel: the Passover, Firstfruits, Pentecost, Blowing of Trumpets, Day of Propitiation, Tabernacles, and Ingathering. The latter two were both held on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, so that both are referred to here as "Tabernacles". These festivals were typical of God's great dealings with His beloved people Israel. Passover sets before us the death of God's Lamb. Hence Christ could not be killed at the festival of Tabernacles. for it was not the proper time. Firstfruits typifies His resurrection. tecost, fifty days afterward, foreshadowed the work so called in the book of Blowing of Trumpets and the Day of Propitiation will have their antitypes in the dread judgment period before the thousand years. Tabernacles and Ingathering are the happy harvest festivals, picturing their fullness of blessing in the millennial kingdom. See Lev. 23; Nu. 2816; 29; Deut. 16; Neh. 813-18; Zech. 1416-19.

This was one of the three times in each year that all the males in Israel were required to appear in the temple in Jerusalem. They were to bring a gift on each occasion. This suggests the three great gifts of God for Israel. At the festival of unleavened bread He gave Himself as the Passover Lamb. At the festival of Pentecost He gave the holy spirit. At the future festival of Tabernacles He will give them the bountiful harvest of His millennial reign. See Deut.16¹⁵, 16.

With the foregoing in view, the action of our Lord is full of meaning. It was not the Passover, hence He could not go up openly and invite death. The time for that had not yet been fulfilled. Still, in obedience to the law, and as a private Israelite, He must go, for in Him must both the letter and the spirit of the law be fulfilled.

It is significant that, while we often read of the Passover, only this once is the festival of Tabernacles brought before us, and now He refuses to go. There is no true Tabernacle festival for Israel until after the true Passover has been slain and all the other feasts have had their fulfillment. In all His acts He was consciously in line with God's revelation.

7 And after these things Jesus walked in Galilee, for He did not want to walk in Judea, seeing that

2 the Jews sought to kill Him. Now the Jews' festival of Tabernacles

was near. His brothers, then, said to Him, "Proceed hence and go into Judea, that your disciples also should be beholding your works

which you are doing. For no one is doing anything in hiding and he is seeking publicity. If you are doing these things make yourself
manifest to the world." For nei-

5 manifest to the world." For neither did His brothers believe into Him.

Jesus, then, is saying to them, "My time is not as yet present; yet your time is always present,

7 ready. The world cannot be hating you, yet it is hating Me, seeing that I am testifying concerning it

8 that its acts are wicked. You go up to this festival. I am not going up to this festival, seeing that My time has not as yet been fulfilled.

9 Now, saying these things to them, He remains in Galilee.

Yet as His brothers ascend to the festival, then He also ascended, not apparently, but as though in hid-

11 ing. The Jews, then, sought Him at the festival and said, "Where is

12 he?" And there was much murmuring about Him among the throngs. These, indeed, said that "He is good," yet others said, "No—. But he is deceiving the

13 throng." Howbeit no one spoke boldly concerning Him because of fear of the Jews.

Now at length, midway of the restival, Jesus ascended into the

15 sanctuary and taught. The Jews,

23001	JOHN'S	ACCOUNT	CHAPTER 7
COYCENTHE B+6 IN THE GALILEE	NOT for	OYOTITAEPEZ	OF-it wicked
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16 Here we have the test of a true teacher. The greatest of all Teachers could easily have formulated a philosophy of His own before which all the wisdom of the ages would sink into insignificance. He could have eclipsed Socrates and Plato, discounted Confucius, silenced all the sages. Yet He did not originate a single doctrine, formulate a single principle, invent a single saying of His own. Though the embodiment of truth, He did not claim to be its source, but only its channel.

"My teaching is not Mine, but His Who sends Me" is the disclaimer of the only One Who ever was qualified to teach the truth. It is the highest achievement of the truth seeker to discover that there is no truth outside of God, and originality is inevitably false unless it conforms with truth already immanent in God-which destroys its originality. Truth is one. Its source is God. Its expression is found in Him Who is the Word of God. Happy is the teacher who distrusts his own thoughts, and discards his own theories, and seeks to submerge his own personality by a constant and continuous contact with the living oracles of God! "My teaching is not Mine" will not be a reluctant, humiliating admission, but an exultant and eager desire to give God the glory for truth beyond our powers of apprehension and utterly foreign to our native faculties.

19 Sinning men are the same today as ever. The truth is always the signal for strife. This is especially so among those who consider themselves the sole depository of truth. We need not suppose that these Jews had a bad conscience in seeking to kill One Who seemed to be undermining their religion. We know that Saul of Tarsus opposed Him conscientiously. So today, Christendom still crucifies the truth, while loud in its professions of loyalty to the Bible. Indeed, so thoroughly has error saturated the atmosphere that it is practically impossible for any one to view the truth except through the haze of error with which each is surrounded. Only continual contact with God's Word will avail us. Only a close acquaintance with the facts of the originals will save us from the prevailing apostasy.

then, marveled, saying, "How is this one acquainted with letters,

16 not having learned?" Jesus, then, answered them and said, "My teaching is not Mine. but His

¹⁷ Who sends Me. If any one should be wanting to be doing His will, he will know concerning the teaching,

whether it is of God or I am speaking from Myself. He who is speaking from himself is seeking his own glory, yet He who is seeking the glory of Him Who sends Him, this One is true and there is

19 no injustice in Him. Has not Moses given you the law? And no one of you is doing the law! Why are you seeking to kill Me?"

The throng answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to 21 kill you?" Jesus answered and said to them, "I do one act and 22 you all are marveling. Therefore Moses has given you circumcision (not that it is of Moses, but that it is of the fathers) and on a sabbath you are circumcising a man.

23 If a man is getting circumcision on

a sabbath lest Moses' law should be annulled, do I raise your bile, seeing that I make a whole man 24 sound on a sabbath? Be not

"sound on a sabbath? Be not judging by a view, but be judging just judgment."

25 Some of the Jerusalemites said, then, "Is not this He Whom they 26 are seeking to kill? And lo! He is speaking boldly! And are they saying nothing to Him, lest at some time the chiefs truly know that 27 this is the Christ? But we are aware whence this man is, yet whenever Christ may be coming, no one is knowing Him, whence

He is."

OAYMAZONOYNOIIOYAAIO²⁰ VELED THEN THE JUDA-208

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28 Perhaps nowhere is the utter futility of human efforts to frustrate God's plans so evident as in this scene. It was God's definite counsel that they should slay Him. This they were all too eager to do. But the feast of Tabernacles was not the fit time for His sacrifice. So He boldly enters the sanctuary, the stronghold of His enemies. The Pharisees send deputies to arrest Him, but they simply do not do it, being restrained by an irresistible reluctance which they could not account for themselves. Like Daniel, He was in the lions' den, but God had shut the lions' mouths.

God uses human wrath for His own ends and restrains its activities to accord with His purpose. He has all his enemies on a leash beyond which they cannot range. Satan himself is limited, and allowed to do only that which will eventuate in good. So it proved in the case of Job, and who can doubt that his case was typical?

33 When the deputies come to arrest Him, He is not disturbed, but calmly gives an outline of what will happen to Him in the future. It was still six months until the Passover, and He knew they could not arrest Him till then. So He says "Still a little time I am with you." Nor does He acknowledge that they will be successful in taking Him then, for it is His permission, not their power, that accomplishes it. So He simply says "and I am going to Him Who sends Me."

34 The statement "where I am you cannot be coming" cannot be taken as their everlasting reprobation, for He uses the very same words to His disciples on a later occasion (1333). Indeed, the form of the verb is the present active "be coming", not the indefinite "come". Even the unbeliever enters the presence of Christ in the resurrection of judgment.

25 The Jews, in our Lord's day, were scattered all over the known earth, but were especially numerous in Egypt. Alexandria rivalled Jerusalem as a center of Jewry, but its culture was strongly Greek.

37 This last day concluded the cycle of yearly festivals and was a fitting time to foretell the fullness of spiritual blessing which it prefigured.

Jesus, then, cries in the sanctuary, teaching and saying, "You are acquainted with Me also, and you are aware whence I am, and I have not come from Myself, but He Who sends Me is true, with Whom

29 you are not acquainted. Yet I am acquainted with Him, seeing that I am from Him, and He has commis-

sioned Me." They sought, then, to arrest Him, and no one laid a hand on Him, seeing that His hour had not as yet come.

Now many of the throng believe into Him, and said, "When Christ should come, He will be doing no more signs than this Man does!"

Now the Pharisees hear these murmurings of the throng concerning Him, and the chief priests and the Pharisees dispatch deputies that they should be arresting Him.

³³ Jesus, then, said, "Still a little time I am with you, and I am go- ing to Him Who sends Me. You will be seeking Me and you shall not be finding Me. And where I am there you cannot be coming."

The Jews, then, said to themselves, "Whither is He about to go, that we shall not be finding him? He is not about to go to the dispersion of the Greeks and teach the Greeks? What is this word which he said, 'You will be seeking me and you shall not be finding me, and where I am you cannot be coming'?"

Now on the last, the great day of the festival, Jesus stood, and cries, saying, "If any one should be thirsting, let him come to Me and as drink. He who is believing into

Me, according as the scripture said, out of his bowel shall gush rivers of

39 living water." Now this He said

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28 CRIES THEN THE JESUS IN THE TEACHING THE JESUS

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OF-him WILL-BE-GUSHING OF-water

41 Ever since the days of Moses the nation of Israel has been waiting for the Prophet Who was to be like him, and lead the nation out of worse than Egyptian bondage into the heritage of the kingdom. Those who knew Him for that promised Prophet little realized that, as Moses was rejected by his brethren when he first came to deliver them, so the great Antitype of Moses must also be rejected by them.

A prophet, in the Scriptures, is not primarily one who predicts the future. but one who has a message from God. It is a well-nigh universal rule that God's message and its bearer must first be refused. Indeed, the "Prophet like Moses" must follow the footsteps of the type, and, in his first efforts to save His people He must be opposed by the people themselves. This shows us that we must not lay too much stress on human "responsibility" (a term unknown to the Scriptures), for. if the Jews had received the Lord, He would not have been the true Prophet. They were obliged to reject Him!

41 "Galilee of the nations" and especially the town of Nazareth, were held in contempt by pious Jews. The term "Nazarene" is a term of reproach, never used by His friends. From it could come no Christ. Messiah must be born in Bethlehem, the city of King David, and as they should have known, the birthplace of his greater Son. Let us never be guilty of calling Him a Nazarene, and thus class ourselves with His worst enemies and murderers.

46 Throughout this account it is the incarnate Word which is before us. The testimony of the deputies is a notable tribute to the supernal nature of that which came from His lips. How lame their excuse must have seemed to the hard hearted Pharisees! Why do they not arrest Him? Why do they not do the duty assigned them? "No man ever speaks thus!" Not His superb looks, or august appearance, but His utterances arrest them, and all power to perform their part vanishes. 50 Nicodemus, the half-hearted disciple, is afraid to champion His cause boldly, so he seeks to hinder them in their lawless act. But such a weak supporter is soon silenced, and by the very law to which he appealed.

concerning the spirit which those believing into Him were about to get. For holy spirit was not as yet given, seeing that Jesus was not as yet glorified.

Among the throng, then, hearing of these sayings, they said, "This truly is the prophet!" Others said, "This is the Christ!" Yet they said, "For Christ is not com-

⁴² ing out of Galilee! Did not the scriptures say that Christ is coming of the seed of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David

43 was?" There came, then, to be a schism in the throng because of
 44 Him. Yet some from among them wanted to arrest Him, but no one

laid hands on Him.

The deputies, then, came to the chief priests and Pharisees and they said to them, "Wherefore did 46 you not lead him?" Now the dep-

uties answered, "No man ever speaks thus!" The Pharisees, then, answered them, "Are you also de-

48 ceived? Does anyone from among the chiefs believe into him, or from

⁴⁹ among the Pharisees? But this throng that knows not the law is accursed."

Nicodemus is saying to them (who formerly came to Him, who is one of them), "Is our law judging a man, except it should first be hearing from him and may be knowing what he is doing?"

52 They answered and say to him, "Are you also out of Galilee? Search and perceive that out of Galilee is no prophet being roused."

8¹² Again, then, Jesus speaks to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who is following Me should under no circumstances be

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BEFORE-AVERET NOT IS-BEING-ABS omit from 7¹⁸ to 8¹⁹. This is given in the notes.

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walking in darkness, but will be having the light of life." The Pharisees, then, said to Him, "You are testifying about yourself. Your

14 testimony is not true!" Jesus answered and said to them, "And if I should be testifying about Myself, My testimony is true, seeing that I am aware whence I came and whither I am going, yet you are not aware whence I am coming

¹⁵ or whither I am going. You are judging according to the flesh: I

15 am not judging any one. And yet if I should be judging, My judgment is true, seeing that I am not alone, but I and the Father Who 17 sonds Mo. Vet in this law also of

17 sends Me. Yet in this law also of yours it is written, that 'The testi18 mony of two men is true.' I am

the One testifying about Myself, and the Father Who sends Me is

testifying about Me."

They said, then, to Him, "Where is your father?" Jesus answered and said, "You are not acquainted with either Me or My Father. If you were acquainted with Me, you should be acquainted with My Fa
ther also." These declarations He

speaks in the treasury, teaching in the sanctuary, and no one arrests Him, seeing that His hour had not as yet come.

He said, then, again to them, "I am going and you will be seeking Me, and you shall be dying in your sin. Where I am going you cannot be coming." The Jews, then, said, "He will not be killing himself, seeing that he is saying, "Where I am going, you cannot be com-

ing'?''

He said, then, to them, "You are of that which is below, I am of that which is above: you are of this

²⁴ world, I am not of this world. I

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53 And they went each to his home.8 Now Jesus went to the mount of Olives.

² Now early He again came along into the sanctuary, and the entire people come to Him. And being seated, He taught them. ³ Now the scribes and Pharisees are leading a woman who has been overtaken in adultery, and, standing her in the midst, ⁴ they are saying to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been overtaken and detected in adultery. ⁵ Now in our law, Moses directs that such are to be stoned. What then are you saying?" ⁶ Now this they said to try Him, that they may have something to accuse Him of.

Now Jesus, stooping down, wrote with a finger in the earth. 7 Now as they persisted asking Him, He unbends and said to them, "Let the sinless one of you first be casting a stone at her." And, stooping again, He wrote in the earth. 9 Now those hearing it came out one by one, beginning with the elders, to the last.

And Jesus was left alone, the woman also being in the midst. 10 Unbending, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Does no one condemn you?" 11 Now she said, "No one, Lord!" Now Jesus said, "Neither am I condemning you! Go! From now on be sinning no longer!"

in any of the three manuscripts on which the CONCORDANT VERSION is based, it could not be included in our text. Two leaves of Alexandrinus are lost at this point, but a careful calculation of the number of lines shows that the lost leaves did not contain this story. Besides, the evidence of ancient versions and other manuscripts is so much against its retention in the text that no editor gives it a place, unless within brackets.

Nevertheless, the story is so fully in harmony with the grace of Christ that we question whether it could have any other source. Hence we are constrained to class it among the many things which He did of which there is no inspired record, and give the Greek and sublinear, as well as a version, so that no one may have cause to complain of its omission.

said, then, to you, that you shall be dying in your sins. For if you should not be believing Me that I am, you shall be dying in your sins."

They said, then, to Him, "Who are you?" Jesus, then, said to them, "What I am speaking also to you from the beginning. I have much to be speaking and judging concerning you, but the Father Who sends Me is true, and what I hear from Him, these things I am speaking to the world." They know not that He said this to them of the Father.

Jesus, then, said to them again that "Whenever you should exalt the Son of Mankind, then you will know that I am, and from Myself I am doing nothing, but, according as My Father teaches Me, thus I am speaking. And He Who sends Me is with Me. He does not leave Me alone, seeing that I am always do-

30 ing what is pleasing to Him." At His speaking these things, many believe into Him.

Jesus, then, said to the Jews who have believed in Him, "If you should be remaining in My word,
 you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the

truth will be making you free."

They answered Him, "We are Abraham's seed, and we have never been slaves of anyone. How are you saying that 'You shall be becoming free'?"

Jesus answered them, "Verily, verily, I am saying to you that everyone who is doing sin, is a slave of sin. Now the slave is not remaining in the house for the eon. The son is remaining for the eon.

36 If, then, the Son should be making you free, you will be really free.

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29 Nothing would so swiftly and surely prove the undoing of an impostor as the claim that he always pleases God. Of all living, only One has been able to stand such a severe test. In the mouth of any one else the claim to perfect obedience would sound preposterous. The very assumption itself would be displeasing to God and derided by men. It would be a proof of spiritual pride. But in His mouth it was perfectly natural. Instead of taking exception to it they seemed struck by the fact and what it involved, and, as a result, believed on Him.

This is one of the gleries of Christ which makes Him a solitary figure in the annals of mankind. There have been philosophers and good men, but the best have not been flawless. Indeed, they do not dare to claim absolute perfection. Yet we see this apparently humble peasant of Palestine challenging a hostile world to discover in His acts a single word or work which does not glorify God and benefit man. Whoever should dare to criticise Him condemns himself.

44 All sin, in the Scriptures, seems to be traced back to the Slanderer or Sa-Adam sinned at his suggestion. He is the father of all that is false. Being a creature of God, it has been a perplexing problem to account for him without incriminating God Himself. It is usual to insist that he was created perfect and, at a later stage, fell into sin. But this is no real relief. The impulse to sin, in that case, came from without instead of within, and it, in turn, demands an explanation. The Slanderer sinned from the beginning. He was a murderer from the begin-The Scriptures plainly teach that he was created a Slanderer and a Satan.

The solution of the ultimate source of sin lies in its nature. Sin is essentially a mistake. It means to miss the mark, to fall short of a given standard. With this definition in mind, it is easy to see how God could create a creature to sin, if that were necessary to the fulfillment of His purpose. He would not be making any mistake in doing this. He would not sin. On the contrary, if He created Satan perfect, and had no intention or desire that he

37 I am aware that you are Abraham's seed. But you are seeking to kill Me, seeing that there is no

38 room for My word in you. I am speaking of what I have seen with My Father. You also, then, are doing what you hear from your father."

They answered and said to Him, "Our father is Abraham." Jesus answered them, "If you are children of Abraham, you would be do-

40 ing the works of Abraham. Yet now you are seeking to kill Me, a Man Who has spoken to you the truth which I hear from God. This

41 does not Abraham. Yet you are doing the works of your father."

They say to Him, "We were not begotten of prostitution! We have one Father, God!"

Then Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you should have loved Me, for I came forth and am arriving out of God. For neither have I come of Myself, but

43 He commissions Me. Wherefore you know not My speech, seeing that you cannot hear My word.

44 You are of your father the Slanderer, and the desires of your father you are wanting to do. He was a man-killer from the beginning, and has not stood in the truth, seeing that truth is not in him. Whenever he should be talking of that which is false, he is talking of his own, seeing that he is a 45 liar, and the father of it. Yet I—

seeing that I am speaking the truth,

you are not believing in Me. Is
anyone of you exposing Me concerning sin? If I am telling the
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47 lieving in Me? He who is of God is hearing God's declarations, there-

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should sin, then God did make a mistake. The sinfulness of Satan is the strongest evidence of the sinlessness of God.

The essence of God is love. It demands exercise. God must be made known. He will be a Saviour; His purpose demands the presence of sin. He makes a medium—the Slanderer—to inject the virus into creation. He rescues His creatures and gains their affection. He banishes sin. Sin is His servant. He will justify all sin when He has made it a means of bringing His creatures into heart intimacy with Himself.

46 What a challenge to the self-righteous Jews! They claimed a sinless God for a father, yet hated His sinless Son. Without any pretentious effort whatever, He calmly went His way without making a single misstep!

57 The Jews seemed to be utterly unconscious of the great spiritual truths connected with Abraham's They claimed physical descent from him, without realizing that Ishmael had the same right. He was the son of Abram's flesh-and unbelief. They were Ishmaelites, slaves of sin in spite of their noble father. They knew nothing of the faith of Abraham which produced Isaac, after the flesh was as good as dead. They failed to see the significance of Abraham's harsh measures with Ishmael. Were he to visit them he would cast them out, just as he had the slave girl Hagar and her son.

58 The Jehovah Who appeared to Abraham was none other than the Word, which now, having become flesh, was speaking to his apostate descendants. God Himself is invisible. One that Abraham saw was in the form of God before He descended into the likeness of man (Phil.26). It is important to note that the Logos became flesh. It had an existence previous to this apart from flesh. It had a form, human in appearance, because humanity was created in its likeness. As Elohim, He appears to Adam in the garden, and even after his expulsion. As El Shaddai He appeared to Abraham, and gave him the promises. As Adonai He appeared in Isaiah's vision, pronouncing Israel's doom.

fore you are not hearing, seeing that you are not of God."

The Jews answered and say to Him, "Are we not saying ideally that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?"

49 Jesus answered and said, "I have no demon, but I am honoring My Father and you are dishonor-

50 ing Me. Now I am not seeking My glory. There is One Who is seek-

51 ing and judging. Verily, verily, I am saying to you, if anyone should be keeping My word, he should under no circumstances be beholding death for the eon."

The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets, and you are saying, 'If anyone should be keeping My word, he should under no circumstances be

53 tasting death for the eon.' Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died. What are you making yourself?'

Jesus answered, "If I should be glorifying Myself, My glory is nothing. It is My Father Who is glorifying Me, of Whom you are saying that He is your God. And you know Him not, yet I am acquainted with Him, and if I should be saying that I am not acquainted with Him, I shall be a liar like you.

But I am acquainted with Him and

⁵⁶ I am keeping His word. Your father Abraham exults that he may become acquainted with My day, and he was acquainted with it and rejoiced."

57 The Jews, then, said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years, and syou have seen Abraham!" Jesus said to them, "Verily, verily, I am saying to you, ere Abraham

59 came into being, I am." They

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The sixth sign brings before us Israel's blindness, and the opening of their eyes when they recognize Him as the One Whom God has commissioned, at His return. It anticipates the crisis of His ministry, which was fast approaching, when He quoted the words of Isaiah, "He hath blinded their eyes,... that they should not see with their eyes..." (1240). The interest is centered in two distinct thoughts, the reason for his blindness, and the means of its removal.

Why was this man born blind? The Jews took it for granted, as many do today, that all evil comes from sin. and that every one is responsible for his own condition. This is absolutely false. Evil and sin are not outside of God's plan. They are essential to the highest happiness of the creature and the greatest glory of the Creator. This man's case was a concrete example. His healing was not because he was blind, but he was blind in order that he might recover sight, and thus God's acts may be manifested and God Himself may become known. This is true of all evil and all sin. God has introduced it into the world in order that He may display His attributes in coping with it and in removing it when its mission has been accomplished. The experience of evil and sin is transient: the memory of it will never pass away, but will always remain as the essential background apart from which God's goodness and grace never could be revealed. God's heart would always remain hidden apart from evil and sin.

If this man's blindness had never been removed it would have revealed God's impotence and hate. So, if evil and sin are eternal, they will throw their darkest shadow upon the character and feelings of God, and thus defeat the very object for which they exist. But they are not eternal. will be repudiated at the conclusion of the eons (Heb.926). Only in this way can the works of God be manifested. It is useless for us to blame our parents for our sin, for they also inherited it. Even Adam could point to Eve and Eve to the serpent. We should rather thank God for it, and rejoice in the glory that it brings to God.

pick up stones, then, that they should be casting them at Him. Yet Jesus was hid and came out of the sanctuary. And coming through the midst of them, He went and thus passed by.

And, passing along, He perceived a man blind from birth. And His disciples ask Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but it is that the works of God may be manifested by it. I must be working the works of Him Who sends Me while it is day. Night is coming, when no one can be working. Whenever I may be in the world, I am the light of the world." Saying these things, He spits on the ground and makes mud of the spittle, and anoints the eyes of the blind with the mud, and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is, being translated, "commissioned"). He came away, then, and washes, and came, observing.

The neighbors, then, and those beholding him formerly (seeing that he was a beggar) said, "Is not this the one who is sitting and begging?" Others said that "This is he." Yet others said, "No, but he is like him." Yet he said that "I am."

They said, then, to him, "How, then, were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "The Man Who is termed Jesus' makes mud and and and its my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam pool and wash." Coming away, then, and washing,

12 I recover sight." And they say

31 ⁰⁰¹ JOHN'S	ACCOUNT CHAPTERS 8-9
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4 Adam in innocence knew no good. He could not appreciate what God had done for him. The only way he could know of good was to eat of the tree, which, however, also gave the knowledge of evil. The knowledge of good and of evil are inseparable.

The blind man represents Israel. Why were they blind? Paul tells us in the eleventh of Romans. God locks all up together in stubbornness, that He may be merciful to all (Ro.1132). Because they were blinded they refused their Messiah and thus made it possible for God to pour out the riches of His grace on the nations. Their blindness makes it possible for Him to save them with a great salvation when He once again takes them to Himself, and thus He engages their affections. Those who see, revile Him. The blind man worships Him.

Before healing the blind man He increases his blindness by covering his eyes with mud. What does this mean? It corresponds with His treatment of Israel. He finds the nation blind, but instead of healing them then. He fulfills the saying of Isaiah, "He has blinded their eyes and callouses their heart, lest they may be perceiving with their eyes, and should be apprehending with their heart, and turn about, and I should be healing them" (1240). Siloam means "commissioned". He continually referred to Himself as the One Whom God had sent. When the Lord appears in glory, then they will wash in Siloam and see Him Who has been commissioned by God for their blessing. The blind man's spiritual recovery corresponded to his physical healing, for he said "Except this Man were from God, He could be doing nothing" (33).

13 The Pharisees were the blindest of the blind. Though the most zealous and religious of all the Jewish sects, their self confidence and hypocrisy made them the bitterest enemies of Christ and the truth. They claimed to be the spiritual leaders of the nation, hence receive the greater judgment. They boasted that they were not blind like the rest so that their sin remained. The disciples were confident that either the blind man or his parents had sinned; the Lord shows them that

to him "Where is that one?" He is saying, "I am not aware."

They are leading him, who once
 was blind, to the Pharisees. Now
 it was on a sabbath day that Jesus
 makes mud and opens up his eyes.

Again, then, the Pharisees also asked him how he recovers sight. Now he said to them, "He places mud on my eyes, and I wash, and

16 I am observing." Some of the Pharisees, then, said, "This man is not from God, seeing that he is not keeping the sabbath." Yet others said, "How can a man who is a sinner be doing such signs?" And there was a schism among them.

17 They are saying, then, again to him who once was blind, "What are you saying about him, that he opens your eyes?" Now he said 18 that "He is a prophet." The Jews, then, do not believe about him, that he was blind and recovers sight, till they summon the parents

19 of him who recovers sight. And they ask them, saying, "Is this your son, of whom you say that he was born blind? How, then, is he at present observing?"

20 His parents, then, answered and say, "We are aware that this is our son and that he was born blind.

21 Yet how he is now observing, we are not aware, or who opens his eyes we are not aware. Ask him. He is of age. He will be speaking

²² about himself." His parents said these things seeing that they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should be avowing Him to be Christ, he should be put out of the

²³ synagogue. Therefore his parents

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the Pharisees are the real sinners. This they soon demonstrate by their attempt to prove that His gracious act was not in accord with God's holy law. They had corrupted the law by their tradition.

16 It is notable how many of our Lord's recorded signs were done on the sabbath. Doubtless this indicates the fact that their antitype is to be found in the sabbatism which comes at His epiphany. When man ceases work, then is the time for God to act. Man's struggles hinder His operations and obscure the glory which invests His deeds. How blind the Pharisees were to this great truth is apparent from the fact that some of them actually insisted that the Lord Himself was the How far astray are all of sinner! man's perceptions! The disciples supposed it must be the blind man or his parents, the Pharisees fasten guilt on the Lord, but only He sees the truth, that the religious, self-righteous Pharisees are blind sinners above all the SECULIAR STATE OF THE rest.

rest.

24 The double testimony given to the Pharisees may be a premonition of the second witness to the truth which was given to the nation, as recorded in the book of Acts. There also they give Moses and the law a place above our Lord and His apostles, who were "illiterate and ordinary men" (Ac:413), not fit to teach scholars like themselves! But what the blind man lacked in scholarship he more than made up in common sense and spiritual discernment. He is amazed at their ignorance!

34 "They cast him out." This was most dreaded among the Jews, for it meant social as well as religious ostracism. How painful it is, even now, to be cast out of religious organizations, for it has all the semblance of being cast off by God Himself. But today, even as it was then, it usually is a token of divine favor such as the Philippians enjoyed (Phil.129), and leads to a more intimate and precious acquaintance with our Saviour. Indeed, we should deem it an exalted privilege to suffer for and with Christ and His truth. There is no higher token of His regard or surer way to His reward than association with Him in His rejection.

say that "He is of age. Inquire of him."

A second [time], then, they summon the man who was blind and they say to him, "Give the glory to God. We are aware that this man is a sinner."

25 He, then, answered "I am not aware if He is a sinner: one thing I am aware of, that, being blind, at present I am observing."

They said, then, to him, again, "What does he do to you? How

does he open your eyes?"

He answered them, "I told you already, and you do not hear. Why, then, are you wanting to be hearing again? Are you also wanting to become His disciples?"

Now they revile him and said, "You are a disciple of that one, 29 yet we are disciples of Moses. We

are aware that God has spoken to Moses, yet this man—we are not

aware whence he is."

The man answered and said to them, "For in this is a marvelous thing, that you are not aware whence He is, and He opens my ³¹ eyes! We are aware that God is not hearing sinners, but if anyone should be a reverer of God and doing His will, him He is hearing.

32 From out of the eon it is not heard

that anyone opens the eyes of one having been born blind. Except this Man were from God, He could

be doing nothing."

They answered and say to him, "You were wholly born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus hears that they cast him out, and, finding him, said to him, "Are you believing into the Son of Mankind?"

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38 Salvation, whether from physical or spiritual blindness, or lameness or any disability, is not an end in itself. It is largely futile if it fails to lead to a close acquaintance with God through His Christ. His grace captivates our The harsh measures of men only show His love in a better light. So, when the man who had been blind was cast out he was immediately taken in and was introduced to the One Who had restored his sight. this all. Once he knows Him, his heart goes out in adoration, and God gets the worship He craves. the true end and consummation of all evil and all blessing. How blessed that he had been born blind! What a pity that the Pharisees had not also been blind! Yet when they are recovered from their spiritual blindness, they also will bow their hearts and worship the One Who opens their blind eyes.

The Eastern sheepfold was an enclosure surrounded by a wall of rough jagged stones, skilfully piled, without mortar, about three feet wide at the base, tapering to one foot at the top, and from four to eight feet high. A narrow opening in this wall formed the entrance. There was no movable gate or door, but the shepherd blocked up the entrance at night with his body and so was himself the door. To be safe from wild beasts at night the sheep must come in between his outstretched limbs.

The sheep runs were usually in wild, unfrequented spots, infested by bold Bedouin robbers and by wild beasts, such as the jackal, the hyena, the bear. the leopard, and the lion. David battled with a lion and a bear while he kept the sheep of his father (1 Sa. 17 36). For this purpose the shepherd had a stout oak club (A. V. "rod") about two feet long, with a large knob on one end studded with heavy iron nails. The other end had a noose for his wrist to help him hold it, or for fastening to his leather girdle when not in use. The shepherd had this club and a crook (rod and staff), one for the sheep's enemies, the other for the With one he led sheep themselves. them, with the other he defended them, even at the risk of his life.

He answered and said, "And Who is He, Lord, that I should be believing into Him?"

Now Jesus said to him, "You have also seen Him, and He Who is

speaking with you is He."

Now he averred, "I am believing, Lord!" And he worships Him.

29 And Jesus said, "For judgment came I into this world, that those who are not observing may be observing, and those observing should 40 be becoming blind." And those of the Pharisees who are with Him hear these things and they said to 41 Him "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have had no sin. Yet now you are saying that "We are

observing.' Your sin, then, is remaining.

10 Verily, verily, I am saying to you, he who is not entering through the door into the sheepfold, but is climbing up elsewhere, that one is a ² thief and a robber. Now he who is entering through the door is the sheep's shepherd. To him the doorkeeper is opening, and the sheep are hearing his voice, and he is summoning his own sheep by name and is leading them out. And whenever he should be ejecting all his own, he is going in front of them and the sheep are following him, seeing that they are acquainted with his voice. Now under no circumstances will they be following an outsider, but they will be fleeing from him, seeing that they are not acquainted with the voice of outsiders." Jesus told them this proverb, yet they know not what it was that He spoke to them. Jesus, then, said to them again,

Jesus, then, said to them again, "Verily, verily, I am saying to you, that I am the Door of the

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The Psalmist insists that "We (Israel) are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand" (Psa. 957. See also Ps. 741;7720;7852,70;7913;801). Isaiah foretells the time when He shall feed His flock as a Shepherd (Isa. 40^{11}). Jeremiah pronounces a woe on the spiritual shepherds in Israel and predicts their return out of the countries whither He had driven them (Jer.231_4). Ezekiel speaks at length of the nation under this figure (Eze.341-24). Now our Lord takes up the same metaphor and announces Himself as the true Shepherd of Is-

This figure is carried through the Circumcision epistles. Peter is especially commissioned to feed His sheep (2116) and exhorts his readers to do the same. This figure is never used of the nations in the present economy of grace, except in the faded metaphor "pastors". It is a figure peculiarly adapted to the kingdom, for the true King is a shepherd, as David was. Instead of His people guarding and gorging Him, He feeds and defends them. Our translators have actually rendered the verb "rule" on four occasions (Mt. 2^{6} ; Un. 2^{27} ; 12^{5} ; 19^{15}). The nations, as such, are figured by wild beasts, such as a lion, a leopard, or a bear. Our relation to Christ is far more intimate than even the tender Eastern shepherd toward His sheep, for He is our Head, and we are members of His body. The actual body of Christ is the only living form from earth in the heavens and it is the picture of our celestial place and dignity, as well as our vital contact with our Head.

- John the baptist was the door keeper who opened the door to the true Many another has come Shepherd. claiming to be Israel's shepherd, but they did not come in God's appointed way.
- The Eastern shepherd never drives They will his sheep. He calls them. not follow a strange voice.
- 11 In His humiliation He was the ideal Shepherd defending His sheep. In His exaltation He is the great Shepherd. feeding them (Heb. 1320).
- 16 The dispersion, outside the land, was reached by Peter (1 Pet.11), in his two epistles.

sheep. All that ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the

sheep hear them not. I am the Door. If anyone should be entering through Me, he shall be saved. and will be entering and coming out and will be finding pasture.

10 The thief is not coming except that he should be stealing and sacrificing and destroying. I came that they may be having eonian life, and having it superabundantly.

I am the ideal Shepherd. The ideal shepherd is laying down his ¹² soul for the sake of the sheep. Now the hireling, not being the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, is beholding the wolf coming, and is deserting the sheep and fleeing. And the wolf is snatching them 13 and is scattering the sheep. Yet the hireling is fleeing, seeing that he is a hireling and is not caring about the sheep.

I am the ideal Shepherd, and I know Mine and Mine know Me.

¹⁵ According as the Father knows Me, I also know the Father, and I am laying down My soul for the sake of the sheep.

And other sheep I have which are not of this fold. Those also I must be leading, and they will be hearing My voice, and they will be becoming one flock, one Shepherd.

Therefore the Father is loving Me, seeing that I am laying down My soul that I may be getting it 18 again. No one is taking it away from Me, but I am laying it down of Myself. I have the right to lay it down and I have the right to take it again. This precept I got from My Father."

35 ⁰⁰¹		N'S ACCOUNT		CHAPTER 1
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22 The Dedications must refer to the rededication of the temple, after three years' profanation by Antiochus Epiphanes, in the days of Judas Maccabeus, for Solomon's temple was dedicated in the seventh month, which was about the autumnal equinox, Zerubbabel's temple was dedicated in the twelfth month, the beginning spring, but Judas Maccabeus held his dedication for eight days, beginning on the twenty-fifth day of the seventh month—in the midst of winter. Besides, neither Solomon nor Zerubbabel made it an annual celebration. Josephus tells about it in his Antiquities. book XII, chapter 7. He takes his account from the first book of Maccabees, IV, 36-59, and the second book, X. 5-8.

This festival was not of divine appointment, and mars the great series of seven festivals which are a prophetic forecast of Israel's history. These are in two groups, one of which has been fulfilled, and one still future. The Passover, Unleavened, Firstfruit, and Pentecost are history now. Trumpets. Propitiation, and Tabernacles will be fulfilled when Israel is again in God's reckoning. After the millennium, which is the antitype of Tabernacles, there will not be a rededication of the temple. On the contrary, the temple and its worship will be superseded by reconciliation where no ritual is needed.

The Dedications was a sentimental, anniversary. which never human would have been instituted had the people not been blind to the marvelous meaning of Jehovah's perfect series of festivals. It is usually called the feast of Lights. Such it was to the blind man! But to the Jews as a nation, this light-human amendment of the law and the ritual-was darkness, and how great was their darkness! If our faith is in man and his works, how futile it is!

The many church festivals of today are like the Dedications, without foundation in truth, however they may appeal to religious sentiment. God's festivals were filled with spiritual significance and force, which now demands the non-observance of days and set seasons.

Again there came to be a schism among the Jews because of these words. Now many of them said, "He has a demon and is mad.

²¹ Why are you hearing Him?" Yet others said, "These declarations are not of demons. Can a demon

open the eyes of the blind?"

Now there came to be the Dedications in Jerusalem, and it was
 winter. And Jesus walked in the sanctuary in the portico of Solo The Jews, then, surround

Him, and they said to Him, "Till when are you lifting our soul? If you are the Christ tell us boldly."

Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you are not believing. The works which I am doing in the name of My Father, these are testifying concerning Me. But you are not believing, seeing that you are not of My sheep, according as I said to you.

My sheep are hearing My voice, and I know them, and they are following Me. And I am giving them eonian life, and they should by no means be destroyed for the eon, and no one shall be snatching them
out of My hand. My Father, Who has given them to Me, is greater than all and no one is able to be snatching them out of My Father's
hand. I and the Father are one."

31 Again, then, the Jews bear stones that they should be stoning 32 Him. Jesus answered them, "Many ideal acts I show you from My Father. Because of which act 33 of them are you stoning Me?" The Jews answered Him, "For an

Jews answered Him, "For an ideal act we are not stoning you, but for blasphemy, and that you,

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34 The term "gods" is translated "judges" in Ex. 216; 228,9,9, where it refers to men. But our Lord does not appeal to this, but to Psalm 826 where the context clearly excludes men. The mighty spiritual powers of wickedness who overrule the affairs of mankind are called sons by God Himself. Even Satan is called a son of God (Job 16). He is called the god of this eon (2 Co. 44). Now if God said to him and his hosts, "Ye are gods", notwithstanding the fact that they failed to right the wrongs of earth, how much rather shall He have called Him God Who shall disposses them? To Him God says (Psa.828):

Rise, O God! Judge the earth, For Thou shalt be allotted all nations.

He had been undoing the deeds of these sons of God and doing all that was foretold of Him before their very eyes. And yet they thought they were not blind!

The rousing of Lazarus from among the dead is the seventh and last sign in John's account. Each succeeding sign finds the nation on a lower level. At the marriage feast of Cana they lacked the joy and gladness of the kingdom; the infirm man at Bethesda's pool lacked power; the disciples on the sea, tossed by the tempest, lacked peace; the blind man lacked sight; but Lazarus lacked life. The apostasy of the nation had developed to such a degree that death was the fittest symbol to describe them.

This is the condition of Israel in the latter days, as the prophet Ezekiel saw them in the valley of dry bones (Eze. 373). The question is asked, "Shall these bones live?" And the bones are roused from death, and enter the land of Israel.

The cause of Lazarus' infirmity was not sin, as in the case of the man at Bethesda. It was the necessary prelude to the manifestation of His glory. Indeed, the Lord deliberately delayed His departure in order that he should die. So He deals with Israel. Their great cry is "Till when?" (Isa. 611). Their restoration to life is postponed until they are beyond all hope, until their resurrection, spiritually as well as physically, is manifestly the work of the Lord.

being a man, are making yourself God."

Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, that 'I said you are gods'? If He said those were gods to whom the word of God came (and the scripture cannot be annulled), are you saying to Him Whom the Father hallows and dispatches into the world that

'You are blaspheming,' seeing that 's I said, 'I am the Son of God'? If

I am not doing My Father's 38 works, do not be believing Me. Yet if I am doing them, and if you are not believing Me, be believing in the works, that you may be knowing and believing that the Father is in Me and I am in the Father." 39 Then again they sought to arrest

Him, and He came out of their

hand.

And He came away again to the other side of the Jordan into the place where John was formerly baptizing, and He remains there.

And many came to Him, and they said that "John, indeed, does not one sign, yet all, whatever John said concerning this One was true." And many believe into

Him there.

11 Now there was a certain infirm man, Lazarus from Bethany, of the village of Mary, and her sister Martha. Now it was Mary who rubs the Lord with attar and wipes His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was infirm. The sisters, then, dispatch to Him, saying, "Lord, lo! he of whom Thou

art fond is infirm!"

Yet Jesus, hearing it, said,
"This infirmity is not to death, but
for the glory of God, that the Son
of God should be glorified through
it." Now Jesus loved Martha and

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⁹ The day, in the East, begins with sunrise and ends with sunset. It is always divided into twelve hours. In summer these are longer than in winter. As the sun is nearly always shining any one can tell the time of day by merely glancing at his shadow.

11 Repose is the favorite figure of death in the Scriptures. Only four times is it used of the actual repose of sleep (Mt. 2752; 2813; Lu. 2245; Ac. 126). Fourteen times is it found in its figurative sense (Jn. 1111,12; Ac. 760; 1336; 1 Co. 739; 1130; 156, 18, 20, 51; 1 Th. 413, 14,15; 2 Pt. 34). It is used of both believers and unbelievers (1 Co.739). It likens death to that beneficial aspect of sleep which restores us to physical vigor and vitality. Death itself is an enemy, so we must look to the resurrection as the true inspiration for this figure. This is beautifully pictured in the case of Lazarus. Had he actually found repose in sleep he would doubtless have recovered. But his death amounted to no more than this after the Lord had restored his life by resurrection.

Of his experience in death we are told nothing, for this figure precludes the thought. Normal sleep is itself without sensation, and "the repose of sleep" is unbroken oblivion until the awakening.

15 We know that the Lord was fond of Lazarus (3). How strange, then, to hear Him say "Lazarus died. And I am rejoicing". "! We might have said, "I am sorrowing." It is our privilege, also, to look about us on all the distress and disaster and death and rejoice, not in the calamities themselves, but in the glory which will accrue to God when He deals with them. It is only as we see God's beneficent purpose in our trials that we can really endure them with joyfulness.

17 The four days may suggest the time during which the nation lies lifeless, before the resurrection of the day of the Lord. First they were under the law, and this dealt out death. Then came the personal ministry of Messiah which showed them to be but a corrupt corpse. The rejection of the apostolic testimony in the Acts leaves them still worse. They become most offensive in the day of wrath.

6 her sister and Lazarus. As, then, He hears that he is infirm, then, indeed, He remains two days in the place where He was.

Thereupon, after this, He is saying to His disciples, "We may be
going into Judea again." The disciples are saying to Him, "Rabbi,
the Jews now sought to stone Thee,
and art Thou going there again?"

Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone should be walking in the day he is not stumbling, seeing that he is observing the light of this world.

10 Yet if anyone should be walking in the night, he is stumbling, seeing that the light is not in him."

He said these things, and after this He is saying to them, "Lazarus, our friend, has found repose, but I am going that I should be awakening him out of sleep."

The disciples, then, said to Him,
 "Lord, if he has repose, he shall be
 saved." Now Jesus had made a declaration concerning his death,
 yet they suppose that He is saying
 it of the repose of sleep. Jesus,

then, said to them boldly, then, ¹⁵ "Lazarus died. And I am rejoicing because of you, that you should be believing, seeing that I was not there. But we may be going to

16 him." Thomas, then, who is termed "Didymus", said to his fellow disciples, "We also may be going, that we may be dying with Him."

Jesus, then, on coming into Bethany, found he had been in the tomb to four days already. Now Bethany

was near Jerusalem about fifteen stadia [1.72 miles] off. Now many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary that they should be comforting them concerning their brother.

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THAT THEY-SHOULD-BE-BESIDE-CLOSE-ING them

25 The striking phrase "and the Life" is the clue to the great truth here unfolded by our Lord. To His assertion that "Your brother will be rising" Martha assents, for she knew that all would rise "at the last day". But this falls far short of the truth. There are two resurrections. One He called "the resurrection of life", the other "the resurrection of judgment" (529). As resurrection necessarily implies life. it will be seen that the word "life" is used in an intensified sense. The "resurrection of life" imparts eonian life, while the resurrection of judgment leads to eonian death.

Our Lord is seeking to comfort Martha by that best of all consolations, the vivification of all His own at His presence, long before "the last day", at the very commencement of the millennial eon. Seventy-five days after His glorious, epiphany He will rouse the saints in Israel and commence their righteous reign over the earth. "Happy and holy is he who has a part in the former resurrection: over these the second death has no jurisdiction, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will be reigning with Him the thousand years" (Un.206).

The saints of this present economy of transcendent grace will be given life even before this, as explained in 1 Th.4 13-18; 1 Co. 1551-55; Eph.112; Phil. 320. The presence, or parousia, of Christ spreads over a period of time, in which all His own are called out of death to eonian life.

Only three resurrections lead to immortality. First, that of Christ Himself, second, that at His future "presence" including those who are His, and, lastly, all mankind, at the consummation, when all will be made alive (1 Co. 1522-28). This great truth is the only real comfort in the presence of bereavement. Christ never stood in the presence of death without vanquishing it. He is the Life! Since this life beyond the reach of death is imparted only on these three occasions, it follows that every other resurrection is not a "resurrection of life". Those 32 Mary, then, as she came where raised in the past and those at the great white throne are still subject to death. They are not made immortal until the consummation, when death is abolished, and life is the portion of all. LUCE HOLL

Martha, then, as she hears that Jesus is coming, meets Him. Yet Mary was seated in the house.

²¹ Martha, then, said to Jesus. "Lord, if Thou wert here, my

²² brother would not have died. But even now I am aware that whatever Thou shouldst be requesting of God, God will be giving to Thee."

Jesus is saying to her, "Your

brother will be rising."

Martha is saying to Him, "I am aware that he will be rising in the resurrection in the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who is believing into Me, even if he should be dying, will be living. And everyone who is living and believing into Me should by no means be dying for the eon. Are you believing this?"

27 She is saving to Him, "Yes, Lord. I have believed that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God, Who is coming into the world." And saying this she came away and summons Miriam, her sister, covertly, saying, "The Teacher is present

and is summoning you." Now as she hears, she was roused

swiftly and came to Him.

Now Jesus had not as yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha meets Him.

31 The Jews, then, who are with her in the house and are comforting her, perceiving Mary, that she rose quickly and came out, follow her, supposing that she is going into the tomb that she should be lamenting there.

Jesus was, perceiving Him, falls at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if Thou wert here, my brother would

not have died!"

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ΟΥ ΆΠΕΘΆΝΕΝΟ ΆΔΕΛΦΟ CΙΗ 40000 33 ME FROM-DIED THE brother

35 What tender compassion His tears reveal! He could deliberately remain away so that Lazarus should die and by his death prepare for the revelation of God's glory in his resurrection. He could comfort the sisters with the great truth that He is the Life. But with Him truth was not the stern. heartless dogma that overrides all natural feelings and condemns all sorrow as unbelief. His heart was moved with pity and compassion and He stops to mingle His tears with theirs ere He wipes them away by His marvelous miracle. So we, too, are not charged by the apostle to refrain from all sorrow as sinful, but not to sorrow as others who have no blessed expectation to anticipate (1 Th. 413).

We have here a touching example of the experience recorded by the apostle Paul: "as sorrowful, yet ever rejoicing" (2 Co.610). Or, in our Lord's case, we should reverse it, for He rejoiced first of all, yet felt for His friends who had not His faith. It is a mistake to suppose that confidence in the ultimate benefits of sorrow will put us out of It is intended to sympathy with it. stir our emotions. It is designed to touch us to tears. Otherwise, it would fail to accomplish the object for which it exists. Our sorrows and heartaches are none the less real because we know their glorious outcome. All their ultimate value lies in their contrast with the tearless felicity for which they are a preparation.

39 Of the three who were raised from the dead by our Lord, Jairus' daughter had scarcely started to go to corruption (Mk. 535-42), the widow of Nain's son was on the way to his burial (Lu. 711-16), but Lazarus had been dead long enough to be offensive to smell and to sight. No wonder Martha objected. Who wishes to see the gruesome spectacle of a corrupting corpse? How their hearts must have marveled at His words "you should be viewing the glory of God."

The glory of God in such ghastly association! Yet such is the only place its full effulgence can be manifested. This is one of many examples which are given us in the Scriptures, which illustrate the essential and beneficial function of evil in the universe. It reveals God. All those deepest and most

Jesus, then, as He perceived her lamenting and the Jews coming with her lamenting, mutters in spirit, and disturbs Himself. And He said, "Where have you placed him?"

They are saying to Him, "Lord, come and see."

Jesus weeps.

The Jews, then, said, "Lo! how fond of him He was!" Yet some of them said, "Could not this One, Who opens the eyes of the blind, make it that this man also should not be dying?"

Jesus, then, again muttering in Himself, is coming into the tomb. Now there was a cave and a stone was laid on it. Jesus is saying, "Take away the stone."

Martha, the sister of him who is deceased, is saying to Him, "Lord, he is already stinking, for it is the

fourth day."

Jesus is saying to her, "Said I not to you that, if you should be believing, you shall be viewing the glory of God?" They, then, take away the stone. Yet Jesus lifts up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank Thee that Thou hearest Me.

42 Now I was aware that Thou art hearing Me always, but because of the throng standing about I said it, that they should be believing that

⁴³ Thou dost commission Me." And, saying these things, He clamors with a loud voice, "Lazarus! Come

44 out hither!" And he who has died came out, bound feet and hands with winding sheets, and his countenance had been bound about with a handkerchief. Jesus is saying to them, "Loose him and let him go!"

Many of the Jews, then, who come to Mary and gaze at what
 Jesus does, believe into Him. Yet

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precious excellences which spring from love would be buried within His breast, unknown and unappreciated, if evil did not force it to the front. If Lazarus had not died, we would not have known of Christ's compassion and His tears. Even Mary had not learned this lesson yet, though she had sat at His feet and listened to His teachings. His heart was most touched by her complaint "Lord, if Thou wert here, my brother would not have died!" Did she know that He had delayed His coming?

It is the great problem that baffles men today put into a simple simile. Why does God allow evil? Why does He not hasten to remove it? All that is needed is His presence. But He delays. His delay confirms the great truth that evil as well as good is from Him. It is the necessary foil for the display of His glory. It is the essential ingredient of future bliss. Good cannot be known and appreciated except in the presence of evil. It needs a dead, loathsome, fetid corpse to flash forth the effulgent love of God.

49 The high priest's prophesy is another clear indication of the overruling and sovereign power of God. His enemies fulfill His will even when they are most opposed to His plans and purpose, as they see it. The very arrogance of the chief priest reacts on himself. Not only the Sanhedrin, whom he accused of crass ignorance, but he also was unaware of the great truth which his lips uttered. How pitiable is man's "free will" in the hands of such a God! Man is utterly at the mercy of his heredity and environment, and these are beyond his control. God alone decides the factors of which our lives are composed and hence He is the final Arbiter of our deeds and destiny. Once we know Him we would not have it otherwise.

53 How vivid are the contrasts in this account! Christ has proclaimed Himself as the Life, both by word and by deed. From that day, then, they plan that they may kill Him. They deliberately decide to murder the One Who not only has life in Himself, but Who is to give life to all mankind!
55 "The Lord's Passover" (Ex.1227)

has become "the Passover of the Jews"! The Lamb was not there.

some of them came away to the Pharisees, and told them what Jesus does.

The chief priests and the Pharisees, then, assembled the Sanhedrin and said, "What are we doing, seeing that this man is doing many signs? If we should be leaving him thus, all will be believing into him, and the Romans will come and take away our place

as well as nation."

Now a certain one of them, Caiaphas, being the chief priest of that year, said to them, "You are so aware of nothing, neither account that it is expedient for us that one man should be dying for the sake of the people, and the whole nation

should not be destroyed." Now this he said, not from himself, but, being the chief priest of that year, he prophesies that Jesus was about to

52 die for the sake of the nation, and not for the sake of the nation only, but that He may be assembling the scattered children of God also into

⁵³ one. From that day, then, they plan that they may kill Him.

Jesus, then, no longer walked boldly among the Jews, but came away thence into the country near the wilderness, to a city termed Ephraim, and there He remains 55 with His disciples. Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many ascended into Jerusalem out of the country, before the Passover, that they should be purifying 56 themselves. They sought Jesus, then, and said to one another, standing in the sanctuary, "What do you suppose? That He may not

57 come to the festival at all?" Yet

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1-8 Compare Mt.266-13; Mk.143-9.

We are now treated to a beautifully symbolic picture of the three-fold phase of resurrection life. The saints shall serve Him as Martha did. They shall share with Him, as Lazarus. They shall worship Him, like Mary. In these degenerate days we have forgotten that there is need of one thing. and that is not service or sacrifice, but of sitting at the feet of our Lord and hearing His Word. Service has its place, but it is not, as Martha thought. the great need. God can get servants. He has many much more powerful than we are. He can make the very elements do His bidding. He is looking for worship, and true worship comes only from the heart attuned to His grace. Martha served, as she always did, though she had learned not to be worried by its details. Mary no longer sits at His feet but worships there, and "wastes" a woman's prized possession on them, and wipes them with a woman's glory. It is the most exalted act of any of His disciples. Like us, they were usually after blessing for themselves, instead of seeking to give Him what His heart craves. It is not what we get but what we give to God that fufills the purpose for which He formed and favored us. Let us become so enamored of His excellences that we, too, shall waste our most precious possessions in worship at His Nothing is too good for Him! Nothing is lost that serves to express our adoration, nothing is wasted that conveys our love.

But worshipful response is impossible apart from the preparation of heart which comes only to those who search the treasures of His Word. The discoveries of His wisdom and grace alone can constrain the heart to the impulsive and uncalculated displays of lavish affection which are His delight. One heart, responding to His love, is better than all the service and ceremony of a myriad of slaves driven by fear or favor.

3 The term "ointment" is now used especially for fatty or fixed oils, of heavy consistency, but the perfumes used in the Orient are essential oils, or attars. This seems the only satisfactory English term for the precious perfume used by Mary.

the chief priests and the Pharisees had given directions that if anyone should know where He is, he should be divulging it, so that they should be arresting Him.

12 Jesus, then, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had died, whom Jesus rouses from among the dead.

² There, then, they make a dinner for Him, and Martha served. Now Lazarus was one of those lying back at table with Him.

Mary, then, taking a pound troy [12 oz.] of veritable nard attar, very precious, rubs the feet of Jesus and wipes His feet with her hair. Now the house was filled with the odor of the attar.

Now Judas of Simon Iscariot, one of His disciples (who is about to be betraying Him) is saying, "Wherefore was not this attar disposed of for three hundred denarii [about \$47.07, £9 13s 9d] and given to the

poor?" Now this he said, not that he cared about the poor, but that he was a thief and bore the coffer, having also what was cast into it.

Then, said Jesus, "Let her be, that she should be keeping it for the day of My burial. For you have the poor with yourselves always, yet Me you have not always."

The vast throng, then, from among the Jews, knew that He is there. And they came, not because of Jesus only, but that they might become acquainted with Lazarus also, whom Jesus rouses from among the dead. Yet the chief priests also plan that they may be

11 killing Lazarus also, seeing that, because of him, many of the Jews went, and believed into Jesus.

On the morrow a vast throng, who are coming for the festival,

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While facing the terrible ordeal of death our Lord found no fellowship with His disciples in the sorrows before Him. Like Peter, they could not entertain such a thought. But it seems that Mary alone, of all His friends. had learned to believe His words. She looked forward to His death and the tomb. Is it any wonder that she is first at the tomb on the resurrection morning and first to speak to the risen Christ?

12-19 Compare Mt. 214-11: Mk. 117-19: Lu. 1935-40.

- 13 See Ps. 11825,26.
- 15 See Zech, 99,

21 Perhaps the surest index of the spiritual state and experience of believers is the way in which they use the name and titles of our Lord. The prevalent use of His personal name is shocking to the spiritual ear. His enemies and those unacquainted with Him, as these Greeks, addressed, Him or spoke of Him familiarly by the name given Him at His birth. Those who knew Him and had learned to love Him always gave Him a title suited to the occasion. He was Teacher to His disciples, Adept, or Doctor, in reference to His wisdom, Lord or Master to His slaves, and Christ or Messiah to His loyal subjects. them He was Jesus the Christ, in humiliation. To us He is Christ Jesus, in glory. Surely it is a small thing for us to speak of Him as He deserves! Let us not degrade His high dignity by using His human name without at least one of the titles of His glory.

23 It seems that here we have a preview of the coming kingdom. He enters Jerusalem in triumph exactly, to a day, as foretold by Daniel the prophet (Dan. 925). The indignant Pharisees acknowledge that the world went after Him, and even the Greeks seek His acquaintance, as the nations will come up to Jerusalem in the millennial kingdom.

There is no intimation that the curiosity of the Greeks was satisfied. In the kingdom they will have their place, but before that, immediately athwart His path, is the death that will open the way for the blessing of all. The Greeks must wait until the grain of

wheat has died.

hearing that Jesus is coming into 13 Jerusalem, got fronds of palms and came out to meet Him. And they clamored, saying, "Hosanna! Blessed is He Who is coming in the name of the Lord!" and "the King of Israel!"

Now Jesus, finding a little ass, is seated on it, according as it is writ-

15 "Fear not, daughter of Zion! Lo! Your King is coming sitting on an ass's colt."

Now His disciples do not know these things, at first, but when Jesus is glorified, then they remember that these things were written of Him and they do these things to Him.

The throng, then, which was with Him when He summons Lazarus out of the tomb, and rouses him from among the dead, testified.

18 Therefore, also, the vast throng meets Him, seeing that they hear ¹⁹ that He has done this sign. Then the Pharisees say among themselves. "You are beholding that you are benefiting nothing. Lo! the world went away after Him!"

Now there were some Greeks among those going up that they should be worshiping in the festi-²¹ val. These, then, approached Philip from Bethsaida of Galilee, and they asked him, saying, "Lord, we

want to become acquainted with ²² Jesus." Philip is coming and telling Andrew, and again Andrew and Philip are coming and telling

Jesus. Yet Jesus is answering them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Mankind should be glorified.

Verily, verily, I am saying to you, except a kernel of wheat, falling into the earth, should be dying, it is remaining alone, yet if it to-

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25 We fail to feel the force of this if we confound the soul with life. We could hardly say, in verse 27, "Now is My life troubled", yet it is the very same word. The soul has to do with sensation. Some forms of life, as plants, have no soul, or sensation. He who is fond of his soul will shrink from discomfort and suffering. He will not endure the affliction which precedes the kingdom. He will lose the joy and blessedness of the reward. He who hates his soul will not allow any sorrow to stand between him and faithfulness to God.

27 The Lord Himself is the first to hate His own soul. His darkest hour has come. Shall He shrink from its horrors? No! Let God's name be glorified whatever the bitter cost! The rendering "life", in place of "soul", fails to give the true thought. A man may love life, yet hate his soul. Those who fear persecution and distress for Christ's sake are fond of their souls, and they will forfeit the very ease and delight which they crave, when the kingdom comes.

31 "Now is the judgment of this world" suggests that God was, at that time, about to judge mankind. But He did not. Judgment still waits. It is the world that was doing the judging. This is confirmed by the same form of the word in "the judgment of gehenna" (Mt.2333), "the judgment of God" (2 Th. 15). See also Un. 147; 167; 1810; 192. The world would hardly judge Satan, so the Chief here spoken of must be Christ Himself. This title is used again in 1430 and 1611, where further evidence is given that our Lord is speaking of Himself. The judgment is His exaltation on the cross, for it was a reference to the manner of His death. So it was that the throng understood the term. We should not give one of His titles to Satan. Christ is the world's Chief.

should be dying, it is bringing
²⁵ forth much fruit. He who is fond
of his soul is destroying it, and he
who is hating his soul, in this
world, shall be guarding it for eonian life.

If anyone should be serving Me let him be following Me, and where I am, there My servant also shall be. And if anyone should be serving Me, the Father shall be honoring him. Now is My soul disturbed.

turbed. And what may I be saying? 'Father, save Me out of this hour'? But because of this I

²⁸ came into this hour. Father, glorify Thy name!" A voice, then, came out of heaven, "I glorify it and shall also be glorifying it again!"

The throng, then, which stands and hears it, said, "It thunders!" Others said, "A messenger has spoken to Him!"

Jesus answered and said, "Not because of Me has come this voice, but because of you. Now is this

world's judging. Now shall the Chief of this world be cast out. ³² And I, if I should be exalted out of

the earth, shall be drawing all to ³³ Myself.'' Now this He said, signifying what death He was about to be dying.

The throng, then, answered Him, "We hear out of the law that the Christ is remaining for the eon, and how are you saying that the Son of Mankind must be exalted? Who is this Son of Mankind?"

35 Jesus, then, said to them, "Still a little time the light is among you. Be walking while you have the light lest the darkness should be overtaking you. And he who is walking in the darkness is not 36 aware whither he is going. As you

have the light, be believing into

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44 ⁰⁰¹ JOHN'S	ACCOUNT CHAPTER 12
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8 Omits AND	AB81* 0.

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AND HEARING Said THUNDER

37 What better proof could be found that they were walking in darkness than their rejection of the Man of Sorrows? The prophets plainly foretold their action and yet they are too much in the dark to see.

38 Our Lord has now come to that stage of His ministry which was so graphically described by His namesake, Isaiah. His public ministry is at its close. He hides Himself. As the prophet continues (Isa, 532-3):

He has no shapeliness or honor, And, seen by us, He is no sight to be coveted.

He is despised and shunned by men, A Man of pains and knowing illness, And, as One concealing His face from

He is despised, and we take no account of Him.

89 Outside the Scriptures we hear much of human responsibility, and that those who reject the light deserve the judgment they have invited. This passage makes us pause. These men had heard the most powerful of all preachers and seen the most marvelous of all miracle workers, yet we are distinctly told that they could not be-The reason given is that the Scriptures must be fulfilled. God's purpose demands a measure of unbelief as well as of faith. He locks up all in stubbornness that He may have mercy on all (Ro.1132). To damn these men who could not believe with irretrievable and irrecoverable ruin is unthinkable of God.

40 Isaiah's message of doom to Israel is always quoted when their apostasy has passed repair. It divides our Lord's ministry and the accounts given of it into two distinct and different epochs. He begins His proclamation of the kingdom and continues until its rejection. Then, after quoting the sixth of Isaiah, He speaks to His own of His suffering and death. See Mt. 1313-15. In the Pentecostal era we see the same. The kingdom is proclaimed to the whole nation once again, but when their rejection is irrevocable, Paul quotes from Isaiah and seals their doom for the eon. This rejection is the basis on which the present secret economy of transcendent grace has been established.

the light, that you may be becoming sons of light."

These things speaks Jesus, and, coming away, He was hid from 37 them. Yet, having done so many signs in front of them, they be-38 lieved not into Him, that the word of Isaiah, the prophet, may be fulfilled which he said.

"Lord, who believes our tidings? And to whom was the arm of the Lord revealed?"

Therefore they could not be beseeing that lieving, Isaiah again,

"He has blinded their eyes And callouses their heart. Lest they may be perceiving with their eyes. And should be apprehending with their heart. And turn about, and I shall be healing them."

These things Isaiah said, seeing that he perceived His glory, and

speaks concerning Him.

Howbeit, likewise, of the chiefs also many believe into Him, but because of the Pharisees they avowed it not, lest they should 43 be put out of the synagogue, for they love the glory of men rather than even the glory of God.

Now Jesus cries and said, "He who is believing into Me is not believing into Me, but into Him Who 45 sends Me. And he who is beholding Me is beholding Him Who

 46 sends Me. I have come into the world a Light, that every one who is believing into Me should not be

remaining in darkness.

And if anyone should be hearing My declarations and not be maintaining them, I am not judging him, for I came not that I should be judging the world, but that I 48 should be saving the world. who is repudiating Me and not get-

			· ·
45 ⁰⁰¹	JOHN'S	ACCOUNT	CHAPTER 12
MATAAAB HKAI MAY-BE-DOWN-GETTING AND	THE ORE-ABOUT-TREADING	ENTHNAOZA CEIVED THE esteem	NAYTOYKAIEA ²⁰ of-Him and talks
NENTHCKOTI A	NOT HAS-PERCEIVED ?-	AAHCENTEP 42 ABOUT	AYTOYOMOCM ⁴⁰ Him LIKE-AS how-
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YTONOYKETIC them NOT THEY-BE		TEPTHNAOZ 44 EVEN THE esteem	OF-THE God JESUS
YTONINA OAOI 38 THAT THE SAYING	COHCAIOYT20 G OF-ISAIAH THE	COYCAE EK P	AZENKAIGITE 20 AND said
OYT POOHTOYT BEFORE-AVERET M	TAMPUOHONE 40 AY-BE-BEING-FILLED WHICH he-		NEICEMEOYII 40
ITENKY PIETI		CTEYEIGICE BELIEVING INTO M	EMEANA GICT 60
ENTHAKOHHMO to-the hearing of-us	WNKAIOB PAX 80	ONTIEMYANT 45 One-SENDING	AMEKA 1006 CD P 80 ME AND THE one-beholding
arm of-Master to-A	NIATEKAAY 300 NY WAS-FROM-COVERED		EITON TE MYAN 800 IG THE One-SENDING
ΦθΗΔΙΑΤΟΥΤΟ 39 THRU this	NOT THEY-were-ABLE	TAMEET CO 40	CCICTON KOCM 20 T INTO THE SYSTEM B O THE SYSTEM
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I TENHCAI ACT	ETYPACKEN 60 E-HAS-BLINDED	EYONEICEM INTO ME	EENTHCKOTIA 60 IN THE DARKNESS
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AIANINAMHIA OCINTOICO THAT NO THEY-MAY-BE-PERCEIVING tO-THE

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НКАРДІ АКАІЄПІСТРАФФС® AND THEY-MAY-BE-ON-TURNED

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declarations

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THE SYSTEM but THAT I-SH'D-BE-SAVING THE

NKOCMONOABET@NEMEKAI® THE ONG-UN-PLACING ME

MHAAMBANUNTAPHMATAMO4000 GETTING-UP THE declarations OF-ME

- 1 The path of our Lord as brought before us in John's account may be compared with the path of a priest who comes out of the tabernacle and returns thither within the curtain. We find Him first with God (11). Then He is the Light (19), reminding us of the seven-branched lampstand. At His baptism (129) we see Him at the laver and as the Lamb He is on the brazen altar of sacrifice. Thus He came out from God. Now that He is rejected. He goes back to God. The order is He bears witness to His death (1224)—the brazen altar. He washes the disciples' feet (135)—the laver. He partakes of the "last supper" —the shewbread. The holy spirit—the lampstand. Within the curtain in chapter seventeen—the mercy seat. Thus we see how really He came out from God and is going back to God (3). He returns whence He came.
- ² This act is characteristic of the Slanderer's opposition. He was to "bruise His heel" (Gen. 3¹⁵), a special phrase denoting the treachery of one who seems to serve while he plots destruction. The name Jacob, literally "heeler" or supplanter, conveys this same idea of unfair advantage (Gen. 25^{21,26}). The tribe of Dan is "a horned snake in the path to bite the horse's heels" (Gen. 49¹⁷). Its treachery excluded it from the list of tribes in the Unveiling (7⁴⁻⁸).
- 3 The majesty of humility is seldom so splendidly set forth as in this passage. First we have His high place in reference to the world. All is in His hands. Then we are told of His relation to God. Did not such dignity and power entitle Him to the highest esteem? Yet, as such, He stoops to the meanest humility.
- 5 Many features of oriental life are very different from our customs. We remove our hats on entering a house, as a token of respect. In the East they keep on their turbans, but remove their footgear, leaving it in the small, lower entrance to the reception room (See Ex. 35; Josh. 515; Ac. 733). It is then the duty of the humblest slave in the establishment to wash the feet of the guest, by pouring water over them, and wiping them off with the towel with which he is girded.

ting My declarations, has that which is judging him: the word which I speak, that will be judging

him in the last day, seeing that I speak not from Myself, but the Father Who sends Me, He has given Me the precept, what I may be saying and what I should be speaking.

50 And I am aware that His precept is eonian life; which, then, I am speaking, according as the Father has declared to Me—thus am I

speaking."

13 Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus, being aware that His hour came that He may be proceeding out of this world to the Father, loving His own who are in the world, He loves them to the

consummation. And at the coming of dinner, the Slanderer having already cast into the heart of Judas, of Simon Iscariot, that he may be
 betraving Him. Leggs being aware

betraying Him, Jesus, being aware that the Father has given all into His hands, and that He came out
 from God and is going to God, is

rising from dinner and is laying down His garments, and, getting a

cloth, He girds Himself.

Thereafter He is draining water into a basin, and begins washing the feet of the disciples and wiping them off with the cloth with which He was girded. He is coming, then, to Simon Peter. And he is saying to Him, "Lord, art Thou washing my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you are not aware at present, yet you will know after these things."

Peter is saying to Him, "Under no circumstances should you be washing my feet for the eon!"

Jesus answered him, "If I should not be washing you, you are having no part with Me."

Simon Peter is saying to Him,

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THE saying WHICH I-TALK that

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OCCIPHENMOIOTATHPO20 ing-as Has-declared to-me the Father thus 6

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13
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OF-THE PASSOVER HAVING-PERCEIVED THE JESUS

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THE ATTOYER AND OF DINNER B O. 1 + Roll A gdds TE BESIDES

Y TENOME NOY TOYALABOAO 400
BECOMING OF-THE THRU-CASTER

YHAHB & BAH KOTOC EI CTHN 20
ALREADY HAVING-CAST INTO THE

A JUDAS OF-S. I. THAT Him he-MAY-BE-B.G. Byl* OI

KAPAIANINAMAPAAWAYT 39

HEART

THAT he-MAY-BE-BESIDE-GIVING Him

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JUDAS OF-SIMON ISCARIOT

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4 THE God IS-UNDER-LEADING He-IS-DEING-ROUSED

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ING THE GARMENTS AND GETTING

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THEREAFTER He-18-CASTING WATER INTO THE

NNITTHPAKAIHPEATONIT 60
WASH basin AND begins TO-BE-

TEINTOYCHOAACTUNMAOH 80
WASHING THE FEET OF THE LEARNEYS

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TIOOHNAIEZOCMENOCE PX 20 to-which He-was having-been-thru-girded, He-is-

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AND IB-SRYING to-Him that one

st* omits Master!

OCKYPICCYMOYNITTEICT*0

Master! YOU OF-ME ARE-WASHING THE

OYCHOAACAREKPIOHIHCO 800

YCKAI GITTENAYTO OFTO TO 20 AND said to-Him WHICH I AM-

IWCYOYKOLAACAPTIFNUC 40
DOING YOU NOT HAVE-PERCEIVED at-PRESENT YOU'LLB¹ 0. 0.

HAGMETÄTAYTAAETE! AYT⁶⁰ 8 BE-KNOWING YET after these IS-SAYING to-Him

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B OF-ME THE FEET

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FEET OF-ME INTO THE CON An-

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OCMETEMOYAETELAYTUC160
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B Peter SIMON 21* 0 mils Master!

MON NETPOCKY PIEMHTOYC 80
Peter Master! NO THE

TOA ACMOYMONON A AAKAI 47000 FEET OF-ME ONLY but AND

The most menial service the Lord could perform for them was the washing of their feet. No wonder Peter protested! He has not fully learned the lesson that the Lord is abasing Himself even to death, before His exaltation. He is giving them an example which has had very few followers among His disciples. Those who have aspired to be teachers and masters have not stooped to lowly service, but have held to high honors and dignities. The true slave of Christ, in this day of grace, will emulate the example of our Lord as set forth by Paul in his Philippian epistle. There he traces His descent from the form of God down to the death of the cross. God will see to His exaltation.

It was not only a lesson in humility but a condition of fellowship. Not being under pure grace or having been justified as we are, but having only a probationary pardon, fellowship with Christ depended on continual confession and cleansing (1 Jn. 19). The daily washing of the priest at the laver (Ex. 30¹⁹⁻²¹) was absolutely essential to continued communion, but it was not necessary that they be bathed as at their consecration (Ex. 29⁴).

18-20 Compare Mt. 2620-25; Mk. 1417-21; Lu. 2221-23.

18 See Ps. 419.

18 It is very evident that the Lord chose Judas-he was one of "the elect"!-for the purpose of betraying Him. He knew him from the beginning, and now He quotes the prophecy which foretold his act and sets forth most vividly the extreme treachery of it. According to the custom of the orient, those who partake of food together are enjoined by the most sacred obligations from doing harm to one another. The great depth of Judas' degradation is not in the betrayal alone so much as in his previous privileges and position of trust. It is one of the marvels of our Lord's life that He never "betrayed" Judas to the other disciples. He treated him as the rest, and so successfully concealed his true character from them that, at the very last, they did not guess why he went out, neither did they understand what our Lord said concerning him. His treatment of Judas is worth copying.

"Lord, not my feet only, but the hands also and the head!"

Jesus is saying to Him, "He who is bathed has no need except to be washing the feet, but is wholly clean. And you are clean, but not 11 all." For He was aware who is

11 all." For He was aware who is betraying Him. Therefore He said that "You are not all clean."

When, then, He washes their feet, and took His garments and leans back again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You are shouting to Me 'Teacher!' and 'Lord!' and you are saying ideally, for I am.

¹⁴ If, then, I, the Lord and Teacher, wash your feet, you also ought to

be washing one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that, according as I do to you, you also

may be doing.

Verily, verily, I am saying to you, a slave is not greater than his lord, neither an apostle greater
 than He Who sends him. If you are aware of these things, happy are you if you should be doing

18 them! Not concerning all of you am I speaking, for I am aware whom I choose. But that the scripture may be fulfilled.

'He who is masticating bread with Me Lifts up his heel against Me.'

19 Henceforth I am speaking to you before it is occurring, that you should be believing, whenever it should be occurring, that I am.

Verily, verily, I am saying to you, whoever is taking any one I shall be sending, is taking Me, yet he who is taking Me is taking Him Who sends Me."

Saying these things, Jesus was disturbed in spirit, and testifies and said, "Verily, verily, I am saying to you that one from among
you will be betraying Me." The

47 ⁰⁰¹	JOHN'S	ACCOUNT	CHAPTER 13
TACKEIPACKAIT	E HEAD	NAMHNAETOYI AMEN I-AM-SAYING to-Y	MINOYKECTI ²⁰
HNACTCIAYTOO 10 IS-saying to-him THE	IHCOYCOA 40 IJESUS THE ONE-	NAOYAOCMEIZ SLAVE GREATER	ONTOYKYPI 40 OF-THE master
	is-HAVING need	OYAYTOYOYA6	ANOCTOAOC 60 commissioner
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OF-Him AND UP-FALLIN	TECUNITAA 60 G AGAIN	AW. it-MBE-B. YE-SBE-B. B 0.	F-THE TO-BE BECOMING
INCITENAYTOIC He-said to-them s Al for €	YE-ARE-KNOWING	THAT YE-SHOULD-BE-BELIE	VING When-EVER it-MAY-
	to-Youp YE	NHTAIOTIEFO 20 BE-BECOMING that I	AM AMEN A-
	TEACHER	MHNAEFWYMIN MEN I-AM-SAYING to-YOUP A 0.	THE one-GETTING-UP
s Al for € B1 rep	ND IDEALLY eats and brockets if to		DING ME IS-GETTING-UP
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Master AND THE TEACE		TACITONOIHC SAYING THE JESUS	

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TO-BE-WASHING THE FEET UN-

ΠΟΔΕΙΓΜΑΓΑΡΔΕΔΦΚΑΥΜΙ« I-HAVE-GIVEN

И ІНАКАӨФСЕГФЕПОІНСАҮ® THAT according-AS I to-

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OHTOTNEYMATIKA IEMAPT"

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B to-YOUP I-AM-SAYING

HNAET CHAMINOTIEIC EXYM®
I-AM-SAYING to-YOUP that ONE OUT OF-YOUP

MINKALYMĖICHOIHTĖŽMH 16 YOUP AND YE MAY-BE-DOING THEN INTO one-another

26 In the East all eating was done with the fingers, no knives or forks or spoons being used at a meal. In their place a small three-cornered piece of the thin, hard biscuit, like pancake, which is always served, is used to convey the food to the mouth. This is eaten with the morsel. How surpassingly kind and delicate was this method of indicating His betrayer! Only one would understand. The others would look upon it as a special mark of His favor, for the giving of the morsel was considered the highest mark of respect and honor which a host can show his guest. It is evident that not one of the disciples except John knew what it meant. It was the last loving act of the Lord for Judas, before His betrayal. Who can doubt that His grace will save him yet?

27 Satan entered into Judas. This statement lifts the veil of the invisible powers of darkness and greatly modifies our judgment of Judas. It is evident that the Adversary did not think him capable of committing the capital crime, so forces him forward by actually obsessing him, and controlling his mind and his actions until it had been accomplished. He was not himself when he did it. But later, when he realized what he had done, his heart was filled with bitter regret and he did not hesitate to fling the money he had received into the faces of the chief priests, and acknowledged his terrible trespass.

so The day of Christ's ministry was done. Now it was night, the time when man does no work, but when the authority of darkness is most active. Not Judas, or the chief priests, or the scribes or Pharisees were the most malignant opponents of Christ. They, like Judas, were but puppets in the hands of His unseen spiritual adversaries. He was the One Who would crush the serpent's head; but He was also the One Whose heel the serpent would bruise. And now was the time. Satan uses all his arts and exerts all his power to crush Him. The cross is not merely the crisis of man's enmity to God. It is the culmination of the enmity of the spirit world as well. It is not confined to earth. It is the moral center of the universe.

disciples, then, looked at one another, perplexed about which one

²³ He is saying it. Now one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved, was lying back in the bosom of Jesus.

²⁴ Simon Peter, then, is nodding to this one to ascertain whoever he may be of whom He spoke, and is saying to him, "Whatever did He say? About whom is He saying

25 it?" That one, then, leaning back thus on the chest of Jesus, is saying to Him, "Lord, who is it?"

²⁶ Then Jesus is answering and saying, "It is that one to whom I, dipping in the morsel, shall be giving it to him." Dipping in the morsel, then, He is taking it and giving it to Judas of Simon Iscariot.

And after the morsel, then Satan entered into that one. then, is saying to him, "What you 28 are doing do more quickly." Now

no one of those lying back at table ²⁹ knew why He said this to him. For some supposed, since Judas had the coffer, that Jesus is saving to him "Buy what we have need of for the festival," or that he may be giving something to the poor.

30 Then, on getting the morsel, he straightway came out. Now it was night.

When, then, he came out. Jesus is saying, "Now is the Son of Mankind glorified, and God is glorified 32 in Him. If God is glorified in Him,

God also shall be glorifying Him in Himself and shall straightway be

glorifying Him.

. Little children, I am still with vou for a little time. You shall be seeking Me, and, according as I said to the Jews that 'Where I am going you cannot be coming,' at present I am saying it to you also.

A new precept am I giving to you, that you be loving one an-

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34 As our Lord is about to leave His beloved disciples, He compresses His ministry into one new precept-love. That was to be their law and their life and make them a light in the world. This should characterize His saints in this gracious economy in an even greater degree, for we have quaffed far deeper draughts of grace than His disciples ever tasted.

36-38 Compare Mt. 2633-35; Mk. 1429-31; Lu. 2231-34.

36 Impetuous Peter's heart was in the right place, but it took many bitter trials to teach him the truth concerning Christ and His sufferings and his own cowardice. How graciously the Lord overlooks his failures by immediately following his present inability by a prophecy of his future martyrdom! It is probably true, as tradition reports, that Peter was crucified, like his Lord. Typically, he represents those in Israel who suffer and die before the kingdom comes, while John stands for those who live through until the kingdom is established.

- The temple in Jerusalem was the Father's house. In the walls were many abodes for the priests and Levites who officiated in its precincts. There is no hint anywhere in the Scriptures that the disciples go to heaven. A celestial destiny was not revealed until the apostle Paul was in his Roman prison. Then he first made it known in his Ephesian epistle. But it is not for the saints of the Circumcision. All their blessings are heavenly in character and, like the new Jerusalem, come down out of heaven, but they are all enjoyed on earth. Only those in the present secret economy of God's grace are blessed with all spiritual blessings among the celestials. The Circumcision enjoy the days of heaven on earth. Hence Christ comes again and is with them in the kingdom.
- 7 Christ's usual character in this evangel is the Word of God. Here, however. He gives us a glimpse of Himself as the Image of the Father. No man can see the invisible God. But surely the disciples had seen all the attributes of the Father manifested in 18 Him, as He loved them and led them, taught them and fed them, giving them all the care and keeping of little

other, according as I love you, that you also be loving one another. By this all shall be knowing that you are My disciples, if you should be having love for one another."

Simon Peter is saying to Him, "Lord, whither art Thou going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, yet you shall be following

subsequently."

Peter is saying to Him "Lord, wherefore cannot I follow Thee at present? I will lay down my soul

for Thy sake."

Jesus is answering "You will be laying down your soul for My sake? Verily, verily, I am saying to you, under no circumstances should the cock be crowing till you will be renouncing Me thrice.

14 Let not your heart be disturbed. Be believing into God, and be believing into Me. In My Father's house are many abodes, otherwise I should have told you, seeing that I am going to make ready a place for you. And if I should be going and making ready a place for you, I am coming again and I will be taking you to Myself, that where I am, you also may be. And you are aware where I am going, and you are aware of the way."

Thomas is saying to Him, "Lord, we are not aware whither you are going, and how can we be aware of

the wav?"

Jesus is saying to him, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one is coming to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me you would have known My Father also. And henceforth you know Him and have seen Him."

Philip is saying to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is suffic-

ing us."

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children. He was not the Father, but the Father was in Him, and could be seen nowhere else. But this glimpse of the Father is (as is fitting in this account) most evident in His words and works. These were not His own, but the Father's.

12 We have here an intimation of the marvelous miracles accomplished by the apostles and others in the Pentecostal period, following His ascension. and also of the still greater marvels which will inaugurate the kingdom in the future. The spiritual blessings of the present are in reality far greater than any of these, but they were not in view at this time, for they were a secret, hidden in God, and could not be even hinted at until Israel's final failure was assured.

14 These words have proved a snare to many. They have requested much in His name which has not come to pass. This seems to reflect on His faithfulness. The difficulty vanishes when we see that this is not for the Uncircumcision (Ro.158). Far higher truth is ours. It is set forth in Phil.46. make our requests known to God with thanksgiving, and leave them with Him to act upon as His love determines, not as we dictate.

16 The Lord Himself was the Consoler of the apostles while He was with them. Now that He was about to leave they would not only need the consolation He had given them, but a special measure to make up for His absence as well. It is most touching to see, as the dark shadows of the cross are crowding His soul, that He is not concerned for His own relief, but for the sorrows of His beloved disciples. The spirit He had promised after His glorification (739) was to be a living spring. but, in view of the sorrow so soon to engulf them, it is now called a consoler, for this would be its first function.

It is called "the spirit of truth" in contrast to "the spirit of deception" (1 Jn. 46). The world seeks comfort in its false philosophy but God's saints find consolation in the truth. spirit of deception is that false flood of spirit force which is sweeping the world on to the worship of the antichrist. The spirit of truth is its opposite.

Jesus is saying to him, "I am so much time with you and you do not know Me. Philip! He who has seen Me has seen the Father, and how are you saying, 'Show us the 10 Father'? Are you not believing that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The declarations which I am speaking to you, I am not speaking from Myself. Now the Father remaining in Me. He is doing His works.

Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me. otherwise be believing Me because of the ¹² works themselves. Verily, verily, I am saying to you, he who is believing into Me, the works which I am doing, he also will be doing, and greater than these will he be doing. seeing that I am going to the Fa-13 ther. And whatever you should be

requesting in My name, this I shall be doing, that the Father should be 14 glorified in the Son. If you should be requesting anything in My

15 name, this I shall be doing. If you should be loving Me, you will be

keeping My precepts.

And I shall be asking the Father, and He will be giving you another consoler, that it, indeed, may be 17 with you for the eon; the spirit of truth, which the world cannot get, seeing that it is not beholding it, neither is knowing it. Yet you know it, seeing that it is remaining with you and will be in you.

I will not leave you bereaved: I ¹⁹ am coming to you. Still a little and the world is beholding Me no longer, yet you are beholding Me. Seeing that I am living, you also

20 are to live. In that day you shall know that I am in My Father, and

21 you in Me, and I in you. He who has My precepts and is keeping them, he it is who is loving Me.

50⁰⁰¹ JOHN'S ACCOUNT BS omit AND 8 0. 81*+OT! ATEPAKAIN OCCYAETEICA" ΝΠΆΤΕ ΡΑΚΑΙΆΛΛΟΝΠΑΡΑΚΏ THER AND how YOU ARE-SAVING PATHER AND other BESIDE-CALLER B8 Omil INDEED **EIZONHMINTONNATEPAOY** AHTONA CEIYMININAMEN® 10 to-US THE FATHER He'LL-BE-GIVING to-YOUP THAT INDEED s has it-MAY-BE after YOUP and B has it after con
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AND SHALL-BE-IN-APPEARIZING

He told them that the declarations which He spoke are spirit and are life. It is the spirit that vivifies (663). Hence we may take it that the impartation of the spirit, after His vivification, when He inflated and said "get holy spirit!" (2022), corresponds to the impartation of the breath of the living to Adam (Gen. 27), so that he became a living soul. In this way the last Adam showed Himself a life imparting Spirit (1 Co.1545).

Pentecost was not the reception of holy spirit to give life, but its baptism for cleansing, its filling for utterance, and its coming on for power.

The reception of holy spirit was dependent on repentance and baptism in the evangel of the kingdom (Ac.238). In Samaria, the gift waited on the prayer and imposition of the hands of the apostles (Ac.815-17) according to the authority which the Lord conferred on them when it was first given $(20^{23}).$ In the present economy of transcendent grace it is the portion of all who believe (Eph.113). It is an earnest of all the spiritual possessions which are ours in Christ Jesus, among the celestials.

28 In the East they do not say, as we do, "I am going", but rather "I am going and returning" when speaking of an ordinary journey. So the Lord assures them that He was not about to leave them permanently, but only for a while.

30 When our Lord spoke of Himself in relation to the world He often used the third person. Witness the Son of Man (937). See also 718;937. He is the Coming One, for Whom all creation waits. Yet, when He came, the world had nothing at all in Him. It rejected His chieftainship just as Israel also rejected His messiahship and "there is nothing for Him" (Dan. 926). None of the glories pertaining to Him were allowed by Israel and He will not assume them until He comes again in power and glory as revealed in the Unveiling, when He appears as the White Horse Rider, crowned with many diadems, the King of kings and Lord of lords (Un.1911-16). He, and not Satan, is the Chief of the world. This title occurs only in this account. See 1231 and 1611.

Now he who is loving Me will be loved by My Father, and I shall be loving him and shall be disclosing Myself to him."

Judas (not Iscariot) is saying to Him, "Lord, and what has occurred that Thou art about to be disclosing Thyself to us and not to

the world?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone should be loving Me, he will be keeping My word, and My Father will be loving him, and We shall be coming to him and ²⁴ making an abode with him. who is not loving Me is not keeping My words. And the word which you are hearing is not Mine, but the Father's Who sends Me.

These things have I spoken to ²⁶ you remaining with you. Now the consoler, the holy spirit which the Father will be sending in My name, that will be teaching you all, and reminding you of all that I said to

vou.

Peace I am leaving with you. My peace I am giving to you. Not according as the world is giving to you am I giving to you. Let not your heart be disturbed, neither let 28 it be timid. You hear that I said to you, 'I am going and I am coming to you.' If you loved Me, you rejoiced that I am going to the Father, seeing that the Father ²⁹ is greater than I. And now I have declared it to you ere it is occurring, that, whenever it should be

occurring you should be believing. No longer shall I be speaking much with you, for the Chief of the world is coming, and in Me it 31 has nothing at all. But that the world may know that I am loving the Father, and according as the Father directs Me, thus I am doing. Rouse! We may be going hence.

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si What grace is there here! The world judges Him and casts Him out, so He immediately uses their hatred to reveal the love of God to Him and to them. Indeed, here we have love's greatest triumph. Men could not do worse or God better. His love needed their hatred for a foil and makes good use of it to emerge into the open where all the world can see.

- The fig, the olive, and the vine are used by God to picture the political, the spiritual, and the social blessedness of Israel as a nation. He brought a vine out of Egypt, cast out the nations, and planted it. It filled the land, but was destroyed (Ps. 808-16). The vineyard of the Lord of Hosts is the house of Israel (Is. 57). Jeremiah laments that Jehovah had planted them an excellent local variety, yet they had turned into a foreign vine by their unfaithfulness and their joylessness (Jer.221). Jotham, in his parable of the trees, tells us that grape juice gladdens both God and mortals (Jud. 913). But Hosea cries "Israel is a vacant vine. The fruit is equivalent to it" (Hos. 10^{1}). Israel failed to gladden either God or mortals. Christ came and did both. He is the true Vine. The fruitless branches, those who remained not in Him, are taken away. His own are cleansed by the belief of the truth. All gladness for God or mortals must now come through the Messiah.
- ⁵ He now restates the truth as to the vine. Only those with Him are the branches. Israel as a nation has no part in Him.
- The salvation proclaimed by our Lord and the twelve apostles was probational. There was always the danger of "drifting by" (Heb.21). They were His house if they retained the boldness and glorying of the expectation confirmed unto the consummation (Heb. 36). They could withdraw from the living God (Heb. 312). Many of those once enlightened fell aside (Heb. 64-6). Such are those who did not remain in the vine, but withered and were destroyed. We, however, are not in the vine, but members of the body of Christ, and the members of a body cannot be lopped off like the branches of a vine. We are saved by grace, and do not depend on our own abiding, but

15 I am the true grapevine, and My
² Father is the Farmer. Every
branch in Me bringing forth no
fruit, He is taking it away, and
every one bringing forth fruit, He
is cleansing it, that it may be
bringing forth more fruit.

Already you are clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, and I in you. According as the branch cannot be

According as the branch cannot be carrying fruit from itself, if it should not be remaining in the grapevine, thus neither you, if you should not be remaining in Me.

I am the grapevine. You are the branches. He who is remaining in Me, and I in him, this one is bringing forth much fruit, seeing that, apart from Me you can do nothing.

If anyone should not be remaining in Me, he was cast out as a branch and is withered. And they are gathering them, and casting them into the fire, and he is being burned. If you should be remaining in Me and My declarations should be remaining in you, whatever you should be wanting, request and it will come to pass to you. In this is My Father glorified, that you may

be bringing forth much fruit, and become My disciples.

According as the Father loves Me, I, also, love you. Remain in My love. If you should be keeping My precepts, you will be remaining in My love, according as I have kept the precepts of My Father and am remaining in His love. I

have spoken these things to you that My joy should be remaining in you and your joy may be filled.

This is My precept, that you be

loving one another, according as I love you. Greater love has no man than this, that any one may be laying down his soul for the sake of

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on His power and love. We are vitally and organically a part of Christ Himself. He would be maimed by the excision of members of His body. How thankful we should be that we are not branches in that vine!

12 As the Lord had explained in His kingdom proclamation, the whole law was included in the one word, love. Love to God and love to man is far more than all the precepts of the law. So, in His final charge, as He is about to give them the greatest example of love the universe has seen or ever will see, in the offering of His soul to God for the sin of the world, He presses home to their hearts the excellent way of love.

Paul, in his appeal to us, the Uncircumcision, lays even greater stress on love. We have no law, no precepts. But love remains, and conduct in accord with love needs no law, but soars far above all its righteous demands.

16 Too often is salvation made a matter of the sinner's choice. This sadly mars the full and clear apprehension of God's love which it is intended to reveal. All active effort in redemption is the outflow of divine love, and is entirely on God's side. All the sinner's activity is a hindrance. He would choose any one but God. His part is a passive or a negative one.

This basic truth is much more forcibly revealed later on in connection with the call of the nations. We were chosen by God in Christ before the disruption. Sin itself was subsequent to His choice of us. Hence, sin, either past or present, cannot affect God's purpose for us, or our acceptance of His grace. He chooses, He calls, He He does not give man his glorifies. choice or a chance. He has the wisdom and the power to impel men to fall into line with His purpose no matter what their natural inclination may be. All human experience confirms the divine declaration that He it is Who is operating in us to will as well as to work for the sake of His delight (Phil.215). Man can carry out his own will only so far as it accords with the purpose of God. When men rage against God, He uses their wrath as far as it is useful to His plans. The remainder of their wrath He restrains.

¹⁴ his friends. You are My friends, if you should be doing whatever I am directing you.

No longer am I terming you slaves, seeing that the slave is not aware what his lord is doing. Yet I have declared that you are friends, seeing that all that I hear from My

father I make known to you. You do not choose Me, but I choose you, and I appoint you, that you may be going away and be bringing forth much fruit, and your fruit should be remaining, that whatever you should be requesting the Father in My name, He will be giving it to you.

17 I am directing you in these things that you may be loving one 18 another. If the world is hating

you, you know that it has hated Me

19 before you. If you were of the
world, the world would be fond of
its own. Now, seeing that you are
not of the world, but I choose you
out of the world, therefore the
world is hating you.

Remember the word which I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his lord.' If they persecute Me, they will be persecuting you also. If they keep My word, they will be

21 keeping yours also. But all these things will they be doing to you because of My name, seeing that they are not acquainted with Him Who sends Me.

22 If I came not and speak to them,
 they had no sin. Yet now they
 have no pretense concerning their
 23 sin. He who is hating Me is hat-

²⁴ ing My Father also. If I do not the works among them which no other one does, they had no sin. Yet now they have seen also, and they have hated Me and My Father ²⁵ also, but that the word written in

25 also, but that the word written in their law may be fulfilled, that 'They hate Me gratuitously.' TOYNATPOCMOYERNOPICA 20
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There is no hatred like religious hatred, no persecution so fierce as that fired by a mistaken zeal for God. Not only were the apostles persecuted in their day, but the truth of God is just as offensive to the recognized heads of Christendom now as it was to the chief priests of Judaism then. Those who boldly defend some doctrine, will just as boldly do their best to denounce and destroy the testimony to a truth of which they are ignorant, or which conflicts with their accepted creed. Happy is that servant of God who bares his brow to the storm in the consciousness that God not only knew and knows of all the opposition to His truth by the religious world, but who realizes that this also is a part of His purpose. Lack of success will not sadden, apparent failure will not make him faint. His only real defeat will follow any attempt to retaliate. Let us never be found on the side of those who perse-Blessed (not happy!) are the persecuted! Their reward is sure. May His grace enable us to enjoy suffering for Him!

8 The world is to be convicted on three counts by the spirit, now that Christ is absent. His sinless life, His righteousness, His proclamation of the kingdom all cease with His return to His Father. But all are used by the spirit to convict the world. Even the unbeliever is convinced that all have sinned except the Christ of the scriptures. No other man is acknowledged to have been perfectly just. They assent to the injustice of His judgment.

If we make "the Chief of this world" a title of Satan we involve ourselves in a maze of difficulties. If the world or God had judged Satan, how would that convict the world? And he certainly has not been judged yet. Christ is the great Chief of the world. He was judged and crucified by it. We question whether any sane man, today, will justify its action. The world has been convicted or convinced by the spirit of truth even though it knows it not.

11 The three occurrences of the title "Chief of this world" (1231;1430;1611) are most difficult and contradictory if assigned to Satan, but clear and consistent if connected with Christ.

Now whenever the consoler which I shall be sending you from the Father should be coming, the spirit of truth which is going out from the Father, that will be testi-²⁷ fying concerning Me. Now you,

T fying concerning Me. Now you, also, are testifying, seeing that you are with Me from the beginning.

16 I have spoken these things to you that you may not be snared,

for they will be putting you out of the synagogues; but the hour is coming that every one who is killing you shall suppose he is offering di-

wine service to God. And they will be doing these things to you seeing that they know not the Father nor

⁴ yet Me. But these things have I spoken to you that whenever their hour should be coming you may be remembering them, seeing that I told you.

Now I did not tell you these things from the beginning, seeing that I was with you. Yet now I am going away to Him Who sends Me, and not one of you is asking Me, 'Whither art Thou going?' But, seeing that I have spoken

these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

But I am telling you the truth. It is expedient for you that I am coming away, for if I should not be coming away, the consoler will not be coming to you. Now if I should be gone, I shall be sending him to

8 you. And coming, that will be exposing the world concerning sin and concerning righteousness and

9 concerning judgment: concerning sin, indeed, seeing that they are

10 not believing into Me; yet concerning righteousness, seeing that I am going to My Father and you are no

11 longer beholding Me; yet concerning judgment, seeing that the Chief of this world has been judged.

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YMININAOTANGAOHHQPAA 60 **ΦΡΕΙΤΕΜΕΠΕΡΙΔΕΚΡΙΓΕΦ®** THAT Whenever MAY-BE-COMING THE HOUR OF-11 ARE-beholding ME ABOUT YET JUDGing YTWNMNHMONEYHTEAYTWN® COTIOAPXONTOYKOCMOYT® THE Chief YE-MAY-BE-remembering or-them OF-THE SYSTEM OTIEF CE I HONYMINTAYTA 300 **ΟΥΤΟΥΚΕΚΡΙΤΆΙΕΤΙΠΟΛΛ** that said to-youp these HAS-been-JUDGED TO-BE-SAYING to-YOU? **AEXOYMINAETEINAAAOYA**²⁰ **ΔGYMING ΣΔΡΧΗCΟΥΚGΙΠΟ®** YET to-YOUD OUT OF-ORIGINAL NOT I-AM-HAVING to-YOUP TO-BE-SAYING but NOT YE-YNACOG BACTAZ GINAPTIO 40 s1* omits at-present NOTIMEBYMONHMHNNYNAE* NOW . 13 ARE-ABLE TO-BE-BEARING that WITH YOU'D T-WAS VET at-PRESENT when-AB omit I **ΕΓ**ΨΥΠΑΓΨΠΡΟCΤΟΝΠΕΜΥΑ® ΤΆΝΔΕΕΛΘΗΕΚΕΙΝΟΟΤΌΠΝ® AM-UNDER-LEADING TOWARD THE One-SENDING YET MAY-BE-COMING that THE spirit **EYMATHC ANHOE IACOAHTH®** NTAMEKAIOYAEICEZYMON® NOT-YET-ONE OUT OF-YOUR OF-THE TRUTH it-WILL-BE-WAY-ANTO EPOTAMETOYYTAREICAAA400 8 EN IN CEIYMACEICTHNAAH0EIA 900 ME ?-where YOU-ARE-UNDER-LEADING but LEADING YOUP 6 IS-asking INTO THE s1* omits EVERY 83 H o. ΝΠΑΟΑΝΟΥΓΆΡΛΑΛΗΟΘΙΑΦ²⁰ OTITAYTAAGAAAHKAYMIN²⁰ NOT for it-will-be-talking from these I-HAVE-TALKED to-YOUD BS Omit IF-EVER HAYTHTETAHPOKENYMONT **EAYTOYAAAOCAEANAKOYC**# self but as-much-as IF-EVER it-SH'D-BE-THE SORROW HAS-FILLED OF-YOUD THE CI for H **ΗΝΚΑΡΔΙΑΝΑΛΛΕΓ ΦΤΗΝΑΛ**® HAAAHCEIKAITAEPXOMEN® HEARING It-WILL-BE-TALKING AND THE COMING

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12 The words of our Lord preserved for us in the four accounts of His life come very far from giving us all that He had to say. They were sadly limited by the incapacity of His hearers. Even His closest disciples could not understand some of the simplest facts, simply told. They would not listen to the story of His supreme sacrifice. His temporary departure was a puzzle to them. As the great galaxy of truth subsequently revealed depends on His shameful death and glorious exaltation for its very foundation, how could they begin to understand?

Hence it will be seen that the transcendent truths of scripture should not be sought in the words of our Lord, but in the subsequent utterances of the spirit of truth. Furthermore, much could not be revealed until Israel had once more definitely refused the proclamation of the kingdom by the apostles, as recorded in the book of Acts. This, and the fact that the spirit is given a much larger place in Paul's ministry than ever before, leads us to look in his epistles for the supreme revelation. And a thorough study will convince us that this is so, for he it is who reveals those secrets which enabled him to "complete the word of God" (Col. 125). He takes us back before Genesis (Eph. 14), and brings us 19 far beyond the Unveiling $(1 \text{ Co.} 15^{24})$.

Any system of theology which plays our Lord's words against Paul's, or does not recognize the predominant place of Paul's epistles for the present, is in practical opposition to the plain statement made by our Lord Himself. Much of what our Lord wished to say He has spoken through His apostles, by means of that spirit of truth which would enable them to apprehend what would otherwise be beyond them.

The great apostasy of the present time is largely fortified by the refusal to heed these clear declarations of the Lord Himself. The truth especially given for the nations is ignored and the truth intended only for the Circumcision, more especially that taught by our Lord, is wrested from its place and forced into a position for which it was never intended.

I have much to say to you still, but you are not able to bear it at 13 present. Yet whenever that may be coming, the spirit of truth, it will be guiding you into all the truth, for it will not be speaking from itself, but whatever it should be hearing will it be speaking, and it will be informing you of what is ¹⁴ coming. That will be glorifying Me, seeing that it will be getting of 15 Mine and informing you. All, whatever the Father has, is Mine. Therefore I said to you that it will be getting of Mine and informing you.

⁶ A little, and you are beholding Me no longer; and again, a little, and you shall be seeing Me."

Some, then, among His disciples said to one another, "What is this that He is saying to us, 'A little, and you are not beholding Me, and again, a little, and you shall be seeing Me?' and that 'I am going away to the Father'?" They said, then, "What is this 'little' of which He is speaking? We are not aware of what He is speaking."

Jesus, then, knew that they wanted to ask Him, and He said to them, "Are you seeking with one another concerning this that I said, 'A little, and you are not beholding Me, and again, a little, and you shall be seeing Me'? Verily, verily, I am saying to you that you shall be lamenting and wailing, yet the world will be rejoicing: yet you shall be sorrowing, but your sorrow shall become joy. A woman, whenever she may be bringing forth, has sorrow, seeing that her hour has come, yet whenever she should be bearing the little child. she no longer is remembering the affliction because of the joy that a human being was born into the world. You, then, also, now, inMOYAHMYETAIKAIANAFTE²⁰
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27 There is a common but false feeling that God is a stern Judge but Christ a lenient Saviour. This is very wrong, for Christ is but a reflection of the Father. Christ Himself in His time will be a Judge and deal out justice. But let us not imagine that He came to appease God's wrath entirely of His own volition. All that He did was in obedience to the will of God and in order to display the heart of God. It is a sure sign of true spiritual progress when we are enabled to look through Christ to the God that He portrays.

28 His miraculous entry into world is more than matched by His marvelous exit. He alone knew what His childlike words implied: "I am leaving the world and going to the Father." Little did His disciples dream of the shame and suffering, distress and death that lay upon that appalling path to the Father!

31 Their belief in His return to the Father fled when the hour of His trial arrived. Had they believed they would not have forsaken Him at a time when He needed them most.

32 Compare Mt. 2631: Mk.1427.

33 "I have conquered the world." Who thinks of the lowly Nazarene as a world conqueror? Who would include Him in such a list? The world would mention Nebuchadnezzar, Alexander, Cæsar, Charlemagne, Napoleon. These have written their names in blood on the bar sinister of the world's escutcheon. No one gives them homage now. The sober and sane shudder at their sinful excesses. Christ is the real world conqueror! He has held the homage of men's hearts and will bend them into perfect acquiescence with the will of God.

3 The knowledge of God is not given as the definition of eonian life, but eonian life is imparted that they may be knowing Him. Eonian life is life during the eons of Christ's reign and glory. Two methods are used by Him to acquaint His saints with Himself. First, they are left to taste the sorrows of sin at a distance from Him. Then, in the eons of the eons, in glorious fellowship with His Son, each high tide of bliss will mark some new discovery of His love, some fresh token of His affection.

deed, will be having sorrow, yet I shall be seeing you again, and your heart shall be rejoicing, and your joy no one shall be taking away 23 from you. And in that day you will not be asking Me one thing.

Verily, verily, I am saying to you that anything you should be requesting the Father in My name. He will be giving it to you. Hitherto

you request nothing in My name. Request and you shall obtain, that

your joy may be filled full.

These things have I spoken to you in proverbs. The hour is coming when I shall no longer be speaking to you in proverbs, but shall be reporting to you boldly concerning 26 the Father. In that day you will be requesting in My name, and I am not telling you that I shall be asking the Father concerning you, ²⁷ for the Father Himself is fond of you, seeing that you have been fond of Me, and have believed that ²⁸ I came out from God. I came out from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I am leaving the

world and going to the Father." His disciples are saying to Him, "Lo! now Thou art speaking boldly, and Thou art speaking no prov-30 erb. Now we are aware that Thou art aware of all and hast no need that any one may be asking Thee. By this we are believing that Thou

camest out from God."

Jesus answered them, "At pres-32 ent you are believing. Lo! the hour is coming and has come that you should be scattered, each to his own and you may be leaving Me alone. And I am not alone, seeing 38 that the Father is with Me. These things have I spoken to you that you may have peace in Me. In the world you have affliction. But, courage! I have conquered the world."

56001 JOHN'S ACCOUNT CHAPTERS 16-17 AEAAAHKAYMINEPXETAI@ Bp omit THE **EKPIOHAYTOICOIHCOYCA²⁰** I-HAVE-TALKED to-YOUP IS-COMING swered to-them THE JESUS PAOTEOYKETIENTAPOIMI® Al for E PTITICTEYETÉ LA OYEPXE when NOT-STILL IN proverbs 32 PRESENT YE-ARE-BELIEVING RE-PERCEIVING IS-COMs1* adds THE HOUR HOP A **ΑΙCΛΑΛΗCΦΥΜΙΝΑΛΛΩΠΑΡ**® TAI OPAKAIEAHAYOENINA. I'LL-BE-TALKING to-YOUP but to-boldness HOUR AND HAS-COME BI O. PHCIAREPITOYNATPOCAT® **CKOPTIC 6HTE € KACTOCE I™** THE FATHER I'LL-RE-YE-SH'D-BE-BEING-SCATTERED EACH ALLEY@ANINENÉKE INHTH ™ B\$ 0. 0. CTAIAIAKAIEMEMONONA 4000 26 FROM-MESSAGING to-YOUP IN that THE OWN AND ME ONLY HME PAENT WONDMAT I MOYA 20 HTEKALOYKEIMIMONOCOT²⁰ IN THE NAME DAY OF-ME VE-FROM-LETTING AND NOT I-AM ONLY that 8 Alfor G ITHCCCOCK A TOYACT COYMI* IONATHPMETEMOYECTINT* 33 THE FATHER WILL-BE-REQUESTING AND NOT I-AM-SAVING to-YOUD WITH these NOTIFICE POTHCOTONDAT® **AYTAAEAAAHKAYMININAE®** SHALL-BE-88KING THE I-HAVE-TALKED to-YOUP THAT 8 Al for E EPAREPLYMONAYTOCE APO® NEMOIEIPHNHNEXHTEENT® He YOUP for PRACE YOU-MAY-BE-HAVING IN THE THE ABOUT B+C **OKOCMUĞAİYINEXETEAAA**700 TATHPOLAGIYMACOTIYM6200 CONSTRICTION YE-ARE-HAVING but FATHER is-being-fond youp that YE SVSTEM 8 Al for E 80. ICEMERE PLANKATEKAIRE® ABAPCE ITEET WHEN IKHKA²⁰ HAVE-been-FOND BE-YE-COURAGE-ING HAVE-CONQUERED 8 HAS-TALKED ٨ TONKOCMONTAYTAE AAAHC ΠΙCΤΕΥΚΑΤΕΟΤΙΕΓΦΠΑΡΑΦ 17 THE SYSTEM BESIDE these TALKS HAVE-BELIEVED that I BE TOYNATPOC OF THE FATHER FOR GOD BEK OUT BEKOUT Bs omit THE AH EN **ENOIHCOYCKAIE∏APACTO®** 28 God OUT-CAME 1-OTT-CAME RESIDE THE JESUS AND ON-LIFTING s' had PATHER (line above) but deleted it **ΡΑΤΟΥΠΑΤΡΟCKAIEΛΗΛΥΘ®** YCO¢6&AMOYC&YTOY€ICT® OF-THE FATHER AND I-HAVE-COME of-Him VIEWers INTO Bs omit AND **AEICTONKOCMONIIAAINA**Ф300 ONOYPANONKA I EITENTAT 800 AGAIN INTO THE SYSTEM I'M-FROM-AND said FATHER IHMITONKOCMONKAINOPE® **ϾΡϾΛΗΛΥΘϾΝΗ**ϢΡΆΔΟΣΆCΟ™ HAS-COME LETTING THE SYSTEM AND I-AM-GOING THE HOUR esteemize s probably had ON=God Bs o nit of-you NCOYTONYIONINAOYIOCC# ΥΟΜΑΙΠΡΟСΤΟΝΠΆΤΕ ΡΆΛΕ " 29 TOWARD THE FATHER OF-YOU THE SON THAT THE SON Bsp omit to-Him FOYCINAYTOO IMAGHTALA. ΟΥΔΟΣΆCΗ CE ΚΆΘΟ CE ΔΟΚΑΘ to-Him 2 YOU SH'D-BE-esteemING YOU according-AS YOU-GIVE THE LEARNERS SAYING OF-81* to- (1) 0. As2 omit IN ΥΤΟΥΙΔΕΝΥΝΈΝΠΑΡΡΗΟΙΑ: CAYTOEZOYCIANTACHCCA® Him BE-PERCEIVING NOW IN boldness to-Him OF-EVERY **ΛΑΛΕΙCΚΑΙΠΑΡΟΙΜΙΑΝΟΥ**[™] **ΡΚΟCΙΝΑΠΑΝΟΔΕΔΨΚΑCΑΥ⁹⁰⁰** THAT EVERY WHICH YOU-HAVE-GIVEN to-Him B C and s1* (D for H s1* (D o. o. YOU-ARE-TALKING AND proverb ΔΕΜΙΆΝ ΛΕΓΕΙΟΝΎΝΟΙΔΆΜ20 TOAOCHAYTOICZ OHNAIO! 30 ONE YOU-ARE-SAYING NOW WE'VE-PERCEIV-He-sh'd-be-giving to-them LIFE NIONAYTHAEECTINHAI ON ... **ΕΝΟΤΙΟΙΔΆ** CΠΆΝΤΑΚ ΙΟΥ « that YOU-HAVE-PERCEIVED ALL AND NOT this YET IS THE conian for Ψ, QY IOCZOHINAĽĚINŰČKÚCÍŇ® XPEIANEXEICINATICCEE®

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The charge against all mankind is that all sin and are wanting of the glory of God (Ro. 323). God guarantees to give glory and honor and incorruption to all who endure in good acts. Our Lord is the only one who can claim the reward. He is the only one who glorified God on the earth. He is the only one who accomplished the work God gave Him. Hence it seems perfectly natural for Him to demand glorification. Yet He does not ask for the glory His work deserves, but the glory which He had before the world He leaves His reward with God Himself. The saints will be a precious part of it.

6 Hebrew names were usually most expressive of character, life or ministry. Even we speak of a good or a bad "name", referring rather to character than sound or significance. Among the Jews the name of their God was given the honor due to the deity, hence it was never pronounced. Christ manifested God's name by displaying His attributes in His life and conduct.

It is a precious thought to consider the disciples as a gift from the Father to His Son. As such, He valued them, not for their own sakes alone, but because of the Giver. It is this interweaving of human lives into the affections of God and His Christ which should give us the greatest cause for confidence and comfort. Our little lives are bound up with the love of God for His Son and the Son's response to the Father. As He says (10), all His belong to God, and all God's are His. It is a great thing to have a God. But it is a much greater to know ourselves as the valued possession of God and His Beloved.

10 Glory consists in the esteem in which we are held by others. In the world Christ had no glory then, but in His own He was esteemed more than ever was the lot of man, and it has come to pass that, even in the world that rejects Him and repudiates His teaching, His name is placed upon the pinnacle of moral glory.

11 It seems evident that, in spirit, the Lord is beyond the cross. There it was that He finished His work (4), and until then He was still in the world.

17 These things speaks Jesus, and lifting His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son should be glorifying Thee, according as

be glorifying Thee, according as Thou givest Him authority over all flesh, that every one whom Thou hast given to Him, to them He

3 should be giving eonian life. Now this eonian life is that they may be knowing Thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ, Whom Thou dost commission.

I glorify Thee on the earth, finishing the work which Thou hast given Me, that I should be doing it.

5 And now glorify Thou Me, Father, with Thyself, with the glory which I had with Thee before the 6 world is. I make manifest Thy name to the men whom Thou givest Me out of the world. Thine they were and Thou givest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that all, whatever Thou 8 hast given Me is from Thee, seeing

hast given Me is from Thee, seeing that the declarations which Thou hast given Me I have given them, and they took them, and know truly that I came out from Thee, and they believe that Thou dost commission Me.

I am asking concerning them. Not concerning the world am I asking, but concerning those whom Thou hast given Me, seeing that

10 they are Thine. And all Mine are Thine, and Thine Mine. And I

11 have been glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, and they are in the world, and I am coming to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy name in which Thou hast given them to Me, that they may be one, according as We

12 are. When I was with them in the world I kept those whom Thou hast given Me in Thy name, and I

57 ⁰⁰¹		JOHN'S	ACCOUNT	Сн	APTER 1
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19 That holiness, or sanctification, is not essentially a cleansing from sin is evident from this statement, for our Lord would not cleanse Himself from His own sin, for He had none, and He was not cleansed from, but bore, the sins of others. When the priest was consecrated, his hands were filled with the sacrifice. Real holiness consists in a positive occupation with the things of God, rather than a negative absence of sin.

22 The unity existing between the Son and the Father is here defined, for He desires the same oneness for His disciples. It is a unity of spirit and a community of interests which characterized the early disciples. This is the unity which exists between the Son and the Father. There is no thought of identity. How distinct they were in will, which is the vital element in personality, was to be seen a little later, in the garden of Gethsemane, where the will of Christ was not in line with The cross was not His will, but the subordination of it to His Father.

23 It is with awed hearts and unshod feet that we enter into the pure precincts of God's love to His Son. feel most unworthy to listen to such sacred secrets. Before the disruption, before sin or sorrow or a single sigh had sent its shadows across this scene. God's love for His Son had its birth. He came into the world, not to win God's love, but in response to it. His whole ministry was an exhibition of it, and an appeal for a suitable response. Now He reveals its fullest force, when He declares that God loves them as He loved Him. Few of His followers at that time, or even after the enlightening aid of the spirit that He had promised, entered into the fullness of this marvelous manifestation of God's affections.

1 The visits to this garden seem to have been the only pleasure the Lord allowed Himself during His ministry. In the arid East a watered garden is a delightful spot in contrast to its surroundings. How sad that this should witness the awful agony, instead of providing rest and refreshment!

1-8 Compare Mt. 2636-50; Mk. 1432-46; Lu. 2239-48.

guard them, and not one of them was destroyed except the son of destruction, that the scripture may be

13 fulfilled. Yet now I am coming to Thee, and these things am I speaking in the world that they may be having My joy fulfilled in themselves.

And the world hates them, seeing that they are not of the world, actording as I am not of the world. I am not asking that Thou shouldst be taking them away out of the world, but that Thou shouldst be keeping them out of the wickedness. They are not of the world, according as I am not of the world.

17 Hallow them by Thy truth. Thy

word is truth.

Me into the world, I also dispatch
Me into the world, I also dispatch

19 them into the world. And for
their sakes I am hallowing Myself,
that they also may be hallowed by

20 the truth. Yet not concerning
these only am I asking, but also
concerning those who are believing

21 into Me through their word, that
they may all be one, according as
Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in
Thee, that they also may be in Us,
that the world should be believing

that Thou dost commission Me.

And I have given them the glory which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, according as We are One. I in them and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in one, and that the world may be knowing that Thou dost commission Me and dost love them according as Thou dost love Me.

Father, whom Thou hast given Me, I will that where I am they also may be with Me, that they may be beholding My glory, which Thou hast given Me, seeing that

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- 3 Darkness is the day, for evil doers. The Lord worked in the day. Satan fears the light. Even in the night they need a squad of soldiers and armed deputies to take a gentle, unarmed Man and His timid disciples. His simple words cast them to the earth. He calmly orders them to leave His disciples alone. It would seem that He was in authority, rather than they.
- 4 We must look behind the scenes to appreciate the tremendous issues involved in this betrayal. The cohorts of darkness were in command of Satan. The one who had deluded Eve in the garden of Eden was bruising the heel of the woman's Seed. He had managed to enlist mankind against Him. Christ Himself had called the Jews children of their father the Slanderer. Satan had actually obsessed Judas, and in him was present as chief actor and spectator. The Prince of light and the Prince of darkness meet in the treacherous kiss of Judas.

10-14 Compare Mt. 2651-57; Mk. 1447-53; Lu. 2249-54.

10 Impulsive Peter has not yet learned the lesson of the cross, and so he does the very worst possible thing. The difficulty with the Lord's enemies was that they had no ears that heard. What use is it to strike off the very thing they lacked? But the Lord has a heart for His enemies even in this time of His sorest distress. Elsewhere we read that He healed the hurt of the one who came to take His life. What a marvelous hint of the blessings to which His sorrows would give birth!

11 The Lord was aware of His enemies' thoughts. He perceived the opposition of Satan, yet He saw behind it all the will of His Father. The cup He was to drain was a bitter one. He had no wish to drink it. He knew what men would do, but did not blame them for He prayed for their forgiveness. He knew the craft of Satan, but He also knew that behind all these was, not only the iron will of a sovereign God, but the loving affection of a Father. He received it all from His hands. He not only bends beneath the stroke, but He leaves it all to the Father's love. He could trust, though He slay Him. His was the faith that never failed.

Thou lovest Me before the disrup²⁵ tion of the world. Just Father,
the world, also, knew Thee not, yet
I knew Thee. And these know that
²⁶ Thou dost commission Me. And I
make known to them Thy name,
and I shall make it known, that the
love with which Thou lovest Me

may be in them and I in them."

18 Saying these things, Jesus came out with His disciples to the other side of the Kedron winter brook, where there was a garden, into which He entered, He and His disciples. Now Judas also, who is betraying Him, is acquainted with the place, seeing that Jesus was often assembled there with His disciples.

Judas, then, getting a squad and deputies of the chief priests and Pharisees, is coming there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

Jesus, then, being aware of all that is coming upon Him, coming out, said to them, "Whom are you seeking?" They answered Him, "Jesus, the Nazarene." Jesus is saying to them, "I am." Now Judas, also, who is betraying Him, stood with them.

As, then, He said to them, "I am," they drop behind and fall on the ground. Again, then, He inquires of them, "Whom are you seeking?" Now they said, "Jesus, the Nazarene." Jesus answered, "I said to you that I am. If, then, you are seeking Me, let these go away," that the saying may be fulfilled which He said, that "Of those whom Thou hast given Me, of them I lose not one."

simon Peter, then, having a sword, draws it, and hits the chief priest's slave and strikes off his right ear. Now the name of the last slave was Malchus. Jesus, then, said to Peter, "Put the sword into

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INOYHNAEKAIAФACOCYMB 80 it-was yet calaphas the one-togeth-14 OYAEYCACTOICIOYAA10160000 ER-COUNSELLing to-THE JUDA-ANS 15-21 Compare Mt. 2658-69: Mk. 1454-65: Lu. 2254-71

17 We can imagine what a tumult was in the heart of the impetuous, warmhearted, self-confident Peter. He would never disown His Lord! He would suffer anything for His sake! He would not believe the Lord's plain prediction of his faithlessness. He was ready to face torture and death-some great thing which would bring him applause -but he was not ready for a simple question from a mere maid. Perhaps he prided himself on following the Lord into the house, but his pride must have suffered severely as he pondered his craven conduct. He was having a practical experience of what the apostle records concerning those who seek to please God in the flesh-"What I am hating, this am I doing" (Ro. 7 15). How many since have found that they, too, were like Peter, strong to will, but unable to carry out the desires of their heart. And the best part of such an experience is that it destroys confidence in the flesh and drives us to the ground of grace, where we receive power and ability to carry out the mind of the spirit.

18 Houses in the cities of Palestine are heated by means of a charcoal brazier. It is a copper stand about two feet high, with a chafing dish on top. This pan is filled with ashes and on this the charcoal is placed. It is taken outside and lighted and kindled by the breeze or a fan. Then it is brought into the house.

19 Contrast Peter's craven course with the firm fortitude of his Master. The chief priest, the symbol of holiness and truth, masks his diabolical design by a hypocritical inquiry into the Lord's But the Lord reads his teachings. heart and tears off his mask. was not the slightest weakness or compromise. It never occurred to Him to deny aught of His teaching or to evade the sufferings which threw gloomy shadows across His path.

24 Annas was made chief priest by Cyrenius, but was deposed seven years later. After three others had held the office, his son-in-law, Caiaphas, became chief priest, and he always seems to be reckoned as holding the office with Luke tells us that both were the scabbard. The cup which the Father has given Me, should I not drink it at all?"

The squad, then, and the captain, and the deputies of the Jews apprehended Jesus and they bind

13 Him, and led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was the chief

14 priest of that year. Now it was Caiaphas who advises the Jews that it is expedient for one man to be dying for the sake of the people.

Now Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Now that disciple was known to the chief priest, and he entered together with Jesus into the courtvard of 16 the chief priest. Yet Peter stood at the door outside.

The other disciple, then, who was known to the chief priest, came out and told the door keeper and 17 he led Peter in. The maid, then, who kept the door, is saying to Peter, "Are not you also of this man's disciples?" He is saying, "I am not!"

Now the slaves and deputies also stood by, having made a charcoal fire, seeing that it was cold, and they warmed themselves. Now Peter, also, was standing with them,

and warming himself.

The chief priest, then, asks Jesus concerning His disciples and ²⁰ concerning His teaching. And Jesus answered him, "I have spoken boldly to the world. I always teach in a synagogue and in the sanctuary where all the Jews are coming together, and I speak noth-21 ing in hiding. Why are you asking Me? Inquire of those who have heard what I talk to them. they are aware what I said."

Now at His saying these things, one of the deputies standing by gives Jesus a slap, saying "Are you COTICYMOEPEIENAANOPO 20 it-is-being-expedient one TON ATORANGINYTE PTOYA TO-RE-FROM-DVING OVER THE

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chief priests (Lu. 32). This alone shows how little regard they had for God's law, which prescribed a single succession absolutely independent of human interference. They were false. chosen by ungodly alien enemies. He was the true Priest about to offer up the true Lamb. They were supposed to put away the sin of the people. Instead, they are the instigators of the sin of sins.

25-27 Compare Mt. 2671-75; Mk. 1469-72; Lu. 2258-62.

28-32 Compare Mt. 271-2; Mk. 151; Lu.

28 What insufferable hypocrites they were! Plotting the death of God's holy One, and afraid their bloody feet would be defiled by entering where He The law said, "You shall not murder." And their greatest regret was that they could not kill Him themselves! The only accusation they could bring was that they demanded His death.

29 In marked contrast with the high priest is the conduct of Pilate. They were enlightened by the law, but their light had become darkness. He had nothing but the feeble flicker of natural conscience, but he wished to follow it. His first thought, however, was for himself. If possible, he would get out of this dilemma by turning Him over to them. In so doing he would not invite their displeasure and would avoid the immediate responsibility of doing what was undoubtedly an unjust act. But they did not want to try Him. They wanted to murder Him.

33-38 Compare Mt. 2711-14; Mk. 152-5; Lu. 232-12.

26 Scripture knows of five "worlds", which correspond to the five eons. Before Christ's kingdom will be set up there must be the great judgments which usher in a new eon and a new Had the Jews received Him, humanly speaking, the kingdom would have come, but, since they reject Him, He could say "Now is My kingdom not hence." Ever since the crisis in His ministry when it became evident that the nation would not hear. He had put off the kingdom to a distant time. For some time He had not been proclaiming the kingdom, so that Pilate had no fault to find.

answering the chief priest thus?" Jesus answered him, "If I speak evilly, testify concerning the evil, yet if ideally, why are you lashing 24 Me?" Annas, then dispatches Him bound to Caiaphas the chief priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said, then, to him, "Are not you also of his disciples?" He disowns and 26 said "I am not." One of the chief priest's slaves, being a relative of the one whose ear Peter strikes off, is saying "Did I not perceive you

27 in the garden with him?" Again, then. Peter disowns. And immedi-

ately a cock crows.

They are, then, leading Jesus from Caiaphas to the pretorium. Now it was morning and they did not enter the pretorium lest they may be defiled, but may be eating the passover.

Then Pilate came out to them and is averring, "What accusation are you bringing against this man?"

They answered and said to him. "If this man was doing no evil, we should not give him up to you."

Pilate then, said to them, "You take him and judge him according

to your law."

The Jews, then, said to him, "It is not allowed us to kill any one," 32 that the word of Jesus may be fulfilled which He said, signifying what death He was about to die.

Again, then, Pilate entered into the pretorium and summons Jesus and said to Him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus answered him, "Are you saying this of yourself, or did others tell you concerning Me?"

Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your nation and the chief priests give you up to me. What do you do?"

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87 Pilate, like many others who have mistaken the Lord's meaning, thought that He denied being a King. Perhaps he thought that He was founding a "spiritual kingdom". But the Lord corrects this false supposition. He solemnly asseverates that He is in very truth a King. This was a very serious matter for Pilate to pass upon, for he was the political head of the people. It is this charge alone that appeals to him, hence he gives our Lord the private investigation noted only in this account. Many zealous impostors arose from time to time among the Jews, proclaiming themselves to be the Messiah, and inciting the Jews to insurrection against the Romans. real issue between Pilate and our Lord was to settle the question whether He intended to lead an armed resistance to the rule of Rome. In case He did. Pilate perforce must act to suppress the incipient rebellion and to execute the leader. But, as the Lord had no thought of establishing His kingdom in this manner, He convinces Pilate of His innocence in that regard. other charges were religious and did not interest Pilate. Hence he desired to set Him free.

88-40 Compare Mt. 2715-28; Mk. 156-15;

Lu. 2313-25.

40 The people choose Bar-Abbas, which signifies Son-Father. They preferred a son of their own father, the Slanderer, a man who was a robber and a murderer, to the Son of the Father, Who not only brought them an untold wealth of blessing but actually brought the dead to life again. What a contrast between these two, whose names are so similar! The Saviour suffers: the sinner is set free! Bar-Abbas is a type of the great mass who will eventually be saved without faith.

1-3 Compare Mt. 2724-31; Mk. 1515-20.

1 The Roman soldiers mock the Messianic hope of Israel by making Him a mimic monarch. The royal purple and the thorny wreath are accompanied by mocking adulation of His imaginary majesty. Some day that bleeding brow will wear its many diadems. But all the regal rank that these reveal will not endear Him to our hearts like the cruel wreath of thorns. It is the symbol of a power and a glory that compels a willing homage and an adoring loyalty.

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My deputies, also, would have contended, lest I should be given up to the Jews. Yet now is My kingdom not hence."

Pilate, then, said to Him, "Are

you not a king, then?"

Jesus answered, "You are saying that I am a King. For this also have I been born, and for this have I come into the world, that I should be testifying to the truth. Every one who is of the truth is hearing My voice."

Pilate is saying to Him, "What is truth!" And, saying this, he came out again to the Jews and is saying to them, "I am finding

onothing to charge him with. Now it is your usage that I should be releasing one to you in the Passover. Are you intending, then, that I should be releasing to you the king of the Jews?"

They, then, all clamor again, saying, "Not this one, but Bar-Abbas!" Now Bar-Abbas was a robber.

19 Then Pilate took Jesus, then, and scourges Him. And the soldiers, braiding a wreath out of thorns, place it on His head, and with a purple cloak they clothed Him.

3 And they came to Him and said, "Rejoice! O king of the Jews!"

and give Him slaps. And Pilate came outside again and is saying to them, "Lo! I am leading him out to you, that you may know that I am finding nothing to charge him with."

Jesus, then, came out, wearing the thorny wreath and the purple cloak. And he is saying to them, hence

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- 7 It appears on the surface, that Pilate's question, when he heard that the Lord elaimed to be the Son of God, was ignored. Not so. Since the Lord was the Son of God it was far beneath His dignity to reply in words. His conduct was far more convincing. Pilate understood His silence far better than any words.
- The magnificent bearing of Christ before Pilate is without a parallel in the annals of justice. He should have been afraid of the cruel and unscrupulous Roman minion, but it is Pilate who fears. And when the haughty Roman threatens Him He calmly tells him that there is a higher authority. What a triumphant trust in God sustained Him in all this terrific and heart rending ordeal! Can we not picture to ourselves the furious. bloodthirsty mob, keeping its distance for hypocritical fear of contamination, yet fouling the very atmosphere with their false and fiendish accusations; the disdainful governor, who has no wish to become involved in their religious controversies, arrogant, yet fearful, strong, yet weakly catering to their unjust demands; and the solitary, selfcomposed, lowly Man. He was meekly bowing to the will of God; they were ignorantly fulfilling the behest of Satan.
- 12 Pilate was submitting to what he deemed a political necessity. We must concede that he did all any Roman governor would have done under the circumstances. The Jews could easily have caused trouble at Rome if he should fail to deal summarily with one who was popularly hailed as a political opponent of Cæsar.
- 14 The reading "third" (instead of the usual "sixth") is used on the evidence of the editor of Sinaiticus. Many ingenious explanations have been offered in order to harmonize the sixth hour in this passage with the third hour in Mk. 1525, but none of them are satisfactory. The darkness did not fall until the sixth hour, which is midday, but that came not only after His own crucifixion, and that of the malefactors, but also after the robbers had been impaled.
- 16.24 Compare Mt. 2724-35; Mk. 1515-24; Lu. 2324-34.

6 "Lo! the man!" When, then, the chief priests and the deputies perceived Him, they clamor, saying, "Crucify! Crucify Him!"

And Pilate is saying to them, "You take him and crucify him, for I am finding nothing to charge him with."

- The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law he ought to die, seeing that he makes himself the son of God."
- When, then, Pilate hears this saying he was the more afraid. And he entered the pretorium again and is saying to Jesus, "Whence are you?" Yet Jesus gives him no answer. Pilate, then, is saying to Him, "You are not talking to me!" Are you not aware that I have authority to release you and have
- authority to crucify you?"

 Jesus answered him, "You have
 no authority against Me in a single
 thing except it were given you from
 above. Therefore he who is betraying Me to you has the greater sin."
- At this, Pilate sought to release Him, yet the Jews clamored, saying, "If you should be releasing this man, you are not a friend of Cæsar! Every one who is making himself king is contradicting Cæ-
- 13 sar!" Pilate, then, hearing these words, led Jesus outside, and he is seated on the dais in a place termed the "Pavement", yet in Hebrew "Gabbatha".
- Now it was the preparation of the Passover. It was about the third hour. And he is saying to
- the Jews, "Lo! your king!" Yet they clamor then, "Away! Away! Crucify him!" Pilate is saying to

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YPWCONAYTONAETEIAYTO 64000 Him IB-SAYING to-them 17 Stoning was the mode prescribed by the law of Moses for the death penalty. It was a comparatively swift and painless death, as a single blow on the head would stun the victim into unconsciousness. The Roman cross or stake was far more painful and shameful. The victim was nailed to a single upright stake and left to die, a lingering and humiliating spectacle to all who beheld.

The glamour with which religion seeks to surround the cross is false and misleading. Its only halo is dense darkness, its power weakness, its glory shame.

The shamefulness of crucifixion is the fitting climax to the descent of Christ from the highest glory to the lowest humiliation. Even as He had been far above all, so now it was meet that He should come down to the lowest depths of degradation. It is this aspect of His death which is intended by the term "cross" or "pale". This registers, not the fact of His death, but the manner of it. This, in turn, throws a lurid light on the world that had so little respect for the One Who had the highest place in heaven.

But, besides this, the cross is the place of the curse. It was necessary for the sinless One to become sin. It was needful for Him to forsake the place of the blessing for the place of the curse. "Accursed is every one being hanged on a pole" was a portion of the law which He had never fulfilled. This form of death—crucifixion—robbed Him of His last refuge. God Himself became His enemy, and forsook Him.

23 As our Lord belonged to the lower class, He would doubtless dress accordingly. They wore only five articles of clothing, a long cotton shirt, a girdle, usually of leather or worsted, a turban, sandals, and a tunic over all made of goat's or camel's hair or worsted. The four soldiers could readily divide the first four among themselves, but the fifth, being specially made without a seam, was probably of more value than all the rest together. It would spoil it to divide it, so it was that they were compelled to cast lots and fulfill the Scriptures.

them, "Shall I be crucifying your king?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king except Cæsar!"

16 He, then, gives Him up to them, then, that He may be crucified.

They took Jesus along, then, and ¹⁷ led Him away. And, bearing the cross Himself, He came out into the place termed the "Skull", which is termed, in Hebrew, "Gol-

18 gotha", where they crucify Him, and with Him two others, hence and hence, yet Jesus in the midst.

Now Pilate writes a title also, and places it on the cross. Now it was written,

JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

This title, then, many of the Jews read, seeing that the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, Greek.

The chiefs priests of the Jews, then, said to Pilate, "Do not be writing 'The king of the Jews' but that that one said 'I am king of the Jews'."

Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written!"

The soldiers, then, when they crucify Jesus, took His garments and make four parts, to each soldier a part, and the tunic. Now the tunic was seamless, woven from above throughout the whole.

²⁴ Then they said to one another, "We should not be rending it, but take chances on it, whose it shall be," that the scripture may be fulfilled which is saying

"They divide My garments among themselves.

And on My vesture they cast the lot."

The soldiers, indeed, then, do these things.

²⁴ See Ps.2218.

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25 Physical relationships are tempo- 25 rary, and will be superseded by spiritual ties. All lasting spiritual bonds are made at the foot of the cross.

28-30 Compare Mt. 2745-51; Mk. 1533-36; Lu. 2346; see Ps. 2215; 6921.

28 Perhaps in no other circumstances could we realize the intense passion of Christ for the word of God. His work was accomplished. We may know a little of what He felt from the words of the Psalmist (2214-15):

I am poured out as water. And all My bones are dissected. My heart becomes as wax; It is melted in the midst of My bowels. My vigor is dry as earthenware, And My tongue is clinging to My jaws, And on the soil of death, Thou art setting Me as the hearth stones.

Death, at the hands of God, not His enemies, was before Him. Yet one passage of scripture was not fulfilled. He had done His part, but men had not done theirs. The Psalmist had foretold (6921):

And they put poison in My repast; And for My thirst they cause Me to drink vinegar.

So He prompts them, and they fill the sponge and fulfill the passage.

Truly, not one letter of the law shall fail till all is fulfilled! If He could drink that bitter draught in the moment of His greatest weakness and deepest despair, that the scripture may be perfected, what will He do in the day of His power and glory? He will surely see that not a single line of the scriptures will fail of fulfillment.

30 The death of Christ was not due to the failure of His faculties, or to exhaustion. It was a deliberate act of His will. After having accomplished the work the Father set for Him to do. there was no need of further suffering. So He laid down His soul of His own volition; He gave up His spirit to God.

31 There were many sabbaths in Israel beside the weekly one. This sabbath was the first day of the festival of Unleavened bread (Lev.237). As it introduced the seven day festival when all leaven was excluded from their houses, it was considered a far greater day than a weekly sabbath. It may be that the spirit of God is hinting also at

Now there had stood beside the cross of Jesus His mother and His mother's sister. Mary of Clopas. and Mary Magdalene. Jesus, then, perceiving His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing beside Him, is saying to His mother, 27 "Woman, lo! your son!" There-

after He is saying to the disciple. "Lo! your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own.

28 After this, Jesus, being aware that all has already been accomplished, that the scripture may be perfected, is saying, "I am thirst-

ing!" Now a vessel lay there distended with vinegar. Then placing a sponge distended with vinegar on hyssop, they carry it to His mouth. When, then, Jesus took the vinegar, He said, "It has been

accomplished!" And reclining His

head. He gives up the spirit.

31 The Jews, then, since it was preparation, lest the bodies should be remaining on the cross on the sabbath (for that sabbath was a great day), ask Pilate that they might be fracturing their legs and 32 they may be taken away. The soldiers, then, came and fracture indeed the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. ³³ Yet on coming to Jesus, as they

perceived He had already died, they do not fracture His legs.

But one of the soldiers punctures His side with a lance head. and straightway blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true. And he is aware that he is telling the truth, that you, also, 36 should be believing. For these

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its real greatness. Leaven is a type of sin. Now the great Sin Offering had been slain, and sin was indeed put away! It was the greatest day in the Jewish calendar.

32 The course of the narrative here clearly shows that there were four others crucified with Christ. There were two malefactors and two robbers. The soldiers crush the legs of two before they come to Christ, so there must have been two on each side. There were no "thieves". One of the malefactors believed on Him.

36 See Nu. 912; Ex. 1246; Ps. 3420.

36 With His supernatural vitality He would have remained alive long after the others, and suffered the breaking of His bones if He had not laid down His soul of Himself. It is remarkable that, in all this, there is a divine intelligence behind the ignorance of man. They marred His flesh but did not break His bones. They poured out His blood, but did not mutilate His form. So that, in resurrection, His body is composed of flesh and bones and has no blood. The soul of the flesh is in the blood, but the spirit needs no blood. The wanton hands of His enemies were used to transform His body to the new condition needed in resurrec-

37 See Zech. 1210.

³⁸⁻⁴² Compare Mt. 27⁵⁷-60; Mk. 15⁴²-46; Lu. 23⁵⁰⁻⁵⁴.

38 What a notable change the crucifixion makes in two of the secret disciples of our Lord! Joseph of Arimathea was afraid of the Jews, but now he has the courage to go to Pilate and he takes the body away before the eyes of those he once feared. Nicodemus. also, does not wait till dark to bring the spices for embalming the body. He comes forth in the light of day. It is the cross, the suffering and shame, the agony and the degradation, of the One Who had won their hearts which took their timidity away. And it is still the inspiration for brave deeds and noble acts free from the fear of man.

¹ Compare Mt.281; Mk.161-4; Lu.241. ¹ "One of the sabbaths" is the true rendering. The usual "first day of the week" is absolutely devoid of scrip-

tural evidence.

2-10 Compare Lu. 2412.

things occurred that the scripture may be fulfilled,

"A bone of Him shall not be crushed."

³⁷ And again, a different scripture is saying,

"They shall see Him Whom they stab."

Now after these things Joseph from Arimathea (who was a disciple of Jesus, yet hidden because of fear of the Jews) asks Pilate that he should be taking away the body of Jesus. And Pilate permits him. He came, then, and takes His body away.

Now Nicodemus also came (who first came to Him at night) bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds [75 lbs.].

⁴⁰ They got the body of Jesus, then, and they bind it in swathings with the spices, according as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

41 Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which

⁴² no one was placed as yet. There, then, because of the Jews' preparation, seeing that the tomb was near, they place Jesus.

20 Now on one of the sabbaths, Miriam Magdalene is coming to the tomb in the morning, it being still dark, and is observing the stone taken away from the door of the

tomb. She is racing, then, and coming to Simon Peter and to the other disciple of whom Jesus was fond, and she is saying to them, "They take away the Lord out of the tomb and we are not aware where they place Him!"

Peter, then, and the other disciple, came out and they came to the tomb. Now the two raced alike, and the other disciple runs more

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- There is a blessed contrast between the resurrection of Lazarus and the vivification of our Lord. Lazarus saw corruption. Christ saw none. Lazarus was raised bound foot and hand with grave clothes and his face was covered with a handkerchief. These are the signs of mortality and corruption. These are the symbols of weakness. Our Lord was raised in power. feet were free. His hands untrammeled, His face uncovered. He had the power to take up His soul again. He had the strength to remove the grave clothes and roll aside the stone. He is not merely the Resurrection, but He is the Life!
- 8 How tragic is unbelief! Peter and John, His closest companions, refuse to credit His word when He tells them of His sufferings and death and resurrection. Now they had witnessed His shameful death, they had seen His empty tomb, and still they doubt His word!
- 11 Mary Magdalene, probably from the town of Magdala, had been possessed with seven demons. The Lord healed her and she became part of that elect company of women who dispensed to Him of their possessions (Lu. 82-3. She seems to have been among the last to leave the tomb, after witnessing where Joseph of Arimathea had laid Him. Along with some of the other women she seems to have been at the tomb very early, in order to complete the preparation of His body for burial.

Peter and John seem to have left her. She does not take a look and leave. She lingers, and her faith is rewarded by the unspeakable boon of being first to behold the risen Christ. Peter and John, when they looked, saw the grave clothes. She saw the messengers, but is not satisfied with any one but her Lord.

11-18 Compare Mk.169-11.

16 What a world of pathos lies within the range of the human voice! There was no need to tell Who He was, once He had caressed her name as He only could intone it. "Miriam!" And immediately she recognizes the voice of her beloved Lord and Teacher. She alone is told of His victorious ascension to the Father, immediately after His resurrection. She carries the glorious news to the rest.

5 the tomb first. And, stooping over, he is observing the swathings lying. Howbeit, he did not enter.

Simon Peter, then, is also coming following him, and he entered the tomb and he is beholding the
 swathings lying, and the handker-chief which was on His head, not lying with the swathings, but folded

⁸ up in one place apart. The other disciple also, then, who came first to the tomb, entered then, and he per-

9 ceived and believes, for they not as yet were aware of the scripture that He must rise from among the

10 dead. The disciples, then, came away again by themselves.

Now Mary stood outside the tomb, lamenting. As, then, she lamented, she stoops over into the

12 tomb and is beholding two messengers in white seated, one at the head and one at the feet, where the

body of Jesus lay. And they are saying to her, "Woman, why are you lamenting?" And she is saying to them that "They take away my Lord, and I am not aware where they place Him!"

Saying these things, she turned behind, and is beholding Jesus standing, and she was not aware

- that it is Jesus. Jesus is saying to her, "Woman, why are you lamenting? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing that He is the gardener, is saying to Him, "Lord, if you bear Him off, tell me where you place Him, and I will
- take Him away." Jesus is saying to her, "Miriam!" Now she, being turned, is saying to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" which is the
- 17 term for "Teacher". Jesus is saying to her, "Touch Me not, for I

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17 In the scriptures, omissions are often of supreme significance. To accord with the character of the account, this ascension of our Lord is mentioned only here. The other narratives omit it entirely. But it is still more significant to note the silence as to the nature and object of this ascension. The reason is clear. John is not detailing the celestial glories of Christ. That belongs to Paul's later ministry.

The conquest of the cross of Christ is not confined to earth. It places Him at the head of the whole universe. Messengers and sovereignties and authorities and powers among the celestials are all made subject to the Crucified One. After His resurrection He was proclaimed throughout the universe as Lord of all. When was this proclamation made? When was His public investiture with the tokens of His universal sovereignty? that could not wait for forty days, until after His public ascension. Doubtless it was done soon after He delegated Mary to carry the news to His disciples. Then He ascended, and the crucified King of the Jews is acclaimed the Conqueror over all the powers of evil and the universal Suzerain. How little did His disciples dream of His exalted honors!

19-20 Compare Mk. 1614; Lu. 2433-43.

22 Here is where the disciples received the holy spirit. Pentecost was an enduement with power. Spirit is the vital force in the universe. Adam became a living soul as soon as the breath of God entered his body. So here the breath of Christ imparted the vital spirit which He had promised them after His glorification. Our breath is poisonous, death-dealing. His is vital, life-giving.

23 In the proclamation of the kingdom the disciples certainly were given the right to forgive sins, or the opposite. Though the claims of priestcraft to this power at present are false, this should not blind us to the fact that such authority was given to His disciples by our Lord, and was exercised so long as the kingdom was proclaimed to Israel. This promise should make us hesitate in appropriating all in this account to ourselves, or to claim all its promises as our own.

have not as yet ascended to the Father. Now go to My brethren, and say to them, "Lo! I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God."

Miriam Magdalene is coming, reporting to the disciples that "I have seen the Lord!"—and these

things He said to her.

19 Then, being evening of that day, one of the sabbaths, and the doors where the disciples were gathered together having been locked because of fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and is saying to them, "Peace to you!" And saying this, He shows them the hands, and the side. The disciples, then, rejoiced at perceiv-

ing the Lord.

21 Jesus, then, said to them again,

"Peace to you! According as the
Father has commissioned Me, I also

22 am sending you." And, saying
this. He exhales and is saying to

this, he exhales and is saying to them, "Get holy spirit! If you should be forgiving any one's sins, they have been forgiven them; if any one's you should be holding, they are held."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, termed Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples, then, said to him, "We have seen the Lord!" Yet he said to them, "Except I should perceive in His hands the print of the nails, and should put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will by no means be believing."

And after eight days His disciples were again within, and Thomas was with them. The doors having been locked, Jesus is coming APANABEBHKATPOCTONTA 20
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BYPUNKEKAEICMENUNKAI 69000 DOOBS HAVING-been-LOCKED AND ²⁷ While we hardly care to sympathize with doubting Thomas, yet we feel grateful for the unanswerable evidence his case called forth. The reality of our Lord's resurrection is put beyond all question by his lack of faith. The very body that was marred by the nails and the spear, which saw no corruption, was actually made alive and could be felt and handled, to the satisfaction of one who refused to believe on less evidence.

31 It is evident that the signs in this account are a selection, chosen to give a complete picture of Israel's failure and Israel's Saviour. They are intended to signify to all who have ears to hear that the One Who speaks and acts is no other than the Messiah foretold by the prophets of old, and the further fact that He is also the Son of God. Eonian life is for all who receive this testimony. As we have seen, His present exaltation, while Israel is apostate, is carefully overlooked. Hence we must not expect to find present truth in John's account. He never had a commission for the nations, not even for proselytes, as Peter had. Because his ministry seems especially intended for millennial days, when the nations 2 will be blessed through Israel, his allusions to world-wide blessing are often mistaken for that which has come to us while Israel is apostate.

Peter had a commission to fish for men. But he returns to his old trade and takes his companions with him. They toil all night and net nothing. Undoubtedly there is a solemn lesson in obedience here. The path of selfwill brings much labor but no results. The path of obedience is fraught with But there seems a deeper blessing. lesson here than this. Peter's failure is a dispensational forecast. Peter and the apostles labor much to proclaim the kingdom during the darkness which has fallen on Israel. But their efforts are unavailing. Israel is not recalled to repentance. But in the morning, when the Lord comes again, the kingdom will once more be proclaimed. Then the results will be miraculous. All Israel will be saved. The miracle will be repeated then, and the net will include the 144,000 as well as a throng innumerable.

and stood in the midst and said,

'Peace to you!'' Thereafter He
is saying to Thomas, "Bring your
finger here, and perceive My hands,
and bring your hand and put it into My side, and do not become un
believing but believing." And

Thomas answered and said to Him,

"'My Lord and my God!" Now

Jesus is saying to him, "Seeing that you have seen Me, you have believed. Happy are those who are

not perceiving and believe."

Many and other signs, indeed, then, Jesus does before His disciples which are not written in this scroll. Yet these are written that you should be believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that, believing, you may have eonian life in His name.

21 After these things Jesus manifests Himself again to the disciples on the sea of Tiberias. Now He

2 manifests thus: There were alike Simon Peter and Thomas who is termed Didymus, and Nathanael

from Cana of Galilee, and those of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples.

Simon Peter is saying to them, "I am going fishing!" They are saying to him, "We also are coming with you!" Then they came out and stepped into the ship straightway, and in that night they net nothing.

Now as it already becomes morning, Jesus stood on the beach. Howbeit, the disciples had not perceived that it is Jesus. Jesus, then, is saying to them, "Little children, have you any viands?" They answered Him, "No!" Now He said to them, "Cast the net on the right parts of the ship and you will

s again Self Bomits the PUCENEAYTONIAN INO IHC 20 Self Again THE JESUS **ECTHEICTOMECONKAIGIT®** STOOD INTO THE MIDST AND **ENEIPHNHYMINEITAAETE®** OYCTOICMAGHTAICE TITH to-youp THEREAFTER He-IS-SAYING to-THE LEARNERS ON THE IT@0@MA¢@PETON∆AKTY∧® COAMACCHCTHCTIBEPIAA® to-the thomas be-carrying the Finger OF-THE TIBERIAS ONCOYODEKAIIDETACKEI® OCEPANE PUCE NA EOYTUCH® or-you here BE-PERCEIVING THE HANDS 2 He-makes-APPEAR YET thus AND WERE PACMOYKAL DEPETHNXELD 100 CANOMOYCIMUN TETPOCKA ... OF-ME AND BE-CARRYING THE HAND LIKEWise SIMON Peter ACOYKAIBAAGGICTHNITAE® 1θΦΜΆCΟΛΕΓΟΜΕΝΟCΔΙΔΥ²⁰ OF-YOU AND BE-CASTING INTO THE THOMAS THE one-herng-said twin (Didy-B+C YPANMOYKAIMHTINOYATI« MOCKAINABANAHAOAΠOKA# OF-ME AND NO BE-BECOMING UNmus) AND NATHANAEL THE-ONE FROM CANA Bs omit AND NATHCE ANIANIACKAIOIT® CTOCAAAATICTOCKAIATE® 28 BELIEVING but BELIEVING AND OF-THE GALILEE AND THE OFanswered AB omit THE IOI sons KPIOHOO WACKAIGITENA® OYZEBEADIOYKAIAAAOIE® THE THOMAS AND said THE ZEBEDEE others OUT KTWNMAGHTWNAYTOYAYOA 700
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29 OF-ME 18-SBYING YET to-him THE JESUS **EFELAYTOICCIMONNETPO®** saying to-them Peter SIMON 814 adds KAI AND YCOTIE WPAKACMENERICT* CYTAT WANTEYE IN A CTOYC " that YOU-HAVE-SEEN ME YOU-HAVE-BELIEV-I-AM-UNDER-LEADING TO-BE-fishing THEY-ARE-SAYING EYKACMAKAPIOIOIMHIAO® INAYT@EPXOMEBAKAIHME® ARE-COMING HAPPY THE-ones NO PERCEIVto-him AND WE ICCYNCOIEZHAOONOYNKA sl* adds ME MGA+TIG and omits AND NTECKAINICTEYCANTECH® 30 ING AND BELIEVing TOGETHER to-YOU THEY-OUT-CAME THEN OAAAMENOYNKA I AAAACHM 300 IENEBHCANEICTOΠΛΟΙΟΝ™ INDEED THEN AND other BIGNS THEY-IN-STEPPED INTO THE FLOATER straightway omitted by Bs STRICTUREN OF MILE OF HE STRICTURE OF HE STRIC ELACTOINCENOINCOYCEN® THE JESUS IN-VIEW AB omit of-Him **ΦΠΙΟΝΤωΝΜΑΘΗΤωΝΑΥΤΟΥ** OF-THE LEARNERS or-Him THEY-arrest NOT-YET-ONE OF-morning S has the I very faint over the CCAEHAHFEINOMENHEECTH 60 **AOYKECTINTET PAMMENAE®** HAVING-been-WRITTEN YET ALREADY OF-BECOMING WHICH NOT IS IN STOOD B EIC INTO ΝΤϢΒΙΒΛΙωΤΟΥΤωΤΆΥΤλΔ® IHCOYCETITONAIFIAAON® this these THE BEACH SCROLLet YET B81* 0. 8B3 €8ΓNΦ OYMENTO IHAE I CANO IMA 8 ... EFEF PARTALINAMICTEYC 400 HAS-been-WRITTEN THAT YOU-SH'D-BE-BELIEV-NOT howbeit HAD-PERCEIVED THE LEARNERS HTAIOTIIHCOYCECTINAE® HTGOTILHCOYCGCTINOXP20 THE ANOIN- 5 that JESUS it-18 18-saythat JESUS 18 al* omits AND Bs omit THE FEIOYNDYTOICOIHCOYCH 40 Ing Then to-them The Jesus little-ICTOCOYIOCTOY860YKAI* TED THE SON OF-THE God AND AIAIAMHTIN POCOAFIONE® AB omit eonian INATICTEYONTECZ@HNA!® eonian boys NO ANY TOWARD-EATING YE-THAT RELIEVING **ONIONEXHTEENTWONOMAT® ΧΕΤΈλΠΕΚΡΙΘΗΟΆΝΑΥΤΦΟ®**

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to-them

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after

21 or-Him

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BE-YE-CASTING

6 There are several methods of fishing from the shore in the day time. A baited hook was cast by Peter when he got the redemption money for himself and the Lord (Mt.1727). Simon and Andrew were using a purse net when they were called to become fishers of men (Mk. 116). A seine or drag net was also used (Mt. 1347). The net here used was a large one let down from a ship. On one occasion, though the net broke, the haul filled two boats overfull (Lu. 54-6). Boat fishing was done at night. Seines were set and the fishermen, with flares and the beating of old metal pans, drove the fish toward the net. This cannot be done in the day time. After scouring the waters all night it must have seemed silly to lower the large net. It took faith to do that. And it was nothing less than a miracle that the net was not rent.

11 The night of futile fishing seems to correspond to the time typified in Israel's yearly calendar by the period between the festival of Unleavened Bread and the festival of Trumpets, which was about one hundred and fifty-three days. It may be that the number of fish caught is an allusion to this. The past labors of the twelve apostles seem to have netted nothing, yet when He appears in the future, there will be a rich harvest. At present their ministry is not in force.

12 A whole night of toil did not provide a breakfast for the faithless fishermen. Yet He makes manifest His care and provision by supplying their need. The meal is all ready and cooked. They do not do anything to provide it. This is the gracious rebuke of the Lord to Peter's fishing expedition. We never hear that he went back to fishing again.

15 The rich pathos of this passage will be apparent only if we carefully keep the finer shades of meaning conveyed by the original, as "fond" and "love", "graze" and "shepherd", "lambkins" and "sheep". This is the special commission given to Peter which he fulfills in the writing of his epistles. His humiliating experiences, in disowning the Lord and doubting His care and provision (of which the other apostles were not guilty) has chastened his spirit, so that he no longer boasts of his loyalty, though all the rest prove

find." Then they cast, and they no longer had the strength to draw it, for the multitude of fishes.

Then that disciple whom Jesus loved is saying to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Simon Peter, then, hearing that it is the Lord, girds on his overcoat (for he was naked) and cast himself into the sea. Yet the other disciples came in the other boat (for they were not far from the land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net of fishes.

As, then, they stepped off to the land, they are observing a charcoal fire laid and food fish lying on it, of and bread. Jesus is saying to them, "Bring of the food fish which you

now net."

Simon Peter, then, ascended and draws the net to the land distended with a hundred and fifty-three large fishes. And, being so much, the net is not rent.

12 Jesus is saying to them, "Come hither! Lunch!" Now no one of the disciples dared to inquire of Him, "Who art Thou?" being 13 aware that it is the Lord. Jesus, then, is coming and taking the bread and is giving it to them, and

the food fish likewise.

Now this was already the third time Jesus was manifested to the disciples, being roused from among the dead.

When, then, they lunch, Jesus is saying to Simon Peter, "Simon of John, are you loving Me more than these?" He is saying to Him, "Yes, Lord. Thou art aware that I am fond of Thee." He is saying to him, "Be grazing My lamb
16 kins." Again, a second time He is saying to him, "Simon of John, are you loving Mo?" He is saying

saying to him, "Simon of John, are you loving Me?" He is saying to Him, "Yes, Lord, Thou art aware that I am fond of Thee." He

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OF-JOHN

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to be cowards. He knows that he loves his Lord, despite his craven heart, but he refuses to boast that he loves Him more than his fellows. He hides behind a weaker word, denoting the attractive force of friendship. But he does not put himself behind the assertion, but rather appeals to the Lord's omniscience. His humility is rewarded by the charge to provide sustenance for those weak in the faith.

The Lord repeats His question, but without any reference to Peter's boast or failure. Peter again refuses to vouch for himself, and is given charge of the Lord's flock.

The Lord now descends to Peter's profession of fondness, but questions even that. This touches Peter very sorely, but he refuses to vaunt. He feels full of love to the Lord but he is aware how dismally he had failed but a few days before. So he once more refers the Lord to his own omniscience. He has learned his lesson well. So the Lord commissions him to provide food for the mature saints.

18 Peter had boasted that he would lay down his soul for Him (1337). It was this that led the Lord to predict that he would disown Him. Now He assures Peter that he will some day fulfill his boast. There is a tradition that Peter was crucified. See 2 Pe. 114.

20 Now we are given a hint of John's commission. In a veiled way we are given to understand that John was to remain alive until the Lord's return. This is fulfilled in his vision of the Unveiling. There, in spirit, he sees all the events leading up to the kingdom and the kingdom itself. Truly, in spirit, he remained until the Lord comes.

The thought that John's special ministry, as distinct from Peter's, finds its fullest expression in the future when the kingdom is set up, is further enforced by the fact that it was not written until after the close of the Pentecostal era. Had it been intended to be used in that day, or in connection with Paul's evangel to the nations, it certainly would have been written much earlier. Only in the light of Israel's glorious future, as a blessing to all nations, can we fully appreciate the special message it contains.

is saying to him, "Be shepherding
17 My sheep." He is saying to him
the third time, "Simon of John, are
you fond of Me?" Peter was sorry
that He said to him a third time
"Are you fond of Me?" and he is
saying to Him, "Lord, Thou art
aware of all things. Thou knowest
that I am fond of Thee." And Jesus is saying to him, "Be grazing

18 My little sheep. Verily, verily, I am saying to you, when you were young, you girded yourself and walked whither you would, yet whenever you may be decrepit you will stretch out your hands, and another shall be girding you and carrying you whither you would not."

19 Now this He said signifying by what death he will be glorifying God. And, saying this, He is saying to him, "Be following Me!"

Now Peter, turning about, is observing the disciple whom Jesus loved, following, who leans back also on His chest at the dinner, and said to Him, "Lord, who is it 21 who is betraying Thee?" Peter, then, perceiving this one, is say-

ing to Jesus, "Lord, yet what of this one?" Jesus is saying to him, "If I should be wanting him to be remaining till I am coming, what is it to you? You be following

23 Me!" This word, then, came out to the brethren, that that disciple is not dying. Now Jesus did not say to him that he is not dying, but "If I should be wanting him to be remaining till I am coming, what is it to you?"

This is the disciple who is testifying also concerning these things, and who writes these things. And we are aware that his testimony is true. Now there are many other

things also, which Jesus does, which, if they should be written,

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IF-EVER MAY-BE-being-written according-to one not-yet

²⁵ In the glory we shall know of all His acts. Till then we know of more than we can at present appreciate. May they fill our minds and hearts!

one by one, I am surmising not even the world itself would contain the written scrolls.

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THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

THE ACTS is a continuation of the proclamation of the kingdom of God, no longer by the King Himself, but by the spirit of God through His apostles. He prayed, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do!" In answer to this petition the unbelieving nation once more hears the evangel of the kingdom, enforced by His resurrection from the dead. Israel had rejected Jehovah under the law. They rejected their Messiah when He came in mercy. Acts is a record of their rejection of the spirit of grace which lingers over them until blindness overtakes them for the eon. It begins with the descent of the spirit. It traces the rejection of the spirit. It ends with the spirit's repudiation of Israel. In the beginning, Peter unlocks the door of the kingdom for the Jews; at the close, Paul, in Rome, shuts the door of the kingdom and locks up Israel in obstinacy.

This treatise is transitional. From the first extreme where the nations seem to have no place at all, it leads us on until we arrive at the opposite, where the Jew loses his priority.

It is a record of Israel's response to the renewed proclamation of pardon, and chronicles their apostasy and their gradual rejection. But it also records God's answer to their defection, so that He, instead of being balked in His purpose to bless the other nations, makes their apostasy the basis of a much greater and grander grace than the nations could have experienced if Israel had not apostatized. There is no definite statement of this, for the subject of the book forbids it, yet all the symp-

toms of the present grace will be found, and each symptom follows a crisis in the apostasy of the chosen nation. In reading Acts let us remember that God is concerned with the kingdom to Israel, yet all the while He is making room for that distinct display of grace which we enjoy and which is fully expounded in Paul's epistles, most of which were written during this interregnum.

This account is a series of acts and counter acts. Jerusalem's stoning of Stephen is followed by the introduction of Saul of Tarsus. The persecution in Judea and Samaria is followed by his call on the Damascus road. The murder of James is succeeded by the severance of Saul. When the Jerusalem believers try to kill Paul, he is sent to Rome, where the nation of Israel is set aside and the salvation of God is sent to the other nations.

Peter appears prominently in the first part of Acts, but Paul replaces him in the latter portion. All that Peter did was more than matched by Paul. Every miracle the chief of the Circumcision apostles wrought was eclipsed by a similar sign, greater in glory and grace.

No truth characteristic of the present actually appears on the pages of Acts. Yet the distinctive doctrines we enjoy did not fall from heaven like a meteor; they gradually rose to view like the sun. In Acts we see their early refracted light before they appear above the horizon. Justification of a kind is preached at Pisidian Antioch, conciliation becomes clear as

MINISTRIES OF THE TWELVE

MINISTRIES OF PAUL 2 Cor.318

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The Rejection of Israel	Testimony in Jerusalem 2-760	Judea and Samaria 8440	The Limits of the Land 931-1130		ations	Persecution of Paul 21 ²⁰ -25 ¹¹	Israel is Thrust Aside 28 ²⁵ -28
The Reception of the Nations	Sa Introd 81	uced Cal	led by t	Separated 1 he Spirit 132	the P	epudiates hysical Cor.5 ¹⁶	Reveals the Secret Eph.39
Dispensation P	ardon for Repe	ntance and E	Baptism	Justification	n (Conciliation	Celestial Glory
		OUTBRI	EAKS OF ISRAE	L'S APOSTAS	Y		
Christ Crucified 18	Stephen Stoned 788	Disciples Scattered 81	James Killed 12²	Paul Sto at Lys 14 ²⁹		Paul about to be Killed 21 ³¹	Paul Imprisoned in Rome 2818-21

the evangel reaches the nations through Jewish opposition, and the way is opened for the celestial secret of Paul's prison epistles by the public repudiation of Israel in Rome. The ministries of Paul, as recorded in Acts, bring us up to, but never into, present truth. That is found alone in his epistles.

This transitional era, from our Lord's crucifixion to the full establishment of the present secret economy, was marked by a series of changes in dispensation and administration. It is of prime importance that we understand the trend and character of these dispensational divisions, so that we may intelligently follow the inauguration of the economy or administration which is in force today.

These changes may be viewed from two entirely different standpoints. In the book of Acts they mark the steps which led to the rejection of the kingdom by Israel and of Israel by God. In Paul's epistles the same crises are seen as they prepare for the introduction of the present administration. The trend of truth is continually away from the earthly and physical to the

celestial and spiritual.

The accompanying outline suggests the steps in Israel's defection and the gradual reception of the nations into blessing. One line is associated with the ministries of the twelve, the other with the apostle Paul. The two lines overlap. Paul is introduced immediately after the murder of Stephen by Jerusalem and each successive lapse of Israel is followed by adding another step in the course which culminated in the revelation of the present secret economy when he became a prisoner in Rome.

Paul's ministries keep pace with each phase of Israel's apostasy. Their unrighteousness is offset by faith righteousness as proclaimed at Pisidian Antioch. When their folly and poverty are manifest, he proclaims God's wisdom and wealth in Corinth, the commercial capital of the day. When their priestly functions fail, he goes to Ephesus, the religious center of the gentile world, and reveals the concilia-

tion. Finally, when the promise of political supremacy is taken from them, Paul is in Rome, the world's political capital, and there he proclaims a new economy based on their political repudiation.

According to the prophets of old, all blessing for the nations is through and with the nation of Israel. So it will be in the kingdom. The distinctive truths of the present secret economy are based on the opposite of this. follow Israel's failure and apostasy. So far as revealed in the Hebrew scriptures, in the accounts of our Lord. and in the Circumcision epistles, there is no basis for blessing at all now, for Israel is the only channel that they know. The book of Acts fills the chasm between the kingdom economy and the present and traces the many steps which lead up to the blessing of the nations during this period, while Israel is thrust aside. It prepares the devout student of previous revelation for the astounding declaration with which it closes, that the salvation of God is to be sent directly to the nations, apart from Israel's mediacy. and that the nations will hear it.

Throughout the Acts the nations are treated as subjects of the kingdom and subordinate to the Jewish nation. This is the case even in Paul's early epis-The nations were debtors to Israel (Ro.1527). But Israel's blessing waits until the fullness of the nations has come in (Ro. 11), and when the apostle reveals the great secret that those under Paul's ministry are to be joint enjoyers of a heavenly allotment. and a joint body and joint partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus (Eph.36). the entire kingdom economy vanishes and a new, secret economy takes its place. The great confusion among the saints today will vanish to a large extent if they will recognize the transitional, kingdom character of Acts, and draw their doctrine from Paul's epistles, especially those written at its close, before which the present secret administration was not revealed, and its doctrines were undeveloped, while God lingered over His ancient and beloved people Israel.

- Acts is a continuation of the accounts of our Lord's ministries as recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. As Theophilus is mentioned only in Luke's account, it seems that the beloved physician is the writer of Acts Though carried on through His apostles, it is the same ministry which the Lord began. It is not confined to the one aspect treated in Luke's narrative-Christ as Man-but covers all the characters in which He is presented. He is the King of Israel. as in Matthew, the Servant as in Mark, and the Son of God as in John. The distinct commissions in each previous account are often combined in this continuation of the history of the kingdom proclamation.
- The interval between His resurrection and ascension was used by our Lord to present indisputable proofs of His resurrection and to instruct His disciples concerning the kingdom of God. This was the preparation He deemed necessary for the ministry recorded in this book. These two subjects dominate it to the very end.
- 6 He had been telling them about the kingdom of Israel, but did not tell them when it would be restored to them. He does not correct their ideas as to the character of the kingdom. but keeps them in suspense as to the That would depend on the reception accorded their testimony. hence could not be foretold without unfavorably affecting its proclamation. Indeed, we are kept in suspense throughout the book, till the very close, when the kingdom is rejected by the Jews in Rome, and even then we are referred to Isaiah's question, "Till when?" God alone knows when, though in these days there are many signs that the longed-for time is near.
- 8 The ministry of the twelve apostles was confined to three spheres—Jerusalem, Samaria, and the rest of the land. Beyond this they had no commission. Paul was called outside the land and commissioned for the regions beyond. The first seven chapters deal with their ministry in Jerusalem, the eighth and ninth with Samaria, and the tenth, eleventh and twelfth with the proselytes and Jews in the land. The balance of the book leads us outside the sphere of the ministry of the Twelve.

first account. indeed. I THE make, O Theophilus, concerning all which Jesus begins to do as well as to teach, until the day on which He was taken up; directing the apostles whom He chooses, through holy spirit: to whom He presents Himself alive also, after His suffering, with many tokens, during forty days, being visualized to them and telling them that which concerns the kingdom of God. And, being foregathered. He charges them not to be departing from Jerusalem, but to be remaining about for the promise of the Father, 5 "which you hear of Me, seeing that

5 "which you hear of Me, seeing that John, indeed, baptizes in water, yet you shall be baptized in holy spirit after not many of these days."

6 Those, indeed, then, who are

coming together, asked Him, saying, "Lord, art Thou at this time restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

Yet He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or the eras which the Father placed in His own jurisdiction. But you shall be obtaining power at the coming of the holy spirit on you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, as well as in entire Judea and Samaria, and to the limits of the land."

And, saying these things, while they are looking, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him up from their eyes. And, as they were looking intently into heaven at His going, lo! two men stand beside them in white attire, who say also, "Men! Galileans! Why do you stand looking into heaven? This

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The resurrection and ascension of Christ are the two dominating factors in the kingdom testimony in this book. The kingdom had been proclaimed by the King in meekness and humiliation. Now it was about to be proclaimed in power by His apostles while He is glorified in heaven. They rejected Him when He spoke on earth. Will they refuse when He speaks from heaven? They scorned Him before His death. Will they hear One Who had risen from the dead?

11 The manner of His descent upon Olivet is to be precisely that which Zechariah had foretold (Zech.143-4):

And Jehovah shall go forth and fight against those nations, As the day He fought in the day of the attack.

And His feet stand in that day upon the mount of Olives

Which faces Jerusalem from the east.

He will come with the clouds of heaven (Dan.713,Un.17) with power and great glory (Mt.2430) as the Son of Mankind to a handful of faithful Israelites, just as He left. But for the church, the body of Christ, He comes, not to Olivet, but to the air, not to judge and make war, but to save us and take to Himself in glory all the members of His body, long before He returns to the mount of Olives.

12 The apostles seem to have had permanent quarters in Jerusalem. The list is probably arranged according to rank, for Peter and John, the "pillars", come first, followed by James. Simon the Zealot, so named from a class in the nation which arose at the time of the Maccabees, who were excessively zealous for the Mosaic law, is called a Cananite, the Hebrew equivalent of zealot, in Matthew (104) and Mark (3 18). Judas James was surnamed Thaddeus (Mt.103) and Lebbeus.

16 The buying of a freehold was typical of Judas' loss of his allotment and going to his "own" place. Almost all land in Israel was held in common and allotted each year. But there were a few parcels of ground, such as the garden of Gethsemane, the titles of which were held by individuals. Judas bought one of these. This shows that he had no faith in the coming kingdom, when lands would be re-distributed. Contrast the course of the believing disciples (434).

Jesus Who is being taken up from you into heaven shall come in the same manner as you gaze upon Him going into heaven."

Then they return into Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem a sabbath's journey. And when they entered it, they ascended into the upper chamber where they were residing—Peter as well as John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James of Alpheus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas of James. These all were persevering with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Miriam, the mother of Jesus,

and His brothers.

15 And in these days Peter, rising in the midst of the brethren, said (there was besides a throng in the same place of about a hundred 16 and twenty names): "Men! Brethren! The scripture must be fulfilled in which the holy spirit predicted through the mouth of David. concerning Judas, who becomes the guide of those apprehending Jesus, 17 seeing that he was numbered among us, and chanced upon the allotment of this dispensation." 18 (This man, indeed, then, acquires a freehold with the wages of injustice. and falling prone, ruptures in the middle, and all his intestines were poured out. And it became known

to all who are dwelling in Jerusalem, so that the freehold is called, in their own vernacular, "Acheldamach," that is, "Freehold of

²⁰ blood.") "For it is written in the scroll of the Psalms,

1001	ACTS OF TH	HE APOSTLES	CHAPTER 1
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YKAITOICAAEAGOICAYTO
AND to-THE brothers OF-Him

²⁰ It seems that Judas did not pay for the freehold, but returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests. They had a consultation, and used the money to complete the purchase. The freehold was called the Field of the Potter and was used for the burial of strangers (Mt.277). But Judas not only lost his land and his life but also his place among the apostles.

²¹ These qualifications shut out the apostle Paul. He could never be one of the twelve, for he had not known the Lord at all during His earthly ministry. That the kingdom to Israel is in view is apparent from the very necessity of twelve apostles. Why would not the eleven be enough? Paul was associated with an indefinite number of apostles, but there must always be exactly twelve kingdom apostles, one for each of the tribes of Israel (Mt. 1928).

²⁶ The casting of lots was quite the opposite of a "lottery" in Israel. It was a constant recourse in order to know the mind of the Lord (Prov.16³³).

The lot is cast forth in a bosom, And from Jehovah is all its judgment.

Matthias was duly and lawfully chosen and will have his place in the kingdom ruling over a tribe of Israel. That his name is not again mentioned does not disprove this, for several of the lesser apostles are never heard of afterward.

- Pentecost is simply the Greek word "Fiftieth", because it was fifty days after the Passover. There were three feasts in Israel each year (Ex.2314). The first was the feast of unleavened bread, after the Passover; the second. the feast of harvest, or firstfruits (which is here called Pentecost because it was held seven weeks after the Passover), and the feast of ingathering. As the latter is a type of the time when all Israel shall be saved, so Pentecost is a picture of the salvation of a firstfruit of the nation. what occurred, both on the day of Pentecost and during the entire period covered by this book (Jas.118).
- ² This is not the reception of the spirit by the apostles, for they had already received it (Jn.20²²). This is the "coming on" of power which the Lord had promised a few days before (1⁸). The baptism of the spirit was

'Let his domicile become desolate, And let no one be dwelling in it',

and

'His supervision let a different one take.'

21 Then of the men coming together with us in all the time in which the Lord Jesus came in and out with 22 us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which He was taken up from us, of these one must become a witness of His resurrection together with us."

And they nominate two, Joseph, called Bar-Sabbas, who was sur named Justus, and Matthias. And praying, they say, "Thou, Lord, Knower of all hearts, indicate one whom Thou choosest, out of these
 two, to take the place of this dispensation and apostleship, from which Judas transgressed, to be gone into
 his own place." And they give lots

to them, and the lot falls on Matthias, and he is enumerated with the eleven apostles.

2 And in the fulfillment of the day of Pentecost they were all alike in 2 the same place. (2) And suddenly

there came out of heaven a blare even as a violent carrying blast, and it fills the whole house where they

were sitting. And dividing tongues were seen by them as if of fire, and they are seated on each one of

- 4 them. And they are all filled with holy spirit, and they begin to speak in different languages, according as the spirit gave them to declaim.
- Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, pious men from every

2001	ACTS OF THE	E APOSTLES	CHAPTERS 1-2
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OYMENONB APCAB CALLED Barsabbas	WHO WAS-ON-	ITYPOCKAICKAO of-fire and is-seated	SIT AATTE BESIDES ICENEGE 60 ON ONE
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CTAMANTONANA/ OF-ALL UP-SHOW		GINETEPAICTAC	CCAICKA 40 accord-
EZEAEZOEKTOYT YOU-choose OUT OF-these	THE TWO	OCTORNEYMAGA ing-As THE spirit GAY	
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CAIAKONIAGTAYTHCKAIA600 THRU-SERVICE this AND COM-

APP EIC INTO AGENIEPOYCAAHMKATOIK3000

DOWN-HOMING

YET IN JERUSALEM

given for cleansing (not power), and the filling for utterance.

- To this day it has been the hope of the pious among the dispersion to return to Jerusalem. Many aged Jews have spent their last days there. So, on the day of Pentecost, there were many in the city who had been born abroad, but who had returned to dwell near the temple. They were typical of that return to the land of their fathers which will precede the setting up of the kingdom. Then salvation and deliverance will be in mount Zion and in Jerusalem (Joel 232). To be in that remnant is the highest privilege open to the pious repatriate of the dispersion.
- These men came literally from every nation under heaven. Then, as now, the Jew had penetrated to every part of the known world. The list of countries mentioned includes practically every language or dialect spoken at the time. They are grouped accordingly into Eastern Aramaic, Central Grecian, Western Roman and Southern Egyptian dialects.
- 12 The object of this manifestation, as found in Joel, was to make them know that God was in the midst of Israel. (Joel 227). Afterward the signs which usher in the day of the Lord were due. In other words, Pentecost was the prelude to the era of judgment which precedes the setting up of the kingdom. This shows that it was not intended to be the commencement of the present economy of grace which was later introduced through Paul's ministries. In that future judgment period the signs foretold by Peter will take place. The salvation offered at Pentecost was principally concerned with these judgment scenes through which they hoped to be saved for a place in the kingdom when Christ would return to the Mount of Olives.
- 14 Peter declaims. He does not address them in common words, but uses choice and rare expressions in making this oration. Perhaps this was done partly to meet and refute the charge of drunkenness. His immediate appeal is to their own scriptures, which he brought home to them with power.
- 16 This is what. Such is Peter's interpretation of Pentecost. It was a

- 6 nation under heaven. Now when this sound occurs, the multitude came together, and was confused, seeing that each one hears them speaking in his own vernacular.
- Now they are all amazed, and marveled, saying, "Lo! are not all these who are speaking, Gali-
- 8 leans? And how are we hearing, each in our own vernacular in
- ⁹ which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea as well as Cappadocia, Pontus and the
- ¹⁰ [province of] Asia, Phrygia as well as Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and Roman
- 11 repatriates, Jews as well as proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we are hearing them speaking in these languages of ours of the great things of God!"
- Now they are all amazed and bewildered, saying to one another, "What does this want to be?"
- ¹³ Yet others, taunting, said that "They are bloated with sweet
- 14 wine!" Now Peter, standing with the eleven, lifts up his voice and declaims to them: "Men! Judeans! and all who are dwelling at Jerusalem! Be this known to you, and
- ¹⁵ give ear to my declarations, for these are not drunk, as you take it, for it is the third hour of the day.
- ¹⁶ But this is what has been declared through the prophet Joel:
- 17 'And it shall be'

(in the last days, God is saying)

3001	ACTS OF TH	E APOSTLES	CHAPTER 2
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18

fulfillment of ancient prophecy. God was in their midst as foretold in Joel (227). This, however, was introductory to the terrible celestial convulsions and earthly upheavals which prepare for the dreadful day of the Lord. It promised a time of trial and affliction unparalleled by any that earth has suffered hitherto. It introduced God in the character of an Avenger of His people, Who is about to gather the nations to battle and Who will destroy them in His fury. Had the nation of Israel repented, and the Pentecostal economy continued without interruption, there would never have been a parenthetic period like the present of which none of the prophets ever spoke. which was a secret hid in God (Eph. 39) and which presents God as a Supplicant, petitioning for conciliation, and preserving peace at all costs (2Co. 520), Who showers His richest blessings on the nations and gives them a celestial allotment immeasurably beyond the highest thought of Pentecost. 18 Peter, not Joel, speaks of prophesying. It is an inspired break between that part of Joel's prophecy which was fulfilled at Pentecost and that which is vet future.

²² In the evangel of the kingdom the appeal is to the life of our Lord during His earthly ministry. Paul never knew Him in this character. He did not meet Him until after His ascension, and the present economy, based on Paul's experience and revelations, does not recognize Christ after the flesh. Peter's appeal, in proclaiming the kingdom, is no model for us now. Our relationship to Christ begins with His death, burial, resurrection and ascension.

23 The Jews knew that Christ should suffer. Their sacred scrolls were explicit. This was the counsel which determined His death beforehand.

24 The resurrection is the central and essential theme of every evangel. As Peter is proclaiming the kingdom, he proves His resurrection by referring his hearers to king David and his throne. David is the one with whom the throne covenant had been made (2Sam.235). It is as David's Heir that Christ will sit on the throne, ruling the nation of Israel, during the thousand years.

'I shall be pouring out from My spirit on all flesh,

And your sons and your daughters shall be prophesying, And your youths shall be seeing

And your youths shall be seeing visions,

And your elders shall be dreaming dreams.

And surely on My men slaves and on My women slaves in those

Shall I be pouring out from My spirit,'

And they shall be prophesying.

19 'And I will be giving miracles in heaven above,

And signs on the earth below, Blood and fire and exhalation of smoke.

The sun shall be converted into darkness.

And the moon into blood Ere the coming of the great advent day of the Lord.

21 And it shall be that everyone, whoever should be invoking the name of the Lord, shall be saved.'

Men! Israelites! Hear these words: Jesus, the Nazarene, a Man demonstrated to be from God for you by powers and miracles and signs, which God does through Him in the midst of you, according as you yourselves are aware, This One, given up by the specific counsel and foreknowledge of God, you, gibbet-

²⁴ Whom God raises, loosing the pangs of death, forasmuch as He could not be held by it.

ing with lawless hands, assassinate,

25 For David is saying to Him,

Ġ.

'I saw the Lord before me continually,

Seeing that He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. Therefore my heart was glad-

dened and my tongue exults. Now, further, my flesh also shall be tenting in expectation,

4001	ACTS OF TH	E APOSTLES	CHAPTER 2
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THE SONS OF YOUP AND		ONATIOTOY BEOYER	CYMACA 80 to-
	OINEANI100 THE YOUTHS	YNAMECIKAITEPA ABILITIES AND to-MIRACLE	
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EYCOYCINKAI A CONTROL OF THE STATE OF THE ST	VING MIRACLES	ACMAINACTOYBAN travails OF-THE DEATH	ATOYKA 80 DOWN-
ACNTOOYPANDANG IN THE heaven UP	AND SIGNS	HOTIOYKHNAYNAT	ONKPAT 800 TO-BE-being-
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BHE KAINYPKAIATMIA	AKATNO 40 of-smoke	YEIAFAPAEFEIEIC	
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27 BOOTHING ON EXPECTATION that NOT

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1 SRAELITES

27 Death is a return. The spirit returns to God Who gave it (Ecc.127). The soul returns to the unseen. The body returns to the soil (Ecc.127, cf. Gen.319). In the case of our Lord, He commended His spirit to the Father (Lu.2346). Here he speaks of His soul in the unseen. But His body did not return to the soil. In this His death differs from others. There was no dissolution or decomposition which accompanies the death of other men. His resurrection was unique also. Others who are vivified, will not rise with the same body which was put into the tomb, but God will give each one a body according to His pleasure (1Co.1538). But He arose with the identical frame which bore our sins, pure, spotless and unsullied even by the hand of death.

30 God's covenants are of two kinds, conditional and unconditional. All those conditioned on human effort, such as the covenant at Sinai, end in failure. All dependent entirely on God, as the covenant with Abraham concerning the land, and with David, concerning the throne, are sure of fulfillment. Moreover, God interposes with an oath, so that there is nothing more sure than that One shall sit on David's throne ruling the sons of Israel.

34 The whole passage shows that Peter is proclaiming a literal king and a literal kingdom for Israel. The descent of the spirit had nothing to do with the formation of the body of Christ, but was a well known sign which indicated the approach of the judgment era which precedes Messiah's advent. In accordance with the burden of his message Peter chooses to bring before them king David and the covenant God made with him, because, if they accept his words, it is this covenant which would be fulfilled. They had crucified Him as the King of Israel. His resurrection proves Him to be the One Whom David foretold. All that remains to be done, should Israel, as a nation, repent, would be the judging of His enemies. This will occur in the judgment era. Here is no hint of, or preparation for, the present interval of undiluted grace, in which God is raising up His enemies, like Saul of Tarsus, to sit with Christ on His celestial throne.

Seeing that Thou wilt not be abandoning my soul in the unseen,
Neither wilt Thou be giving Thy
Benign One to be acquainted
with decay.

Thou makest known to me the paths of life
Thou wilt be filling me with gladness with Thy face.

Men! Brethren! Allow me to say to you with boldness concerning the patriarch David, that he is deceased also, and was entombed, and his tomb is among us until this day.

30 Belonging, then, to the prophets, and having perceived that God swears to him with an oath, out of the fruit of his loin to seat One on

31 his throne, foreseeing this, he speaks concerning the resurrection of Christ, that He was neither abandoned in the unseen, nor was His flesh acquainted with decay.

32 This Jesus God raises, Whose wit-33 nesses we all are. Being, then, exalted to God's right hand, besides obtaining the promise of the holy spirit from the Father, He pours out this which you are observing and hearing.

For David did not ascend into the heavens, yet he is saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord,
"Be sitting at My right hand

Till I should be placing your enemies

As a footstool for your feet."

36 Let all the house of Israel know certainly, then, that God makes Him Lord as well as Christ—this Jesus Whom you crucify!"

Now as they hear, their heart was pricked with compunction. Besides, they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men, brethren, what should we be doing?" Now Peter

is averring to them, "Repent and be baptized each of you in the name

5 ⁰⁰¹	\mathbf{A}^{0}	CTS OF T	HE APOSTL	ES	CHAPTER
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88 Repentance and baptism lead to a probationary pardon, which may be withdrawn. This pardon is extended by Christ as the King. Its operation is illustrated by the parable of the ten thousand talent debtor (see Mt.1827-84) DAN whose debt was remitted, but who refused to remit the smaller sum which his fellow slave owed to him. Hence the remission of his debt was canceled. So it is with Israel in this chronicle. Many of those who, in the beginning, received the pardon of their sins, refused to share their pardon with the other nations, objecting to proselytes like Cornelius, raising a riot on the supposition that an alien has entered the sanctuary, seeking to kill Paul even though he brought alms to Jerusalem. They finally fall away (Heb.66,1027) where there is no longer any room for repentance, but a fearful prospect of judgment. don, however, is in sharp contrast to our justification, or acquittal, which comes from the Judge on the sole grounds of grace and faith, and from which there can be no fall, as it places us beyond the sphere of judgment. Conciliation (Ro.511) is immeasurably beyond any pardon, as it places us in the unclouded favor of God's grace.

39 The promise was to Israel, both in the land and in the dispersion (Dan. 97). Those "afar" were Jews in the lands where God had driven them, and not Gentiles or the church.

40 The salvation was from the judgments about to visit that crooked generation.

42 The "breaking of bread" is an idiomatic Hebrew expression like our "taking tea" or the Arab's "eating salt", and denoted an ordinary meal. The bread, or flat cakes, which they used, were broken into convenient bits by each person and used as a spoon to convey the liquid portions of the meal to the mouth.

45 Each Israelite had an allotment according to the law, which could not be permanently disposed of, but came back to him at the jubilee. Those who had bought such allotments would lose them when the kingdom would be set up, for then there will be the great jubilee, when each allotment will be returned to its true tenant. These believers did not sell their own allot-

of Jesus Christ for the pardon of your sins, and you shall be obtaining the gratuity of the holy spirit.

39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all those afar, as many as ever the Lord our God.

as many as ever the Lord our God
40 should be calling." Besides, with
more and different words, he conjures and entreated them, saying,
"Be saved from this crooked generation!"

Those indeed, then, who welcome his word are baptized, and in that day about three thousand souls were added. Now they were persevering in the teaching of the apostles, and in fellowship, and in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Now fear came on every soul, yet many miracles and signs came to pass through the apostles in Jerusalem. Besides, great fear was on all, and all those who believe were in the same place and had all things in common. And they disposed of the acquisitions and property, and divided them to all, as much as ever any had need. Persevering daily with one accord in the sanctuary, as well as breaking bread at home, they partook of nourishment with exultation and simplicity of heart.

in the same place.

3 Now Peter and John went up into the sanctuary at the hour of prayer, the ninth. And a certain man, inherently lame from his mother's womb, was borne, whom

⁴⁷ praising God and having favor

with the whole people. Now the

Lord daily added those being saved

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THE

ments, but those which they had acquired, which they would forfeit in the jubilee. This showed their faith in the coming of the kingdom.

- ¹ It is evident that, at this time, there was no thought among the disciples of severing from the customs and worship of the nation. The sanctuary was their principal place of resort until persecution drove them from it.
- Can we not see, in the man lame from his birth, a close likeness to the people of Israel? They had a beautiful way of approach to God, but it availed them little, for they were unable to walk through it, into the divine presence. The healing of the lame man was a sign (416). As a miracle it was full of significance. To those who read its message it proclaimed the advent of One Who could heal Israel's impotence and bring them, like the lame man, into God's house and fill them with joy and praise. But above all, it was a sign of that day when the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the narcissus, for then shall the lame man leap as a fallow deer (Isa.356). powers of the age to come are present in Israel! No wonder the devout and reverent worshipers in the sanctuary are filled with awe and amazement! To them it was no mere prodigy, no unmeaning exhibition of supernatural power, but the key to that kingdom which was the goal of all their hopes and aspirations. It meant the end of the Gentile yoke, the sovereignty of Israel over the nations, the coming of Messiah and a thousand blessings for a thousand years.
- How like are we to the lame man! We look to God for a bare alms, and He pours upon us the true riches and adds the joy of His presence. It was worth while to be lame for forty years to become the object of God's mercy and a signal instance of His power for the blessing of His people. So we, too, will one day bless the impotence and the trials which afford Him a field for the display of His favor. This is the "beautiful gate" which leads us into the sanctuary where the Divine Presence assures us of joy unending and unalloyed. Let us ask expecting to receive.
- ⁵ God gives more and better than we seek, or hope to obtain.

they placed daily at the door of the sanctuary which is termed "Beautiful", requesting alms from those entering into the sanctuary, who, perceiving Peter and John being about to pass into the sanctuary,

4 asked to obtain alms. Now Peter, looking at him intently together with John, said, "Look at us!"

⁵ And he attended to them, hoping to

⁶ get something from them. Yet Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not possess: yet what I have, this I am giving to you. In the name of Jesus

Christ, the Nazarene, walk!" And, taking his right hand, he raises him up. Now instantly his insteps

and ankles were given stability, and, leaping up, he stood and walked and entered with them into the sanctuary, walking and leaping and praising God.

And the entire people perceived him walking and praising God. Now they recognized him, that this was the one sitting for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the sanctuary. And they are filled with awe and amazement at that which has befallen him.

Now, while he is holding Peter and John, the entire people ran together to them at the portico which is called Solomon's, overawed.

12 Now Peter, perceiving it, answers the people: "Men! Israelites! Why are you marveling at this! Or why are you staring at us as if our own power or devoutness has

13 made him walk? The God of Abra-

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9 AND PERCEIVED EVERY THE PEOPLE him

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e* supplies him
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ANY YE-ARE-STRETCHING AS to-OWN ABILITY

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13 The word "Boy" is here used because it, like its Greek equivalent, may be used both of a child and a servant. The common version renders it servant, child and son. Each of these, however, better represents another Greek word, and all fail to give the dual meaning which this word seems to have. It is usually restricted to a boy or girl between seven and fourteen years of age. It is used of our Lord when He was twelve years old and remained behind when they went home from the festival (Lu.243).

14 The complete restoration of Peter to divine favor is nowhere more clearly seen than when he charges them, "You disown the holy and just One!" None of them were as guilty as he himself had been, yet he does not allow his personal failure to hinder his faithful proclamation of the evangel. In order to get them to repent, or change their minds regarding the Messiah, it was necessary to press home their awful guilt. Yet the most important point is the witness he bears to the resurrection of Christ. is which proves His Messiahship. The healing of the lame man is but one more proof that He is alive and able to do all that the prophets foretold of Him.

17 Under the law, sins of ignorance were distinguished from willful disobedience. This was the ground of the Saviour's prayer for them. "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do!" (Lu.2334). This is the real clue to the so-called "unpardonable sin". The sin against the Son of Mankind was forgiven, for it was done in ignorance. But the sin against the testimony borne by the holy spirit in the book of Acts was unpardonable because it was done deliberately and willfully, after the resurrection of Christ.

²¹ The times of restoration include the terrific judgments of the Unveiling, when by means of seals, trumpets and bowls, the earth is restored to the sovereignty of Christ as Son of Mankind. It has no reference to individual destiny, but to redemption of the enslaved and the disinherited by their Kinsman Redeemer (Lev.25).

ham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorifies His Boy Jesus, Whom you, indeed, betray and disown before the face of Pilate, when

14 he decides to release Him. Now you disown the holy and just One, and request a man, a murderer, to be

15 surrendered to you. Yet you kill the Inaugurator of Life, Whom God rouses from among the dead,

16 Whose witnesses we are. And in the faith of His name, His name gives stability to him whom you are beholding, with whom, also, you are acquainted, and the faith which is through Him gives him this unimpaired soundness in front of you all.

And now, brethren, I am aware that you commit it in ignorance, even as your chiefs also. Yet what God announces before through the

mouth of all the prophets—the suffering of His Christ—He thus ful-19 fills. Repent, then, and turn about

for the erasure of your sins, so that the seasons of refreshing should be coming from the face of the Lord,

²⁰ and He may dispatch the One selected before for you, Christ Jesus,

²¹ Whom heaven must indeed receive until the times of the restoration of all which God speaks through the mouth of His holy prophets from the eon.

Moses, indeed, said that 'The Lord, your God, will be raising up to you a Prophet from among your brethren, as me. Him you shall hear, according to all whatever He

3 should be speaking to you. Yet it

shall be, every soul which should

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23 Christ is the Prophet like Moses sent to lead Jehovah's people out of Egypt, through the wilderness, into the kingdom. The whole period of the book of Acts is typified by Israel's wilderness journey. Because the people did not hearken to Moses they were strewn along in the wilderness and never entered the holy land. Likewise, because the nation did not hearken to One Who was more than Moses, they did not enter the kingdom.

The threat of extermination is an inspired alteration. In Deut. 18¹⁹ the Hebrew is, literally, "I will inquire," or, as we say "I will require it of him." The LXX renders this "I will take vengeance on him."

26 The term "Boy" is used here with all reverence, for want of a better. The difficulties encountered in its translation are apparent from the variety of renderings in the common version, all of which are better fitted to some other Greek word. They use child, son, servant, young man, maid, etc. It is used of the boys under two years of age in Bethlehem (Mt.216). It is used of Jesus when He was twelve years old (Lu.243). It is quoted from Isaiah when he spoke of Him (Mt.1218). It is applied to Him four times in this book (313,427-30). It is a word like our "boy" or "girl" which may be applied either to a child or a young servant.

The apostles offended both the priests and the Sadducees by their ac-It was the privilege of the priests to teach the people. They should have been the chief support of the apostles in heralding the proclamation of the kingdom. But they are iealous because these common men command a hearing and usurp their authority in matters of doctrine. The Sadducees are especially offended, inasmuch as they denied the doctrine of the resurrection, which was the principal point in the proclamation of the apostles. Apart from the resurrection Messiah was dead and all hope of His kingdom was crucified with Him. But. given the power of His resurrection, all the promises of the kingdom are confirmed. The officer of the sanctuary was in command of the Levitical guard which had the military oversight of the sacred precincts, where the Gentiles could not enter.

not be hearing that Prophet shall be utterly exterminated from among ²⁴ the people.' Now all the prophets also, from Samuel, and those succeeding him, as many as speak, also ²⁵ announce these days. You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God covenanted with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the kindreds ²⁶ of the earth shall be blessed.' To you first God, raising His Boy, commissions Him to bless you by turning each of you from your

4 Now, at their speaking to the people, the priests and officer of the sanctuary and the Sadducees stand

wickednesses."

- by them, being exasperated because of their teaching the people and announcing in Jesus the resurrection
- from among the dead. And they laid hands on them and they were placed in custody for the morrow, for it was already dusk.

Now many of those who hear the word believe, and the number of men became about five thousand.

Now it occurred on the morrow that their chiefs and the elders and the scribes assembled in Jerusalem,

6 and Annas, the chief priest, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander and as many as were of the chief

7 priestly race. And, standing them in the midst, they inquired to ascertain "By what power or in what name do you do this?"

Then Peter, being filled with

9001		IE APOSTLES	CHAPTERS 3-4
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⁵ This was the supreme spiritual judiciary in Israel. It comprised the heads of the twenty-four courses of priests, the scribes, and elders, said to have been in all seventy-one. The names of the chief priest and his immediate associates are mentioned for their official weight. Christ admitted their authority (Mt.23²).

The evangel of the kingdom is now for the first time since the death of Christ, proclaimed to Israel as a nation, as represented by her chiefs and elders and scribes. Hitherto it has gone to individuals in the nation with considerable success. Now things hinges on the attitude of the official heads of the people. They had rejected Messiah Himself and were responsible for His crucifixion. chief priests and elders knew that He had foretold His resurrection (Mt.27 63). They had the evidence of the Roman guard and had bribed them to tell a false story (Mt.2813). To this the apostles now add their testimony and confirm it by healing the lame man. When Peter speaks they are quite unable to answer him. Surely now they are convinced that Jesus is the Messiah! If He can save the lame man Here was He can save the nation. They stood on Israel's opportunity. the verge of the kingdom. If they accepted Him. He would soon rid them of their enemies and come to set up the sovereignty promised by the prophets. Should they refuse the testimony of the holy spirit as they had rejected Him it would involve the whole nation in an eonian sin, and the kingdom could not come.

The disciples' question concerning the restoration of the kingdom at this time, is here answered for us for the first time. Again and again, during the course of its proclamation, the Jews reject the King and the kingdom. Here, however, we have the first re-This is the supreme crisis in fusal. the book of Acts. Had they accepted the apostles' testimony, the nation would have followed their lead, and the success of the apostles' proclamation would have been assured. Now that they reject the testimony to His resurrection, it is clear that Israel's rightful sovereignty will not be restored to them at this time.

holy spirit, said to them, "Chiefs of the people and elders! If we to-day are being examined concerning the infirm man's benefaction, by

what he has been saved, let it be known to you all and to the entire people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ, the Nazarene, Whom you crucify, Whom God rouses from among the dead, by this One, this

11 man stands before you sound. This is the Stone which is being scorned by you builders, which is becoming

12 the head of the corner. And there is no salvation in any other, for neither has any other name been given under heaven among men in which we must be saved."

Now, on beholding the boldness of Peter and John, and grasping that they are illiterate and ordinary men, they marveled. Besides, they recognized them, that they were

with Jesus. Besides, observing the man who has been cured standing with them, they had nothing to contradict.

Now, ordering them to come out of the Sanhedrin, they parleyed
with one another, saying, "What should we be doing to these men? For, indeed, that a known sign has occurred through them, is apparent to all who are dwelling at Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But,

lest it may disseminate more among
the people, we should be threat ening them no longer to be speaking

18 in this Name to any man." And

18 in this Name to any man." And, calling them, they give them a sweeping charge not to utter aught, neither to be teaching, in the name of Jesus.

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18 this to-no-yet-one of-humans AND

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13 Peter and John were not ignorant 19 men by any means, though they lacked the culture and affectation which marked the learned class of that day. They had been in the school of Christ. 19 The attitude of the Sanhedrin had the immediate effect of abrogating their authority. They should have ruled for God, now they are arrayed against God. They should have been a terror to evil-doers: now they menace those who are carrying out His will. Peter, as an apostle of the Messiah, was one of the real rulers in Israel, and will one day sit upon a throne in the kingdom (Mt.1927). Hence he has the right to oppose the Sanhedrin and to carry out the commission which he has from his Master. This is no example for us to follow in this economy. We are to be subject to the superior authorities (Ro.131).

22 The healing of the lame man is called a sign, hence has some typical significance, especially in regard to his age. May this not suggest the forty years which followed, during which Israel was not able to walk before God? 23 The threats of the Sanhedrin produced a powerful effect on the believers. They were accustomed to obey their religious rulers implicity. In fact. they gave their own chiefs and elders a place which the Roman power never could obtain. They must have some divine direction for continuing in a course prohibited by the highest Jewish authority. This is found in the second part of the first Psalm (usually called the second Psalm). Here their own chiefs are associated with the nations in hostility to Messiah. Psalm should be read to the end. The threats of the Sanhedrin are as nothing compared to Jehovah's threats against them. The judges of the land are exhorted to be instructed and serve the Lord, lest they perish when His anger is burning but a little (Ps.2 10-12). The fact that their chiefs are no longer under Jehovah's protection but the objects of His indignation emboldens them to go forth with the proclamation in spite of their opposition. Moreover, the Lord's hand had been with the apostles, for many had believed, and it was evident that the Sanhedrin itself was afraid to exercise its full power, or Peter and John would not have been released.

19 Yet Peter and John, answering, said to them, "If it is just before God to be hearing you rather than

²⁰ God, judge you; for we cannot but be speaking of what we per-

²¹ ceive and hear". Yet those who menace them release them, not finding how they should be chastening them because of the people, seeing that all glorified God for that which

²² has occurred, for the man was of more than forty years, on whom this sign of healing had occurred.

Now, being released, they came to their own and report whatever the chief priests and elders say to

them. Now those who hear lift up their voice to God with one accord, and say, "O Owner, Thou Who makest heaven and earth and the

25 sea and all that is in them, Who through holy spirit, by the mouth of our father, Thy boy David, art saying.

'Why do the nations rage, And the people meditate empty things?

The kings of the land stand by, And the chiefs were assembled for the same intent, Against the Lord and against His

Christ.'

²⁷ For of a truth, in this city, were assembled against Thy holy Boy Jesus, Whom Thou dost anoint, Herod, as well as Pontius Pilate, together with the nations and the

²⁸ peoples of Israel, to do whatever Thy hand and Thy counsel designates beforehand to occur.

²⁹ And now, Lord, take notice of their threats, and be Thou en-

11001		IE APOSTLES	CHAPTER 4
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30 The timid opposition of the Sanhedrin is in contrast to the boldness of those who proclaimed the evangel. God manifested Himself by miraculous interventions, and the powers of the kingdom abounded.

32 The laws concerning property were so different in Israel from anything with which we are acquainted that it is difficult for us to understand this and similar passages. First of all, each Jew had his allotment, which could not be sold. Even if it was disposed of, it came back to him in the jubilee. This was his means of living. If the kingdom should come, the land would be re-distributed according to the prophets (Eze.4713). The action of the Pentecostal believers is all based on this fact. Whatever they had beyond their allotment would go back to its rightful allottee when the kingdom is set up. In view of this they sold the lands and houses they had acquired besides their allotment, and shared their possessions, or personal property such as money, among themselves.

34 A freehold was a piece of property to which actual title could be acquired, as is the custom among western nations today. The name, which means separated, shows that a freehold was not land held in common, like an allotment, but held by a title unaffected by the jubilee. Gethsemane was such a freehold (Mt.263c). Judas manifested his unbelief by purchasing a freehold with the price of his Lord, and the chief priest completed the purchase by paying the money. This was evidence that they did not believe in the coming kingdom, for they never would. reapportioned to the tribes in that day. The disciples, knowing that freeholds were not in line with the law and that they would be forfeited under the righteous rule of Messiah, put the means obtained from their sale into a common fund.

36 The allotment of the Levites could not be sold (Lev.2534). But this field was his personal property. Had the kingdom come, he would have had his share in their allotment (Eze.4813-14).

3 Ananias and Sapphira sold a freehold which they had acquired, over and beyond their own allotment in the dowing Thy slaves with all boldness 30 to be speaking Thy word, by stretching out Thy hand for healing and signs and miracles, to occur through the Name of Thy holy Boy Jesus."

And at their beseeching, the place in which they were assembled was shaken and they are all filled with holy spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Now the multitude of believers was of one heart and soul, and not one said that any of his possessions were his own, but it was all theirs

33 in common. And with great power the apostles rendered testimony to the resurrection of Jesus Christ the Lord. Besides, great grace was on

34 them all, for neither was there any indigent among them, for as many as had acquired freeholds or possessed houses, selling them, brought the price of that which is

being disposed of, and placed it at the feet of the apostles. Now they distributed to each as much as ever any had need.

that they did not believe in the coming kingdom, for they never would have bought the bloody field, only to see Surnamed "Barnabas" (which is find its title invalid when the land is 1124 construed as "Son of Consolation"),

³⁷ a Levite, a native Cyprian, selling a field belonging to him, brings the money and places it at the feet of the apostles.

5 Now a certain man named Ananias, together with Sapphira, his wife, sells an acquisition and embezzles from the price (his wife also having been conscious of it) and, bringing a certain part, he places it at the feet of the apostles. Now

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12 ⁰⁰¹	ACTS OF TH	E APOSTLES	CHAPTERS 4-5
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land. In this they did well. They brought a part to the apostles. too, was a commendable act. sin seems to have been, not in withholding a part, but in giving the impression that they had contributed all for the common good. Here we have a practical illustration of the righteous rule which will characterize the kingdom of God. The hidden motive is brought to light. An act appearing most praiseworthy on the surface is declared to be tainted with falsehood. No witnesses are needed. The Lord's apostle can detect evil though most skillfully concealed. Judgment is immediate and summary.

- Ananias was under no compulsion to sell the freehold. Neither was he obliged to contribute the sum he obtained to the common fund. All this was voluntary. But such a course would have lowered him in the eyes of the disciples and he wished to be well thought of. But his avarice was too strong to allow him to part with the whole sum, so he, in effect, steals a part of the gift, and presents the rest as though it were the whole amount. This was hypocrisy in its most hateful form. In an administration of grace. such as we enjoy today, such sins are not followed by swift judgment. They wait until the tribunal of Christ (2Co. 510). But in the administration of the kingdom, righteousness will reign and sin will be suppressed.
- 11 The result of the sudden and severe judgment of Ananias and Sapphira was great fear, both among the believers and others who hear of it. The resultant conduct was not the free unforced desire to please God which is inspired by His love and grace, which should actuate us in this economy, but restraint from evil through dread of judgment. It is based on power from without rather than an impulse from within. We are not in danger of any judgment, hence have no such motive to mold our behavior. Our lives should be the fruit of love.
- 18 The awful atmosphere of inflexible righteousness which repelled the unbelieving was an adumbration of the day when a King shall reign in righteousness and through the greatness of His power His enemies shall yield a feigned obedience to Him (Ps.1844;

Peter said, "Ananias, wherefore does Satan fill your heart for you to falsify the holy spirit and to embezzle from the price of the freehold?

While remaining, did it not remain yours? And, being disposed of, it belonged to you by right. Why is it that you placed this matter in your heart? You do not lie to men, but to God."

Ananias, hearing these Now words, falling down, gives up the soul. And great fear came on all hearing these things. Now the young men, rising, enshroud him,

> and, carrying him out, they entomb him.

Now it occurred, after an interval of about three hours, and his wife, not being aware of what has occurred. entered. Now Peter answered her, "Tell me if you took so much pay for the freehold?" Now she said, "Yes, so much."

Now Peter said to her "Why is it that you agreed to try the spirit of the Lord? Lo! the feet of those entombing your husband are at the door and they shall be carrying you out."

Now, instantly, she falls at his feet and gives up the soul. Now the youths, entering, found her dead, and carrying her out, en-

11 tomb her with her husband. And great fear came on the whole ecclesia and on all hearing these things.

Now through the hands of the apostles many signs and miracles occurred among the people. they were all, with one accord, in 13 the portico of Solomon. Now of the rest no one dared to be joined to

them, but the people magnify

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8115;663). The fear of the drawn sword in the King's hand will repress evil and rebellion.

14 The prayer of the disciples, after the threats of the Sanhedrin, seems to have been abundantly answered. Not only was the kingdom proclaimed with power but the word was confirmed by many signs and miracles. Multitudes joined the disciples and they met openly in the sanctuary.

17 As ever, the great point of their proclamation was the resurrection of Christ from the dead. Nothing could be more offensive to the Sadducees than this, for it upheld the Pharisees in the principal point of difference between them. Both, however, united in their common hostility to Christ. The increasing popularity and numbers of the disciples filled them with jealousy. They thought that they must show their authority before the new movement should get beyond their control. 18 As before (43), the apostles are confined during the night, that they may appear before the Sanhedrin in the morning. Then they were held until the Sanhedrin sends for them. Now, however, the Lord condescends to give the rebellious rulers a token of His power as well as their impotence. He will give a public exhibition of the futility of opposing Him. No evidence shall be lacking to convince them that God is behind Peter's proclamation.

20 Had the apostles left the city and escaped for their lives, as Peter did on a subsequent occasion, the testimony would have collapsed and the Sanhedrin would have suppressed the further proclamation of the evangel. Their fearless course in resuming their work just where they had left off, was even more impressive than the miraculous deliverance from prison. It gave them a place in the eyes of the people and before the Sanhedrin which demanded respect if not fear. The kingdom which they proclaimed had not only power to set captives free, but to uphold them in their freedom.

²¹ Once again all of Israel's rulers are gathered together and given an opportunity to hear the evangel. The fate of the nation depends on their action, for they are the responsible heads of the people. Their rejection involves all the rest.

14 them, yet, rather, multitudes of men as well as women who are be-

15 lieving were added to the Lord, so that they are carrying out the infirm into the squares also, and placing them on cots and pallets, that, at Peter's coming, if even his shadow should be overshadowing some

16 of them. Now a multitude also from the cities about Jerusalem came together, bringing the infirm and those molested by unclean spirits, all of whom were cured.

Now when the chief priest and all those with him rise (being the sect of the Sadducees) they are

18 filled with jealousy, and laid hands on the apostles and placed them in

of the Lord, during the night, opens the doors of the jail, and,

²⁰ leading them out, said, "Go, and, standing in the sanctuary, speak to the people all the declarations of

²¹ this life." Now, hearing this, they entered into the sanctuary very early and taught.

Now the chief priest and those with him, coming along, call together the Sanhedrin and the entire senate of the sons of Israel, and they dispatch to the prison to have them ²² led forth. Yet the deputies, coming

along, did not find them in the jail.

23 Now, returning, they report, saying that "The prison we found locked with all security and the guards standing at the doors. Yet, when opening them, we found no

24 one within." Now, as they hear

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25 The popular favor enjoyed by the apostles reached its culmination at this time. The increasing number of the disciples, the many benefits conferred on the sick, which would enlist friends, as well as the well-known fact that the apostles had been imprisoned without warrant and then delivered without human aid, by the messenger of God-all this would act very powerfully with the impressionable populace and give the apostles a prestige they had never before enjoyed. This, too. accounts for the mild attitude of the chief priest and the bold assurance of the apostles when called to account for their disobedience to the commands of the Sanhedrin. It is significant that the rulers ask no questions, and are silent before the disciples and the multitude as to the manner of their re-They did not wish to elicit further testimony to the supernatural deliverances, both of the Lord from the grave and His servants from the prison.

²⁶ It is evident that, had the apostles wished to do so, they could have started an insurrection even against the Sanhedrin, and this was what the officer of the sanctuary and the chief

priest feared.

29 Peter begins by reminding the Sanhedrin that they were going contrary to God and that, in such circumstances, he had no alternative but to ignore their commands. This is exactly what he had told them before (4^{19}) . They cannot but infer that any further charge they may lay on the apostles would not be heeded. Peter does not stop to consider any answer to this ultimatum but goes right on and charges them with the murder of their Messiah, Whom God exalts to His right hand. He offers them a pardon. Instead of standing before them to be judged he brings them into judgment before God. The whole situation is re-The judges are pronounced versed. guilty by the prisoner.

33 Having killed the Master, they do not hesitate to assassinate His servants. 34 This is probably the same Gamaliel who was the instructor of Saul of Tarsus (223), one of the most celebrated teachers of the law in his day. His grandfather was the famous Hillel, and his grandson, of the same name, also obtained great eminence in Judaism.

these words, the officer of the sanctuary as well as the chief priests were bewildered concerning them, as to whatever this may come to.

Now some one, coming along, reports to them that "Lo! the men whom you placed in the jail are in the sanctuary, standing and teach-26 ing the people." Then the officer, together with the deputies, coming forth, led them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they ²⁷ should be stoned. Now, leading them, they stand them in the Sanhedrin. And the chief priest in-28 quires of them, saying, "Do we not strictly charge you not to teach in this Name? And lo! you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and are intending to bring the blood of this Man on us."

²⁹ Yet Peter and the apostles, answering, say, "One ought to be yielding to God rather than to men.

30 Now the God of our fathers rouses Jesus, on Whom you lay hands,

31 hanging Him on a tree. This Inaugurator and Saviour God exalts to His right hand, to give repentance to Israel and the pardon of

32 sins. And we are witnesses to these declarations, and the holy spirit which God gives to those yielding to Him."

Now those who hear were harrowed, and they intended to assas-

34 sinate them. Yet a certain Pharisee rises in the Sanhedrin, named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, honored by the entire people. He orders them to put the men out-

35 side a bit. Besides he said to them, "Men! Israelites! Take heed to

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36 The fact that this Theudas is not mentioned in profane literature is no reason for doubting the truthfulness and accuracy of the narrative. Josephus, in his Antiquities, hints at many disturbances of this character at about the time indicated. He does, indeed, tell of another Theudas, about fifty years later, during the reign of the emperor Claudius, whose career corresponds closely to the one mentioned by Gamaliel, but it was plainly impossible for Gamaliel to speak of an insurrection which had not yet occurred. Such a statement would not have gone unchallenged during the early centuries of our era, if it had no foundation in fact.

37 Judas, the Galilean, is often mentioned by Josephus (Antiquities 18, 1, 1; Wars of the Jews 2, 8, 1). charges him with starting a new sect of Jewish philosophy from which sprang many misfortunes and wars. This sect agreed in the main with the Pharisees, but they had an inviolable attachment to liberty, and said that God is to be their only Ruler and Lord. They did not hesitate to die any kind of death, nor did they heed the death of their relatives and friends, nor could any fear make them call any man lord. In the book on the Wars of the Jews, Josephus characterizes him thus: "a certain Galilean, whose name was Judas, prevailed on his countrymen to revolt, and said that they were cowards if they would endure to pay a tax to the Romans, and would, after God, submit to mortal men as their lords. This man was a teacher of a peculiar sect of his own and was not at all like the rest of their leaders." His followers were dispersed, but the love of liberty was spread among the people and later led to many other uprisings.

38 Gamaliel's cowardly evasion suited the Sanhedrin because they were afraid of the people. Though God used this speech for the apostles' salvation, his specious reasoning is not to be trusted. So Job's friends falsely argued. "Truth is mighty and will prevail"—yes, ultimately, but not necessarily here and now. Gamaliel left out faith, an omission which invalidates his conclusions and makes it impossible to accept as witnesses for God

yourselves, as to these men, what you are about to be committing.

you are about to be committing.

36 For before these days Theudas rose, saying that he is somebody, to whom men numbering about four hundred inclined, who was assassinated, and as many as were persuaded by him were all disbanded, and nothing came of it.

37 After this Judas, the Galilean, rose in the days of the registration, and draws away people after him, and he was destroyed, and as many as were persuaded by him

many as were persuaded by him are all scattered. And now I am saying to you, Withdraw from these men and let them alone, seeing that, if this counsel or this work should be of men, it will be demolished,

39 yet if it is of God, you will not be able to demolish them—lest at some time you may be found fighters against God also."

40 Now they are persuaded by him, and, calling the apostles, and lashing them, they charge them not to be speaking in the name of Jesus,

41 and release them. They, indeed, then, went from the face of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they were deemed worthy to be dishonored for

⁴² the sake of the Name. Besides, every day, in the sanctuary and at the homes, they ceased not teaching and preaching the evangel of Christ Jesus.

6 Now in these days of multiplying disciples, there came to be a murmuring of the Hellenists against the Hebrews that their widows were overlooked in the daily dispensation. Now the twelve, calling for the multitude of the disciples, say, "It is not pleasing

16001		ACTS OF TH	IE APOSTLES	CHAPTERS 5-6
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38 ARE-THRU-S	CATTERED	CANKAIT 60	CTAHOYNONTO or-multiplying	NTONMAOHT 60 OF-THE LEARNEIS
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TEN THE Multitude OF-THE LEARNERS

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such as "the last apostles, death doomed, seeing that we became a gazing stock to the world and to messengers and to men" (1Co.49-13).

- 1 It is important to grasp clearly the distinction between the "Hebrews" and "Hellenists." The latter were not gentiles. They were Israelites just as really as the Hebrews. The Hellenists were those in the nation who had renounced the ancient customs and traditions to a large extent and had taken up Greek culture. All classes spoke Greek, but the Hebrews also used an Aramaic vernacular in familiar intercourse. The Hellenists were largely those Jews who had resided in foreign lands and had acquired the customs and manners of the Greeks. In one sense the Hellenists were Hebrews, but this term gradually came to be confined to those who were true to the old traditions. Thus, when Paul speaks of himself as a Hebrew of the Hebrews he means that he was not a Hellenist, but had clung closely to Judaism and had resisted the influence of foreign culture and customs. usual definition of a Hellenist, "a Greek-speaking Jew," is not adequate, for all Jews spoke Greek. Our Lord and His apostles used it in their public discourses and the most illiterate could understand them. Only occasionally did they use Aramaic expressions. The Hebrews looked down on the Hellenists, hence they formed a separate class of disciples.
- 5 Though these seven names are all Greek, the fact that one proselyte, Nicholas, was included, seems to indicate that all parties were represented. Only the first two are mentioned again in the Scriptures. They do not seem to have confined themselves to the serving of tables, but took a leading part in the evangel.
- There were hundreds of synagogues in Jerusalem, some of which were maintained by the various groups of Jews in foreign lands. About B. C. 63 Pompey carried a large number of Jews to Rome. When they were liberated and returned to Judea, they formed the synagogue of the Freedmen. These synagogues seem to have been composed mostly of Hellenists. In all probability Saul of Tarsus belonged to the synagogue of Cilicia.

- for us, leaving the word of God, to be serving at tables. Now, brethren, pick out seven reputable men from among you, full of the spirit and wisdom, whom we will place over
- 4 this need. Yet we shall be persevering in prayer and the dispensation of the word."
- And the word pleases the entire multitude, and they choose Stephen, a man full of faith and holy spirit, and Philip and Prochoros and Nicanor and Timon and Parmenas and Nicholas, a proselyte of
- ⁶ Antioch, whom they stand before the apostles. And, praying, they place hands on them.
- And the word of God grows, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem was multiplied tremendously. Besides, a vast throng of priests obeyed the faith.
- Now Stephen, full of grace and power, did great miracles and signs among the people. Now there rise certain of the synagogue which is termed Freedmen, and of the Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and the [province of] Asia, discussing with Stephen.
- ¹⁰ And they had not the strength to withstand the wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke.
- 11 Then they suborned men, saying that, "We have heard him speaking declarations blaspheming Moses 12 and God." Besides, they stir up the people and the elders and the
- the people and the elders and the scribes, and, standing by, they grip him, and led him into the

17001 ACTS OF THE APOSTLES CHAPTER 6 **WHEITANOYKAPECTONECT²⁰** ÉŇKAI€∏∧HθYN€TOOAPIθ™ THEY-SAY NOT PLEASING was-multiplied THE NUMBER INHMACKATAAEIYANTACT 40 MOCTONMABHTONENIEPOY # leaving OF-THE LEARNERS JERUSALEM ONVOLONTOABEOAVIVKON **CAΛΗΜCΦΟΔΡΑΠΟΛΥCTEOX** ⁶⁰ OF-THE God VEHEMENT MANY BESIDES TO-BE-THRU-SERV-81# JUDA-ans IOYAAION
AOCTONIEPEONYTHKOYON 80 E (I) **ΕΙΝΤΡ**ΑΠΕΖΑΙ**C**ΕΠΙCΚΕΨΑ∞ 3 ING THRONG OF-THE BACRED-ones obeyED to-tables TO-ON-NOTE MEGA AH brothers omitted by A COALAEAAEAO LANAPACE100 ΤΗΠΙΟΤΕΙΟΤΕΦΑΝΟΟΔΕΠ ΑΘ YET brothers MEN 8 to-THE BELIEF Stephen OUT YET FULL **ZYMONMAPTYPOYMENOYCE** HPHCX APITOCKAIAYNAME 20 OF-YOUp beING-witnessED OF-grace AND OF-ABILITY. SEV-TATAHPEICTNEYMATOCK 40 OCETOIEITEPATAKAICHM® SIGNS FULL OF-spirit MIRACLES AND LIOA HOTA AICOPIACOYCKAT ACTHCO® EIAMETAAAENTWAAQANEC® WISDOM WHOM WE-SHALL-BE-DOWN-STAND-IN THE PEOPLE UP-STAND GREAT THCANAGTINGCT WHEKTHC 80 8 0. MENERITHCXPEIACTAYTH® this THE need YET ANY OF-THE OUT OF-THE B singular H C CYNAPOPHCTONAEPOMENO700 ϹΗΜΕΙCΔΕΤΗΠΡΟCΕΥΧΗΚΑΏ TOGETHER-LEAD OF-THE ones-being-said YET to-THE Draver AND C NAIBEPTINONKAIKY PHNA 20 ΙΤΗΔΙΑΚΟΝΙΑΤΟΥ ΛΟΓΟΥΠ 20 to-THE THRU-SERVICE OF-THE saving freedmen AND OF-CYRENIANS ΙΦΝΚΑΙΑΛΕΣΑΝΔΡΕΦΝΚΑΙΦ POCKAPTEPHCOMENKAIHP ** AND OF-ALEXANDRINES 5 BE-persevering AND PLEAS-AND A omits AND ASIA **ECENOAOFOCENOMIONMAN®** TONATIONIAIKIACKAIACI® THE saying IN-VIEW OF-THE-Ones FROM CILICIA AND **ACCYNZHTOYNTECTOCTEO®** ΤΟς ΤΟΥ ΠΑΗΘΟΥ ΟΚΑΙΘΣΕΛ 🛚 to-THE Stephen multitude AND THEY-choose TOGETHER-SEEKING EZANTOCTEDANON AND PATIO **ANOKAIOYKICXYONANTIC**® WREATH (Stephen) MAN FULL 10 AND NOT THEY-were-strong to-with-AHPHCTICTE CKAITNEYM 20 THNAITHCOOIAKAIT@NNE® OF-BELIEF AND OF-spirit to-the wisdom and to-the spirit **ΑΤΟCΑΓΙΟΥΚΑΙΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΝ** ΥΜΆΤΙΦΕΛΆΛΕΙΤΟΤΕΥΠΕΒ 🛭 AND FOND-HORSE (Philip) to-which he-talked then THEY-UNDER-R2 (1) KAITPOXOPONKAINIKANO® **AAONANAPACAEFONTĂCOT®** Prochoros AND Nicanor saying that PAKAITIMONAKAINAPMEN® 81* SRYING A G F O

I AKHKOAMENAYTOY A A A OY 80 TIMON AND PARMENAS WE-HAVE-HEARD or-him TALKING s, omitting INTO, had -IAC **МТОСРНМАТАВЛАСФНМА€І**™ **ΑΝΚΑΙΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΝΠΡΟCΗΛΥ** AND CONQUER-PEOPLE (Nicholas) TOWARD-COMER declarations HARM-AVERring

^{AB+6} EKINHCANTETON∧<u>AO</u>NK<u>A</u>I ® ΝΕΝΦΠΙΟΝΤΦΝ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΦΝ 40 OF-THE commissioners GETHER-STIR BESIDES THE PEOPLE KAITPOCEYZAMENOIETTE6 TOY CIT PECBY TEPOYCKAIT® AND praying THEY-ON-SENIORS AND THE 81* omits on-standing **HKANAYTOICTACXEIPACK®** OYCFPAMMATEICKAIETIC® 7 PLACE to-them AND THE HANDS ON-STAND-**ΣΙΟ ΛΟΓΟCΤΟΥΘΕΟΥΗΥΞΏΝ**500 TANTECCYNHPHACANAYTO18000 OF-THE God THEY-TOGETHER-SNATCH him THE saying GROWS-TIP

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13 These synagogues were doubtless very lax in their adherence to the Jewish law and customs, yet they are not ashamed to charge Stephen with this, in order to inflame the Sanhedrin against him. The false witness did not consist in trumping up charges with no foundation in fact, but in perverting the truth, just as was done in the case of our Lord. Indeed, they brought up the very same charge (Mt 2661). While Christ was on earth, His body was the true temple of God (Jno.221). Jehovah did not inhabit Herod's splendid pile. It did not house the Shekinah glory. The only times that it was tenanted by the Divine Effulgence was when He came into its courts. When He left it the last time. He exclaimed, "Lo! your house is left to you desolate!" (Mt.23 Stephen had doubtless brought this truth home to them, and perhaps had also pressed our Lord's prediction concerning the destruction of Herod's shrine, so that not one stone should be left on another (Mt.242). But in no case could he have said that Christ (Whom they contemptuously termed the Nazarene) would Himself destroy the temple. On the contrary, He said that, when they destroyed it, He would raise it up (Jno.219). This He did in His resurrection (Jno.222). And now the glory of God's presence illuminates the face of Stephen, so that he becomes, for the time, the messenger, or angel of God to them.

The address of Stephen is a model for presenting the Messiah to the Jews. They stumbled at His sufferings and rejection, so Stephen takes up the greatest of the nation's heroes, who were types of Messiah, and shows that, in each case, there was a preliminary separation or rejection. Abraham was compelled to leave his kindred and his father's house, Joseph was hated by his brethren, Moses was not recognized when he first came to help his people, even David, that unparalleled type of the coming King, not only spent years in rejection, but had to leave the building of the temple to Solomon. All of these are pictures of a rejected Messiah. In each the glory followed suffering and separation. Such is the picture which the ancient scriptures draw, and the inference is clear that Jesus is Messiah. 13 Sanhedrin. Besides, false witnesses stand up, saying, "This man does not cease talking, [making] declarations against this holy place and 14 the law for we have heard him say.

14 the law, for we have heard him saying that this Jesus the Nazarene will be demolishing this place and will be changing the customs which

Moses gives over to us." And, looking intently at him, all those seated in the Sanhedrin perceived his face as if it were the face of a messenger.

Now the chief priest said, "Are ² these things so?" Now he averred, "Men, brethren and fa-55 thers, hear! The God of glory was seen by our father Abraham, being in Mesopotamia, ere he dwelt in Haran, and said to him, 'Come out of your land and from among your relationship and come hither into the land which I shall be showing to you.' Then, coming out of the land of the Chaldeans, he dwells in Haran, and thence, after the death of his father. He exiles him into this land in which you are now dwelling. And He gives him no allotment to enjoy in it, nor a platform for a foot.

And He promises to give it to him for a tenure and to his seed af
ter him, he having no child. Yet God speaks thus, that "his seed shall be a sojourner in an alien land, and they shall enslave it and illtreat it four hundred years. And the nation for which they should be slaving I shall judge", said God, "and after these things they shall

18 ⁰⁰¹		E APOSTLES	CHAPTERS 6-
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² Abram was first called out of his land and from his relatives, and went as far as Haran, accompanied by his father's household. Further obedience to the divine command seems to have been hindered by his father, and they went no further. At his father's death, he leaves his father's house and completes his journey to Canaan. Yet he received none of the land which should become his, and thus prefigures Him Who came to his own and received nothing but a tomb (Gen.23). The rite of circumcision likewise tells of the cutting off of His flesh on the cross.

9 Joseph is a marvelous miniature of the suffering and glorified Messiah. The jealous hatred of his brethren placed him in the pit and in the prison, but God was with him and exalted him to the highest place on earth. He became the deliverer, not only of his own brethren, but of all of Egypt also. The one whom they despised and illtreated became their lord and saviour. The Sanhedrin could hardly miss the application of this to the Messiah Whom Stephen proclaimed. They were the brethren of Messiah ben Joseph.

¹¹ The great affliction of Jacob is typical of the great affliction of the end time, after which Messiah will make Himself known to His brethren.

14 The Septuagint, or Greek version, differs from the Hebrew text in Genesis 4626-27 by giving Joseph nine sons in place of two, and thus bringing the total up to seventy-five. But, as the enumeration in Genesis does not necessarily include all who are alluded to by Stephen, there is no reason why they should give the same total. The Septuagint differs greatly from the Hebrew text in regard to numbers, especially in the genealogies, and it may preserve some true readings.

16 The bones of Joseph were transferred from Egypt to the land by Moses (Ex.1319). So the rest of the patriarchs were transferred to Sychem, where Jacob had bought a parcel of a field (Gen.3319), probably near, or adjoining the sepulcher which Abraham had bought before, of which there is no record in Genesis. If Stephen had made even a minute blunder regarding this the Sanhedrin would soon have set him right. They were much "higher" critics than any we have today.

be coming out and offering divine service to Me in this place."

And He gives him the covenant of circumcision. And thus he begets Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day, and Isaac Jacob, and Jacob the twelve patriarchs.

And the patriarchs, being jealous of Joseph, gave him up into Egypt.

10 And God was with him, and extricates him out of all his afflictions, and gives him favor and wisdom in front of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and constitutes him governor over Egypt, and over his whole house.

Now a famine came on the whole of Egypt and Canaan, and the affliction was great, and our fathers

12 found no provender. Now Jacob, hearing that there is grain in Egypt, delegates our fathers first.

13 And in the second [time] Joseph is made known again to his brethren, and Joseph's race became apparent to Pharaoh.

Now Joseph, dispatching them, calls for Jacob, his father, and the entire relationship among seventy-

¹⁵ five souls. And Jacob descended into Egypt, and he is deceased, he

16 and our fathers, and they were transferred to Sychem and placed in the tomb which Abraham purchases for a price, in silver, from the sons of Emmor in Sychem.

Now, as the time of the promise which God avows to Abraham drew near, the people grow and were ¹⁸ multiplied in Egypt, until a different king arose over Egypt, who had

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18 It is probable that the lot of Israel in Egypt was pleasant under the dynasty which was acquainted with Joseph, who made these rulers absolute masters in Egypt, for he got for them all the silver and the cattle and the land in exchange for grain, in the time of the famine (Gen.47). Such service could not be forgotten. So it was that Israel prospered in the land of Goshen until the reigning dynasty was displaced by a different line of rulers, who knew nothing of Joseph and were not indebted to him for their power.

20 Moses is a memorable example of God's method of meeting the wisdom of the world. Pharaoh plans the extermination of the Hebrew race, yet he himself nurtures and educates their

deliverer!

²² Egypt is set before us as the sum of human wisdom, as Assyria was of human power. The Egyptian priests had a knowledge of science which, in some points at least, far surpassed what is known today. No scientist can accomplish the feats of Jannes and Jambres. Moses was far beyond our present standards of intellectual attainment.

28 The incident concerning Moses' rejection by his brethren at his first attempt to become their deliverer must have had a powerful effect on the Sanhedrin, for nothing would appeal to them more than a parallel between Moses and Messiah. Except to the most hardened heart, the fact that Moses was, in the first place, scorned by those whom he came to save, and his efforts in their behalf misunderstood, proved positively that Messiah would receive similar treatment. As Pharaoh menaced the life of Moses, so Herod sought the life of Christ. As his own people cast out Moses and refused to accept the salvation he offered them. so the Jews murdered the Messiah and rejected His deliverance. And we may add, as Moses came back and led them out, so will Messiah return and lead them into the blessings of the millennial kingdom.

30 The flaming thorn bush is a notable symbol of the nation of Israel. They were in the midst of the fire of persecution and have often been since they came out of Egypt, yet they are never consumed. They are the only eonian

nation.

not been acquainted with Joseph.

19 This one, dealing astutely with our race, illtreats the fathers, making them expose their babes, that they

20 should not live. In which era Moses was born (and was divinely handsome), who was reared three months in the home of his father.

²¹ Now, at his being exposed, Pharaoh's daughter lifts him up and

²² rears him herself, for a son. And Moses was trained in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, yet was able in his words and works.

Now as his forty-year time is completed, it came up on his heart to visit his brethren, the sons of Is-

²⁴ rael. And, perceiving one being injured, he succors him, and avenges the one being harried, smiting the

²⁵ Egyptian. Now he inferred that his brethren understood that God, through his hand, is giving salvation to them: yet they do not un-

²⁶ derstand. Besides, the ensuing day he was seen by them as they fought, and he interceded with them for peace, saying, 'Men! You are brethren! Why are you injuring

²⁷ one another?' Yet he who is injuring his associate thrusts him from him, saying, 'Who constitutes you a

²⁸ chief and a justice over us? Do you want to despatch me in the manner you despatched the Egyptian yes-

²⁹ terday?' Now Moses fled at this word, and became a sojourner in the land of Midian, where he begets two sons.

And at the completion of forty years a messenger was seen by him in the wilderness of mount Sinai, in the fire of the flaming thorn bush.

31 Now Moses, perceiving it, marvels at the vision. Yet, at his approach-

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80 He Who is especially referred to as Jehovah in the Hebrew scriptures is here called a messenger or angel. The same term is used of the One seen by Moses on mount Sinai (53). Hence it is evident that the theophanies, or visible appearances of the invisible God, were carried out by intermediate agents. Indeed, the deity is identified with the messenger even in Exodus. First we are told that the angel of the Lord appeared in the midst of the bush. And when Jehovah saw, that he turned aside to see, Elohim called unto him out of the midst of the bush (Ex.32-4). The same is true of the giving of the law at Sinai. Moses went up unto Elohim, and Jehovah called unto him out of the mountain (Ex.193). Yet we are assured that the law was prescribed through messengers in the hands of a mediator (Gal.319), and that it was spoken by messengers (Heb.22). 85 The prime point with Stephen is that it was the one whom they had disowned who was chosen by God to be their redeemer and judge. with Messiah. The fact that He had been disowned was no proof that He was false. It was, rather, the great sign which identified Him with the types of old, for Moses was rejected by the people even after he led them out of Egypt and had received the law and wrought wonderful miracles to attest his office. This should be the key note in all evangelism of the people of the covenant. A prophet like Moses must suffer at the hands of his own This thought ought also to people. cheer the hearts of His lesser slaves, who find themselves rejected and despised because of their faithfulness to Him.

36 The forty years covered by the book of Acts is the antitype of the wilderness wanderings. It is characterized by the same stubborn unbelief which strewed the bones of Israel along the wilderness, so that those who left Egypt did not enter the land of promise. Neither did those of the Pentecostal era enter the kingdom. The epistle to the Hebrews unfolds this likeness, for it was written to explain why the promise of the kingdom waits.

37 Accused of disloyalty to Moses, he proves the falsity of the charge by his constant reference to Moses' writings.

ing to consider it, the voice of the ³² Lord came, 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob.' Now Moses, becoming in a tremor, dared not consider it.

Now the Lord said to him, 'Loose the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you stand is 34 holy land. I have certainly perceived the evil treatment of My people in Egypt, and their groaning I hear, and I descended to extricate them. And now, come hither, I should dispatch you into Egypt.' This Moses, whom they disown, saying, 'Who constitutes you a chief and a justice over us?' this one has God commissioned to be a chief as well as a redeemer, a justice, with the hand of the messenger who was seen by him in the thorn 36 bush. This one led them out, doing miracles and signs in the land of Egypt and in the Red Sea, and in 37 the wilderness forty years. This is the Moses who says to the sons of Israel. 'A Prophet will God be raising up to you from among your 38 brethren, as me.' This is he who / cume to be in the ecclesia in the wilderness with the messenger who speaks to him in mount Sinai, and with our fathers, who receives the 39 living oracles to give to you, to whom our fathers will not become obedient, but they thrust him away. and turned to Egypt in their hearts. 40 saying to Aaron, 'Make us gods who will go before us—for this man

Moses, who led us out of the land

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41 Idolatry is, etymologically, the offering of divine service to that which can be perceived by the senses. In this way, all objects of worship, even if they are supposed to be representations of the true God, are idols. God will have no images of Himself but One—His beloved Son. He is the Image of the invisible God (Col.115). The idolatry here mentioned is usually retheir conduct at that time was hardly the occasion of the Babylonian exile. In neither Amos (525-27) nor Acts is the time given, but it was, most likely. in the days of the kings, before the captivity. One of the causes of their exile was that they had transgressed very much after all the abominations of the nations (2Chron.3614). In the land they corrupted the form of the wilderness worship, substituting the tabernacle of Moloch for the testimony which Jehovah had directed to be constructed according to the model Moses had seen. It is possible that the Hebrew should be translated "your king". rather than "Moloch". Amos writes concerning Israel (Amos11), so that the reference may be to their first king, Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who caused Israel to sin. He, like Aaron, made a "calf" or bull for the people to worship. In fact, he made two, and placed one in Bethel and the other in Dan (1 Ki.1225-30). In one case it was a revolt from the prophet of Jehovah. in the other it was secession from the rightful king and the house of David. Besides the false tabernacle, they also had a substitute for the glory, which seems to have been an image of one of the constellations. Thus they worshiped the "host of heaven". Raiphan, or Remphan, is sometimes identified with Saturn, but it is not certain.

44 Stephen is charged with speaking against the temple. Hence he traces God's dwelling place to the temple of Solomon, yet proves from scripture that the true temple is not made with hands. The God of glory had left that temple tenantless (Eze.93,104,18,1123) and had taken up His abode in His Son, as He had tabernacled amongst them, full of grace and truth (Jn.114). And now the glory was in their midst, irradiating the face of Stephen. 48 The quotation from Isaiah provoked

opposition. See Ac.2222.

of Egypt, we are not aware what became of him.'

And they make a calf in those days and they led up the sacrifice to the idol, and made merry with 42 the works of their hands. God turns and gives them up to ferred to Israel in the wilderness. But the offering divine service to the host of heaven, according as it is written in the scroll of the prophets, 'Do you not offer Me slain victims and sacrifices forty years in the 43 wilderness. O house of Israel? And you took up the tabernacle of Moloch and the constellation of your god Raiphan, the models which you make, to worship them. And I shall be exiling you beyond Babylon.'

The tabernacle of the testimony was with our fathers in the wilder-38 ness, according as He prescribes, speaking to Moses to make it according to the model which he had seen. 45 which our fathers succeeding him. with Joshua, also led into the tenure of the nations, whom God thrusts out from the face of our 46 fathers, till the days of David, who found favor before God. And he requests that he may find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob.

Yet Solomon builds Him a 48 house, but the Most High is not dwelling in what is made by hands, according as the prophet is 49 saving, "Heaven is My throne, yet the earth is a footstool for My feet. What kind of house shall be built for Me?" the Lord is saying, "or what is the place of 50 My stopping? Is it not My hand that does all these things?",

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⁵¹ A review of Israel's history reveals a series of apostasies. All of God's spokesmen suffered at their hands. Even while maintaining the outward form they were always at variance with the holy spirit. This charge is of special import at this time, for this is the first great crisis in this book. The holy spirit's testimony to Jerusalem is summarily rejected. The question, Wilt Thou at this time restore the kingdom to Israel? receives an emphatic negative, so far as Jerusalem and Judea are concerned. The testimony now goes to Samaria.

55 Stephen begins his address with "the God of glory" and now he beholds the glory in heaven, and Jesus standing, ready to return and bless them should they repent. After this He is always represented as seated, 'His work accomplished, waiting until the apostate nation is ready to receive Him as their Messiah.

59 Like his Master, Stephen prays for his murderers with his last breath. But, for the nation, this sin against the holy spirit could not be pardoned. Until

Paul's last visit, we hear of no further testimony in Jerusalem.

55 Stephen was the messenger sent after the departed Nobleman with the message "We do not want this man to reign over us!" (Lu.1914).

With Stephen was interred the hope of the kingdom. Yet at the same time God begins to hint at another testimony of a very different character. The kingdom called for righteousness. It visited iniquity with swift judgment. In preparing for the new departure, God introduces Saul of Tarsus, not as a just or holy man, but as a malignant and vicious enemy. This is necessary because He is about to deal with those who are sinners and enemies on the ground of grace. Grace cannot be shown to those who deserve aught. Merit mars it and hinders its outflow. Saul was, in very truth, the foremost of sinners. He exceeded the most rabid of the Sanhedrin in his hatred of Messiah and His people. If any man deserved to be damned, that man was Saul of Tarsus. Yet, eventually, he it is who is raised to the highest pinnacle of glory—far beyond the fondest hopes of Stephen or the twelve apostles. Such is the potency of grace when it is unhindered by human help!

ever clashing with the holy spirit!

52 As your fathers, you also! Which of the prophets do not your fathers persecute? And they kill those who announce beforehand concerning the coming of the Just One, of Whom now you became traitors and murderers—who got the law by the mandate of messengers and do not maintain it!"— #:37

Now, hearing these things, they were harrowed in their hearts, and 55 gnashed their teeth at him. Now, possessing the fullness of faith and holy spirit, looking intently into heaven, he perceived God's glory and Jesus standing at the right

56 hand of God, and said, "Lo! I am beholding the heavens opened up, and the Son of Mankind standing at

the right hand of God." Now, crying with a loud voice, they press their ears and rush on him with one
 accord. And, casting him outside of the city, they pelted him with

stones.

And the witnesses placed their garments at the feet of a young man called Saul.

And they pelted Stephen with stones, while he is invoking and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Now, kneeling, he cries with a loud voice, "Lord, Thou shouldst not stand this sin against them!" And, saying this, he was put to repose.

8 Now Saul was endorsing his assassination. 9:11.

Now in that day there came to be a great persecution of the ecclesia which is in Jerusalem, and they were all dispersed among the districts of Judea and Samaria, save

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⁴ We now enter the second cycle of the kingdom testimony. Jerusalem and Judea have not heeded its proclamation. It is now offered to Samaria, then it will go to the limits of the land, and even to the proselytes like the eunuch and Cornelius. Thus it was that the Lord had commanded (18).

After the ten tribes, whose capital was Samaria, were exiled, the king of Assyria sent colonists to repopulate the country (2 Ki.1724-27). They intermarried with the remaining Israelites and thus sprang the mixed race of the Samaritans. Because the Jews would not recognize them or allow them to help in rebuilding the temple, they stirred up the Persian king against the Jews, and hindered the work of restoration. They also built their own temple on mount Gerizim and worshiped according to the law. They recognized only the five books of Moses. Thus sprang up a jealous antagonism between them and the Jews, so that the latter refused to have any dealings with them. As they, however, worshiped Jehovah and taught the law and had a strain of Jewish blood, it was fitting that they should hear the proclamation of Christ, after Judea had been evangelized. Physically they were nearer the Jews than any other nation. Thus the widening testimony to the kingdom spread, until the evangel reaches the limits of the land. Then it is carried beyond by means of Saul, who at this time, was its chief opponent.

The Roman Empire was overrun with fortune tellers and jugglers and magicians, many of whom were Jews. The Samaritans were a simple, credulous people, and in their amazement, they gave Simon the place which belongs to Christ. But when the evan-gel came, Simon himself was amazed for he could see that it was accompanied with a power such as he had never known. His case is an example of "faith" founded on miracles, which is very different from the faith which is based on God's word, apart from the evidence of the senses. Many believed in the Lord when they beheld the signs which He did, yet Jesus did not entrust Himself to them, because He knew what was in humanity (Jn.2 28-25).

² the apostles. Yet pious men are Stephen's pall-bearers and make a great grieving over him.

Now Saul devastated the ecclesia: going into the homes, dragging out men as well as women, he gave them over to jail.

over to jair.

They indeed, then, who are dispersed, passed through, evangelizing the word. Now Philip, coming

down into the city of Samaria, proclaimed Christ to them. Now the

throngs with one accord heeded the things being said by Philip, on hearing them and observing the signs which he did. For many of

signs which he did. For many of those having unclean spirits, imploring with a loud voice, they came out. Now many who were paralytics and lame were cured.

8 Now much joy came to be in that

city.

Now a certain man named Simon belonged in the city before, using magic and amazing the nation of the Samaritans, saying himself to be some great one, whom they all heeded, from the small to the great, saying "This is the power of the god, which is called Great."

¹¹ Now they heeded him because of the considerable time the magic has amazed them.

Now when they believe Philip preaching the evangel concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized,

¹³ men as well as women. Now Simon himself also believes, and, being baptized, was waiting on Philip. Besides, beholding the great signs and powers occurring, he is amazed.

24***	ACIS OF In.	E APOSILES	CHAPTER 8
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6KKAHCIANKAT		MAPÉIACAET ON MARIA	CINAITIN 40
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OITONAOFONOIA 5 THE saying Philip	VINNOCAE 60	EIXONAEAYT WA	HRU THE to-enough
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AYTOICTONXPIC 6 to-them THE ANOINTED		O- *1e	Philip WELL-
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AGNAPAAGAYMG YET HAVING-been-paralyzed	NOIKAIX (D500 AND LAME	TECHMEIAKAIAY	CNAME ICM ²⁵⁰⁰⁰ GREAT

14 As our Lord told the woman at the well, salvation is of the Jews. And moreover, the twelve apostles were appointed to have jurisdiction over the whole land, including Samaria. Hence, holy spirit is not imparted to them except through the mediacy of the apostles. This is in marked contrast with the case of Cornelius and his friends, who received holy spirit without baptism or the laying on of hands. It is evident from this that physical affinity and miracles hinder rather than help the outflow of the spirit.

The exceptional dealing with the Samaritan believers, who were a circumcised people, is seen in the fact that, though repentant and baptized, they had not received the holy spirit upon these conditions as promised by Peter to the believers in Jerusalem (Ac.288). The ancient schism must now end, and Samaria must acknowledge Jerusalem as God's earthly seat of government. The supreme gift can be bestowed only as they recognize their dependence on Peter and John as come down

from Jerusalem.

18 To this day men fondly imagine that spiritual gifts may be bought with money. One of the most delusive and disastrous notions in the church today is that a billion dollar budget will buy billions worth of spiritual benefit. God's gratuities are not sold to the best bidder; we cannot gain His grace with gold. Any effort to bribe Him can only bring down His displeasure. Would that there were more like Peter, who spurned the silver which sought to buy the benefits of the evangel! The church has sunk so low that it is eager to trade its blessings for sordid gain. Peter would lose prestige today if he would not take advantage of such an opportunity to add a goodly sum to the fund for the furtherance of the kingdom!

19 Among the nations, in Paul's later ministries, the spirit is received on believing, without the intervention of apostles, or baptism, or laying on of hands (Eph.113). And with the removal of such mediate causes, the effect of holy spirit's presence also changes. It is no longer manifest in signs which confirmed the coming of the kingdom, such as the gift of tongues and healing, but in the love, joy and peace which become God's dwelling place.

Now the apostles in Jerusalem, hearing that Samaria has received the word of God, dispatch to them

15 Peter and John, who, descending, pray concerning them so that they may be obtaining holy spirit,

16 for it was not as yet fallen on any of them, only, having been baptized, they belonged to the name of

17 the Lord Jesus. Then they place their hands on them and they obtained holy spirit.

Simon, perceiving that Now through the imposition of the hands of the apostles the spirit is being

given, offers them money, saying, "Give me also this authority, that on whomsoever I may be imposing hands, he may be obtaining holy spirit."

Yet Peter said to him, "May your silver be for destruction together with you, seeing that you infer that the gratuity of God is to be acquired by means of money!

²¹ There is neither part nor lot for you in this matter, for your heart

²² is not straight in front of God. Repent, then, from this evil of yours, and be beseeching the Lord. if. consequently, the notion of your

heart will be forgiven you. For I see you are in the bile of bitterness

and the fetter of injustice."

Now answering, Simon said, "You be beseeching the Lord for my sake so that none of the things you have declared may be coming on me. 22 feet to a ser the part of the feet

They indeed, then, who certify and speak the word of the Lord. returned to Jerusalem. They evangelized many of the villages of the Samaritans, besides.

s1* them YC ELYVACLEINOMEN VCETIC» INENTPOCAYTONTOAPTYP 20 BECOMING him TOWARD THE SILVER 81*+N TATOAKOYCANTECAEOIEN# IONCOYCYNCOIEIHEICAT# HEARing YET THE IN OF-YOU TOGETHER to-YOU MAY-BE INTO de-**WAGIANOTITHNA WPGANTO®** IEPOCOAYMOICA TOCTOAO® JERUSALEM! struction that THE gratuity OF-THE commissioners ΙΟΤΙΔΕΔΕΚΤΑΙΗ ΚΑΜΑΡΕΙ 80 Y 86 OY ENOMICA C∆IAXPHM™ that HAS-RECEIVED THE SAMARIA yoπ-infer THRU moneys 81* XPICTOY ANOINTED ATONAOFONTOY BEOYATIECIO ATONKTACOALOYKECTING 600 THE OF-THE God TO-BE-ACQUIRING saving THEY-COM-NOT IS TEIAANTPOCAYTOYCHETP 20 OIMEPICOYAEKAHPOCENT²⁰ TOWARD them Peter VOII PART NOT-YET LOT mission ONKALIWANNHNOLTINECK® **ΦΛΟΓΦΤΟΥΤΦΗΓΑΡΚΑΡΔΙΑ 4** 15 AND JOHN WHO-ANY DOWNthis THE for HEART COYOYKECTINEYBEIAENA® ATABANTECHPOCHYZANTO " THEY-pray OF-YOU NOT TS WELL-PLACED IN-INSTEAD NTITOYBEOYMETANOHCON ** ΠΕΡΙΔΥΤΦΝΟΠΦΟΛΑΒΦΟΙΝ 80 WHICH-how THEY-MAY-BE-GETTING22 ABOUT them OF-THE God after-MIND-YOU ΠΝΕΥΜΑΑΓΙΟΝΟΥΔΕΠΌΓΑΡ200 ΟΥΝΑΠΟΤΗ ΚΑΚΙΑ ΚΟ ΚΟΥΤΑ ΤΟ HOLY EVIL or-you this 16 spirit NOT-YET-as-yet for THEN FROM THE HNEHOYDENIAYTONEHINE» YTHCKAIDEHBHTITOYKYP 20 it-was on not-yet-one of-them BE-YOU-BEING-BOUND OF-THE Master HAVING-ON-TTOKOCMONONAEBEBATTI 40 IOYEIAPAA#EBHCETAICO# YET HAVING-been-DIP-FALLEN ONLY IF CONSEQUENTLY WILL-BE-BEING-FROM-LET to-CMENOLY THPXONEICTOON " ΙΗΘΠΙΝΟΙΑΤΗ ΚΑΡΔΙΑСС 60 THEY-belongED INTO THE NAME OF-THE HEART YOU THE ON-MIND OF-OMATOYKYPIOYIHCOYTOT® OYEICT APXOAHNTIKPIAC® 17 OF-THE Master then 23 YOU INTO for JESUS . BILE OF-BITTERness Bapparently O

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LAGES OF-THE SAMARITANS

ΠΝΕΥΜΑΑΓΙΟΝΠΕΤΡΟCΔΕΕ500

Peter

HOLY

20 spirit

26 It is notable that the messenger, or angel, who spoke to Philip is also called "the spirit" (29) and "the spirit of the Lord" (39). This suggests that these expressions may refer to created beings in some places where we are accustomed to understanding it of the holy spirit of God. In order to leave the subject open and not inject our own opinions or prejudices it has been thought best to spell spirit always without a capital S. This will leave the matter open to the student's own interpretation.

²⁶ Gaza, once one of the five chief cities of the Philistines, was located near the southern limits of the land, not far from the Mediterranean.

27 Ethiopia includes the country south of Egypt, of which the island of Meroe, in the upper Nile, was the chief center. The title, Candace, was usually given to the queens, who ruled in Ethiopia in ancient times. The eunuch must have been a proselyte of Judaism, to come all the way from Ethiopia to worship at Jerusalem. Ιt strange that he should not have been reached with the evangel of Christ in the holy city, where the apostles still remained. It indicates the fact that Jerusalem and Judea are apostate, for this stranger is going away without knowing the One Who fulfilled the fifty-third of Isaiah. But where God has prepared such a reader and hearer of His word as this Ethiopian, He always sends His preacher.

The kingdom, when it is set up by Christ in the day of the Lord, will reach all the descendants of Noah's sons. In the early part of Acts they are evangelized representatively. The eunuch probably traced his lineage from Ham. Cornelius was a descendant of Japheth. The Jews, of course, sprang from Shem.

32 Hezekiah, king of Judah, was the most beautiful type of Christ as the Vicarious Sufferer. The prophet Isaiah probably refers to his experience in the fifty-third chapter, in which are some statements which cannot be applied literally to the great Antitype. But the spirit charges the prophet's words with higher truth and deeper doctrine, so that Hezekiah's typical sufferings foretell the sufferings of His Lord.

Now a messenger of the Lord speaks to Philip, saying, "Rise and be going at midday on the road which is descending from Jerusalem to Gaza. This is a wilderness."

And rising, he was gone. And lo! a man, an Ethiopian eunuch, a potentate of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was over her entire exchequer, who had come, worship-

²⁸ ing, to Jerusalem. And he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and read the prophet Isaiah.

Now the spirit said to Philip, "Approach and join this chariot."

Now Philip, running toward him, hears him reading Isaiah, the prophet, and said, "You surely
 know what you are reading!" Yet

he said, "How could I, should no one be guiding me?" And he entreats Philip, stepping up, to be seated with him. Now the context

of the scripture which he read was this:

"As a sheep to slaughter was He led,

And as a lamb in front of its shearer is not bleating, Thus He is not opening His

mouth.
3 In His humiliation His judgment was taken away.

Who will be relating His generation,

Seeing that His life is being taken away from the earth?"

Now, answering, the eunuch said to Philip, "I am beseeching of you, concerning whom is the prophet saying this, concerning himself or concerning some different person?"

35 Now Philip, opening his mouth, and beginning from this scripture, evangelizes to him Jesus.

26 ⁰⁰¹	ACTS OF TH	IE APOSTLES	CHAPTER 8
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ON THE WAY	s1* adds KAAOYMEN ITHNKATABA100 THE One-DOWN-STEF-	BANTAKAGICAI 32 STEPPING TO-be-seated	CYNAYTOH600 rogether to-him the
HN being-called INOYCANATO PING FROM	EPOYCAAHM 20 JERUBALEM	ACTICPIOXHTHO YET ABOUT-HAVING OF-THE B+C	TPAOHCHN 20 WRITING WHICH
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CONSEQUENTLY SURELY YOU-ARE-KNOWING

Saul was at the stoning of Stephen (758). He endorsed his assassination, and seems to have been the leader in the persecution which followed, until Jerusalem was emptied of all disciples except the apostles.

The call of Saul is the most marvelous of all the manifestations of God's grace. It is a pattern for us who believe in this day of grace. He was the foremost of sinners, yet God made him the foremost of His saints. The grace of the Lord overwhelmed him, with faith and love in Christ Jesus (1Tim.112-16). The twelve apostles were called by the Lord on earth, before His ascension. Saul was called by the ascended glorified Lord from heaven. They were called in the land. He was called outside the land. Their ministry was confined to the land and the Hebrews of the dispersion. Paul's service was outside the land among the Hellenists and aliens. They were concerned with the earthly life of our Lord before His ascension. Paul begins with the Lord in glory.

4 This is only a brief outline of what was said. The following combines the three accounts and probably includes all that passed between Saul and the

THE LORD: Saul, Saul why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.

SAUL: Who art Thou, Lord?

THE LORD: I am Jesus, the Nazarene. Whom you are persecuting.

SAUL: What shall I do. Lord?

THE LORD: But rise and stand on your feet, for I was seen by you for this, to select you for a deputy and a witness of what you have perceived, as well as what will be seen by you, extricating you from the people and 6 from the nations, to whom I am commissioning you, to open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light, and the authority of Satan to God, for them to get the pardon of sins and an allotment among those who have been hallowed by faith that is in Me. Stand up and go into the city of Damascus, and there you will be spoken to concerning all which has been set for you to be doing.

The apparent discrepancies between this verse and 229 are easily explained when we see that the vision was intended exclusively for Saul and

Now as they went along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch is affirming, "Lo! Water! ... What is preventing me from being

38 baptized?" And he orders the chariot to stand, and they both descended into the water. Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptizes him.

39 Now when they stepped up out of the water, the spirit of the Lord snatches away Philip, and the eunuch perceived him no longer. for he went his way rejoicing:

Now Philip was found in Azotus. and, passing through, he preached the evangel in all the cities, till his coming into Cæsarea. 15am 24:19

98 Now Saul, still breathing out threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, approaching the

chief priest, requests from him letters for Damascus to the synagogues, so that, if he should be finding some who are of the way. men as well as women, he may be leading them bound to Jerusalem.

Now in his going he came to be nearing Damascus. Suddenly a light out of heaven flashes about

him. And, falling on the earth, he hears a voice saying to him. "Saul. Saul, why are you persecuting

Me?" Yet he said, "Who art Thou.

Lord?" Yet He said. "I am Jesus Whom you are persecuting. Nevertheless, rise and be entering the city. and it will be spoken to you what you must be doing."

Now the men who are journeying with him had stood dumbfounded, hearing, indeed, the sound, yet beholding no one. Now Saul was raised from the earth, yet, his eyes having been opened, he observed nothing. Now, leading him by the ETIOPEYONTOKATATHNOAO® THEY-WENT according-to THE WAY

ΝΗΛΘΟΝΕΠΙΤΙΥΔΦΡΚΑΙΦΗΦ THEY-CAME ANY Water AND IS-AVER-

CINOEYNOYXOCIDOYYADD® RING THE EUNICH BE-PERCEIVING Water

TIK WAYEIMEBATITICOHNA ** ANY IS-FORBIDDING ME TO-BE-DIPIZED

Verse 37 is not in ABS IKAIEKE ÆYCENCTHNAIT100 38 AND he-ORDERS TO-STAND

OAPMAKAIKATEBHCANAMO® chariot AND THEY-DOWN-STEPPED hoth

ΟΤΕΡΟΙΕΙΟΤΟΥΔΦΡΟΤΕΦΙ 40 INTO THE Water THE BESIDES

ΛΙΠΠΟCΚΑΙΟΘΎΝΟΥΧΟCΚΑ® Philip. AND THE EUNUCH

IEBANTICENAYTONOTEAE* 39 he-DIPIZES

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not for his fellow travelers. were probably a little distance away and heard a sound and saw a light, but did not see the Person Who was speaking or recognize the sound as His voice. At first they fell on their faces, but they rose before Saul. There is a close harmony rather than any discrepancy in the various accounts.

The call of Saul is an entirely novel departure in this book. It is the first exhibition of pure grace—favor shown to one who deserves punishment—and is the key to the character of the ministries of the apostle Paul which occupy the latter half of this treatise on the proclamation of the kingdom. After the failure of the testimony in Jerusalem and Judea. Saul is called to carry it to the dispersion among the nations and to the proselytes and even to the idolaters themselves. it must be founded, not on righteousness, for they had no deserts, but on So he is called outside the land, by the Lord from heaven, while he is still the most malignant enemy of the evangel and deserving of the direst doom.

10 God graciously gives a double witness to His dealing with Saul. Ananias is quite his opposite, being a devout disciple. Saul would have found it almost impossible to join the disconfirmatory testimony to his converge Go, seeing that he is a choice insign for Appries him. sion, for Ananias himself was afraid to and what he proposed to do.

15 What grace and sovereignty is seen with in terming the terrible persecutor of His people a "choice instrument"! God's choice is not like man's. works His will in the face of human opposition. The most undeserving are the fittest instruments for the manifestation of His favor.

15 Here we have the field and scope of Paul's ministries-first and foremost to the nations, later to kings, and meanwhile to the sons of Israel among the nations.

16 Paul suffered more than any other apostle. Long before his course was completed he claimed to be foremost in this (2Co.1123-83). All who are faithful are sure to share in the privilege of suffering for Christ's sake (Phil. 129).

hand, they led him into Damascus. and he was three days without using his eyes, and he neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a certain disciple in Damascus named Ananias, and the Lord said to him in a vision. "Ananias!" Now he said, "Lo! it

11 is I. Lord!" Now the Lord to him. "Rise, go to the street called 'Straight,' and seek a Tarsian named Saul in the house of Judas. 12 for, lo! he is praying, and perceived in a vision a man named Ananias entering and placing his hands on him so that he should be recovering sight."

Yet Ananias answered. "Lord. I hear from many concerning this man, how much evil he does to Thy

¹⁴ saints in Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who are invoking Thy name." Yet the Lord said to him,

strument of Mine, to bear My name go to him, knowing what he had done 22.15 before the nations as well as kings, 24.

¹⁶ besides the sons of Israel, for I shall be intimating to him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."

Now Ananias came away and entered the house, and, placing his hands on him, said, "Brother Saul, the Lord, Jesus, Who was seen by you on the road by which you came, has commissioned me, so that you should be recovering sight and be 18 filled with holy spirit." And immediately as if scales fall from his

rising, he is baptized, and, obtaining nourishment, is strengthened.

eyes, and he recovers sight. And

11 Kin 6:14

26	ACIS OF TH	E APOSILES	CHAPTER 9
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CK CONOMATIAN to-NAME ANAM		INMOIOYTOCTO	THE TO-BEAR
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	how he-should-BE-UP-	BAEYHCKAITAF	-BEING-FILLED OF-spirit
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14 DOES IN JERUSALEM	AND	19 ing he-is-dirized	AND GETTING OH o.
here he-is-HAVING authority		NURTURE he-IN-STRONGS	BECAME

20 The Jews in the synagogues must have been greatly astonished to find this emissary of the high priest, who had come hither to stamp out the heresy of the Nazarene, boldly proclaim that He is the Son of God. None of the other apostles ever proclaim the Messiah as the Son of God in the Acts. They are chiefly interested in Him as the Son of David (229,80), the King of Israel. But Saul has become acquainted with Him in a higher, heavenly glory, hence proclaims Him, in accord with his own experience, as the Son of God. Besides, he reasoned out of the Hebrew scriptures, which foretold the Messiah, and deduced from them that He Whom he had been persecuting and Who met him on the road was indeed the Anointed One, the hope of Israel.

23 At this point occurs one of those striking omissions in the narrative which assure us that it is concerned only with the kingdom, and that Paul's epistles differ from it in purpose and scope. Paul passed a large part of three years in Arabia (Gal.117,18). This journey is included in the "considerable number of days". Where in Arabia he went is not revealed, in fact, the term itself is vague. He may have gone far south into the desert between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, which is properly called Arabia. He may have gone only a few miles from Damascus, and yet be in Arabia in the popular sense of the term. Wherever he went, and whatever he did, it is evident that it has no bearing on the narrative of Acts. Paul uses it in Galatians as evidence that he did not H. A. immediately consult those who were apostles before him, so could not have received his evangel from them. As Acts deals only with that aspect of his ministry which had contact with the commissions of the twelve, it is clear why this incident should be overlooked.

25 Elsewhere Paul tells us (2Co.11²²⁻³³) that the Jews had gained the help of the governor under Aretas the king, and his soldiers, as well as the Jews, tried to arrest him. His ignominious escape was his greatest boast.

27 Though most of the apostles were absent from Jerusalem, Paul saw the two real leaders, Peter and James. Now he came to be with the dis
20 ciples in Damascus some days. And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, that He is the Son

21 of God. Now all who are hearing are amazed and said, "Is not this the one who, in Jerusalem, ravages those who are invoking this Name? And he had come here for this, that he may lead them bound

22 to the chief priests." Yet, Saul was the more invigorated, and confused the Jews dwelling in Damascus, deducing that this One is the Christ.

Now as a considerable number of days were fulfilled, the Jews plan
to assassinate him. Yet their plot is known to Saul. Now they scrutinized the gates day as well as night, so that they may be assassinating
him. Yet the disciples, getting him at night, let him down through the wall, lowering him in a hamper.

Now, on coming along to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, and all feared him, not be
27 lieving that he is a disciple. Yet
Barnabas, getting hold of him, led
him to the apostles and relates to
them how he became acquainted
with the Lord on the road, and that
He talks to him, and how, in Damascus, he is bold in the name of
Jesus.

And he was with them, going in and out, in Jerusalem Being bold

in the name of the Lord Jesus, he talked as well as discussed with the Hellenists. Yet they take in hand

29***	ACTS OF TE	IE APOSTLES	CHAPTER 9
TODEMETATONEN YET WITH THE IN MACHIOCHERA	DAMASCUS	A omits BE ACTEKAINYKTOO BESIDES AND OF-NIGHT Is for E has All A has TILACO ONANE ACCINAA	which-how him DCIN for TMBE-UP-L.
20 LEARNERS DAYS	ANY AND	25 THEY-MAY-BE-UP-LIFTING G	ETTING YET
IEYECUCENTAIC immediately IN THE	CYNAT OF 60 TOGETHER-LEADS	OIMAGHTAIAYT THE LEARNERS OF-him	OYNYKTOC 60 OF-NIGHT
AICEKHPYCCENT he-proclaimed	TONIHCOY 80 HE JESUS	DIATOYTÉIXOY	CKAOHKAN 80 THEY-DOWN-LET
NOTIOYTOCECT	THE SON OF-	AYTONXAAACAN him Lowering	TECENCTY600 IN HAMPER
OYBEOYEZICTAN 21 THE God are-OUT-STOOD	TOAGHAN 20 YET ALL	PIAINAPARENO 26 BESIDE-BECOMING	MENOCAEE 20 YET IN-
TECOIAKOYONTO	ECKAIEAE 40	B 0.	he-triED
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OHCACEICIEPOY RAVAGINA INTO JERUBALEM	in in the will the in .	ICKAINANTECE	ARED
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OMATOYTOKAL OLD this AND here	INTO this	The tendency was a superfection of a	Barnabas
TOE AHAYOE IINA		CAGENIAABOME YET ON-GETTING	him
	E-LEADING ON THE	HEATENIPOCTO LED TOWARD THE	commissioners
CAPXIEPEICCAY 22 chief-sacred-ones SAUL	YET BATHER	AOYCKAIAIHTH	to-them
AAONENEAYNAM was-in-abled A o. As o. The om YNEXYNNENTOY	AND con-	ICTOCENTHOAD NOTHE WAY	he-PERCEIVED THE
fused THE	JUDA-ans	Master AND that	He-talks
YCTOYCKATOIKO THE ORES-DOWN-HOMIN	G IN		DAMASCUS he-
DAMASCUS TOGETHER-ST	EPPING that	AB omit OF-THE A KY = Master	N THE NAME
	OINTED AS	28 OF-THE JESUS	ND he-was with them
Laboration and resident	DAYS e-	YTONEICHOPEY	AND
ANAICYNEBOYAE nough TOGETHER-COUNEL A AL fo	THE	IEKTOPEYOMEN	INTO JER-
JUDA-ANS TO-BE-UF-LI NETNUCHAETU	FTING him	OYCAAHMTAPPH UBALEM being bold	di ing kalambaTangan. Kadangan kalamba
	SAUL THE ON-	OCENTO ONOMA IN THE NAME JESUS omitted by ABs1*	of-the Master
COUNSEL OF-them THE A Wh. THEY-SHOULD-BE	Y-BESIDE-KEPT arresting h. D. A. N.	s added TE	BESIDES AND TOGETH-
NTOACKAITACITY YET AND THE GATI		NEZHTEINPOCTO	GREEKISTS

30 Other details of Paul's stay in Jerusalem (not pertinent in this treatise) are interesting. Not only did the brethren lead him away, but the Lord Himself warned him to flee. While he was praying in the temple, in an ecstasy, the Lord urged him to hurry 11.12would not receive his testimony (2217-18). With the true tenacity of a Jew. Saul's heart's desire and petition to God for Israel was for their salvation (Ro.101). He would wish for nothing better than to be the instrument in God's hands to bring salvation to his own kith and kin. He did not yet understand God's greater purpose to bring salvation to the nations through their defection (Ro.1111). It needed more than the entreaties of his brethren to make him leave Jerusalem, so God gives him a vision, reminding him of his commission for the nations afar. 33 There is always a designed contrast between the acts of Peter and Paul. which it is most inspiring to apprehend and enjoy, for Paul dips into depths of grace and ascends to heights of glory unknown to Peter. They illustrate the distinction between mercy and grace, favor shown to those who have some claim on the divine pity and that which is wholly undeserved. Eneas should be compared to the lame man of Lystra (148). Eneas, eight years paralyzed; the lame man never The former had walked in his life. stood up, the latter leaped and walked. These are types of the "walk" of the Circumcision and Uncircumcision. The former made no progress in divine things, the latter advanced joyfully.

Eneas means praise and his paralysis symbolizes the paralysis of praise in Israel. His healing is another taste of the powers of the age to come when Jerusalem shall be a praise in the earth (Isa.4321627Jer.339). As Eneas presents to us the healing of the sinners of the people, so Dorcas shows the resurrection of the saints who have been full of good works (Un.1418). 36 Dorcas and Eutychus bring before us a picture of the former resurrection (Un.205), and the eclectic resurrection which Paul preached, which precedes it, for which we look. Dorcas was full of good acts. She was deserving. So will those be who have part in the former resurrection, who live and

30 to assassinate him. Now, realizing this, the breth ren led him down into Lack Carea, and they send him away 31 to Tarsus. Then, indeed, the eccleout of the holy city, because they 13,20 sia of the whole of Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace, being edified, and, going on in the fear of the Lord and the consolation of the holy spirit, was multiplied.

> Now it occurred that Peter, passing through all, comes down also to the saints who are dwelling at Lyd-Now he found there a certain man named Eneas, eight years lying down on a pallet, who was para-And Peter said to him, "Eneas. Jesus Christ is healing you! Rise and spread [your pallet] by yourself!" And immediately he And all those dwelling at Lydda and Saron are aware of it, who turn back to the Lord.

> Now in Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which, being interpreted, is termed Dorcas. She was full of good acts and alms which she did. Now in those days, being infirm, she came to be dying. Now, bathing her, they place her in an upper chamber.

> Now, Lydda being near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter is in it, dispatch two men to him, entreating, "You should not be sloth-39 ful in coming to us!" Now Peter,

rising, came with them, whom, coming along, they led up into the upper chamber. And beside him stand

	CHAPTER 9
ICTACOIAGETTEXEIPOYNA 26 THE-ORG YET ON-HANDED TO-BE	EYOE OCANE CTHKAIGIÁAN 20 - 35 immediately he-ur-stood and perceive
A Alfor E NEAGINAYTONETIFNONTE 40 30 UP-LIFTING him ON-KNOWING	AYTONII ANTE COIK ATO IKO 40 it THE ones-Down-HOMING
CAGOIAAGA POIKATHEA CO 60 YET THE ProtherS THEY-DOWN-LED	
NAYTONEICHAICAPEIANK SO him INTO CAESAREA AND	WHO-ANY ON-TURN
AIE ZA TECTEI ANAYTONE 100 THET-OUT-FROM-PUT him IN-	36 ON THE Master IN JOPPA YET
1CTAPCONHMENOYNEKKAH 20 31 TO TARBUS THE INDEED THEN OUT-CALLED	ETICHNMAGHTPIAONOMAT 20 ANY WAS LEARNETESS to-NAME B+G
CIAKAGOAHCTHCIOYAAIA 40 DOWN WHOLE OF-THE JUDEA B+C	TABIOA HAIGPMHNEY OME 40 TABITHA WHICH DEING-THRU-TRANSLATED
CKAITAXIAAIACKAICAMA 60 AND GALILEE AND SAMARIA s o. A has N above line	NHAEFETALA OPKACAYTHH 60 18-being-said GAZELLE (Dorcas) this-one WAS B OF ACTS GOOD
PEIACEIXEN EIPHNHNOIK 30 PEACE PEACE	NNAHPHCAFAGONGPFONKA 80 PULL OF-GOOD ACTS AND
OAOMOYMENHKAI TOPE YOM200 HOME-BUILDED AND GOING A omits of-the	OF-alms WHICH ShO DID
ENHT CONTROL OF THE MASTER AND	EFENETOAGENTAICHMEPA 20 37 BECAME XET IN THE DAYS
THRAPAKAHCEITOYAFIO 40 to-the Beside-Calling OF-the Holy	ICEKEINAICACOENHCACA 40 being-un-firm
YNEYMATOCENAHOYNETO 60 spirit	NAYTHNANOOANEINAOYCA 60 her TO-BE-FROM-DYING BATHING BATHING S' her THEY-PLACE B omits her A adds THE TO NTE CAECOHKANAYTHNENY 80
GFENGTOAGRETPONAIGPX 80 32 BECAME YET Peter THRU-COMING	YET THEY-PLACE her IN OVER-
OMENONAIATANT WNKATE A300 THRU ALL TO-BE-DOWN-	TEPOOETTYCAEOYCHCAYA800 38 apartment NEAR YET OF-BEING LYDDA B ² HA8 ² 0.
OGINKAINPOCTOYCATIOY 20 COMING AND TOWARD THE HOLY-ones s added GN IN	AACTHIONTHOIMAGHTAIA 20 to-the Joppa THE LEARNERS HEAR-
CTOYCKATOIKOYNTACAYA 40 THE ones-DOWN-HOMING LYDDA	KOYCANTECOTINETPOCEC 40 ing that Peter 18
AAGYPENAGEKGIANOPONO 60 33 he-FOUND YET there human	TINENAYTHANECTEIAANA 60 IN her THEY-commission Two
ANY to-NAME ENEAS OUT A Alfore	YOANAPACTIPOCAYTONTAP 80 MEN TOWARD bim BESIDE-
OF-YEARS EIGHT DOWN-LYING BY+B 81*K	CALLING NO YOU-SHOULD-BE-SLOTH-ING
ETIKPABATTOYOCHNTAPA 20 ON PALLET WHO WAS HAVING-been- AGAYMENOCKAIGITENAYT 40	16A06IN6 OCHMONANACTA 20 39 TO-BE-THBU-COMING TILL OF US UP-STANDING CAGNET POCCYNHAGENAYT 40
34 paralyzed AND said to-him B+6 CONETPOCAINGALATAICE®	YET Peter TOGETHER-CAME to-them OICONTAPATENOMENONAN 60
THE Peter ENEAS IS-HEALING YOU A+OKC O = THE Master JESUS THE ANOINTED HCOYCXPICTOCANACTHO 80	WHOM BESIDE-BECOMING THEY- HEATONGICTOYTHEP CHONKA 80
JESUS ANGINTED BE-UP-STANDING	UP-LED INTO THE OVER-apartment AND

IKAICTPOCONCEAYTOKA1500 AND STREW-YOU to-self AND ITAPECTHCANAYTOTACAI31000 to-him ALL

reign with Christ the thousand years (Un.204). This was in the day time. But Eutychus' case comes before us at a time which corresponds with our resurrection. It is at night, before the darkness that precedes the dawn. He had no deserts that we know of. He was drowsing (209). Nevertheless Paul brings him back to life (1Thes.5 10).

¹ The kingdom has been proclaimed in Jerusalem and rejected; it has been heralded in Judea and Samaria, and now is being carried to the limits of the land. The Ethiopian proselyte has been reached by Philip. Now a Roman "proselyte of the gate" is brought before us in the person of Cornelius.

There were two classes of proselytes: the proselytes of righteousness and the proselytes of the gate. former, by circumcision and conformation to the Jewish ritual, became incorporated into the Jewish people. The latter, called "fearers of God" or "the devout." renounced idolatry and acknowledged the God of Israel as the one true God, but were not circumcised and gave only scant heed to the ceremonial observances. Though highly esteemed, as Cornelius, they were regarded as outside the pale of Judaism, as "uncircumcised" and "of the nations." It was regarded as a crime for a Jew to enter the house of such a proselyte or to eat a meal with him.

Thus the kingdom message, as proclaimed by the twelve apostles. reaches its furthest limit in Cornelius. This accounts for the extraordinary pressure brought upon Peter, for none of the Jews thought that the proselyte of the gate was included in the kingdom commission. First the word was to the Jews only (including proselytes of righteousness), then the Hellenists are evangelized, followed by the despised Samaritans. Now that Cornelius is included, the original commission to the twelve (18) is fulfilled. The twelve never went to the nations. That was reserved for the apostle Paul (Gal.29).

As Cornelius was a Roman, descended from Japheth, and the eunuch was an Ethiopian, probably belonging to Ham, and the Jews were Shemites, all the sons of Noah were reached through their representatives. This was typical of the spread of the kingdom over

all the widows lamenting and exhibiting tunics and garments, whatever Dorcas made while she was with them.

Now Peter, ejecting them all, and kneeling, prays. And, turning about to the body, he said, "Tabitha, rise!" Now she opens her eyes,

⁴¹ and, perceiving Peter, sits up. Now, giving her a hand, he raises her. Now, summoning the saints and the widows, he presents her alive.

42 Now it became known in the whole of Joppa, and many believe 43 on the Lord. Now it occurred that he remains a considerable number of days in Joppa with a certain Simon, a tanner.

10 Now a certain man in Cæsarea, named Cornelius, a centurion, of the squadron called "Italian," devout and fearing God with his entire house, is doing many alms to the people and is beseeching God continually. He perceived in a vision apparently, as if about the ninth hour of the day, a messenger of God entering toward him and saying to him, "Cornelius!" Now, he, looking intently at him, and becoming affrighted, said, "What is it, lord?" Now he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms ascended for a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa and

send after a certain Simon, who is
surnamed Peter. This man is lodging with a certain Simon, a tanner, whose house is beside the sea."

Now as the messenger who is speaking to him came away, sum-

0 1			E APOSILES	CHAPTERS 9-10
AIXHPAI THE WIDOWS ASSIONAT	KANIOYC LAMENTING	AIKAIE 20 AND ON-	2 IKHCEYCEB	HCKAIOBOYM 20 AND FEARING
TIACIKN's BHOWING A+C	YMEN AIXI		ENOCTONOE God	ONCYNTANTIT 40 TOGETHER tO-EVERY THE
KAIIMAT AND GARMENTS	AOCAETT as-many-as mad		COIKOAYTO OF-him	OYTOIONEAEHM 60
TAYTONO BE	YCAHAOPH ING THE Dorcas	SACEKB 80	OCYNACTOA MANY	AACTOAAOKAI 80 to-the people and
CASTING YET OUT	ZONANTAC	THE Peter	beseeching or added Wsl*o. IN om	OYOGOYAIA TA600 THE God THRU-EVERY
OCKAIGE	ICTATON A	TAMPO 20 he-prays	NTOCEIAEN he-PERCEIVEI s1* omits -IF	IENOPAMATIOA 20
CHYEATO	KAIETICT	PEYAC 40 B+€	NEPOCOCE PEARLY AS-IF	ITEPIOPANENA 40 ABOUT HOUR NINth
TOWARD THE BO	OMAGING said	NTABIO 60	THNTHCHME OF-THE DAY	PACAFFE AONT 60 MESSENGER OF-
AANACTI BE-UP-STANDING	THE-one YET U	OIZENT 80 P-OPENS THE	OYOGOYGIC	EAGONTA TPOC 80 TOWARD
OYCO DO A	AMOYCAY		AYTONKAIGI	ITONTANTOK700 ING to-him COR-
IAOYCATO PERCEIVING THE	Peter A T=BESIDES	she-is-UP-seated	OPNHAIGOA NELIUS! THE-01	EATENICACAY 20 no yet stretching to-
61CENAO 41 GIVIN	YCAEAYT	HXGIPA 40	him and in-fear	BOCTENOMENO 40 BECOMING
he-up-stands	X 1 - 11 1 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	DUNDing	said Any it-	
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	ECTHCEN & he		OF-YOU AND THE alms	Omits INTO REMINDER
42 ING KNOWN	OF-THE	CAME	OYANEBHCA YOU UP-STEPPED	NEICMN HMOCY 20 INTO REMINDER
	THCIONNI OF-THE JOPPA	1CKAIE 40 AND BE-		BENTOYBEOYK 40 DE OF-THE GOD AND
TICTEYC LIEVE	MANY Belt of	ON THE	NOW BEND	ONANAPACEIC 60 MEN INTO M above line
43 Master BI		er him o.	JOPPA AND &	METATIEM PAIC 80 St.
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10 tanner MAN		IN CAESAREA	BESIDE ANY	ICIMONIBYPC 40 simon tanner
to-1	NOMATIKO	NELIUS	to-whom is he	
HUNDRED-chie		UT OF-BAND 7	AS YET 1	ATHAGENOAFF 80 FROM-CAME THE MER-
PHCTHCK:	AGCALLED ANOYMENT	OF-ITALY-ic	SENGER THE ORGITALEIN	AYTUOUNHE A 32000 NG to-him sounding

the whole earth when it will be set up in power at Christ's return. His dominion will include all the descendants of Noah's sons, and embrace all the families of the earth. His salvation will be known from sea to sea.

As the Romans despised the Jews, the signs of the operation of the spirit of God in Cornelius were very marked even before he called for Peter. Centurions were not naturally devout or in fear of God, nor did they give alms to the Jews or pray to God. Cornelius believed the scriptures or he would not have recognized Israel's supremacy. He knew God or he would not have prayed to Him continually. Hence the salvation here proclaimed to him was not prefaced by repentance. It was of the same nature as that which Peter proclaimed at Pentecost. It was a deliverance which insured his entrance into the kingdom.

According to Solomon's dedicatory petition (1Ki.841-43) that Jehovah should do all that the stranger who prayed toward His house should call for, Cornelius' prayers and alms come up for a memorial before God. Yet he must be taught that all his blessings come to him through Israel. Hence he is told to call for Peter. This is in direct antithesis to the present truth, for now, during Israel's apostasy, we get our blessings direct from God.

The location of Peter at the time is suggestive. The nations are often represented by the sea, and he had gone as far as he could on land for he was at the sea side. His hunger is typical of the hunger of God for the worship of all his creatures—not Israel alone, hence Peter is told to "sacrifice and eat." The ceremonially unclean animals must represent those among the nations whom God had cleansed. Hence we must regard Cornelius as one whom God had cleansed before Peter met him.

Peter, like all the Jews, was so prejudiced by birth and training that it was almost impossible for him to conceive of such a thing as having fellowship with a gentile, or even a proselyte of the gate, no matter how devout he might be. Henceforth the apostasy of Israel consists largely in refusing to be a channel of blessing to the nations. This led them to question Peter and persecute Paul.

moning two domestics and a devout soldier of those who waited on him. and unfolding it all to them, he dis-

patches them to Joppa.

Now on the morrow, while they are journeying and drawing near the city. Peter went up on the housetop to pray about the sixth 10 hour of the day [noon]. Now he became ravenous and wanted to taste [food]. Now, while they are preparing it, an ecstasy came on him, 11 and he is beholding heaven opened and a certain utensil descending, as a large sheet, with four edges,

let down on the earth, in which belonged all the quadrupeds and reptiles of the earth and the flying creatures of heaven.

And a voice came to him, "Rise, 14 Peter! Sacrifice and eat!" Yet Peter said, "Far be it from me, Lord, seeing that I never ate any-

15 thing common and unclean!" And a second [time], a voice [came] to him again, "What God cleanses,

16 do not you count common!" Now this occurred thrice, and immediately the utensil was taken up into heaven.

Now as Peter was bewildered in himself as to whatever the vision he perceived should be, lo! the men who have been dispatched by Cornelius, asking for the house of Simon,

stand by at the portal. And, shouting, they inquired to ascertain if Simon, surnamed Peter, is lodging in this place.

Now, as Peter is engrossed with the vision, the spirit said to him, "Lo! three men are seeking you! 20 But rise, descend and go with

32001	ACTS OF TH	E APOSTLES	CHAPTER 10
CAYOTONOIKETO	ONKAICTP 20 AND WARRIOR	I PATE O A E TE 14 BE-EATING THE YET PET	ETPOCEITENM 20 er said No-
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KAPTEPOYNTON 8 severing	to-him AND un-		ANKOINONKAI 60 VERY COMMON AND
EHTHCAMENOCA folding	MANTAAYT 80 L (emphatic) to-them	AKAGAPTON 15 unclean	KAIO WHITAAI 80 AND SOUND AGAIN
OICATECTEIAEN he-commissions	them IN-	NEKAEYTEP	TOWARD him A & A has N above line
9 TO THE JOPPA to-	THE YET ON-MORROW	AOOEOCEKA WHICH THE God cleanses	OAPICENCYMH20
IONOAOIMOPOYN	OF-those	KOINOYTOY7 16 BE-COMMONING this B 0.	TOAGGTENGTO 40 YET BECAME
NONKAITHNOAC AND to-THE city	OF-NEARING	ENITPEICK 2	
TONANEBHIETP UP-STEPPED Peter	ON THE house-	TEN THE INSTR	$\mathbf{B} o. = \mathbf{him}$
top TO-pray s ² NINth NA for K Be omit on	ABOUT HOUR,	17 ven AS YE	EENEAYTOAIH700 ET IN self was-
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OG AGNT GYCACO	or-preparing	MEN THE Ones-HAV	ing-been-commissioned by
GYAZONTWNAGA'	them BECAME	THE CORNELIUS	AIOYAIEP WTH 80 THRU-asking
8 0.	-STANDING AND	THE	HOME OF-THE 81-
He-IB-beholding THE heave	n HAVING-	MON THEY-ON-8	
	N-STEPPING	18 GATE AND S	PONHCANTECE 40 OUNDING THEY- OGICIMONOGIT 60
	GREAT	UP-ASCERTAINED	IF SIMON THE ORG-
B+E BIEMENONETITH	ORIGINALS being-	being-on-called	Peter IN-PLACE-
12 LET-DOWN ON OF-	TATETPAN 20	19 YET IS-LODGIZING	OF-THE YET Peter
DELONGED ALL OASKAIGPRETA	THE FOUR-FOOTS	THRU-IN-FEELING	
	OF-THE LAND AND	THE sight Bomits to-him	said THE spir- B TWO AYO DIAGYANAPECT ⁶⁰
13 flyers OF-THE her	TPOCAYTO 80	it to-him * O. AARE-S. PEICZHTOYN	BE-PERCEIVING MEN THREE CINO. NTECCEAAAAA80
BECAME SOUND	TOWARD him	20 SEEKING	YOU but UP-

NANACTACHETPESYCONKA500 UP-STANDING Peter! BACRIFICE AND

NACTACKATABHOIKAITOP 33000 BTANDING BE-DOWN-STEPPING AND BE-GOING

The vision alone was not sufficient to break through the prejudice of Peter, for he could not make out what it meant. But the presence of the 21 three men, who were ceremonially unclean, like the animals he had just seen in the vision, made his course clear. He dared not refuse to fellowship with them or disregard the call of The character of Corneli-Cornelius. us was evidence that God had cleansed him. Peter could no longer class him as common or unclean. The fact that Cornelius gave of his means to the people of the covenant was much in his favor, for in the judgment of the nations which precedes the kingdom the nations are judged according to their treatment of the sons of Israel (Mt.2531-46).

23 The journey from Joppa to Cæsarea would lie along the sea shore. Thus Peter skirted the "limits of the land." The location of Cæsarea is doubtless typical also. Its geographical location corresponded with Cornellus' moral position. It was on the fringe of Judaism, near the outer gentile world.

23 Later we learn that six brethren from Joppa accompanied Peter to Cæsarea. This was a prudent thing to do, for Peter well knew that he would have to defend his action in thus going against all Jewish precedent and prejudice. True, there was nothing in their scriptures which forbade all social intercourse with foreigners, but the apostles, as well as the other disciples, were bound by custom and tradition more firmly than by the divine revelation. In view of the storm of protest which was sure to arise, the six men accompany Peter so that they can confirm his account of the event. 24 Cornelius seems to have carried many of his dependents and friends with him in his regard for the Jews and their religion. They also were in a measure prepared for Peter's message. They were not, like Paul's converts, turned from darkness to light and from idolatry to the worship of the true God. They already had much light and worshiped the God of Israel. So the proclamation to them is much the same as to the Jews. 30 Cornelius calls the messenger, or

angel, he had seen, a man. There

is no warrant, in scripture, for the pop-

them, nothing doubting, seeing that

I have commissioned them."

Now Peter, descending to the men, said, "Lo! I am he whom you are seeking. What is the cause of 22 your presence?" Now they say, "The centurion Cornelius, a just and God-fearing man, besides being borne witness to by the whole Jewish nation, is apprized by a holy messenger to send after you [to come] into his house, and to hear 23 declarations from you." Calling them in, then, he lodges them.

Now on the morrow, on rising, he came away with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa came with 24 him. Now on the morrow he entered Cæsarea. Now Cornelius was hoping for them, calling together his relatives and intimate 25 friends. Now as Peter came to enter, Cornelius, meeting him, fall-26 ing at his feet, worships. Yet Peter raises him, saying, "Rise, I myself also am a man." And, conversing with him, he entered, and 28 finds many come together. sides," he averred to them, "you are versed in the fact how illicit it is for a man who is a Jew to be joined to or approach another tribe, and God shows me not to say that any man is common or unclean. Wherefore, being sent after, I came without gainsaying also. I am inquiring to ascertain, then, on what account you send after me." And Cornelius averred, "Four

days ago at this ninth hour [three

o'clock] I was fasting and praying

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BHE AKPINOMENOCOTIEF THRU-JUDGED that I		CANATKA 5 necessary	IOYCOI AO'	YCQCA 40
CTAAKAAYTOYCKAT 21 commissioned them DOWN-81	ABACA 60 PEPPING YET	EECENET	OF-THE TO-BE-IN	
ETETPOCTPOCTOYC	ANAPA 80	TONTETPO	A C ONCYNANT TOGETHER-Meeti	HCACA®
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A PECTEOIAEEITANE 22 ARE-BESIDE-BEING THE-ORGS YET SAY	COPNH 40 CORNELIUS 2	ENOACTIC	POCHT EI	him
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AIKAIOCKAI ФОВОУК	l€NOC® 2		human	CEIMIK 80
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NAYTOYKAIAKOYCA of-him and to-hear	PHMA ³⁹⁰ declarations	to-MAN JUDA-8		AACBA800
TATAPACOYEICKAAC 23 BESIDE YOU INTO-CALLING	ECAME ²⁰	OR TO-BE-TOWARD-O	OMING to-	ΛΛΟΦΥ ²⁰ ther-tribe
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NECTONALE APONTO	NATION 100-	UN-INSTEAD-declare	e-ly I-CAMI	BEING-
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ular idea that angels always have wings, like the cherubim. They usually appear in a human form.

31 The conversion of Cornelius is not in accord with the truth for today. Salvation is not offered to those who have access to God in prayer, for such are already saved. It is for sinners, and the ungodly and God's enemies (Ro.51-11). It is not of (Ro.116). Cornelius and his friends were acceptable to God because they feared Him and acted righteously, and this before Simon was sent to them. They occupied the place of the godly Israelite before Christ came. They lacked the pardon and gifts which came with the proclamation of the kingdom. These are now made theirs through the chief of the twelve apostles. Their blessing is connected with and depends on the blessing of Israel in the kingdom. Our blessing depends on the opposite. It follows Israel's apostasy. Cornelius is blessed in accord with the prophetic prediction concerning the nations in the kingdom, as it will be during the millennial eon. We are blessed in accord with a secret administration, of which the prophets knew nothing, which could not be revealed until after the kingdom proclamation had been heralded to the people and the proselytes like Cornelius.

34.25 This statement teaches, not that the fear of God and righteous acts take the place of faith in Christ, but they take the place of Moses. Such as Cornelius who pant after the living God are candidates for the kingdom, but must hear the word of life in order to be saved (1114). Such as Cornelius are they who will enter the kingdom when the nations are judged (Mt.2534.36).

35 Peter's proclamation to the nations is in contrast with Paul's. He details the life of our Lord and His beneficent deeds in the land, leading up to His resurrection. Paul begins with His death and resurrection and proclaims His ascension and His heavenly glories. In a word Peter proclaims "Jesus Christ," Paul preaches "Christ Jesus." The former lays stress on His rejection on earth, the latter on His acceptance in heaven.

39 Paul could have no place in this testimony, for he was not a witness of our Lord's earthly life. in my house, and lo! a man stood
before me in splendid attire, and
he is averring, 'Cornelius, your
prayer is hearkened to and your
alms are brought to remembrance
before God. Send, then, into
Joppa, and call for Simon, who is
surnamed Peter. He is lodging in
the house of Simon the tanner, beside the sea.' Forthwith, then,
I send to you, and you do ideally in
coming along. Now, then, we are
all present before God to hear all
that you have been bidden by the

Lord." Now Peter, opening his mouth, said. "Of a truth I am grasping 35 that God is not partial, but in every nation he who is fearing Him and acting righteously is acceptable to Him. Of the word He dispatches to the sons of Israel, preaching the evangel of peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all), you are aware. The declaration came down the whole of Judea, beginning from Galilee with the baptism which John proclaims: Jesus from Nazareth, as God anoints Him with holy spirit and power, Who passed through as a

And we are witnesses of all that He does in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem: Whom they assassinate also, hanging Him on a tree.

with Him.

benefactor and healer of all those

who are tyrannized over by the

Slanderer, seeing that God was

	11015 01	THE MIOSILES	CHAPTER 10
Bs omit fasting and NNHCTEY Q fasting	NKAITHNENATI	H 20 ONGIOOOB	OYMENOCAYTON 20 ARING Him
NT POCEYX	OMENOCENT CO	ME AND WORKING	OMENOCAIKAIO 40
OF-ME AND E	IAOYANH PECTI BE-PERCEIVING MAN STOOD	RECEIVE	
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	AB 0. HCINKOPNHAI(18-AVERBING CORNELIUS!	5100 ICYIOICIC	CPAHAGYATTEA600 ISRAEL WELL-MESSAGIZING
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XHKAIAIE	AEHMOCYNAICO		TOYOYTOCECTIN 40 this-One 18
YEMN HCOH	CANEN OF TONTO		YPIOCYMEICOIA 60 aster YE HAVE-
Y O COY TEM	THEN INTO JOPPA		IOMENONPHMAKA 80 declaration DOWN
THNKAIME WITH-		WHOLE OF-THE	GIOYANIACAPZA700 beginning
WHO IS-DEING	KAAGITAINET	P 20 MENOCATI	OTHE GALLEE
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Besides being a specimen of the future blessing of the believing nations in the kingdom, who will be rewarded according to their treatment of Israel, the case of Cornelius was undoubtedly divinely intended to bridge the almost impassable gap between the ministries of Peter and Paul, between the evangels of the Circumcision and of the Uncircumcision. Here we see the blessings of the Circumcision given by God to those who are uncircumcised, and in such a way that His hand could not be doubted. Hence Peter claims (15 7) that God chose him first to speak to the nations, and he was enabled to acknowledge Paul's commission to the Uncircumcision. Unless Peter had been so prepared, it would have been practically impossible for Paul to carry on his earlier ministries among the nations, for he would have had, not only the unbelieving Jews, but the disciples and the apostles themselves firmly set against his work. Paul did not confine himself to converts to Judaism, as Cornelius and his friends, but had a message of grace suited to idolaters who had never heard of the true God. Nevertheless the principle taught to Peter applied to them also. for God acknowledged them by spiritual gifts which made it evident that He had cleansed them.

44 At Pentecost the call to repent came to a people who had already rejected Jesus Christ. Peter says nothing of repentance to Cornelius (1118).

48 By baptism they were united to the believing remnant in the nation of Israel, for the name used was the same (238). It is evident, however, that this was a loose union, for the fact of their uncircumcision would bar them from the temple and from everything which the disciples had in common with the Jewish nation. In practice, even the social communion was always on a most doubtful and hesitating basis. Many of the disciples never would have fellowship with the Uncircumcision, and even Peter himself, after boldly defending his course with Cornelius, as well as the truth involved, was intimidated by the prevailing opposition, so that, at Antioch he first ate with the Uncircumcision and then withdrew and severed himself for fear of the party headed by James, the brother of the Lord (Ga.211-12).

40 This One God rouses the third day, and gives Him to become disclosed,

41 not to the entire people, but to witnesses who have been elected before by God, to us who ate and drank together with Him after His resurrec-

tion from among the dead. And He charges us to proclaim to the people and to certify that this One is He Who is specified by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.

43 To this are all the prophets testifying: everyone who is believing in Him is to be obtaining the par don of sins through His name."

While Peter is still speaking these declarations, the holy spirit falls on all those hearing the word.

⁴⁵ And as many of the faithful of the Circumcision as come with Peter were amazed, seeing that the gratuity of the holy spirit has been poured out on the nations also.

⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking languages and magnifying God. Then

⁴⁷ Peter answered, "Can anyone forbid water, that anyone of these is not to be baptized, who obtained

48 the holy spirit even as we?" Now he bids them be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they ask him to stay some days:

11 Now the apostles and the brethren who are of Judea hear that the nations also receive the word of

² God. Now when Peter went up into Jerusalem, those of the Cir-

³ cumcision doubted him, saying that, "You came in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!"

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4 So important is this new departure that Peter's rehearsal before his indignant brethren is given in full, for it removes the great obstacle which lay in the way of the further spread of the evangel. The commission which was received by the eleven from the Lord did not include the uncircumcised. They had made it known in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria and the whole land of Israel, but only to the Circumcision. None of the disciples had any thought of proclaiming it to those of another nation even if they, like Cornelius, were devout and Godfearing men. This conclusion proves that the Pentecostal ecclesia did not include a single one of the Gentiles, but absolutely excluded all except those of Jewish blood. They could not, of course, exclude the Hellenists. or Jews who leaned to Greek culture, for they were not Greeks, but circumcised Israelites.

Neither may we take the case of Cornelius as the beginning of the evangel to the nations, as such. We do not find that this case was followed up by the evangelization of the Uncircumcision in the land. Indeed, it seems to have had no effect at all in this direction. After the death of Stephen and the following persecution, the disciples spoke to none but the Jews only (19). And when some of the foreign Jews spoke to the Greeks at Antioch, outside the land, it is most probable that they, like Cornelius, were proselytes in that lesser degree which was called a proselyte of the gate. The first time the evangel was proclaimed to the idolaters was probably the case of Sergius Paul, proconsul of Cyprus (13 7), or Paul's preaching to the people of Lystra (147). Throughout his early ministries, however, Paul not only went into the synagogues and preached to the Jews first, but he also spoke to the devout and God-fearing proselytes, like Cornelius, before going out to the Uncircumcision. Such converts from Judaism formed the nucleus of most of the ecclesias founded by him so far as their Gentile contents were concerned. See 1348,141, Lydia 1614,17 4.12,184 (contrast 6) and Justus 7. The gentiles were a distinct class.

16 Peter saw a new significance in the words of the Lord (15) that he had not seen at Pentecost. John's baptism Now Peter begins and expounded

it to them consecutively, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa, praying, and I perceived, in an ecstasy, a vision, a certain utensil descending, as a large sheet with four edges, let down out of heaven, and it came as

far as me, into which, intently looking, I considered and perceived the quadrupeds of the earth and the wild beasts and the reptiles and the

7 flying creatures of heaven. Now, I hear a voice also, saying to me, 'Rise. Peter! Sacrifice and eat!'

⁸ Yet I said, Far be it from me, Lord, seeing that a thing common or unclean never entered into my

9 mouth!' Yet the voice answered a second [time] out of heaven, 'What God cleanses, do not you

10 count common!' Now this occurred thrice, and it is all pulled up again into heaven.

And lo! forthwith three men stand by at the house in which we were, having been dispatched from

12 Cæsarea to me. Now the spirit said to me to come together with them, nothing doubting. Now these six brethren also came with me, and we entered into the man's house.

Now he reports to us how he perceived the messenger standing in his house and saying, 'Dispatch to Joppa and send after Simon, who is

14 surnamed Peter, who will be speaking declarations to you by which you shall be saved, and your entire house.'

Now as I begin to speak, the holy spirit falls on them, even as on us

16 also in the beginning. Now I am reminded of the Lord's declaration,

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never went beyond the Jews. Now as the gospel comes to this gentile proselyte the baptism of spirit takes precedence over that in water, and is Peter's justification for giving Israel's rite to this gentile.

17 The constant tendency, in this scroll, from the physical to the spiritual, is well illustrated by the gifts given to Cornelius and his friends, as a sign of their acceptance by God. The sign of the covenant, circumcision, was in the flesh. The lack of this excluded them from the blessings of the kingdom. In Israel, the spirit followed the bathing of their physical frames in the rite of baptism. But the Lord Himself baptizes these uncircumcised aliens in spirit before they are baptized in water. The spirit supersedes and governs the physical rite. In the case of these proselytes the rite of baptism followed the reception of the spirit (Ac.1615 Ro.63 1Co.114-16), because of their association with Judaism, but it does not seem to have been universally administered in the case of non-proselytes (1Co.117,Eph.45,Col.212). 19 We are now entering a new sphere, just outside the land of Israel. Driven out of Jerusalem and Judea, the disciples spread the proclamation among their Jewish brethren, utterly ignoring the gentile proselytes, even though they knew of the case of Cornelius. Some of them, however, were foreign Jews, who had come into closer contact with the gentiles. These, acting on the case of Cornelius, spoke to the Greeks, who may have been the first of the nations to believe. In this way a new center was formed for the evangel. It consisted largely of uncircumcised aliens who had been proselytes. From this new base it was that the evangel went forth and eventually reached the idolaters among the nations, giving them a subordinate place in the kingdom. It continued until Paul went to Rome, from which he sent forth the special truth for the present economy. 22 The Jerusalem disciples were most of them full of zeal for the law and the ritual, but Barnabas was full of holy spirit and faith, and thus was in line with God's purposes.

25 Barnabas knew that Saul's commission was to the nations, hence he discerned that Antioch was the very field

suited to his call.

as He said that 'John, indeed, baptizes in water, yet you shall be baptized in holy spirit.' If, then, God gives them the equal gratuity as to us also, when believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I—able to forbid God?"

Now on hearing these things, they quiet down, and glorify God, saying, "Consequently God gives repentance unto life to the nations also!"

Those indeed, then, who are dispersed from the affliction which is occurring about Stephen, passed through as far as Phœnicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews only.

Now some of them were Cyprian men, and Cyrenians, who, coming into Antioch, spoke to the Greeks also, preaching the evangel of the
 Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them. Besides, a vast number who believe turn back to

the Lord.

Now the account of them is heard in the ears of the ecclesia which is in Jerusalem, and they

23 delegate Barnabas to Antioch, who,
coming along and perceiving the grace of God, rejoiced and entreated all with purpose of heart to be

24 remaining in the Lord—seeing that he was a good man and full of holy spirit and faith. And a considerable throng was added to the

Lord.

Now he came away to Tarsus to
hunt Saul; and finding him, he led
him to Antioch. Now it came that
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²⁶ The name "Christian" is Latin in its termination, so seems to have been given by the Romans. It is mentioned only twice more (2628: 1 Pet.416), and was a term of contempt. It is never used by the saints of themselves, though there are hundreds of passages where we would use the term today. The name probably arose from the fact that here, for the first time, gentiles, Romans, left the worship of the synagogue for the faith of Christ. They would be continually speaking of one "Christ" and their countrymen gave them this new name in derision. Paul never uses this term. Peter alone uses it of his fellow saints of the Circumcision who believed.

29 What could have been better calculated to soften the hearts of the Judean disciples than the help thus received from these uncircumcised converts? Yet we never read that they ever relented in their antagonism to the alien believers, and certainly gave little consideration to Saul, who brought their gifts to them. It is not 23likely, however, that Saul went as far as Jerusalem with the contribution, for, in his Galatian epistle, he intimates that he did not visit the holy city for fourteen years after his return from Damascus. The reason seems to be that there was a persecution on the part of Herod, as well as a famine in Jerusalem, so that it was not prudent to enter the city. This is the first occasion in which the saints among the nations sought to make some payment to Israel for the spiritual gifts they had received (Ro.1527).

The failure of the nation to respond to the proclamation of the kingdom is fully manifest, and it is reflected in the events now chronicled. The twelve are no longer sustained by divine power in the city of the King. Herod puts James to death and there is no effort made to fill his place and maintain the due number of the apostles. That James, rather than Peter or John, was taken is significant, for they are typical men. James, or Jacob, brings before us the nation in flesh, and, as this aspect of the kingdom proclamation has failed and is finished, he is removed. Peter (not Simon) was a spiritual name (Jn.142), representative of the remnant who believed. He is persecuted, but not slain.

the ecclesia and teach a considerable throng. Besides, in Antioch firstly the disciples are styled "Christians."

Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.

²⁸ One of them, named Agabus, rising, signifies, through the spirit, a great famine which is about to be on the whole inhabited earth. which occurred under Claudius.

²⁹ Now according as any of the disciples thrived, they each of them designate something to send to the brethren dwelling in Judea, for dis-

pensing, which they do also, dispatching to the elders through the hand of Barnabas and Saul. 12: 25

12 Now at that season Herod the king put forth his hands to illtreat

some from the ecclesia. Now he assassinated James, the brother of

John, with the sword. Now, perceiving that it is pleasing to the Jews, he proceeded to apprehend Peter also (now they were the days

of unleavened [bread]), whom, arresting also, he placed in jail, giving him over to four quaternions of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to lead him up to the

people.

Peter, indeed, then, was kept in the jail, yet prayer was earnestly made by the ecclesia to God concerning him. Now when Herod was about to be leading him to them, in that night Peter was reposing between two soldiers, having been bound with two chains, besides which guards before the

38 ⁰⁰¹	ACTS OF TH	E APOSTLES	CHAPTERS 11-12
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The apostasy of the Jewish nation was attested by the death of James. Instead of mourning the fact that one of the apostles of the Messiah was put to death, they are pleased. They prefer the yoke of their hereditary enemy, the Idumean Herod, to the Messiah God had sent them. So will the apostate nation in the time of the end rejoice at the murder of God's two witnesses (Un.11).

It was contrary to Jewish custom to carry on a trial during the national festivals, so Herod was waiting until the passover week should be over. Then he would increase his popularity by making a public exhibition of Peter's trial and death.

The Lord had told Peter that, when he should be old and decrepit he would glorify God by his death (Jn.2118). That time had not yet come. No power on earth can touch God's servants before the appointed time.

The deliverance of Peter should be contrasted with that of Paul and Silas at Philippi. This will show the vast advance in Paul's ministry over that of the twelve. Peter's deliverance illustrates the power and stern righteousness associated with the kingdom. The grace and salvation revealed in Philippi is in closer accord with that which is ours in Christ Jesus. Peter slept. Paul and Silas, suffering from the Roman scourge and the stocks, sang praises and prayed. Peter was taken out by stealth unknown to the guards. Paul and Silas made no attempt to escape, even when the prison doors were open. The prisoners heard them, and the warden was saved by their testimony. Peter's escape did not bring salvation to his keepers. It brought death, for his guards had to pay with their lives for his. flies from Jerusalem from the face of Paul and Silas are escorted out of the jail and through the city by the officers who had mistreated them. In every particular, the deliverance of Paul and Silas eclipses the escape of Peter. One figures Israel's deliverance by judgment on the nations, the other the salvation which comes through the temporary setting aside of Israel. 12 What a touching picture we have here of the disciples praying in the dead of night, and the extreme joy occasioned by Peter's escape!

door kept the jail. And lo! a messenger of the Lord stood by, and a light shines in the room. Now. smiting Peter on the side, he rouses him, saying, "Rise quickly!" And the chains fall off from his hands. Now the messenger said to him, "Gird yourself and bind on your soles." Now he does thus. And he is saying to him, "Throw your cloak about you and follow me." And, coming out, he followed him. And he had not perceived that what is occurring by means of the messenger is true, yet

he seemed to be observing a vision. Now, passing through the first and second jail, they come to the iron gate that brings them into the city, which opened to them spontaneously. And, coming out, they came forward one street, and immediately the messenger withdrew

11 from him. And Peter, coming to himself, said, "Now I truly perceive that the Lord delegates His messenger, and extricates me out of the hand of Herod and all the hope of the Jewish people."

And, being conscious, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John who is surnamed Mark, where a considerable number were convened together and praying.

13 Now, at his knocking at the door of the portal, a maid approached

to obey, named Rhoda. And, recognizing Peter's voice, for joy she does not open the portal. Yet, running in, she reports Peter standing

15 before the portal. Yet they say to her, "You are mad!" Yet she

99	ACIS OF TE	IE APOSTLES	CHAPTER 12
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17 The death of James and the escape of Peter mark a crisis in the history of the kingdom proclamation. power in Jerusalem passes out of the hands of the apostles into the hands of James, the Lord's brother. that Peter does not ask them to report to the rest of the apostles, but to James and the brethren. Henceforth these have the controlling voice in Jerusalem. The death of James broke. the ranks of the apostles. Now there Peter was comwere only eleven. pelled to flee and John does not seem to have taken an active part.

It is most significant that the leadership now falls upon one who was never commissioned by the Lord, but held his place and wielded his influence on the ground of a close physical relationship to the Lord. While He was yet on earth none of his brothers or sisters believed in Him. Our Lord made light of such physical ties. To those who told Him that His mother and brothers wished to speak to Him He said "These who are hearing and doing the word of God are my mother and My brethren" (Lu.821). But the believers in Jerusalem have drifted away from spiritual realities and give the Lord's own brother the place which He gave to the apostles. James early had a high place among the Jerusalem saints. Paul makes special mention of him when he went up to Jerusalem (Ga.119). This is in marked contrast to the course of Paul, which is characterized by the gradual elimination of the physical and a strong tendency toward the spiritual.

20 Josephus' account of Herod's death agrees with this in all its main features, though he does not seem to know of the reason for the flattery, nor does he ascribe the disease to a messenger of the Lord. In accepting divine honors Herod becomes a type of the great dictator of the end time, who will set himself up, saying that he is God, and will be slain by the Lord Himself.

²⁴ The death of Herod seems to have stopped the persecution of the apostles.

²⁵ Barnabas and Saul were commissioned to bring succor to the poor (11 ³⁰). The manuscripts vary greatly as to whether they return out of, or from, or into Jerusalem, or into Antioch.

stoutly insisted it is so. Yet they said, "It is his messenger."

Now, opening, they perceive him

17 and were amazed. Yet, gesturing
with a hand to them to hush, he relates to them how the Lord led him
out of the jail. Besides he said,
"Report these things to James and
the brethren." And, coming out,
he was gone to a different place.

Now, day being come, there was no slight disturbance among the soldiers as to what became of Peter.

19 Now Herod, seeking for him and not finding him, examining the guards, orders them to be led away [to death]. And, coming down from Judea, he tarried in Cæsarea.

Now he was in a fighting fury with the Tyrians and Sidonians, yet, with one accord, they were present with him, and, persuading Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they requested peace, because their country was nurtured from the

king's. Now, on a set day,
 Herod, dressed in royal attire, being seated on the dais, harangued
 them. Now the populace shouted,

"It is the voice of a god and not of a man!" Now instantly a messenger of the Lord smites him, because he gives not the glory to God, and, becoming the food of worms, he gives up his soul.

Yet the word of God grows and was multiplied.

25, 20 Now Barnabas and Saul return to Jerusalem, completing the dispensing, taking along with them John, who is surnamed "Mark."

13 Now there were in Antioch, to

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The severance of Barnabas and Saul by the spirit is the prelude to an entirely new departure in the book of Acts. The commission entrusted to the twelve apostles has been fulfilled and their testimony rejected. They went to the limits of the land of Israel. Beyond this they were not sent. Jerusalem, in Judea, now gives place to that the Jews outside the land refuse the Messiah, even as those in the land have done. This ministry is carried on by an entirely new set of apostles. The twelve have no part in it. Saul, or Paul, as he is now called, takes the place of Peter in this new apostolic group.

- The choice of Barnabas and Saul by the spirit is in marked contrast with the choice of James, the brother of our Lord, by the flesh. He leads the apostasy of the pentecostal believers, who insisted on circumcision and law keeping. He was the author of decrees, which were concerned only with the flesh. This new departure takes us in the opposite direction. Saul was chosen by the spirit and led by the spirit until, at length, in his epistles, he gives the flesh no place at all.
- 6 Sergius Paul was the first individual among the nations who heard the evangel, without first becoming a proselyte of Judaism. Hence his case is typical. Bar-Jesus stands for the Jewish dispersion, who always resisted every attempt to proclaim the evangel to the nations. Seldom, indeed, do we find Paul performing any judgment miracle, but here he blinds the sorcerer for a season. This is the judgment which has befallen Israel during the present administration of God's grace. Israel, in part, has become calloused until the full complement of the nations may be entering (Ro.1125). Throughout Paul's missionary journeys, when he turned from the unbelieving Jews to the nations, the Jews became jealous and sought to turn the gentiles against him. became blind spiritually, as Bar-Jesus became physically.

accord with the ecclesia, prophets and teachers, Barnabas as well as Simeon, called Niger, and Lucius the Cyrenian, besides Manaen, the tetrarch Herod's foster brother, and Saul. Now, at their ministering to the Lord and fasting, the holy spirit fasting and praying and placing their hands on them, they dismiss them. Paul's 1et tous begins, Ends 14:26

- They, indeed, then, being sent forth by the holy spirit, came down to Seleucia, and from thence they sail away to Cyprus. And, coming to be in Salamis, they announced the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. Now they had John also as deputy.
- Now, passing through the whole island up to Paphos, they found a certain man, a magician, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-Jesus, who was with the proconsul Sergius Paul, an intelligent man. He, calling for Barnabas and Saul, seeks to hear the word of God.
- Now Elymas the "Magician" (for thus is his name construed) withstood them, seeking to pervert the proconsul from the faith. Now Saul, who is also Paul, being filled with holy spirit, looking intently at 10 him, said, "O, full of all guile and all knavery, son of the Slanderer. enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight 11 ways of the Lord? And now, lo!

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The spiritual tendency we have observed is emphasized by the change of Saul's name to Paul. The name Saul suggested the first king in Israel, who Rom was chosen by the people because of #: 25 his physical superiority, well suited to Paul before he was called by Christ, and in accord with the trend of affairs in Jerusalem, but not at all in harmony with his present ministry. It is usually derived from the Latin, meaning little, but it may also be derived from the root pau, in Greek, which means an interval, the ending, of course taking the masculine form rather than the feminine of the ordinary Greek term. Saul is Hebrew: Paul is Greek. This change of name coincides with his new commission. to his special ministries, which fill in the interval during which Israel is thrust aside. It is brought in for the departure, which brings blessing to the nations through Israel's apostasy. It was given when the first real gentile believed, for all before Sergius Paul were proselytes of Judaism, like Cornelius. And it is the more remarkable that the first convert under these new conditions was also named Paul, because he inaugurates that new form of God's activities which is well pictured there by the blessed believing gentile and a blinded unbelieving Jew. Before Saul's severance, blessing could not flow except through a Jew. Samaria could not receive the spirit except through Peter and John (814), and the proselyte Cornelius needed the mediacy of the chief of the apostles ere he was blessed with this gift. But now an alien, having no connection with Judaism, believes and is blessed, while a Jew, a son of the covenant, is blinded. This new principle now governs God's dealings, introducing a new dispensation, and gathers force until it is fulfilled at the close of the book. 13 John, doubtless, was at fault in thus deserting the apostles. seems to be a deeper reason for his defection. Being from Jerusalem, and a nephew of Barnabas, he represented the weakness of the flesh and its inability to channel blessing to the nations, hence was not qualified.

the Lord's hand is on you, and you will be blind, not observing the sun until the appointed time. Now instantly a fog and darkness falls on him, and, going about, he sought some to lead him by the hand.

12 Then the proconsul, perceiving what has occurred, believes, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

Now setting out from Paphos, those about Paul came to Perga, of Pamphylia. Yet John, depart-This signification is most appropriate 15 30 ing from them, returns to Jerusa-14 lem. Now they, passing through from Perga, came along into Antifirst time at the precise point when och, Pisidia, and entering the It marks the beginning of God's new 15.13 synagogue the day of the sabbaths, 42 15 they are seated. Now, after the reading of the law and the prophets, the chiefs of the synagogue dispatch to them, saying, "Men, brethren, if there is in you any word of entreaty for the people, [19] - 1974年 A.P. P. D. W. Sig. 自然的复数多点 sav it."

Now Paul, rising and gesturing with his hand, said, "Men, Israelites, and those who are fearing God,
hear! The God of this people Israel chooses our fathers, and He exalts the people in the sojourn in the land of Egypt, and with a high
arm He led them out of it. And for about forty years' time He carries them as a nurse in the wilderness.

19 And, pulling down seven nations in the land of Canaan, He occupies their land (about four hundred and 20 fifty years). And after this He gives judges till the prophet Sam-

²¹ uel. And thence they request a king, and God gives them Saul,

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14 Paul's sermon and course in Pisidian Antioch is doubtless a specimen case. He usually went first of all into the synagogue and preached the evangel of the kingdom to the Jews of the dispersion and to the gentile proselytes who attended the synagogue services. His sermons included all that Peter preached concerning Messiah as the Son of David, yet went further in order to reach the proselytes. The three classes to whom Paul preached should always be distinguished. There were the men of Israel, his brethren, who were under the law and to whom the covenants and promises pertained. But the synagogues amongst the nations, Ret who are called "fearers of God," "devout," or "reverent," and usually included a company of women. proselytes, as a class, accepted Paul's message, but the Jews rejected it, with many notable exceptions. Outside of these were the gentiles proper, the idolators who had no leanings toward Among these it was that Judaism. Paul found the greatest response, but it must be remembered that this account does not lay much stress on this part of his ministry. For instance, it is evident from his epistles that the Thessalonian converts were mostly idolators, yet no hint of this is found in Acts, which speaks only of the Jews and proselytes (171-4). Neither are we informed of all that the apostle preached, but only that which concerned the fate of the earthly kingdom. The doctrine contained in his epistles is none of it in Acts, but all is distinct from and above the highest point reached in this treatise. To the Jews Paul spoke of Christ as proclaimed by John the Baptist, and His life before His death and resurrection and ascension. before he knew Him. Paul's epistles, however, are entirely on resurrection ground. Christ was not seen outside the land of Israel until he was seen by Saul on the Damascus road. Let us never mix the testimony in Acts with the truth in Paul's epistles, but let us rather note the great contrast between them. Contrast Peter's first sermon and Paul's. Both quote from David. Peter to prove that Jesus is David's exalted Son (280-81). Paul shows by his first quotation (1333) that Jesus is the Son of God.

son of Kish, a man out of the tribe of Benjamin, forty years.

22 And, deposing him, He rouses up David for their king, to whom He said also, in testifying, 'I found David, of Jesse, a man according to My heart, who will be doing all

²³ My will.' From this one's seed God, according to the promise, led to Israel the Saviour. Jesus.

were under the law and to whom the covenants and promises pertained. But the synagogues amongst the nations, were largely attended by proselytes, who are called "fearers of God," "devout," or "reverent," and usually included a company of women. The proselytes, as a class, accepted Paul's message, but the Jews rejected it, with many notable exceptions. Outside of these were the gentiles proper, the idolators who had no leanings toward Judaism. Among these it was that

Men! Brethren! Sons of the race of Abraham, and those among you who are fearing God! To us was the word of this salvation dispatched.

²⁷ For those dwelling in Jerusalem and their chiefs, being ignorant of Him and of the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath,

²⁸ fulfill them in judging Him. And, finding not even one cause of death, they request Pilate to have Him despatched.

29 Now as they accomplish all that which has been written concerning Him, taking Him down from the

30 tree, they place Him in a tomb. Yet God rouses Him from among the

those who ascended with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now His witnesses to the people.

And we are preaching to you the evangel which comes to be a promise

43 ⁰⁰¹	ACTS OF TH	E APOSTLES	CHAPTER 13
YTOICOBEOCTON them THE God THE		A H=WE NYMINDOBOYME YOUP FEARING	NOITONGE 20
ONKEICANAPAGH RIB MAN OUT	OF-tribe BEN-	ON HMINO AOF OC to-us the saying	THCCOTHP 40 OF-THE SAVING
NIAMEINETHTEC	CÉPAKON®	IACTAYTHCE ZA this WAS-OUT	THE THE
TAKAIMETACTHC 22 AND after-STANDING	him	for ones-down-homing	NTECENIE 80
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IHCEINANTATAO BE-DOING ALL THE WIL		INANTECETAH P 28 ing THEY-PILL	POCANKAIM700
MOYTOYTOYOGE	FROM THE	HAGMIANAITIA YET-ONE CAUSE	OF-DEATH 81++N As o.
CTEPMATOCKATE according	ETAFFEAI 40 g-to promise	EYPONTECHTHO	CANTONE! A 40
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PAIHCOYNT POKE 24 JESUS OF BEFORE-E		OCACCTCACAN 29 AB YET THEY-FINISH B HAVING-been-WRITTEN ABO	ALL THE A-
CIWANNOY TPOT I		EPIAYTOYFEFP	AMMENAKA800 n-WRITTEN DOWN-
HCEICOAOYAYTO	YBATTIC 20 DIPISM EOPLE 8 had-IH		HE WOOD THEY-
MAMETANOI ACITA	NTITOAA 40 ERY THE PEOPLE	OHKANGICMNH 30 PLACE INTO MEMORIA	
WICPAHAOCAECT 25 OF ISRAEL AS YET FILE	TAH POYIO 60	EOCHTEI PEN AY	
ANNHCTONA POMO	DNEAGTEN 80	PONOCOOHHETT 31 ones WHO WAS-VIEWED ON	
TIEMEYTONOE!" ANY ME YOU-ARE-UNDER-MINI 8+6	TECINAIO	EIOYCTOICCYN	ETHER-UP-STEPPING B+6
AKEIMI EL ODY Y Y I	LOYEPXE 20 E-PERCEIVING IS-COM-	AYTWANOTHER THE GA	'AAIAAIACE'
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IOCTOYNOAHMAT THE sands! OF-		YNEICINMAPTY witnesses	PECAYTOY 60
AYCAIANA PECA 26 TO-LOOSE MEN br	AEAOIYI 80 sons omits and	TPOCTON A AONI 32 TOWARD THE PEOPLE	KAIHMEICY 80 YOU?
OIF ENOY CABPA OF-breed ABRAHAM	AMKAIOI6500 AND THE IN	MACEYAFFEAIZ	

33 The rendering first psalm in place of second psalm demands some explanation. Our three great witnesses all read second, and we would have so rendered it, but for the confusion which would result when we come to issue the book of Psalms. There is no longer any question that the first and second psalms of our collection are in reality only one, and this quotation occurs in the first not the second Some ancient manuscripts preserve this reading. But it was generally changed to conform to the condition of the Greek version of the Hebrew scriptures. In the Hebrew text of the psalms the text reads right on without any break to indicate the division into psalms except the headings and subscriptions. Consequently it has been discovered that each psalm is thus indicated, and those psalms which have no heading or subscription to separate them are fragments of adjoining psalms. Thus the second psalm, so-called, is not an independent composition, but the conclusion of the first psalm.

38 Here we have the first intimation of the great doctrine of justification or acquittal. But how far below the lofty teaching revealed in the epistle to the Romans! There justification is apart from the law: here it is associated with the law. True to the kingdom he has just announced, Paul proclaims the pardon of sins. But pardon or for-giveness is but a temporary respite which may be forfeited or withdrawn (Mt.1823-35). Those Pentecostal believers who had been forgiven like the ten thousand talent debtor, yet refused to extend this blessing to the gentiles. who owed much less, had their pardon

revoked.

Now, however, the apostle offers them more than pardon. Those who were pardoned still tried to keep the law of Moses (2120). He promises an acquittal from their infractions of the law, on the ground of faith. Pardon takes guilt for granted. Justification or acquittal denies guilt. They mingle here for a moment, but in Paul's epistles those who are justified are beyond the necessity of any pardon, for they are pronounced not guilty. The contrast between Moses and Christ is made first by Paul, and in connection with the preaching of justification.

fulfilled this for our children, in raising Jesus, as it is written in the first psalm also, 'My Son art Thou; today have I begotten Thee.' Now, seeing that He raises Him from among the dead by no means longer about to return to decay, He has thus declared, that 'I shall be giving you the faithful benignities of David.' Wherefore, in a different place also, He is saying, 'Thou wilt not be giving Thy Benign One to be acquainted with decay.' For

generation, by God's counsel was put to repose, and was added to his fathers, and was acquainted with ³⁷ decay, yet He Whom God rouses was not acquainted with decay.

David, indeed, subserving his own

Let it be known to you, then, men, brethren, that through this One is being announced to you the pardon of sins, and from all from which you could not be justified in the law of Moses, everyone who is believing in this One is being justified.

Beware, then, that what is declared in the prophets may not be clared in the prophets may not be coming on you: 'Lo! you despisers, and marvel and disappear! seeing that I am working a work in your days—a work which you should by no means be believing if anyone should be detailing it to you.'"

Now, at their being out, they entreated that these declarations be spoken to them on the intervening sabbath. Now the synagogue being broken up, many of the Jews and reverent proselytes follow Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to remain in the grace of God.

TOWARD THE FATHERS promise

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between SABBATH TO-BE-TALKED

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GENERAL ANY MANYLEAD follow MANY

OF-THE JUDA-ANS AND OF-THE REVER-

BOMENONTIPOCH AYTWINT 20 TOWARD-COMETS TO-THE PAUL

AYAWKAITWBAPNABAOITI 40
AND to-THE Barnabas WHO-ANY

NECTIPOCADAOYNTECAYTO 60
TOWARD-TALKING to-them

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44 This is the first time we have the evangel preached to the nations directly except the single case of Sergius Paul. Never before this have we any intimation that the word was spoken to any except Jews, Samaritans, or proselytes. Now that the whole city came to hear the word, the Jews, following the example of Bar-Jesus, oppose Paul and Barnabas. Not till then do we hear the memorable words, "lo! we are turning to the nations."

48 It would be of greatest interest to us to know what Paul preached to the gentiles on this occasion, but there is no record of his words. The reason doubtless is that he went beyond the kingdom proclamation and announced, for the first time, the grand foundation on which God's favor to the nations is based, the doctrine of justification. His previous proclamation was hampered by the fact that his hearers were under the law. Now he is able to set it forth fully and freely as he does in his epistle to the Romans, for his audience is not seeking any justification under law. He announces a divine righteousness, apart from the law.

While there can be little doubt that the apostle preached justification on this occasion in some of the fulness 49 to which his epistles testify, yet it is of the utmost importance for us to note that the account in Acts never attains to the truth taught in his epistles. It leads us up to some of it but never makes actual contact with it. It prepares for it but does not proclaim it. Not one single doctrine for the present secret economy is found in the book of Acts, though all was made known and committed to writing during this period. We are continually led up to, but never enter into the grace which is ours in Christ Jesus. Acts is not a record of the beginning of the present, but a treatise on the end of the previous dispensation. Most of the ecclesiastical confusion which prevails would vanish if this record of the kingdom apostasy were left where it belongs, and all truth for the present based on Paul's written revelation, which deals with the same period of time, but deals with it from an entirely distinct standpoint. God's program is, some Jews, some gentiles; then all Jews and all gentiles.

4 Now on the coming sabbath almost the entire city was assembled

the Jews, perceiving the throngs, are filled with jealousy, and they contradicted what is spoken by Paul,

blaspheming. Being bold, Paul as well as Barnabas say, "It was necessary for the word of God to be spoken first to you. Yet, since, in fact, you are thrusting it away, and are judging yourselves unworthy of eonian life, lo! we are turning to 47 the nations. For thus the Lord has directed us: 17.6

'I have appointed you for a light of the nations;
For you to be for salvation to the limits of the earth.'

Now, on hearing this, the nations rejoiced and glorified the word of the Lord, and as many as were set for eonian life believe.

9 Now the word of the Lord was carried through the whole country.

ones of the city and rouse up persecution for Paul and Barnabas, and they ejected them from their boun-

51 daries. Now, shaking the dust off their feet against them, they came

52 to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and holy spirit.

14. Now in Iconium the same thing occurred. They enter into the synagogue of the Jews, and so speak that a vast multitude of Jews

2 as well as Greeks believe. Yet the

stubborn Jews rouse up and provoke the souls of the nations against
the brethren. They, indeed, then,

45 ⁰⁰¹	ACTS OF TH	IE APOSTLES	CHAPTERS, 13-14
	CABBATOC 20 ABBATH AL-	EICZOHNAIC 49 INTO LIFE eonia	DNIONAIE ФЕР 20 n
XE AONHAC AHHO MOST EVERY THE CITY	AICCYNHX 40	CARRIED YET THE SAYING	OF-THE Master
	ACCONTOY 60 aying OF-THE	KAOOAHCTHO 50 according-to whole of-	CXOPACOIAE 160 HE SPACE THE YET JU-
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ONTOICY TO THE by PAUL	being-talked	ones OF-THE city	NEWCKAIETHF 40
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AND

as-many-as were HAVING-been-set

YET UN-PERSUADing JUDA-808 IOIETHTEIPANKAIEKAKO® ON-ROUSE AND EVIL-treat

IDENTÉIBHCANTECIOYAX®

CANTACYYXACTONEONONK46000 THE souls OF-THE NATIONS DOWN

6 Lystra seems to be the first place Paul preached without first proclaiming to the Jews in the synagogue, for it seems that there were not enough Jews to have a place of worship. Hence this is the first time the evangel is preached to the gentiles, apart from Judaism altogether. Here we reach the limit of his journey as well as the moral limits of the evangel. It has now broken through all barriers. From being preached to the "Jews only" (11 19) it has not only reached gentile proselytes and idolaters through the synagogue, but it has gone outside the pale and influence of Judaism, and won its way to the hearts of the far off foreigners.

8 The contrast between the ministries

of Peter and Paul is reflected in their acts. The lame man at the gate of the

temple (32-8) was near the dwelling

place of God, the source of all blessing. The lame man of Lystra was far off. Neither had ever walked, but the former, picturing the privileged people of God, was carried by his friends. Even the manner of their salvation was dif-Peter reached out his hand ferent. and lifted the lame man to his feet. Paul did not need to touch the Lystrian, for he leaped up and walked. 11 It was commonly believed among the ancients, that the gods visited the earth at times in human form, but more especially those places which were devoted to their worship. tra seems to have been under the protection of Zeus, for one of his priests resided before the city. Zeus was usually attended by Hermes, the messenger of the gods. Subsequent revelation suggests that, in a very real sense, the Lycaonians were not much mistaken in their estimate of Paul. He was indeed the messenger of the true God, visiting the earth for a time. The Greek gods were in reality demon spirits who had usurped the authority of the air, who, with Satan, are to be cast out of their heavenly habitations when the kingdom is set up. Paul, together with those who receive the grace which comes through him, will replace them and rule the celestial realms, as the body of Christ. So that the Lycaonians were not far wrong, and we may take their words as prophetic of the grace which God was

about to reveal (Ga.414).

tarry a considerable time, being bold in the Lord, Who is witnessing to the word of His grace, granting signs and miracles to occur through their hands.

Now the multitude of the city is rent: and some, indeed, were with the Jews, yet some with the apostles. Now as there came to be an onset of the nations as well as the Jews, together with their chiefs, to outrage and pelt them with stones, being conscious of it, they

fled for refuge into the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe, and the country about. And there they were, preaching the evangel.

And there sat a certain man in Lystra, impotent in the feet, lame from his mother's womb, who never walks. This one hears Paul speak-

ing, who, looking intently at him, and perceiving that he has faith to

10 be saved, said in a loud voice, "Rise erect on your feet!" And he leaps and walked.

what Paul does, lift up their voice in Lycaonian, saying, "The gods descended to us in the likeness of

12 men!" Besides, they called Barnabas Zeus, yet Paul, Hermes, since, in fact, he was the leading speaker.

13 Besides, the priest of Zeus who is before the city, bringing bulls and garlands to the portals, wanted to sacrifice together with the throngs.

Now, on hearing this, the apostles Barnabas and Paul, tearing their garments, spring out into the 15 throng, crying and saying, "Men!

3 ATATONAAGAOONIKANONM 20 enough IN-	BO. BO. SI* SEYING & F O OF-THE PAUL TALKING
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TAPPHCIAZOMENOIETITO 60 being-bold on The	PERCEIVING that he-is-having Belief OF-THE
KYPI@T@MAPTYPOYNTIT® 80 Master THE One-witnessing to-THE	YCOOHNAIGITE NMETAAHO 80 10 TO-BE-SAVED said to-GREAT SOUND
AOF OTHEXAPITOCAYTOYA 100 saying OF-THE grace OF-Him GIV-	ONHANACTHOIG DITOYCHO600 BE-UP-STANDING ON THE FEET
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NTOICAPXOYCINAYTONY B 80 ER to-THE chiefs OF-them TO-	BANAIATONAETAY AONE PM ®0 EBUS THE YET PAUL Hermes
PICAIKAIAIOOBOAHCAIA ³⁰⁰ OUTRAGE AND TO-STONE-CAST them	HNETEIAHAYTOCHNOHFOY 800 ON-IF-BIND he WAS THE ORF-LEAD-
YTOYCCYNIAONTECKATEФ 20 being-conscious THEY-DOWN-FLED	MCNOCTOY AOF OYOTE (EP C 20 13 ING OF-THE SAYING THE BESIDES SACRED-
YFONGICTACHOAGICTHCA 40 INTO THE cities OF-THE LY-	YCTOYAIOCTOYONTOCHPO 40 one op-the zeus the Being Before
YKAONIACAYCTPANKAIAE *** CAONIA LYSTRA AND DERBE	THE CITY BULLS AND GAR-
PBHNKAITHNTGPIX COPONK 80 7 AND THE ABOUT-SPACE AND	TEMMATAENITOYCHYAONA® lands on the gates
AKEIEYAFFEAIZOMENOIH 400 there WELL-MESSAGIZING THEY-	CENEFICACCYNTOICOX A O 1 900 CARRYIN TOGETHER TO-THE THRONGS
CANKAITICANHPENAYCTP 20 8 WERE AND ANY MAN IN LYSTRA	CHOEAENOY EINAKOY CANT 20 14 he-willed To-BE-SACRIFICING HEARING
OICAAYNATOCTOICHOCIN 40 UN-ABLE to-THE FRET	CACOIANOCTOAOIBAPNA 40 YET THE commissioners Barnabas
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HEARS

ABOUT-TREADS

15 In speaking to idolaters in Lystra and Athens, Paul does not appeal to the Hebrew scriptures, for they knew nothing of God's written revelation. He appeals to them through God the nature.

19 God has a way of giving his servants a vision of the end at the beginning, to sustain them in the trials on the way. Joseph knew God's purpose for him and was prepared for the pit and the prison, for he realized that these led to the throne. So, we may well believe, God made known to the apostle Paul his purposes of grace for the nations long before Paul made them public from Rome. And what time would be so opportune as this, when the evangel for the first time is carried directly to the nations? Indeed, about fourteen years later, Paul seems to refer to his stoning at Lystra as the time when he received his greatest visions and revelations, which he was not allowed to publish until his kingdom ministry in Acts was brought to a close. Such a revelation must have been made in a setting calculated to reveal God's grace. what occasion compares with this? Let us remember that Paul was stoned but once (2Co.1125) and this by the gentiles just as soon as the evangel breaks through to them. The Jews reject the evangel and call down judg-How dire must be the punishment due to these uncircumcised aliens for stoning the chosen vessel God had sent for their salvation! This is surely the opportunity demanded by grace to show its potency! They drag his body, battered and bleeding, outside the city, but his spirit flies far ahead soars into the heights of the third and into Iconium and into Antioch, esto the paradise of the new earth, and heaven. There he sees the despised, undeserving gentiles, who had stoned him to death, ruling the celestial realms as members of Christ's body and "blessed with all spiritual blessings among the celestials" (Eph.13). Here we reach the summit of grace, the secret (1Co.27) which God had prepared for those who love Him. Though Paul was not really dead, it is well to note that, from this time on. he reckons himself and all believers as having died, and as living a resurrection life (2Co.19).

Why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like emotions as you, preaching the evangel to you Creator and Sustainer, as revealed in [westo turn [you] back from these vanities to the living God, Who makes heaven and earth and the sea and

16 all that is in them, Who, in bygone generations, leaves all the nations

17 to go on in their ways, although He leaves Himself not without the testimony of good acts, giving showers from heaven and fruitful seasons. filling our hearts with nourishment

18 and gladness." And, saying these things, they hardly stop the throngs from sacrificing to them. LYSTRA

Yet Jews from Antioch and Iconium come on, and persuading the throngs, and stoning Paul, they dragged him outside the city, in-

²⁰ ferring that he is dead: Yet when the disciples surround him, rising, he entered the city. And on the morrow he came out with

²¹ Barnabas to Derbe. That city being evangelized as well, and making a considerable number of disciples, they return into Lystra and

tablishing the souls of the disciples, besides entreating them to remain in the faith and that "through many afflictions must we be enter-

23 ing into the kingdom of God." Now, electing elders for them according to the ecclesia, praying with fastings, they committed them to the Lord in Whom they had believed.

47 ⁰⁰¹ ACTS OF	THE APOSTLES	CHAPTER 14
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27 The report in Antioch that God had opened the door of faith to the nations sums up Paul's first missionary journey. This is given out as something new, unknown before. It is evident that Antioch itself was composed partly of gentiles, but they had been proselytes of Judaism before the evangel misconceptions as to the book of Acts, especially in regard to Pentecost and the ministry of the twelve apostles. would vanish if this fact were given the prominence it deserves. twelve apostles did not reach out to the nations. Jews from the dispersion spoke to the proselytes. When Peter did this in the case of Cornelius, it was considered a grave breach by the majority in Jerusalem. Not till Paul and Barnabas' first missionary journey did the word go out to the idolaters. Before this the door was shut. The only way of access was through Judaism. Now it is open, and consists of faith, altogether apart from Jewish rites and ceremonies.

1 No sooner was the door of faith opened to the nations than the emissaries of Jerusalem tried to slam it shut. Paul had been reporting that salvation had been brought directly to the gentiles without the necessity of their becoming proselytes. Now the Judaisers come and insist that it is not sufficient to be a "proselyte of the gate," but they must become a "prosselvte of righteousness" and take upon themselves all the obligations of Judaism. The conflict was between faith and law, grace and works. The circumcisionists were perversely using in the interests of self-righteousness that which God had given for its cure.

From Paul's account, given in his epistle to the Galatians, we find that these "false brethren" crept into the ecclesia at Antioch unawares, spying out their freedom in Christ Jesus, and determined to bring them into the bondage of the law of Moses. Besides being sent by the brethren at Antioch. Paul had a revelation which directed him to go to Jerusalem and communicate his evangel, which differed materially from that of the twelve and the Judaisers, to those in authority in Jerusalem. He also took Titus along as a test case, because he was not circumcised (Ga.21-5).

And passing through into Pisi-25 dia, they came to Pamphylia. And, speaking the word of the Lord in Perga, they descended to Attalia, 26 and thence they sail away to Anti-

was proclaimed to them. Many of the 12:3 och, whence they had been given over to the grace of God for the

work which they fulfill.

Now, coming along and assembling the ecclesia, they informed them of whatever God does with them, and that He opens up a

28 door of faith to the nations. Now they tarried no brief time with the

disciples.

15 And some, coming down from Judea, taught the brethren that, "If you should not be circumcised after the custom of Moses you can-

not be saved." Now as Paul and Barnabas come to have no slight commotion and questioning with them, they prescribe that Paul and Barnabas and some others from among them are to go up into Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.

They, indeed, then, being sent forward by the ecclesia, passed through Phœnicia as well as Samaria, detailing the turning about of the nations. And they caused great joy to all the brethren.

Now, coming along into Jerusalem, they were received by the ecclesia and the apostles and the elders, and they inform them of whatever God does with them. Yet some from the sect of the Pharisees who have believed rise up, saying that "They must be circumcised,

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6 Before this convention Paul took up the question privately with the more influential members of the Jerusalem ecclesia, especially with James, the brother of the Lord, and with the apostles Peter and John. Having convinced them that he had a special revelation for the Uncircumcision they were able to influence the assembly, and thus he was able to check the growing opposition to his ministry in Jerusalem.

In Judea the ecclesia of Christ was rapidly degenerating into a Jewish sect. It was called "the sect of the Nazarenes" by its enemies. They clung to the Mosaic law and ritual as fiercely as ever, and could not bear to consider anything which seemed derogatory to their ancient religion. Besides. they gave the traditions concerning social intercourse with the alien nations all the force of a divine command. Peter's course with Cornelius was not a direct violation of the law, though it may have involved the eating of that which was forbidden by Moses.

- 7 Peter here refers to Cornelius, and his words must be taken, not in the light of Paul's subsequent course, but as as the Jews present would understand with manner even as they." was confined to proselytes in the Without that experience Paul would never have been able to convince Peter that God could deal with the nations in a way different from His dealings with the Circumcision. The case of Cornelius was specially designed to bridge the gap between the two ministries of Peter and Paul.
- 11 These are bold and noble words to be spoken by the chief apostle of the Circumcision in such an assemblage of These are Peter's last Judaisers. words in the book of Acts. Instead of conceding that the gentiles must be saved by means of the law and the ritual, through Judaism, Peter insists on the very opposite. The aliens are not to be saved like the Jews, but the Circumcision themselves are not saved by the law and circumcision, but by grace, even as the nations. We can hardly realize how astounding such a declaration would be in this assembly. It was not understood or heeded. Peter himself denied it by his acts soon afterward (Ga.2¹¹⁻²¹).

besides charging them to keep the law of Moses."

Now the apostles and elders were assembled to see about this matter.

Now, there coming to be much questioning, Peter, rising, said to them. "Men! Brethren! You are versed in the fact that from early days God chooses among you, that through my mouth the nations are to hear the word of the evangel

and believe. And God, the Knower of hearts, testifies to them, giving the holy spirit according as to us

also, and does not discriminate at all between us and them, cleansing

10 their hearts by faith. Why, then, are you now trying God, by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we

11 have the strength to bear? But through the grace of the Lord Jesus we are believing, to be saved in a

Now the entire multitude hushes, and they heard Barnabas and Paul unfolding whatever signs and miracles God does among the nations through them.

Now after they hush, James answered, saying, "Men!

- 14 ren! Hear me! Simeon unfolds how God first visits the nations, to obtain out of them a people for His
- 15 name. And with this the words of the prophets are agreeing, according as it is written.
- 16 "After these things I will return, And I will rebuild the tabernacle of David which has fallen, And its overturned [structure]

will I rebuild.

And I will re-erect it.

So that those left of mankind should be seeking the Lord,

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James, the brother of our Lord. though not an apostle, had by far the most influence in Jerusalem, especially with the Judaisers. Peter, who should have had the leadership, was afraid of him. If his wise and weighty words had been heeded all would have been well. But the legalists were too strong, and listened to James, their leader, the brother of the Lord according to the flesh, rather than to one who was not only one of His brethren in spirit, but had been trained and commissioned to lead His people. Peter's decision was in accord with the spirit and should have been obeyed. James' compromise was a concession to the flesh. Later, when the full truth for the present was revealed these decrees were abolished (Eph.215).

James does not refer to the report of Barnabas and Paul, when he quotes Amos 911-12, but to Peter's address. The prophet, speaking of the time when the kingdom will be set up, refers to those among the nations, who, like Cornelius, invoked the name of the Lord, and are blessed with Hispeople Israel. It has no reference to the present economy of God's grace.

19 Notice the emphatic I. This was James' own solution. The object of the decrees seems to have been to make it possible for the Jews to have social intercourse with the believers among the nations without offending Jewish prejudices. A Jew, even if a believer, could not eat at the same table with a gentile if he should serve an idol sacrifice, or strangled meat, or blood. Had Peter's advice been followed, they would have cast off the yoke of the law, which they never were able to bear, and so could have had free and joyful fellowship with the James' plan keeps Uncircumcision. the Jews under the divine law and puts the nations under a human law. Instead of loosing all from bondage, he binds both.

24 The great object of the conference was definitely settled, and never again do we hear that circumcision and law keeping are essential to salvation. The Judaisers now change to the teaching that, though these may not be necessary for salvation, they are essential to progress and perfection. Paul refutes this in Galatians.

And all the nations over whom
My name has been invoked,"
The Lord is saying, Who is doing
these things.

18 Known to the Lord is His work from the eon.

Wherefore I decide not to be harassing those from the nations who

²⁰ are turning back to God, but to dispatch an epistle to them to be abstaining from ceremonial pollution with idols, and prostitution, and that which is strangled, and blood.

²¹ For Moses, from ancient generations, as suits a city, has those who are proclaiming him, being read every sabbath in the synagogues."

Then it seems [good] to the apostles and the elders, together with the whole ecclesia, choosing men from among them, to send to Antioch together with Paul and Barnabas, Judas, who is called Bar-Sabbas, and Silas, leading men among the breth23 ren, writing through their hand:

"The apostles and elders and brethren to the brethren out of the nations at Antioch, and Syria and Cilicia:

Rejoice! Since, in fact, we hear that some coming out from us disturb you by words, dismantling your souls, whom we do not cau-

25 tion, it seems [good] to us, coming to be of one accord, choosing men, to send them to you with our

²⁶ beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have given up their souls for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

50001 ACTS OF THE APOSTLES CHAPTER 15 **AYTHNONOCANEKZHTHCCC®** YTONNEMYAICICANTIOXE" WHICH-how EVER SHOULD-BE-OUT-SEEKING them INTO ANTIOCH TO-SEND ΙΝΟΙΚΑΤΑΛΟΙΠΟΙΤΏΝΑΝΑ« ΙΑΝΟΥΝΤΦΠΑΥΛΦΚΑΙΒΆΡΝ « THE leavings OF-THE humans TOGETHER tO-THE PAUL AND Barnabas POHONTONKY PIONKAITIAN ® ABAIOYAANTONKAAOYMEN® Master one-being-called THE AND ALL THE JUDAS TATACONHOOYCETIKCKA* ONBAPCABBANKAICIAANA® THE NATIONS ON WHOM HAS-been-ON-CALLED Bar-Sabbas AND SILAS 410 to-1 NAPACHTOYMENOYCENTOI ... HTAITOONOMAMOYETTAYTO 100 THE NAME OF-ME ON them LEADING. THE Bs1 omit THE YCAEFEIKYPIOCOHOLWNT 20 **CAΔΕΛΦΟΙCΓΡΑΨΑΝΤΕCΔΙ²⁰** Master these 23 brothers WRITING IS-SAVING THE ORE-DOING AYTAPNOCTAANAIUNOCTO AXCIPOCAYTONTALCOLATION or-them KNOWN FROM con HAND THE YET THE COMto-THE Master THE ACT OF-Him KYPIOTOEPFONAYTOYAIO® OCTOAOIKAIOINPECBYTE® missioners 19 Master THE ACT or-Him AND THE SENIORS THRIL B+6 ABs1 omit AND THE EL OKLINOMHIJA DENOXVEI # POIKAIOIAAEA40ITOICK® WHICH I AM-JUDGING NO TO-BE-harassing AND THE brothers 8 0. NTOICATIOT WHE BHUNETIC 200 ATATHNANTIOXELANKAIC700 to-THE FROM THE NATIONS ORES-ON-TURNcording-to THE ANTIOCH AND SYRIA TPEOOYCINE TITON 8 EON 20 YPIANKAIKIAIKIANAAEA20 20 ING THE God but AND CILICIA brothers ON B o. AAÄETICTEIAAIAYTOICT# **POICTOICEZEON WNXAIPE®** 24 to-them OUT OF-NATIONS TO-BE-JOYING TO-letter OFto-THE s1* € OYATIEXECGALATIOT CHAAL 60 ΙΝΕΠΕΙΔΗΗΚΟΥCAMENOTI® THE TO-BE-FROM-HAVING WE-HEAR that FROM THE ON-IF-BIND CEBEMON-+E s1* Y=-yōup Bs1* omit out-coming
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YONOMATOCTOYKY PIOYHM51000 OF-THE Master NAME

29 Strictly speaking, these decrees were binding only on the believers in Syria and Cilicia, though they must have influenced all the saints among the nations. Paul practically repeals them when he makes the eating of meats offered to idols a matter of individual conscience (1Co.8). The revelation of the new humanity (Eph.215) in which all physical distinctions disappear, so that there is no Jew or Greek, nullifies this "law of precepts in decrees." They were based on a distinction which no longer exists for those who are in Christ Jesus. Speaking of this to the Colossians, the apostle boldly cancels them by "erasing the handwriting of the decrees against us, which was hostile to us, and has taken it away out of the midst . . ." How far has Jerusalem fallen! Instead of bringing blessing to the nations, they use this opportunity of burdening them with a law of their own devising. No wonder, when Paul comes again, he finds James in full charge, and all the tens of thousands of believing Jews zealous of the law and hostile to him and his ministry.

35 It was during this period that Peter came to Antioch and lived at first in unrestrained intercourse with the gentiles, eating with them in consistency with his speech at the conference and with the decrees, also with his own conduct in the case of Cornelius. In the presence of "certain from James" Peter began to vacillate and complied with their prejudices. If Peter through consideration for the weak conscience had been yielding a non-essential point, Paul would approve. But his motive was the fear of man. His example not only sanctioned the heresies of the Judaizers but also carried away such believers as Barnabas, and well merited Paul's rebuke.

Paul's indignation by weakly yielding to the influence of Peter and the Judaizers. Possibly he was still smarting under Paul's public rebuke. Paul, on the other hand, always revolted against anything that looked like compromise and weakness. Though it was impossible for them to longer work together, they evidently make amicable arrangement to divide between them the territory of their former journey.

27 We have, then, commissioned Judas and Silas, and they are reporting the same by word. For it seems [good] to the holy spirit and to us not to be placing one more burden on you more than these es-

sentials: to be abstaining from idol sacrifices, and blood, and what is strangled, and prostitution; from which, carefully keeping yourselves, you will be well engaged. Farewell!"

They indeed, then, being dismissed, came down to Antioch, and, assembling the multitude, hand them

³¹ the epistle. Now, reading it, they
³² rejoiced at the consolation. Judas as well as Silas, being prophets themselves also, entreat and establish the brethren by many a word.

33 Now, the time being spent, they were dismissed with peace from the brethren, to those who commission

³⁵ them. Yet Paul and Barnabas tarried in Antioch, teaching and preaching the evangel of the word of the Lord, with many others also.

Now, after some days, Paul said to Barnabas, "By all means, turning back, we should be visiting the brethren at every city in which we announce the word of the Lord,—

bas intended to take along with them John also, who is called Mark.

38 Yet Paul counted him unworthy to take along—the one withdrawing from them from Pamphylia, and not coming with them to the work.

39 Now they became so incensed as to recoil from one another. And Barnabas, taking Mark along, sails off to Cyprus.

AND THEY-ON-STAND-fast by A thers AND THEY-ON-STAND-fast by A thers AND THEY-ON-STAND-fast

51 ⁰⁰¹	ACTS OF TH	IE APOSTLES	CHAPTER 1
27 JESUS ANOIN		THE brothers	UNTPOCTOYCA 20 TOWARD THE ones-
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СФСТЕАПОХФРІСОННАІАУ 80. ΠΟΙΗCANΤΈCΔΕΧΡΟΝΟΝΑΠ®
33 Doing YEST TIME THEY-AS-BESIDES TO-BE-FROM-SPACIZED EAYOHCANMETEIPHNHCATI 500 TOYCATIAAAHAUNTONTEBA 52000 WERE-FROM-LOOSED WITH PEACE PROM ON-CANOTHER BESIDES BAR

. 39

ONETENETOLETIAPOLYCMO 60
BECAME TET BESIDE-SHABPening

- 40 Silas was almost necessary as a companion for Paul. The decrees provided that they should be delivered by both Barnabas and Paul, while Judas and Silas were to confirm them by word of mouth. Now that Barnabas is gone, Paul could hardly deliver the decrees without a second witness, and Silas was the very one for the purpose, for he had the recommendation of Jerusalem.
- 40 Paul seems to have had the sympathy of the brethren in Antioch. Nothing is said of their interest in Barnabas and Mark. But when Paul and Silas go, the brethren commend them to God's grace.
- Paul did not retrace the steps of his first missionary journey. He did not go to Cyprus at all. He went by land through Syria and Cilicia, and crossed the Taurus mountains more to the east, coming out upon the high inland plain near Lystra and Derbe.
- Timothy was Paul's son in the faith, being one of those who believed when Paul was there before. He was a witness of his sufferings and now becomes a companion of his trials. Hith erto Paul's associates have been a Levite, Barnabas, and Silas, a Jew, but 15% now he takes one whose father was a Greek. Thus there is a gradual tendency away from the physical to spiritual relations.
- 3 The circumcision of Timothy, at first sight, seems strange and inconsistent. Had Paul not refused to cirat Jerusalem decided that circumcision was not essential to salvation? But Timothy's case is an entirely dif-Paul is still going ferent matter. among the synagogues proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah of the Jews. To have an associate who was uncircumcised would be a great hindrance and give the Jews the occasion which they sought to denounce and persecute him. He still maintains that circumcision is nothing. Yet he has no hesitancy in using it if it will mollify the prejudice of those whom he desires to reach with the evangel.
- Paul's sickness in Galatia and the evangelization of that region is almost completely passed over because his course there was not in line with the testimony of Acts.

- Now Paul, singling out Silas, came away, being given over to the grace of the Lord by the brethren.
- 41 Now he came through Syria and Cilicia, establishing the ecclesias.
- 16 Now he arrives also at Derbe and at Lystra, and lo! a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a believing Jewish woman, yet of
- a Greek father, who was testified to by the brethren in Lystra and Ico-
- This one. Paul wants to come out with him, and, taking him, circumcised him because of the Jews who are in those places, for they had all been aware that his father belonged to the Greeks.
- Now, as they went through the cities, they give over to them the decrees to maintain, which have been decided upon by the apostles and the elders who are in Jerusalem.
- The ecclesias, indeed, then, were given stability in the faith and superabounded in number daily.
- Now they passed through Phrycumcise Titus? Had not the council 18:13 gia and the Galatian province, being forbidden by the holy spirit to speak the word in the [province of]
 - Asia. Yet, coming about Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, and the spirit of Jesus does not let
 - them. Yet they, passing by Mysia, descended into Troas.
 - And during the night a vision was seen by Paul. A certain man, a Macedonian, was standing and entreating him, and saying, "Cross over into Macedonia! Help us!"

10 Now as he perceived the vision, we

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PNABANTAPAAAB nabas BESIDE-GETTING	ONTATON 20	OAGICTAPEAIAOCANAYTO 20 THET-BESIDE-GIVE to-them
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ENOCCIANEIHA BILAS OUT-CAME	BEING-BE-	CTOAUNKAITPECBYTEPUN 80 sioners AND SENIORS
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WEIEAGENKAIA		ANKATEBHCANEICTP @AAA 80 THEY-DOWN-STEPPED INTO TROAS
IETEMENAYTON		KAIOPAMAAIATHCNYKTOC900 9 AND sight THE NIGHT
	NTACENT ²⁰	A WAS-VIEWED TO-THE Paul TUNAYAU OOOHAN HPMAKAI 20 to-THE PAUL WAS-VIEWED MAN MACEDONIAN
OICTOROICEKÉ!	NOICHAE 40 THEY-HAD-	AUNTICHNECT CKAITAPA 40 ANY WAS HAVING-STOOD AND BESIDE-
ICANFAPATIANTE	COTICAA 60 that GREEK	KAADNAYTONKAIAETONAI® CALLING him AND SAYING THRU-
HNOTATHPAYTOY	YTHPXEN 80 belonged	ABACEI CMAKAIA ONIANBO 80 STEPPING INTO MAGEDONIA

4 AS YET THEY-THRU-WENT THE cities 10 to-us as yet the sight

Paul's commission is as broad as humanity, yet the guidance of God decides matters of time and place for testimony.

Up to this time Paul was guided by hindrances. Trying to go through Galatia to the regions beyond, he is taken sick. He then seeks to enter the populous province of Asia, but the time had not yet come. Finally, at Troas. he receives the first intimation that his work lay in Europe. Without stopping to preach in Troas he immediately sets sail for Macedonia, which he reached in two days-a remarkably swift journey. It took five days on a later occasion (206).

10 Luke seems to have joined the party of Paul at Troas, for now the narrative ... descended into Troas," but "we

. . . seek to come away to Macedonia." 11 Neapolis is the harbor of Philippi. It was about ten miles from the city. 12 Philippi was a Roman colony in the special sense that it enjoyed many of the privileges of Rome itself. It was free from the control of the governor of the province. It regulated its own internal affairs by its own magistrates. 13 There seem to have been few Jews in the city. There was no synagogue. As it was the custom of the Jews to retire to the sea shore or some stream, which they esteemed a pure place, for prayer, Paul and his company resorted to such a spot and spoke to the women who came. Here it was that the Lord, who had led them from afar, manifested His presence and power by opening the heart of Lydia, the first fruit of the evangel in Europe. Strangely enough, however, she was from Asia, and from the very regions which they were forbidden to evangel-

16 Python is the name of Apollo in his character as an oracle. Those who were ventriloquists, speaking with their mouths closed, were called Pythons. It was a kind of demon possession, not at all uncommon in ancient Greece. Their ravings were highly esteemed by the superstitious idolaters. Hence this slave girl was able to earn much money for her masters. It was probably the enemy's plan to discredit Paul's message by a questionable commendation.

immediately seek to come out to Macedonia, deducing that God has called us to preach the evangel to them. The same and the same species are same so

Now, setting out from Troas, we run straight to Samothrace, yet the 12 ensuing [day] to Neapolis, and thence to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony,

Now we were tarrying in this 13 city some days. And the day of the is continued in the first person. "They was baths we came outside of the gate beside a river, where we inferred there was prayer, and, being seated, we spoke to the women who are coming together. And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple of the city of Thyatira, revering God, heard, whose heart the Lord opens up to heed what is be-15 ing spoken by Paul. Now as she is baptized, she and her household, she entreats, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and remain." And she urges us.

Now it occurred, at our going to the prayer, a certain maid having a python spirit meets us, who afforded a vast income to her masters, divin-

ing. She, following after Paul and us, cried, saying, "These men are slaves of God most high, who are announcing to you the way of sal-

18 vation!'' Now this she did many days. Now Paul, being exasperated, and turning about, said to the spir-

	HOLD OF TE		CHAPTER 10
	e-seek	TO-BE-lieedING	to-the being-
ENEZEABEINEIC	BE 0. MAKA I AO 40 MACEDONIA	TALKED by TH	E PAUL 40Y 40
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TPOCKEKAHTAIH HAB-TOWARD-CALLED US	MACOGGO 80 THE God	OOIKOCAYTHCT	APEKAAEC 80 e-Beside-Calls
CEYAFFEAIGACÓ TO-WELL-MESSAGIZE B OYN	them 100	ENVELOACYEIK	EKPIKATE 600
CANAXOENTECAE	ANOTPWA 20 FROM TROAS	METICTHNTOKY	
AOCEYOYA POMHC WE-straight-RUN	AMENEIC 40 INTO	EICEAGONTECE INTO-COMING A has OF-ME below HOME at the en-	TO THE HOME
CAMOOPAKHNTHA to-THE	EETIOYC 60 YET ON-BEING	ONMOYMENETE! OF-ME BE-REMAINING SI* Y=YOUP	KAINAPEBI®
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IZOMENΠΡΟCEYX prayer A+E	TO-BE	PAZENAETOYCA saying	these THE hu-
KAIKAGICANTEC	* adds to-us HMIN	MOPOTOLACY AC	OF-THE God
ENTAICCYNEAGOY to-the together-coming	WOMEN	TOYYYICTOYEL	WHO-ANY
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ATIAYAIA TOP OP PURPLE-SELLER	OTWAIC*		his YET she-
OF-city OF-THYATIBA	REVERING	DID ON MANY	DAYS
ENHTONGEONHKO	OF-WHOM THE	AIATONHOGICAG BEING-THRU-MISERIED YET	PAUL AND
YPIOCAIHNOIZEN Master THRU-UP-OPENS	THNKAP 500 THE HEART	AIGHICTPEYACTON to ON-TURNING	WTNEYMA54000 THE spirit

19 This is the first occasion in which the evangel comes into conflict with the religion of the nations and with the spirit powers back of it. Hitherto the Jews and Judaism opposed the evangel. At Lystra it was welcomed by the idolaters, at first, until the Jews turned the people against the apostles.

19 Note carefully the real reason of the opposition. Their income was cut off. To this day this, the first symptom of antagonism, has largely controlled the opposition to the truth. Doubtless, if the evangel had increased their income, they would have accepted it.

20 There was no law against casting out demons, so the accusation is craftily perverted to arouse the prejudices of the Roman officers. The Jews had been ordered out of Rome and were in bad repute. There was a law, practically obsolete, which forbade the introduction of any religious innovation as dangerous to the peace of the empire. So that, if the law had been allowed to take its normal course, the apostles might have been imprisoned for a long period, and the evangel would have received a permanent check, but the unlawful action of the officers, putting them in the wrong, effectually opened the way for the further proclamation of the evangel in Philippi.

²² The terrible Roman flogging and vile, filthy jail, with the torture of the stocks, was intended to put a stop to the evangel. But God turned it to its furtherance. Paul and Silas, rejoicing in their sufferings for Christ, get an audience even in the prison.

26 Contrast the deliverance of Paul and Silas with that of Peter (123-19). Peter had not been ill-treated as they were, and slept. They prayed and sang songs of praise. No angel came to deliver Paul and Silas, but they brought a much greater deliverance to the warden and his household, and doubtless to some of the prisoners as well. Peter's escape, on the contrary, cost the lives of his keepers. Paul and Silas come out in broad daylight, escorted by the officers of the city and leave openly after they have met their brethren and taken leave of them. Peter comes out at night and flees to another place to escape Herod's wrath.

it, "I am charging you, in the name of Jesus Christ, to be coming out from her!" And it came out the same hour.

19 Now her masters, perceiving that the expectation of their income was come out, getting hold of Paul and Silas. draw them into

20 the market to the magistrates, and, leading them to the officers, say, "These men who are perturbing

²¹ our city belong to the Jews, and they are announcing customs which it is not allowed us to assent to, nor

²² to do, being Romans." And the throng assailed them, and the officers, tearing off their garments, ordered them to be flogged with rods.

²³ And, placing on them many blows, they cast them into jail, charging the warden to keep them securely,

²⁴ who, getting such a charge, cast them into the inner jail, and secures their feet in the stocks.

Now at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God. Now the prisoners listened to them. Now, suddenly, a great quake occurred, so that the founda-

tions of the prison are shaken. Now, instantly, all the doors were opened, and the bonds of all were slacked.

Now the warden, coming out of his sleep, and perceiving the doors of the jail open, pulling a sword, was about to despatch himself, inferring that the prisoners have es-

28 caped. Yet Paul shouts with a loud voice, saying, "Commit noth-

say-

54001	ACTS OF THI	-,,,	CHAPTER 16
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E Omits YET GCAGOIKYPIOLS	AYTHCOTI 100 F-her that	HNECOTEPANOY.	AAKHNKAI 600 D-house AND
EZHAOGNHEATI OUT-CAME THE EXPECTA	CTHCEPT A 20 TION OF THE ACTION	TOYCHOAACHCO	
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TATTEAAOYCIN	EBHAOYKE 20 CUSTOMS WHICH NOT it-	MANIOYPAITAC	AND OF-ALL
ZECTINHMINITA 18-allowed to-US TO-BE	PAAEXECO 40 -BESIDE-RECEIVING	_TONTALECMA ANG	P-LET OUT-SLEEP
AIOYAGTOIGIN NOT-YET TO-BE-DOING		OCAGTENOMENO	THE BIND-GUARD
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THEOING PIPH & ABOUT-BURSTING	ANTECAYT ²⁰ or-them	TACAME NOCTHN	MAXAIPAN 20 SWORD
CONTAINATIACK THE GARMENTS ORDE	RED TO-BE-	HMEAAENE AYTO	NANAIPE 140 TO-BE-UP-LIFTING
BAIZGINTOAAA 23 RODIZING MANY	CTECTIOE 60 BESIDES ON-PLACING	NNOMIZ CONGESTION TO-HAVE-O	

TOYCAGCMIOYCGO CON HCGN 30
28 THE BOUND-ORES SOUNDS
B P. d. S. A GREAT SOUND + O THE
AGOON HMGTAAHTAYAOCAG55000 NTECAYTOICHAHLACEBAA 50 to-them BLOWS THEY-CAST ONGICOYAAKHNIAPALLGI 500 CHARGINA YET SOUND GREAT PAUL

30 The earthquake, the open doors, the knowledge that he would forfeit his own life if a prisoner escaped, and the voice out of the darkness of the dun-geon that read his inmost thoughts when he is about to take his own life, all conspired to convince the warden that these men and their message were from God. He doubtless had heard what the spirit of Python had "What ought I to be doing that I may be saved?"

32 They did not stop with the bare exhortation to believe, but went on to open up the truth of the evangel. Faith does not come by the mere entreaty to believe, but through the setting forth of the truths which are to be believed. The death of Christ for our sins, His burial and resurrection are essential to salvation and should be the subject of every effort to preach the evangel. This gospel of God's grace was immediately effective, producing great joy.

33 What a transformation in the warden! The day before he had treated them with unnecessary severity; now he stoops to bathe their backs and attends to their comforts, taking them 35 into his own home.

85 Philippi was a military colony. hence the officials were army officers rather than magistrates. This may explain their illegal course of taking a hand in punishing those who had never been tried. Later reflection doubtless convinced them of this error, so they sent to have Paul and Silas released. The warden was doubtless very happy at this turn of affairs, and exhorts them to go. But Paul, seeing the hand of God in the changed attitude of the officers, and solicitous for the furtherance of the evangel in Philippi, determines to press the advantage. The officers did not know that they were Roman citizens, hence did not realize how serious had been their offense. A public acknowledgment of their fault would shield the saints from further persecution. He insists that the officers shall come and lead them out in person, so that all may see that they were no longer opposed to their work. This the officers do, but, lest a rumor of this should get to Rome, they entreat them to leave the city, which, with due deliberation, the apostles did.

ing evil to yourself, for we are all in this place." Now, requesting lights, he springs in, and coming to be in a tremor, prostrates to Paul and Silas, and preceding them out, averred. "Masters, what must I be doing that I may be saved?" declared about them, hence his cry, 31 Now they say, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved,

you and your household." And they speak to him the word of the Lord, together with all who are in his

house. And taking them aside, in that hour of the night he bathes off their blows, and is baptized, he and all his household, instantly.

And, leading them up into his house, he sets a table before them, and exults, having believed in God with all his household.

Now at the coming of day the officers dispatch the constables, say-

ing, "Release those men." Now the warden reports these words to Paul, that "The officers have sent a dispatch that you may be released. Then come out now, go

37 in peace." Yet Paul averied to them, "Lashing us publicly, uncondemned, men belonging to the Romans, they cast us into jail, and now they are ejecting us surreptitiously! No! But let them come themselves and lead us out!",

38 Now the constables report these statements to the officers. Now they were afraid, hearing that they are

Romans, and coming, they entreat them, and, leading them out, asked them to come away from the city.

Γ[™]NMHΔ€NΠΡΑΣΗCCEAYTW[™] ING NO-YET-ONE YOU-SHOULD-BE-PRACTISING to-self

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- Luke seems to have remained behind at Philippi, for the narrative now proceeds in the third person. Timothy also tarried, for no one was more genuinely solicitous of the welfare of the infant ecclesia (Phil.220). Later on he rejoins Paul and Silas and is found at Berea (1714). But Luke may have remained there until Paul's next missionary journey, when he returns through Philippi to Troas (208).
- Instead of stopping at the smaller towns, Paul and Silas make their way to the most populous city of the province as a base of operations for the whole country. Thessalonica, the present Saloniki, became, in a few months. the center from which the word of the Lord was sounded forth, . . . in Macedonia and Achaia (1Th.18). For the first three weeks he seems to have made a special effort to win the Jews in the synagogue, but only some of the Jews were persuaded, though many of the proselytes were won for Christ. Meanwhile many of the Uncircumcision must have been reached, for the apostle writes to them as converts from idolatry, rather than from Judaism. They turned to God from idols (1Th.19).
- The evangel of the kingdom, as Paul proclaimed it in the synagogues, is concisely set forth here. The suffering and resurrection of Messiah and Jesus as the One foretold by the prophets, are the leading points. Beyond this he gave them much else concerning the kingdom and the events which precede its coming, including the unveiling of the man of lawlessness (2Th.2°). Paul's evangel was what is sometimes called "a teaching gospel."
- 5 The malice of the Jews is apparent from their charge against the apostles. They, too, believed that Messiah would destroy the kingdoms of the nations, yet they bring this charge, hoping to rouse the power of Rome against them. They, themselves, gather a mob and raise a tumult, yet they accuse them of it. Not finding the apostles, they took Jason and some other brethren, but the civil magistrates did not act like the officers at Philippi, but took the legal course. Instead of imprisoning them, they made them give bail, which probably ended the matter when the apostles left the city.

- Now, coming out of the jail, they came to Lydia, and, seeing the brethren, they console them and came away.
- 17 Now, traversing Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. Now, as Paul's custom was, he entered to them and on three sabbaths he argues with
- them from the scriptures, opening to them and placing before them that Christ must suffer and rise from among the dead, and that "This One is Christ—the Jesus Whom I am announcing to you."
- ⁴ And some of them are persuaded, and were allotted to Paul and Silas, besides a vast multitude of the reverent Greeks, and of the foremost women not a few.
- Now the Jews, being jealous, taking also to themselves some wicked men of the loafers, and making up a mob, they made a tumult in the city, and, standing by the house of Jason, they sought to lead them before the populace. Now, not finding them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the city magistrate, imploring that "These who raise the inhabited earth to insurrection are present in this place also, whom Jason has entertained. And all these are committing things contravening the decrees of Cæsar,
- 8 Jesus." Now they disturb the throng and the city magistrates at hearing these things. And, obtaining bail from Jason and the rest.

saying there is a different King.

ing bail from Jason and the rest, they release them.

56 ³⁰¹ ACTS OF THE	E APOSTLES CHAPTERS 16-17
ONEUCEZENBONTECAENTO 20 40 OUT-COMING YET FROM 5	FAIZHACCANTE CAEOIIOY 20 BOILING YET THE JUDA-
THCOYAAKHCEICHAOONTP 40 THE GUARD-house THEY-INTO-CAME TOWARD	AND TOWARD-GETTING
OCTHNAYAIANKAIIAONTE 60 THE LYDIA AND PERCEIVING	OF-THE BUYS
C TIAPEKAAE CANTOY CAAEA 80 THEY-BESIDE-CALL THE brothers	NACTONHPOYCKAI OXAOTO 80 wicked AND THEONG-making
ΦΟΥCKAIE ΣΗΛΘΟΝΔΙΟΔΕΥ 100 17 AND THEY-OUT-CAME THRU-journeying ε¹ omits ΔΜΦΙ	IHCANTECEOOPYBOYNTHN600 THEY-TUMULTED THE
CANTE CAETHNAMO I TO A IN 20 YET THE Amphipolis	TOAINKAIGHIGTANTECTH ²⁰ city and on-standing to-the
KAITH NATIONA ON I AN HAGO 40 AND THE APOLLONIA THEY-CAME AS OMIT THE B+C	OIKIAIAĈONOCEZHTOYNA 40 HOME OF-JASON THEY-SOUGHT them
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Where WAS TOGETHER-LEAD OF-THE JUDA-ANS 6	NAMMON MHEY PONTECAE AY 80 PUBLIC NO FINDING YET them
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ALEAE ZATOAYTOI CANOT 60 he-thru-says to-them FROM THE	ITHNOIKOYMENHNANACTA®O ONCE THE BEING-HOMED UP-STANDING
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ED WAS-BINDING TO-BE-EMOTIONING AND TO-UP-	KTAIIAC WHEAI OYTOIT AN 20 ALL these ALL
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WYMINKAITINE CE ZAYTON 400 to roup and any our or them 8	CEINAIIHCOYNETAPAZAN 900 TO-BE JESUS THEY-DISTURB
ETGICOHCANKAITPOCGKA 20 ARD THEY-WEER-TOWARD B Omils to-the	ACTONOXAONKAITOYCTOA 20 YET THE THRONG AND THE City-
HP WOHCANTURAY AUKAITU 40 allotted to-the PAUL AND to-the	ITAPX AC AKOYONTACTAYT 40 chiefs these
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KUNTETUNIPUTUNOYKOAI 500 BESIDES THE BEFORE-MOST NOT FEW	AOITUNATEAYCANAYTOYC57000 rest THEY-FROM-LOOSE them

10 As it was unwise to excite the mob in Thessalonica further, and the apostles did not wish to cease their labors, they slip away to Berea, probably one of the nearest synagogues. Here the Jews give them a hearty reception and eagerly examine the ancient Scriptures to see if Paul's message is in accord with their predictions. Consequently many of them believe and the proselytes also, from among the Greeks, receive the word of the Lord.

11 Paul's success among the noble Jews of Berea is clearly the result of their examination of the Scriptures. Here, doubtless, as elsewhere, current Jewish tradition, the teaching of the elders, had largely replaced the divine record, just as today the traditions of the church supersede the truths of Scripture. The truest nobility lies in ignoring current dogma and accepting only what is in closest accord with holy writ. This is the path that leads to real and substantial blessing.

14 The Jews seem to have concentrated their hate on Paul, hence it was not necessary for Silas and Timothy to leave.

15 Paul has now fulfilled the Macedonian call, and leaves that province for Greece, which was then named Achaia. Athens was, in some ways, the principal city, and it had a Jewish meeting place. Hence he went thither and took his usual course, speaking to the Jews in the synagogue, and to the others in the market place. We are not informed of his reception by the Jews, but they do not seem to have persecuted him.

18 The Epicurean philosophy was virtually Atheism. Like modern scientific theorists it denied creation, teaching that the universe was formed by a fortuitous concourse of atoms, and continued to function without the intervention of God. There was no moral government, so there was no judgment and no resurrection. Their highest aim was self-gratification.

18 The Stoics had many gods. They cultivated an austere apathy and held reason to be the only good. Stoicism developed a class of philosophic Pharisees who needed no Saviour, and acknowledged no sin. Zeno, its founder, died by his own hand.

Now the brethren immediately send out Paul as well as Silas by night into Berea, who are away, coming along into the synagogue of ¹¹ the Jews. Now these were more

noble than those in Thessalonica, who receive the word with all eagerness, examining the scriptures

¹² daily, if these things be so. Many of them, indeed, then, believe, and of the respectable Greek women and men not a few.

Now as the Jews of Thessalonica know that in Berea also the word of God was announced by Paul, they came there also, agitating and

14 disturbing the throngs. Now immediately, then, the brethren send away Paul to go as far as the sea. Silas as well as Timothy remain behind there.

Paul led him as far as Athens, and, obtaining directions to Silas and Timothy that they may be coming most quickly to him, they are off.

Now while Paul was waiting for them in Athens his spirit was incited in him, beholding the city idol-ridden. Indeed, then, he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and with the reverent, and in the market every day with those happening along.

Now some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also parleyed with him, and some said, "Whatever may this scrap-picker be wanting to say?" Yet some, "He seems O LAGAGA O LEY OF CALA 20
10 THE YET Brothers immediately THRU NIGHT

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18 ones-beside-happening-up any

NECAEKAITONETIKOYPIO 20
YET AND OF-THE Epicureans

NKAICTOIKONOIAOCOOON 40
AND Stoics (portico-ics) FOND-WISE-Ones

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ECEAETONTIANOGAOIOCT 80 said ANY EVER MAY-be-BE-WILLING THE

EPMOAOFOCOYTOCAETEIN 58000 seed-collector this TO-BE-SayING

18 "Scrap-picker" is a piece of Athenian slang based upon the habits of birds who pick up seed and scraps, and applied to men who pick up scraps of learning and who lack a thorough knowledge of their subjects.

18 "Demons" was used of good as well as evil divinities in profane Greek.

19 The hill called the Areopagus (Latin, Mars' Hill), just a few steps above the Market Place, was a most fitting forum for the folly of God to defeat the wisdom of the world. At Rome Paul's weakness overcame the power of the world; at Ephesus he overthrew its religion; at Athens his foolish talk about the resurrection confounded the philosophies that made Greece famous.

21 While the Epicureans derided him, both they and the Stoics, as well as the many Athenians who had returned from foreign travel, all were eager to hear anything that was novel, even if they could not agree with it. The resurrection was unheard of amongst them, so they wish to know more of it.
23 Paul is too wise to begin offensively by telling his hearers that they were too superstitious. His words are rather complimentary, at least so they would understand them. To dread demons was a virtue, the essence of their religion.

23 By this happy introduction the apostle manages to conciliate the pretense to knowledge which the philosophers affected. Instead of charging them directly with ignorance of God he introduces the inscription, to an unknown GOD, which they doubtless all had seen. Then he pursues a course of reasoning, which they could follow, showing the illogical basis of their philosophies as to creation, God's continued activity in providence, and His desire that men should use these evidences in groping for Him-as they were. He is careful to make every possible concession to the philosophers, yet boldly attacks their error. In the midst of marvelous temples, and elaborate ritual, he does not hesitate to declare their uselessness to the God Who needed nothing, but was the Giver of all things. He asserts His supremacy in time and space. He acknowledges the partial truth in the Stoic philosophy by proclaiming His presence and immanence. to be an announcer of strange demons," seeing that he preached to them the evangel of Jesus and the 19 resurrection. Besides, getting hold of him, they led him to the Areopa-

of him, they led him to the Areopagus, saying "Can we know what this new teaching is, of which you

²⁰ are speaking? For what you are bringing to our hearing is strange. We are resolved, then, to know what

this is wanting to be!" Now all the Athenians and the repatriated guests had opportunity for no other thing than to be telling something or hearing something newer.

Now Paul, standing in the center of the Areopagus, averred, "Men! Athenians! I am beholding on all sides how unusually religious you are. For, passing through and contemplating the objects of your veneration, I found a pedestal also, on which had been inscribed, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' To Whom then, you are ignorantly devout, This One I am announcing to you:

God. Who makes the world and all which is in it. He, the Lord possessing heaven and earth, is not dwelling in temples made with 25 hands, neither is He, requiring anything, being attended by human hands, Himself giving to all life ²⁶ and breath and all. Besides, He makes out of one every nation of mankind, to be dwelling on all the surface of the earth, specifying the setting of the seasons and 27 the bounds of their dwelling, for them to be seeking God. if, consequently, they surely should grope for Him and may be finding Him, though to be sure, He is existing

not far from each one of us, for ²⁸ in Him we are living and moving

58 ⁰⁰¹ ACTS OF TH	IE APOSTLES CHAPTER 17
OIAE EEN ON A AIM ON I ON A O 20 THE YET OF LODGED demons he-is-	EFEFPANTOAFNUCTUBEUO ²⁰ beer-on-weitten to-un-known God whom
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TOICETIABOMENOITEAY 100 19 them ON-GETTING BESIDES OF-	ONKOCMONKAI MANTATAEN 600 SISTEM AND ALL THE IN
TOYETITONAPEIONTATON20 him on the AREOPAGUS (Mars hill)	it this-One of-heaven and of-
HÜÄFONAEFONTECAYNAME 40 THEY-LED SAYING WE-ARE-ABLE	HCYTAPX WNKY PIOCOYKEN 40 LAND belongING Master NOT IN
OARNON AITICHKAINHAYT 60 TO-KNOW ANY THE NEW this THE omitted by B	XEIPOΠΟΙΗΤΟΙ CNAΟΙ CKA60 HAND-made * OF-human-ones HANDS * 5 0.
THE by YOU DEING-TALKED TEACH-	TOIKEIOYAEYNOXEIPONA 80 25 DOWN-HOMING NOT-YET by HANDS OF- RI* adds AS IDC
AXHIENIZONTAFAPTINAE 200 20 ing LODGIZING for ANY YOU-	NOPONINONOEPAREYETAI 700 human-ones Is-being-cured
ICOEPEICEICTACAKOACH ²⁰ ARE-INTO-GARRYING INTO THE HEARING OF-	TPOCAEOMENOCTINOCAYT 20 TOWARD-BINDING OF-ANY He A1 O
MUNBOYAOME DAOYNINUNA 40 US WE-ARE-intending THEN TO-ENOW	OCALACYCTACIZOHNKAIT 40 GIVING to-ALL LIFE AND BLOW- el* omits THE
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ON-PUBLIC-ING LODGERS INTO & © 0.	6PUNDNKATOIKEINENINA 800 humans to-Be-down-homing on EVERY
COYAGNETEPONHYKÄIPOY 20 NOT-JET-ONE DIFFERENT WELL-SEASONED	NTOCTPOCUTOYTHE LAND defining
OR TO-BE-SAYING ANY OR TO-BE-HEARING ANY	ICACIPOCTETATMENOYCK® HAVING-TOWARD-SET
EAINOTE PONCTAGE ICAE II 60 22 more-new AM AM AM ABOVE	AIPOYCKAITACOPOSECIA® SONS AND THE SEE-PLACES A+C
AYAOCENMEC OTOYAPEIOY 80 IN MIDST OF-THE AREOPAGUS 8 CITICN said	CTHCKATOIKIACAYTONZH 90 27 OF THE DOWN-HOME OF THE TO-BE-
Mars' hill) he-averred men Athenians	TGINTONGGONGIAPATGYH 900 SEEKING THE God IF CONSEQUENTLY SURELY ABIO. 8 G A HOR
OIKATATANTA CAGICIAA 20 according-to ALL AS more-DREAD-de-	THEY-SHOULD-STROKE-TOUGH HIM AND MAY-THEY-BO. O. O. A.O. O.
MONECTE POYCYMACOE UP 40 moned roup 1-AM-behold-	OIENKAITOITE OYMAKPAN 40 BE-FINDING AND to-THE SURELY NOT FAR
QAIGPXOMENOCTAPKAIAN® 23 ING THRU-COMING for AND UP-	FROM ONE EACH OF-US belong-
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28 Paul not only appeals to the measure of truth in their philosophies, but strengthens his cause with them by showing that even their own poets have stumbled on the truth he is about to deduce. The exact words "For we, too, are of the race" occur in a poem by Aratus, of Cilicia, Paul's native province. "The race" refers to the race of the gods, who were merely deified men. Cleanthes of Lystra also, in a hymn to Zeus, says, "for we are of your race."

29 Paul then does away with their idols, leaving nothing of their religion but the unknown God, Who knows their ignorance and bears with it, but now charges them to change their minds in view of future judgment, which is assured by the resurrection of Christ from the dead. Paul wisely begins the evangel to them by announcing the resurrection, for it alone could dispel the error of their philosophies and bring them to a realization of the necessity for a Saviour.

32 The resurrection involves the death of Christ, and this the manner and necessity of His death for sin, but Paul was not allowed to proceed, though he doubtless did unfold the evangel to those who followed him when he left the Areopagus.

Here we have a marvelous model for the preaching of the evangel to the wise of this world. No appeal is made to scripture, for it would be useless. Every concession is made to the dimperceptions of truth which they held, and they are led as far as human reason can bring them up to the greatest fact of the evangel—the resurrection. But alas! Not many wise are called, for God chooses the stupid of the world to disgrace the wise (1Co.126). No persecution drove Paul away, yet no flourishing ecclesia followed his labors. Indifference is deadly.

Paul's plan, in leaving Athens, was doubtless to found another center for the evangel in Achaia, as Thessalonica was for Macedonia. Corinth was the logical place, a large mercantile city, whence the evangel could spread in all directions.

and are, even as some poets of yours have declared, 'For we are ²⁹ of the race also.' Belonging, then, to the divine race, we ought not to be inferring that the Divine is like gold, or silver, or stone, a sculpture of art and human sentiment.

God, indeed, then, condoning the times of ignorance, now is charging all men everywhere to repent,

31 forasmuch as He assigns a day in which He is about to be judging the inhabited earth in righteousness by the Man Whom He specifies, tendering faith to all, raising Him from among the dead."—

Now, on hearing of the resurrection of the dead, some, indeed, jeered, yet some say, "We will hear you concerning this again."

³³ Thus Paul came out of their midst.
³⁴ Yet some men, cleaving to him, believe, among whom were Dionysius the Areopagite, also, and a woman named Damaris, and others with

18 After these things, departing from Athens, he came to Corinth.

them.

² And finding a certain Jew, named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy, and Priscilla, his wife (because Claudius prescribed that all the Jews depart

from Rome), he came to them, and, because they were of a like trade, he remained with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.

Now he argued in the synagogue every sabbath and persuaded Jews
 as well as Greeks. Now, as Silas as well as Timothy came down

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3 While in Thessalonica he had been supported partly by gifts from Philippi, but now he engaged in tentmaking as a means of livelihood.

During his early days in Corinth his heart was continually occupied with the saints from whom he had been severed, especially those of Thessalonica. He had sent Timothy to them to establish them. Now when Timothy came to Corinth with Silas and brought good news of their faith and love, he writes an epistle to them. This was, it seems, not only the first of Paul's epistles to be penned, but the first part of the Greek Scriptures to be committed to writing.

- As usual, Paul went to the synagogue and spoke on the sabbaths, but he does not seem to have proclaimed Christ until his companions came. Then he boldly preached Jesus as the Messiah. Profiting by his former experiences, he leaves them when they oppose and holds his meetings in a private house. Yet many, including the chief of the synagogue, are won for the Lord. Paul's language and symbolic action in withdrawing from the Jews are a denunciation of woe, and agree with what he wrote about them at this time (1Thess.2¹⁵,1⁶).
- ⁹ Paul, in writing to the Corinthians concerning these early days, told them that he was with them in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling (1Co.2³). Hence he received a vision in the night to encourage him. God had chosen many a sinner in that city who should hear the evangel through Paul and believe. The opposition did not develop for some time and he was allowed to work for a year and a half. Thus he laid the foundation (1Co.3¹o) of one of the most flourishing of the ecclesias, which ever after had a large place in his heart.
- 12 The Jews, however, took advantage of a change in the government, when Gallio (Annæus Novatus, a brother of Seneca, the philosopher, but adopted into the family of Junius Gallio, the rhetorician) became proconsul. He seems to have been especially liberal and tolerant, and refused to act as judge in an affair involving the religious law of the Jews. He considered such matters entirely outside his jurisdiction as a Roman judge.

from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the word, certifying to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. Now at their resisting and blaspheming, shaking out his garments, he said to them, "Your blood be on your head! I am clear. From now on I shall go to the nations." 1314b.

And proceeding thence, he entered the house of a certain one named Titus Justus, who is revering God, whose house was adjacent to the synagogue. Now Crispus, the chief of the synagogue, believes in the Lord, together with his whole household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed, and were baptized.

Now the Lord said to Paul, through a vision in the night, "Fear not! but be speaking: and 10 you should not be silent, because I am with you, and no one shall place [hands] on you to illtreat you, because I have many people in this 11 city." Now he is seated one year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Now, Gallio being proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord assaulted Paul, and they led him 13 to the dais, saying that "This man is inducing men to revere 14 God aside from the law." Now, as Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If, indeed, it were some injury or wicked knavery, O Jews, I should, 15 on that account, tolerate you. Yet if they are questions about words and names and a law of yours, you will see! I am not intending

6	30 ⁰⁰¹	ACTS OF TH	E APOSTLES	CHAPTER 18
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16 The Greeks thoroughly disliked the Jews, and, taking advantage of the discomfiture of the Jews, gave Sosthenes a beating in front of the very dais. This, of course, was contrary to law, but Gallio chose to overlook it. Sosthenes seems to have replaced Crispus as chief of the synagogue when the latter believed the evangel. It is possible that he, also, believed later, for a brother of this name is mentioned in Paul's first epistle (1Co.11).

17 At Philippi, the apostle had turned all blame upon the officers. So here the Lord brings upon the Jews the violence and disgrace they hoped to heap on the apostle. His promise that Paul should not be harmed is faithfully kept. The opposition has helped rather than hindered the evangel.

18 The taking of a vow was not a part of the law, but was strictly voluntary on the part of those who took it on themselves. Such a person was separated to God, and must not touch the dead, no matter how close the physical relationship. So Paul, at this time, became separated from the dying nate

tion of Israel (Nu.6).

Perhaps Paul's deliverance from the Jews in Corinth was the occasion of this vow. As a further indication of his separation from the apostate nation it corresponds to his action at the beginning of his ministry in Corinth in severing from the unbelieving Jews and going to the nations with the evangel. We have no record of his release from the vow, for he only sheared his hair in Cenchrea. To end it he would need to go to Jerusalem and shave his head. Hence, in spirit, his ministry henceforth is that of a Nazarite, without the joy which will characterize the coming of the kingdom and with the weakness and shame suggested by the long hair.

²² It is evident that Antioch has displaced Jerusalem as the center of the evangel. From this point he commences his third missionary journey, He first retraces the steps of his former journey but is now permitted to enter the province of Asia.

24 Apollos' knowledge seems to have been limited to the Hebrew scriptures which had been translated into Greek in his native city, Alexandria, in Egypt, and to the ministry of John the baptist.

5. .: .0

16 to be a judge of these!" And he
17 drives them from the dais. Yet they all, getting hold of Sosthenes, the chief of the synagogue, beat him in front of the dais. And Gallio cared nothing for these things.

Now Paul, remaining still a considerable number of days with the brethren, taking leave, sailed away to Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea, for he had a vow. 19 Now they arrive at Ephesus and he left them there. Yet he. entering the synagogue, argues with the 20 Jews. Yet on their asking him to stay on more time, he does not con-21 sent. but. taking leave, and saying, "God willing, I shall come back again to you," he set out from ²² Ephesus. And, coming down into Cæsarea, going up and greeting the ecclesia, he descended to Antioch.

23 And, spending some time, he came away, passing consecutively through the Galatian province and Phrygia, establishing all the disciples.

Apollos, an Alexandrian by race, a scholarly man, arrives at Ephesus, being able in the scriptures. He was instructed in the way of the Lord, and fervent in spirit. He spoke and taught accurately what concerns Jesus, being versed only in the baptism of John. And he begins to [speak] boldly in the synagogue. Now when Priscilla and

61 ⁰⁰¹ ACTS OF T	HE APOSTLES CHAPTER 18
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26 Apollos' ignorance of the ministry of the Lord and His twelve apostles made it easy for him to receive the truth proclaimed through Paul, so that he became a great help to the saints in Corinth as well as an ardent and powerful exponent of the ancient scriptures concerning the Messiah. What Paul had planted Apollos watered. He built on Paul's foundation (1Co.36,10). The Corinthians made him the head of one of their schisms (1Co.112). continued in fellowship with the apostle to the end (Titus 318). It is not likely that he was an eloquent man, for the word used denotes scholarship, rather than eloquence, and the combination is rare. Superiority of speech is not needed in the proclamation of the evangel. It is not in word but in power (1Co.21,4).

- ¹ Paul came by an upper road to Ephesus, passing by those of Colosse and Laodicea (Col.2¹), who never saw his face in the flesh.
- These disciples, like Apollos, seemed to know nothing of the ministry of the Lord and the twelve apostles, and of the gifts of the holy spirit which were not given until after our Lord's ascension. They possessed none of these gifts and had not so much as heard of them. John's baptism was for the repentant, to prepare a people for the Messiah Who should come after him, Who would baptize in holy spirit.
- This verse is usually taken to indicate the act of the twelve disciples, rather than Paul's statement concerning those who heard John the Baptist. But the change in the tense of the verb is against such a rendering. Paul uses the indefinite "baptizes" (4), "hearing" (5) are baptized, of the acts of John and those he baptized, but it is changed to the present, at placing, when speaking of Paul's acts, and to the past when speaking of its effects. This is not so apparent in the English version as in the Greek, but suggests that the apostle followed his usual course, for Christ had not sent him to baptize but to preach the evangel (1Co. 117). The gifts followed the imposition of his hands, not their baptism.

Aquila hear him, they took him to themselves and expounded the way of God more accurately.

Now, as he intends to be passing through into Achaia, the brethren, promoting it, write to the disciples to welcome him, who, coming along, parleyed much with those who have

believed through grace, for he strenuously and thoroughly confuted the Jews, publicly exhibiting, through the scriptures, that Jesus is the Christ.

19 Now it occurred while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul, passing through the upper parts, comes

² disciples, said to them, "Did you obtain holy spirit when believing?" Yet they to him, "Nay, neither hear we if there is holy

spirit." Yet he said "Into what, then, are you baptized?" Yet they said, "Into the baptism of

heard of them. John's baptism was for the repentant, to prepare a people for the Messiah Who should come after him, Who would baptize in holy spirit.

This verse is usually taken to indicate the act of the twelve disciples.

John.' Yet Paul said, "John baptizes with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should be believing on the One Who is coming after him, that is, on

⁵ Jesus. Now on hearing this, they are baptized into the name of the

Lord Jesus." And at the placing of Paul's hands on them, the holy spirit came on them and they talked
 languages and prophesied. Now in all there were about twelve men.

Now, entering the synagogue, he [spoke] boldly for three months, arguing and persuading as to that which concerns the kingdom of God.

9 Now, as some were hardened and stubborn, speaking evil of the way PICKIAAKAIAKYAACTPO® NECTINHKOYCAMENOAEEI® AQUILA TOWARD-CEAABONTOAYTONKAIAKP

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- Once more Paul pursues his usual plan of proclaiming Christ in the synagogue of the principal city of a province.
- 9 In Ephesus the previous visit of the apostle and the testimony of Apollos, as well as his own bold proclamation in the synagogue, won many adherents among the Jews, so that in this case, it was not some who believed, but some who opposed. After three months matters come to a crisis and Paul leaves the synagogue and brings the believing disciples with him, making his headquarters in the school of Tyrannus, where he discourses daily. Besides this, as he reminds the elders in his affecting farewell at Miletus, he supported himself by his own hands (2034), possibly working at his trade with Aquila and Priscilla, going about the homes as well as teaching publicly (2020), and healing many of diseases, and casting out wicked spirits.
- 13 The Jews had fallen so low that many of them became sorcerers and magicians who used incantations in their attempts to overcome evil spirits. Finding that Paul's formula was so effective they do not hesitate to profane the name of the Lord, by using it in their exorcisms. But the evil spirits were not deceived by this means, as the sons of Sceva found to their sorrow.
- 15 The spiritual tendency of Paul's ministry and his authority over the spirit world is here impressed upon us by one of the spirits themselves. The special word used of Paul is a very strong term denoting that they were very well acquainted with him. But they refused to recognize those who would not have the Messiah for their Saviour and Master, yet thought to make capital out of His name and power. Throughout Paul's course he drew nearer and nearer to the spiritual powers until, in his final ministry, he recognized them alone as the real object of attack (Eph.612).
- 17 This incident had a marked effect on those who practised such arts. The demons whom they feared had acknowledged both the Lord and His servant as worthy of their obedience. No wonder that they were filled with fear and magnified the Lord Jesus.

before the multitude, withdrawing from them, he severs the disciples, arguing daily in the school of ¹⁰ Tyrannus. Now this occurred for two years, so that all those dwelling in the [province of] Asia hear the word of the Lord, Jews as well as ¹¹ Greeks. Besides, powers, not the casual kind, God did through the

- casual kind, God did through the ¹² hands of Paul, so that handker-chiefs or aprons from his cuticle are carried away to the infirm also, to clear the diseases from them, and
- carried away to the infirm also, to clear the diseases from them, and wicked spirits go out.

 Now some wandering Jews also, exorcists, take in hand to name the
- name of the Lord Jesus over those having wicked spirits, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus Whom Paul ¹⁴ is proclaiming!" Now there were
- is proclaiming!" Now there were some seven sons of Sceva, a Jew, a
- this chief priest, doing this. Yet, answering, the wicked spirit said to them, "Jesus, indeed, I know, and I am versed in Paul, yet who are
- 16 you?" And the man in whom the wicked spirit was, leaping on them, getting the mastery of both, is too strong for them, so that they are escaping out of that house naked and wounded.
- Now this became known to all, Jews as well as Greeks, who are dwelling in Ephesus. And fear falls on them all, and the name of
- 18 the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many who have believed came, confessing and informing them of their

63 ⁰⁰¹ ACTS OF T	HE APOSTLES	CHAPTER 1
AONENOTIONTOYTAHOOYC 20 IN-VIEW OF-THE multitude	I-AM-OATHIZING YOU	
ANOCTACANAYTONAOUPIC 40 FROM-STANDING FROM them he-FROM-defines	SUS WHOM PAUL I	KHPYCCE 40 8-PROCLAIMING
ENTOYCMAOHTACKAOHMEP 60 THE LEARNERS according to DAY	IHCANAGTINGCCI	
ANAIAAEFOMENOCENTHCX 80 THRU-SBYING IN THE school	AAIOYAPXIEPEO	CETTAY 180 SEVEN SONS
OAHTYPANNOYTOYTOAEEF 100 10 OF-MONABOH this YET BECAME		ECATOK 600
ENETOENIETHAYOUCTENA 20 ON YEARS TWO AS-BESIDES ALL	PIOGNAGTO THE Spirit	THE Wicked
NTACTOYCKATO IKOYNTAC 40 THE ORG-DOWN-HOMING	said to-them	CTONME 40 THE INDEED
THNACIANAKOYCAITONAO 60 THE ASIA TO-HEAR THE SAYING	NIHCOYNFINDCKO JESUS I-AM-KNOWING	DKAITON 60
FONTOYKYPIOYIOYAAIOY 80 OF-THE Master JUDA-ABS	PAUL I-AM-adepting	YOUP
CTEKAIEAAHNACAYNAMÉ 1200	Δetinece ctekai	€Ф ANO 700 ON-LEAPING
CTEOYTACTY X OY CACOGEO 20 BESIDES NOT THE HAPPENINGS THE God	МЕНОСОАНОРФПОО	CETAYTO 20 on them
CETOICIAIATONS OF THE THE BANDS OF	YCENWHNTOTNEYN IN WHOM WAS THE Spirit	THE Wicked
AY AOY WCTEKAIE TITOY CA 60 12 PAUL AS-BESIDES AND ON THE ORES-	s1* adds KAI AND HPONKATAKYPIEY DOWN-mastering	CACAM 4 60 OF-BOTH
COENOYNTACATIOOEPECOA 80 being-un-firm To-BE-being-from-carried	s1* adds ©N IN OTEP WNICXY CENH he-is-strong De	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
FROM THE INTEGUMENT OF-him handker-	NOCTETYMNOYCK	AITETPA 800 HAVING-been-
YAAPIAHCIMIKINOIAKAI 20 chiefs OR half-girds (Latin) AND	YMATICMENOYCEH WOUNDED TO-B	CΦΥΓΕΙΝ 20 E-OUT-FLEEING
ATAAACCECOAIATAYTON 40 TO-BE-FROM-CHANGING FROM them	them omitted by Bs AYTOYCEKTOYOLK them OUT OF-THE HOME	OYEKEI40
TACNOCOYCTATERNEYMAT 60 THE DISEASES THE BESIDES spirits	NOYTOYTOAGGERN 17 this YET BECAME	ETOPNW 60
ATAMONHPACK MOPEYECOA 80 THE Wicked TO-BE-OUT-GOING	CTONTACINIOYA 2 to-ALL JUDA-ans	MOICTE 80 BESIDES
IGTEXCIPHCANACTING CK 400 13 ON-HAND		ones-down-homing
OF-THE ABOUT-COMING JUDA-	A has the small, at end of line OYCINTHNEΦECON THE EPHESUS	A omits on- IKAIETTE 20 AND ON-FALLS
YAAIUNG ZOPKI CTUNONOM 40 ans out-oathists TO-BE-NAMING	RECENÇOBOCETITE ON ALI	
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THE Wicked

18 Many believers still clung to their old practises, but when they found that the Lord was greater than the demons whom they feared, they abandoned their false arts. They gave up the scrolls which taught them, and burned up nearly ten thousand dollars' worth. 21 The words "as these things were fulfilled" mark the central crisis in Paul's ministry. We have long passed Jerusalem. Antioch has held its place as the base for his missionary journeys, and his correspondence was connected with Corinth, but now we look forward to Rome. In epistles written at this juncture Paul declares that he has fully preached the gospel of Christ in these parts (Ro.1519), that there is to be a change in his ministry, especially in the evangel he was proclaiming. He had gone about proclaiming Christ as Israel's Messiah, "after the flesh," yet henceforth he would do so no longer. He would recognize no man after the flesh. He would proclaim the conciliation, which does away with the distinction between the Circumcision and Uncircumcision (2Co.514-21,Ro.512-His gospel to the nations had been based on the promise to Abraham that all the nations of the earth should be blessed through His Seed. Now he preaches to all mankind because of a common descent from Adam. As this ministry is not in line with the kingdom to Israel, which is the subject of Acts, it is not recognized in this scroll.

The apostle's ministry in the synagogues is at an end, for the Jews among the nations have rejected their Messiah even as those in the land had done. All that now remains is his testimony before kings and in Rome.

Ephesus was the religious as Rome was the political center of the world. Paul gave a larger part of his ministry to the church there than to any other. 23 The disturbance in Ephesus was no doubt caused by the opposition of the evil spirits, or demons, who are the real objects of worship in idolatry. It served God's purpose as well, for the apostle's ministry had come to a crisis which required him to leave Ephesus. 24 The impelling motive of Demetrius

and his fellow craftsmen was the loss of trade, just as in the case of 'the Pythoness at Philippi. Money moves the nations.

19 practises. Now a considerable number of those practising meddling arts, bringing together the scrolls. burned them up in view of all. And they compute their value and found it to be fifty thousand pieces 20 of silver. Thus the word of the Lord grows mightily and was strong.

Now, as these things were fulfilled, Paul pondered, in spirit, passing through Macedonia and Achaia, going to Jerusalem, saving that "After coming to be there I 22 must see Rome also." Now, dispatching two of his servants, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, he attended, for the time, to the [province of | Asia.

Now at that season no slight disturbance occurred concerning the ²⁴ way, for one named Demetrius, a silversmith (making silver temples of Artemis afforded no slight income to the artisans and the workers concerned with such, whom ²⁵ he convenes), said, "Men! You are versed in the fact that by this voca-²⁶ tion we thrive, and you are beholding and hearing that, not only of Ephesus, but of almost the entire [province of] Asia, this Paul by his persuasion causes a considerable throng to stand aloof, saying that they are not gods which are coming ²⁷ into being by means of hands. Now, not only is this endangering our party, coming to be confuted by it, but the sanctuary of the great goddess Artemis also being thereby reckoned nothing (as well as her magnificence being about to be

64 ⁰⁰¹ ACTS OF T	HE APOSTLES CHAPTER 19
OTWNHPXONTOGEOMO AOFO	1 INONTAPAXOCOYXOAIFOC 20 DISTURBANCE NOT FEW
YMENOIKAIAMATTEAAONT	0 TEPITHCOLOYAHMHTPIOC 40 24 ABOUT THE WAY DEMETRIUS
ECTAC TPAZE CAYTONIKAS	TAPTICONOMATIAPTYPOK 60 for ANY TO-NAME SILVERS SILVER
NO LACTUNTANCE PICETANDS YET OF-THE-ORIGINES THE ABOUT-ACTS PRAC-	ONOCHOLONN AOYCAPTYPO 80 making temples silver si* N
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NOTION TANTONKAICYNGY VIEW OF ALL AND THEY-TOGETHED B+G	
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AIGYPONAPTYPIOYMYPIAS THEY-FOUND OF-SILVER MYRIADS (10,0	○ AYTAGPFATACGINGNANAP®
AACHENTEOYTÜCKATAKPA ² 20 FIVE thus according-to HOLDIN 2 THE Saying OF-THE Master	• ECETICTACHEOTIEKTAYT ⁷⁰⁰
OF-THE Master THE SAVING GROWS	THE ACTION THE WELL-GO
ZANGNKAIICXYENDCAGGT	O AHMINECTINKA I GEOPEIT 40 26 to-US IS AND YE-ARE-beholding
AHPGOHTAYTAGOGTOONAY the paul	60 EKALAKOYETEOTIOY MONO 60 AND ARE-HEARING that NOT ONLY A adds KAI AND
AOCENTORNEY MATILIE AO IN THE spirit THRU-COMING ACI BCO. BS omit THE	0 NEGECOYANACXEAONTAC 80 OF-EPHESUS but ALMOST OF-EVERY
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HNAXAIANTO PEYECOAIEI	OCHERCACMETECTHCENIK20 PERSUADing after-STANDS enough
CIEPOCOAYMAEIT CHOTIM saying that after	
THE TO-BE-BECOMING ME there it-is	60 EICINGEOIOIAIAXEIP CON 60 THEY-ARE gods THE-Ones THRU HANDS
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PACTONAYTOCETECXENX POR HAS-ON-HAD TIME	goddess ARTEMIS SACRED-place IN-
ONONGICTHNACIANGE ON STATE OF	O ICOYOENAOTICOHNAIMEA 80 TO NOT-FLACE TO-BE-BCOUNTED A has N small, above line A & o. A &
TOAGKATATONKAIPONGKG 50 YET according-to THE BEASON that	ABOUT BESIDES AND TO-BE-DEING-DOWN-LIFTED

It was an ancient custom to use portable images or shrines, which were modeled after celebrated temples or other objects of worship. They were used for various purposes, either 'as household gods or for religious processions, or even on journeys or military expeditions. Some were of wood, others of gold or silver. It can easily be seen how a profitable trade in such images could spring up in Ephesus, for the temple of Diana was world-renowned. Worshipers from afar would want a shrine to take with them to their homes.

The reason why shrines or temples of Diana were made, rather than images of the goddess may lie in the fact that the temple was most magnificent. while the image it contained was rude indeed. It was not an image of Diana the Huntress, which is the usual character in which she is now represented. but a many-breasted female figure above and a shapeless block below, carved out of wood. Nevertheless, she was the object of the most fanatical

veneration.

33 This Alexander may be that coppersmith who had done much evil to the apostle (2Tim.414). If so, it shows the shameless lengths to which the Jews went in their hatred of Paul. would not wish to be implicated in this matter, though it was well known that they also were opposed to idolatry. If this was the coppersmith he might have some influence with craftsmen of a like occupation, and he would clear his fellow countrymen of any association with Paul. But the mob knew he was a Jew and the mob was in no humor to tolerate any one who was not a worshiper of their goddess.

35 To be the janitor or sexton of the temple of some great divinity was considered a high honor by the cities of the ancient world.

35 The "scribe" is called by the same name as the well-known class among the Jews. He was a high city official, and, in this case, a man of tact and judgment. He appeals to them at their weakest point, and calms them before showing the groundlessness and danger of their mad uproar.

pulled down), whom the whole [province of] Asia and the inhabited earth is revering."

Now, on hearing this and becoming full of fury, they cried, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephe-29 sians!" And the city is filled with the confusion. And, gripping Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians. fellow travelers of Paul, they rush with one accord into the theater.

30 (Now, at Paul's intending to enter in to the populace, the disciples did

31 not let him. Yet some of the chiefs of [the province of] Asia also, being his friends, sending to him, entreated him not to venture into the thea-

32 ter himself.) Others, indeed, then, cried some other thing, for the ecclesia was confused, and the majority were not aware on what account they had come together.

Now they unite on Alexander out of the throng, the Jews pushing him forward. Now Alexander, gesturing with his hand, wanted to make a 34 defense to the populace. Yet on recognizing that he is a Jew, one voice came from all for about two hours, crying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians! Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

Now the scribe, composing the throng, is averring: "Men! Ephesians! For what man is there who knows not the city of the Ephesians. which is the sexton of the temple of the great Artemis and of that which

³⁶ fell from Zeus? These things. not being gainsaid, you must possess composure and com-

37 mit nothing rash. For you led these men, who are neither despoilers of the sanctuary, nor blasphemers

38 of our goddess. Indeed, then, if

65001 ACTS OF THE APOSTLES YNGBIBACANAAGIANAPON²⁰ ĬTHCMETA ĂĔIOTHTOCAYT²⁰ magnificence have-together-step ALEXANDER B OMITS THE B OMITS THE HCHNOAHHACIAKAIHOIKO 40 ΠΡΟΒΑΛΟΝΤΟΝΑΥΤΟΝΤΟΝΙ 40 him WHOM WHOLE THE ASIA AND THE being-OF-BEFORE-CASTING A omits YET s1* has A' As1* add OYN THEN ΟΥΔΑΙ ΦΝΟΔΕΆΛΕΣΑΝΔΡΟΟΘ YMENHCEBETALAKOYCANT® THE YET ALEXANDER 28 HOMED IS-REVERING HEARING DA-Ane s1***** ∧ KATACEICACTHNXEIPAHO® **CACKAILENOMENOIUVHD** 80 YET AND BECOMING gesturing THE HAND WILLED AS O. A H for | GICOYMOYEKPAZON AETON 100 81* o. O **ΕλΕΝΑΠΟΛΟΓΕΙ CΘΑΙΤΦΔΗ**™ or-fury THEY-CRIED TO-BE-FROM-SAYING to-THE PUBLIC SAVING MOGRITHONTECAGOTIIOY 20 TECMET AAHHAPTEMICE 4E20 YET that JUDA-THE ARTEMIS OF-EPHE-34 ON-KNOWING CIONKAIGHAHCOHHHOAIC# **AMOCECTINA WNHETENET®** 29 SIANS AND IS-FILLED THE city SOUND BECAME he-rs OF-THE cancelled but restored by \$2
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AHHAPTEMICE PECIDNICAT 20 Aristarchus MACEDONIANS THE ARTEMIS OF-EPHESIANS DOWN-B THE THRONG THE WRITER ΟΝΆCCΥΝΕΚΔΗΜΟΥCΠΆΥΛΟ 40 ACTEIAACAEOFPAMMATEY* TOGETHER-OUT-PUBLICERS OF-PAUL PUTTING YET THE WRITER OF-THE omitted by ABs1* **ΥΤΟΥΠΑΥΛΟΥΔΕΒΟΥΛΟΜΕΝ**⁶⁰ CTONOXAONOHCINANAPEC® 30 OF-THE PAUL YET intending THE THRONG he-is-averring men s¹*AA∈ ∧ФОI brothers OYEICEABÉINEICTONAHM® EFECIOITICT APECTINAN® TO-BE-INTO-COMING INTO THE PUBLIC EPHESIANS ANY for 18 OFs1* 0. в+е ONOYKEI WNAYTONO IMA 8H 300 ΘΡΦΠΦΝΟCΟΥΓΙΝΦCΚΕΙΤΗ*** NOT him THE LEARNERS LEFT humane WHO NOT IS-KNOWING THE TAITINECAEKAIT@NACIA® ΝΕΦΕCΙΦΝΠΟΛΙΝΝΕΦΚΟΡΟ20 31 YET AND OF-THE ASIA-chiefs OF-EPHESIANS city TEMPLE-JANITOR 81* adds KAI AND **ΡΧΦΝΟΝΤΕCΑΥΤΦΦΙΛΟΙΠΕ**# NOYCANTHCMETAAHCAPTE* to-him FOND-ones SEND-BEING BEING OF-THE GREAT ARTEMIS **ΜΨΆΝΤΕ CΠΡΟCAYTON ΠΑΡΕ** ΜΙΔΟCΚΑΙΤΟΥΔΙΟΠΕΤΟΥC® TOWARD him THEY-BESIDEina OF-THE ZEUS-FALL AND these BEING KAAOYNMHAOYNAIĞAYTON® MANTIPPHT WOON ON TON S self 36 OF-UN-INSTEAD-declared CALLED NO TO-GIVE THEN s1* omits these **EICTOBEATPONAAAOIMEN⁴⁰⁰** TOYTONAGONECTINYMACK*** 32 INTO THE gazing-place BINDING it-IS others INDEED these HAV-YOUD ATECTAλMENOYCYΠAPXËI™ ΟΥΝΆΛΛΟΤΙΕΚΡΆΖΟΝΗΝΓΆ20 THEN other ANY CRIED ING-been-DOWN-PUT TO-BE-belonging NKAIMHAENTPOTETECTIT® PHEKKAHCI ACŸNKEXYMEN 40 HAVING-been-confused NO-YET-ONE BEFORE-FALLING THE OUT-CALLED ANY TO-ΗΚΑΙΟΙΠΑΕΙΟΥΚΟΥΚΗΔΕΙ 60 PACCEINHFAFETEFAPTOY® 37 BE-PRACTISING YE-LED for THE AND THE MORE-ones NOT HAD-PER-CANTINOCENEKACYNEAHA® CANAPACTOYTOYCOYTEIE®

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38 After showing them that the men they had led to the theater were not guilty of any overt act against the temple or goddess he reminds them that there are legal means of redress for any wrong which they may have committed.

39 We have purposely retained the uniform rendering ecclesia here, for it gives us a true idea of its meaning in ordinary Greek. It was a town council before which any matter such as this might be brought for settlement. A select portion of the population convened for public business was so called.

40 The Romans would not tolerate any disorderly assemblage, and would soon recall any liberties and privileges accorded to a city if disorders were not

promptly suppressed.

the spiritual powers of evil, the avaricious mob, and the Jews were all combined against him. As in Corinth, He uses the power of Rome to protect him from false brethren and fanatical idolaters led on by his unseen spirit enemies.

- During Paul's stay in Ephesus he penned the two epistles to the Corinthians. In these we find a full account of much which is outside the scope of Acts. They trace the gradual change which is coming over his teaching, for his ministry went "from glory to glory" (2Co.318). As associated with the proclamation of the kingdom, his ministry seems to fail, as did that of the twelve. This is what is recorded in Acts. But as associated with the secret which was not made publicly known until after his final appeal to the Jews in Rome, his ministry ascended to the heights of Ephesian truth by gradual degrees.
- 2 While in Corinth he wrote the epistle to the Galatians and that to the Romans. Thus, within a few months he writes all the Preparatory Epistles, in the central crisis of his ministry, after his determination to give the flesh no further place.
- 6 Luke seems to have rejoined the apostle at this point, as he now uses the pronoun we.

Demetrius and the artisans with him have a charge against anyone, court sessions are being held, and there are proconsuls: let them be

39 indicting one another. Now if you are seeking for anything about other things, it will be explained in

- 40 a legal ecclesia. For we are also in danger of being indicted concerning today's commotion, there existing not a single cause concerning which we shall be able to render an account concerning this riot."
- ⁴¹ And, saying these things, he dismisses the ecclesia.
- Now, after the tumult ceased. 20 from "so great a death" even though Paul, sending after the disciples came away to go into Macedonia.

² Now, passing through those parts and entreating them with many

- a word, he came into Greece. And three months being spent, as there came to be a plot against him by the Jews, being about to set out for Syria, he came to be of the opinion that he would return through Mace-
- donia. Now Sopater Pyrrhus, a Berean, and Aristarchus and Secundus, Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia arranged to meet him in the [province of] Asia.
- Now these, coming before us, remained in Troas. Yet we sail away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came to them in Troas in five days, where we tarry seven days.
- Now on one of the sabbaths, at our being assembled to break bread, Paul argued with them, being

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At Paul's first visit to Troas, the vision of the man of Macedonia caused him to pass through without delay. The door was shut (168,9). At his second visit a door was opened, in the Lord, but as he had no rest in his spirit because of the absence of Titus, he again left for Macedonia (2Co.212-13). Nevertheless a considerable number seem to have believed. Conscious that he would probably never see them again, Paul lingers and prolongs his farewell exhortation.

There is a contrast as well as a similarity between the miracles wrought by Peter and Paul. raised Dorcas to life as Paul raised Eutychus. Much stress is laid on the good works and almsdeeds that she did. Nothing of the kind is recorded of Eutychus. Indeed, he was not sufficiently watchful to keep awake when the apostle was preaching. Are not these types of the resurrection of Israel and of the ecclesia which is Christ's body? Those in the former resurrection (Un.204-5) have worked as well as believed, and their resurrection is, in measure, deserved. But the saints of the present economy of grace are like Eutychus. Paul's preaching fails to keep them awake. They are drowsy and undeserving. Nevertheless, such is the superabundance of grace, that, in the secret resurrection (1Co. 1551) revealed about this time by the apostle Paul, merit has no place, for we shall live together with Him whether we are watchful or drowsy (1Thes.510).

13 We may see something of the tense solicitude of the apostle's heart in his actions. For the sake of a few more hours at Troas he walked twenty miles after having preached most of the night. He would not trust himself in Ephesus, lest he should linger and defeat his purpose to be in Jerusalem at Pentecost. Yet he could not sail past without at least a parting word to the elders of the ecclesia he had come to love so well. It becomes more and more evident that the new departure him to be in Jerusalem the day of of his own physical presence with the ecclesias. It was to be communicated in true spiritual style by means of epistles.

about to be off on the morrow. And he prolonged the word unto midnight. Now there were a considerable number of torches in the upper chamber where we were assembled.

Now a certain young man named Eutychus, being seated on the window, sinking into a deep sleep while Paul is arguing still more, being sunk from sleep, falls down from the third story, and was picked up 10 dead. Now Paul, descending, falls on him, and, embracing him, said, "Make no tumult, for his soul is in

Now, ascending and breaking bread and taking a taste, besides conversing a considerable time until

12 daybreak, so he came away. And they led the boy alive, and were immeasurably consoled.

Now we, coming before to the ship, set out for Assos, thence being about to take up Paul, for thus it was prescribed, he being about to 14 go on foot. Now, as he came up

with us in Assos, taking him up, we

15 came to Mitylene. And, sailing from thence, the ensuing [day] we arrive abreast of Chios, yet on another we put in at Samos, yet the next we

16 came into Miletus, for Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he should not be coming to linger in the [province of] Asia, for he hurried, if it may be possible for

Pentecost. 1 Cor 16.8.

Now from Miletus, sending to Ephesus, he calls for the elders of

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ON MORE	HATENEX OE 1 40 BEING-DOWN-CARRIED	BCTI for T	NSTEAD-SKULL OF- =EVENING-STAR, twilight
FROM THE SLEEP	NOYENECENAN® he-falls from	CHIOS TO-THE YET DIFFERENT	WE-BESIDE-CAST
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10 WAS-LIFTED DEAD	CKATABACAGO 300 DOWN-STEPPING YET THE	16 WE-CAME INTO	MILETUS HAD-
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11 him IN him B omits AND s2 cance		PIBHCAIENTHA IN THE AS	IA he-was-diligent
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It must be remembered that Paul's ministry was continually changing. As the apostasy of the Jews progressed, the evangel of the kingdom became less pronounced and he was entrusted with a secret, which, depending on Israel's failure, could not be made known publicly until Israel was set aside. Hence there is a great gulf between this address and the Ephesian epistle, which he wrote to them from Rome some years later. His career at this time was still imperfect. Writing to the Corinthians a short time before. he says that the saints are still in the period of minority and that maturity. or perfection, had not yet been attained (1Co.139-12).

21 Repentance had its place in Paul's preaching while he was proclaiming the kingdom. It was associated with pardon. Henceforth he no longer preaches these, but justification and conciliation by faith alone, as is set forth in his epistles to the Romans, Corinthians, and Galatians, which were written not long before this last meeting with the Ephesian elders. The call to repentance is most frequently made to the covenant people, and usually for the purpose of averting impending judgment.

22 Paul had a profound conviction that it was God's will that he should go to Jerusalem and then to Rome. The further intimation of the spirit that bonds and afflictions awaited him did not make him flinch. The distinct character of his ministry is seen by comparing him with Peter, who left Jerusalem after he had been delivered from Paul goes to Jerusalem well bonds. aware that his physical frame would be put under restraint. This corresponds closely with the change which his ministry was undergoing. The kingdom and physical blessings were fast receding and spiritual gratuities were taking their place. Henceforth Paul's physical environment is expressive of the truth which he ministers.

27 The counsel of God concerning the kingdom, as revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures, must not be confused with the still secret purpose of God, which the apostle did not make known to the Ephesians until after his arrival at Rome. See Ephesians 19,31-9, and Colossians 125.27.

18 the ecclesia. Now, as they came to him, he said to them, "You are versed [in the facts], from the first day on which I stepped into the [province of] Asia, how I came

19 to be with you all the time, slaving for the Lord with all humility and tears, and the trials which befell

²⁰ me by the plots of the Jews, how I do not shrink from informing you of anything which is expedient, and teaching you publicly and at your

21 homes, certifying to Jews as well as to Greeks repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

22 And now, lo! I, having been bound in spirit, am going to Jerusalem, not being aware what I will 23 meet with in it, more than that the holy spirit, city by city, certifies to me, saying that bonds and afflictions 24 are remaining for me. But I am taking account of nothing, nor am I making my soul precious to myself, till I should be perfecting my career and the dispensation which I obtained from the Lord Jesus, to certify the evangel of the grace of God.

And now, lo! I am aware that you all, among whom I came proclaiming the kingdom, shall see my face no more. Wherefore I take you to witness in this very day that I am clear from the blood of all, for I do not shrift from informing you of the entire counsel of God.

Take heed to yourselves and to the entire flocklet among which the holy spirit appointed you supervi-

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28 The oversight in Ephesus seems to have been in the hands of a number of supervisors who cared for them as a shepherd tends his flock. Not one of the ecclesiastical arrangements of later days was present.

29 The apostle draws a dark picture of apostasy. Wolves from without were to come in. These are spoken of as "burdensome" and probably refers to those who came in to get rather than to give. But even worse was the apostasy within. In Corinth we see the readiness with which the disciples followed a leader even when the leader refused a following. In Ephesus began the destructive work of those who set themselves up as heads of parties or divisions. Had they acted like Paul with the Corinthians the schism would have been healed. But, as they courted a personal following, it has led to the multiplied divisions of today.

³¹ Paul's tears were occasioned by the fear that they would turn away from his gospel, as they subsequently did (2 Ti.1¹⁵).

32 "God and the word of His grace" means much more to us than it possibly could have meant to the Ephesian elders at Miletus.

The richest storehouse of His grace had not yet been opened. The epistle to the Ephesians had not yet been penned. Yet Paul doubtless referred to these later unfoldings and committed them to that further revelation which it was not yet lawful for him to utter (2Co.124). God and the word of His grace are our only, yet sufficient, recourse in the present apostasy.

³³ As Priscilla and Aquila were in Ephesus, it is probable that Paul worked with them for his living as he had done at Corinth. What a marvelous example of self-sacrifice he has left! Vast as was the spiritual wealth he brought to Ephesus, he did not even take the meager dole needed for his sustenance.

37 The occasion of their most poignant sorrow was the sign of their greatest benefit. They were about to exchange a subordinate place at Israel's board, for "every spiritual blessedness among the celestials" (Eph.1s). Paul's face may fade from view on earth, yet it was but a symptom of a higher and greater fellowship in heaven.

sors, to be shepherding the ecclesia of God, which He procures through

²⁹ His own blood. Now *I* am aware that, after I am out of reach, burdensome wolves will be entering among you, not sparing the flocklet.

³⁰ And from among yourselves men will be arising, speaking perverse things to pull away disciples after

themselves. Wherefore watch, remembering that for three years, night and day, I cease not admonish-

I am committing you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to edify and give the enjoyment of an allotment among all who have been hallowed.

³⁴ or vesture. You know that these hands subserve my needs and of ³⁵ those who are with me. I intimate all to you, that, toiling thus, you must be supporting the infirm, and be remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is happiness to give rather than to ³⁶ get.'" And, saying these things, kneeling together with them all, he prays.

37 Now there came to be considerable lamentation by all, and falling on Paul's neck, they kissed him 38 fondly, being especially pained at the word which he had declared that they are about to behold his face no more. Yet they sent him forward into the ship.

21 Now as we came to set out, pulling ourselves from them, running

69 ⁰⁰¹	ACTS OF TH	IE APOSTLES	CHAPTERS 20-21
AFIONEOETOETI		MHCAŻYTO	B+C)OIAATC -HAVE-PERCEIVEI ITINOCKETEOT ²⁰ YE-ARE-KNOWING that
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- ² The party made a quick journey. The various terms, "running straight," "looming up, and leaving," suggest that they sailed before the wind, which blows from the northwest at that time of the year.
- We cannot take this statement "who said to Paul, through the spirit, not to be stepping aboard to Jerusalem" as a prohibition by the spirit of God, for Paul was acting in closest accord with the directions of the spirit. Rather, they knew, through the spirit, what was awaiting Paul in Jerusalem, and they, like all the disciples, were anxious to spare him the trials and sufferings which would surely be his lot if he persisted in his purpose to go on to Jerusalem. But Paul was emulating the spirit and conduct of his Master, Who set His face as a flint to go to Jerusalem, when He was well aware of all the shame and suffering which should befall Him in the city. Instead of blaming Paul for his persistence we may rather marvel at the steadfastness of his purpose and unflinching courage, not only in view of the trials ahead, but the importunities of his fond friends, who were compelled to recognize that his steadfast purpose grew out of clearer discernment of the Master's will, and so acquiesced (14).
- What demonstrations of affection were witnessed wherever the apostle paused to say farewell! Following the party with the wives and children as far as the beach, after prayer they "pull away" from one another. Surely Paul had won many hearts who could not but dread the dangers which were ahead of him!
- More than twenty years have passed since Philip, the evangelist, after his meeting with the Ethiopian eunuch, was left at Cæsarea (840). Whether he has remained there ever since, or had his headquarters there, does not seem clear, though he now seems to be a permanent resident. His duties as one of the seven do not seem to have detained him in Jerusalem.
- ⁹ We are not informed whether the daughters of Philip added their warnings to the rest, but there seems to be no reason for mentioning their gift here unless they, too, confirmed the word of the others.

- straight, we came to Coos, yet the next [day] to Rhodes, and thence to
- ² Patara. And finding a ship ferrying to Phænicia, stepping on board,
- ³ we set out. Now, Cyprus looming up, and leaving it to the left, we sailed to Syria, and came down to Tyre, for there the ship was unloading the cargo.
- Now, finding out the disciples, we stay with them seven days, who said to Paul, through the spirit, not to be stepping aboard to Jerusalem.
- ⁵ Now, when the days came to fit us out, coming away, we went, being sent forward by all, together with the wives and children, till outside the city. And, kneeling on the
- beach, praying, we pull away from one another, and stepped into the ship. Yet they return to their own.
- Now we, quitting the ship, from Tyre descended to Ptolemais, and, greeting the brethren, we remain one day with them.
- Now, coming away on the morrow, we came to Cæsarea, and, coming into the house of Philip the evangelist, who is of the seven, we
- ⁹ remain with him. Now there were four daughters of this man, virgins, prophesying.
- Now, at our staying on more days, a certain prophet came down 11 from Judea, named Agabus. And, coming to us and picking up Paul's girdle, binding his own feet and

70001	ACTS OF TH	E APOSTLES	CHAPTER 21
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11 This is probably that same Agabus who came down to Antioch and prophesied the famine under Claudius Cæsar (1128). He now reappears under similar circumstances. There is to be a great spiritual famine in Israel. The indications of it are found in their treatment of Paul, which was set forth in the style of the ancient prophets. This was the last intimation he had. and it so impressed all his friends that they once more sought to dissuade him from entering the city of Jerusalem. We may see how thoroughly he was convinced that he was in the Lord's will by his reply to their entreaties. He was no fanatic, bent on carrying out his own will, unmindful of the feelings of his friends. His presence in 114 Jerusalem was necessary, not only that he might fulfill his promise to contribute to the support of the poor of the Circumcision (Ga.210), but that ~ the apostasy of the nation, including the "believers" might be manifested, and thus his last and crowning ministry, which was to follow their failure, might be made known to the nations.

18 The absence of the apostles from the leadership of the saints in the holy city and the elevation of James. the brother of the Lord, to the place of authority show how the apostasy had progressed amongst them. The Lord's commission to the twelve was practically ignored, while the physical relationship of James made him their chief. Even at Paul's first visit, though he saw none of the apostles except Peter, he saw James, who already seemed to have a high place (Ga.119). At the conference concerning circumcision Peter was quite overshadowed by James, who proposes the decrees and carries his point (1513-21). Paul gives him a higher place than John or Peter, when he says that James, Cephas and John seemed to be the pillars at Jerusalem (Ga.29). Soon afterward this becomes evident in Peter's conduct at Antioch. He acted in accord with the decrees until some came from James: then he was afraid of the Circumcision party $(Ga.2^{12})$. James was at the head of those "believers" who led the Galatians astray and were the source of much of the trouble in Corinth. They hated Paul.

hands, he said, "Now this the holy spirit is saying, 'The man whose girdle this is shall the Jews in Jerusalem be binding thus, and they shall be giving him over into the hands of the nations.'" Now as we hear these things, we, as well as those in the place, entreated him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered and said, "What are you doing, lamenting and unnerving my heart? For I am ready. not only to be bound, but to die also in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." Now, as he was not persuaded, we become quiet, saving, "Let the will of the Lord occur!"

Now, after these days, taking up our baggage, we went up to Jerusa
le lem. Now disciples from Cæsarea also, came with us, to lead us to Mnason, a certain Cyprian, an early disciple, with whom we looke in Jerusalem the brethren welcome us with gratification.

Now, on the ensuing [day], Paul had been in together with us to James, and all the elders came along. And greeting them, he unfolded, one by one, each of the things which God does among the nations through his dispensation.

20 Now those who hear glorified God, and they said to him, "You are beholding, brother, how many tens of thousands there are among the Jews, who have believed, and all possess a zeal for the law. Now they were instructed concerning you that you are teaching all the Jews among the nations apostasy from

71 ⁰⁰¹	ACTS OF TH	E APOSTLES	CHAPTER 21
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24 The "belief" of the Circumcision, based on tangible evidence, such as signs and wonders, was of a very different quality from that of Paul's epistles. In our Lord's day "many believed on His name, beholding the signs which He did. Yet Jesus-He did not entrust Himself to them . . . for He knew what was in humanity" (Jn.223-25). So the myriad believers in Jerusalem were still zealous for the law and circumcision and the traditional observances. Their belief did not hinder them from hating the apostle and sending emissaries to undo his work among the nations. That Paul's real danger lay in these "believers" is evident not only from the warning of the elders and the precautionary measures they proposed, but from his own prayer to be rescued from the stubborn (not the unbelievers) in Judea (Ro.1531). Those who submitted to James' leadership could not tolerate Paul.

24 It was considered an act of piety to defray the expense of the sacrifices offered by the Nazarites at the completion of their vow, especially if the men were too poor to provide them (Nu.6). Paul himself was not rich, but it was probably agreed that some of the contribution he had brought for the poor could be used for this purpose. By thus publicly associating himself with this ceremonial it was hoped he would be able to disarm the prejudice against him. Paul's course in this matter cannot be condemned. Up to this time he became a Jew to the Jews. He could circumcise Timothy, because of the prejudice of the Jews, at the same time making it evident that circumcision was nothing. Ceremonial observances were nothing, only as they might be used to conciliate those who clung to them. It is the motive rather than the act which determines what is right and what is wrong.

27 As it was the season of Pentecost, Jews from all parts of the world were in Jerusalem to keep the festival. Much stress has been laid upon the first Pentecost, when the gospel of the kingdom was first proclaimed by the apostles. What a contrast is this Pentecost, when the chief herald of the kingdom is hated by the believers and nearly put to death through their opposition!

Moses, telling them not to be circumcising their children, nor to be 22 walking in the customs. What is it, then? Undoubtedly a multitude must come together, for they will ²³ hear that you have come. is then, which we are saying to you, do. With us are four men having a 24 vow on them. Taking these along, be purified together with them, and bear their expenses, that they should be shaving their heads, and all will know that what they have been instructed concerning you is nothing, but you yourself also are observing the fundamentals and 25 maintaining the law. Now concerning those of the nations who have believed, we dispatch an epistle,

and from prostitution."

Then Paul, taking the men along on the next day, being purified together with them, had passed into the sanctuary, publishing the full completion of the days of purification, until the offering for each one of them was offered.

deciding they are to guard them-

selves from idol sacrifice, as well as

from blood and what is strangled,

27 Now as the seven days were about to be concluded, Jews from the [province of] Asia, gazing at him in the sanctuary, threw the entire throng into confusion, and laid 28 hands on him, crying, "Men! Israelites! Help! He is the man who is teaching all men everywhere against the people, and the law, and this holy place, and, furthermore, led Greeks also into the sanctuary, and has contaminated this holy 29 place." For before this they had seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the

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KTONKAI TOPNE I ANTOTEO 500 then THE APITPOGOPAKOTECTPO IM78000 HAVING-BEFORE-SEEN Trophimus 28 While all the charges against Paul were false literally, they had some foundation in spirit, just as the accusation that our Lord had threatened to destroy the temple and raise it again in three days was false, yet true in the deepest sense. In his epistle to the Romans he had shown the defection of the people, the futility of the law and Jewish ceremonial and led the believers among the nations, in spirit, into the very holy of holies. Yet in fact he had not led Trophimus beyond the central wall of the barrier (Eph.214) called the "soreg," which forbade the nearer approach of any except those of Jewish blood. He insisted that the law was holy and just and good (Ro.712) and maintained the special privileges of the people of the covenant (Ro.9 4-5). The plan to conciliate the Christian Jews ends in a disaster which shows that Paul and the legalists are incompatible.

30 Since the whole city was stirred and the people ran together, it is evident that the myriads of Jews who believed sided with their unbelieving countrymen against Paul. This is not so strange as it appears, for even to this day the bitterness of religious controversy leads those with far less between them than there was between Paul and the Judaisers to act in much the same manner. A supposed heretic is not given the consideration which is granted an unbeliever. Religion, especially that which lays stress upon ritual, has radically vitiated the standard of human morals. Paul came to them with much alms and immense spiritual wealth, all of which they spurned as their fathers had spurned his Lord.

21 The fortress of Antonia was at the northwestern corner of the temple area, with turrets which overlooked all the temple courts, so that any disturbance could be immediately reported to the captain. Hence the mob did not have time to kill Paul before the soldiers rushed down and took him out of their hands.

33 As the captain could not find out who Paul was he came to the conclusion that he was the Egyptian impostor who had recently led an insurrection, and concerning whom both the soldiers and the populace were still somewhat excited.

city with him, whom they inferred that Paul led into the sanctuary.

stirred and there came to be a running together of the people. And, getting hold of Paul, they drew him outside of the sanctuary, and immediately the doors are locked.

31 And, while they are seeking to kill him, the allegation came up to the captain of the squadron that the whole of Jerusalem was in confu-

sion, who, taking along soldiers and centurions, forthwith runs down to them. Now they, perceiving the captain and the soldiers, cease beating Paul.

ing Paul.

33 Then the captain, drawing near, got hold of him, and orders him to be bound with two chains. And he ascertained who he may be and what he has done. Yet others in the throng retorted some other thing. Now, at his not being able to know with certainty because of the tumult, he orders him to be led into the citadel. Now when he came on

the stairs, it befell that he was borne by the soldiers because of the ³⁶ violence of the throng, for the multitude of the people followed, crying "Away with him!"

And, being about to be led into the citadel, Paul is saying to the captain, "Is it allowed me to say something to you?" Yet he averred,

38 "You know Greek, consequently you are not the Egyptian who, before these days, raises an insurrection, leading into the wilderness the four thousand men of the Assassins" Yet Paul said "I indeed

39 sins." Yet Paul said, "I, indeed, am a Jewish man, a Tarsian of Cilicia, a citizen of no insignificant

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40 God acts in marvelous ways. Human opposition works out his purposes quite as effectively as human help. What better means could be devised to get all Jerusalem as well as representatives from the dispersion together to hear this final testimony to the Messiah and His kingdom? Such an assemblage could not be called and there was probably no building large enough to hold them. It seems almost incredible that Paul should be granted an opportunity to speak to them, as Roman law and Roman soldiers were usually excessively strict and severe. Thus, in a few minutes, the whole situation is changed. We would naturally expect him to speak Greek, for all would have understood him, but, with fine tact, he speaks to them in the language none but the Circumcision? could understand, which was associated in their minds with all that was sacred in the Judaism they fought for. It was the nearest approach to the language of their sacred scriptures. It was the language of Jew with Jew, just as Yiddish is with one class today. 3 We cannot help admiring the opening words of the apostle. His gesture had stopped the tumult. His language had quieted them. Now his words are calculated to draw them into sympathy with him, as he shows them that he understands perfectly why they are persecuting him, for he himself had outdone them in his desire to stamp out the heresy which he now defends. Indeed he had witnesses among their leaders who could testify that he had received authority from them to carry his persecution to outside cities.

4 "The way" on the lips of the apostle meant the true faith and the correct life. Apparently it was a phrase of the disciples' own choosing. "The Path" of Buddhism is an interesting parallel.

e Never before had the apostle such an opportunity to tell of his meeting with the Messiah to his own people. We may gather much from his address concerning the status of the believers in Judea at this crisis. The offense of the cross had ceased. They were regarded simply as another Jewish sect. The crowd made no demonstration against the mention of Jesus

as Messiah. Myriads of them believed that and the rest tolerated it.

city. Now I am beseeching you, permit me to speak to the people."

Now Paul, with his permission, standing on the stairs, gestures with his hand to the people. Now, as there comes to be a vast hush, he shouts to them in the Hebrew ver-

22 nacular, saying, "Men, brethren and fathers! Hear my defense to

you now!" Now on hearing that he shouted to them in the Hebrew vernacular they tendered more quietness, and he is averring, "I am a

man, a Jew, born in Tarsus, Cilicia, yet reared in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, having been educated according to the exactitude of the hereditary law, possessing a zeal for God, according as all of you are

4 today. I persecute those of this way to death, binding and giving up men as well as women to jail,

is as the chief priest also was witnessing to me, and the entire eldership, from whom, receiving letters also to the brethren, I went into Damascus, to be leading those also, being there, bound to Jerusalem, that they may be punished.

Now it occurred, while I was going and drawing near to Damascus, about midday, suddenly out of heaven a considerable light flashes about me. And I fall flat, and I hear a voice saying to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting

8 Me?' Yet I answered and said, 'Who art Thou, Lord?' And He said to me, Dam Jesus, the Nazarene, Whom you are persecuting.'

74 ⁰⁰¹	ACTS OF THE	E APOSTLES	CHAPTERS 21-22
YCTHCKIAIKI OF-THE CILICIA		CHANTECYME I	CECTECHME 20 today
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THE city this Badds	THI APATOY 20 BESIDE THE OF-WHOSE OY	I-HEAR OF-SOUND OICAOYACAOY	saying to-
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HCYTAPXONTOYOGOYKAO © 500 belonging of the God according-

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JESUS

SIDES TOWARD ME

⁹ The apparent discrepancy between this and the first account of his call (9⁷) is readily explained. The men with him heard a sound but did not recognize it as the voice "of Him Who is speaking to me." The same word means both *voice* and *sound*. They gazed at the *light*, but not at the One from Whom it radiated.

¹⁰ With admirable tact Paul presses such points as were calculated to win his audience, but omits whatever would rouse their ire. The Lord Himself had told him that he was to be sent to the nations (26¹⁷) and this was confirmed by Ananias (9¹⁵). Yet he carefully refrains from any mention of the nations at this time. The wisdom of this is confirmed when they refused to hear him further, once he had mentioned the nations (2¹).

12 In the same spirit he introduces Ananias as "a pious man according to the law," omitting all mention of his belief in the Messiah. He speaks of "the God of our fathers," and baptism, and the familiar prophetic formula of "invoking His name."

17 Nothing is said here of Paul's sojourn in Arabia (Ga.117-18), and the fact that he did not return to Jerusalem for three years after his call. What most concerned his hearers was that he did return and with the fullest confidence that those who knew so well of his malignant zeal against the followers of Jesus would not fail to believe his testimony concerning Him. He even argues the point with the Lord Himself. How could they refuse to listen when they knew perfectly how madly he had carried on his persecution and had even taken part in the murder of Stephen?

18 That this is a solemn witness against the Jews is evident from the statement of the Lord that they would not receive Paul's testimony no matter how anxious he was to win them. Paul is here being used in the land as he afterward was in Rome to the dispersion to give the apostate nation a solemn intimation that God was through with them for a time and was now about to take up the nations.

Now those who are with me gaze, indeed, at the light, yet they hear not the voice of Him Who is speak-

ing to me. Now I said, 'What shall I be doing, Lord?' Now the Lord said to me, 'Rise, go into Damascus, and there you will be spoken to concerning all which has been set for you to do.'

Now, as I observed nothing for the glory of that light, being led by the hand by those with me, I came

12 into Damascus. Now a certain Ananias, a pious man according to the law, being borne witness to by

¹³ all the Jews dwelling there, coming to me and standing by, said to me, 'Brother Saul, recover your sight!' And I, in the same hour, look up

to him. Now he said, 'The God of our fathers selects you to know His will, and to be acquainted with the

Just One, and to hear the voice of His mouth, that you shall be His witness to all mankind of what you have seen and hear. And now, why do you defer? Rise, be bap-

tized, and bathe off your sins, invoking His name.'

Now it occurred, at my returning to Jerusalem and while I am praying in the sanctuary, I came to be in

18 an ecstasy and to perceive Him saying to me, 'Hurry, and come quickly out of Jerusalem, because they will not be assenting to your testi-

19 mony concerning Me.' And I said, 'Lord, they are versed in the fact that I was jailing and lashing those in the synagogues who are believing

²⁰ on Thee. And when the blood of

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21 Here we have the cause of Israel's apostasy laid bare. They were to be a channel of blessing to the other nations, but, instead, they kept all Jehovah's gifts to themselves and refused to share them with the less favored nations. They were like the slave who owed ten thousand talents, but, having nothing to pay with, is forgiven the debt. But when he found a fellow slave who owed him much less, he refused to be merciful and had him cast into prison. Consequently his Lord was indignant and gave him up to the tormentors (Mt.1823). Israel is the ten thousand talent debtor. The nations were their fellow-slaves. Israel was pardoned, but, since they refuse to pass on the blessing to the nations, the pardon is withdrawn and the nation has been in the hands of the tormentors ever since. Only a few years after this Jerusalem was destroyed, the nation scattered and driven from the land to wander up and down the earth, despised by the nations whom they had wronged.

25 On several previous occasions Paul had been protected from the fury of his own countrymen by the intervention of the Roman power. Gallio had turned the tables against them (1812-17), and the scribe of Ephesus had cleared him (1937), but never before had he appealed to his Roman citizenship as a defense against his own kin. In Philippi he had used it, not to shield himself, but for the sake of the evangel. Now, however, that the nation in the land is finally given over to judgalready been beaten five times by the Jews (2Co.1124) and it was needless to bear any more.

²⁵ As he was a Roman citizen, the captain had no right to bind Paul, much less to scourge him before trial. But the fact that he had bound him illegally put Paul in an advantageous position, to which was added the respect due to one who had received such a citizenship by birth, while the captain had obtained it by purchase. "I am a Jew" availed nothing with the Jews. But on his declaration that he is a Roman, his word is instantly accepted. It was a capital offense to claim unlawfully the possession of the citizenship.

Stephen, Thy witness, was shed, I myself also was standing by and endorsing it, and guarding the garments of those who are assassinating him.' And He said to me, 'Go! seeing that I shall be delegating

you afar to the nations."

Now they heard him until this word, and they lift up their voice,

saying, "Away with such a one from the earth, for it is not befit-

23 ting for him to live!" Besides, at their clamoring, and tossing their garments, and casting dust into the

²⁴ air, the captain orders him to be led into the citadel, telling them to interrogate him by scourging, that he may recognize for what cause they shouted thus at him.

Now as they stretch him out with the thongs, Paul said to the centurion standing by, "Is it allowed you to scourge a Roman

²⁶ man, and uncondemned?" Now the centurion, when he hears it, coming to the captain, reports, saying, "What are you about to be doing? For this man is a Roman."

the land is finally given over to judgment, he has no hesitancy in claiming his rights as a Roman citizen. He had already been beaten five times by the Roman?" Now he averred. "Yes."

Now the captain answered, "I acquire this citizenship with a vast sum." Yet Paul averred, "Yet I

have been so born." Immediately, then, those about to be interrogating him withdraw from him. Now the captain also was afraid, recognizing that he is a Roman and that he had bound him.

Now, on the morrow, resolved to know with certainty of what he is being accused by the Jews, he looses ANOYTOYMAPTYPOCCOYKA 20
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Paul now stands before the Sanhedrin, in which body he seems to have had a vote after the death of Stephen. Doubtless many who were there were old associates of his and most of them were acquainted with his life and doctrines, so that the inquiry was a mere form and bound to arrive at no conclusion. Paul, contrary to his usual custom of speaking first in a winning way of his auditors, commences immediately with his own defense, and seems to apologize for the fact that his Roman citizenship had entitled him to this hearing before them. This so enraged the chief priest, who probably took it as a hint that he was beyond his jurisdiction, that he has him slapped on the mouth. There were constant changes in the high priestly office in those days, which accounts for the ignorance of the apostle as to the personality of the high priest. Josephus tells us that Paul's prediction was fulfilled in the Jewish war, when this hypocritical president of the Sanhedrin was murdered by assassins.

Paul had the privileges of a Greek (21^{87}) , a Hebrew (22^{2}) , and a Roman (22^{27}) . The man that Christ found had been separated and trained and

circumstanced by God.

The Pharisees had this in common with the faith of Christ, that they believed in a resurrection of the dead, which was, however, denied by the Sadducees. This question was the cause of perpetual strife between them. Paul, seeing how useless any further appeal to the council would be, determined to shift the contention to the subject of resurrection, in which he would have the Pharisees on his side and thus they would be diverted into strife amongst themselves. sult justified his plan, for the Pharisees immediately become violent partisans of his and some are even willing to allow that a spirit-which the Sadducees did not believe in-had spoken to They thought to use his testimony as an argument against their enemies the Sadducees. Thus it has ever been with the Jews. Their own internal strife was seldom laid aside even in face of the gravest crisis, and became the cause of many of their miseries.

him and orders the chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin to come together. And, leading Paul down, he stands him among them.

23 Now Paul, looking intently at the Sanhedrin, said, "Men! Brethren! *I*, in all good conscience, have used my citizenship for God until

² this day." Now the chief priest Ananias enjoins those standing be-

3 side him to beat his mouth. Then Paul said to him, "God is about to beat you, whitewashed wall! And you are sitting to judge me according to the law, and are ordering me to be beaten illegally!"

Now those standing by say, "You are reviling God's chief priest!"

And Paul averred, "I was not aware, brethren, that he is chief priest. For it is written that 'You shall not be declaring evil of your people's chief."

Now Paul, knowing that one party is Sadducees, yet the other Pharisees, cries in the Sanhedrin, "Men! Brethren! I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. Concerning the expectation and resurrection of

the dead am I being judged." Now at his saying this, there came to be a commotion of the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the multitude is rent. For Sadducees, indeed, are

saying there is no resurrection, nor messenger, nor spirit, yet Pharisees

are avowing both.

Now a great clamor occurred, and some of the scribes of the party of the Pharisees, rising, fought it out with one another, saying, "We are finding nothing evil in this man. Now if a spirit or messenger speaks

10 to him—" Yet much commotion oc-

77001	ACTS OF TH	E APOSTLES	CHAPTERS 22-2
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endition in the human this if FEFPANTAIFAPOTIAPXON 80 it-HAS-been-WRITTEN for that chief TATOYAAOYCOYOYKEPEIC 500 AGMNEYMAGAAAHCGNAYTW78000 of-the people of-you not you'll-be-declar- yet spirit talks to-him 10 The captain was more concerned that a Roman citizen should not be injured than to get their report, and so sends his soldiers to rescue him a second time from their clutches. It was well that he was again taken into the custody of the Romans, for the Jews would soon have torn him to pieces.

11 After such experiences we may well imagine that the future looked black to the persecuted saint. Now, if ever, he might yield to discouraging forebodings. At just such periods in the apostle's ministry he received divine help in the form of a vision to comfort and encourage him. In Corinth, when Jewish opposition threatened to wreck his testimony, the Lord spoke to him "Fear not!" And the reason was that God had a purpose to fulfil which demanded his continuance Again, in the midst of the storm on his journey to Rome, he is again assured, "Fear not, Paul" (2724). So now, he receives the definite and cheering assurance that it is the purpose of God that he should fulfill his wish to see Rome. Besides, the Lord commends his testimony in Jerusalem, which was such a failure seemingly. This word of approval should deter us from criticising any of the apostle's acts, for they undoubtedly were in line with God's purpose, and that, rather than our own provincial standard of right and wrong, is the true test of conduct. Results are not the test of a true ministry. Paul at Jerusalem was as great a failure as Noah, Elijah and Jeremiah. But for this commendation. Paul would seem to be out of the will of God.

12 In contrast with this serene assurance is the malignant activity of the Jews, who seem to have recovered from their temporary occupation with their own differences. The apostle now becomes the object of a plot to assassinate him. Thus the Roman citadel becomes his fortress rather than his prison. If the conspirators had been true to their oath, more than forty of them would have died of selfinflicted famine, but the Talmud assures us that they could be absolved. What a conscienceless load of crime was cloaked under the religious zeal of these pious Jews!

curring, the captain, being afraid lest Paul should be pulled to pieces by them, orders the troop to descend and snatch him out of their midst, and to lead him into the citadel.

Now the Lord, the ensuing night, standing by him, said, "Have courage! For as you certify to that which concerns Me in Jerusalem, thus you must testify in Rome also."

Now on the coming of day, the Jews making a conspiracy, anathematize themselves, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till 13 they may kill Paul. Now there were more than forty who make 14 this cabal, who, approaching the chief priests and the elders, say, "We anathematize ourselves with an anathema to taste nothing till 15 we may kill Paul. Now, then, you inform the captain together with the Sanhedrin, so that he may be leading him down to you, as though about to investigate more exactly that which concerns him, yet we, before he draws near, are ready to

 Now the son of Paul's sister, hearing of the ambush, coming along and entering into the citadel,
 reports it to Paul. Now Paul, calling one of the centurions to him, averred, "Lead this young man to

assassinate him."

the captain, for he has something 18 to report to him." He, indeed, then, taking him along, led him to the captain and is averring, "The prisoner, Paul, calling to me, asks me to the first of 3rd total, began 18:23

A prisoner, Ech 311.

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IPHCINOAECMIOCTAYAOC79000 he-is-averring the bound-one Paul 16 Paul's family was influential in the Hebrew world. His nephew was in a position to learn the secret plans of the Jewish leaders.

18 Roman citizens, while awaiting trial, were kept in custody in several ways. according to circumstances and the rank of the prisoner. Public custody consisted in being thrust into the common jails and confined in dungeons of the worst kind. They were kept in chains or kept in stocks as in the case of Paul and Silas at Philippi. custody was simply a guarantee on the part of some person of high rank that the person would appear for trial. Military custody consisted in putting the person in charge of a soldier who was responsible for the prisoner with his own life. It was usual to chain the prisoner's right hand to the soldier's left. Sometimes, however, the military custody was relaxed to the extent of merely putting the prisoner under the observation of a soldier, without chains. The soldiers, of course, relieved one another in military custody. There seems to be no doubt that Paul's imprisonment was a mild form of military custody, with liberty of access for his friends and relatives.

23 The Roman provinces were divided into armed and unarmed, the former being under the authority of the emperor, the latter under the senate. Roughly speaking, the garrisoned provinces were on the frontiers, or where the country had not been fully subjugated. Tacitus and Josephus tell us that the fifth, tenth, and fifteenth legions were stationed in Cæsarea, Ptolemais, or Jerusalem a few years after They were largely recruited in the province where they were located. The Jews were, however, exempt from military duty, so that the soldiers in Judea were drawn from the Syrian and Greek population. A legion consisted of more than six thousand infantry, perhaps as many auxiliaries, besides a regiment of cavalry. Such was the force at the captain's command from which he drew the detachment which conveyed Paul to Cæsarea, the seat of the governor of the province.

26 Claudius Lysias was a diplomat and did not stop at a simple lie to gain credit for himself for having protected a Roman citizen from the Jews.

lead this youth to you, who has something to speak to you."

Now the captain, taking hold of him by the hand, and retiring to privacy, inquired to ascertain "What is it that you have to report 20 to me?" Now he said that "The Jews agreed to ask you so that you may lead Paul down tomorrow to the Sanhedrin, as though about to ascertain somewhat more exactly concerning him. You, then, should not be persuaded by them, for there are in ambush for him more than forty of their men, who anathematize themselves neither to eat nor to drink till they should be assassinat-

anticipating the promise from you." Then, indeed, the captain dismisses the youth, charging him "Talk out to no one that you dis-²³ close these things to me." And calling certain two centurions to him, he said, "Make ready two hundred soldiers, so that they may go as far as Cæsarea, and seventy cavalry, and two hundred slingers. from the third hour of the night ²⁴ [nine o'clock]. Besides, present beasts that, mounting Paul, they should be safely conveying him to

ing him. And now they are ready,

²⁵ Felix. the governor." He writes a letter after this model:

"Claudius Lysias, to the most mighty governor Felix. Rejoice! ²⁷ This man, being apprehended by the Jews, and being about to be assassinated by them, standing by with a troop, I extricate, learn-

28 ing that he is a Roman. And

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28 As in the case of our Lord, witness after witness testified that Paul had done nothing deserving the bonds he endured or the death with which he was threatened. All who heard his case concurred in the opinion that the accusations against him were unfounded and false. Yet it was in this way that he fulfilled that part of his ministry foretold by Ananias which he hitherto had no opportunity of carrying out. He had witnessed to the Jewish people and to the nations. Now he was to testify before kings (915) and thus close the kingdom testimony. His undoubted innocence, coupled with his Roman citizenship, greatly mitigated the terrors of a long imprisonment. The divine reason for this seems to be that the testimony to the Jews in the land was fulfilled. and Paul was, as a consequence, put beyond their power. All that they are allowed to do aids him in fulfilling his final kingdom testimony to the kings of the land, and provides for his journey to Rome, the greatest center of earthly power at the time, there solemnly to close up the kingdom proclamation altogether. Paul's imprisonment was a sign that the earthly kingdom was being withdrawn, otherwise its herald would be delivered from the earthly rulers. And this is emphasized by the fact that the nation who rejected it is the cause of his imprisonment.

34 It was a nice point with the Roman authorities not to interfere with one another's jurisdiction. Thus Pilate, when our Lord was brought before him, learning that he was of Galilee, which was in Herod's jurisdiction, sent Him to Herod (Lu.237). Felix does not seem to have heeded Paul's Cilician origin, probably because the complaints against him were not sustained, and the alleged crimes were committed

Ananias, the chief priest, lost no time in following the man who had called him a whitewashed wall. hires a professional pleader against Paul, probably an Italian, acquainted more accurately with the Roman law, and the flattery to which governors were accustomed. As at the trial of the Master it was really Pilate before Christ, so now the judges are being judged, though judgment is not denounced here as in the Sanhedrin.

mainly in Jerusalem.

intending to get to know the charge because of which they indicted him, I led him down to their Sanhedrin.

²⁹ Him I found being indicted concerning questions of their law, yet not having one indictment deserv-30 ing of death or bonds. Now on its being divulged to me that there will be a plot against the man, forthwith I send him to you, charging the accusers also to speak against him before you. Farewell."

The soldiers, indeed, then, according to their directions, taking up Paul, led him through the night 32 to Antipatris. Now, on the mor-

row, they return to the citadel, leaving the cavalry to come away 33 with him, who, coming into Cæsarea, and giving up the letter to

the governor, present Paul also to him.

34 Now, reading it, and inquiring of what prefecture he is, and ascer-35 taining that he is from Cilicia, "I shall give you a hearing." he averred, "whenever your accusers also should be coming along," ordering him to be guarded in Herod's pretorium.

24 Now after five days Ananias, the chief priest, descended with some of the elders and a certain orator. Tertullus, who inform the gover-² nor against Paul. Now, at his being called, Tertullus begins to accuse him, saying, "Happening upon much peace through you, and reforms in this nation coming to be through your forethought, in every

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The smooth eulogy of Felix was most undeserved. He was a freedman of Claudius and brother of that Pallas who was a favorite of the emperor. Having been a slave and now owing his elevation to influence at Rome, it is no wonder Tacitus tells us that "in the practice of all kinds of lust and cruelty he exercised the power of a king with the temper of a slave." He had Jonathan, one of the high priests, assassinated because he protested against some of his practises. It must be acknowledged, however, that he did rid parts of Judea from robbers, and especially, at about this time, drove out the Egyptian for whom Paul was mistaken by Claudius Lysias. His acts stirred the Jews against the Roman rule so that, when he retired from the province and went to Rome, he was tried for maladministration, but acquitted by Nero through the influence of his brother Pallas.

5 Tertullus makes three charges against Paul. The first was against Roman law, stirring up treason against the government. The second was against the law of Moses, as they supposed, a ring-leader of the Nazarenes. The third was against both Roman and Jewish law, profaning the sanctuary, for the Roman law protected the Jews in the exercise of their worship.

6-8 The omission of "and want to judge by a law of ours, yet captain Lysias, coming with much force, leading him away out of our hands, orders his accusers to come to you" is based on the evidence of almost all the ancient manuscripts and has the consent of almost all of the editors of the text. It is most unlikely that an orator like Tertullus would so damage his own influence as to accuse captain Lysias of a wrong, or suggest that Felix had no right to judge the case.

10 Paul quickly disposed of the two charges involving the Roman law. Since coming to Jerusalem only a few days before he had done nothing upon which they could base their charge of sedition. Neither had he profaned the temple. The other charge he admits, and makes it the occasion of his testimony. His dignified and truthful introduction is in marked contrast to that of his accuser.

welcoming it, most mighty Felix,
with all thankfulness. Now, lest I
may be hindering you still more, I
am entreating you to hear us concisely in your leniency. For, finding this man a pestilence and stirrer
of insurrections among all the Jews
of the inhabited earth, besides a
ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes, who tries to profane the sanctuary also, of whom we lay hold
also, from whom you will, by examining him, be able to recognize all
of these things concerning which we
are accusing him.' Now the Jews

of these things concerning which we are accusing him.' Now the Jews also agreed, alleging these things to be so.

And Paul, the governor nodding to him to speak, answered, "Being versed in the fact that for many years you have been a judge to this nation, I am defending that which concerns myself cheerfully, seeing that you can recognize that it is not more than twelve days since I came up to worship in Jerusalem.

12 And they neither found me in the

sanctuary arguing with any one or making a concourse of the throng, either in the synagogues, ¹³ or at the city, nor can they substantiate to you that concerning which they are now accusing me.

14 Yet this I am avowing to you, that, according to the way which they are terming a sect, thus am I offering divine service to the hereditary God, believing all which has been written, according to the law and in the prophets, having an expectation in God, which these themselves also are anticipating, that there is to be a future resurrection of the just as well as the unjust.

In this also I am exerting myself, to have a conscience which is no

1	81 ⁰⁰¹	ACTS OF TH	IE APOSTLES	CHAPTER 24
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17 To a man like Felix the accusation that Paul belonged to the sect of the Nazarenes would have little in it to incriminate him. And Paul, with marvelous wisdom, answers all that might be said against the sect by pointing out his mission to Jerusalem. came bringing a vast sum of money for the poor, contributed by this same despised sect. Whatever their differences in doctrine they had as much right to their belief as the Jews. Viewed from the practical standpoint of a governor. their charitable act called for commendation. Paul came to Jerusalem with a gift for his nation. He engaged in the religious rites of their religion. The Jews of Asia, who started the riot against him should be present to say what he had done. Their absence was proof that he had done nothing.

²⁰ Having thus defended himself of all but the theological charge against him, Paul dismisses that by showing that the fundamental doctrinal difference was the same as that which kept the Pharisees and Sadducees in continual strife with one another. If it was criminal to differ they should be indicted and one party punished. When they had settled their differences it would be in order to try the sect of the Nazarenes.

22 The "justice" of Rome, like all human justice, was based on expedience. rather than equity. Felix would have set Paul free, only he knew it would displease the Jews. He invents an excuse for deferring matters, for he evidently had no thought of consulting captain Lysias, who, on his own confession, could make nothing out of the case. One point seems to have impressed Felix. Paul had come to Jerusalem with much money. he or his friends be persuaded to part with some of it? This seems to have controlled his course until he was relieved of his place. On this account he not only lets Paul have much freedom but desires that he shall be able to get into communication with his This is why he gives him audience and hints that, given occasion, he would call for him. It is not that he would hear him when he had a "convenient season," but that he would make any season convenient if stumbling block, toward God and men, continually.

Now, after the lapse of more years, I came along doing alms for
my nation, and making offerings, in which they found me, purified in the sanctuary, not with a throng, nor with tumult. Now there were some Jews from the [province of]

Asia, who were obligated to be present before you and accuse me, if they may have anything against me.

Or let these themselves say what injury they found when I stood in the

Sanhedrin, or concerning this one voice with which I cry out, standing among them, that, 'Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged today by you.'"

Now Felix makes them postpone, being acquainted more exactly with that which concerns the way, saying, "Whenever captain Lysias may come down, I shall investigate your affairs." He directs the centurion that he is to be kept, and is to be at

ease, and to prevent no one of his own to be subservient to him.

Now after some days Felix, coming along with Drusilla, his wife (being a Jewess), sends after Paul and hears him concerning the faith the into Christ Jesus. Now as he is arguing concerning righteousness, and self-control, and the future judgment, Felix, becoming affrighted, answered, "Go now. Yet, given occasion, I shall be calling for you," at the same time expecting also that money will be given him by Paul. Wherefore, sending after him more frequently also, he

conversed with him.

82 ⁰	D1	AC'	rs of th	E APOSTLES	3	CHAPTER 24
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given the proper encouragement. He was after a bribe. Yet the Lord used this mercenary motive to protect Paul from the Jews and to lead him before kings and to bring him to Rome.

²⁴ The great moral courage of the apostle is manifest in his intercourse with Felix and his wife Drusilla, whom the king had enticed from her own husband by the help of a magician. To speak to such a notorious man, who slew the high priest for presuming to expostulate with him concerning his unlawful acts, while he was his prisoner and fully at his mercy, about righteousness, self-control and future judgment, so that the governor was affrighted, was to anticipate the powers of the coming kingdom, where righteousness shall reign.

1 Festus seems to have been a just man, though he tried to favor the Jews, as one in his position naturally would. The Jews had found that they could do nothing with Felix in Paul's case, and seem to have dropped the matter. But the accession of the new procurator gave them another opportunity to have him put to death and they are not slow to take advantage of it. Festus is more respectable than Felix. His name means "festive," and consistently with it he prefers the pleasurable to the right. He summarily disposed of the fact of Christ and His resurrection as a religious vagary because he was essentially worldly. The world holds festival while the saints suffer.

7 From Paul's reply we may imagine that the charges against him were much the same as those which had been preferred before. But they produced no evidence and the governor seems to have been convinced of his innocence. He should have freed Paul. but such a course would have brought his administration into disrepute at its very inception. Consequently he proposes a course which the Jews would approve, but he leaves it open to Paul to reject or accept. He proposes to bring the case back to Jerusalem. But Paul is through with Jerusalem and the Jewish nation. God has made it plain that his next testimony is in Rome.

Now, two years being fulfilled, Felix got a successor, Porcius Festus. And, wanting to curry favor with the Jews, Felix left Paul bound.

25 Festus, then, stepping into the prefecture, after three days went up

² to Jerusalem from Cæsarea. And the chief priests and foremost of the Jews inform him against Paul, and

3 they entreated him, requesting a favor against him, so that he should be sending after him [to bring him] into Jerusalem, making an ambush

⁴ to assassinate him by the way. Festus, indeed, then, answered that Paul is to be kept in Cæsarea, yet he himself was about to be going

out quickly. "Those, then, among you," he is averring, "who are able, step down with me. If there is anything amiss in the man, let them accuse him."

Now, tarrying among them not more than eight or ten days, descending to Cæsarea, on the morrow, being seated on the dais, he orders Paul to be led forth. Now at his coming along, the Jews who have descended from Jerusalem stand about him, bringing many and heavy charges against him which they had not the strength to demonstrate, Paul defending that "Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the sanctuary, nor against Cæsar did I any sin."

Now Festus, wanting to curry favor with the Jews, answering Paul, said, "Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem to be judged there before me concerning these things?" Yet Paul said, "I am standing at the dais of Cæsar,

83001	ACTS OF TH	IE APOSTLES	CHAPTERS 24-2
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ENTWAN	UN-PLACE LET-THEM-BE-	TOYBHMATOC	KAICAPOCEC84000 F-CAESAR HAVING-

10 Paul's reply is a marvelous compendium of his defense and his rights as a Roman citizen. Festus had supreme criminal jurisdiction in Judea over all except Roman citizens. Even these, should they be caught in some gross crime, such as banditry or piracy, could be condemned and executed by the provincial governors, with no recourse to any higher tribunal. Festus' consultation with the council was to determine this point. But it was all too evident that Paul was not guilty of such open violations of the law. Hence his appeal must stand. Festus had no right to try his case.

11-12 One of the legal advantages of a Roman citizen was his right to appeal to Cæsar. But this right was not permitted to burden the supreme court of the empire with trifling cases, and the governor of a province was empowered to investigate such claims and to decide whether or not the appeal should be granted.

13 The Roman law required that the person of a prisoner who had appealed to the emperor should be sent to Rome for trial at the earliest moment, but he must be accompanied by an official report of the case up to the time of the appeal. All of the acts and documents. the depositions of the witnesses on both sides, and a record of the judgment of the lower tribunal had to be sent to aid the emperor in his consideration of the case. Here is where Festus was in a quandary. The evidence, if such it could be called, was quite unintelligible to him. He did not wish to make his government ridiculous at its very commencement by sending a prisoner against whom he could not even formulate a definite indictment.

22 Herod Agrippa II, king of Chalcis, was familiar with the Jewish law and customs from his youth and had the power of appointing the high priest. Together with his sister, Bernice, he had come to pay a complimentary visit to the newly appointed procurator. Here was an opportunity for Festus to get the information he required concerning Paul's case, for the king was the most likely one to help him formulate an indictment, as he was an ex-

where I must be judged. I have injured the Jews not at all, as you also are very ideally recognizing. If, then, indeed, I am injuring, and I have committed anything deserving death, I am not refusing to die. Yet if there is nothing in that of which these are accusing me, no one can surrender me to them as a favor. I am appealing to Cæsar!"

Then Festus, conferring with the council, answered, "You have appealed to Cæsar: to Cæsar you shall go!"

Now, some days elapsing, Agrippa, the king, and Bernice arrive at ¹⁴ Cæsarea, greeting Festus. Now as they tarried more days there, Festus submitted Paul's case to the king, saying, "There is a certain 15 man left prisoner by Felix, concerning whom, at my coming to Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews inform, request-16 ing his conviction. To whom I answered that it is not the custom for Romans to surrender as a favor any man ere the accused may have the accusers face to face, besides getting a defensive position concerning the indictment. 17 At their coming together in this

place, then, making no postponement, when next I am seated on the dais, I order the man to be led forth, ¹⁸ concerning whom the accusers, when they stood up, brought not a single charge of the wickedness I sus-¹⁹ pected, but they had certain ques-

19 pected, but they had certain questions concerning their own religion against him, and concerning a certain Jesus, who has died, whom

84 ⁰⁰¹ AC	rs of th	E APOSTLES	CHAPTER 25
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pert in all questions relating to the Jews, besides having spent much of his youth in Rome. To him, then, Festus details Paul's case.

28 Cæsarea was the capital of Judea and thus provided Paul with an audience composed of the principal political personages of the province. this was added Agrippa and his retinue, altogether such a company as few heralds of the kingdom could hope to find. Besides, Agrippa had doubtless heard concerning the Lord and His and especially of Paul, disciples. whom he was hoping to hear. All the notables of the city as well as the military leaders assembled with them on the morrow to hear Paul's last proclamation of Messiah in the land.

What thoughts must have surged in the breast of the apostle as he is led forth to face this display of worldly power! Could anything be more expressive of the fact that, through Israel's apostasy, the longed-for kingdom, which he had proclaimed in the land and among the dispersion, was now withdrawn? Hence his defense contains no allusion to the theocratic rule to be established by Messiah. To have spoken before kings and governors before this crisis and declared the destruction of human governments by the advent of Messiah would have been suicidal. Now that the kingdom recedes, he is less and less occupied with it.

24 The well chosen words of Festus show that, though he could not understand the feeling of the Jews against Paul, he was convinced of his innocence. The examination which followed was in no sense a trial, for there were no accusations. The apostle is given liberty to speak concerning himself, yet he skilfully brings in his meeting with the Lord and his commission, so that all the elements of the evangel are put before his hearers. It is but one more example of God's inimitable ways of turning evil into good. of making human opposition work out His purpose. Paul, in his chain, and persecuted by his own people, was performing a ministry which could be accomplished in no other way.

²⁰ Paul alleged to be alive. Now *I*, being perplexed by the questioning about these things, said, If he may be intending to go to Jerusalem and to be judged there concerning these things? Now when Paul appeals to be kept for the emperor's investigation, I order him to be kept

till I shall send him up to Cæsar."

Now Agrippa to Festus: "I myself also intended to hear the man." "Tomorrow," he is aver
ring, "you shall hear him." Then, on the morrow, at Agrippa and Bernice's coming with much pageantry, and entering into the audience chamber, together with captains and prominent men of the city, and, at Festus' order, Paul was led forth. And Festus is averring, "King Agrippa, and all men

present with us, you are behold-

ing this man concerning whom

the entire multitude of the Jews pled with me, in Jerusalem as well as in this place, imploring that he ²⁵ must by no means live longer. Now I grasped that he has committed nothing deserving of death, yet at his making this appeal to the emperor, I decide to send him—concerning whom I have nothing certain to write to the lord. Wherefore I led him before you, and especially before you, king Agrippa, so that, the examination occurring, I should have something to write.

ing a prisoner, not also to signify the charges against him."

26 Now Agrippa averred to Paul,
"It is permitted to you to speak

27 For it seems to me irrational, send-

85 ⁰⁰¹	• А	CTS OF TH	HE APOSTLES	S C	HAPTERS 25-2
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King Agrippa was a notable figure throughout the closing period of Jewish national life. He was the last prince of the Herodian line. the Roman governors, who were frequently replaced and most of whom knew little of the people they sought to govern, Agrippa had all his life been in a position to acquire a most intimate acquaintance with the Jews and their religious customs.

4-5The morality of Saul of Tarsus was as unimpeachable as that of Paul the apostle. He had a good conscience (231) and his life was blameless (Phil. 36). But he was the chief of sinners (1Ti.115) because his self-righteousness and religion made him a hater of Christ. Mere religion degrades men.

- 6 Paul's plight has often been repeated in the subsequent history of Christendom. His offense consists in believing the scriptures-which his opponents claimed to believe. Strange to say, the most bitter persecution, to those who believe God, comes, not from the irreligious world, but from those who claim that they, too, believe the scriptures, but who do not seem to have received the spirit of love which pervades them.
- The Jews were expecting the Mesof their fondest hopes, when they reject the proclamation of Messiah.
- 8 The Hebrew scriptures contain several instances of resurrection besides that predicted concerning the awakening of those who sleep in the soil of the ground at the setting up of the kingdom (Dan.122). The only enfrance into the kingdom, for those who have fallen asleep, is resurrection, or awakening. Even Israel, now that they die as a nation, will have a national resurrection, as depicted by the dry bones of Ezekiel's vision (Eze.371-14). Doubtless the stress which Paul lays on the doctrine of the resurrection in these final discourses, from the time he spoke in the Sanhedrin, arose from the fact that he now looked upon the nation as dead, and nothing but a spiritual resurrection would suffice to revive them when the kingdom should come.

concerning yourself." Then Paul, stretching out his hand, made his ² defense. "Concerning all of which I am being indicted by Jews, king Agrippa, I have deemed myself happy to be about to make my defense before you today, especially as you are an expert, versed in all the customs as well as the questions of the Jews. Wherefore I am be-

seeching you to hear me patiently. My life, indeed, then, from youth, which came to be from the beginning among my nation, and in Jerusalem, all the Jews are acquainted with, knowing me from the very first, should they be willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of this ritual of ours, I live a Pharisee. And now, being judged.

I stand in expectation of the prom-⁷ ise made by God to our fathers, to which our twelve tribes, earnestly offering divine service night and rejoiced in the fulfillment of their expectation. Instead, they fly in the face of their fordest boxes. ing indicted by Jews, O king! What! Is it being judged unbe-

lievable by you, if God is rousing the dead?

I, indeed, then, suppose myself bound to commit much contrary to the name of Jesus the Nazarene. ¹⁰ which I do also in Jerusalem. And many of the saints besides. I lock up in jails, obtaining authority from the chief priests. Besides I deposit a ballot to despatch them.

¹¹ And at all the synagogues, often punishing them, I compelled them to blaspheme. Besides, being exceedingly maddened against them, I persecuted them as far as the outside

86 ⁰⁰¹	ACTS OF THE	E APOSTLES	CHAPTER 26
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¹² This is the fullest account of Saul's call, and the only one which gives his commission to the nations. He forbore to mention this in speaking to his enraged kinsmen (227) as he here omits all reference to Ananias. He uses only such parts as suit the place and purpose.

¹⁸ Only those acquainted with the glare of the Syrian sun at midday, can grasp the full significance of this. Nature's brightest light is eclipsed by the glorious grace into which Saul is ushered by his call.

14 All fell to the earth at first, but later stood up (97) as Saul himself was told to do. The fact that the Lord spoke in Hebrew is shown in the other accounts by the form of the name Saul. It is spelled differently and is not declined, as is the Greek in other places.

15 In the Orient a sharp, pointed rod is used in place of a whip to urge animals to their task. To kick the sharp goad hurts no one but themselves. This is a graphic picture of Saul's service up to this time. The Lord was using him to carry out His purpose, but hitherto Saul did not acknowledge his Master. He had been goaded into persecuting the saints. Henceforth he was to render willing, intelligent service. Henceforth he acknowledges Christ as his Lord.

¹⁶ The twelve were to witness to the Lord's life from John's baptism to His ascension (1²¹). Paul was to be a witness of Him *after* His ascension and glorification. It was to be progressive. Further visions were to be given to supplement this first commission.

¹⁶ Saul neither sought the Lord nor His service, neither had he a sense of need. He was arrested and saved by despotic grace.

¹⁷ As this is a continuation of Luke's account, most of the commissions are based on the commission for mankind (Lu.24⁴⁷) proclaiming a pardon for all men. The twelve combined it with the kingdom commissions and limited it to Israelites and proselytes (2³⁸,5⁵³,10⁴³). Saul first preached a pardon of sins to nations in Pisidian Antioch (13³⁸), combining it with the first intimation of justification. It is always coupled with repentance, though nothing is said in Saul's commission concerning this.

12 cities also. Among which, going to Damascus with the authority and

permission of the chief priests, at midday, on the road, I perceived, O king, a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining about me and those going together
 with me. And, all of us falling

with me. And, all of us falling down to the earth, I hear a voice saying to me in the Hebrew vernacular, 'Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to be kicking against the goads!'

15 Now I say, 'Who art Thou, Lord?'
Now the Lord said, 'I am Jesus,

16 Whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet, for I was seen by you for this, to select you for a deputy and a witness of what you perceived as well as that 17 in which I will be seen by you, extricating you from the people and from the nations, to whom I am 18 commissioning you, to open their eyes to turn them about from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, for them to get a pardon of sins and an allotment among those who have been hallowed by faith that is in Me.'

Whence, king Agrippa, I did not become stubborn as to the heavel enly apparition, but first to those in Damascus, besides in Jerusalem also, as well as the entire province of Judea, and to the nations, I reported that they are to be repenting and turning back to God, engaging in acts worthy of repentance.

On this account the Jews, apprehending me in the sanctuary, attempted to lay hands on me. Happening then, on assistance from God, I have stood until this day,

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1 22 It is evident that the apostle did disclose secrets which cannot be found in Moses and the prophets. One of these was the secret of the resurrection, made known to the Corinthians (1Co.1515). Another was the secret of the evangel, which occupies much of the epistle to the Romans (Ro.1625). We must either take the statement that he had said nothing but what Moses and the prophets said of future occurrences in a general way of all his past course, or take it strictly of his conduct since his apprehension by the Jews. If the latter is the case, it becomes clear why, at this time of comparative leisure, no epistles proceed from his pen and there is a gap of several years between the Preparatory and the Perfection epistles. For the time being he seems to have confined himself to the closing drama of the kingdom. This aspect of his ministry is the only one, of course, which finds any place in the present account. Until the kingdom was fully set aside, he could disclose no more secrets.

24 The idea that light was to come to the nations through such a channel was too much for Festus. He did not deride learning. He might acknowledge that light could come through The word here used is the same which is elsewhere rendered scripture or writing. He objected, not to human attainments, but to divine revelation. This is shown in Paul's appeal to Agrippa, who had believed the prophets without becoming mad.

26 This holds good of all the facts of the gospel. The evangel has no esoteric doctrines. Even its "mysteries" are for the enlightenment of all (Eph. 39).

28 Agrippa was not "almost persuaded." His remark is sarcastic to a degree. Christian was not the honorable term it is today, but a name of reproach and scorn. He suggested that Paul is too hasty in supposing that, as he believed the prophets, he would believe the evangel. But Paul ignores his sarcasm and turns it into a sober wish. He could wish that all that noble company had the true treasures of nobility and wealth which were his Thus ends Paul's testimony in Christ! in Judea. This part of his course is finished.

witnessing to small as well as to great, saying nothing outside of what the prophets as well as Moses 23 speak of future occurrences—if it be the suffering Christ-if He, the first of a resurrection from among the dead, is about to be announcing light to the people as well as to the nations."

Now, as he is making this defense, Festus is averring with a loud voice, "You are mad, Paul! Much scripture is deranging you to 25 madness!" Yet Paul is averring,

"I am not mad, most mighty Festus, but I am declaiming declara-²⁶ tions of truth and sanity. For the

king is an adept concerning these things, to whom I am speaking boldly also, for I am persuaded that none of these things is eluding him, for this has not been com-

²⁷ mitted in a corner. King Agrippa, are you believing the prophets? I am aware that you are believing!"

Yet Agrippa to Paul: "Briefly are you persuading me, to make a ²⁹ Christian!" Yet Paul, "May I ever wish to God, even briefly and greatly, not only you, but also all who are hearing me today, to become a kind such as I am also, outside of these bonds!"

And the king stood up, and the governor, besides Bernice and those 31 sitting with them. And, retiring, they talked with one another, saying that, "This man is not committing deserving death anything 32 bonds." Now Agrippa averred to Festus. "This man could have been released if he had not appealed to

Cæsar."

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- The writer of Acts, probably Luke, seems to have become the apostle's constant companion from this time. In his latest epistle from Rome Paul speaks of him as his fellow laborer (Philem.24) and later laments that he alone remained with him (2Tim.411).
- This Julius has been identified with Julius Priscus who afterwards became prefect of the Prætorian guards when Vitellius was emperor.
- There seems to have been no regular service either for passengers or freight on the Mediterranean in ancient times. Travelers were entirely dependent on passing merchant vessels and often sailed in a number of ships before reaching their destination. Paul took three different vessels in his last voyage to Jerusalem from Macedonia. Even emperors used this casual means of transportation. Hence the centurion took a ship to Asia, with the idea of transferring to another vessel as soon as he found one which would carry them toward Rome. Such a ship proved to be in Myra, one of the ports at which they called. And in this they pursued their journey to Italy.
- Aristarchus is probably that same Aristarchus who was seized by the Ephesian mob when they could not find Paul (1929) who returned to Asia with him on his last voyage to Jerusalem (204). He was his fellow laborer in Rome (Philem.24) and seems to have been imprisoned with him (Col.410).
- The direct course to the coasts of Asia would be south and west of Cyp-This was the course on his second and third missionary journeys. They worked their way to windward by taking advantage of a current between Cyprus and Cilicia.
- The Alexandrian ship was somewhat out of her course in this harbor unless it had business there also, but the prevailing west wind would account for this. Egyptian vessels were amongst the largest of that day, and as this one was engaged in the trans-Mediterranean traffic it must have been of considerable size.
- Cnidus had an excellent and sheltered harbor, to which, doubtless, they would have gone for the winter if the wind had allowed it.

- .27 Now, as it was decided that we are to sail away to Italy, they gave over Paul, as well as some other prisoners, to a centurion named Julius, of the Imperial squadron. Now, stepping on board a ship of Adramyttium, about to sail for places in the [province of] Asia, we set out, with us being Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica. Now, on another [day], we were led down to Sidon. And Julius, using Paul humanely, permits
 - And setting out thence, we sail under the lee of Cyprus, because the winds are contrary. And, sailing through the ocean off Cilicia and Pamphylia, we come down to Myra, of Lycia. And the centurion, finding there an Alexandrian ship sail-

him to go to friends for casual care.

- ing to Italy, has us step on board of it. Now, for a considerable number of days, sailing tardily and hardly coming off Cnidus, the wind not leaving us toward it, we sail un-
- der the lee of Crete, off Salmone, and hardly skirting it, we came to a certain place called Ideal Harbors, near which was the city of Lasea.
- Now, a considerable time elapsing, and sailing being already hazardous, because the Fast also has already passed by, Paul exhorted 10 them, saying, "Men! I behold that sailing is about to be with damage and much forfeit not only of the. lading, and of the ship, but of our 11 souls also." Yet the centurion

was persuaded by the navigator and

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THE AYK I ACKAKÉ 6 OF-THE LYCIA AND-there	FINDING THE 1		FLOATING THE YET

11 Anciently the steersman, or helmsman, or pilot, was captain of the ship. but his duties in larger vessels corresponds to our navigator. The man who chartered the ship traveled as his own supercargo, and was as much interested in the safety of his lading as the navigator was in his ship. Hence his counsel was sought. One lost his ship and the other his cargo for rejecting Paul's advice. The souls on board (including these two men) were given to Paul, and he lost none of them, even though their action endangered all.

12 Ideal Harbors, was not, as its name implies, a sheltered enclosure, but rather an open roadstead. Hence the majority of those on board thought best to reject the Jewish prisoner's advice and seek better winter quarters. 12 "Looking" must be taken from the sailor's standpoint, which is usually the opposite of a landsman's. Phœnix faced east rather than west.

13 As the south wind came up they probably lost all confidence in the pessimistic Jew who had warned them of danger ahead.

14 This typhoon or hurricane was so violent that the vessel could not keep its course, but was carried off in another direction. Had it not been so strong they could have luffed to the wind and used it to carry them to Phœnix.

16 Cauda is usually called Clauda, but as this reading is corrected in Sinaiticus, and the modern name omits the "l." we have made it Cauda.

16 It was customary, in ancient times, to drag a small boat in the water behind the ship. So long as the vessel was being driven by the gale this was safe, but when its speed was temporarily reduced there was great danger of the boat pounding the vessel to pieces or being itself broken up. Hence they held it off, and then hoisted it on board.

17 "Lowering the gear" in order to keep from running into the Syrtis, on the north African coast, must have consisted in lying-to, or setting a small canvas to bring the vessel up as near the wind as possible. This would stop her progress and change her course.

the man who chartered the ship. rather than by what is being said by Paul.

Now as the harbor possessed no fitness for wintering, the majority gave counsel to set out thence, if somehow they may be able to arrive at Phœnix to winter, a harbor of Crete looking toward the southwest and toward the north-west.

13 Now, the south wind blowing gently, supposing their purpose to hold, weighing anchor, they skirted close along Crete.

Now, not much after, a wind, a hurricane, called a "northeaster," 15 struck her. Now as the ship is gripped by it, and being unable to luff to the wind, giving her up, we 16 were carried along. Now, running under a certain islet called Cauda. we hardly have strength to hold off

¹⁷ the skiff, hoisting which, they used stays, undergirding the ship. And fearing lest they should be falling into the Syrtis quicksand, lowering the gear, thus they were carried 18 along. Yet, at our being vehement-

ly tossed by the tempest, on the next [day] they jettisoned, and on the

third with their own hands they 20 toss over the ship's gear. Now, neither sun nor constellations appearing for more days, and no slight tempest lying on us, all further expectation of our being saved was taken from us.

And there being much absti-21 nence, then Paul, standing in the midst of them, said, "You were obligated indeed, O men, yielding to me, not to have set out from Crete and to gain this damage and for-

90001	ACTS OF TH	E APOSTLES	CHAPTER 27
EEKATONTAPXHO HUNDRED-chief	TOKYBEP 20 to-THE STEERER	ENONKAYA CAUDA	AICXYCAMENMO 20 WE-Bre-BTRONG HARDLY
NHTHKAIT WNAY!		AICTEPIKP	ATÉ I CTENECO 40
AONETÉIBETOHT	TOICYTOT 60	17 OF-THE DUG-out	HCHNAPANTEC®
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ETOYAGTOYAIME	belonging	WHANTEC	TOTACIONO BO600 THE FLOATER FEARING
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IANOITACIONEC	PLACED COUN-	THEY-SH'D-BE-OUT-	CINXAAACANTE 40 FALLING LOWERING
OYAHNANAXOHN BEL TO-BE-UP-LED	thence	THE omitted by s1* CTOCKEYO THE INSTRUMENT	
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HCANTECEICOOI	S+6 NIKATAP 200 x (PALM) TO-BESIDE-		HEZHCEKBOAHN ⁷⁰⁰ next out-casting
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KAIKATAX OPON 13 AND according-to NORTH-WEST			Y-TOSS NO-BESIDES YET OF
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YKAIMHAYNÄMEN and no being-abled	TO-BE-INSTEAD-	CUAYTUNE or-them sai	ITENEAGIMENO 40 d it-was-binding indeed o!
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being-called

23 That Paul, a mere prisoner, should have presumed to give advice at all shows how quickly he obtained recognition. Now that all wished that he had been heeded, he easily assumes the leadership. They deserve to be lost, and the vessel and its cargo are lost, through rejecting Paul's words. Yet, notwithstanding their dience, he is graciously granted the souls of all who are sailing with him. We cannot believe that this shipwreck is merely an interesting adventure in Paul's career without any bearing on the subject of the book of Acts. We have seen how this account gives us only what concerns the kingdom testimony, leaving out important incidents in his life which have no bearing on it. This shipwreck is not mentioned in his later epistles. Hence it must have a close connection with the fortunes of the kingdom. We take it as a parable of Paul's closing kingdom ministry and the fortunes of those who are associated with him in it. They are in the ship and sustained by it just as the nations, under Paul's early ministries are in the kingdom and find their sustenance at Israel's board. But the kingdom is fast going to pieces, Israel as a nation is nearing its end, and now the question is, what is to become of the believers among the nations to whom Paul had preached? Will they be swallowed up in Israel's downfall? answer is pictured in the salvation of all who sail with Paul and the loss of the ship with its cargo. tions lose everything connected with the kingdom but are safely carried through the catastrophe. They lose all earthly hopes, but gain the higher heavenly place accorded them in Paul's epistles from Rome.

27 Those on board ship have the sensation that land is nearing them when the ship approaches a shore and sailors speak of it in this way. Experienced sailors know when they are near land, even if it is invisible, by the distant roar of the breakers and other in-The danger now lay in dications. striking something in the dark so that they should not be able to reach the shore and save themselves.

22 feit. And now I am exhorting you to be cheerful, for not one soul from among you will be cast away, more

23 than the ship. For a messenger of God, Whose I am, to Whom I am offering divine service also, stood

24 beside me this night, saying, 'Fear not. Paul! You must stand before Cæsar. And lo! God has graciously granted to you all those sailing

25 with you.' Wherefore, be cheerful, men, for I am believing God that it will be even in the manner which

²⁶ has been spoken to me. Yet we must fall on a certain island."

Now as the fourteenth night came, at our cruising about in the Adria, in the middle of the night the mariners suspected some 28 country to be nearing them. And, sounding, they found twenty fath-

oms. Now after a bit of an interval. sounding again, they found fifteen ²⁹ fathoms. Besides, fearing lest at some time we should be falling on

rough places, pitching four anchors out of the stern, they wished for the

coming of day.

Now at the mariners seeking to flee out of the ship, and lowering the skiff into the sea under pretense of being about to stretch an-31 chors out of the prow, Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers. "Except these should be remaining in the ship, you cannot be saved." 32 Then the soldiers strike off the

ropes of the skiff and they leave her to fall off.

Now, until the day was about to come, Paul entreated all to partake of nourishment, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day, apprehensive, BPINTAYTHNKAITHNZHMI 20 RAGE this AND THE FINE (forfeit)

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EFUNTECCAPECKAIAEKAT92000 ING FOUR-AND-TENT ³⁴ It is practically impossible to prepare meals in such a storm as they had encountered and the constant toil and apprehension would take away all desire for food. But now that land was near they doubtless remembered Paul's predictions and were more than willing to listen to him as he cheered and encouraged them. We hear no more of the navigator and the owner of the cargo, and even the centurion obeys Paul, who acknowledges his thankfulness to God before all and gives them an example of faith by taking his fill of food.

38 The lighter they could make the ship the better chance they had of beaching her near the shore. To do this it was necessary also to control her course, so they hoisted a sail to the wind and unlashed the rudders, which had probably been securely fastened, as steering was impossible. Unlike modern vessels, the ships of that day had two rudders, which they would now use to steer the ship for the beach.

41 It would seem that some current carried them into a channel, or the place "where two seas met," and hindered them from reaching the beach they were headed for. They ran aground in the channel itself.

41 Every detail of this description fits perfectly with the environs of what is now called St. Paul's bay on the northern coast of Malta. The depth of the sea, a channel made by the island of Salmonetta, and the evidences of a beach at the mouth of the Westara creek, all identify this as the probable location.

⁴² As a Roman guard was ordinarily responsible for his prisoners with his own life, we can better understand the inhuman suggestion of the centurion's soldiers. Once again Paul becomes the saviour of the prisoners even as he had been used but a few hours before to prevent the sailors' desertion and thus saved the lives of the very soldiers who now wished to despatch him. The centurion was too just to kill the one to whom he and the rest owed their very lives.

you are constantly abstinent, tak³⁴ ing nothing. Wherefore I am entreating you to partake of nourishment, for this belongs to this salvation of yours, for not a hair from
the head of one of you shall be de³⁵ stroyed." Now, saying this, and

taking bread, he thanks God before all, and, breaking it, begins to eat. ³⁶ Now, becoming cheerful, they also

37 all took nourishment. Now we were, in all. two hundred seventy-six

38 souls in the ship. Now, being sated with nourishment, they buoyed the ship, casting out the wheat into the sea.

Now when the day came, they did not recognize the land, yet considered a certain gulf, having a beach, into which they planned, if 40 possible, to thrust the ship. And, taking the anchors from about it, they left them in the sea, at the same time slacking the lashings of the rudders, and hoisting the foresail to the breeze, they kept her 41 course for the beach. Now, falling into a channel, they run the craft aground, and the prow, indeed, remains sticking unshakable, yet the stern was broken up by the violence of the billows.

Now the soldiers' counsel was that they should kill the prisoners, lest some, swimming out, may flee
 away. Yet the centurion, intending to save Paul through it, prevents them from their intention. And he orders those who are able to swim, diving, to be off to land
 first, and the rest, these, indeed, on

Rom 9:17 1964:3

92001	ACTS OF TH	IE APOSTLES	CHAPTER 27
HNCHME PONHME	EPANTIPOCA 20 TOWARD-SEEM-	YONTOEIDY	BI KC for Z NAINTO EZOCA 20 THEY-BE-ABLE TO-OUT-THRUST
OKONTECACIT	YE-ARE-THRU-FINISH-	40 THE FLOATER	KAITACATKYP 40 AND THE ANCHORS
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- 1 . There was an island in the Adriatic called Melida or Melita, which some suppose was the scene of the shipwreck. It is in the gulf of Venice. The ancient Adria, however, included more than the present Adriatic, and was applied to all of the Mediterranean between Sicily and Greece. The modern condition of Malta is no index of what it was in those days. "Barbarians" (for which we have no English equivalent) was applied by the Greeks to any who did not speak Greek, and their conduct makes it clear that they were far from being barbarous or savage. There are no vipers in Malta today. but venomous reptiles always disappear with the increase of population. The Venetian Melita could not possibly be reached with the wind blowing so as to drive them toward the Syrtis quicksand and there is no reason to think that it changed. They would pass innumerable islands on the way as if by a miracle. And their subsequent journey would have been overland or by a different route from Melita.
- Just as Matthew, who gives us the rejection of the kingdom as proclaimed by our Lord Himself, closes with a millennial foreview when He told them. in anticipation of that day, "all authority in heaven and on earth is given unto Me," so here, where we have the rejection of the kingdom as proclaimed by His apostles, we are regaled with a millennial scene to remind us that the kingdom is merely delayed, and will come in its proper time. First the serpent is destroyed, corresponding to the binding of Satan at the beginning of the thousand years, then blessing flows out to the nations. Paul, as a herald of that day, is able to pick up serpents without any harm coming to him, but lays hands on those who are ailing, and they have ideal health (Mk.
- 7 By healing the father of the chief man in the island, his fame and message would be immediately spread. Thus the very place of the shipwreck was chosen to suit his purpose.

- planks, yet those on anything from the ship, and thus all came safely through on the land.
- 28 And, being safely through, then we recognized that the island is ² called Melita. And the barbarians tender us not the casual philanthropy, for, kindling a fire, they took us all in, because of the imminent shower and because of the cold.
 - Now at Paul's twisting together a certain quantity of kindling and placing it on the fire, a viper, coming out of the warmth, fastens on
- 4 his hand. Now, as the barbarians perceived the wild beast hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "Undoubtedly this man is a murderer, whom, being safely through the sea, Justice lets not
- ⁵ live." Indeed, then, twitching the wild beast into the fire, he suffered
- 6 no evil, yet they were apprehensive that he was about to become inflamed or suddenly fall down dead. Yet, after much apprehension, and beholding nothing coming to be amiss with him, retracting, they said he is a god.
- Now in the region about that place were freeholds belonging to the foremost man of the island, named Publius, who, receiving us amiably,
- 8 lodges us three days. Now it occurred that the father of Publius was lying down, pressed with a fever and dysentery. Paul, entering to him and praying, placing his hands on him, heals him.

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- Three months busy with blessing thus came out of the catastrophe. Had the ship wintered in Cnidus, as they had wished, or at Ideal Harbors, as Paul proposed, the ship and cargo might indeed have been saved, but a much greater loss would have been sustained by the islanders. Thus God always gets a greater good out of a lesser evil.
- 11 The Latin equivalent of Dioscuri would be "Castor and Pollux". But this gives the impression that it was a Roman vessel, whereas most of the commerce with Rome was carried in foreign bottoms, and this was probably a Greek ship, having a Greek name.
- 12 There is a local tradition that Paul himself founded the first ecclesia in Syracuse. The account reads as though the centurion allowed him the utmost liberty.
- 15 As Paul had written an epistle to Rome there must have been a considerable company of believers there. They showed something of their regard for him by coming out to welcome him on the way. One company came as far as Appii Forum. Another delegation met him at Three Taverns, about ten miles nearer the city. No wonder Paul thanked God and took courage. He was now near the goal that he had set before him several years before, and though a prisoner of Rome, he had almost all the freedom he could wish. Indeed, from this time he preferred to call himself a "prisoner of the Lord", as he rec gnized that it was the Lord's will.
- 17 It is eminently fitting that the final and decisive rejection of the kingdom should follow its proclamation in Rome, the seat of the world's greatest empire at the time. It had been proclaimed in Jerusalem and rejected by the rulers of the Jews in the land, now it has been fully heralded among the Jews of the dispersion, and they, too, have rejected it wherever Paul has gone. The most signal sign of their apostasy is his imprisonment. It reveals the height of their obstinacy. Rome would free him. But his own nation loads with chains the one who would free them from the Roman yoke.

- Now on this occurring, the rest also of those in the island, having infirmities, approached and were to cured, who honor us with many honors also, and, at our setting out, they placed on board what was for our needs.
- Now after three months, we set out in an Alexandrian ship with the ensign Dioscuri, which has winter-
- 12 ed in the island. And landing at Syracuse, we stay three days,
- 13 whence, coming about, we arrive at Rhegium, and the south wind coming on after one day, we came the
- ¹⁴ second [day] to Puteoli, where, finding brethren, we were entreated to stay with them seven days. And thus we come to Rome.
- And thence, the brethren, hearing about us, come to meet us as far as Appii Forum and Three Taverns, perceiving whom, Paul, thank-
- when we came into Rome, Paul was permitted to remain by himself together with a soldier who guarded him.
- 17 Now it occurred, three days after, that he calls together the foremost of the Jews. Now on their coming together he said to them, "I, men, brethren, doing nothing contrary to the people or to the hereditary customs, was given up a prisoner out of Jerusalem, into the hands of the
- 18 Romans, who, examining me, intended to release me, because not one cause of death existed in me.
- 19 Now at the contradiction of the Jews, I am compelled to appeal to Cæsar, not as though having any-

94001 ACTS OF THE APOSTLES CHAPTER 28 $s had + \Pi$ AOITOIOIENTHNHCOEXON20 ΝΑΧΡΙΑΠΠΙΟΥΦΟΡΟΥΚΑΙΤΏ THE IN THE ISLAND APPH (Lat.) FORUM (Lat.) AND OF-IINTII. B BEFORE- 0. TECACOENCIACTIPOCHPXO# PIONTABEPNUNOYCIAONO 40 TIN-FIRMS TOWARD-CAME TAVERNS (Lat.) THREE WHOM PERCEIVING THE B 0. 0. ΝΤΟΚΑΙΕΘΕΡΑΠΕΥΟΝΤΟΟΙ!! ΠΑΥΛΟCEYXAPICTHCACTΦ® A NID were-cured DATIT. thanking WHO to-THE KAINOAAAICTIMAICETIM® 82+N ΘΕΨΕΛΑΒΕΕΑΡΟΟΟΤΕΔΕΕ® VALUES THEY-VALUE COT COURAGE when ICHAOOMENEICPOMHNETE 600 HCAN HMACKALANAT OMENO 100 AND to-UP-LEADING INTO-CAME INTO ROME it-WAS-81* omits THE A+C ICE TEBENTOTATPOCTACX* TPATHTOTIAY AUMENEINKA 20 THE TOWARD needs THEY-ON-PLACED THE permitted to-THE PAUL TO-BE-REMAINING accord-B o. = him PEIACMETA DETPEICMHNA 40 **BEAYTON CYNTUOY AACCON®** ing-to self YET THREE MONTHS TOGETHER TO-THE GUARDING TIAYTON CTPATIOTHEREN® CANHXOHMENENTIAOI@TIAP® 17 him WABRIOR WE-WERE-HP-LED IN FLOATER AKEXË IMAKOTIENTHNH CŒ® **GTO∆GMGTAHMGPACTPGIC**® IN THE ISLAND YET after BESIDE-WINTERED DAVE THREE B2 H ΑΛΕΣΑΝΔΡΙΝΟΠΑΡΑCΗΜΟΔ200 CYNKA AECA COA LAYTONTO 700 to-BESIDE-SIGN TO-TOGETHER-CALL ZEUS him IOCKOYPOICKAIKATAX86º Υ C ΟΝΤΆ C Τ ΦΙΝΙΟΥΔΑΙΦΝ ΠΡ 20 AND BEING-DOWN-LED ones-BEING OF-THE JUDA-ans в+С s1* repeats AC NTECEICCYPAKOYCACETE® WTOYCCYNEAGONTUNDEAY # most OF-TOGETHER-COMING YET them WE-ON-INTO SYRACUSE MEINAMENHMEPACTPEICO® Τωνεγειενμό ος σλλιόλ (5-6) THREE WHICHhe-said TOWARD them DAYS s1* +N stroke Bs1* 0. **ӨЕНПЕРІЁЛЁОНТЕСКАТНН®** ΓΦΑΝΔΡΕCΑΔΕΛΦΟΙΟΥΔΕΝ® brothers ww-attain NOT-YET-ONE PLACE ABOUT-COMING THCAMENEICPHTIONKAIM 800 ENANTION TO THE ACT WAS DOWN AND after IN-INSTEAD Doing to-THE PEOPLE RHEGIUM INTO ETAMIANHMEPANETITENO® HTOICEGECITOICHATPOO® hereditaries DAY OF-ON-BECOMING OR to-THE CUSTOMS THE MENOYNOTOYAEYTEPA IOI ICAECHIOCE∑IEPOCOAYM# second-day BOUND-one OUT OK-JERUSALEM BOUTH **ΦΝΠΑΡΕΔΟΘΗΝΕΙ CTACXΕΙ**® HABOMENEICHOTIOAOYCO® where WAS-BESIDE-GIVEN INTO THE HANDS INTO PUTEOLI 14 WE-CAME PACTONPOMAIONOITINEC® **ΥΕΥΡΟΝΤΈ** CAΔΕΛΦΟΥ CΠΑΡ⁸⁰ 18 ROMANS WHO-ANY OF-THE FINDING brothers WE-WERE-B+E 81*0 ANAKPINANTECMEEBOYAO 800 **СКАНОНМЕНПАРАЧТОІСЕП**₩ examining intendED BESIDE to-them BESIDE-CALLED 81* +ME ME ΝΤΟ ΑΠΟΛΥΚΑΙΔΙΑΤΟΜΗΔΕ® IMEINAIHMEPACETTAKAI® TO-FROM-LOOSE THRU THE NO-YET-ONE SEVEN AND REMAIN DAYS WE-COME INTO ROME A omits THE MIANAITIANBANATOYY II A 40 OYTOCEICTHNPWMHNHA8A*

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meetings with his believing brethren. He must have made known to them those transcendent truths which heal 3 teaches in his Perfection Epistles. If the Acts were giving an account of his 26 & career or of his evangel, it stops short As alph b at the most important point. "history of the commencement of the Christian church" it is the most disappointing of all books, for the truths which distinguish the present economy, found in Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians, were not made known until its close and are never referred to, much less taught. Those events in Paul's career which are of the utmost importance for present truth, from his sojourn in Arabia to the dispatch of Tychicus with the Perfection Epistles, are quite overlooked in this account. Y 1/2 Paul's sojourn in Rome marks the beginning of that vast work of the spirit of God which has continued down to the present time. Yet all we are told here is the disappointing meeting with Instead of closing with a the Jews! song of victory and sending the church on its triumphant way, he quotes Isaiah's doleful prophecy concerning the apostate nation, showing the failure of the kingdom proclamation and the reason why it should no longer be What stronger evidence is heralded. needed to show that the Acts is not concerned with the so-called "church"? It is no mere history of the apostolic times. It is concerned only with those events which chronicle the fortunes of the earthly kingdom. It deals with a transitional period when the church was still dependent on the favored nation and had a subordinate place in the reign of Messiah over the earth, as promised by the Hebrew prophets.

26 This marvelous prophecy has had a threefold fulfillment in Israel: when they rejected Jehovah (Isa.69-10), when they rejected the Lord (Mt.1314,15), and, in this present instance, when they reject the testimony of the spirit. through His apostles. Israel, in part, has become calloused, until the fulness of the nations may be entering (Ro.11 25)

23 Paul must have had many precious 20 thing to accuse my nation of. For this cause, then, I call for you, to see and speak [to you]. For on account of the expectation of Israel

Jerl4:8

this chain is lying about me." Now they say to him, "Neither receive we letters concerning you from Judea, nor does any of the brethren coming along report or speak anything wicked concerning

you. Now we count it worthwhile to hear from you what your disposition is. For indeed, concerning this sect, it is known to us that it is being contradicted everywhere."

Now, setting a day for him, the majority came to him in the lodging, to whom he expounded, certifying to the kingdom of God, and persuading them concerning Jesus. from the law of Moses as well as the prophets, from morning till ²⁴ dusk. And some, indeed, were persuaded by what was said, yet some ²⁵ disbelieved. Now there being disagreements one with another, they were dismissed, Paul making one declaration, that, "Ideally the holy spirit speaks through Isaiah the prophet, to your fathers, saying,

'Go to this people and say. "In hearing, you will be hearing And may by no means understand,

And observing, you should be observing

And may by no means be perceiving."

For the heart of this people is made stout.

And they hear heavily with their ears.

And they shut their eyes.

27

Lest at some time they may be perceiving with their eyes.

And should be hearing with their ears,

And may understand with their heart,

And should be turning about, And I shall be healing them.' # © 0.
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31 This proclamation of the kingdom would include its present abeyance and future manifestation. "That which concerns our Lord Jesus Christ" is purposely vague, and is the only hint in the whole book of the greatest of all Paul's ministries, those mysteries or secrets which could not be revealed until the kingdom had been finally rejected. Paul's prison epistles were written during this period.

that to the nations was this salvation of God dispatched, and they will hear."

Now he remains two whole years in his own hired house, and he wel-

comed all those going in to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God, and teaching that which concerns the Lord Jesus Christ, with all boldness, unforbidden. **WCTONOYNECT WYMINOTIT²⁰** THEN LET-it-BE to-YOUP that to-

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Rom 12:50 1 Co, 10:17. 1 Co 12:12,13,20. ECH 2:16. ECH. 4:4. Co]3:15.

Evangel.in Rom. 1:1,9,16. 2:16. 10:16. 11:28. 15: 15, 19,29. 16:25. 10 times

Evangelize. 1:15. 10:15. 15:20. 3 times. Sins. 3:25, 4:7. 7:5. 11:27
PAUL'S EPISTLES 4 times.

PAUL'S EPISTLES are for the present. All the rest of Scripture finds its interpretation and application either before or after the present secret administration. Paul alone gives the truth for the ecclesia which is the body of Christ. This is found nowhere outside of his writings. Israel and the nations occupy all other parts of divine revelation. What is true of them in other eras and eons must not be mixed with the present truth or it will lead to confusion and error. All Scripture is profitable, as a revelation of God's ways, but it must not be applied outside its proper place.

The main subject of the Greek Scriptures is the kingdom of Israel. It is refused in the four accounts of our Lord's ministry, it is again rejected in the treatise called Acts, it is reaffirmed in Hebrews, James, Peter, John, and Jude, and it is realized in the Unveiling. In Paul's epistles it is in abeyance.

It is God's purpose to bless the nations through Israel. But when Israel, the channel of blessing, fails, this becomes impossible. In Paul's epistles the nations are blessed during Israel's defection. The sphere of blessing is changed from earth to heaven. Repentance and pardon are replaced by justification and reconciliation. Grace replaces mercy

ciliation. Grace replaces mercy.

The scope of Paul's epistles, both in time and in space, far transcends all the rest of revelation. He is not confined to the earth, but includes the whole universe in God's grand climax of reconciliation (Col.120). He is not confined to the eons, or ages, but reveals a purpose formed before they began, and not concluded until after their consummation. His range reaches from a time long anterior to the first of Genesis to a period long past the final vision of the Unveiling.

Paul's writings naturally fall into two divisions, his epistles to the ecclesias, and his personal letters to Timothy, Titus and Philemon.

Paul wrote nine epistles to seven ecclesias. They arrange themselves into three groups. The epistles in each group are very closely related, the

first epistle in each, Romans, Ephesians and 1 Thessalonians, setting forth the truth didactically, while the other epistles of the same group are explanatory and corrective. The best commentaries on Romans are Corinthians and Galatians; on Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians; and Second Thessalonians supplements the first epistle.

The Thessalonian group we have called the Promise Epistles, because they deal with the expectation of our Lord's return. The Romans group we have named the Preparatory Epistles because they deal with the transitional era which prepared the saints for the final revelation found in the Ephesian group, which we therefore style the Perfection Epistles.

Each group is characterized by one of the abiding trinity of graces, faith, expectation and love (1Co.13¹³). The following outline will serve to show the groups and the relation each epistle sustains to the others in its group.

PAUL'S EPISTLES

THE PREPARATORY EPISTLES

FAITH

Romans

Justification Conciliation Deportment

I CORINTHIANS
II CORINTHIANS
GALATIANS

Deportment Conciliation Justification

THE PERFECTION EPISTLES

LOVE

EPHESIANS

Doctrine Deportment

PHILIPPIANS COLOSSIANS Deportment Doctrine

THE PROMISSORY EPISTLES

EXPECTATION I THESSALONIANS

II THESSALONIANS

THE PERSONAL LETTERS

I TIMOTHY II TIMOTHY

TITUS PHILEMON SINNER, would you know how to be just before God? Read Romans!
Saint, would you be at perfect peace

Saint, would you be at perfect peace with God? Ponder Romans!

The writer of these words became acquainted with God through a study of this epistle. It is emphatically the portion of God's word which is adapted to show all men God's present grace, preparatory to the higher unfoldings of Ephesians.

All revelation previous to Paul's severance to the ministries which are expounded in Romans, as through the Lord and His apostles, was limited to the Circumcision, concerned with the kingdom promised by the prophets to Israel, and falls far short of the grace revealed through Paul in this epistle. They promised a probationary pardon on repentance, but here we have a complete vindicajustification or acquittal \mathbf{or} founded entirely on faith.

As is shown by the literary framework, Romans is dominated by three great doctrines: Justification, Conciliation and Sovereignty. God's own righteousness, which He shares with the sinner, His own peace, which He

LITERARY FRAMEWORK
Reversal with Doctrinal Alternation

Gospel, made known, Justification 11-16

Greetings, brief 17 Prayer 18-19 Intended Journey 110-118 Previous Ministry 114-117 The Conduct of Mankind 118-320 DOCTRINE Justification 321-425 Conciliation 51-830 God's Sovereignty 831-839 God's Sovereignty 91-929 DOCTRINE Justification 930-1021 Conciliation 111-1136 The Conduct of the Saints 121-157 Previous Ministry 158-1521 Intended Journey 1522-1529 Prayer 1530-1533 Greetings, extended 161-1623 Gospel, hushed up, Conciliation 1625-1627

imparts to the believer, and His own indomitable will, which forms the immovable basis of all blessing, are the bulk and burden of this epistle. As justification is commonly degraded to a mere pardon, or forgiveness, and conciliation is unknown, and God's sovereignty is denied, there is need to urge God's beloved saints to give the great truths of this epistle the place in their hearts and lives which they deserve.

Every doctrine in this epistle is discussed twice: first from the viewpoint of the individual, and again from the larger, national standpoint. latter half of the third and the fourth chapters show clearly and exhaustively how anyone may be vindicated in the sight of God. The latter half of the ninth and the tenth chapter shows how this favor finds its way to the nations while Israel fails to effect it through the law. So, too, God's present attitude of peace toward all mankind and toward those who are justified is fully set forth in the fifth, sixth, seventh and part of the eighth chapters. bearing of this on Israel and the nations is fully unfolded in the eleventh chapter. That God is for His people is shown in the end of the eighth chap-His sovereign will with regard to Israel and the nations is shown in the succeeding chapter.

It is exceedingly important to recognize the national scope of the ninth, tenth and eleventh chapters. Much confusion has resulted from applying parts of these chapters to individuals rather than to nations. Nothing in these chapters which is said of Israel nationally, in apostasy, was true of Paul himself and the few faithful ones in the nation. These are not hardened. though the nation, as such, is. Israel, nationally, has not attained to righteousness, yet many in the nation cannot be included in this sweeping assertion. The nation, as such, not the faithful remnant, has stumbled. It is Israel as God's national witness in the earth which is figured by the olive tree. Some of the branches (the unbelieving majority) are broken off. The nations as a whole (the wild olive tree) are grafted into the cultivated olive tree. Now that the nations, as such, are apostatizing, they are about to be cut Individual believers in the nations will not be cut out, for their faith would keep them in.

- ¹ Paul dates his apostleship from the commission he received at Antioch (Ac. 13²) when he was severed from the rest to preach the evangel of God to the nations. Hitherto only Jews and proselytes like Cornelius heard the evangel. Now Paul is called to preach justification to the other nations. This evangel was promised before. It is in contrast to that secret evangel (16 ²⁵⁻²⁷) which was never before revealed, but which is first set forth in the fifth to the eighth chapters, called "the conciliation".
- The evangel is not concerning the sinner but concerning God's Son. Like all men, He was a union of two elements, flesh and spirit. As to His flesh He was a descendant of David, but as to His spirit, He was from God. This is powerfully evidenced by the fact that His Father has given Him life in Himself (Jn.526) so that He never entered the presence of death without vanquishing it. The fact that He raised Jairus' daughter (Mk.535-42), the widow of Nain's son (Lu. 711-16), and Lazarus (Jn.1144) proves conclusively that He is the Son of God.
- ⁵ Paul had obtained this unparalleled grace from the risen Son of God when he met Him on the road to Damascus and, later, was given a distinct commission, in accord with this grace, to evangelize all the nations, to whom the twelve apostles were not sent (Gal. 29). James and Peter wrote to their Jewish brethren among the nations, but none of the Circumcision, not even Christ Himself, was sent to any nation but Israel. Paul alone, of those whose writings we have, was the minister of Christ Jesus to the nations (15¹⁶).
- s The emphasis on faith is characteristic of this and its companion epistles. The Circumcision mixed faith and works, but Paul insists on sheer, unassisted faith, on which alone can be founded the pure, unadulterated grace which he is dispensing.
- ⁹ Cut off, in large measure, from the ceremonial worship of his nation at Jerusalem, Paul carries it on where-ever he is, in spirit, by the proclamation of this evangel, for the exaltation of Christ's sacrifice in the evangel is a far sweeter fragrance to God than the literal offerings of the law.

PAUL, a slave of Christ Jesus, a called apostle, having been severed for God's evangel

(which He promises before through His prophets in the holy

3 scriptures), concerning His Son

(Who comes of the seed of David according to the flesh, Who is being designated Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection of the dead), Jesus Christ, our Lord, through Whom we ob-

Lord, through Whom we obtained grace and apostleship for faith obedience among all the nations, for His name's sake—

among whom are you also, the called of Jesus Christ, to all who are in Rome, beloved by God, called saints:

Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

8 First, indeed, I am thanking my God through Jesus Christ concerning you all, that your faith is being announced in the whole world.

For God is my witness, to Whom I am offering divine service in my spirit in the evangel of His Son, how unintermittingly I am making

prayers beseeching, if somehow, sometime, at length I shall be prospered, in the will of God, to come to you. For I am longing to see you, that I may be sharing some

spiritual grace with you for you to 12 be established: yet this is to be consoled together among you through one another's faith—yours as well

as mine.

13 Now I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, that I oftentimes purposed to come to you (and was prevented hitherto) that I should be having some fruit among

Rom 11:25. 1 Cor. 10:10 12:10 2 Corlis. 1Thes 4:13

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14 The "Greek" must not be confounded with the so-called "gentile". or man of the nations. The Greek is the cultured, refined person, sometimes in contrast with the Jew, the religious man, but here in contrast with the uncultured or "barbarian".

14 "Barbarian" seems to be the only available term in English for this Greek word. It denoted especially one who did not speak Greek, the language which nearly all the world spoke at

that time.

16 The evangel is God's power for salvation—nothing else can take its place. There is no other power in the universe which can turn men to God. All the modern substitutes and expedients. sanitary or social, impassioned oratory or emotional excitement, cannot save or make men right before God. The evangel alone, without any additions or apologies, is able to justify anyone who believes.

17 This evangel imparts God's own righteousness to those who accept it. This is unspeakably more than the pardon or forgiveness proclaimed at Pentecost by the twelve apostles.

17 When the law failed utterly, and Israel was far gone in apostasy, the prophet fell back upon God's unconditional promises, and made the mem-orable statement "The just by faith shall live" (Hab.24). Now that Israel is again apostate, this rule once more supersedes the law.

THE CONDUCT OF MANKIND

18 The apostle now takes up the conduct of those of mankind who had no written revelation. Nature alone ought to teach them much about the Deity. His attributes are in some degree revealed in His works in creation.

21 Such a knowledge of God called for worship and thanksgiving. they degraded His glory by making images of Him like themselves or even the lower orders of creation. may be nothing in themselves, but, as they are supposed to represent the Deity, it is of the utmost importance that they do not suggest false ideas about Him. Hence He abhors all images and would not allow His people to harbor them. Christ is the One Image that truly represents Him. 24 There is no surer road to degradation than to degrade the object of our

worship.

you also, according as among the rest of the nations.

To Greeks as well as to barbarians, to the wise as well as to the 15 foolish, am I a debtor. Thus this eagerness of mine to preach the evangel to you also, who are in ¹⁶ Rome. For I am not ashamed of the evangel, for it is God's power for salvation to everyone who is believing—to the Jew first, and to 17 the Greek as well. For in it God's righteousness is being revealed out of faith for faith, according as it is written: "Now the just by faith shall be living."

For God's indignation is being revealed from heaven on all the irreverence and injustice of men who are retaining the truth in injustice. 19 because that which is known of God is apparent among them, for

God makes it manifest to them. ²⁰ For His invisible attributes are descried from the creation of the world, being apprehended by His achievements, as well as His imperceptible power and divinity, for ²¹ them to be defenseless. Because, knowing God, they do not glorify or thank Him as God, but were

made vain in their reasonings, and

their unintelligent heart is darkened. Alleging themselves to be wise, they are made stupid, and they change the glory of the incorruptible God into the likeness of an image of a corruptible human being and flying creatures, and quadrupeds and reptiles.

26,25 Wherefore God gives them up, in the lusts of their hearts, to the uncleanness of dishonoring their ²⁵ bodies among themselves, who alter the truth of God into the lie, and

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The Conduct of Mankind

25 There may be an allusion here to the prevalent custom of worshiping the Roman emperor. It has often occurred that, when men have attained to great eminence, they have demanded and received divine honors. der the Great claimed such homage. 26 The prevailing immorality in ancient times was largely attributable to the character of the gods they worshiped. The younger race of gods who held sway on Olympus were usurpers who had murdered the older gods, and were guilty of innumerable deeds of violence and full of sensuality and injustice. If their gods behaved so, it was not difficult for men to emulate their example and endorse such actions in others as well.

The failure of Christendom is largely due to the fact that God is unknown, and His place filled by a fierce, vindictive caricature, who is restrained from his thirst for vengeance by the intervention of an effeminate mediator who takes the place of the Christ of God.

¹ The argument here is inexorable. The man who judges others must be prepared to submit to the same judgment himself. There is no surer way of condemning himself than by sitting in judgment on those who commit the sins of which he is guilty.

In the day of judgment there will be little need to call witnesses against mankind, for their own reasonings among themselves and the standards of justice, however low, which they apply to their neighbors, are sufficient to condemn all.

The constant effort to uplift humanity ignores the true cause of human depravity. These things are the result of refusing to recognize God. One of the most alarming signs of modern times is the increasing desire to eliminate all reference to God in every sphere of life. Education must be strictly Godless, business has no place for the Deity, society shuns all mention of Him, and even many of the socalled churches have little more than a formal recognition of an unknown God. We must be prepared for more and more of the crime waves which periodically surge over the earth, as well as the complete break-down of the moral fibre of so-called civilization.

are venerated, and offer divine service to the creature beside the Creator, Who is blessed for the eons! Amen!

Therefore God gives them over to dishonorable passions, for their females, as well, alter the natural use into that which is beside nature. Likewise even the males as well, deserting the natural use of the female, were inflamed in their craving for one another, males with males effecting indecency, and getting back in themselves the retribution of their de-²⁸ ception which must be. And according as they do not test God, to have Him in recognition, God gives them over to a disqualified mind, to do that which is not befitting, ²⁹ having been filled with all injustice, wickedness, evil, greed, distended with envy, murder, strife, guile, 30 depravity, whisperers, vilifiers, detesters of God, outragers, proud, ostentatious, inventors of evil, stub-31 born to parents, unintelligent, perfidious, without natural affection, 32 implacable, unmerciful: who, recognizing God's just statute, that those committing such things are deserving of death, not only are doing them, but are endorsing also them that are committing them.

Wherefore you are defenseless, O man!—everyone who is judging—for in what you are judging another you are condemning yourself, for you who are judging are committing the same. Now we are aware that God's judgment is in accord with the truth against those who are committing such things.

Yet are you counting on this, O man, who are judging those committing such things, and are doing

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The Conduct of Mankind

³ Is it not most unreasonable for the sinner to suppose that God's judgment of him will be less searching than his condemnation of the sins of his fellow men? The fact that His judgment is delayed and that He continues to give the blessings of creation with a bountiful hand should lead to reconsideration and amendment.

It is well to consider the basis on which the judgment of mankind will proceed. It is not all one-sided. God will not only sentence the evil, but reward the good—if such there be. That there are none to claim His rewards does not alter the great fact which is here laid down as the just basis of God's dealings with mankind. He will be paying each one according to his acts. No one can say this is not just and right. He is just as ready to reward the good as to punish the bad. All that is needed is someone to live up to the standard, and He will give such a one life for the eons -the same life which those who believe get through Christ as a gratuitous gift. To say that it is idle to speak thus, since no one can possibly claim such an award, betrays a misapprehension of the underlying purpose of judgment. This is not, as commonly supposed, the condemnation of wrongdoers, but rather the payment of what is due, good as well as bad, that so the justice of God's character may be revealed. Judgment, as a revelation of God, would be most misleading if it made no provision for reward as well as punishment. If no one is able to claim the reward it will not change the essential fact that such a righteous foundation underlies God's throne.

11 Law does not exempt from judgment: it only fixes the standard of judgment. Knowledge of the law only incriminates more deeply those who break it.

14 Human nature, or instinct, is not corrupt. It is in line with God's law and conscience (2²⁷). It is against sin (1²⁶). The heart of humanity is corrupt. By following their nature it was quite possible for men to do by instinct what was later inscribed in the written code. Men's acts are unnatural.

the same, that you will be escaping 4 the judgment of God? Or are you despising the riches of kindness and forbearance and patience, being ignorant that God's kindness is leading you to repentance? Yet, in accord with your hardness and unrepentant heart you are hoarding for yourself indignation in the day of indignation and revelation of the just judgment of God, Who will be paying each one in accord with his acts: to those, indeed, who by endurance in good acts are seeking glory and honor and incorruption, eonian life, yet to those of faction, and stubborn, indeed, as to the truth, vet persuaded to injustice, indignation and fury, affliction and distress, on every human soul which is effecting evil-of the Jew first 10 and of the Greek as well-yet glory and honor and peace to everyone who is working at that which is good—to the Jew first,

and to the Greek as well.

11 For there is no partiality with
12 God, for as many as sinned without law shall be lost also without
law, and as many as sinned in law
13 will be judged through law. For
the listeners to law are not just with
God, but the doers of law will be
justified.

For whenever they of the nations, having no law, may be doing by nature what the law demands, these, having no law, are ¹⁵ a law to themselves, who are displaying the action of the law written in their hearts, their conscience joining its witness, and their reasonings between one another accusing or defending them, in the day when God will be judging the

hidden things of humanity, accord-

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The Conduct of Mankind

16 Much of the judgment which obtains among men is unjust and oppressive because of their inability to uncover the real truth: But in the divine judgment the hidden things will be revealed and a just sentence will be based on all the facts. Doubtless the motives will be laid bare as well as the acts themselves and thus the quality of each action will receive due recognition.

17 Now the apostle is about to devote particular attention to the Circumci-Hitherto he has appealed to nature, or instinct, and to conscience. All these combine to condemn those who had no access to the revealed will of God. The Jew, who had the law, considered himself in an entirely different class, so the apostle devotes a considerable section to prove to him that the possession of the law did not make him immune from judgment. but rather invited a severer sentence. 28 The responsibility of being the repository of the form of knowledge and truth was very lightly felt by the Jew. He did not realize the gravity of his position. His conduct was now no longer a matter of private concern; it involved the name and honor of If he kept the law it would. mark him as a just and holy man. and God and His law would receive As it was, however, his acpraise. tions did not comport with the light in which he boasted, and as a result God's name was brought into dishonor among the nations.

²⁵ God's *judgment*, let us remember, is based on *acts*; His *gifts* are granted to *faith*. We have not yet come to the bestowal of gifts. The rite of circumcision was the outward sign, in the first place, of an inward faith, but it degenerated into a mere mark of privilege. But misused privilege is of no avail at the bar of God.

28 In the judgment the outward visible tokens will count for nothing. Only that which is vital, in spirit, which will meet the scrutiny of God, will receive recognition. Men may applaud many an action which God detests, and may condemn that which God approves. Human standards and outward appearances will weigh little in the judgment.

ing to my evangel, through Jesus Christ. 16:25

Lo! you are being denominated a Jew, and are resting on law, and law are boasting in God, and know the will, and are testing what things are of consequence, being instructed out of the law. Besides, you have

out of the law. Besides, you have confidence in yourself to be a guide
 of the blind, a light of those in darkness, a discipliner of the imprudent, a teacher of minors, having the form of knowledge and

truth in the law.

You, then, who are teaching another, are you not teaching yourself? who are proclaiming not to be 22 stealing, are you stealing? who are saying not to be committing adultery, are you committing adultery? who are abominating idols, are you 23 despoiling the sanctuary? who are boasting in a law, through the transgression of the law are you 24 dishonoring God? For because of you the name of God is being blasphemed among the nations, according as it is written.

For circumcision, indeed, is of benefit if you should be putting law into practise, yet if you should be a transgressor of law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.

26 If the Uncircumcision, then, should be maintaining the just requirements of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circum27 cision? And the Uncircumcision who, by instinct, are discharging

who, by instinct, are discharging the law's demands, shall be judging you, who through letter and circumcision, are a transgressor of law.

Jew, nor yet what is apparent is the Jew, nor yet what is apparent in flesh circumcision; but that which is hidden is the Jew, and circumcision is of heart, in spirit, not in

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The Conduct of Mankind

1 It would almost seem, from the preceding argument, that the advantages enjoyed by the Jews brought them no real benefit. But this seems to be true only of those who disbelieved and abused the advantages accorded them. Those of faith among them received untold benefit, like their father Abraham.

The greatest treasure in all the world was once the exclusive possession of the Jews. To them were confided the oracles of God. Today we, who in that day had no revelation from God, are entrusted with the same treasure, yet with jewels infinitely more precious than were ever in their care. This epistle is one of them. Have we anything like a true sense of our responsibility? Have we explored and enjoyed these treasures in any measure as they deserve? May God grant that the present attempt to open this treasure house to all His saints from the highest to the humblest, may lead to a greater appreciation of the infinite value of this sacred deposit.

The painful contrast between the fearful failures of His people and His holy law had one good effect. It magnified His righteousness. The question arises whether, since their unrighteousness commends His righteousness, He has the right to be indignant at it. Indeed (we might add) since all sin is a foil for His glory, how can He condemn it? But, how then can there be any judgment at That God is able to bring good out of evil is no excuse for the commission of evil, far less an incentive to do evil.

In the judgment there will be no privileged class. Religious Jews as well as cultured Greeks are all under sin. The proof of this for the Jews is found in the very oracles in which

they boast.

10 These passages are all quoted in support of the charge that the Jew. equally with those of other nations, is subject to the judgment of God. 10-18 The whole quotation is taken from the Septuagint of Ps.142-3 except that it begins "The Lord out of heaven stoops over the sons of mankind, to perceive if they are understanding or seeking out God".

letter, whose applause is not of men, but of God.

What, then, of the Jew's prerogative, or what is the benefit of circumcision? Much in every manner. For first, indeed, that to them were entrusted the oracles of 3 God. For what if some disbelieve? Shall not their unbelief nullify 4 the faith of God? May it not come

to that! Now let God be true, yet every man a liar, even as it is written:

"That so Thou shouldst be justified in Thy sayings, And shalt be conquering in Thy judgment."

Now if our injustice is recommending God's righteousness, what shall we assert? Not that God Who is bringing on indignation is unjust (I am saying it as a man)? 6 May it not come to that! Else how shall God be judging the world? Yet if the truth of God superabounds in my lie, for His glory, why am I also still being judged as a

sinner, and not (according as we are calumniated and according as some are averring that we are saying) that "We should be doing evil that good may be coming" (whose judgment is just)?

What then? Are we privileged? Undoubtedly not, for we previously charge Jews as well as Greeks to

10 be all under sin, according as it is written:

"Not one is just-not even one. Not one is understanding, not 11 one is seeking out God,

12 All avoid Him: At the same time they were use less.

Not one is doing kindness: There is not even one!

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The Conduct of Mankind

19 The passages from the Psalms might be turned by the Jews to apply to the nations. But the apostle rightly insists that what is written in the law is binding upon those under the law. Having previously silenced the non-Jew and now effectually included the Jew in the same condition, Paul arrives at the grand conclusion of this section of the epistle, that the whole world is subject to the just verdict of God.

JUSTIFICATION

INDIVIDUAL

21 The previous section found no one just but God Himself. No one has been able to attain God's standard by doing good or keeping the law. How then may we become just before God? Only by becoming partakers of His righteousness.

22 The channel through which we may 3.71 obtain this righteousness is the faith of Jesus Christ. He alone of all mankind, not only did good and kept the 4 22 law, but He believed God even when He smote Him for our sins. It is out of His faith for our faith (117).

24 They hated Him without a causegratuitously. Such is the meaning of this precious word. Justification on any other ground than the free and unforced favor of God is impossible, for none deserve it. But now Christ Jesus has effected a deliverance from all judgment, which is absolutely free to all who believe.

25 The important point in this passage. however, is not our justification, but God's, for it is His righteousness which we receive. In Israel He had made provision for atonement, or a shelter due. The answer to this, as well as the answer to His present work is found in the blood of Christ. That settles for sins, past, present and future. That vindicates God's justice and makes it possible for Him to be the Justifier of all who are of the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Such a deliverance, entirely on the ground of grace, bars all boasting, unless it be in Christ and in His God. Who has become our Justifier.

Whose mouth is crammed with imprecation and bitterness. 15 Sharp are their feet to shed

blood. Bruises and wretchedness are in

their paths And the path of peace they know

17 4

18 There is no fear of God in front of their eyes." Affirms deservings.

Now we are aware that, as much as the law is saying, it is speaking to those under the law, that every mouth may be barred, and the entire world may be becoming subject to the just verdict of God, because, by works of law, no flesh shall be justified before Him, for through law is the recognition of sin. 2:13, 4:15

Yet now, apart from law, a righteousness of God has been manifested (being testified to by the law and the prophets), yet a righteousness of God, through Jesus Christ's faith, for all and on all who are believing, for there is no distinc-23 tion. for all sinned and are wanting of the glory of God. 500

24 Being justified gratuitously by IN His grace, through the deliverance 25 which is in Christ Jesus (Whom God purposed for a Propitiatory, through faith in His blood, for a display of His righteousness because of the passing over of the penalty of sins which occurred before in the forbearance of God), 26 toward the display of His righteousfrom sins. This was not strictly just, 26 toward the display of His righteous-for the penalty of these sins was still ness in the current era, for Him to be just and a Justifier of the one who is of the faith of Jesus. Where, then, is boasting? It is

debarred! Through what law? Of works? No! but through faith's 28 law. For we are reckoning mankind to be justified by faith apart from works of law.

Or is He God of the Jews only? Is He not of the nations also? Yes,

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Justification-Individual

30 The Circumcision who have believed before and have received a pardon, receive this greater boon because of the faith they have. The Uncircumcision use faith as the channel in receiving it.

The kingdom proclamation reverts to David, for it is founded on the covenant made with him. The evangel of God, dispensing justification, takes us back to Abraham, with whom the covenant to bless all the families of the earth was made. The far greater grace of conciliation goes back still further, and engages us with Adam and his offense.

As this gift of justification was first given to Abraham and he is its great example, the apostle takes up his case at length to show its absolutely gracious character.

- It is important to remember that, while God's future judgment is based on acts, His present gifts are absolutely spoiled the moment we connect them with any suspicion of merit or work. Justification is as free, or freer, than sunlight. In judgment He will pay everyone who is entitled to wages. He will not be in debt to anyone. But when He gives He gives, and refuses to allow His gifts to be paid for, even if anyone could pay the price. Justification is for him who is not working. but who is believing. This distinguishes the gospel from all religion, divine or pagan.
- 7 Pardon is the exercise of executive clemency, and is connected with the kingdom. The covering of sin is an act of the priest who made atonement by the blood of the sacrifices, under the law. But justification is the judicial act of the Judge, and far surpasses both pardon and atonement. Only the guilty can be pardoned. Atonement only covers sin from God's sight. Justification, or vindication, is a complete acquittal from all guilt, the pronouncing of the verdict *not guilty".
- 8 The fact that Abraham was justified while still uncircumcised opens the door of justification to the Uncircumcision. They, too, may claim him as their father, for they have the reality of which circumcision was but the outward sign.

30 of the nations also, if so be that God is One, Who will be justifying the Circumcision out of faith and the Uncircumcision through the faith. Are we, then, abrogating law through faith? May it not come to that! Nay, we are sustaining law.

4. What, then, shall we assert Abraham, our forefather according to flesh, to have found? For if Abraham was justified by his acts, he has something to boast in, but not toward God. For what is the scripture saying? "Now Abraham believes God and it is reckoned to him for righteousness."

Now to him who is working, wages are not reckoned as a favor,
but as a debt. Yet to him who is not working, yet is believing on Him Who is justifying the irreverent, his faith is reckoned for righteousness. Even as David also is expressing the happiness of the man to whom God is reckoning righteousness apart from acts:

"Happy they whose lawlessnesses were pardoned!
 And whose sins were covered over!

8 Happy the man to whom the
Lord by no means
Should be reckoning sin!"

kingdom. The covering of sin is an act of the priest who made atonement by the blood of the sacrifices, under the blood of the sacrifices are the blood of the sacrifices at the blood of the sacrifices are the blood of the sacrifices at the blood of the sacrifices at the blood of the sacrifices at the blood of the sacrifices at the blood of the sacrifices at the blood of the sacrification is the blood of the sacrification at the blood of the sacrification is the blood of the sacrification at the blood of the sacrification at the blood of the sacrification at the blood of the sacrification at the blood of the sacrification at the blood of the sacrification at the blood of the sacrification at the blood of the sacrification at the blood of the sacrification at the blood of the sacrification at the blood of the sacrification at the blood of the sacrification at the blood of the sacr

"To Abraham faith is reckoned for righteousness". How, then, is it reckoned? Being in circumcision or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumci
11 sion. And he obtained the sign

¹ sion. And he obtained the sign of circumcision, a seal of the faith righteousness which was in uncircumcision, for him to be the father of all those who are believing through uncircumcision, for right-

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Justification—Individual

18 As further developed in Galatians, the law was not given till hundreds of years after Abraham was counted righteous. The promises he received in connection with it were unconditional, dependent only on God's faithfulness. They were given without any reference to the law and do not depend on any legal observance for fulfillment. When the law did come it did not confirm these promises. It was brought in to show how impotent their own efforts were when they sought to attain to Abraham's divinely given righteousness by the keeping just, it drew down God's indignation for their failure to live up to it,

16 Faith has not the least merit. We do not deem it meritorious to believe an honest man. It is no effort. It is not work. It is the simplest. easiest, freest channel God could choose to convey His righteousness to us. Let us exult in His explanation that it is of faith that it may accord with grace. In Ephesians we have the further truth that such a salvation-through faithcalls for further favor in the future (Eph.28).

17 Abraham believed God when all the evidence was against Him. was, for all practical purposes, as good as dead himself, and Sarah, his wife, was worse, if that could be. He faced the facts. He considered his own condition as well as that of his wife, yet never doubted that God could and would do as He had said. He believed in a God Who was superior to death, and thus made it possible for God to vindicate him. Apart from death we can see how God could pardon his sins, or cover them by means of atonement, but it is only as having died to sin, and being alive in resurrection, that we can realize that Abraham is justified.

23 Thus, we, too, are justified, by the simple process of believing God. We do not believe concerning our seed, as Abraham did, but concerning his Seed, our Lord Jesus Christ, Who actually died for our sins and was roused because the sin He bore was all gone, and we were vindicated.

to those of the Circumcision only. but to those also who are observing the fundamentals of faith in the footprints of our father Abraham. in uncircumcision.

For not through law was the promise to Abraham, or to his Seed, for him to be enjoyer of the allotment of the world, but through

¹⁴ faith righteousness. For if those of law are enjoyers of the allotment. faith has been made void and the promise has been abrogated, for the

of the law. The law hindered rather than helped. Instead of making them 2: 20 law is producing indignation. Now where no law is, neither is there transgression.

Therefore it is of faith that it may accord with grace, for the promise to be confirmed to the entire seed, not to those the law only, but to those also of the faith of Abraham, who is father of ¹⁷ us all, according as it is written that "I have appointed you to be a father of many nations"—facing which, he believes the God Who 24 is vivifying the dead and calling what is not as if it were—who, being beyond expectation, believes

the father of many nations, according to the assertion, "Thus will 19 your seed be." And not being infirm in faith, he considers his own body already dead (existing somewhere about a hundred years) and the deadening of Sarah's matrix,

with expectation, for him to become

yet God's promise was not doubted in unbelief, but he was invigorated

²¹ in faith, giving glory to God, being fully assured also that what He has promised He is able to do also.

²² Wherefore, also, it is accounted to him for righteousness. from 166.71

Now it was not written because of him only that it is reckoned to

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PAUL TO THE ROMANS

CONCILIATION

INDIVIDUAL

1 Justification is the ground of peace. Sin no longer bars us from the presence of God. Yet peace is a favor infinitely beyond justification. affections are not satisfied with clearing us from all guilt. He craves our love and our adoration. Righteousness alone does not give us a passport into His presence, but this further grace of reconciliation urges us into full and affectionate fellowship with And we are aware that He will not rest in having us clothed in forensic righteousness only, but will make us all that He desires. satisfy His own love.

His way of winning our response is to pour His own love into us first. as exemplified in the death of Christ for us while we were most undeserving of His favor. The grace of it lies in the entire lack of anything in us to draw out His affections toward us.

The blood of Christ is a memorial of the abiding efficacy of His death. It fends us from all future indignation. If Christ died for us as sinners, surely we have no need to fear aught now that we are justified!

10 We now take up the new subject of conciliation. We leave the atmosphere of the court for the closer ties of the family circle. Now it is not Christ dying for sinners, but God's Son dying for His enemies. fect is not justification, but conciliation, peace. Furthermore, we are not only unafraid of future wrath, because of the abiding value of His death, as figured by the blood, but we have the living Son of God Himself as the surety of our salvation. We shall be saved by His life.

11 Christ did not obtain "atonement". That was a mere temporary covering for sin made by the blood of bulls and goats, and utterly failed to take away sin. Let us not degrade Christ's work by calling it an "atonement". But let us glory in conciliation, the ripened fruit of God's great effort to win the fealty and affection of His creatures. Few things indicate more clearly the apostasy of Christendom than the constant reference to the work of Christ as "the atonement".

24 him, but because of us also to whom it is about to be reckoned, who are believing on Him Who rouses Jesus our Lord from among the dead.

Ch5. salvation as individual

25 Who was given up because of our offenses, and was roused because

of our justification.

Being, then, justified by faith, we may be having peace toward God, through our Lord, Jesus Christ, through Whom also we have had the access, in faith, into this grace in which we stand, and we may be glorying in expectation of

the glory of God.

Yet not only so, but we may be glorying also in afflictions, having perceived that affliction is producing endurance, and endurance testedness, and testedness expectation. Now expectation is not mortifying, seeing that God's love has been poured out in our hearts. through the holy spirit which is being given to us.

For Christ, while we are still infirm, still in accord with the era, died for the sake of the irreverent. For hardly for the sake of the just will anyone be dying: for, for the sake of the good, perhaps, some may even be daring to die, yet God is recommending this love of His to us, seeing that, when we are still sinners, Christ died for our sakes. Much rather, then, being now justified in His blood, we shall be saved from indignation through Him.

For if, being enemies, we were conciliated to God through the death of His Son, much rather, being conciliated, we shall be saved in His life. Yet not only so, but we are glorying also in God, through our Lord, Jesus Christ, through Whom we now obtained the conciliation.

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Conciliation-Individual

12 Death entered through sin at first, but now sin is transmitted through death. All sin because they are mortal. Christ brings life, which disposes of both death and sin.

14 The type here is the period of time up to the giving of the law, from Adam to Moses. During this period there was no transgression, for there was no law. So it is today. The law was not given to the nations, hence they do not transgress it. Nevertheless death reigns, even as it did before the law was given. The type, however, is in the nature of a shadow, whose dark outlines do not clearly depict the present grace. The reign of Sin corresponds to the reign of grace, Adam's single offense to Christ's one just act on Calvary, bringing life where Adam brought death. But the type fails utterly in a number of particulars. 15 A simple reversal of the offense would put us where Adam was before he transgressed. But the gratuity through Christ is infinitely more than a mere recovery from the effects of Adam's offense.

16 One sin brought condemnation to all mankind. Grace recovers, not from one sin only, but from many offenses.
17 Adam enthroned death, but Christ gives believers not only a full vindication from all guilt, but life and the

right to reign with Him.

18 The parallel here is perfect. Adam's one offense is counteracted by Christ's The act of Adam one just award. actually affects all mankind. Christ's work, eventually, must also actually justify all mankind. cannot be during the eons, hence will not be fully accomplished until after the eons are past, when all are made alive in Christ (1Cor.1522). If Adam's offense only gave each one an opportunity to sin, so that some become sinners and others not, then we might say that Christ's work brings justification to all subject to their acceptance. But we must acknowledge that man has no choice in becoming a sinner, thus also will it be through the work of Christ. Both are actual and universal.

19 The contrast here is between one and many, not between the many and the all of the previous statement. The many here are the all of verse eighteen.

Therefore, even as through one man sin entered into the world, and through sin death, and thus death came through into all mankind, on which all sinned—for until law

sin was in the world, yet sin is not being taken into account

when there is no law, but death reigns from Adam unto Moses, over those also who do not sin after the likeness of Adam's transgression, which is a type of that which is about to be.

But not as the offense, thus also the grace. For if by the offense of the one the many died, much rather the grace of God and the gratuity in grace, which is of the One Man, Jesus Christ, to the many superabounds.

And not as through one sinning, is the gratuity. For, indeed, the judgment is out of one into condemnation, yet the grace is out of many

17 offenses into a just award. For if by the offense of the one, death reigns through the one, much rather, those obtaining the superabundance of grace and the gratuity of righteousness shall be reigning in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Consequently, then, as it was through one offense for all mankind for condemnation, thus also it is through one just award for all mankind for life's justifying. For

19 mankind for life's justifying. For even as through the disobedience of the one man the many were constituted sinners, thus also through the obedience of the One the many shall be constituted just.

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20 Here we have the true character and function of the law. It crept in. It was not a normal necessity, nor did it make any vital change. Its effect was to alter the character of sin so 4;2 that it became an offense. Adam's sin was against God's expressed command, and thus was a personal affront to God as well as a misdeed bringing harm on his own head, so those under the law, by sinning against light, greatly increased the sinfulness of sin. Obedience to the law would have banished sin and Disobedience enhanced their power. But grace not only exceeds the effects of sin, but superexceeds the offenses of those under law, so that now, Grace has dethroned Sin.

- The absolute despotism of Grace is set forth in the startling suggestion that if we should be persisting in sin. grace would increase. While the following argument is against persistence in sin, it confirms the sovereignty of grace. Let us not deny this marvelous doctrine. It will give us rich, exultant liberty, ridding us of the thralldom of Sin, and giving us power to avoid the very sins which unnatural logic supposes we would eagerly follow, now that there is no condemnation even if we should sin. This and the following chapter are a digression, discussing the effects of
- Deliverance from sin comes, not through victory over it, but through death to it. It is useless to struggle against sin, or to fight with its practises. Rather we should acknowledge its force and reckon ourselves as dead through it and to it, yet alive in resurrection, where sin has no place.

the reign of grace, first without, and

then with, law.

3 Doubtless some to whom Paul wrote had been baptized under his earlier ministry. At this time he no longer baptized (1Cor.117). He appeals to their experience. Baptism was not merely a burial into death, but indicated a resurrection from the dead. As we did not die, but Christ was crucified for us, we may reckon His death as ours, fully finishing our connection with sin, and His resurrection as ours also, for in Him we enjoy an unclouded life in the presence of God.

21 increases, grace superexceeds, that, even as Sin reigns in death, thus also Grace should be reigning through righteousness, for eonian life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 6 What, then, shall we assert? That we may be persisting in sin that grace should be increasing?

May it not come to that! We. who died to sin, how shall we still 3 be living in it? Or are you ignorant that as many as are baptized into Christ Jesus, are baptized into His 4 death? Then we were entombed together with Him through baptism into death, that, even as Christ was roused from among the dead through the glory of the Father, thus also we should be walking in newness of life. For if we have become planted together in the likeness of His death, nevertheless we shall be of the resurrection also, knowing this, that our old humanity was crucified together with him,

that sin's body may become inert, for us to be by no means still slaving for Sin, for the one dying has been justified from sin.

Now if we died together with Christ, we believe that we shall live together with Him also, having perceived that Christ, being roused from among the dead, is no longer dying; Death is mastering Him 10 no longer, for He Who died, died to Sin once, yet He Who is living

- 11 is living to God. Thus you also be reckoning yourselves to be dead, indeed, to Sin, yet living to God, in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Let not Sin, then, be reigning in your mortal body, for you to be

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Conciliation-Individual

12 A realization of our death to sin and life in Christ will give us power to cope with sin, always remembering that sin cannot bring us into disfavor because of the superexceeding grace.

14 Law, as we shall see in the next chapter, not only cannot deliver from sin, but actually forges the fetters of sin, and makes sin's bondage more cruel and galling.

15 The law said. "Cursed is everyone who is not continuing in all the things written in the scroll of the law, to do them". Grace says, Blessed are you, whatever you may do, for Christ has justified you and not one dare bring anything against you. The fallacious logic of the old humanity immediately imagines that this gives license and encouragement to sin. But its actual effect is quite the opposite. not law, has power to deter us from sinning. No one who has an actual experience of grace, reasons that, because there is immunity, therefore he The offender against law will sin. flies in the face of law. Its austere threats do not hinder him. But the offender against grace feels the heinousness of his offense and flies from it. 16 All of us are slaves, however much we may vaunt our liberty. We are controlled either by Sin or by Obedience. It is a cause of thankfulness that we all have had service under Sin. for only so could we realize the nature of such slavery. But we have not been taken from Sin's service to become idle. We have been transferred to the service of Righteousness.

²⁰ Slaves of Sin can produce only the fruits of sin and know that the only possible outcome is death. But slaves of Righteousness have a brighter outlook. They are not ashamed of their deeds and look for life eonian.

23 Sin, like slave holders, does not pay wages, but only supplies rations. This consists, at present, in an attitude toward God which is the equivalent of death, for all Sin's slaves avoid God's presence. And their deeds will also result in death. Neither do we, as slaves, look for wages. God not only gives, but gives graciously, or gratuitously, the very reward which is only for those whose endurance in good acts merits it—eonian life, or life for the eons (27).

13 obeying its lusts. Neither be presenting your members to Sin, as implements of injustice, but present yourselves to God as if alive from among the dead, and your members as implements of 14 righteousness for God. For Sin shall not be mastering you, for you are not under law, but under grace.

⁵ What then? Should we be sinning, since we are not under

law but under grace?

May it not come to that! Are you not aware that to whom you are presenting yourselves as slaves for obedience, his slaves you are whom you are obeying, whether of Sin for death, or Obedience for 17 righteousness? Now grateful are we to God that you were Sin's slaves, yet you obey from the heart the type of teaching to which you 18 were given over. Now, being freed

18 were given over. Now, being freed from Sin, you are enslaved to

Righteousness.

of the infirmity of your flesh: for even as you present your members as slaves to Uncleanness and to Lawlessness for lawlessness, thus now present your members as slaves to Righteousness for holiness.

For when you were slaves of Sin

you were free as to Righteousness.

21 Then what fruit had you then? of which you are now ashamed, for, indeed, the consummation of those

²² things is death. Yet now, being freed from Sin, yet enslaved to God, you have your fruit for holiness, and the consummation, eonian

23 life. For the ration of Sin is death, but God's gracious gift is eonian life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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8 type OF-TEACHING BEING-FREED of had OYN THEN EPOGENTECAGATIOTHCAMA500 YET FROM THE missing

Conciliation—Individual

- The apostle now addresses particularly those who have been under law, that is, who were of the Circumcision. His appeal however, is not to the law itself, but to the nature of all law, that it has jurisdiction only over those who are alive.
- ² The law of wedlock is given as a well known example. A woman's subjection to her husband lasts only for his life. During his life she may have no relations with other men. After his death the ties which bind her to a new husband are just as sacred as those which united her to the former one.

 ⁴ A wife and her husband are one flesh (Gen.2²⁴), hence the wife dies with the husband, but the woman remains. Those united to Christ under law died with Him to the law. Union with Christ in resurrection is a new relationship beyond the sphere of the law.
- Exemption from the law applies only to those who were under the law. As the law is not unjust, like Sin, but just and holy, they continue to serve, no longer in letter, but in spirit. The mistaken deduction from the foregoing is that the law itself is sin. Else why cease to serve its letter? Or else how does it make sin more sinful and transform it into an offense? Sin is not known in its true character except through law. stead of sin being ignorant inability, it becomes the opposite. It is active hostility. The law which seemed to be given to regulate, only roused it. Sin is dormant or dead until law comes and gives it life. which should have given the sinner life, gave life to sin. It should have been the death blow of sin, but it became the death of the sinner. this shows how futile it is to try to reform or regulate or conquer sin. It not only acts in darkness and ignorance but transforms the very light into an agent of death. law offered life to those under it, on terms which, apart from sin, were all that could be desired. But sin not only disabled them so that they could not take advantage of its provisions, but involved them in its condemnation by stirring their passions against its just decrees.

7 Or are you ignorant, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know law), that the law is mastering a man for as much time as he is living?

For a woman in wed lock is bound to a living man by law. Yet if the man should be dying, she is exempted from the law of the man. Consequently, then, if the man is living she will be styled an adulteress if she should be becoming another man's, yet if the man should be dying, she is free from the law, being no adulteress, on becoming another man's.

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The mistaken deduction from the foregoing is that the law itself is sin. Else why cease to serve its letter?
Or else how does it make sin more sinful and transform it into an offense? Sin is not known in its true character except through law. Instead of sin being ignorant inability, the heavest the consent of the law under the law. Instead of sin being ignorant inability, the heavest the consent of the law.

What, then, shall we assert? That the law is sin?

May it not come to that! But sin I knew not except through law. For besides, I had not been aware of coveting except the law said, "You shall not be coveting". Now Sin, getting an incentive through the precept, produces in me all manner of coveting. For apart from law Sin is dead. Now I lived, apart from law, once, yet at the coming of the precept Sin revives. Now I died, and it was found that, to me, the precept for life, this is

¹¹ for death. For Sin, getting an incentive through the precept, de-

WERE IN THE FLESH

13001	PAUL TO T	HE ROMANS	CHAPTER 7
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AEATTOBANHOANH YET MAY-BE-FROM-DYING THE MAN		EYMATOCKAIOY II spirit AND NOT OL	
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11 THE for missing FROM-RUSH GET-LAW IN-ACTED IN THE

Conciliation—Individual

18 From the supposition that the law. being holy and just and good, involved him in death, it seems that what is good may become the cause of death. But such is not the case. It was not the law which produced death, but sin, misusing law. The real law and apparent functions of the law are very And, in order to effect its real object, it was necessary that it should not appear on the surface. The apparent object of the law was to give life to all who consistently and constantly kept it. As it never gave life to anyone, for no one was able to fulfil its demands, it appears as if the law has failed of its primary object. And, further, as it revived the passions of sin which were dormant. it seems to have defeated its own aim. But the real object of the law was to reveal the inordinate sinfulness of sin, and in this it was most successful.

15 This is the experience of one who does not realize his death to sin and the law, but who is endeavoring to keep the letter of the law. He finds that the law of sin in his members is far more potent than the law of God which appeals to his mind. He wants to do good, but cannot. He does things which he hates to do, hence charges his misery to the indwelling sin which has taken possession of his body. He is a wretched captive. This will be the experience of all who make an earnest effort to please God by obeying the letter of that law which was broken even before it reached the people (Ex.3219).

24 What is the answer to this wretched man's cry? It is grace. There is no other deliverance possible. This brings us back to where this digression began, the reign of grace at the end of the fifth chapter. It is only as we recognize the imperial sway of grace, putting us beyond all possibility of condemnation, whether we sin or not, that we have real liberty and power & ph sufficient to effect not only what was 3,17 demanded by the law, but those higher duties which far transcend the righteous requirements of Sinai. we will not be wretched and self-occupied, but happy and exulting in God, in Whose favor we are basking, and Whose delight we are, in Christ.

ludes me, and through it, kills me. ¹² So that the law, indeed, is holy, and the precept holy and just and good.

Became good, then, death to me?

May it not come to that! But Sin, that it may appear Sin, is producing death to me through good, that Sin, through the precept, should

14 become an inordinate sinner. For

⁴ become an inordinate sinner. For we are aware that the law is spiritual, yet *I* am fleshly, having been

15 disposed of by Sin. For I know not what I am effecting, for not what I am willing, this I am putting into practise, but what I am

¹⁶ hating, this I am doing. Now if what I am not willing, this I am doing, I am conceding that the ¹⁷ law is ideal. Yet now it is no longer

I who am effecting it, but Sin mak18 ing its home in me. For I am
aware that good is not making its
home in me (that is, in my flesh),
for to be willing is lying beside me,
yet to be effecting the ideal is not.

For it is not the good that I am willing that I am doing, but the evil that I am not willing, this I am
 putting into practise. Now if

what I am not willing, this I am doing, it is no longer I who am effecting it, but Sin which is making its home in me.

²¹ Consequently, I am finding the law that, at my willing to be doing the ideal, evil is lying beside me.

For I am gratified with the law of God as to the inner man, yet I am observing a different law in my members, warring with the law of my mind, and leading me into captivity to the law of Sin which is in my members.

A wretched man am I! What will rescue me out of this body of 25 death? Grace! Now I am thanking

14001	PAUL TO T	HE ROMANS	CHAPTER '
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NATENHTA MAY-BE-BECOMING	E ACCORDING TO OVER-CAST	EMOIAMAPTIAE 21 ME missing I-	YPICKOAP 20 AM-FINDING CONSE-
NAMAPTOA misser	THE MISSING THRU A YET AG	ATONNOMONTO QUENTLY THE LAW to-THE	WILLING to-ME
ATHCENTO 14 THE direction	AHCOIDAMENTA®	OITOICINTOKA TO-BE-DOING THE IDEA	
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CECTINET	DAECAPKIKOCE300 YET FLESHIC AM	YNHAOMAITAPT being-together-gratified for to B NOOC MIND	
IMITETPAM HAVING-been-disp	ENOCYTOTHNA 20 cosed-of under the miss-	God according-to THE W	
	APKATEPFAZO 40 H for I-AM-DOWN-ACTING	ONB ACTOACCTC 23 I-AM-looking yet DIFFER	
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MOIAMAPTIAOIAAFAPOTI⁵⁰⁰
B missing I-HAVE-PERCEIVED for that ING OUT OF-THE BODY OF-THE DEATH

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Conciliation—Individual

Condemnation is utterly out of the question for all in Christ Jesus. This is infinitely more than the atonement or shelter provided for sin by the sacrifices offered under the law. It is far beyond the pardon, or forgiveness. contained in the proclamation of the kingdom. The atonement needed to be renewed year by year, the pardon might be recalled, but the justification we have in Christ Jesus is nothing less than God's righteousness, which is absolutely inviolable. It was not secured by any act of ours and cannot be marred by aught that we can do. Sin only enhances the graciousness of it, but cannot sully or impair it. ² The spirit's law of life, in Christ Jesus, is the opposite of the law of Sinai. That said: Obey, and live; disobey, and die. The spirit's law imparts life for the eons as God's gracious gift, apart from obedience or disobedience.

We do not fulfill the law in its letter. Grace leads us to act far beyond its spirit. Its just requirements, love to God and man, are fulfilled only by those who walk in spirit.

The flesh is not able to be subject to God's law. It is useless to try to train it to please Him. We are not justified in flesh. It is only in spirit that we can count ourselves as bevond all condemnation. The flesh is after the things of flesh and leads to But the spirit is concerned with spiritual things and makes for

life and peace.

All who believe Him are indwelt by God's spirit. Christ, by His spirit, is in us. Consequently, our spirit is life, yet our body, being absolutely unresponsive to their presence, is death. Thus, while we have but one body, it is the home of three spirits-God's spirit, Christ's spirit, and our spirit. As a result the spiritual force at our disposal is far greater than the flesh. Our own spirit is the seat of our new life, because of righteous-Christ's spirit gives us communion with Him. God's spirit gives us power over our dead bodies, just as, in the case of Christ, He roused His body from among the dead. He is able to vivify these death-doomed bodies, so that they respond to the dictates of the spirit.

God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Consequently, then, I myself, indeed, with the mind am slaving for God's law, yet with the flesh Sin's law.

Nothing, consequently, is condemnation now to them that are in Christ Jesus. They are not walking according to flesh, but according to spirit, for the spirit's law of life in Christ Jesus frees you from the law of Sin and Death. For at the law's impotence (in which it was infirm through the flesh), God, when sending His own Son in the likeness of sin's flesh and concerning sin, condemns sin in the flesh, 4 that the just requirement of the law may be fulfilled in us, who are not walking in accord with flesh, but in accord with spirit.

For those who are in accord with flesh are disposed to that which is of the flesh, yet those who are in accord with spirit to that which is of 6 the spirit. For the disposition of the flesh is death, yet the disposition of the spirit is life and peace, ⁷ because the disposition of the flesh is enmity to God, for it is not subject

to the law of God, for neither is it 8 able. Now those who are in the flesh are not able to please God.

Yet you are not in flesh, but in spirit, if so be that God's spirit is making its home in you. Now if anyone has not Christ's spirit, 10 this one is not His. Now if Christ

is in you, the body, indeed, is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is life

11 because of righteousness. Now if the spirit of Him Who rouses Jesus from among the dead is making its home in you, He Who rouses Christ Jesus from among the dead will also

15001		HE ROMANS	CHAPTERS 7-8
ATOYTOYTOYX 25 this g	B omits YET I-AM-thankING SAPICAEEYX 20 race YET I-AM-	ACAPKAONTE FLESH BEING	CTATHCCAPK ²⁰ THE OF-THE FLESH
APICTUTU66 thanking to-THE God	DAIAIHCOYX 40 THRU JESUS AN-	OCOPONOYCI ARE-being-disposed	NOIAEKATAT 40 THE-ones YET according-to
PICTOYTOYKY OINTED THE Mast		NEYMATATOY 6 spirit THE OF-THE	TNEYMATOCT 60 spirit THE
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8 FLESH to-LAW OF-I	AAPTIACOYA ²⁰ nissing NOT-YET-	spirit	ZOHKAICIPH ²⁰ LIFE AND PEACE
CNAPANYNKA' one consequently now do	wn-Judgment to-THE-one: Bs1 omit no according-to	7 THRU that THE DIS	
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CA PKAREPIRA FLESH THEY-ARE-ABOU	ATOYCINAAA® but	LAW OF-THE GO	. 81 O
	THE for LAW	UNDER-SET NOT-YET	
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. -	THE LAW MAY-BE-	OF-THE One-RO	
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5 according-to spirit	THE-ones for according-to		KPONZOTTO 18000 D-ones WILL-BE-making-

also.

Conciliation-Individual

11 Mortal bodies are such as are dying, in a physical sense. Their vivification cannot refer to the future resurrection, but to the present power of God's spirit to use an utterly unresponsive, hostile instrument, as our bodies, and constrain its members to do the bidding of our spirits.

12 We owe the flesh nothing, and it promises us nothing but death. But we do owe it to the spirit to put the thus enjoy the life which the spirit 5:20f God. 6. 3:26 makes ours in Christ Jesus.

14 To be a son of God implies more than belonging to Him. As the Son of God manifests Him so we are sons only insomuch as we display His character in our words and ways.

15 The law led to slavery, not sonship. Fear is not for us. Justification and reconciliation lead us unafraid into the Father's presence. Just as the little Hebrew child would lisp its "Abba" in the familiar Aramaic household speech, or, as our children say trustingly, "Papa", so we are without constraint in the august presence of the Divine Majesty.

16 God's spirit says we are His children. Our spirits claim Him as our Father. If this be the case, then, even as our children have the enjoyment of all that is ours, so all that is God's is for us. Indeed, even the great glories in store for Christ are ours if we, too, tread the path of suffering which led Him to them.

18 The creation has been involved in the treadmill of corruption through the sin of man. We are associated with the creation on the physical side. When our bodies are delivered from their present slavery and death at our Lord's descent from heaven, He will transfigure them to conform them to His body glorious (Phil.321). when we are unveiled, the creation will be set at liberty from the bondage which now enthralls it. How it ought to comfort us to know that the patient, suffering creatures, who had no hand in their own degradation, will yet find a real release from the pain and sorrow from which they have no escape now! Its physical aspect waits until our Lord's return.

vivify your mortal bodies because of His spirit making its home in 12 you. Consequently, then, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to 13 be living in accord with flesh, for if vou are living in accord with flesh, you are about to be dying. Yet if in spirit you are putting the practises of the body to death, you will 14 be living. For as many as are being practises of the body to death and gal led by God's spirit, these are sons

For you did not get slavery's spirit again to fear, but you got the spirit of sonship, in which we 16 are crying, "Abba, Father!" The same spirit is joining its witness with our spirit that we are children ¹⁷ of God. Yet if children, enjoyers also of an allotment, enjoyers, indeed, of God's allotment, and joint enjoyers of Christ's allotment, if so be that we are suffering together, that we should be glorified together

18 For I am reckoning that the sufferings of this current era do not deserve the glory about to be 19 revealed for us. For the premonition of the creation is awaiting the ²⁰ unveiling of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to vanity (not voluntarily, but because of Him Who is subjecting it) in ex-21 pectation that the creation itself also shall be freed from the slavery of corruption into the glorious free-²² dom of the children of God. For we are aware that the entire creation is groaning and travailing to-23 gether until now. Yet not only so, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruit of the spirit, we ourselves also, are groaning in ourselves, awaiting the sonship, the deliver-²⁴ ance of our body. For we were saved in expectation. Now expectation, being observed, is not ex-

16 ⁰⁰¹	PAUL TO	THE ROMANS	CHAPTER 8
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YMONAIATOEN OF-YOUP THRU THE IN-H	OIKOYNAYT®		ΑΝΑΠΟΚΑΛ4
s abbreviates TNC A TOC a OYTINEYMAENY 12 spirit IN YO	^{dds} MINAPAOYN®	YOOHNAIGICHM 19 ERED INTO US	АСНГАРАП®
AAEAΦOIOФEIA	AGTAIGCMG®		IE CREATION
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KAZHNEITAPK	ATACAPKAZ 20 ording-to Flesh YE-	TOYBEOYATEKA 20 of-the God is-from-out-	RECEIVING to-THE
HTGMEAAGTGA		FAPMATAIOTH	A inserts © TIHKTICIC 40 THE CREATION
NEIDETNEYMA	TITACIPA 2 60 PRACTISINGS	YNETAPHOYXEK WAS-UNDER-SET NOT VOLUM	atarily but
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TEZHCECÔEOCO	DIFAPTNEY ²⁰⁰ uny-as for to-spirit	TIAIOTIKAIAYT	
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YIOIOEOYEICI 15 sons of God ARE		НСДОУАСІАСТН SLAVERY	CORRUPTION INTO
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18 BEING-TOGETHER-glorified 1-AM-accounting for **ΑΤΟCHMONTHΓΑΡΕΛΠΙΔΙΕ**[®] to-THE for EXPECTATION WE-OF-US

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ARE-TOGETHER-EMOTIONING THAT AND

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B¹M ΥΝΠΑCXOMENINA KAICYNΔ ⁶⁰

СФӨНМЕНЕЛПІСДЕВЛЕПОМ17000 ΡΟΤΙΟΥΚΆΣΙ ΑΤΑΠΆΘΗΜΑΤ 500 EXPECTATION YET beING-looked that NOT WORTHY THE EMOTIONS WERE-SAVED

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FROM-LOOSening

Conciliation-Individual

26 Here is the true "form" for acceptable prayer in this economy. It is not definite persistence, like the importunate widow. It is acknowledged weakness and ignorance casting itself on God, urged on by His spirit. knowing only the need and the One Who can meet it in His own way. 28 Though we know not what to pray for, this is not at all necessary, for we do know that God is making everything co-operate for our welfare. No matter how things appear, they can work no ill to us who love God, for He first loved us, and has included us in His vast purpose, of which we form a vital part.

29 Our destiny was fixed by God from the beginning, long before we could have any part in it. It is higher than our highest dreams, for it is nothing less than conformity to the image of His Son. And, better still, our exaltation is the means of putting Him in the place supreme. He cannot be Firstborn without brethren. Thus we

are essential to His glory!

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

INDIVIDUAL

30 Here we have the golden chain of God's sovereignty forged for our blessing. Its four links cannot be separated. He has designated us and called us and justified us. Three links are forged. The next is glory!

31 Nothing can compare with the sublime consciousness of a place in God's heart. If *He* is for us, even those who would be against us work our weal. No one can be against us.

32 God has given His best gift when He spared not His Son. Nothing else can compare with Him. He will withhold no good thing from those who have received His Beloved.

33 We can challenge the universe to find a single thing against us! Whatever we may be in ourselves, in Christ God has justified us. And not only that, but all judgment has been committed to the Son, the very Christ Who died for us and lives to plead for us at God's right hand! God, the Judge of all, Who alone can acquit, has become our Vindicator! Christ, Who alone has the right to condemn, is our Saviour!

pectation, for what anyone is observing, why is he expecting it?

Now if we are expecting what we are not observing we are awaiting it with fortitude.

Now, similarly, the spirit also is aiding our infirmity, for we are not aware what we should be praying for, to accord with what must be, but the spirit itself is pleading for us with inarticulate groanings. Now He Who is searching the hearts is aware of the spirit's disposition, seeing that it is pleading for the saints in accord with God.

Now we are aware that God is working all together for the good of those who are loving God, who are called according to the purpose that, whom He foreknew, He designates beforehand also to be conformed to the image of His Son, for Him to be the Firstborn among many brethren. Now whom He designates beforehand, these He calls also, and whom He calls, these He justifies also: now whom He justifies, these He glorifies also.

31 What, then, shall we assert to

these things? If God is for us, 32 who is against us? Surely, He Who spares not His own Son, but gives Him up for us all, how shall He not, together with Him also, be graciously granting us all?

Who will be indicting God's chosen ones? God is the Justifier!
 Who is the Condemner? Christ

Jesus, the One dying, yet rather being roused, Who is also at God's right hand, Who is pleading also for our sakes!

What shall be separating us from the love of God in Christ Jesus? Affliction, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? According as it is written, that ENHOYKECTINEATICOTAP 20
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God's Sovereignty-Individual

87 God's love never lets us go. trials and tribulations we endure are not tokens of His displeasure. are all tempered by His loving heart. A sense of His love hovering over us in the midst of our distresses is the most blessed of all balms and will enable us not only to endure them but to enjoy them.

38 Here all the great forces of the universe are arrayed, and none of them, no, nor all of them together, can come between us and the unconquerable love of our God as displayed in Christ Jesus. Death will be swallowed up by life. Life may lead us far from Him, but not beyond the reach of His love. The present perplexes us, the future fills us with fear, but only when we lose the sense of His love. Powers, celestial or terrestrial, are subject to His Nothing above or beneath, nothing at all has the power to break the bond that binds the humblest and most unworthy saint to the throbbing breast of our great and glorious God. This is more than salvation from sin! This is reconciliation!

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY NATIONAL

Paul was in acute sympathy with his brethren according to the flesh, for he himself had been the most rabid of all in opposing the Christ he now adored. This is a most apt confession. as he is about to introduce the great

ereign grace. Physically, Israel has the monopoly of the eight blessings here recorded. In flesh, Christ belongs exclusively to them; no other nation can lay claim to the fathers. The covenants, the law, to Israel according to the flesh. The sonship and the glory are ours only in spirit, not in flesh.

5 Christ, in flesh, is the God of the All eonian blessing is through Gen Him and for Him.

Ishmael was Abraham's son as well as Isaac, but he was born of the flesh. Gen not of the promise. This shows that with mere physical descent is not enough to give a title to the blessing of Abraham (Gen.1718-20;2112).

"On Thy account we are being put to death the whole day, We are accounted as sheep for slaughter."

³⁷ Nay! in all these we are more than conquering through Him Who loves

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor messengers, nor sovereignties, nor the present, nor

39 the future, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord. 9-11. The exangels relation to 9 I am telling the truth in Christ,

I am not lying, my conscience joining its witness with me in holy spirit, that my sorrow is great, and unintermittent pain is at my heart (for I myself wished to be anathema from Christ) for my brethren, my kin according to the flesh, who are Israelites, whose is the sonship and the glory and the covenants and the legislation and the divine service and the promises: 5 whose are the fathers, and out of whom is Christ according to the flesh, Who is over all, God blessed

for the eons. Amen! Lieb /: 1 he is the star example of God's sov-Gen 17:20, 210 it is not as though the word Fall of God has lapsed, for not all those out of Israel, these are Israel; neither that Abraham's seed are all children, but "In Isaac shall your seed be called". That is, that the the priestly worship, and the prom- 4:16 children of the flesh, these are not ises do not belong to the church, butcal 4.12 the children of God, but He is reckoning the children of the promise for the seed.

9 Killi For the word of the promise is this: "At this season I shall come ¹⁰ and Sarah shall have a son''. Yet not only so, but Rebecca also is having her bed of one, our father ¹¹ Isaac. For, not as yet being born, nor yet putting anything into

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God's Sovereignty-National 11 The futility of fleshly precedence is next shown in the case of Jacob and Esau. This is full of comfort for those of us today who feel like classing ourselves with crooked Jacob. who did all he could to buy God's blessing, and stupidly hindered it. Yet, being the object of God's elective purpose and love, all his perverse ways could not set aside God's predetermined outcome. Esau was Jacob's senior and superior, yet he became his slave. This ought to appeal powerfully to the sons of Israel (for whom this section is especially intended), for they are his descendants. 14 The usual deduction from this is that God is not just. In a man this would not be right, but it is God's sovereign privilege to display Himself through any of His creatures, in any way best suited to the purpose. the torrent of His wrath. In God's great purpose to eventually bless all mankind it is His prerogative to form and use suitable vessels to convey His mercy. Of such was Jacob. Esau was needed to emphasize Jacob's unworthiness. Pharaoh was elevated by God, not that his name might be great, but that God's name might be

should be viewed from the divine, national vantage. God has a large purpose which will eventuate in the blessing of all. But in the process of its fulfillment it demands the temporary use of some as foils to set forth His indignation and power, that He may make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy. This chapter does not deal with the destiny of the individual. That has been settled. All mankind will be justified eventually (518). It is not difficult to see how God can justify Pharaoh, whom He hardened, lest his heart should soften and he should fail to oppose Him further.

made known through all the earth.

A great man was needed for this or

known.

practise, good or bad, that God's purpose may remain as a choice, not out of acts. but of Him Who is 12 calling, it was declared to her that "The greater shall be slaving for 13 the inferior," according as it is written "Jacob I love, yet Esau I

hate". Gen 29: 30-33. What, then, shall we assert? Not that there is injustice with God! May it not come to that! ¹⁵ For to Moses He is saving, "I shall be merciful to whomever I may be merciful, and I shall be pitying whomever I may be pity-16 ing". Consequently, then, it is not of him who is willing, nor yet of him who is racing, but of God, ¹⁷ the Merciful. For the scripture is

Love needed a Jacob for its display. Fx. saying to Pharaoh that "For this Power needed a Pharaoh for its foil. 9:18-17 saying to Pharaoh that "For this Power needed a Pharaoh for its foil." selfsame thing I rouse you up, that Man cannot turn the tide of God's af-fections in his favor nor can he stem (In. 6.18 to I should be displaying My power in you, and so My name should be published in the entire earth". 18 Consequently, then, to whom He is willing He is merciful, yet whom

He is willing, He is hardening. You will be protesting to me, then, "Why, then, is He still blaming? for has anyone withstood His 20 intention?" O man! who are you, to God could not have made His power network be sure, who are answering again to 43 God? That which is molded will at God's sovereignty from the human with not protest to the more, at God's sovereignty from the human with do you make me thus?" Or has not the potter the right over the clay. out of the same kneading to make one vessel, indeed, for honor, and one for dishonor? Now if God, wanting to display His indignation and to make His power known, carries on, with much patience, the vessels of indignation adapted for des-23 truction, it is that He should also be making known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which 24 He makes ready before for glory—

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God's Sovereignty-National 25 A comparison of Hos. 223 with Hos. 19-11 shows that this is not an interpre-2:23 Hosea also: tation but an illustration. God, in His sovereign mercy, will reverse the sentence which He pronounced against Israel. In the very same place in which they were named "Lo-ammi", there they shall be called sons of the living God. He deals with the nations as this. 27 Isaiah's testimony is to the same effect. A remnant in Israel shall be saved in the coming time of reckonas the hundred and forty-four thousand and the vast throng (Un.74,9).

JUSTIFICATION

NATIONAL

30 God's sovereignty is further illustrated in the dispensation of justifi-Normally, Israel, seeking to keep a just law, should have attained Yet the nations, who righteousness. made no effort to attain righteousness. grasp it because they find it on the principle of faith. The pursuit of righteousness by means of the law led Israel to refuse the grace of Christ and the righteousness which comes apart from the keeping of the law.

It is evident that this is true only in a national way, for not all of Israel stumbled, neither did all among the nations find the righteousness of faith. This must be constantly borne in mind in studying this entire division of Romans. It deals, not with individuals, but nations. Israel, as a whole, is apostate, yet some among them are brilliant examples of faith. The nations, who never before had any part in God's blessings, except as they became proselytes and identified themselves with Israel, now believe God in considerable numbers. Paul becomes the apostle of the nations and thus inaugurates the present secret economy (Eph.31).

Intense zeal, religious fervor. coupled with self-righteousness, does not lead to salvation. God demands subjection to His righteousness in Christ. The law should establish their unrighteousness and thus reveal God's righteousness, which is manifested in Israel, as a nation, will be saved when they see Him Whom they pierced, and recognize Him as their

Righteousness.

out of the Jews, but out of the ²⁵ nations also. As He is saying in

"I shall be calling those who are not my people 'My people'. And she who is not beloved 'Beloved';

And it will be, in the place where it was declared to them, 'You are not My people', There they will be called 'sons of the living God'."

ing. These are seen in the Unveiling $_{10}$: $^{27}_{12-23}$ Now Isaiah is crying over Israel, "If the number of the sons of Israel should be as the sand of the sea.

The residue will be saved, For the Lord will be doing a conclusive and concise accounting on the earth."

And according as Isaiah declared before,

"Except the Lord Sabaoth conserved us a seed, Jas 5:4 We were become as Sodom, And were likened to Gomorrah."

30 What, then, shall we assert? That the nations who are not pursuing righteousness grasped righteousness, yet a righteousness which

³¹ is out of faith. Yet Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, has no foretaste of a law of righteousness.

32 Why? Since it is not out of faith but as out of law works, they stumble on the stumbling stone,

33 according as it is written: 9sa 18:15 "Lo! I am laying in Zion a stumbling stone and a snare rock, And the one believing on Him shall not be disgraced."

10 Indeed, brethren, my heart's delight and petition to God for them

² is for salvation. For I am testifying to them that they have a zeal of God, but not in accord with recog-

³ nition. For they, being ignorant of the righteousness which is of God, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, were not sub-

ject to God's righteousness. For Christ is the consummation of law

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⁶ The law demanded obedience first and promised life to those only who continued to keep it. But even in the law there was provision for faith. It taught that Jehovah Himself, He was their life (Deut.3020). In the day when He gathers them out of the peoples and brings them back into the land He will bring the word of faith very near to them (Deut.301-14). In place of their own efforts He will put the humiliation and resurrection of Christ before them. Salvation will depend on the avowal of His lordship and resurrection.

13 There is here an allusion to the ancient custom, still in vogue in eastern lands, of the right of sanctuary. One who is in danger of death by the hands of the blood avenger, if he cannot reach a safe place in time, may invoke the name of some great and powerful person, and thus find salvation through his name. If the avengers of blood refuse to listen to his appeal, and take his life, it devolves upon the person on whose name he has called to take swift and summary vengeance. He gathers together all his friends and allies to assist him in punishing the outrage and in dethree and one third days he executes 18: 16 the scripture is saying: "Everyvengeance on all who were concerned in killing the one who had invoked his name. In this way "all who invoke the name of the Lord shall be saved". When vengeance visits the earth, the only shelter will be the name of Jehovah. Therefore it will require not only heart belief, but the avowal of the mouth. Thus it is that Israel will be saved and all others who, in that day, will seek refuge in His name.

14 The refugee does not need to know his protector personally, yet would hardly call on one in whom he had no faith. He could not invoke one of whom he had not even heard. Hence it will be necessary to proclaim Christ, and even before that God will need to commission His heralds.

17 For Israel in that day the declarations of Christ, the great Protector, will be presented to them for their be-Thus their salvation will be a simple matter of faith in His great

name.

for righteousness to everyone who is believing. Lev. 18:5

For Moses/is writing of the righteousness which is of law, that a man who does the same shall be living in it. Yet the righteousness which is of faith is saying thus: "You may not be saying in your heart, 'Who will be ascending into heaven?' (that is, to be leading Christ down),

or 'Who will be descending into the abyss?' (that is, to be leading Christ up from among the dead)."

But what is it saying? "The declaration is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the declaration of faith which we are proclaiming) that, if you should

be avowing by your mouth the declaration that Jesus is Lord, and should be believing in your heart that God rouses Him from among

10 the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart it is believed for righteousness, yet with the mouth 11 it is avowed for salvation. For

one who is believing on Him shall 12 not be disgraced." For there is no distinction, Jew as well as Greek, for He is Lord of all, being

rich for all those who are invoking 13 Him. For "who ever should be invoking the name of the Lord shall be saved."

How, then, should they be invoking One in Whom they do not believe? Yet how should they be believing One of Whom they do not hear? Yet how should they be hear-

15 ing apart from a proclamation? Yet how should they be proclaiming if they should not be commissioned? According as it is written, Isa 52:7

"How beautiful are the feet of those preaching an evangel of good".

¹⁶ But not all obey the evangel, for Isaiah is saying,

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Justification—National

18 The proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom, beginning in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, spread to the limits of the land (Ac.18), and reached beyond it to the Dispersion. Israel was not disobedient through lack of tidings.

19 Israel should have known that, as Pso. 19:4 a nation, they would apostatize, for both Moses and Isaiah foretold it.

CONCILIATION

NATIONAL

1 It would seem from the foregoing that God was through with His ancient and beloved people and was Deol; 32: 21 ousy by those not a nation; thrusting them away. But the apostle hastens to deny this assumption. God is not thrusting away His people whom He foreknew. Their apostasy is only in part, and the term of it is temporary. That not all of Israel are thrust away is evident from his own case. He, of all Israelites, most deserved to be thrust from God's presence and blessing. Yet he is not included in the national defection. And he is not alone. Elijah thought that he was the only one in all Israel who did not bow the knee to Baal. But God, in His sovereign dealings, restrains seven thousand from worshipnant reserved by God. These, however, are not those who are more faithful than the rest, or more deserving than the mass of the nation. If it had not been for God's choice in grace, 21:34 people whom He foreknew. there never would have been a rem- | King Or have you not perceived in

Grace and works will not mix. The moment works are merged with grace it becomes mere mercy and loses its essential nature. You cannot earn or deserve grace any more than you can do anyone a favor by paying him for services rendered. The sinner or saint who seeks to buy or deserve the favor of God will find that it cannot be purchased. Grace is only for those who merit the opposite. Paul's is the pattern case. As he excelled all in persecuting God's saints, he deserved the direst doom. Yet he received the greatest grace!

Israel sought blessing through law keeping, but did not get it. Those chosen in grace alone found it.

53:1 "Lord, who believes our tidings?"

¹⁷ Consequently faith is out of tidings, yet the tidings through a declaration of Christ.

But, I am saying, "Do they not hear?" To be sure!

"Their utterance came out into the entire land.

And their declarations into the ends of the inhabited earth."

But, I am saying, "Did not Israel know?" First Moses is saying.

"I shall be provoking you to jeal-By an unintelligent nation shall I be vexing you."

²⁰ Yet Isaiah is very daring and is saying, 65:1-2

"I was found by those who are not seeking Me:

I was disclosed to those who are not inquiring for Me."

²¹ Now to Israel He is saying, "The whole day I spread out My hands to a stubborn and contradicting people!"

I am saying, then, "Does not ing the idol. Neither was Paul alone, / Sam God thrust away His people?" for there was then, as always, a rem-12:22 May it not come to that! For I also am an Israelite, out of Abraham's seed, Benjamin's tribe. God does not thrust away His

> Elijah what the scripture is saying, as he is pleading with God against Israel? "Lord, they kill Thy prophets, they dig down Thine al-

tars, and I only was left, and 4 they are seeking my soul!" But what is that which apprises saying to him? "I left seven thousand men for Myself, who do not

bow the knee to Baal." Thus, then, in the current era also, there has come to be a remnant according

to the choice of grace. 7 Now if it is by grace, it is no longer out of works, else grace is coming to be no

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Conciliation—National

9 The blessing they coveted on the ground of law keeping blinded their eyes to grace, and loaded their backs

with legal burdens.

11 The temporary nature of Israel's defection is strikingly illustrated by the figure of a man who trips yet recovers himself before he falls pros-Israel has not fallen. book of Acts is full of the jealousy of Dept 19: A Jews whenever they see the nations receiving God's gifts.

12 Israel is God's appointed channel of blessing to the nations. If, then, their failure brings the storehouse of God's grace to the world, what will occur when they take their true place? & 19: 22-23 and a mesh, Then the world will be blessed far beyond what is possible now. only spiritual blessing comes to the nations. Then, through Israel, physical blessing will flow out to them. as well.

15 With Israel aside, God no longer puts barriers between Himself and the nations, but is conciliated to the whole world. When men receive this conciliation, then there is mutual re-

conciliation.

17 It is a remarkable fact, generally unknown, that a very old olive tree. no longer capable of bearing, may be rejuvenated by a wild graft. has been done only in those Mediterranean countries where the olive has been cultivated for many centuries. Israel is the old olive tree which becomes almost incapable of bearing the olives from which the light-giving oil was obtained. Some of the branches were broken out and the nations were grafted in, and, through living contact with its root, become God's testimony in the earth. The light of God the nations. But all the light is derived from the scriptures which came through Israel. Apart from the sacred scrolls, the nations shed no light. 19 The apostle is dealing with Israel Norm and the nations—not individuals. individual believer will be broken out of the olive tree. The nations, how Jer. !! ever, as such, no longer believe, and are due to be cut out of the olive tree. Jehovah is already gathering Israel back to their land with a view of once more grafting them into their own olive tree.

longer grace. Now if it is out of works it is no longer grace, else work is no longer work.

What then? What Israel is seeking for, this she has not encountered, yet the chosen encountered it. Now the rest were calloused, even as it is written.

"God gives them a spirit of stupor, Eyes not to be observing, And ears not to be hearing, Till this very day."

And David is saying,

"Let their table become a trap,

And a snare and a retaliation to them:

Let their eyes be darkened, not to be observing, And bow their backs together

continually."

Am I, then, saying, "Do they not trip that they should be falling?" May it not come to that! But their offense is salvation to the nations, to provoke them to jealousy.

Now if their offense is the world's riches and their discomfiture the nations' riches, how much

rather that which fills them! Now I am saying to you, the nations, inasmuch as, indeed, then, I am the apostle of the nations, I am glori-14 fying my dispensation, if somehow

I should be provoking those of my flesh to jealousy and should save 15 some of them. For if their casting is now no longer with Israel, but with Lar away is the conciliation of the world, what will their taking back be if

not life from among the dead? Now if the firstfruit is holy, the kneading is also; and if the root is ¹⁷ holy, the boughs are also. Now if some of the boughs are broken off, yet you, being a wild olive, are grafted among them, and became joint-participant of the root

and fatness of the olive, be not vaunting over the boughs. Yet if **WTATOYMHAKOYEINEOCTH²⁰**YTONGITAPHATOBOAHAYT²⁰

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22 Nothing shows the blindness of Christendom more than their severe denunciation of faithless Israel, vet they are following precisely the same course and have not the slightest idea that God will deal with them as He did with Israel.

24 If a wild graft can be introduced into a cultivated tree with good results, how much better will it be to graft back the good branches!

25 The secret that Israel's present condition is not permanent, but only until all who were chosen are called out of the nations, has never been generally believed. hence the haughty attitude of Christendom toward Israel.

26 Only a few, comparatively, are being saved among the nations, but when Israel again regains its proper place. all Israel shall be saved. Then the whole nation, from the least to the greatest, will know God. And they will become the light of the world, as they were always intended to be.

28 Let us always remember that Israel is still beloved, whatever its present attitude toward God.

29 God never regrets any favor He has shown. No individual or nation whom He calls ever disappoints Him, for He they will do. This alone proves that Israel will yet fulfill the part He has prepared for it.

30 Mercy can be shown only to those who are in need of it. So God plays Israel and the nations against one another that each in turn may taste of

His mercy.

32 God's purpose includes all nations. No matter what their present attitude toward Him, it is all a part of His plan and a preparation for the display of His mercy. Here we have the real reason why all, in turn, become stubborn. God Himself locks them up to it. not that He may condemn them, but that He may have occasion to manifest His mercy.

33 God's judgments and ways are too deep for human perception, but we can grasp His purpose. We do not know how fruit is made, but we can plant a tree and enjoy its product. We can grasp God's goal, but the process by which He attains it is too complex

for our feeble minds.

you vaunt, you are not bearing the root, but the root uou.

You will be asserting, then, "Boughs are broken off that I ²⁰ might be grafted in." That is By unbelief they are broken off, yet you stand in faith.

²¹ Be not haughty, but fear. For if God spares not some of the natural boughs, neither will He be sparing 22 some of you! Perceive, then, the kindness and severity of God! On those, indeed, who are falling, severity, yet on you, God's kindness, if you should be persisting in the kindness: else you also will be 23 hewn out. And they, if they should

not be persisting in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to ²⁴ graft them in again. For if you were hewn out of an olive wild by nature, and beside nature are grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much rather shall these, in accord with nature, be grafted into

their own olive tree?

25. For I am not willing for you to knows full well what they are and what ket be ignorant of this secret, brethren, lest you may pass for prudent among yourselves, that Israel, in part, has become calloused until the complement of the nations may ²⁶ be entering. And thus all Israel shall be saved, according as it is written, 352,59.20-21

> "The Rescuer shall be arriving out of Zion.

He will be turning irreverence from Jacob.

And this is My covenant with them

Whenever I should be eliminating their sins."

As to the evangel, indeed, they are enemies because of you, yet, as to choice, they are beloved because of the fathers. Deut 15: 60

For God's graces and calling are 30 unregretted. For even as you num. 23:9.

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⁸⁶ This is the most comprehensive statement which can be uttered. God is the source of all, the channel of all, and the object of all. The universe sprang out of Him, it has its course in Him and He will be its ultimate. This settles all speculation as to the origin of all things. Creation is out of God, not out of nothing. This explains universal history. God is the One back of 33 O, the depth of the riches and of all the movements of mankind. This the wisdom and of the knowledge reveals the goal of all things. God is 100 113 so guiding all His creatures that, eventually, He will become their All. Him, indeed, be glory for the eons!

THE CONDUCT OF THE SAINTS

- 1 This section is in marked contrast with the conduct of mankind (118-320), as shown in the literary framework. The exhortation is based on the previous teaching concerning our bodies in the sixth, seventh and eighth chapters. indwelling spirit (811). God is no/5. Lethren, by the pities of God, to longer pleased with dead substitutes, but asks for living offerings. He longs 6:13 for worship in spirit and in truth. Hence we have no altar and ritual, with bleeding victims which did not satisfy God, but we offer our bodies, t Cor dead indeed to Him, yet energized by His spirit, so that they are employed note, testing what is the will of God, good in good deeds, which ascend as a sweet of and well pleasing and matters and savor to Him. This is real religious service. It displaces the forms of divine service connected with the law. It is the only divine service which He recognizes in this economy. This is the Godward side.
- 2 On the manward side our conduct is not to look like that of the world. There is to be a transformation wrought by means of our minds, through the influence of God's revelation. never be like the world at heart, so we are not to appear to be like it. We are to become more and more unlike it by contact with the mind of God.
- 4 Our behaviour toward one another is based on the marvelous figure of the Eph We all have distinct 4,15 This is the key to conduct among our fellow-saints. As the body is a vital unity, so the saints are one in Christ.

once are stubborn toward God, yet now were shown mercy by their 31 stubbornness, thus these also are now stubborn to this mercy of yours, that now they also may be shown mercy. For God locks all up together in stubbornness, that He may be merciful to all.

the wisdom and of the knowledge of God! How inscrutable are His judgments, and untraceable His 34 ways! For who knew the mind of the Lord? or who became His ad-35 viser? or who gives to Him first, The let 100 VISET: 01 WILD ST. 36 and will be repaid by Him? seeing that all is out of Him and through Him and for Him: to Him be glory for the eons! Amen!

I am entreating you, then, present your bodies a sacrifice, living, holy, well pleasing to God, your logical divine service, and not to be configured to this eon, but to be transformed by the re-11 Cor newing of your mind, for you to be 3:18 and well pleasing and mature. Eph 4:18

For I am saying to everyone who is among you, through the grace which is given to me, not to be overweening, beyond what your disposition must be, but to be of a sane disposition, as God parts to each the measure of faith. For even as, in one body, we have many members, yet all the members have not the same function, thus we, who are many, are one body in Christ, yet severally members of one another. Now, having graces excelling, in accord with the functions, designed not merely for our confunctions, designed not merely for our confunctions, designed not merely for our confunction of all. This is the key to conduct among any of the faith and distributed the faith and dis in the dispensation; or he who is teaching, in the teaching; or he

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ΟΙΤΗ CΠΟΥΔΗΜΗΟΚΝΗΡΟΙΤ 25000 to-the diligence no slothful to-THR The Conduct of the Saints

14 The conduct of the saints in any given economy is based on God's dispensation. If He dispenses law, He requires conduct in accord with law. Mercy calls for a higher standard. while grace appeals for the highest type of loving deportment under even the most trying circumstances. law allowed men to hate their enemies. to exact an equivalent, as an eye for an eye, and, indeed, to act toward one another as God dealt with them. God's grace, then, is the model after which we may pattern our conduct. As He never curses now, we may not curse, but bless even those who are persecuting us.

18 If God should avenge Himself on His enemies where would we be? We were His enemies and as such we were conciliated by the death of His Hence we should never avenge ourselves.

20 An enemy in distress, instead of calling for hate and vengeance, is a special opportunity for the display of God's grace. special portion of food with which a host favored an honored guest, was a token of esteem and consideration. τ_i food, but grace accompanies the gift with every mark of love and honor. This is the way in which God vanquished our enmity, hence we should do likewise.

The setting up of the kingdom will involve the subjection of them all to the suzerainty of Christ. But we have no place in that earthly kingdom. Prov your enemy should be hungering, While Israel is thrust aside we mustifill kingdom the morsel if he should God is not at variance with present governments. It is not a question of obeying God rather than man, as when Peter refused the orders of the Sanhedrin. We must not withstand regularly constituted magistrates, but depend on God to overrule their acts, if they seem to conflict with our duty and the authorities and the worldmights, the spiritual forces of wickedness among the celestials. We are to be sandaled with the evangel of peace (Eph.612-15).

who is entreating, in the entreaty; he who is sharing, with generosity; he who is presiding, with diligence: he who is merciful, with glee. mat b:/.

Love is unfeigned, abhorring ¹⁰ wickedness, clinging to good, fondly affectionate for one another with brotherly affection, in honor deem-

¹¹ ing one another first, in diligence not slothful, fervent in spirit, slav-12 ing for the Lord, rejoicing in

expectation, enduring affliction, 13 persevering in prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, pur-

suing hospitality. Bless those who are persecuting 15 you: bless, and curse not. Be rejoicing with those rejoicing, be lament-16 ing with those lamenting, being

mutually disposed to one another, not being disposed to that which is The "morsel". afsa 131 high, but being led away with the humble. Do not pass for prudent 17 with vourselves. Now be rendering Mercy might provide an enemy with his to no one evil for evil. Be making ideal provision before all man-18 kind, if possible. Those among

you, being at peace with all man-19 kind, are not avenging yourselves, 1 Unlike Israel, we do not come into Devi kind, are not avenging yourselves, conflict with the rulers of the world. anger, for it is written, "'Avenging is Mine; I shall be retaliating', 20 the Lord is saying". But "If

recognize the existing authorities, is give him the morsel, if he should be thirsting, give him to drink, for in doing this you will be heaping ²¹ embers of fire on his head." Be not vanquished by evil, but van-

13 Let every soul be subject to to God or our convictions of His truth. | her the superior authorities, for there Our conflict is with the sovereignties, 2. 12 is no authority except under God. Now those which are, are set under ² God. so that he who is resisting an

quish evil with good.

authority has withstood God's man-Now those who have with-

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The Conduct of the Saints

The true believer should make the most exemplary citizen, for he has a deeper motive and a more powerful impulse to obedience than the unbeliever. He recognizes the civil authorities as God's servants and has a conscience which should make him most law abiding. The unbeliever is deterred from evil by fear and respect for a human institution. We recognize existing governments as of divine

6 It may seem a strange paradox, yet it is a sad fact that many who are ministers of God in name, are not so in truth, and many a magistrate, who would not dare consider himself a minister of God, is such in fact, in the execution of his office.

8 The debtor is the servant of the The servant of God should never be under obligation to another. Love alone is the great debt which never can be fully discharged. Law precept is more than met by the dic-8:35 fear, to whom honor, honor. is a broken fragment, incomplete, un- Prov. 3: 12 Be owing no one anything, exsatisfactory. Love is its complement, and rounds it out to a satisfactory, complete whole.

11 Time, in scripture, is variously characterized. We make an effort to distinguish between the various terms The longest divisions of time are the five great eons or ages. present eon stretches all the way from the flood to the coming advent of But there are shorter divisions of time, often spoken of under the term season. Sometimes this refers to a literal season of the year, the harvest season (Mt.1330). Usually, however, it denotes some characteristic period or era, as in this. scripture. It is illustrated by the dawning of the day. Deeds of darkness are done at night. But this is not the era of darkness but of light. The full day is approaching when our salvation will be complete at His advent. Just as we rouse ourselves in the morning, preparatory to the duties of the day, so, in this larger sense, our conduct should reflect the coming of the light and not be tainted with the dark doings which seek the shades of night to hide their shame.

stood will be getting judgment for themselves, for magistrates are not a fear to the good act, but to the evil. Now you do not want to be fearing the authority. Be doing good, and you will be having applause from it. For it is God's servant for your good. Now if you should be doing evil, fear, for it is not wearing the sword futilely. 8:35 For it is God's servant, an avenger for indignation to him committing ⁵ evil. Wherefore it is a necessity to be subject not only because of indignation, but because of con-

science also. For because of this you are settling taxes also, for they are God's ministers, perpetuated for this very thing. Be rendering to all their dues, to whom tax, tax, to whom is useless where there is love, for every mat tribute, tribute, to whom fear,

he who is loving another has fulfilled law. For "You shall not be committing adultery, you shall not be murdering, you shall not be stealing, you shall not be testifying falsely, you shall not be coveting," and if there is any other precept, it is summed up in this saying, in this, "You shall be loving your associate as yourself."

10 Love is not working evil to an associate. The complement, then, of law, is love.

This, also: being aware of the era, that it is already the hour for us to be roused out of sleep (for now is our salvation nearer than when

12 we believe: the night progresses, yet the day has drawn near), then we should be putting off the acts of darkness, yet should be putting on the armor of light. We should be walking respectably as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenEOYTAPAIAKONOCECTINC 20 to-

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Fellowship among God's saints should not be based on knowledge or ignorance. God receives us even when we are feeble in faith. We should not cut from our fellowship one who does not follow all our deductions from the scriptures. Neither should we make light of his scruples. foods are forbidden now. Yet the undoubted wisdom of the food regulations under the law may well help us to determine what is best, without abridging our liberty to eat all things with a good conscience. We may not dictate to one another in these things. They are to be settled by the individual conscience before God.

The observance of days is also a matter of individual preference. is abundantly evident that no day is above another, so far as the scriptures are concerned. The seventh day, the sabbath, was never given to the na-To observe it is to put ourtions. selves under the curse of the law. The first day of the week, called Sunday, is never once referred to in the scriptures, properly translated. phrase should always be rendered "one of the sabbaths". In order to get "the first day of the week" it is necessary to alter one to first, to insert the word day, and change the plural sabbaths to the singular week. It is a desperate attempt to find some scriptural excuse for the prevalent observance of Sun-There is nothing wrong in the setting aside of a day to the Lord. Custom has made Sunday the most convenient for this purpose. But let us not mar the word of God in order to uphold the practise. Neither should we ride rough shod over the religious scruples of those who look upon Sunday as a day sanctioned by God for divine worship. They have no basis for their belief, nevertheless their conscience demands consideration.

10 It is not ours to pass judgment in these matters. It is not the place of the church to fix any days and condemn those who do not observe them. Only the observance of days as a matter of law keeping is condemned. There is nothing wrong in working on Sunday. It is utterly wrong to keep it as a means of salvation. The same is true of the seventh day, or sabbath.

ness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and jealousy.

14 but put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and be making no provision for the lusts of the flesh. Gal 3; 27.

14. Now take to yourselves the feeble in faith, not for discrimina² tion of reasonings. One, indeed, is

believing to eat all things, yet he
who is feeble is eating greens. Let
not him who is eating be scorning
him who is not eating. Yet let not
him who is not eating be judging
him who is eating, for God took him

4 to Himself. Who are you who are judging Another's domestic? To his own Master he is standing or falling. Now he will be made to stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

One, indeed, is deciding for one day against another day, yet one is deciding for every day. Let each one be fully assured in his own mind. He who is disposed to a day is disposed to it to the Lord; and he who is eating is eating to the Lord, for he is thanking God.

And he who is not eating, is not

eating to the Lord, and is thanking God. For none of us is living to himself, and no one is dying to bimself. For, as well, if we should

be living, we are living to the Lord, if we should be dying, we are dying to the Lord. Then, as well, if we should be living as we should be dying, we are the Lord's. For for

this Christ died, and lives, that He should be Lord of both the dead and the living.

10 Now why are you judging your brother? Or why are you also scorning your brother? For we shall all be presented at the dais of

11 God, for it is written: JSG 45:23 "'Living am I,' the Lord is saying, 'For to Me every knee shall be bowing.

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The Conduct of the Saints

14 The distinctions instituted by the law between things which are to be reckoned clean and unclean have no place in the economy of grace. God has no hesitancy in associating with us, sinners of the nations. A strict Jew could not eat our food without being contaminated. Yet, before God, we are holy and the Jew is unclean! Hence no food is ceremonially unclean. It is only an uninstructed conscience which counts things common.

15 The liberty to eat anything should not be allowed to infringe on the prejudices of others. Those who have a conscience about partaking of certain foods are easily offended. We should not stand on our rights but seek rather to restrain our liberty to conform to the religious scruples of our fellow believers.

17 This is not a definition of the kingdom of God, but a statement of its bearing on this subject. The distinctive truth for the present economy was not yet known, and the saints were included in the kingdom of God in its widest aspect as denoting the sphere of God's rule.

19 These are safe tests to apply to all our intercourse with our fellow saints. Will it provoke strife? If so, let us avoid it. Will it edify? If not, let us forego it. Peace and the edification of others, rather than our own privileges should be pressed. Things which we can do with a good conscience before God, may give dire offense if done before some of His saints.

Knowledge puffs up. Thère is a prideful tendency to make a show of our liberty in Christ. But grace considers the weak rather than the strong. If there is to be peace and unity it must come from the condescension of those who are able. The weak in faith are not asked to consider the Christ is the most brilliant example in this as in all else. marvelous condescension He displayed in His dealings with His disciples, whose weakness and lack of faith was a constant source of distress to Him! If He could bridge the great gulf between Him and His disciples, surely we can bear with those whose infirmities we all share.

And every tongue shall be acclaiming God'."

¹² Consequently, then, each of us shall be giving account of himself to God.

13 Then by no means should we still be judging one another, but rather judge this, not to place a stumbling block or a snare for a brother.

¹⁴ I have perceived and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is common of itself, but to one counting anything to be common,

15 to that one it is common. For if, because of food, your brother is sorrowing, you are no longer walking according to love. Be not, by your food, destroying that one for

¹⁶ whose sake Christ died. Then let ¹⁷ not your good be calumniated, for the kingdom of God is not eating food and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in holy

18 spirit. For he who in this is slaving for Christ, is well pleasing to God and attested by men.

Consequently, then, we are pursuing that which makes for peace and that which edifies one another.

20 On account of food do not be demolishing the work of God. All, indeed, is clean, but it is evil to the man to whom eating is a stumbling-

21 block. It is ideal neither to be eating meat, nor to be drinking wine, nor yet a single thing which is stumbling your brother, or is snaring or weekening him.

ing or weakening him.

The faith which you have, have to yourself before God. Happy is he who is not judging himself in that which he is attesting. He who is doubting if he should be eating has been condemned, seeing that it is not out of faith. Now everything which is not out of faith is sin.

15 Now we, who are able, ought to be bearing the infirmities of the impotent, and not to be pleasing

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PAUL'S PREVIOUS MINISTRY Contrast the two ministries of Christ and Paul (16). Christ was the Servant of the Circumcision. Paul was a minister for the nations. Christ confirms the patriarchal promises. of God. Christ never went outside the land of Israel. He was not sent but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Paul, on the contrary, was not called until he had left the land of Israel. He was sent to the Uncircumcision. It is of the utmost importance that we recognize these distinctive ministries, for the distinction has been virtually ignored. Christ is taken as the minister to the nations and Paul is forgotten. Yet throughout the Lord's public life He emphasized the fact that His mission was to Israel exclusively. A few proselytes, indeed, received blessing, but they were counted as one with the favored na-The Syro-Phoenician woman had to take the place of an outcast before she could get a crumb from Israel's board.

Paul is a direct contrast to all this. Later he describes himself as the apostle of the nations (2Tim.111). He made an agreement with Peter and John that they should go to the Circum-cision while he went to the nations 1.00 rest in order to fulfill this ministry. As a result all the truth for the nations at the present time comes only Psa. 18:49. Thee among the nations, through the apostle Paul. Those who wish to be established in present truth should master his epistles, especially Ephesians. After they have learned Dev 31:43 His people!" the mysteries or secrets in his writings and scaled the heights to which he alone can guide them, they never "Be praising the Lord, all nations, will be tempted to descend to the level And let all peoples laud Him." which is found in our Lord's earthly ministry and in its continuation by the twelve, as recorded in the book Mill: "There will be a root of Jesse of Acts and in the epistles from their pens.

Mercy for the nations "with His people" is not in force now, for His people are not blessed. We are blessed because of their defection. In the millennial age, however, the nations will be abundantly blessed through the restored nation of Israel, with Christ on the throne.

ourselves. Let each of us be pleasing his associate, for his good, toward his edification. For Christ also pleases not Himself, but, according as it is written, "The re-Paul acts as a priest in the evangels, & Aproaches of those who are reproaching Thee fall on Me". For as much as was written before was written for our teaching, that through the endurance and consolation of the scriptures we may have expectation.

Now may the God of endurance and consolation grant you to be mutually disposed to one another, according to Christ Jesus, that, with one accord, with one mouth, you may be glorifying the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore be taking one another to yourselves according as Christ also took you to Himself, for the glory of God.

For I am saying that Christ has become the Servant of the Circum-6 cision, for the sake of the truth of God, to confirm the patriarchal promises. Yet the nations are to (Gal.2°). He was severed from the 110 glorify God for His mercy, accord-

"Therefore I shall be acclaiming And playing [music] to Thy name."

¹⁰ And again He is saying: "Make merry, ye nations, with

¹¹ And again He is saying:

¹² And again Isaiah is saying: And He Who is arising to be Chief of the nations: On Him shall the nations rely."

13 Now may the God of expectation be filling you with all joy and peace in believing, for you to be superabounding in expectation, in the power of holy spirit.

Now I myself also am persuad-

A PHINA & I A THCYTTOMONHC²⁰ ten THAT THRU THE UNDER-REMAINING

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Paul's Previous Ministry

¹⁶ While the priests at Jerusalem still offered the sacrifices according to the law, their ministrations were not acceptable to God, for they had rejected the true Lamb of God. God had no pleasure in the blood of slain beasts. for the hearts of the offerers were far from Him. Is it not a marvel how God, in His wisdom, finds true worshipers among the despised aliens, who offer themselves as living sacrifices well pleasing to Him? In spirit, Paul's ministry among the nations takes the Ca place of the divine ritual at Jerusa-1:8 lem, they were hallowed by the holy So it ought to be today. the temple Though worship has ceased, it is our privilege so to walk as to be a sweet savor of Christ. 17 Paul labored more than all of the other apostles, and, before this crisis in his ministry, performed greater miracles than the rest. In Acts, every sign in the first part, by Peter, is duplicated in the last part, by Paul. This ministry he has now completed. 19 The completion of the proclamation of the evangel of Christ marks the central crisis in Paul's ministries. The first was his severance from the rest at Antioch. The last was at Rome, and was followed by the writing of his prison epistles. This crisis lies between, after the completion of his Antioch commission, and is marked by the expression of his desire to go to Rome. In Acts his previous ministry is declared to be fulfilled (Ac. 1921). In Corinthians he would henceforth know no one after the flesh. He had been proclaiming Christ after the Israel's Messiah—but flesh-as would now do so no longer (2Cor.516). It is at this crisis also that the conciliation is first revealed (2Cor.517-20).

His second ministry was concerned (Ac.1339). justification crisis, his third ministry characterized by conciliation, which is first set forth in the fifth to the eighth chapters of this epistle in its individual aspect, and in the eleventh chapter, in its national aspect. His final ministry was carried on at Rome, which he plans to visit at this crisis. It was carried on almost entirely by means of the Perfection Epistles.

ed concerning you, my brethren, that you yourselves also are bulging with goodness, having been filled with all knowledge, able also 15 to be admonishing one another. Yet I write to you more daringly, in part, as prompting you, because of the grace given to me from God, 16 for me to be the minister of Christ Jesus for the nations, acting as a priest of the evangel of God, that the offering of the nations may lem. He officiates as a priest. Though \sa be becoming well received, having not sanctified by the altar at Jerusa-65.19-been hallowed by holy spirit. /2:/ I have, then, in Christ Jesus, a 18 boast in what is toward God. For I am not daring to speak any of what Christ does not effect through me for the obedience of the nations. 19 in word and work, in the power of signs and miracles, in the power of God's spirit, so that, from Jerusalem and around as far as Illyricum, I have completed the ²⁰ evangel of Christ. Yet thus, I am ambitious to be preaching the evangel where Christ is not named,

> "They who were not informed concerning Him shall be viewing, And they who have not heard be understanding."

lest I may be building on another's

²¹ foundation, but, according as it is

written.

Wherefore, I was much hindered 23 also in coming to you. Yet now, having by no means still place in these regions, yet having for many ²⁴ years a longing to come to you, as I should be going into Spain (for I am expecting, while going through, to gaze upon you, and by you to be sent forward there, if I should first be filled, in part, by you)-²⁵ yet now I am going to Jerusalem, ²⁶ dispensing to the saints. For it delights Macedonia and Achaia to 31001 PAUL TO THE ROMANS CHAPTER 15 As2 Y = UNDER COYKANHET EAHTEPIAYTO 20 MOIATOTOY BEOYEIC TOEL 20 16 to-ME FROM THE God INTO THE TO-WHOM NOT it-WAS-UP-MESSAGED ABOUT Him NAIME AGITOYPT ON XPICT 40 YOYONT AIK AIOIOY KAKHK# ME official THEY-WILL-BE-VIEWING AND WHO NOT HAVE-HEARD OF-ANOINTED Bomits into the nations OYIHCOYEICT AEBNHIEPO** OACINCYNHCOYCINAIOKA® INTO THE NATIONS SACRED-22 THEY-WILL-BE-understanding THRU-WHICH B MANY-times TOANAKIO YPTOYNTA TOGYAFFGAION® **ΙΕΝΕΚΟΠΤΟΜΗΝΤΑΠΟΛΛΑΤ™** THE WELL-MESSAGE AND I-was-hinderED THE much OEв ӨН ŀе TOY BEOY INATENHTAIHTP100 OYE ABEINTPOCYMACNYNI. OF-THE God THAT MAY-BE-BECOMING THE TO-23 THE TO-BE-COMING TOWARD YOUP Ο COOPATONE ON ONE Y ΠΡΟ C 20 ΔΕΜΗΚΕΤΙΤΟΠΟΝΕΧΏΝΕΝΤ²⁰ OF-THE NATIONS WARD-CARRY WELL-TOWARD-YET NO-NOT-STILL PLACE HAVING ×Н OICKÄIMACITOYTOICETI# ∆ektochΓiacmenhenπne 40 HAVING-been-HOLYIZED IN Spirit regions these ON-LONG-As omit THE A omits OF-THE YMATIALIŒKŒŒNHTHNKA® MOGIANA GEX WINTOY GAGE! HOLY I-AM-HAVING THEN THE BOAST-YET HAVING OF-THE TO-BE-COMING NΠΡΟCYMACAΠΟΠΟΛΛΦΝΕΤ 80 YXHCINENXPICT@IHCOYT® ANOINTED JESUS TOWARD YOUD FROM MANY YEARS IN s2 adds 1'LL-BE-AS I-SHALL-BE-DARING **ΑΠΡΟCTONΘΕΟΝΟΥΓΑΡΤΟΛ200 WNOCANTOPEYOMAIEICTH**700 God NOT for AS EVER I-MAY-BE-GOING TOWARD THE INTO THE COMING TOWARD YOU E A CYCOMAIT POCYMAC adds HC (82) MOTIABAEINONOYKATEIP 20 ΝΟΠΑΝΙΑΝΕΛΠΙΖ ΦΓΑΡΔΙΑ 20 DARING ANY TO-BE-TALKING OF-WHICH NOT is-DOWN-ACTED SPAIN I-AM-EXPECTING for THRU-B adds sayings AOF A omits THRU- (above)

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Paul's Intended Journey

28 During Paul's first three ministries the nations were dependent on Israel. and received of their spiritual things. Hence they were indebted to them and sought to pay by sending them relief in time of famine. But after this Paul makes known the present secret economy, in which the nations are no longer guests of Israel (Eph.212,19), but receive their own spiritual blessings direct from God. Their destiny is changed to heaven, where Israel has no possessions. At the close of the book of Acts the pre-eminence of the Jew vanished, and since then there is a new humanity in which all physical distinctions are done away.

29 The blessing of Christ which fills doubtless is an intimation of the transcendent truths which were made public by Paul after his arrival at Rome. None of the blessings before bestowed filled, in the sense of completing and perfecting. The full-orbed presentation of truth in the Ephesian epistle, written at Rome, fully meets the anticipation here expressed bv apostle.

30 Paul's apprehension lest he should not be well received in Judea was well founded, as events proved. Though he came bringing gifts to his people, his later teaching seemed to them to be directed against the people and the law and Jerusalem. Indeed, he did teach that God would be worshiped in any place, and he did lead out from under the bondage of the law (Ac.2128). Tens of thousands of Jews believed, yet they were all zealous of the law (Ac.2120). They would not hear of blessing to the nations apart from the law. Later, u: when Paul spoke to them, they did not object to his own call, but could not bear to hear of his commission to the

here as in 2 Tim. 419. Elsewhere she is given the fuller form Priscilla. This is common in Roman names. She and her husband (who is usually mentioned last) were banished from Rome a few years before (Ac.182). Paul met them in Corinth and joined them in their business of tent making. They traveled with the apostle (Ac.1818) and must have returned to Rome before the writing of this epistle.

make some contribution for the poor 27 saints who are in Jerusalem. For they are delighted, and they are their debtors, for if the nations participate in their spiritual things. they ought to minister to them in 28 fleshly things also. When, then, performing this, and sealing to them this fruit, I shall be coming away 29 through you into Spain. Now I am aware that, in coming to you, I shall be coming with the blessing of

Christ which fills.

Now I am entreating you, brethren, through our Lord, Jesus Christ, and through the love of the spirit, to struggle together with me in pray-31 ers to God for me, that I should be rescued from the stubborn in Judea, and my dispensation for Jerusalem may be becoming well received 32 by the saints, in order that I may be coming to you with joy through the will of God, and I should be 33 resting together with you. Now the God of peace be with you all! 16:10 Amen!

16 Now I am commending to you Phæbe, our sister, being a servant ² of the ecclesia in Cenchrea, that you should be receiving her in the Lord worthily of the saints, and may stand by her in whatever matter she may have need of you. for she, too, has become a patroness of many, and of me also.

3 The best manuscripts read Prisca and Aquila, my felhere as in 2 Tim 419 Files for my soul's sake jeopardize their own necks, whom not I only, but all the ecclesias of the nations also are 5 thanking) and the ecclesia of their house.

Greet Epanetus, my beloved, who is the firstfruit of the [province of] 6 Asia for Christ. Greet Mary, who

110-15:12

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Greetings

The term "relative" is an elastic expression, used sometimes in a broad sense of all Israelites (93) yet more usually in a restricted sense of a closer blood relation (Jn.1826). Paul mentions six of his relatives in the course of these greetings (7,11,21), besides his mother. Very few of them are ever spoken of again in the scriptures. Some of them, notably Andronicus and Junius, seem to have been very prominent and faithful. They were in Christ before him and suffered imprisonment with him. Indeed, it is not at all improbable that we are to understand them to be apostles, not indeed of the twelve, but such as Barnabas (Ac.1414).

10 "Of Aristobulus" seems to denote those associated with his establishment. Perhaps this is the grandson of Herod the Great who was later given the government of Lesser Armenia.

¹¹ Narcissus is probably one of Nero's favorites, for even Nero's household was invaded by the power of the evan-

gel (Phil.422).

13 Rufus is probably the same one whose father Simon was compelled to bear the cross (Mk.15²¹). If so, he must have been of some prominence among early believers, for Mark is content to identify his father by referring to him and his brother Alexander. It is touching to see the apostle especially single out his mother, the wife of him who had the honor of bearing our Saviour's cross.

17 How soon dissension and division crept in among the saints! Even before they had received the truth in its fullness, men came with smooth words to draw them from it. Hence the necessity for some authoritative written standard, as this epistle, to which appeal could be made when the truth was in danger.

21 Lucius of Cyrene (Ac.131) was probably a different person. Jason was prominent in Corinth (Ac.175-9). Sosipater is probably the same one who is called Sopater (Ac.204), who, together with Gaius, left Corinth with Paul.

²² Tertius was probably a professional scribe, such as to this day are employed to write letters in the East. Paul, however, usually penned the concluding words of his epistles.

7 toils much for you. Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives and my fellow captives, who are notable among the apostles, who also came

8 to be in Christ before me. Greet Amphiatos, my beloved in the Lord.

⁹ Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved.

Greet Apelles, attested in Christ. Greet those who are of Aristobu-

¹¹ lus. Greet Herodian, my relative. Greet those of Narcissus who are

12 in the Lord. Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, who are toiling in the Lord. Greet Persis, beloved, who

13 toils much in the Lord. Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his

¹⁴ mother and mine. Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brethren with

them. Greet Philologos and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas

one another with a holy kiss. All the ecclesias of Christ are greeting you.

Now I am entreating you, brethren, to be noting those who are making dissensions and snares beside the teaching which you learned, and avoid them, for such are not slaving for our Lord Christ, but for their own bowels, and through compliments and adulation are deluding the hearts of the innocent.

19 For your obedience reached out to

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25 The importance of this closing benediction is apparent from the fact that it was written by the apostle with his own hand after Tertius had finished the epistle. Paul characterizes the great themes of his epistle, my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ 15:33 in accord with the revelation of a secret hushed in times eonian (conciliation), in contrast with the gospel of God (11) which He promised before. The conciliation was not made known through the (Hebrew) prophets, but through prophetic writings, such as this epistle and 2 Corinthians. of principal importance that we see the point the apostle makes here, for otherwise we shall not appreciate the conciliation, which is first set forth in 1:16 and brother Quartus. MY. Rom 2:16, 17m this epistle. The teaching of the fifth to the eighth chapters and especially the eleventh chapter is absolutely unblessing comes to the nations through Israel as the channel. The conciliation comes because Israel is thrust infer that Israel's apostasy would bar 162 2 & 36 The conciliation was a secret they knew nothing of, for it makes Israel's defection the ground of worldwide, unbounded blessing to the nations until Israel is again in God's reckoning.

all. Over you, then, I am rejoicing. Now I am wanting you to be wise, indeed, for good, yet art-20 less for evil. Now the God of peace will be crushing Satan under vour feet swiftly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you!

Timothy, my fellow worker, is greeting you, and Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my relatives.

I. Tertius, who write this epistle, am greeting you in the Lord. ²³ Gaius. my host, and of the whole ²⁴ ecclesia, is greeting you. Erastus, unique, distinctive character of the ter the city steward, is greeting you,

Now to Him Who is able to es- 25 known in the prophets. In the latter all 1:12 tablish you in accord with my evangel, and the proclamation of Christ Jesus in accord with the revelation of a secret hushed in times eonian, aside. The prophets would lead us to legs yet manifested now, through proall possibility of blessing to the na phetic scriptures as well, according to the injunction of the eonian God being made known to all nations for 27 the obedience of faith—to God only wise, through Christ Jesus, be glory for the eons of the eons. Amen! 2 Pet 1:19.

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I CORINTHIANS

Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians is a divine commentary on the conduct inculcated in the epistle to the Romans. The secret of a life well pleasing to God lies in the crucifixion of the flesh and resurrection by the power of the spirit (Rom.66-11). The Corinthians failed in both of these requisites. as will be seen by the framework. first part of the epistle shows that though the apostle had pressed the preaching of the cross, which puts an end to all physical pretensions, they persisted in making much of men. and thus created divisions among them-The close of the epistle shows also that some denied the resurrection. though the resurrection of Christ was fundamental to the evangel and an absolute necessity to acceptable conduct.

As is the case with so many of the epistles, each subject is taken up twice, as shown in the framework, dividing the epistle into two distinct parts, each having the same general subjects, but discussing them from distinct standpoints. In the first half all is personal. In the second all is ecclesiastical. The gifts in the former portion are men, Paul and Apollos. In the latter they are spiritual endowments, which were exercised in the ecclesia. Thus also, the abuse of the physical body is balanced by the abuse of the Lord's body. The private conduct of the marriage relation is replaced by their conduct in the public meetings of the saints. Idol sacrifices are discussed in their relation to the individual and as they affect the ecclesia, especially the Lord's table.

The central subject is the question of Paul's apostolic authority. First he discusses his personal rights, but then waives them all in his desire for the welfare of others.

Thus we see a marvelous symmetry and balance of thought in an epistle which is usually supposed to be without method.

This epistle is a severe rebuke to the present day ecclesiastical systems. If division was a proof of carnality in Corinth, what does the multiplication

FRAMEWORK OF I. CORINTHIANS

Introduction 1¹⁻⁹
The Word of the Cross 1¹⁰-3²³
The Secret Wisdom 2⁷
God's Gifts, Personal 4-5

Our Physical Bodies, Judgment 5-6 | Man and Woman

Conduct in Marriage 7
I Idol Sacrifices 8

Apostolic Authority 9¹-18
Paul's Freedom
Apostolic Authority 9¹⁹-2⁷
Paul's Servitude
Idol Sacrifices 10

Man and Woman
Conduct in Ecclesia 11².16
The Lord's Body, Judgment 11¹⁷.34
The Gifts, Spiritual 12-14

The Evangel of the Resurrection 15 The Secret Change 15⁵¹

Conclusion 16

of sects with which we are afflicted prove? There is far more need today of the salutary correctives in this epistle than there was in Corinth. There is need to proclaim, not only the death of Christ, but the manner of His death. A crucified Christ is the answer to the worldly wisdom and religious carnality of those who profess the name of God.

This epistle shows why so few are able to apprehend the marvelous mysteries of Paul's later epistles. If the Corinthians were so carnal that the apostle could not reveal these to them, it is no marvel that they are hid from the immature believer of today. Yet the apostle did disclose to them the secret of the resurrection.

In the midst of all the gifts the apostle points them to the transcendent grace which has since become ours by a later revelation. The gifts have ceased. Faith, expectation and love remain. Let us hope that soon faith will be lost in sight and expectation in realization. Then love alone will abide. May we give it the place pre-eminent!

second epistle.

- This is not the first time the apostle has written to the Corinthians. He had written a letter to them (59) and they had written one in return (71). This epistle is partly a reply to their letter. So that it is not to be taken as first Corinthians in the absolute sense, but in relation to the
- 2 It is worthy of note that this epistle, like the Thessalonian and Galatian epistles, is written to a corporate ecclesia. Indeed, the whole of the latter half treats of ecclesiastical relations.
- ² The name Sosthenes recalls much of Paul's career in Corinth. Crispus, the chief of the synagogue, believed and probably lost his place immediately, for we next read that Sosthenes was the chief of the synagogue. When Gallio refused to interfere, the crowd took Sosthenes and beat him in front of the dais. It may be that this man was also reached by the evangel, and became Paul's companion in Ephesus, where this epistle was, in all probability, penned. If so, it is a notable triumph of grace.
- Corinth was the first place, after Paul's severance from the rest at Antioch, where he was allowed to continue long enough to teach and establish the saints in the truth. He was there a year and a half (Ac. 1811), and many of the Corinthians not only believed, but were recipients of many spiritual graces looking forward to the day of Christ's unveiling.
- What a marvelous privilege and honor is involved in fellowship with the Son of God! Yet this is the portion of everyone who is His.
- 10 It should be an occasion of gratitude to God that the correction of the Corinthians, though of temporary and local interest at the time, still provides guidance on many points of practical importance. Thus their very divisions not only exposed their own carnality, but are the sure sign of the prevailing lack of spirituality today. Few, indeed, would rebuke allegiance to themselves, yet Paul, first of all, objects to anyone saying "I am of Paul". No matter what name is used, schism is indefensible and deplorable.

- PAUL, a called apostle of Christ Jesus, through the will of God, and Sosthenes, a brother, to the ecclesia of God which is in Corinth, hallowed in Christ Jesus, called saints, together with all in every place who invoke the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—theirs as well as ours:
- ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ⁴ I AM THANKING my God always concerning you for the grace of God which is given you in Christ ⁵ Jesus, seeing that you are enriched in everything in Him, in all expression and all knowledge. 6 according as the testimony of Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not deficient in a single grace, awaiting the unveil-
- ing of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who will be confirming you also to the consummation, unimpeachable in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God is faithful, through Whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- Now I am entreating you, brethren, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all may be saying the same thing, and there may be no schisms among you, but you may be attuned to the same mind ¹¹ and of the same opinion. For it was made evident to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe, that there are strifes
- 12 among you. Now I am saying this, that each of you is saying "I, indeed, am of Paul", yet "I of Apollos", yet "I of Cephas", yet
- 13 "I of Christ". Has Christ been parted? Was Paul crucified for

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.14 The Crispus here referred to can be none other than the chief of the synagogue who believed on the Lord with all his house when Paul first came to Corinth. Gaius was probably his host on a later visit (Ro.1623). The household of Stephanas was probably the first to receive the evangel. It seems that Paul, in his early ministry, like the Lord (Jn.42), did not usually baptize with his own hands. As Stephanas was the first to believe in Corinth, there may have been no one else to do so in his case. Crispus was the most prominent Jew in the city, hence the apostle officiated personally when he was baptized. After this we do not read of his baptizing. He couples baptism with circumcision, as being ours in the burial of Christ (Col.212).

17 Baptism, like circumcision, was a physical rite, and seemed to give the flesh a place before God. The entire tenor of Paul's commission was against this. He draws a sharp line between baptizing and evangelizing.

THE WORD OF THE CROSS

18 The "word of the cross" has a far deeper significance than the death of Christ for our sins. It brings before us the manner of His death. curse of the law was attached to such a death. It brought down the curse of God. On the human side, however, it showed what human religion and human wisdom can do. When God's Image was present among men they not only failed to appreciate Him, but displayed the innate hatred of their carnal religious hearts by dooming Him to the death of the vilest criminal. He Who spoke as never man spoke should have been welcomed by the wise men of the world, but they showed the essential stupidity of human wisdom by gibbeting the embodiment of all wisdom upon the ignominious cross. Yet God has made that scene of weakness and shame the brightest exhibition of His power and glory. Though it seems to sound the depths of powerless infamy, it eclipses all the power and wisdom of men. The word of the cross is still despised, but its proclamation is salvation to all who believe. The height and summit of man's wisdom cannot reach to the divine folly.

your sakes? Or are you baptized ¹⁴ into the name of Paul? I am thanking God that I baptize none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ lest any should be saying that you ¹⁶ are baptized into my name. Yet I baptize the household of Stephanas also. Furthermore, I am not aware ¹⁷ if I baptize any other. For Christ does not commission me to be baptizing but to be preaching the evangel, not in wisdom of word, lest the cross of Christ should be

made void. For the word of the cross is stupidity, indeed, to those who are being destroyed, yet to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, "I shall be destroying the wisdom of the wise, and the understanding of the intelligent ²⁰ shall I be repudiating." Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the discusser of this eon? Does not God make stupid 21 the wisdom of this world? For since, in fact, in the wisdom of God. the world through wisdom knew not God, God delights, through the stupidity of a proclamation, to save those who are believing, ²² since, in fact, Jews are requesting signs and Greeks are seeking wis-23 dom, yet we are proclaiming Christ crucified, to Jews, indeed, a snare, ²⁴ and to the nations stupidity, yet to those who are called, Jews as well as Greeks, Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God, 25 seeing that the stupidity of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For you are observing your call-

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27 To this day the great, the noble, and the wise are a small minority among the true saints of God. It is a matter of extreme thankfulness that this is If high birth or wisdom or any other attainment were necessary to His choice, how few would be able to measure up to His standard, and how little glory would there be for Him! now we see those mentally deficient, chosen by Him, acting more wisely than the philosophers who shut God out of their lives. Here in Corinth we see the trembling apostle, scorned even by those whom he has been the means of blessing, doing a work which has brought more glory to God and good to man than all the efforts of the might and nobility of all time!

30 Would that we would cease looking for anything in ourselves! Let us not boast in our wisdom, or our holiness, but find these only in Christ. Then let us boast to our heart's content in that which we have in Him.

- Eloquent appeals, logical arguments, or profound philosophy, have no place in the proclamation of the evangel. We are to proclaim the word, testify to the truth. The subject matter is all provided by God. Nothing would have appealed to the Corinthians better than some new philosophy, or some astute line of reasoning. But faith does not rest on reason but on a message backed by the power of the spirit of God. What is needed today is a return to the simple, unadorned proclamation of the evangel, the death of Christ on the cross for our sins and the resurrection of Christ because of our justification. The power of this good news is as great today as it proved to be in Corinth.
- Though God has repudiated the world's wisdom, there is a divine wisdom, of which the world knows nothing, which even the saints do not apprehend until they attain maturity. This wisdom is fully unfolded in Paul's later epistles to the Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians. It cannot be grasped, even today, by carnal saints. It is for the spiritual, who have seen the end of the flesh.
- 7 "Before the eons" shows that the eons or ages are not eternal in the past, but had a definite beginning.

ble, but God chooses the stupid of the world that he may be disgracing the wise, and God chooses the weak of the world that He may
be disgracing the strong, and the ignoble of the world, and those who are scorned, God chooses, and those who are not, that He should be discarding those who are, so that no flesh should be boasting before God.

Yet you, of Him, are in Christ Jesus, Who became to us Wisdom from God, besides Righteousness

31 and Holiness and Deliverance, that, according as it is written, "He Who is boasting, let him be boasting in the Lord."

2 And I, coming to you, brethren, came not with superiority of word or of wisdom, announcing to you the ² testimony of God, for I decide not to perceive anything among you except Jesus Christ, and Him cru-³ cified. And I came to be with you in weakness, and in fear, and in 4 much trembling, and my word and my proclamation were not with persuasive [words] of human wisdom, but with demonstration of the ⁵ spirit and of power, that your faith may not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. Yet we are speaking wisdom

among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this eon, neither of the chief men of this eon, who are being discarded, but we are speaking God's wisdom in a secret, which has been concealed, which God designates before the eons for our glory, which not one of the chief men of this eon has known, for if they know, they would not crucify the Lord of glory. But, according as

2001	PAUL TO	THE C	ORINTHIAN	S (I.)	CHAPTERS 1-2
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- We need only consider our own desire to surprise and gratify those who love us to realize a little of what is in God's heart toward us. God gives of his spirit that we may apprehend His further gifts. The secret here hinted at by Paul can be none other than the secret economy unfolded in his Ephesian epistle, which is based upon the secret of Christ, or His exaltation as the Head of the whole universe. As such He is the Lord of glory, for no one on earth, or in the heavens, approaches the honor and dignity which will be His in the eons of the eons.
- 11 The apostle appeals to our own experience. Human beings can understand one another because they have the same spirit. But animals cannot enter into the recesses of human experience. No more can a man apprehend things divine without the interpretive presence of God's holy spirit.
- 13 The scriptures often lay stress on the character of the words employed by the spirit of God. A large measure of the current confusion may be traced to the loose, unscriptural terms which are used. Timothy was urged to hold to the pattern of sound words. If this is true in the original language, how much more should we endeavor to fulfill this charge!
- 13 The term "matching" has been rendered "comparing". But the thought of the passage is not the agreement between spiritual things, but the adaptation of spiritual things to mankind. It is useless to teach a soulish man spiritual things, for he has no means of grasping them.
- Doubtless the apostle would gladly have instructed the Corinthians in the deep things of God, but they were not able to bear them. And what was the sure sign of their carnality? Division. While some were the partisans of Paul, who planted, and some of Apollos, who watered, and strove about God's gifts in the person of His servants, they were effectually frustrating any further outflow of His favor. And so it is today. If any yearn to know the deep secrets of God, let them purge themselves of all party spirit, and thus open their hearts to the great Giver Himself.

it is written, "That which the eye perceived not, and the ear hears not, and to which the heart of man ascended not — whatever God makes ready for those who are lov
10 ing Him." Yet God reveals it to us through His spirit, for the spirit is searching all, even the

depths of God.

11 For what in humanity is acquainted with that which is human except the spirit of humanity which is in it? Thus also, that which is of God no one has known 12 except the spirit of God. Now we obtained, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God, that we may be perceiving that which is graciously given to us 13 by God, which we are speaking also, not with words taught by human wisdom, but taught by the spirit, matching that which is spirit-

ual with those who are spiritual.

Now the soulish man is not receiving that which is of the spirit of God, for it is stupidity to him, and he is not able to know it, seeing that it is spiritually examined.

Now he who is spiritual is, indeed,

examining all, yet he is being ex
16 amined by no one. For did anyone know the mind of the Lord?
Who will be deducing from Him?
Yet we have the mind of Christ.

3 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual, but as to ² fleshy, as to minors in Christ. I give you milk to drink, not solid food, for you were not as yet able. Nay, now you still are not ³ able, for you are still fleshly. For where there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly and ⁴ walking according to man? For whenever anyone should be saying, "I, indeed, am of Paul", yet an-

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⁵ Apollos was a Jew of Alexandria. a scholarly man, and able in the scriptures. He came to Ephesus, full of zeal, but versed only in the baptism of John. Priscilla and Aquila heard him speak boldly in the synagogue, so they took him to themselves and expounded the way of God more accurately to him. On his way back he passed through Achaia and doubtless spent much time in Corinth. While there he parleyed much with the believers and strenuously and thoroughly confuted the Jews, publicly exhibiting, through the scriptures, that Jesus is the Christ (Ac.1824-28).

s There is little doubt but that Apollos taught precisely as Paul did. They were one. Indeed, Apollos received much of his teaching indirectly from Paul, through Priscilla and Aquila.

⁹ Paul seeks to draw their hearts from occupation with men, by comparing them with a farm on which he was merely a laborer, or a building on which he was only a craftsman. He did the first work. He planted. Apollos gave the crop water. But they could not make a single seed grow. Growth is due to God alone.

10 Paul had laid the foundation in Corinth. Apollos and others were building on it. The gold and silver, precious stones, wood, grass, straw, represent the character of the doctrines with which these teachers seek to edify the ecclesia. It is not a question of quantity but quality. Wood, hay and grass would easily make an imposing pile, but they will not stand the fire in the day when each one's work will They doubtless represent be tested. the human philosophies and base additions to the truth which today almost cover up the great verities of divine revelation. Gold stands for that which is divine, silver for redemption, precious stones for those gems of grace which adorn them, especially the secrets at which Paul has been hinting.

14 Let all who teach take this to heart: their work will be tested to see what kind it is. It is better to have a little after the fire than much before it.

15 The question here is not salvation, but service. It is not concerned with the conduct of the believer but with the doctrine of those who teach.

other, "I, of Apollos", is he not fleshly?

Who, then, is Apollos? Now who is Paul? Servants through whom you believe, and each as the Lord gives. I plant, Apollos irrigates, but God makes it grow. So that, neither is he who is planting anything, nor he who is irrigating, but God Who makes it grow. Now he who is planting and he who is irrigating are one. Yet each will be getting his own

wages according to his own toil. For we are fellow workers of God.

You are God's farm, God's building.

According to the grace of God which is granted to me, as a wise foreman I lay a foundation, yet another is building on it. Yet let each one beware how he is build-

ing. For other foundation can no one lay beside that which is laid,
 which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone is building on this foundation

gold and silver, precious stones, wood, grass, straw, each one's work will become apparent, for the day will make it evident, seeing that it is revealed by fire. And the fire will be testing the work

14 of each one—what kind it is. If anyone's work which he builds on it

shall remain, he will get wages. If anyone's work shall burn up, he will forfeit it, yet he shall be saved, yet thus, as through fire.

are a temple of God and the spirit of God is making its home in ¹⁷ you? If anyone is corrupting the temple of God, God will be corrupting him, for God's temple is holy, which you are.

Now let no one be deluding himself. If anyone among you is presuming to be wise in this eon, let

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18 The wisdom of the world is a far greater menace today than in the days of the apostle. The nominal church has no hesitancy in following, not only the wisdom of the world, but its folly as well. On every hand we are assured that the church must get on a business basis and use modern methods. The aim of the preacher is popularity, the confidence of the multitude is in men. Proclaim a great truth, freshly found in the word, and who will listen? Set up a great leader and men will flock to hear his eloquence. forgotten in the church more grievously than in the world.

22 The cure for a partisan spirit is the recognition that the men who are given by God to edify His saints are all ours. We should not single out a single one, but include them all. We should not say "I am of Paul", so as to exclude Apollos or Cephas, but realize that they are all ours, and a gift from God, not to quarrel about, but to appreciate and enjoy. The heritage of Huss and Luther and Darby has descended to us, though we may not belong to their party.

- Doubtless those who were not of the Pauline party were inclined to be captious and question his motives or his methods. But Paul will not allow this. He did not receive his commission from them and refuses to acknowledge their right to examine him. What if they did? Their standards were not God's, and their surface knowledge was no basis for any decision. This is man's day. The current of the world's affairs is contrary to God and any arraignment of God's servants now will need very much revision indeed when freed from the prejudice and baneful influence of the day of
- 4 The possession of a good conscience is no justification. Paul knew that he had a good conscience even when he was a bitter opponent of Christ.
- When the time for examining the service of God's stewards comes it will be based on truth. Not only the outward act but the inward motive will be brought to light. Many who seem to accomplish little, purposed greatly in their hearts, and will be rewarded according to their intention, rather than their failure to fulfill.

him become stupid, that he may
be becoming wise, for the wisdom
of this world is stupidity with God.
For it is written, "He Who is
clutching the wise in their eraftiness." And again, "The Lord
knows the reasonings of the wise,
that they are vain". So that, let no
one be boasting in men, for all is
yours, whether Paul, or Apollos, or
Cephas, or the world, or life, or
death, or the present, or the future

²³—all is yours, yet you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

4. Let a man be thus accounting

us—as deputies of Christ, and stewards of God's secrets. Furthermore, here it is being sought in stewards that one be found faithful.

Now to me it is the least trifle that I

may be being examined by you or by man's day. But neither am I examining myself. For I am con-

scious of nothing as to myself, but I have not been justified by this. Now He Who is examining me is the Lord. So that, be not judging anything before the appointed time, till the Lord should be coming, Who will also illuminate the hidden things of darkness and manifest the counsels of the hearts. And

then applause will be coming to

each one from God.

Now these things, brethren, I transfer in a figure to myself and Apollos because of you, that in us you may be learning not to be disposed above what is written, that no one may be puffed up for one against another. For who is discriminating between you? Now what have you which you did not obtain? Now if you obtained it also, why are you boasting as though not obtaining? You are sated already, you are rich already,

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5 ⁰⁰¹	PAUL TO	THE CORIN	THIANS ([.) Снарті	ers 3-4
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The sharp contrast between the carnal Corinthians and the faithful apostle loses none of its force if we compare him with the church of today. We need not go outside of Protestantism to find churches sated, rich, and avowedly endeavoring to influence the world by political means. Every charge against the Corinthians in this passage is tenfold more applicable today. Those organizations which are not strong and glorious make every effort to become We have drifted far from our true place in the world. The world that hated our Lord and put Him to the accursed death, that hounded His apostle until he, too, was ready to be offered up, has not changed. It still persecutes those who want to live godly.

11 What a contrast between Paul and the dignitaries of the church today! Though loaded with the care of all the churches among the nations, he lacks every sign of such an exalted position. In actual want at times, and toiling for his subsistence at others, without sufficient clothing for comfort, undergoing all sorts of indignities, with no settled habitation, the apostle presents an abject, almost pitiable picture. Nothing could be worse than his own summary: "We became as the offscourings of the world, the scum of the universe."

15 It was a custom among the higher classes to employ a slave in escorting the boys of a family to and from school. It would seem that the apostle is using this term to characterize those who had followed him in leading the Corinthians. They could not take the place of the one who had first brought them to the knowledge of Christ.

16 We need not stumble at Paul's putting himself forward for imitation, rather than the example of Christ. Since the Lord's ascension and the call of Paul there has been a radical change in the character of God's dealings with the nations. Paul's pattern call, and his later conduct, is the example for us to follow in this day of grace. The Circumcision follow in our Lord's steps. If we followed the example given by our Lord to His disciples we would proclaim the gospel to none but Jews (Ac.1119).

you reign apart from us. surely you ought to reign, that we also should be reigning with you. For I suppose that God demonstrates with us, the last apostles, as death-doomed, seeing that we became a gazing stock to the world 10 and to messengers and to men. We are stupid because of Christ, yet you are prudent in Christ. We are weak, yet you are strong. You are glorified, yet we are dishonor-11 able. Until the present hour we are hungering and thirsting, and are naked and are buffeted and 12 unsettled and toiling, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we are blessing, being persecuted, we 13 are bearing with it, being calumniated, we are entreating. We became as the offscourings of the world, the scum of the universe,

am writing these things, but as my beloved children I am admonishing you. For if you should be having ten thousand escorts in Christ, but not many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I beget you through the evan
16 gel. I am entreating you, then, become imitators of me. Therefore I send Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, who will be reminding you of my ways which are in Christ Jesus, according as I am teaching everywhere in every ecclesia.

It is not to be abashing you I

till the present.

Now some were puffed up as though I were not coming to you.
Yet I shall be coming to you swiftly, if the Lord should be willing, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but
the power. For the kingdom of

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21 It was some time before Paul came to Corinth. This epistle was probably written at Ephesus, whence Paul went to Macedonia. While there he wrote the second epistle to the Corinthians in which he lays aside the rod and manifests that spirit of love and meekness which he longed to show toward them.

- 1 Even when we remember the extreme laxity of morals which prevailed in many of the large and luxurious cities of the Roman empire at that time, the corrupting influence of the heathen deities which they had so recently served, and the eagerness with which they sought to right this wrong, we can hardly see how such a state of affairs could exist in Corinth, and, at first sight, it seems even more difficult to see why it should have been incorporated in holy writ, to be the butt of infidels and the sport of the ungodly. Yet such is all of God's word. It is a light which does not shun to expose all the shame and dishonor of the very ones who are declared to possess the righteousness of God. And it is full of comfort for those who fall, for if His grace was sufficient in such a case, it will suffice for all.
- ⁵ It will be noticed that the punishment, of being given up to Satan, was with a view to salvation. Thus are all of God's judicial acts. They are not vindictive, without any consideration for the welfare of those involved, but are of such a nature as to correct the evil.
- The apostle had already written on this subject to the Corinthians. state of society may well be imagined when he tells them that, should they refuse to have dealings with all such immoral persons, they would need to leave the world entirely. makes it clear, however, that immorality will not be tolerated among those in the ecclesia. All such should be excluded. They are subject to the judgment of their brethren. Immorality outside the ecclesia is not a matter for the saints. God is judging those who are outsiders.
- 13 There is a striking contrast between the methods of dealing with moral evil and doctrinal heresy. There were those in Corinth who held fundamental

- God is not in word, but in power.

 What do you want? That I may be coming to you with a rod, or in love as well as a spirit of meekness?
- 5 Actually, prostitution is heard of among you, and such prostitution as is not even named among the nations, as that anyone has his father's wife. And you are puffed up.
- 2 ther's wife. And you are puffed up, and mourn not rather, that the one committing this act may be taken
- away from your midst. For *I*, indeed, being absent in body, yet present in spirit, have already, as if present, judged the one effecting
- 4 this, thus: In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, you being assembled, and my spirit, together with the
- power of our Lord Jesus, to give up such a one to Satan for the extermination of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.
- Your boast is not ideal. Are you not aware that a little leaven is leavening the whole kneading? Clean out, then, the old leaven, that you may be a fresh kneading, according as you are unleavened. For even Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for our sakes, so that we may be keeping the festival, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of evil and wickedness, but with unleavened sincerity and truth.
- ⁹ I write to you in the epistle not to commingle with paramours. And undoubtedly it is not as to the paramours of this world, or the greedy and extortionate, or idolaters, else as a consequence you ought to come out of the world.
- 11 Yet now I write to you not to commingle with anyone who is named a brother, should he be a paramour,

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7002	PAUL TO THE	CORINTHIANS (I.)	CHAPTERS 4-5
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error, for they denied the resurrection. The apostle reasons with them and shows them the consequences if their heresy were true, but he never suggests their excision. But when the behaviour of a brother became such that he brought reproach upon the holy brotherhood of believers, he was summarily expelled. This was the surest way of bringing him to repentance. By sending him back into the world, he realized the gravity of his misconduct.

It is unfortunate that our word "judge" usually takes on the sense of condemnation. The saints are not to condemn the world but to rule it during the eons. Saints in Israel will possess the kingdom on earth. We shall administer the rest of the universe. This destroys utterly the crude conceptions of "heaven" usually entertained. We shall not be idle, but, as members of Christ's body, will direct and control the angels, including the utmost bounds of the empyrean.

If, then, such a future is for the saints, how incongruous for us to appeal to the unjust to settle our differences!

It is a deplorable state of affairs when brethren in Christ go to law against one another. It shows that one or the other is unjust and so is not a fit subject for the sphere of God's rule. When the kingdom is established there will be no room for those whose conduct is contrary to the strict justice which will be its chief characteristic.

If a believer has a case against another believer he should never have it tried before unbelievers. If they cannot settle it between themselves, they should choose some wise man, a believer in whom there is mutual confidence, and submit their case to him, and abide by his decision.

If this is impracticable, it rests with the aggrieved one to submit to the injury or loss rather than bring disgrace on the name of Christ. All that we do should be done with the single object of glorifying God, even if it entails shielding one who has wronged us, because his reputation cannot but affect the estimate with which the saints are held by the unbelievers in the world. We are not under law, but under grace. Let us use this rule in dealing with our brethren.

or greedy, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner. With such a one you are 12 not even to be eating. For what is it to me to be judging those outside? You are not judging those within! Now those outside God is judging. Expel the wicked one

Expel the wicked one from among yourselves. 6 Dare any of you, having business with another, be judged by the unjust, and not by the saints? Or are you not aware that the saints shall be judging the world? And if the world is being judged by you, are you unworthy of the least tribunals? Are you not aware that we shall be judging messengers, not to mention life's affairs? If indeed, then, you should have tribunals for life's affairs, are you seating these who are scorned in the ecclesia? I am saying this to abash you. Thus is there not even one wise one among you who will be able to adjudicate in the midst of his brethren, but brother is suing brother, and this before unbe-7 lievers? Already, indeed, then, it is actually a discomfiture for you that you have lawsuits with yourselves. Wherefore are you not rather being injured? Wherefore are you not rather being cheated? But you are injuring and cheating, and this brethren! Or are you not aware that the unjust shall not be enjoying the allotment of God's kingdom? Be not deceived. Neither paramours, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor catamites, nor sodom-10 ites, nor thieves, nor greedy, nor drunkards: no revilers, no extortioners shall be enjoying the allot-¹¹ ment of God's kingdom. And some

ment of God's kingdom. And some of you were these, but you are bathed, but you are hallowed, but you were justified in the name of

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11 The city of Corinth was noted for its profligacy and, as the evangel makes its special appeal to sinners, some of the Corinthian saints could look back at a past of very doubtful character. But the evangel they received had cleansed and sanctified and acquitted them. In God's sight, at any rate, they no longer bore these characters, and His grace would constrain them to conduct themselves accordingly.

12 This is a necessary consequence of justification and the reign of grace. All is allowed to the one who has been vindicated by God. Nothing can ever touch his position before God in Christ. But this knowledge will not lead us to be lax in our conduct, as some might suppose.

15 The exalted honor of being members of Christ is the most powerful incentive to keep our bodies free from the gross sin which still afflicts humanity as it did in the days when this epistle was penned.

19 Wherever God dwells is the temple of God, and is hallowed by His presence. It was not the stately buildings or the sacred ritual or even the sacrifices which hallowed the sanctuary. but the presence of the glory of God in the holiest of all. The very ground of the desert was holy where Moses met Jehovah (Ex.35). So our body, whatever its physical appearance or condition, has become a temple by virtue of the divine spirit which indwells us. It is no longer ours, but His, and like the tabernacle in the wilderness and the temple in Jerusalem, should allow nothing that defiles to enter its precincts. God does not dwell in temples made with hands, but in the bodies of His saints. Holy conduct and loving acts are the ritual.

1 In this chapter Paul distinguishes carefully between his spiritual judgment and a commandment of the Lord. He gives the ideal, yet modifies it to suit the conditions under which the Corinthians lived.

It will be noted that conduct pleasing to God always conforms to the divine activities. When God deals out justice He requires the same in His saints. When He is gracious, as in this economy, He is pleased when we deal with one another according to the

our Lord Jesus Christ and by the spirit of our God.

12 All is allowed me, but not all is expedient. All is allowed me, but I shall not be under the authority 13 of anything. Foods for the bowels and the bowels for foods, yet God will be discarding both these and those. Now the body is not for prostitution, but for the Lord, and

¹⁴ the Lord for the body. Now God rouses the Lord also, and will be rousing us up through His power.

Are you not aware that your bodies are members of Christ? Taking, then, the members of Christ away, should I be making them members of a prostitute? May it 16 not come to that! Or are you not aware that he who is joined to a prostitute is one body? For, He is averring, the two will be one 17 flesh. Now he who is joined to the 18 Lord is one spirit. Be fleeing from prostitution. The penalty of every sin which a man may be doing is outside of the body, yet he who is committing prostitution is sinning 19 in his own body. Or are you not

aware that your body is a temple of the holy spirit in you, which you have from God, and you are not 20 your own? For you are bought with a price. By all means glorify God in your body.

7 Now concerning what you write to me: It is ideal for a man not to 2 touch a woman. Yet, because of prostitution, let each man have his own wife, and each woman have

her own husband. Let the husband render to the wife what he ought, yet likewise the wife also to the

4 husband. The wife has not the jurisdiction of her own body, but the husband, yet likewise the husband also has not the jurisdiction of his

⁵ own body, but the wife. Do not be

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E ZOYCIAZEIAAAA OANHPO 80 IS-authority-izing but THE MAN LIKE-

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higher dictates of grace. Perhaps we can carry this even further. Redeemed Israel is the bride of the Lambkin. His relation to them is figured by the marriage tie. The present ecclesia however, is His body, a much closer and more vital union. Hence the ideal for the present time is to remain as Paul was. It was doubtless ideal, in this sense. for Peter to have a wife. Paul's celibacy is undoubtedly in accord with the great truths with which he was commissioned, which disregard all physical relationships, being spiritual conditions to be realized among the celestials, where marriage has no Perhaps these considerations account for the undecided tone and temporary character of this chapter.

⁸ It is evident that the preceding concession is only a general rule, not applicable to those not then married. Their relations are to be regulated by mutual consideration, but the unmarried need to consult only their own condition.

10 The law of divorce, in Scripture, varies according to the character of God's ways in each economy. Because of the hardness of their hearts God gave them the provisions in the law. This is no rule for us today. Where both are believers there is no divorce in this economy. The reason for this is evident, even as the reason for divorce in Israel. Israel was married to Jehovah, but He had to divorce her for her sins. But we are the body of Christ, and no one can be separated from His own body! Our union with Him is unbreakable. This should be reflected in our earthly relationships.

When there has been a separation, a woman may not marry again so long as her husband is living.

12 The rule where one is an unbeliever is modified to suit conditions. The believer is to make no move toward separation, but if the unbeliever obtains a divorce the believer is entirely free.

13 While it is not right for a believer to marry an unbeliever, grace makes ample provision for such, especially as many are called while married to an unbeliever. Just as everything which touched the altar was holy (Ex.2937), so the unbeliever is hallowed by association with one of God's saints.

depriving one another, except it should be by agreement for a period, that you should have leisure for fasting and prayer, and you may be the same again, lest Satan should be trying you because of your incontinence. Now this I am saying as a concession, not as an injunction. For I want all men to be as I myself also, but each has his own gracious gift from God, some, indeed, thus, yet some, thus.

Now I am saying to the unmarried and widows, that it is ideal for them if they should be remaining even as I. Yet if they are not controlling themselves, let them marry, for it is better to marry than to be on fire.

Now to the married I am charging, not I, but the Lord: A wife is not to be separated from her hus
11 band. Yet if she should be separated also, let her remain unmarried or be conciliated to her husband. And a husband is not to desert a wife.

Now the rest I am saying, not the Lord. If any brother has an unbelieving wife, and she approves of making a home with him, let him not be deserting her. And a wife who has an unbelieving husband. and he approves of making a home with her, let her not be deserting ¹⁴ her husband. For the unbelieving husband has been hallowed by the wife, and the unbelieving wife has been hallowed by the brother, else, consequently, your children are un-15 clean. Yet now they are holy. Yet if the unbeliever is separating, let them be separating. A brother or a sister is not enslaved in such a Now God has called us in

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husband, or what are you aware.

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THE MAN YOU'LL-BE-SAVING OR ANY YOU-

17 It is evident that God plans the time to call each of His saints. Some are in one station in life and some in another; some in one occupation and others in a different one. An important principle is laid down here which it were well for the saints to heed. 18 It is this: The occupation and condition in which we were when God called us indicates, in a general way, what He would have us be. There is to be no radical change except in the case of those called in idleness or questionable occupations. There should, however, be a great change in our conduct, for we are to remain in our vocations with God. This it is which transforms the slave into the Lord's freedman, and makes the freeman a slave of Christ. This is the vital principle which replaces the outward rite of circumcision. It is not of great moment what a man may do for a livelihood, if he does it in such a way as to please God and bring no reproach on His name.

23 Slavery has quite gone out of fashion, but those who have been bought with the blood of Christ should not be slow to acknowledge that in their case. it still exists. We are not our own. Let us glory in this. Not only are we His servants, but we are His slaves. We have no right to our own will and We are slaves of the Lord Christ, but not of any man, though he be Christ's apostle.

25 The record of Paul's opinion is as much inspired as the injunction of the Lord. It is evident that no set rule can be laid down for the regulation of such matters which would not lead to license or undue restraint. So we have only the apostle's opinion, based on the condition of affairs in Corinth at the time. There was evidently much laxity of morals, due perhaps to the fact that the members of the Corinthian ecclesia had been themselves involved in the loose manners for which the city was noted, and to the low level of conduct prevailing all about them. This opinion does not apply at all times or places, for it would lead to monasticism. Hence the apostle is careful to add that those who do not follow his advice are not guilty of any wrong action.

O husband, if you will be saving 17 your wife, except as the Lord parts to each?

Each as God has called him, thus let him be walking. And thus am I prescribing in all the ecclesias. Was anyone called having been circumcised? Let him not be de-circumcised. Has anyone been called in uncircumcision? Let him not be circumcised. Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the precepts of 20 God. Each one in the calling in which he was called—in this let him ²¹ be remaining. Were you called a slave? You need not care. But if you are able to become free also. ²² use it rather. For the slave being called in the Lord is the Lord's freedman. Likewise, he who is called, being free, is a slave of ²³ Christ. You are bought with a price. Do not become the slaves of men. Let each one, in what he

was called, brethren, in this be remaining with God.

Now concerning virgins [or celibates I have no injunction of the Lord. Yet I am giving an opinion as one who has obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful. I am inferring, then, this to belong to the ideal, because of the present necessity, seeing that it is ideal for a person to be thus. Have you been bound to a wife? Be not seeking Have you been to be loosed. loosed from a wife? Be not seek-28 ing a wife. Yet even if you should be marrying, you did not sin. And if a virgin should marry, she did not sin. Yet such will be having affliction in the flesh. Yet I am sparing you.

29 Now this I am averring, brethren, the era is limited; that, furthermore, even those having wives A AC ANG P GITHNIYN AIK A C 20 HAVE-PERCEIVED MAN IF THE WOMAN YOU-BOTH HAS-PARTED +M

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31 The transient, fleeting character of all of this world's relationships and experiences should warn us not to let them take an undue hold upon our hearts. We cannot but use the world to a limited extent. Its joys and sorrows affect us, whether we will or no. If it were a permanent system instead of a temporary stage in the process of God's plan, our attitude would be different. In the semi-permanent millennial system, the saints will not be restrained from the full use of the world of that day. But the present system is distinctly hostile to God and occupation with it is calculated to interfere with our fellowship with God and the enjoyment of His permanent purpose.

32 No doubt both Paul and Peter were representative men whose personal affairs were in accord with the dispensations given them by the Lord. Peter went about with a wife, for the relationship between the Lord and the remnant in Israel, to whom Peter belonged, was figured by the marriage tie. They were the bride of the Lamb. Paul, on the other hand, revealed a nearer and closer union, that of the human body, in which Christ was the head and His saints the members. Paul, consequently, never married, but devoted himself undistractedly to the Lord's service. This is the ideal for this economy, yet the apostle is most careful not to press it as an injunction, for, unless such a course is entered upon whole-heartedly and with faith and fortitude which few possess, it would lead only to failure.

39 In this economy of grace there is no room for divorce. The marriage tie is binding for life. What Moses gave the hard-hearted sons of Israel is no rule for us. And even the single cause to which our Lord confined divorce was based on the kingdom code, not on the superabundance of grace in which we revel. Death alone can sever the marriage bond today, so far as two saints are concerned. If one, however, is an unbeliever, and deserts the believer, this also leaves the believer free. But, apart from this, it is entirely out of keeping with God's grace for two who have tasted of His favor, to seek to sever the tie.

³⁰ may be as not having them, and those lamenting as not lamenting, and those rejoicing as not rejoicing, and those buying as not re³¹ taining, and those using this world, as not using it up. For the fashion

of this world is passing by.

Now I want you to be without solicitude. The unmarried one is

solicitous about the things of the Lord, how he should be pleasing the ³³ Lord. Yet he who marries is solicitous about the things of the

licitous about the things of the world, how he should be pleasing

34 his wife, and is parted. And the unmarried woman and the virgin: the unmarried one is solicitous about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit, yet she who marries is solicitous about the things of the world, how she should be pleasing

35 her husband. Now this I am saying with a view to your own expedience, not that I should be casting a noose over you, but with a view to that which is respectable and assiduous—to be undistracted-

ly for the Lord.

Now if anyone is inferring it to be indecent for his virgin, if she should be over her meridian, and thus it ought to occur, let him be doing what he will: it is not sining. Let them be marrying. Yet

he who stands settled in his heart, having no necessity, yet has authority over his own will, and has decided this in his own heart (to be keeping his own virgin) will be do-

38 ing ideally. So that the celibate himself also who is marrying, will be doing ideally, yet he who is not giving in marriage will be doing better.

A wife is bound by law for whatever time her husband is living. Yet TECKAIOIAFOPAZONTECO20 THE ones-BUYING

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ΥΕΧΕΙΝΠΕΡΙΔΕΤΦΝΕΙΔΦ**Λ**® TO-BE-HAVING ABOUT YET THE idol-sacrifices

CAYTONOIA AMENOTITIANT 13000 WE-HAVE-PERCEIVED that ALL

Except in heathen lands, the question of eating that which has been offered in sacrifice to idols, is no longer a pertinent one, but the principle handed down is quite as important as ever. Those who are advanced in the faith know that there is no difference between food offered to idols and any other. Before God they may freely eat, but not before their brethren whose faith is not established. we may freely do many things before God which might offend our brethren and cause them to stumble. Let us not flaunt our liberty in their faces, but rather let us refrain from that which may result in harm to a weak brother. Let us walk in love.

6 We have here a marvelously exact and concise definition of the relationship which we sustain to God and to the Lord, which, in turn, throws much light on their respective relationship to each other. Briefly put, God is the Source and Object of all; Christ is the Thus it is always Channel of all. found. We are never said to come out of Christ, but out of God. Indeed. Christ asserts that He Himself, came out of God (Jn.842). All is out of God (Rom.1136). But God never deals with us except through His Anointed. Creation began in the Son of God and was carried out through Him. He has the same place in redemption. There is no conflict, for, while the Son, as the Image of the Father, is entitled to be called God and to receive the same honor as the Father, yet He Himself insists that His Father is greater than all (Jn. 1029). All that He had was received from His Father. His very life was a gift (Jn.526), and He lived by the Father (Jn.657). He did the Father's will, not His own. He sought the Father's glory, not His own. He was one with the Father. and desired that the disciples might become partakers of that unity (Jn. So that He Himself was in every way, out of the Father. On the other hand, He is the only Way to the Father, the only means through Whom we may know God. Hence, while all is sourced in God the Father, all is channeled through the Son. It is only by clinging closely to the exact language of holy writ that we may hope to gain a clear conception of the relation of the Father to the Son.

if the husband should be reposing, she is free to be married to whom she will, only in the Lord. Yet she is happier if she should be remaining thus, according to my opinion. Now I presume that I also have God's spirit.

God's spirit. Now concerning the idol sacrifices: We are aware that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, yet love edifies. If anyone is presuming to have known anything, he knew not as vet according as he ought to know. Now if anyone is loving God, he is known by Him. Then, concerning feeding on the idol sacrifices: We are aware that an idol is nothing in the world. and that there is no other God except One. For even if so be that there are those being termed gods, whether in heaven or on earth, even as there are many gods and many lords, nevertheless to us there is one God, the Father, out of Whom all is, and we for Him, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through Whom all is, and we through Him. But in all there is not this knowledge. Now some, hitherto used to an idol, are eating of it as an idol sacrifice. and their conscience, being weak, is polluted. Now food will not give us a standing with God, neither, if we should not be eating are we in want, nor if we should be eating

right of yours should be becoming a ¹⁰ stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone should see you, who have knowledge, lying down in an idol's shrine, will not his weak conscience be inured to the eating of the idol ¹¹ sacrifices? For the weak one is being destroyed also by your knowledge: the brother because of whom Christ ¹² died. Now in thus sinning against

Now beware lest somehow this

are we surfeited.

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¹ The Corinthians questioned the apostleship of Paul. The phrase, "the twelve apostles" has been used to throw doubt on his commission, for if there were but twelve apostles. Paul could not have been one of them. He did not have the qualifications, and Matthias was duly chosen to fill Judas' Only one who had been with the Lord from John's baptism onward to His ascension was qualified to be counted with the twelve (Ac.122). Paul did not meet the Lord until some years later. The kingdom apostles are limited to twelve, for there will be only twelve thrones provided for them when they rule the tribes of Israel in the kingdom (Mt.1928). It is evident that Paul and Barnabas and Timothy and Apollos will have no apostolic reward in that kingdom. Their apostleship is of an entirely different order. The gospel of the Uncircumcision was committed to Paul as that of the Circumcision had been to Peter. Cephas and John, chief of the twelve apostles, recognized this and gave Paul and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that they should go to the nations. The twelve confined themselves to the Circumcision. Thus there are two distinct orders of apostles, the twelve to the Circumcision, connected with the kingdom on earth, and an indefinite number, of whom Paul was chief, sent to the nations and connected with the successive ministries of the apostle Paul. Though the Corinthians denied his apostolic authority, he was not a whit behind Peter, the chief of the Circumcision apostles.

- ³ Paul had the undoubted *right* to do as the other apostles, but he chose the higher privilege of doing everything in his power to help the evangel. He worked with his own hands to supply his necessities when he might have demanded support.
- 8 It is God's pleasure that His servants who minister spiritual things should be requited with carnal things. In the present low state of spirituality spiritual things are accounted of no value, while material things are held in high repute. To acquire a sum of money without recompense is a crime, but many receive vast spiritual wealth without any sense of obligation.

brethren, and beating their weak conscience, you are sinning against

¹³ Christ. Wherefore, if food is snaring my brother, I should under no circumstances eat meat for the eon, lest I should be snaring my brother.

9 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus, our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, nevertheless I surely am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

My defense to those examining me is this: Have we no right at all

to eat and drink? Have we no right at all to be leading about a sister as a wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the
Lord and Cephas? Or have I and

Barnabas only no right not to be working? What soldier is at any time purchasing his own rations? Is anyone planting a vineyard and not eating of its fruit? Or is anyone tending a flock and not eating

of the milk of the flock?

Am I speaking these things according to man, or is not the law also saying these things? For in the law of Moses it is written: "You shall not be muzzling the threshing ox." Is God caring for oxen? ¹⁰ Or is He undoubtedly saying it because of us? Because of us, for it was written that he who is plowing ought to be plowing in expectation, and he who is threshing, in his expectation of partaking in the 11 expectation. If we sow the spiritual in you, is it a great thing if we shall be reaping of your fleshly 12 things? If others are partaking of your right, are not we rather? Nevertheless we do not use this right, but we are foregoing all, lest we may be giving any hindrance to

the evangel of Christ.

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13 God has always made due provision for the support of His servants. The priests and Levites were not concerned with their own livelihood, hence had no allotment of land to till, but depended on the labors of their brethren. They were wholly devoted to God's service. The same rule applies to the proclamation of the evangel.

15 It seems a marvel that the saints who owed so much to the anostle would have allowed him to engage in menial labor, when they could easily have supplied his meager needs. Yet herein was his glory, that, though supporting himself, at least in part, he still found time and strength to do more than any other apostle. natural course would have been to use his authority to the full so that he could give himself wholly to the work of the ministry. The marks of true greatness are apparent in his anxiety not to use his full authority, but to do everything which in any way may be a benefit to the evangel. Such a course as this ought to be all the more effective in these days when the stain of filthy lucre is a prominent mark on many religious enterprises. The world has learned to look upon religion as a means of gain. The history of the church has been one long endeavor on the part of the clergy (with many noble exceptions) to enrich themselves at the expense of the laity. Had Paul's spirit prevailed, what a different story there would be to tell!

19 Many otherwise inexplicable events in Paul's career, as narrated in the book of Acts, are to be explained on the principle of conduct here laid down by the apostle. His course often seems to contradict the truth he had enunciated in the epistles he had penned. However strongly he insisted on freedom from the law, he could, nevertheless, take part in the rites and cere-monies of the temple when among his Jewish brethren. The whole narrative of Acts shows him becoming all things to all with whom he came in contact. On his journeys, in Jerusalem, in jail, on board the foundering shipwherever he was he adapted himself to the men and means at his disposal to forward the claims of the evangel. The same principle should regulate our efforts that we also may gain some. who are working at the sacred things are eating of the things of the sanctuary? Those who are settled beside the altar have their portion with the altar. Thus the Lord also prescribes that those who are announcing the evangel are to be living of the evangel. Yet I use none of these things. Now I do not write these things that it may be becoming thus with me, for it is my ideal rather to be dying, than that anyone shall be making my boast

void.

For if I should be preaching the evangel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me, for it were woe to me if I should ¹⁷ not be preaching the evangel! For if I am engaging in this voluntarily, I have wages, yet if involuntarily, I have been entrusted with an administration. What, then, are my wages? That, in preaching the evangel, I should be placing the evangel without expense, so as not to use up my authority in the

evangel.

For, being free of all, I enslave myself to all, that I should be gain-20 ing more. And I became to the Jews as a Jew, that I should be gaining Jews; to those under law as under law (not being myself under law), that I should be gaining 21 those under law; to those without law as without law (not being without God's law, but legally Christ's), that I should be gaining ²² those without law. I became as weak to the weak, that I should be gaining the weak. To all I have become all, that I should undoubt-²³ edly be saving some. Now I am doing all because of the evangel, that I should be becoming a joint participant of it.

PAUL TO THE C	ORINTHIANS (1.) CHAPTER 9
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25 Contestants in the Grecian games had to take an oath that they had been ten months in training, and that they would violate none of the regulations. They lived on a prescribed diet and exercised severe self-restraint. The wreath or "crown" was made of the leaves of the pine. Groves of these trees surrounded the stadium near Corinth. Other leaves were used in other cities. For some time parsley was substituted for pine, but it seems that, in the time of the apostle, they used the pine wreaths. To avoid confusing these chaplets with the symbol of regal authority they are never called a "crown" in this version.

26 The subject before the apostle is not salvation, but service and reward. The apostle is not concerned lest he should be a "castaway", but whether he should win the prize. Two things are necessary, self-control and obedience to the rules of the game. Both are essential in order to win a wreath. In these days, when "success" is measured by human standards, it is of the utmost importance to press the fact that a violation of the rules absolutely bars the contestant from all hope of a prize. Service at the expense of truth or of conscience, to gain a livelihood or win popularity, no matter how strenuous, wins no prize. God looks on the motive and method, not on the apparent results. May we all so strive that He will be able to bestow the amaranthine wreath upon us!

The redemption of Israel out of Egypt was typical of the spiritual deliverance which is ours in Christ. All, indeed, were redeemed by the blood of the paschal lamb, but not all by any means pleased God in the wilderness journey. They all went through the Red Sea dry shod, all were identified with Moses, all ate the manna, and all drank the water brought forth by Moses' rod in the desert. Yet, notwithstanding these privileges, they failed in self-control, they went back in heart to the flesh pots of Egypt, reverted to idolatry, sinned and murmured. These are the very sins into which some of the Corinthians were ensuared. And these things still have their appeal to us unless we, like the apostle, reduce our bodies to bondage.

Are you not aware that those racing in the stadium are, indeed, all racing, yet one is obtaining the prize? Thus be racing that you may grasp it. Now everyone who is contending is controlling himself in all things; they, indeed, then, that they may be obtaining a corruptible wreath, yet we an incorruptible. Now then, thus am I

ruptible. Now then, thus am I racing, not as dubious, thus am I boxing, not as punching the air,

²⁷ but I am belaboring my body and leading it unto slavery, lest somehow, when proclaiming to others, I may be becoming disqualified myself.

For I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, that our fathers all were under the cloud, and all came through the sea, and all are baptized into Moses in the cloud

3 and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank of the spiritual Rock following them. Now the Rock was Christ.

But God does not delight in the majority of them, for they were strewn along in the wilderness. Now these things became types of us, so that we are not to be lusters after evil, according as they also lust. Neither become idolaters, according as some of them, even as it is written, "The people are seated to eat and drink, and rise to sport." Neither should we commit prostitution, according as some of them commit prostitution, and fall in

one day, twenty-three thousand.

Neither may we be putting the Lord on trial, according as some of them put Him on trial, and were destroyed by serpents. Neither be murmuring, even as some of them murmur, and were destroyed by

the exterminator.

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NENEKEINOICET PAPHAETI 17000 to-those it-was-written yet to11 The eons are divided into two classes, the first three, which are preparatory, and the last two, called the "eons of the eons", which turn the evil of the first class into good. The last two eons, including the thousand years' reign and the reign of the saints in the new heavens and new earth, are the fruit and consummation of the evil eons. In spirit, Paul brought those under his ministry into the new creation, which is the spiritual counterpart of the eon inaugurated by the new heavens and new earth. It is only thus that the consummations of the eons had already reached the Corinthians.

12 Here again, the apostle is not considering salvation but the endurance of trial on the part of those who are saved. Salvation is entirely of God, through Christ. No one need be concerned about its efficacy or power. But beyond salvation there is the possibility of earning a reward, of winning a prize. This requires us to take due heed to our conduct.

13 God does not try us to break us down but to build us up. Hence He sends nothing insupportable. He does not however, make "a way of escape", as many of His saints have found by experience. If He did, why or how could that enable them to undergo it? They would not need to endure it if He took them out of it. He makes a sequel. This word occurs again in Heb. 137: "contemplating the sequel (A. V. end) of their behaviour". All the great examples of trial were sustained by a contemplation of its sequel. Joseph held the sceptre in the prison. David wore the crown in Adullam. Even Job knew that he would see his Redeemer. We should not try to escape trial, but seek grace to endure We should not occupy ourselves with it, but contemplate the blessed outcome which it is designed to produce.

20 There seems little doubt but that the heathen divinities were not mere myths, but actual demons. These are rampant today in Spiritism and often deceive the saints into believing that they are the holy spirit of God by mimicking the gifts which were bestowed during the proclamation of the kingdom. Now all this befalls them typically. Yet it was written with a view to our admonition, to whom the consummations of the eons have tatained. So that, let him who is supposing he stands beware that he should not be falling. No trial has taken you except what is human. Now God is faithful, Who will not be leaving you to be tried above what you are able, but, together

taken you except what is human. Now God is faithful, Who will not be leaving you to be tried above what you are able, but, together with the trial, will be making the sequel also, to enable you to undergo it.

Wherefore, my beloved, be flee-

Wherefore, my beloved, be fleeing from idolatry. I am saying this as to the prudent: judge you
what I am averring. The cup of blessing which we are blessing, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we are breaking, is it not the communion
of the body of Christ? Seeing that we, who are many, are one bread, one body, for all are partaking of

the one bread.

18 Observe Israel according to the flesh. Are not those who are eating the sacrifices participants with the altar? What, then, am I averring? That an idol sacrifice is anything? Or that an idol is anything? But that which the nations are sacrificing, they are sacrificing to demons and not to God. Now I do not want you to become participants with demons. You cannot

drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot be partaking of the table of the Lord ²² and the table of demons. Or are we making the Lord jealous? Are we stronger than He?

All is allowed me, but not all is expedient. All is allowed me, but
 not all is edifying. Let no one be seeking his own, but that which is
 another's. Be eating everything

17001	PAUL TO	THE COR	RINTHIANS	$S^{-}(I_{\cdot})$	CHAPTER 10
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32 It has been customary, in the study of "dispensational" truth, to divide the human race into "the Jew, the Gentile, and the church of God", and base the division on this passage. It is well, however, to note that the classification here is not Israel and the nations, but the Jew and the Greek. The Jew stands for the religious man. the Greek for the rationalist. One required signs, the other sought for These, especially the Jew, would have a sensitive conscience on matters of small moment, and would be easily offended. Their modern representatives observe days, and abstain from foods, and have things sacred and profane. A tender solicitude for their conscience will keep us from becoming a stumbling block to them.

Is it presumption on the part of Paul to set himself up for our imitation? Not at all, for he adds, as I also am of Christ. He knew how to follow Christ. He did not make the mistake of following "Jesus" in His earthly walk, before His death and resurrection, for he never knew Him then. He followed the Christ Who was in the glory, Whom He had met on the Damascus road. It is noteworthy that the Christ Whom Paul knew never appeared to the Circumcision after His ascension as He did to Paul. were associated with His earthly career and its resumption when He reappears on the mount of Olives at His Paul imitates Him in His gracious dealings with himself and the nations from His heavenly throne. This calls for conduct in many respects radically different from the example He left the twelve apostles. A single point will suffice to show this. Lord Jesus never preached to any but Jews and proselytes. He warned His disciples not to go to the other nations. How could we imitate Him in this?

5 The man should honor his head because it represents Christ. The woman should cover her head because it represents the man. It is a notable fact that, as men fail to subordinate themselves to Christ, women, in turn, refuse to be subordinate to them. And this is reflected, unconsciously, no doubt, in the matter of head dress. The lifting of the hat is a sign of man's headship over the woman.

sold at the meat market, examining ²⁶ nothing because of conscience. For the earth and that which fills it is the Lord's.

If any of the unbelievers is inviting you, and you want to go, be eating everything placed before you, examining nothing because of con-

examining nothing because of conscience. Yet if anyone should be saying to you, "This is a sacred sacrifice", do not eat, because of that one who divulges it, and con-

²⁹ science. Yet conscience, I am saying, not your own, but another's. For why is my freedom being de-

30 cided by another's conscience? If I, with gratitude, am partaking, why am I being calumniated for that for which I am giving thanks?

31 Then, whether you are eating or drinking, or whatever you are doing, be doing all for the glory of

 32 God. And become not a stumbling block to Jews and Greeks and the 33 ecclesia of God, according as I also

am pleasing all in all things, not seeking my own expedience, but that of the many, that they may be 11 saved. Become imitators of me,

according as I also am of Christ.

Now I am applauding you that you have been reminded of all of mine, and are retaining the traditions according as I give them over

to you. Now I want you to be aware that the Head of every man is Christ, yet the head of the woman is the man, yet the Head of Christ is God.

Every man praying or prophesying having aught on his head, is disgracing his Head. Yet every woman praying or prophesying with uncovered head, is disgracing her head, for it is one and the same as being shaven. For if a woman is not covered, let her be shorn also. Now if it is a shame for a woman

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The modern disregard and ridicule of these wise customs is but a symptom of the prevalent apostasy and insubordination to the truth of God, as well as of the ignorance which does not appreciate the profound wisdom which underlies them. It would seem that the messengers, or angels, realize these various headships and the signs which should acknowledge Hence, though men have lost all appreciation of their significance, it is still due to these unseen observers to comply with a custom which is in accord with both nature and revelation. The covering of a woman's head is no disrespect to her. It signifies that her head—the man—should be covered when in God's presence. The uncovering of a man's head is no boast of his. It represents his Head-Christ-Who is the Image and Glory of God.

18 The schisms of that early day did not begin to reach the open rupture we see everywhere about us today. The sects in the Corinthian ecclesia doubtless all came together in one place. No such thing was known as believers in Christ actually divided into independent ecclesias, though living in the same locality. The sin of schism and sectarianism seems to be the most incurable affliction of the church. The later history of the Corinthians shows that, though they were purged of the various heresies and immoralities into which they had fallen, after Paul's death they once more broke up into rival factions, each of which followed some distinguished leader. In recent times, various efforts have been made to restore this outward unity, but, in each case, it has led to another divi-The true course for those who wish to please God seems to be indicated by the apostle's charge to keep the unity of the spirit in the tie of peace (Eph.43), and to have fellowship with all who invoke the name of the Lord out of a clean heart (2 Tim. The visible, outward unity of believers no longer remains. Let us cultivate fellowship with all, irrespective of the man-made walls which divide us. Soon we shall all be caught up into the presence of Christ and then every barrier will be banished. Let us do our share to realize this unity now.

to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. For a man, indeed, possessing the image and glory of God, ought not to have the head covered. Yet the woman is the glory of the

8 man. For man is not out of woman,

but woman out of man. For man is not created also because of the woman, but woman because of

10 the man. Therefore the woman ought to have authority on her head

because of the messengers. However, neither is woman apart from man, nor man apart from woman,

12 in the Lord. For even as the woman is out of the man, thus also the man is through the woman, yet all is of God.

Judge of them among you. Is it becoming in a woman to be pray-

ing to God uncovered? Is not the same instinct teaching you that if a man, indeed, should have tresses,

it is a dishonor to him, yet if a woman should have tresses, it is her glory, seeing that tresses have been given her instead of clothing?

16 Now if anyone is presuming to be rivalrous, we have no such usage, neither the ecclesias of God.

Now in giving this charge I am not applauding, seeing that you are coming together, not for the better,

but for discomfiture. For first, indeed, at your coming together in the ecclesia I am hearing of schisms existing among you, and some part I am believing. For it must be that there are sects also among you, that those also, who are qualified,

may be becoming apparent among you.

Then, at your coming together in the same place, it is not to be eating the Lord's dinner, for in the eating, each one is getting his own dinner before, and one, indeed, is

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21 The phrase "the Lord's supper" is misleading. Supper denotes an evening meal, but the word here employed has no such significance. though its first observance was at night. The word denotes the principal meal of the day, just as the word dinner does with us, without any reference to the time when it is eaten. The Corinthians brought their own dinners and ate them in the ecclesia. custom was not approved by the apostle. He would have them eat at home.

²³ The fact that Paul received a special revelation, after his severance from the rest, concerning the Lord's dinner, shows that it is in harmony with, and a part of, the new system of truth with which he was entrusted. It is in contrast with baptism, which he never received from Christ (1¹⁷). He was thankful that he had baptized but few of the Corinthians. The Lord's dinner, however, he had given over to them pursuant to the special revelation which he had received. It was to be observed "till He should be coming".

²⁴ The word "remembrance" fails to give the full force of the Greek word here used. It is a strengthened form of the usual term for remembrance, denoting a voluntary and sustained effort.

25 At this time the believers among the nations were still subordinate to Israel. They were still partakers of their spiritual things, hence they were considered as coming under the blessings of the new covenant. The later revelations contained in the Perfection Epistles, gave them an independent standing outside the new covenant which Jehovah made with Israel.

27 The manner in which the Corinthians partook of the Lord's dinner was not in keeping with the august solemnity befitting such a sacred recollection. The powers of the kingdom were still present among them and led to the judgment of those who had offended. Some suffered from illness and some even died. Even thus, the apostle explains, it is that such should not be condemned with the world. The discipline of the Lord is always salutary, even though it may seem most severe.

²² hungry, yet one is drunk. For have you no homes in which to eat and drink? Or are you despising the ecclesia of God, and mortifying those who have nothing? What may I be saying to you? Shall I be applauding you in this? I am not applauding.

For I accepted from the Lord, what I give over also to you, that the Lord Jesus, in the night in which He was betrayed, took bread,

²⁴ and giving thanks, He breaks it and said, "This is My body which is broken for your sakes. Be doing this for a recollection of Me."

Similarly, the cup also, after dinner, saying, "This is the cup of the new covenant in My blood. Be doing this, whensoever you should be drinking, for a recollection of Me." For whensoever you should be eating this bread and drinking this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death till He should be

coming.

So that, who ever should be eating the bread or drinking the cup of the Lord unworthily, will be liable for the body and blood of the Lord.

Now let a man be testing himself first, and thus let him be eating of the bread and drinking of the cup. For he who is eating and drinking unworthily is eating and

drinking unworthily is eating and drinking judgment to himself, not discriminating the body of the

30 Lord. Because of this many among you are infirm and ailing, and a considerable number are reposing.

³¹ For if we adjudicated ourselves,
³² we would not be judged. Yet, being judged, we are disciplined by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

So that, my brethren, be waiting for one another when coming to-

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The threefold treatment of the subject of "spirituals" (as they are called in the Greek) is indicated in the opening sentence. First the graces are enumerated, as they are apportioned to each one by the spirit, in verses seven to eleven. Then the Lordship of Christ in the apportionment of service is illustrated by the figure of the human body, in verses twelve to twenty-seven. The rest of the chapter considers the operation of the graces under the disposition of God.

The spirit we have received, though one, manifests itself in a variety of ways. This was far more manifest among the Corinthians than it is today. for the signs which characterized that immature economy were closely allied to the miraculous manifestations which accompany the proclamation of the As the next chapter exkingdom. plains, now that maturity has arrived, such exhibitions of the spirit's power. are not in keeping with the perfection or maturity of this secret economy.

Spiritual endowments were not confined to one member of an ecclesia, or even to a few. Each one was given some special evidence of the spirit's presence, with a view to the blessing None of these endowments, whether wisdom, or healing, or languages, was the outgrowth of natural Neither could any one acability. quire them. They were apportioned to each one quite apart from human instrumentality. Though these endowments are no longer given, the divine principle still remains, that God chooses His instruments quite apart from their natural qualifications.

12 The figure of the human body is the most notable of all the illustrations of our relationship to Christ. It is the most marvelous example of unity with diversity in the realm of creation. Spirit baptism unites all who believe God to one another and to Christ, and dissipates all the physical distinctions which divide humandiverse and antagonistic into classes, making them one in Him. In Christ there is no Greek and Jew. bond and free, male and female. the Lord, however, in relation to service, these distinctions still remain.

³⁴ gether to eat. Now if anyone is hungry, let him be eating at home, that you may not be coming together for judgment. Now the rest I shall be prescribing as soon as I should be coming.

12 Now concerning spiritual [endowments], brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant. You are aware that when you were of the nations you were led off to the voiceless idols as ever you were led. Wherefore I am making known to you that no one, speaking by God's spirit, is saying "Anathema Jesus". And no one is able to say "Lord Jesus"

except by holy spirit.

Now there are apportionments ⁵ of graces, yet the same spirit, and there are apportionments of service, yet the same Lord, and there are apportionments of operations, yet the same God Who is operating all in all.

Now to each one is given the manifestation of the spirit, with a view to expedience. For to one, indeed, through the spirit, is given the word of wisdom, yet to another the word of knowledge, according to the same spirit, yet to another faith by the same spirit, yet to another the grace of healing, by the 10 one spirit, yet to another operations of powers, yet to another prophecy, yet to another discrimination of spirits, yet to another, species of languages, yet to another, translation of languages.

11 Now one and the same spirit is operating all these, apportioning to each his own, according as it is intending.

For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the one body, being many, are one body, thus also is the 13 Christ. For in one spirit we all are NOIGICTO DATEINA AHAO 20
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13 The body of Jesus, or of the Lord, denotes His physical frame. The body of Christ, however, is quite a distinct thought. Christ, or the Anointed, is a title rather than a name. It suggests official position. We are not united to Him by physical ties, as Israel was, but by purely spiritual relationships. This is forcibly suggested by the two figures used, baptism, or dipping, and drinking. One spirit. within and without, binds us together and unites us to Christ. The true ecclesia, or "church", today is not to be seen in the multitudinous organizations of Christendom with their many heads, but in the one spiritual, invisible unity, composed of all who have God's spirit, by which they are vitally joined to the living organism of which Christ Himself is Head.

All the members of this spiritual body are mutually dependent on one another. Some perform one function, some another, but none can be dispensed with. No one can choose his own place in the body, for God reserves this entirely within His own power. It is futile to usurp some function for which we are not divinely endowed. It is failure when we do not exercise the function for which the spirit of God has fitted us. Each one should be deeply exercised to discover his own place in the body, whether high or low, respectable or mean, and seek, by God's grace, to fill it. None can be apostles or prophets now, for their work has been accomplished. Few can be teachers, but the work of a pastor, who shepherds the saints, or an evangelist, who proclaims the evangel, is, in measure, open to all in a private, if not in a public way.

25 It is the privilege of all who love God to co-operate with Him in avoiding schism in the body of Christ, by cultivating a due sense of their dependence on all other members, and a godly solicitude and sympathetic regard for their welfare; and this, too, even when fellow members despise and oppose them and persecute them. The body is one. We need only act accordingly. Christ is its Head. We need only accord Him His place.

28 In the later revelation (Eph.411) "suited to transcendence" (12^{81}) , we have a revised list of the gifts. There

baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and all are made to imbibe one spirit.

14 For the body is not one member, 15 but many. If a foot should be saying, "Seeing that I am not a hand, I am not a hand,

I am not of the body," not for this is it not of the body. And if an ear should be saying, "Seeing that I am not an eye, I am not of the body," not for this is it not of the

body. If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where
were the scent? Yet now God

placed the members, each one of them, in the body according as He
19 wills. Now if it were all one mem-

ber where were the hody?

ber, where were the body?

Yet now there are, indeed, many
members, yet one body. Yet the
eye cannot say to the hand, "I have
no need of you", or, again, the
head to the feet, "I have no need
of you". Nay, much rather, the
members belonging to the body supposed to be weaker are necessary,
and which we suppose to be more
to the dishonor of the body, these
we are investing with more ex-

ceeding honor, and our indecent members have more exceeding re-²⁴ spectability. Now our respectable members have no need, but God blends the body together, giving that which is deficient more ex-²⁵ ceeding honor, that there may be

no schism in the body, but the members may be mutually solici
tous over one another. And whether one member suffers, all the mem-

one member suffers, all the members are sympathizing, or one member is being esteemed, all the members are rejoicing together.

Now you are the body of Christ,
 and members of a part, whom also
 God, indeed, placed in the ecclesia,

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the lesser graces, such as powers, healing, and languages are omitted. That this would be the case is predicted in the next chapter (138), where we are told of a time when the gift of languages would cease. The revised list given in Ephesians, however, looks backward as well as forward. Apostles and prophets are no longer necessary to the edifying of the body of Christ. We are distinctly told that prophecies will be abrogated (138) when maturity arrives. They were needed only so long as God's written revelation was incomplete. So that. today, the special gifts have narrowed down to three: evangelists, pastors and teachers.

- 31 Most of the graces were transient, suited to immaturity, hence the apostle seeks to lead them up to those which will remain in the impending transcendent economy, in which we find ourselves today.
- ¹ The "gift of tongues", even when it was a reality, was nothing but a noise unless impelled by the power of love.

Even those high endowments, such as prophecy and knowledge, amount to nothing unless love regulates their exercise. Yes, and every personal sacrifice, even martyrdom itself is without value apart from the spirit of love.

- 8 It would seem that a few were already mature (26), but the secret wisdom into which they were initiated was not made public until Paul wrote Perfection Epistles, **Ephesians** (Eph.413), Philippians (Phil.315), and Colossians (Col.128412). The writing of these epistles was the signal for the abrogation of the gift of prophecy, as they completed the word of God (Col. 125), for the cessation of the gift of languages, as it was a sign of earthly powers in the coming eon, and we are blessed among the celestials (Eph.13), and for the abrogation of the gift of knowledge (directly revealed), as there was a final written revelation.
- These gifts belonged to the time of transition, when the full orb of truth was not revealed. When it was, there came the necessity of withdrawing much which did not accord with its final form.

first, apostles, second, prophets, third, teachers, thereupon powers, thereupon graces of healing, supports, pilotage, species of languages. Not all are apostles. Not all are prophets. Not all are teachers. Not all have powers. Not all have the graces of healing. Not all are talking languages. Not all are interpreting. Yet be zealous for the greater graces. And still I am showing you a path suited to

transcendence.

13 If I should be talking the languages of men and of messengers, yet have no love, I have become resounding copper or a clanging cymbal. And if I should have prophecy

and should be perceiving all secrets and all knowledge, and if I should have all faith, so as to transport mountains, yet have no love, I am nothing. And if I should be par-

on thing. And if I should be parceling out all my possessions, and if I should be giving up my body, that I should be boasting, yet have no love, I am nothing benefited.

Love is patient, is kind. Love is not jealous. Love is not bragging,
 is not puffed up, is not indecent, is

not self-seeking, is not incensed, is 6 not taking account of evil, is not rejoicing in injustice, yet is rejoic-

7 ing together with the truth, is foregoing all, is believing all, is expecting all, is enduring all.

Love is never lapsing: yet, whether prophecies, they will be abrogated; whether languages, they will cease; whether knowledge, it will be abrogated. For we know

out of an instalment, and we are prophesying out of an instalment.

10 Now whenever maturity may be

coming, that which is out of an in-11 stalment shall be abrogated. When 23001

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11 The time came when the apostle admonished and taught in order that he should present every man mature in Christ (Col.128). Epaphras struggled in prayers that they should stand mature and complete in all the will of God (Col.412). It is evident that maturity came with the last ministry of Paul, when he was a prisoner at Rome. Till then the saints, as a whole, were in a state corresponding to a man who has not yet attained his majority. But then, as was the case when a boy assumed the duties of manhood, there was a vast revolution. As a man discards the toys of his childhood, so they discarded the marks of minority. Chief among these were the gifts, especially prophecy and languages. Those who claim these now cannot avoid marking themselves as immature.

12 At this time the present secret administration (Eph.39) had not been publicly revealed. The destiny of the saints who had received Paul's evangel was clouded in mystery. little was known. Their celestial allotment was still concealed. fate was still in the balance. It was not till their final rejection at the close of the book of Acts, that the secret was revealed that the ecclesia which is His body, to which Paul ministered, was not to have a place on earth subordinate to Israel, but was to be blessed with transcendent spiritual blessings among the celestials. Now that maturity has come, we no longer are in an enigma, but realize something of the unutterable grace which is ours in Christ Jesus.

18 Faith, expectation, and love are the abiding trinity in this administration of God's grace. Neither faith nor expectation will remain in the glory. Love alone will abide His coming. Let us believe God. Let us glory in expectation. But, above all, let us charge our hearts to love Him and His with a fervency which His love alone can inspire. These graces will not abide in heaven, to which they are usually relegated. Hope will then be past, faith unnecessary. This is the time of "perfection" or maturity.

Prophecy prepared them for further unfoldings and maturity. Languages tended to draw them back to the kingdom proclamation and its attendant signs.

I was a minor, I talked as a minor, I had a minor's disposition, I took account of things as a minor. Yet when I have become a man, I have discarded that which is a minor's.

12 For at present we are observing by means of a mirror, in an enigma, yet then, face to face. At present I know out of an instalment, yet then I shall recognize according as I am recognized also.

Yet now are remaining faith, expectancy, love—these three. Yet 14 the greatest of these is love. Be

pursuing love.

Now be zealous for spiritual [endowments], yet rather that you may be prophesying. For he who is talking a language is not talking to men, but to God. For no one is hearing, but in spirit he is speaking 3 secrets. Yet he who is prophesying is speaking to men to edification and consolation and comfort. 4 He who is talking a language is edifying himself, yet he who is proph-

esying is edifying the ecclesia. Now I want you all to be talking languages, yet rather that you may be prophesying, for greater is he who is prophesying than he who is talking languages, outside and except he may be interpreting, that the ecclesia may be getting edification.

Yet now, brethren, if I should be coming to you talking languages. what shall I be benefiting you if I should not be speaking either in revelation, or in knowledge, or in prophecy, or in teaching? Likewise, the sounds given by soulless things, whether flute or lyre, if it should not be giving a distinction to the utterances, how will the fluting or lyre playing be known? ⁸ For even if a trumpet should give a dubious sound, who will be pre-

paring for battle? Thus, you also, if

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10 Though without any manuscript evidence, it may be that the original reading of "nothing is soundless" was "none of them is senseless". seems to be demanded by the context, which insists on sense as well as A single letter P (which is the equivalent of our R) would change aphoonon, soundless, to aphroonon, senseless. As this version is founded on facts, rather than the judgment of its editor, he could not make this alteration, however much it may appeal to him.

12 The gifts were given for mutual edification, not for entertainment or vain display. The misuse of the gift of languages was a clear indication of the childish immaturity of the Corinthians, for they were eager to display the possession of the gift without any regard for the edification of others. A foreign language is a mere babel of sounds to those who do not understand it. And even if it should be interpreted, of what real gain is it to use such a circuitous method when the same things could be told just as well without the need of interpretation? Such was not the divine intention in giving this gift. On the day of Pentecost this gift was used in a useful and rational way, for it was a sign that Jehovah was speaking to His people. Moreover, this sign is not for believers, or even to reach unbelievers, for it is written "neither thus will they be hearkening to Me". (Isa. 2812). Surely it is far better to speak five instructive words in the vernacular than any number in an unknown language, even if it be the exhibition of a spiritual endowment. The same argument applies with even more force to the use of a foreign language, which no one understands, in a church ritual. It may be imposing and spectacular but it fails utterly in edifying the saints.

22 Paul's high regard for the gift of prophecy is founded on the fact that it was the chief means used to bring the saints to that maturity which he earnestly desired they should attain. The gift of teaching, the exposition of the scriptures, now takes the place of prophecy, for God has fully revealed His will in His word.

you should not be giving an intelligible expression through the languages, how will it be known what is being spoken? For you will be 10 talking into the air. There are. perchance, so many species of sounds in the world, and nothing 11 is soundless. If, then, I should not be perceiving the import of the sound, I shall be a barbarian to the one talking and the one talking a 12 barbarian to me. Thus you also, since you are zealots for spiritual [endowments], seek that you may be

superabounding to the edification of the ecclesia.

13 Wherefore let even him who is talking a language be praying that 14 he may be interpreting. if I should be praying in a language, my spirit is praying, yet 15 my mind is unfruitful. What is it then? Should I be praying in spirit, yet I will be praying with the mind also. In the spirit I will be playing, yet I will be playing 16 with the mind also. Else, if you should be blessing in the spirit, how shall he who is filling the place of a plain man be declaring "Amen!" at your giving of thanks, since, in fact, he is not aware what ¹⁷ you are saying? For you, indeed, are giving thanks ideally, but the other is not edified.

I am thanking God I talk in a 19 language more than all of you. But in the ecclesia do I want to speak five words with my mind, that I should be instructing others also, or ten thousand words in a language?

Brethren, do not become little children in disposition. But in evil be minors, yet in disposition become ²¹ mature. In the law it is written

that, "'By different languages and by different lips shall I be talking to this people, and neither thus TEROCT NOCOHCETAITOA 20
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24 Predicting, or foretelling, is not necessarily involved in the gift of prophecy. The prophet, in Scripture, is the mouthpiece or spokesman of God. He may speak of the past, the present, or the future. Prediction is incidental, not essential, to prophecy. Before the canon was complete it was needful for the saints to have some means of knowing the mind of God. The Scriptures fully meet that need now. What a decided contrast there would be between a meeting at which all declared God's mind in sober succession, so that all are helped, and one in which each seeks an opportunity to display a gift which is of no benefit to his fellow saints! Even unbelievers have discrimination enough to see how foolish it is to talk into the air, and can appreciate the solemn declaration of God's spokesmen.

27 To curb their childish desire to talk in unknown languages the apostle lays down rules to govern the exercise of this gift. It was not to be exercised unless there was an interpreter, so that the message would not be lost on the meeting. Not more than two or three were to speak in unknown languages in succession, and their speaking was to be in instalments, that is, they were to pause at frequent intervals to allow for interpretation. If no one could interpret. they were not to speak in the ecclesia.

29 Prophecy, also, was to be exercised within bounds. It was not to be like the turbulent, unrestrained ranting of the oracles of the false gods to which they were accustomed, whose spirits were beyond their control, but peaceful, discriminating discourse, two or three in succession, yet ready to yield to another who may receive a revelation. The spirits of the prophets of the Greek gods were not subject to They worked themselves into a frenzy, foaming at the mouth. They were controlled by demon spirits rather than the spirit of God.

34 "Now if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant!" (1438) is the apostle's indignant protest to those who presume to oppose these words. And again "If anyone presumes to be a prophet or spiritual, let him be recognizing that what I am writing to you is a precept of the Lord."

will they be hearkening to Me', the ²² Lord is saying". So that languages are for a sign, not to those who are believing, but to the unbelieving. Yet prophecy is not for the unbelieving but for those who are believing.

If, then, the whole ecclesia should be coming together in the same place, and all should be talking languages, and should plain persons or unbelievers be entering, will they not be declaring that you are mad?

²⁴ Yet should all be prophesying, and some unbeliever or plain person be entering, he is convinced by all,

²⁵ he is examined by all. The hidden things of his heart are becoming apparent, and thus, falling on his face, he will be worshiping God, reporting that God really is among you.

26 What is it, then, breth ren? Whenever you may be coming together each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a language, has a translation. all occur with a view to edification.

²⁷ Whether anyone is talking a language, by two, or, at most, three, and by instalments, let one also be interpreting. Now if there should be no interpreter, let him hush in the ecclesia, yet let him be speaking to himself and to God.

Now let the prophets be speaking by two or three, and let the 30 others be discriminating. Yet if it should be revealed to another 31 sitting by, let the first hush, for vou can all be prophesying one at a time, that all may be learning and all be consoled. And the spirits of prophets are subject to the 33 prophets. For God is not for tur-

bulence, but peace, as in all the ecclesias of the saints.

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> INENOIKOTOYCIAIOYCAN27000 THE OWN MEN . IN HOME

There is a notable contrast between the methods with which the apostle deals with fundamental doctrinal error and moral evil. The wicked man (55) is delivered to Satan, but those who denied the resurrection are not put away. In these days the contrary course is pursued. Doctrinal differences, not nearly so vital as the denial of the resurrection, are made the ground for disfellowshipping godly saints, while moral evil is often condoned and overlooked. Differences in doctrine do not demand a severance of fellowship, or Paul would have so dealt with the Corinthians who denied the one doctrine which, because it involves all others, has the right to be called "fundamental".

3 The evangel which Paul preached was concerned with Christ. Not, however, with His life, but with His death, burial, and resurrection. These are the fundamental facts of the evangel. Not His death only, for that would be no evangel at all, but His burial

and His resurrection.

The evidence for the resurrection of Christ is as conclusive as it is possible for any evidence to be. were over five hundred witnesses and some of these were especially appointed and given ample opportunity to convince themselves. But the crowning proof was the descent of the glorified Christ to call Saul, upon the Damascus road. Saul was His enemy, and would have done much to prove that He was not roused. His testimony is of special weight. The resurrection is of the utmost consequence to Paul. for he did not know the Lord before His death, like the twelve apostles. Consequently he never would have known Him nor would he have seen Him unless He had been raised. a very special sense Paul is the apostle of the ascended and glorified Christ. He never bases his teaching on the life of Jesus before His death and resurrection.

⁹ Paul's persecution of the ecclesia was the necessary prelude to the transcendent grace which called and sustained him so that he became at once the least and the greatest of the apostles. It was necessary that he should be the most undeserving in order that he might become the pattern for God's present dealings in grace.

Let the women in the ecclesias be hushing, for it is not permitted to them to be talking, but let them be subject, according as the law

35 also is saying. Now, if they want to learn anything, let them be inquiring of their own husbands at home,

for it is a shame for a woman to be 36 talking in the ecclesia. Or came the

word of God out from you? Or attains it to you only? If anyone presumes to be a prophet or spiritual, let him be recognizing that what I am writing to you is a pre-

38 cept of the Lord. Now if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant!

So that, my brethren, be zealous to be prophesying, and do not for bid talking languages. Yet let all occur respectably and in order.

15 Now I am making known to you, brethren, the evangel which I preach to you, which you accepted also, in which you stand also,

through which you are saved also, if you are retaining what I said in preaching the evangel to you, outside and except your belief is a

sham.

For I give over to you first what I accepted also, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was entombed, and that He has been roused the

third day according to the scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, thereupon by the twelve.

Thereupon He was seen by above five hundred brethren at once, of whom the majority are remaining hitherto, yet some were put to repose also. Thereupon He was seen by James, thereafter by all the

apostles.

Yet last of all He was seen by me also, even as if by an abortion.
 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not competent to be called an apostle, because I persecute

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12 The resurrection is the very fundamental of fundamentals. The death of Christ is essential to the evangel, yet it is not enough. A dead Christ cannot save. The resurrection is not only essential, but it involves His death, for only one who is dead can be roused from the dead. Without His resurrection we are still in our sins. 18 The state of the dead, apart from resurrection, is not one of ecstatic bliss, but of destruction.

20 Christ was not the first one to be roused from the dead. The prophets, and the Lord Himself, recalled some to life before He Himself suffered death. But He is the first One to be made alive beyond the power of death. All the others were roused to die He is the Firstfruit of those who are vivified, and die no more.

21 Death's entrance and exit are both through a man. Adam and Christ are the channels, respectively, through which death and resurrection reach all mankind.

22 The words "even as" mark a close parallel. The universality of death, through Adam, is beyond question. "Thus" we are told, "in Christ, shall all be made alive". This will not occur simultaneously but in three distinct classes at widely separated intervals of time. Christ, the Firstfruit, is already alive at God's right hand. We who are Christ's will be made alive at His presence. This includes His coming to the air for the believers of this economy (1Thes.416, 1Cor.1552, Phil.321) and His coming to Israel before the thousand years. The rest, who are not included in "those who are Christ's", must wait until the consummation, when death, the last enemy, is abolished. This will not occur until the eons have run their course and Christ hands over the kingdom to the Father. At the great white throne judgment no one is vivified or made alive. Hence it is passed over. Authority and power are still in exercise in the new earth. The throne of The consummathe Lamb is there. tion must be later, for sovereignty is abolished before death, the last enemy. The consummation is at the close of the eonian times, at the close of the last eon which is presented to our view in the final vision of the Unveiling.

10 the ecclesia of God. Yet, by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace, which is for me, did not come to be for naught, but I toil more exceedingly than all of them —yet not I, but the grace of God

11 which is with me. Then, whether I or they, thus we are proclaiming

and thus you believe.

Now if Christ is being proclaimed that He has been roused from among the dead, how are some among you saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? Now if there is no resurrection of the

dead, neither has Christ ¹⁴ roused. Now if Christ has not been roused, consequently our proc-

lamation is for naught; your faith 15 also is for naught. Now we are being found false witnesses also of God, seeing that we testify in accord with God, that He rouses Christ, Whom, consequently, He rouses not if so be that the dead are

¹⁶ not being roused. For, if the dead are not being roused, neither has

¹⁷ Christ been roused. Now if Christ has not been roused, vain is your faith—you are still in your sins!

¹⁸ Consequently they also, who are put to repose in Christ, were lost. ¹⁹ If we have an expectation in Christ

in this life only, we are more forlorn than all men.

Yet now Christ has been roused from among the dead, the Firstfruit ²¹ of those who are reposing. For since, in fact, death is through a man, resurrection of the dead is through

²² a man also. For, even as, in Adam, all are dying, thus also, in Christ, all shall be vivified.

23 Yet each in his own class: the Firstfruit, Christ; thereupon those who are Christ's in His presence;

²⁴ thereafter the consummation, whenever He may be giving up the kingdom to God, even the Father, whenTOY 86 OYHCY NEMOIGITEO 20 WHICH TOGETHER TO-ME IF-BESIDES

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INAXPICOY AN OHITANT ACT²⁹⁰⁰⁰

UNTIL WHICH EVER He-MAY-BE-PLACING ALL

25 The reign of Christ is so beneficent, it brings mankind to such a state of perfection, that all further need of the restraints of government vanishes. Rule implies insubordination, and is unnecessary where there is perfect subjection. Rule is a temporary expedient to cope with evil. When evil is banished rule also retires. The effects of evil for mankind are concentrated in death. When the universe has been purged of all other evil. then death itself becomes inoperative and yields up its victims. Not till then is it true that all are made alive in Christ.

27 The universality of Christ's subjection of all under His feet is evident from the one exception—God Himself.

28 God is All in Christ now. He will be All in His saints when we are made alive. He will be All in all when death is abolished, at the consummation. What a marvelous outcome of God's purpose! What a Christ we have, Who can accomplish such a complete reconciliation!

The Corinthians denied the resurrection of any: Paul insists on the vivification of all.

²⁹ The argument here is founded on the sixth chapter of Romans. Baptism is a symbol of death. Its benefits are confined to those who are united to Christ in His death. But even then it is absolutely valueless except as it also figures the resurrection. Apart from the resurrection of the dead, baptism, instead of introducing to a resurrection experience, will lead to carelessness and indifference.

35 The human body is not composed of definite, unvarying substance, but is changing its components daily, so that, in a few years, it has completely renewed its elements. Yet it remains the same body. So it is in resurrection. We do not look for the identical elements to be roused in the resurrection, even though we will identify the body as our own.

37 The miracle of resurrection is wrought each spring in the fields of the farmer. Death sustains our life now and it will be the entrance to eonian life, if we are not caught up to meet Him ere it comes.

ever He should be abrogating all sovereignty and all authority and ²⁵ power. For He must be reigning until He should be placing all His ²⁶ enemies under His feet. The last enemy being abolished is death.

²⁷ For He subjects all under His feet. Now whenever He may be saying that all has been subjected, it is evident that it is outside of Him Who is subjecting the universe to

28 Him. Now, whenever the universe may be subject to Him, then the Son Himself also shall be subject to Him Who subjects the universe to Him, that God may be All in all.

Else what shall they be doing who are being baptized? for the sake of the dead? If the dead actually are not being roused, why are they being baptized also for their sake?

Why are we also in danger every hour? By this boast of yours, brethren, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I am dying daily.

If, as a man, I fight wild beasts in Ephesus, what benefit is it to me?
If the dead are not roused, we may be eating and drinking, for to-morrow we are dying. Be not deceived;

evil conversations are corrupting ³⁴ kind characters. Sober up justly and do not be sinning, for some are ignorant of God. I am speaking to abash you.

35 But someone will be protesting, "How are the dead being roused, and with what body are they 36 coming?" Imprudent one! What

you are sowing is not being vivified if it should not be dying.

37 And what you are sowing you are not sowing the body which shall come to be, but a naked kernel, perchance of wheat or some of the rest.

³⁸ Yet God is giving it a body according as He wills, and to each of the ³⁹ seeds its own body. Not all flesh is

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40 There is no direct statement here that our bodies will be changed to celestial bodies, in accord with the later revelation of Ephesians, but such an inference would be in point. Even among the celestials there will be degrees of glory. Our Lord Himself has a body which excelled the noonday in its effulgence. Ours will be transfigured to conform to His (Phil.321).

42 In death the body disintegrates and returns to the soil whence it came. This loathesome process is reversed in resurrection. Disease and weakness accompany its dissolution, but power and glory will be the portion of all who are Christ's when He comes.

44 Our present bodies respond to the soul, or senses. They seek for physical comfort and satisfaction and pleasure. They do not respond to spiritual The soul is not a distinct things. entity. It is the effect of the combination of body and spirit. Adam was made of the soil. When the breath of life was breathed into him he became a living soul. He could feel, see, hear, He became conscious. smell. is the body which we have now. We are dominated by our senses. In the resurrection our bodies will respond to our spirit. Physical sensations will give place to spiritual perception.

47 The soil is the upper, oxidized crust of the earth from which Adam was formed and from which mankind derives its sustenance. It is the soil which sustains the plants and animals which provide us with food. the soil is the sphere of sulfation, which destroys life. As men are constituted now, they cannot exist apart from the soil of the earth. should be raised with bodies such as we now possess, we could not partake of a celestial allotment, for we would die from the lack of such food as our bodies can assimilate.

50 The soul (not the life) of the flesh is in the blood (Lev.1711). The Lord has no blood in His resurrection body (Lu.2439).

51 This is a secret. It had not been told before. It lies in the one word change. It leads us one step nearer the celestial destiny revealed in the epistle to the Ephesians. Soilish as our bodies are, they need to be radically changed before they can endure

the same flesh, but there is one, indeed, of men, yet another flesh of beasts, vet another flesh of fliers, vet 40 another of fishes. And there are bodies celestial and bodies terrestrial, but there is a different glory, indeed, of the celestial, and a dif-

41 ferent of the terrestrial, another glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars, for star excels star in glory.

Thus also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; 43 it is roused in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor; it is roused in glory. It is sown in infirmity: it 44 is roused in power. It is sown a soulish body; it is roused a spiritual body.

If there is a soulish body, there ⁴⁵ is a spiritual also. Thus also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul; the last Adam

vivifying Spirit". But the spiritual is not first, but the soulish, thereupon the spiritual.

The first man was out of the earth, soilish; the second Man is the 48 Lord out of heaven. What the soilish are, such are they also who are soilish, and what the celestial, such also are those who are celestials.

⁴⁹ And according as we wear the image of the soilish, we should be wearing the image also of the celestial.

50 Now this I am averring, brethren, that flesh and blood is not able to enjoy an allotment in the kingdom of God, neither is corruption enjoying the allotment of incorrup-⁵¹ tion. Lo! I am telling you a secret!

We all, indeed, shall not be put to ⁵² repose, yet we all shall be changed, in an instant, in the twinkle of an eye, at the last trump. For He will be trum peting, and the dead will be ACIXOYUNK AICUMATACITO 20 40 YET OF-FISHES AND BODIES ON-beav-

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HCOMEOAAGITAPTOOOAPT31000 53 CHANGED it-IS-BINDING for THE CORRUPTIBLE a life celestial. This change will come in an instant when the Lord descends from heaven with the trumpet of God (1Thes.416). As the last note sounds we who are alive, who are mortal, as well as those who repose, who have gone to corruption, shall be What a glorious prospect! Our bodies shall be like His-not as it was in His weakness before He was roused, not even as it was before His ascension, marvelous as that was, but as it was when Saul met Him and was blinded by the brightness of His presence. He will transfigure the body of our humiliation, to conform it to His body glorious (Phil.321).

continuous depends on our best of the universe. Yet the enjoyment and appreciation of the glory will depend on our previous humiliation.

where is your sting?" (Hos.13¹⁴), and some manuscripts follow this reading. As the tendency is to conform a quotation to its original, it is probable that *Death* was changed to *Unseen* by a copyist who knew the Septuagint reading but did not see that the apostle had enlarged the scope of the quotation to include the consummation, when there is no unseen (Un.20¹⁴) and only the second death remains. A quotation is often varied from its original reading to fit it for its new context.

When Paul received the recognition of James, Cephas, and John, they asked him to remember the poor among the Circumcision (Gal.210). At this time the nations were partaking of Israel's spiritual things (Rom.1527). It was not till later that they became joint partakers (Eph.3 6). So they made such return as they could by collecting a contribution. Paul was delivering this money to the saints in Jerusalem when he was imprisoned (Ac.2118-2221). Now we partake of our own spiritual things, for we have all spiritual blessings among the celestials, where Israel has none.

roused incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this

must put on incorruption, and this mortal put on immortality. Now, whenever this corruptible should be putting on incorruption and this mortal be putting on immortality, then shall come to pass the word which has been written,

"Death was swallowed up by Victory!
Where, O Death, is your victory?
Where, O Death, is your sting?"

⁵⁶ Now the sting of Death is sin, yet ⁵⁷ the power of sin is the law. Yet thanks be to God, Who is giving us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

So that, my beloved brethren, become settled, unmovable, superabounding in the work of the Lord always, being aware that your toil is not for naught in the Lord.

16 Now concerning the collection for the saints, even as I prescribe to the ecclesias of Galatia, thus also do you. On one of the sabbaths let each one of you lay aside in store whatever anyone may be prospered, lest collections should occur

3 when I may come. Now whenever I should be coming along, whoever you should be attesting through letters, these shall I be sending to carry away your grace to Jerusa-

4 lem. Now if it should be worth while, and I go, they shall be going together with me.

Now I shall be coming to you whenever I may come through Macedonia, for I am coming

6 through Macedonia. Now, perchance, I shall be abiding with you, or even wintering, that you may be sending me forward where I may

be going. For I do not want to see you at present on the way, for I am expecting to stay some time ONTOYTOENAY CACOAIA 40 20 this TO-BE-being-in-slipped UN-cor-

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PECTING for TIME ANY TO-ON-REMAIN

NAITPOCYMACEANOKYPIO32000 TOWARD YOUP IF-EVER THE Master 8 Paul's delay in going to Corinth is fully explained in the second epistle. He wished to give them time for repentance. Besides, he was meeting with much success, for even his enemies acknowledged that "not only in Ephesus, but in almost the entire [province of] Asia this Paul influences a considerable throng...".

 10 Timothy had been sent to Macedonia (Ac.1922). He was young for such a mission (1 Tim.412) and could not command the respect which age inspires.

12 It is evident that Paul was not jealous of Apollos, though some in Corinth had made him the head of their faction. Neither was Apollos inclined to take advantage of their schism. He was a scholarly man (rather than eloquent) who had been taught by Paul's friends, Priscilla and Aquila, and had gone to Corinth after Paul had left, being especially successful in confuting the Jews, publicly exhibiting, through the Scriptures, that Jesus is the Christ (Ac.18²⁴).

23 Maran atha is usually interpreted as "the (or our) Lord cometh" in accord with the Syriac version. it seems far fetched to find a foreign expression here, whether it be Chaldee or Syriac, when the Hebrew furnishes a simpler and more agreeable The Hebrew mghahram atsolution. tah, "Cursed are you!" was probably the common phrase in which the anathema or doom was pronounced. The change of m into n is of frequent occurrence when Hebrew is turned into Greek. The Syriac version may simply insert the Hebrew without translating, in which case it should not receive a Syriac signification. The Hebrew ghahram and the Greek anathema are used for one another in the Septuagint and Hebrew Scriptures. Both mean to devote to destruction, to doom (Lev.2721-29, Josh.71-15, 1Sam.151-20). In these passages it is rendered destroy, devote, accursed, etc. The same form of expression, a repetition in a familiar tongue, is found in the phrase "Abba, Father". (Mk.1436 Ro.815 Ga.4 6). Moreover, the coming of the Lord is never set before us as an act of judgment, but as the culmination of grace. That blessed expectation could never be used as an imprecation. It brings grace, not judgment.

with you, if the Lord should per
8 mit. Yet I shall stay in Ephesus

9 till Pentecost, for a door has opened for me, great and operative,
and many are opposing.

Now if Timothy should be coming, look to it that he should be with you without fear, for he is working at the work of the Lord, as I

also. No one, then, should be scorning him. Now send him forward in peace, that he may be coming to me, for I am awaiting him with the brethren.

Now concerning brother Apollos, I entreat him much that he may be coming to you with the brethren, and it was undoubtedly not his will that he should come now, yet he will come whenever he should have an opportunity.

13 Be watching! Stand firm in the faith! Be manly! Be staunch!
14 Let all your [actions] occur in love.

15 Now I am entreating you, brethren—you are acquainted with the house of Stephanas and Fortunatus: it is the firstfruit of Achaia, and they set themselves to the serv-

16 ice of the saints—that you also may be subject to such, and to every fellow worker and toiler.

Now I am rejoicing at the presence of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, seeing that they fill

¹⁸ up these deficiencies of yours, for they soothe my spirit and yours. Then be recognizing such.

Asia are greeting you. Aquila and Prisca are greeting you much in the Lord, together with the ecclesia of their house. All the breth-

ren are greeting you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

²¹ The salutation by my hand— ²² Paul. If anyone is not fond of the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be ana-

32001 PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS (I.) ABS¹ omit and fortunatus (by s²)
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s1* adds \(\Delta \) | \(\Delta \) | MINOTI I-AM-THE AND THE OF-YOUD BE-YE-ON-KNOWING ETEOYNTOYCTOIOYTOYCA ΟΥ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΥΠΟΛΛΑΠΑΡΕΚΑ 300 19 brother much I-BESIDE-CALL THEN THE such A omits verse 19 making-evident to-youp that ΛΕCA AYTONIN ΔΕΛΘΗΠΡΟC 20 CHAZONTAIYMACAIEKKAH²⁰ THE OUT-CALLEDS THAT he-MAY-BE-COMING TOWARD YOUP greeting ARE-greeting ONTAL ΥΜΑ**CMET**ΑΤΦΝ ΑΔΕΛΦΦΝΚΑ ⁴⁰ CIAITHCACIACACHAZETA* YOUP brothers OF-THE ASIA Is-greeting WITH THE ΙΥΜΑCENKYΡΙΦΠΟΛΛΑΑΚΥΘ INANT COYKHNOE AHMAIN® Master much ALL-ly it-WAS WILL AQUILA **AACKAINPICKACYNTHKAT® ΑΝΥΝΕΛΘΗΕΛΕΥCETAIΔΕΟ**⁸⁰ TOGETHER to-THE accord-PRISCA NOW he-MAY-BE-COMING he-WILL-BE-COMING YET AND 8 C for Al TANEYKAIPHCH PH POPEI 400 OIKON AYTONEKKAHCIA AC® 13 when-ever it-should-be-well-seasoning.be-watching 20 ing-to HOME OF-them OUT-CALLED TECTHKETEENTHIICTEIA²⁰ ΠΑΖΟΝΤΑΙΥΜΑΟΟΙΑΔΕΛΦΟ20 BE-STANDING-firm IN THE BELIEF BE-THE brothers greeting YOUD NAPIZECOEKPATAIOYCOE ᇫ ΙΠΑΝΤΕCΑCΠΑCΑCΘΈΑΛΛΗ « BE-being-staunch MANIZING A L.L. greet-vr one-another MANTAYMONENAFAMHFEIN® ΛΟΥ**Ϲ**ϾΝΦΙΛΗΜΑΤΙΑΓΙΦΟλ®

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15 COMING I-AM-BESIDE-CALLING YET YOUP

LOVE

ΕCΘΦΠΑΡΑΚΑΛΦΔΕΥΜΑΚΑΔ∞

23 Notwithstanding all their failures and their many shortcomings, Paul invokes the grace of Christ and assures them of his own love, which he poured out on them in lavish measure, as we find in the next epistle. He was a living example of the love which does not lapse.

thema! Maran atha [Cursed are voul!

The grace of the Lord Jesus
 Christ be with you! My love be with all of you in Christ Jesus!
 Amen!

33001

PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS (I.)

CHAPTER 16

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II. CORINTHIANS

SECOND Corinthians is an epistle for the heart. It engages us with the fond solicitude which stirs the affections of the apostle for his much loved Corinth. It was written because he wished to spare them and dreaded the severity which his presence might demand.

This loving epistle reveals an aspect of the evangel which is well-nigh This is the conciliation. God is love. He will not rest satisfied in merely justifying us. He wishes to clasp us to His heart. To restore His creatures to righteousness may indeed erase the stain of sin, but offers no valid reason or excuse for sin's intrusion into the universe. But if the entrance of sin is to bear the precious fruit of reconciliation, if it is to bring us infinitely nearer to God than is possible without it, if it is the means of revealing God's love to us, then may we give thanks even for the sin which is the source of our sorrows. Sin made man not only a sinner, but an enemy of God. It brought in estrangement. The mediation of Christ not only saves and justifies, but removes every barrier for the free outflow of God's love. God now condescends to be eech the sinner to be conciliated to Him. What can be more gracious than this?

Such is the aspect of the truth in this epistle. More than anything else he has written, this reveals the personal experiences and inward emotions of Paul during one of the most fruitful periods of his ministry. stead of the smiling, complacent, comfortable existence which is usually supposed to be the ideal of Christianity, we find him full of fears within. distracted with fightings without, restless, sick, and despondent. Yet all of this was in perfect accord with his fervent love for the saints and his vehement desire to lead them on into an appreciation of God's love. The consolation and comfort he received in his afflictions fitted him to console and comfort others. It reveals God in the light of His affections.

One short verse in the book of Acts (Ac.202) hurries us over the whole period referred to in this epistle. This alone should suggest the total divergence of their respective themes. Acts deals with Christ after the flesh, as the Messiah of Israel, and always gives the other nations a place subordinate. At the juncture when this epistle was written Paul first made known the truth of the conciliation, that God, in Christ, is beseeching all men to be reconciled to Him. Physical relationship to Christ no longer counted with Paul after this.

Timothy is associated with Paul in this introduction, as Sosthenes is in the former epistle, yet it is evident that Paul himself wrote both epistles, for he continually refers to himself in them, and usually specifies who is meant when he changes the usual "I" to "we".

Corinth was the chief city of Achaia, hence the whole province was interested in and influenced by its internal spiritual condition. The many specific references to the ecclesia in the city make it plain that it was for the saints in the province only in a secondary sense, much as we profit by it today.

- The opening words strike the key note of the epistle. God is introduced as the Father of pity and consolation. It engages us with that strong undercurrent of feeling which stirred the heart of the apostle to its very depths. Here we see the precious fruit of the gospel abounding in the apostle's dealing with his erring children. Paul's previous epistle evidently had its desired effect, for he would not think of consoling them in their sins and schisms and departures from the truth.
- ⁵ Paul's afflictions were, in a very real sense, "the sufferings of Christ" for they came, not as the result of his misdeeds, but because he proclaimed Christ's evangel. Not long before he had been in danger of death at the hands of a mob in Ephesus. He was suffering from some physical ailment. He was in much suspense about the Corinthians and their reception of his previous epistle. When he finds that they, too, have suffered, though it be for their own wrong doing, he is swift to console them, and sees in his own afflictions the means used by God to prepare him for this ministry. All this should be an object lesson to us to show how sin and suffering is being used by God to bring our hearts into closer union with Himself and with one another. And affliction is the surest means of ridding us of confidence in ourselves and of placing our reliance in God. Suffering for Christ's sake is the highest honor which can be accorded to mortal man. Just as His sufferings are the basis of the glories that shall follow, so our sufferings for His sake are sure to yield an untold harvest of happiness and exultation when He appears.

- PAUL, an apostle of Christ Jesus, through the will of God, and brother Timothy, to the ecclesia of God which is in Corinth, together with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:
- ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of pities and God of all consolation,
- Who is consoling us in our every affliction, to enable us to be consoling those in every affliction, through the consolation with which we our-
- selves are consoled by God, seeing that, according as the sufferings of Christ are superabounding in us, thus, through Christ, our consolation also is superabounding.
- Now, whether we are being afflicted for the sake of your consolation and salvation, or whether we are being consoled for the sake of your consolation, it is operating in the endurance of the same sufferings which we also are suffering. And our expectation is confirmed over you, being aware that as you are participants of the sufferings, thus

also of the consolation.

For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning our affliction which came to us in the [province of] Asia, that we were inordinately burdened, above our ability, so that we were despairing of life also. But we have had the rescript of death in ourselves in order that we may be having no confidence in ourselves, but in God,

¹⁰ Who rouses the dead, Who rescues us from a prodigious death, and ΠΑΥΛΟ CAΠΟCTOΛΟ CXPICT 20
PAUL commissioner OF-ANOINTED
OYIHCOYΔΙΑΘΕΛΗΜΑΤΟ C Θ⁴⁰

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YOANATOYEPPYCATOHMA C1000 DEATH rescues US 9 It seems probable that Paul was doubly in danger of death in Ephesus. The "rescript" of death may refer to a dangerous illness, while the "prodigious" death seems best suited to the violence of the Ephesian mob. It is most likely that, had he attempted to speak to them during the excitement, nothing would have prevented the unruly multitude from tearing him to pieces in their frenzy. Now that he had come through these dangers he desired the Corinthians to join him in thanksgiving.

12 The apostle seems to be meeting the opposition of his enemies here, who accused him of insincerity and dishonesty in dealing with the Corinthians. His reply is that his course may not appeal to fleshly wisdom, but it is in accord with grace—a quality of which they knew little.

13 Perhaps some suspected him of writing privately, to individuals, what he did not dare to put in his public epistles. This he denies, and registers his assurance that ultimately they would recognize him as one in whom they might well boast in that day when the hidden motives of the heart will be made manifest.

15 Paul acknowledges that he formerly intended to come to them first, on his way to Macedonia, as well as to return to them on his way to Judea. His enemies probably accused him of being vacillating, and of changing his plans for fear he would not be well received in Corinth. But Paul insists that his plans are always made subject to God's further leading. Men in the flesh may make their plans and strive to carry them through from headstrong pride, but not so the plans of God's servant. Later on he gives the true reason why he did not go direct to Corinth. Not fear for himself, but for them, postponed his visit to a later date.

20 God's promises are not like those of His servants, but are always confirmed in Christ. He is not only able to carry out His will, but His promises are made with a full knowledge of all conditions such as might arise to change the course of one of His servants. They are fallible, He is infallible.

will be rescuing, on Whom we rely, that He will still be rescuing ¹¹ also; you also assisting together by a petition for us, that from many faces He may be thanked for us by many, for our gracious gift.

For our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom, but in the grace of God, we conducted ourselves in the world, yet more superabun-

dantly toward you. For we are writing no other things to you than what you are reading or recognizing also. Now I am expecting that

you will recognize ultimately, according as you also recognized us in part, that we are your glory (even as you also are ours) in the day of our Lord Jesus.

¹⁵ And in this confidence I intended formerly to come to you, that you should be having a second grace, and through you to come through into Macedonia, and to come again from Macedonia to you, and to be sent forward by you into the come again to the sent forward by you into the come again that the come again the sent forward by you into the come again that the c

¹⁷ Judea. Intending this, then, consequently do I use lightness? Or what I am planning am I planning according to the flesh, that it may be with me "Yes, yes," and "No, no"?

Now God is faithful, seeing that our word toward you is not "Yes" and "No", for the Son of God, Jesus Christ, Who is being proclaimed among you through us—through me and Silvanus and Timothy—became not "Yes" and "No", but in Him has become

20 "Yes". For whatever promises are of God, are in Him "Yes". Wherefore through Him also is the "Amen" to God, for glory,

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COECOTPOCAOZANAIHMONO2000 21 THE God TOWARD esteem THRU US THE 21 The operation of God's spirit is here seen under three distinct figures: the anointing, the seal, and the earnest. Prophets and priests and kings were anointed for their office. They were anointed with oil. We are anointed with the spirit, as Christ, the Anointed, was at His baptism. This qualifies us for service. The seal is the sign of possession. We belong to God. The earnest is that small instalment of the spirit which we have received, which is the pledge of its fullness in the day of deliverance.

23 In view of the devious motives which have been suggested as the reason why he had avoided Corinth, Paul solemnly calls God to witness, when he discloses the real reason. wished to give them time to repent. He did not wish to be under the necessity of dealing harshly with them again. He looked forward to the day when those whom he had made sorry would rejoice. He did not wish to force their faith, as might be necessary if he did not wait patiently until his former epistle had borne its full fruition. That time now seems to have come. The present epistle is the fruit of much forbearance.

5 Paul's sorrow over the incestuous person, concerning which he wrote to them in his former epistle (1Co.51), was much modified because it was not countenanced by the majority. He did not wish to burden them all with this serious sin. Now, indeed, that the majority have administered the needed rebuke, and it has had a salutary effect, he would have them restore him to their fellowship again. had doubtless been "delivered Satan for the destruction of the flesh", yet this was "that the spirit may be saved" (1Co.55). Such is the invariable object of God's judgments. They may seem harsh and vindictive, but they eventuate in salvation. They may seem baneful at first but they are all dictated by the love that uses them to reveal itself. Like the returned prodigal, the Corinthian sinner became the special object of their love. From this it is evident that God is able to use Satan himself, as a destroyer, for the ultimate welfare and blessing of the saints. It proved so in Job's case. May He not be able to undo all his deeds in this manner?

²¹ through us. Now He Who is confirming us together with you in Christ, and Who anoints us is God,

Who also seals us and is giving the earnest of the spirit in our

hearts.

Now I am invoking God as a witness on my soul, that to spare you I came no longer to Corinth.

Not that we are lording over your faith, but are fellow workers of your joy, for you have stood

2 fast in the faith. Now I decide this with myself, not to be coming

2 to you again in sorrow. For if I am making you sorry, who, also, is gladdening me, except he who

is made sorry by me? And I write this very thing to you lest, coming, I may have sorrow from those who were obligated to be causing me to rejoice; having confidence in you

all, that my joy is all yours. For out of much affliction and pressure of heart I write to you, through many tears, not that you may be made sorrowful, but that you may know the love which I have more exceed-

ingly for you.

Now if anyone has caused sorrow he has not made me sorry but in part, lest I should burden you all. Enough to such is this rebuke, which is by the majority. So that, on the contrary, you are rather to deal graciously and console, lest somehow such may be swallowed up by the more excessive sorrow.

8 Wherefore I am entreating you to

ratify your love to him.

9 For I write also for this, that I may know your testedness, if you are obedient in all things. Now with whom you are dealing graciously in anything, I, also. For in what I have dealt graciously (if I have dealt graciously in anything), it is because of you in the face of

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12 The grave and disquieting concern of the apostle for the Corinthians is most signally evident from his conduct at Troas. Once before he had been there, intending to preach the evangel, but the vision of the man of Macedonia drew him away. Now he finds himself not only in Troas but with a special opportunity for service. While he probably remained a considerable time and saw much to encourage further effort, his love and solicitude for the Corinthians draws him away again. He expected to meet Titus at Troas with news from Corinth. He was so concerned to know how they had received his epistle that he leaves the promising work in Troas and goes to Macedonia, probably meeting Titus at Philippi.

14 The true servant of Christ is always triumphant. He need not be concerned whether his message be received or rejected, but rather let him be sure that he is preaching Christ and Him alone. His course then, as the apostle's, will be like the triumph of a Roman conqueror. Accompanied by his friends, and followed by captives laden with chains, while the whole procession is perfumed with the incense of many censers, the Roman triumph was but a rare occasion in the life of a general. It should be the continual course of the servant of Christ who so preaches His grace that its fragrance is found even on those who reject the message of life.

17 Too many in these days are like those the apostle condemns. They make the word of God a matter of commerce and a means of gain. May He forgive them for such an infamous offense! Such grace as we have to dispense loses its flavor when coupled with avarice or cupidity.

1 How the apostle's heart must have ached to think that his beloved Corinthians, who had been called into the grace of Christ through his ministry, should be so unmindful of his claims on their affections! How pathetic his appeal! "You are our letter, engraved in our hearts." They certainly should not ask for his credentials, for they themselves were the very best that could be found. No doubt those who opposed him were of the Circumcision, for he brings in the contrast of the Mosaic law.

11 Christ, lest we should be overreached by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his mind.

Now, on coming to Troas for the evangel of Christ, and a door having been opened for me in the Lord.

13 I have had no ease in my spirit at not finding Titus, my brother, but, taking leave of them, I came away into Macedonia.

Now thanks be to God. Who always gives us a triumph in Christ, and is manifesting the odor of His knowledge through us in every

15 place, seeing that we are a fragrance of Christ to God, in those who are being saved and in those

16 who are being lost. To these, indeed, an odor of death for death, yet to those an odor of life for And who is competent for 17 this? For we are not as the ma-

jority, who are peddling the word of God, but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God in Christ, are we speaking.

Are we beginning again to commend ourselves? Or do we need. even as some, commendatory letters 2 to you or from you? You are our letter, engraved in our hearts, 3 known and read by all men, seeing that you are manifestly a letter of Christ dispensed by us, and engraved, not with ink, but with the spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but in the fleshy 4 tablets of the heart. Now such is the confidence we have through ⁵ Christ toward God (not that we are competent of ourselves, to count anything as of ourselves, but our

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NAAHIKANOTHCHMONEKT4000 but THE enough-ness OF-US OUT OF- 6 The covenant of the letter is the law of Moses which was engraven in stone, to symbolize its unyielding sternness. There is no reference to the letter of Scripture. It is the law that kills, just as it is the spirit (through the letter of Scripture) that gives life. The sayings that Christ spoke are both spirit and life to all who believe them.

The account of Moses' reception, after his forty-day session on Sinai, is found in Ex.3428-35. It is evident that they saw Moses' face even though they could not look intently at it. Moses did not hide the glory from them. He did not put the covering on his face till he had done speaking with them, but when he had finished (Ex. 3433). Later he put it on again "until he went in to speak with Him". He hid the fading of the glory, which indicated the transient, fading character of the law. As Paul says (verse 13), it was done so that the sons of Israel should not observe the consummation of that which is vanishing. Now, instead of a covering on Moses' face, there is one on Jewish hearts, which hides from them the true character of the covenant of Sinai. It had a glory once, but it has long since been eclipsed in Christ. This they will not discover until they turn back to the Lord.

⁹ A bright torch, which will illuminate the night, becomes black when held up to the noonday sun. So the law, a bright exhibition of the righteous character of God, turns to blackness before the transcendent effulgence of grace which is now revealed. It had a glory but lost it all by contrast to the glory excelling. Since, then, the law's glory is darkened by a greater glory, how much greater must be the glory of this dispensation of grace!

12 Moses, finding that the glory of his face was not permanent, hid the fact by covering his face until he went into the Lord's presence again. Not so Paul. He had no need of any covering, for the dispensation of the spirit is not like the law. The law led from glory to gloom. Grace leads from glory to glory. One deals out condemnation and death. The other dispenses righteousness and life.

new covenant, not of the letter, but of the spirit, for the letter is killing, yet the spirit is vivifying.

killing, yet the spirit is vivifying. Now if the dispensation of death by letters chiseled in stone came in glory, so that the sons of Israel were not able to look intently into the face of Moses, because of the glory of his face, which was vanishing, how shall not rather the dispensation of the spirit be in glory? For if the dispensation of condemnation is glory, much rather the dispensation of righteousness is ¹⁰ exceeding in glory. For that also which has been glorious has no glory in this particular, on account ¹¹ of the glory transcending. For if that which is vanishing is through glory, much rather that which re-

mains is in glory. Having, then, such an expectation, we are using much boldness, 13 and are not even as Moses, who placed a covering over his face, so that the sons of Israel were not to look intently to the consummation ¹⁴ of that which is vanishing. their minds were calloused, for until this very day the same covering is remaining at the reading of the old covenant, it not being discovered that, in Christ, it is van-15 ishing. But till today, if ever the reading of Moses should be reached, a covering is lying on their heart. Yet if ever it should reach a turn-

16 Yet if ever it should reach a turning back to the Lord, the covering is taken from about it.

Now the Lord is the spirit; yet where the spirit of the Lord is, 18 there is freedom. Now we all,

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18 The ancient mirror was a burnished metal surface which reflected the light as well as the image of the one who used it. Paul did not climb the steeps of Sinai and bring back a transient reflection of the Lord's glory, as Moses did. He beheld Him continually, as we behold our faces in a mirror. The glory of the Lord irradiated him. It did not fade, but became brighter and brighter. Contemplation of the Lord led to likeness to Him. This is a beautiful epitome of Paul's ministries. He began with grace on the road to Damascus. He dispenses justification at Pisidian Antioch. He reveals the conciliation to the Corinthians. teaches the truth transcendent from his Roman prison. Grace upon grace and glory upon glory! His successive ministries led onward to the transcendent glories contained in his Perfection Epistles.

- 4 "The evangel of the glory of Christ!" Would that our evangelism reached to this altitude! And why are Christ's glories so lacking in the gospel efforts of today? Because the god of this eon not only blinds the minds of the unbelievers, but he centers the gospel on sin and self and sanitation—anything except Christ and His glories.
- Few subjects for meditation will be found so full of blessing as that of the Image of God. John presents Him to us as the Word of God, through Whom we hear Him: Paul shows us the One in Whom we can see God. God Himself cannot be seen, for He is invisible. Hence it is that He has given us an Image of Himself which we can discern. And just as we give the picture or statue of a person the same place in our minds and in our speech as the person himself, so Christ is seen in the Scriptures, addressed as God as if equal to God. Unlike the inflexible image of a lifeless photograph, He is instinct with the life of God, and changes to accord with the divine assumptions (Heb. 13).
- 7 The present pathway of God's saints and slaves is not calculated to glorify us, but God. And this is often best accomplished by contrast, for God will not give His glory to any of His creatures. We must be broken if we would be bearers of His blessing.

with uncovered face, viewing the Lord's glory as in a mirror, are transformed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the spirit.

- Therefore, having this dispensation, according as we were shown mercy, we are not despondent. But we spurn the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness, nor adulterating the word of God, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience before God.
- Now if our evangel is covered also, it is covered in those who are lost, in whom the god of this eon blinds the minds of unbelievers, so that the illumination of the evangel of the glory of Christ, Who is the Image of the invisible God, does
- not irradiate them. For we are not proclaiming ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, yet ourselves
 your slaves because of Jesus, see-
- ing that God Who is saying "Out of darkness light shall be shining" is He Who shines in our hearts, with a view to the illumination of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
- Now we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the transcendence of the power may be of God
- 8 and not of us. In everything—being afflicted but not distressed, per-
- 9 plexed but not despairing, persecuted but not abandoned, cast down
- but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the deaden-

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10 The widespread fiction that the life of a Christian must be one of settled calm and contentment, prosperous and in every way advantageous in this life, is proven utterly fallacious by the experience of the apostle Paul. The carnal Corinthians may live and reign, but he is afflicted, perplexed, persecuted and cast down. As in Job's case, little was left him but his life. we are faithful to God we will find but little in this life, and will look forward to resurrection life in Christ. Apart from resurrection we should be the most pitiable of all mankind. The reason that this conception of the believer's experience has been lost is the widespread apostasy and conformity to the world. Do you see a servant of Christ persecuted and despised? not judge him hastily. not judge him hastily. He may be manifesting the life of Jesus, Who was despised and rejected because the world did not know him.

17 How shall we characterize our trials if Paul's were only momentary and light? At times he even despaired of life. Just before this he had been crying to God to remove the thorn in the flesh. But what is all this to him, in view of the transcendent revelations of the future of which he had become the depository and dispenser? We would speak of our present burdens and of the lightness of our load in the resurrection, but he reverses this. The glory of that day would be an unbearable burden to our present bodies. Our burdens are light indeed in view of that transcendent outcome.

18 The usual translation, "temporal" for "temporary" throws a false light on the context. That which we are observing does not endure for the course of time but only for a brief season. The stony ground hearer (Mt.1321Mk. 417) and the enjoyment of sin (Heb. 1125) are temporary, not temporal. These are the only passages in which this word occurs.

- 1 Our present soulish body is here compared with the temporary tent of the Bedouins, but our spiritual bodies, which will be our eonian habitations, are compared to a house.
- ² Our present condition is aptly expressed in the two words, *groaning* and *longing*. We groan to be rid of

ing of Jesus, that the life also of Jesus may be manifested in our body. For we who are living are ever being given up to death because of Jesus, that the life also of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So that death is oper-

ating in us, yet life in you.

Now having the same spirit of faith—in accord with what has been written, "I believe, wherefore I speak also"—we also are believing, wherefore we are speaking also,

being aware that He Who rouses the Lord Jesus will be rousing us also, through Jesus, and will be presenting us together with you.

¹⁵ For all is because of you, that the increasing grace, through more thanksgiving, should be superabounding to the glory of God.

Wherefore we are not despondent, but even if our outward man is decaying, nevertheless our inner [man] is being renewed day by day. For our momentary, light affliction is producing for us a transcendently transcendent eonian burden of glory, not noting that of ours which is observed, but what

of ours which is observed, but what is not observed, for what is observed is temporary, yet what is not observed is eonian.

5 For we are aware that, if our terrestrial tabernacle house should be demolished, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eonian in the heavens. For in this also we are groaning, longing to be dressed in our habitation which is from heaven, if so be that, being dressed also, we shall not be found naked. For we also, who

found naked. For we also, who are in the tabernacle, are groaning,

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our temporary tabernacle. We long to enter our eonian habitation. We have, however, no desire for any intermediate condition. Death is always viewed as an unwelcome enemy, in Scripture. Resurrection, vivification, is the true expectation of the believer. Even the apostle, in his infirmity and distress, never chooses death, but always suggests a far better alternative, the coming of Christ, when the mortal shall be swallowed up by life.

6 The article "the" in Greek, sometimes has almost the force of our "this". "The body" is not simply a body, but a particular body, that is, this body in which we are at home now. We have two homes. The tabernacle in which we now live and the eonian house in the resurrection; the soulish body and the spiritual body. We may be away from one home yet present in the other. Now we are away from home, from the Lord. Yet we would much prefer to be away from this home and be at home in our spiritual body, with the Lord. have no third home, and if we had, the apostle has just made it clear that the naked, unsheltered condition is not at all to be desired. He could hardly reverse that conviction without some further explanation.

10 The dais, or raised platform from which games were judged and awards given, must not be confused with a judicial bench. The quality of our acts may determine the award to which we are entitled, but the question of condemnation is entirely foreign to such a tribunal. We are absolutely absolved from all condemnation, but we are eligible to an award for meritorious service. These awards will be distributed at the dais of Christ. according to our acts in "the" body. that is, our present soulish bodies.

14 The apostle looks upon the world as one vast charnel house. Since Christ died for the sake of all, then all died. He sees the end of all physical privilege and pretension in this great fact. This is the basis of the new departure in his ministry at this time.

being burdened, on which we are not wanting to be stripped, but to be dressed, that the mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now He Who is producing us for this same thing is God, Who is also giving us the earnest of the spirit.

Being, then, courageous always, and aware that, being at home in the body, we are away from home from the Lord (for we are walking by faith, not by perception), yet we are encouraged, and are delighting rather to be away from home out of the body and to be at home with the Lord. Wherefore we are ambitious also, whether at home or away from home, to be well pleasing to Him.

For all of us must be manifested in front of the dais of Christ, that each should be requited for that which he puts into practise through the body, whether it is good or bad.

Being aware, then, of the fear of the Lord, we are persuading men, yet we have been made manifest to God. Now I am expecting to have been made manifest in your consciences also.

Not again are we commending ourselves to you, but are giving an incentive to you, boasting over you, that you may have it for those who boast in personal appearance and not in heart. For, whether we were beside ourselves, it is to God, whether we are sane, it is to you.

14 For the love of Christ is constraining us, judging this, that if One died for the sake of all, conse15 quently all died. And He died for the sake of all that those who are living should by no means still be living to themselves, but to the One dying and being roused for their sakes.

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16 Paul had been proclaiming the kingdom, with Christ and the nation which is related to Him by physical ties at its head. Entrance into that kingdom was by a birth from above. But now the figure of birth is not radical enough to denote the great change. Just as, after the day of the Lord, heaven and earth will be re-created. so is the spiritual experience of one who is in Christ. There is a new creation. Paul never connects the new birth with his teaching to the nations. It suffices to figure the change necessary for the sons of Israel and their proselytes, fitting them for the earthly millennial sphere. far more is needed. Like Adam, we are not a mere renewal in kind, but an entirely new creation.

18 "All is of God!" This is the key to real evangelism. Here we have, in brief, the heart of the true evangel for the world in this administration of grace. The key note is conciliation. Not the sinner conciliating God by penance or prayers, but God conciliating the sinner. The sinner may be most offensive and insulting, but God does not reckon these offenses against him. Let this be clear. God is not charging men with their sins, for Christ died for sins. He is not pressing their offenses, for He is bent on conciliation. The evangel is not concerned with the sinner at all but with God's attitude toward him and with the sufferings of Christ. He has placed in us, not the message of judgment, but the word of conciliation.

20 God insists on being at peace with the world, no matter how they treated His Son, or Paul, or any of His ambassadors. He will withdraw us, His ambassadors, before He declares war. in the coming day of His indignation. What a marvelous token of His grace and love that God (not the sinner) does the beseeching now! can be so foreign to this evangel as a sinner praying to God, for it closes his ears to God's entreaties. ambassadors for the high court of heaven, proclaiming peace and con-When the sinner receives the conciliation there is mutual reconciliation between him and God. Sinner, God is beseeching you, through us, "Be conciliated to God!" Your sins are no hindrance, for He has

So that we, from now on, are acquainted with no one according to flesh. Yet, even if we have known Christ according to flesh, nevertheless now we know Him no ¹⁷ longer. So that, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: the

primitive passed by. Lo! it has become new!

18

Yet all is of God, Who conciliates us to Himself through Christ, and is giving us the dispensation of the conciliation, how that, in Christ, God was conciliating the world to Himself, not reckoning their offenses to them, and placing in us the word of the conciliation.

We are, then, ambassadors for Christ, as God entreating through us. We are beseeching for Christ,

²¹ "Be conciliated to God!" For the One knowing no sin, He makes sin for our sakes that we may be becoming God's righteousness in Him.

Now, working together, we are also entreating you not to receive the grace of God for naught. For He is saying

"In an acceptable era I hear you, And in a day of salvation I help you."

Lo! Now is a most acceptable era! Lo! Now is a day of salvation!

We are giving no one cause to stumble in anything, lest flaws be found with the service, but in everything we are commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in blows, in jails, in turbulences, in toil, in vigils, in fasts, in pureness, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in holy spirit, in love unfeigned, in the word of truth, in the power of God, through the implements of righteousness of the right hand and 8001 PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS (II.) CHAPTERS 5-6 YET omitted by Bs1\$ ΔΕΚΑΙΠΑΡΑΚΑΛΟΥΜΕΝΜΗΕ 20 **AEKAIEFNÜKAMENKATACA²⁰** WE-ARE-BESIDE-CALLING YET AND WE-HAVE-KNOWN according-to FLESH YET AND & Al for E ICKÉNONTHNXAPINTOY AE PKAXPICTONAAAANYNOYK® OF-THE God ANOINTED but THE grace NOW NOT-STILL 81 H ETITINO CKOMENOCTECIT® OYAGZACBAIYMACAGTEIT 60 AS-BESIDES IF ANY 2 YOUD He-is-saying for WE ARE-KNOWING TO-PECTIVE ICENXPICTOKAINHKTICI® **АРКАІРФ∆ЕКТФЕПНКОУСА**⁸⁰ to-season receivable IN ANOINTED CREATION I-ON-HEAR COYKAIENHMEPACOTHPIA 600 **CTAAPXAIAΠΑΡΗΛΘΕΝΙΔΟΙΙΙ** THE ORIGINALS BESIDE-CAME OF-YOU AND IN DAY OF-SAVING YEEFONENKAINATAAERAN²⁰ CEBOHOHCACOIIAOYNYNK20 18 CEIVING it-HAS-BECOME NEW to-YOU BE-PERCEIVING NOW SEA-TACKTOY OCOYTOYKATAAA 40 **ΑΙΡΟCEΥΠΡΟCΔΕΚΤΟCΙΔΟ**⁴⁰ OUT OF THE God THE One-conciliating WELL-TOWARD-RECEIVED AZANTOCHMACEAYT@AIAX® YNYNHMEPACWTHPIACMHA® to-Self THRU AN-3 CEIVING NOW DAY OF-SAVING PICTOYKAIAONTOCHMINT® **EMIANENMHAENIAIAONTE®** GIVING IN NO-YET-ONE GIVING HNAIAKONIANTHCKATAAA200 СПРОСКОПНИ НАМНИФИН Ө700 THRU-SERVICE OF-THE conciliation TOWARD-STRIKE THAT NO MAY-BE-BEING-ACHCOCOTIBEOCHNENXPI20 HHAIAKONIAAAAENNANTI²⁰ 10 that God WAS IN ANOINT-4 FLAWED THE THRU-SERVICE but IN (by s²) Bs¹ AB+ON
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made Christ a Sin Offering for our sakes that we may become God's right-eousness in Him. There is nothing for you to do but to accept His proffered love. Simply thank and adore Him for His grace.

The true servant of God may well take heart from this list. Practically all the present day ministerial qualifications for service are absent. We know that Paul had no presence. His personal appearance did not commend him. His speech was counted contemptible. These were faults keenly felt by the carnal Corinthians, just as they are today. But he insists that he has given no one cause to stumble in anything. Paul deemed eloquence and physical appearance of no vital moment. Love, knowledge, toil, endurance, these ought to characterize the Lord's servant today even if he should not be called upon to bear affliction and distresses such as came to Paul. It is a vast comfort to the editor of this version to find himself able to enter fully into the apostle's experience in many particulars. His efforts have met with defamation and renown, he has been accused of deceiving yet is assured of his integrity, he is unknown yet recognized, disciplined yet not put to death, sorrowful yet ever rejoicing, poor yet enriching many.

14 The church has fallen so low and has compromised so thoroughly with the world that the sharp distinction between saint and sinner has been almost obliterated. And with this the separation between believer and unbeliever is rarely acknowledged. Were we, who are Christ's, living up to our privileges, we would not even consider any alliance with unbelievers. In business we should have a standard of righteousness unknown to them. No partnership is possible between righteousness and lawlessness. social organizations of the world are darkness to one who is light in the Lord. There can be no agreement between the religions of the world and The true believer cannot Christ. share in that which appeals to the unbeliever.

¹⁶ A due sense of the solemn fact that God is making His home in us is the best preventive from contamination with the pollutions of the world.

8 of the left, through glory and dishonor, through defamation and re-

nown, as deceivers and true, as unknown and recognized, as dying, and lo! we are living, as disciplined

and not put to death, as sorrowing yet ever rejoicing, as poor, yet enriching many, as having nothing and retaining all.

and retaining an.

Our mouth has opened toward you, Corinthians, your heart has
 been broadened. You are not distressed in us, yet you are distressed

13 in your compassions. Now, as a recompense in kind (I am saying this as to children), you also be broadened!

Do not become diversely yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness? Or what communion has

15 light with darkness? Now what agreement has Christ with Beliar? Or what part a believer with an

16 unbeliever? Now what concurrence has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God, according as God said, that "I shall be making My home and shall walk among them, and I will be their God, and they

"Come out of their midst and be severed", the Lord is saying, "and touch not the unclean, and I will

18 admit you, and I will be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me'', is saying the Lord Almighty.

7 Having, then, these promises, beloved, we should be cleansing ourselves from every pollution of flesh and spirit, completing holiness in the fear of God.

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Lev. 26¹¹-12, LXX, with variations.
 Isa.52¹¹, LXX, with alterations.

Paul is not misquoting from memory, as is usually supposed. He makes inspired alterations to suit the occasion.

- What a tender yet cutting rebuke to the Corinthians! The idea that Paul had injured any of them! owed all their blessings in Christ to They, indeed, had injured him by their ungrateful conduct. Whom. indeed, had he corrupted? led them out of the corruption of heathendom into the holiness which is in Had he overreached any of them? He did not even charge them with his bare subsistence, when he might have claimed all they had. They owed their very selves to him. their ungratefulness did not alienate his affections from them. No doubt, at his coming into Macedonia, there would be much to engage his attention, much in Philippi to encourage and comfort him in his distress, yet nothing set his heart at rest until he had tidings from Corinth. This is but another example of the function of Had the Corinthians been exemplary in their conduct, this marvelous interchange and expression of affection would never have found oc-Men cannot bring good out of evil: that is God's prerogative. But God can, and does, control all the evil in the universe, so that its ultimate result will be blessing far beyond what could have been had evil never entered and marred His perfect creation. God is able to cope with evil. It is not stronger than He is.
- At Titus' arrival in Macedonia he conveys to Paul the good news that the Corinthians as a whole have been greatly affected by his former epistle and have been diligent to right the wrongs which he had pointed out. At times the apostle seems to have regretted writing the epistle, for he did not wish to cause them sorrow. But now that the sorrow produced has had such a beneficial effect, he rejoices that it was not superficial, or despairing, but caused them to change their mind, and act accordingly. Above all it proved that the gross sins into which some of them had fallen were not widespread. It did not have the countenance of the ecclesia, for they

Make room for us. We injure no one; we corrupt no one; we

overreach no one. I am not saying this with a view to condemnation, for I have declared before that you are in our hearts to die together and to live together.

⁴ Much is my boldness toward you; much is my boasting over you. I have been filled with consolation, I am superexceeding in joy in all our

affliction. For even at our coming into Macedonia, our flesh had no ease, but we are afflicted in everything. Outside fightings; inside fears.

But God. Who is consoling the humble, consoles us by the presence of Titus, yet not only by his presence, but by the consolation also with which he was consoled by you. informing us of your longing, your anguish, your zeal for my sake; so that I rather rejoice that even if I make you sorry by an epistle, I am not regretting it, even if I did regret. For I am observing that that epistle makes you sorry. even if it is for an hour. I am now rejoicing, not that you were made sorry, but that you were made sorry to repentance. For you were

made sorry according to God, that ¹⁰ you forfeited nothing by us. For sorrow according to God is producing repentance for unregretted salvation, yet the sorrow of the world is working death.

For lo, this same thing—for you to be made sorry according to God—how much it produces in you of diligence, nay, defense, nay, resentment, nay, fear, nay, longing, nay, zeal, nay, avenging! In everything

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resented it, and defended themselves. They made it clear that, as an ecclesia, they were pure in this matter. The majority laid aside their party affiliations and united to purge the ecclesia of its defilement.

12 It would seem that the opposition to Paul in Corinth was not deepseated, unless we except some of the Jewish leaders. At heart they were true to him though their conduct seemed to belie it. So Paul brings home to them for more than one reason the gross sin which was committed among them. Indeed, he might have made it an individual matter, and could have written to the offender personally. But he chose rather to involve the ecclesia that they might realize the true heart allegiance which they gave him, notwithstanding their schisms and divisions. Great calamities and persecutions of the saints have much the same effect still. Petty differences and party spirit disappear when some common danger recalls the saints to their allegiance to Christ.

13 Titus seems to have been much concerned about the Corinthians, lest they should prove refractory, and his visit to them lead to dissension and disobedience. Paul was the more concerned to know of his reception on this account, and because he had sought to soothe his fears and had boasted of the outcome of his endeavors. Titus must have been much pleased to find his fears unfounded, but not nearly so much as Paul, who would have been disgraced for boasting without cause, and for sending Titus to them in spite of his apprehensions.

Macedonia, and especially its chief cities, Philippi and Thessalonica, were models in many ways. The epistles addressed to them have much praise and hardly any censure. If Paul could boast to others about Corinth, he surely had a right to boast about Macedonia. They seem to have been very poor and in the midst of trying circumstances, so that Paul did not expect them to take any part in the collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem. But they beg to have a share in it, and give beyond their ability, first, indeed, giving themselves to the Lord.

you commend yourselves to be pure in this matter. Consequently, even if I write to you, it is not on account of one who injures, but neither on account of the one being injured, but on account of manifesting to you your diligence for our sake before God.

Therefore we have been consoled,

yet in our consolation we rather rejoiced more exceedingly in the joy of Titus, seeing that his spirit has been soothed by you all, seeing that, if I have boasted any to him over you, I was not disgraced, but as we speak all in truth to you, thus also our boast to 15 Titus came to be truth. And his compassions for you are superabounding the more, having a recollection of the obedience of you all, as, with fear and trembling, you 16 receive him. I am rejoicing that in everything I am encouraged in you. Now we are making known to you, brethren, the grace of God which has been bestowed in the ec-² clesias of Macedonia, seeing that, in an extreme test of affliction, the superabundance of their joy and the corresponding depth of their poverty superabounds to the riches of their generosity, seeing that, according to ability, I am witness, and beyond their ability, of their 4 own accord, with much entreaty beseeching of us the grace and fellowship in a service for the saints: and not according as we expect, but they first give themselves to the Lord, and to us through the

will of God. So that we entreat

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Is it not remarkable that Macedonia, poverty stricken, in the midst of extreme affliction, deterred from contributing by Paul, entreats for the privilege as a favor, while Corinth. undoubtedly far richer and more able to contribute, needs their example and all the urging and spurring which the apostle can bring to bear in order that they should not disgrace him by a meager contribution?

9 Paul begins his pleading by giving the true motive which should actuate us in our gifts to God's work and to His poor saints. Christ was rich once beyond all our conceptions of wealth. The whole universe was created for him (Col.116). He subsisted in the form of God (Phil.26). He had no peer on earth or in the heavens. All this He laid aside to enrich us. He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, coming to be in the likeness of humanity, and being found in fashion as a man. He humbled Himself, becoming obedient unto death. even the death of the cross (Phil.2 7-8). What poverty can equal this? The highest in heaven becomes the outcast of earth. Who was ever impoverished as He was? He gave up all He had and all He was to enrich us. Now we are rich. But few of God's saints are rich in this world's goods, yet all are blessed with untold spiritual wealth. Such is the example He has set before us. If such was His disposition, it should be ours as well.

10 It is noteworthy that the apostle never commands them to give. never forces them to be generous. is no injunction. He gives his opinion. The tithe, which was regularly taken in Israel for the support of the Levites, is never applied to the nations, for it is a part of the law, and its spirit is entirely foreign to the spontaneous, hearty response which alone gives value to all donations.

13 It is evident that the Corinthians were blessed with more than sufficient for their wants or they could not have given of their superabundance.

takes before, thus also should he be completing for you this grace as well. But even as you are superabounding in everything—in faith and word and knowledge and all diligence and your love to us-you may be superabounding in this grace also. I am not saying this as an injunction, but, through the diligence of others, testing also this genuine love of yours.

For you know of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, being rich, because of you He is poor, that you, by His poverty, should be rich. And in this I am giving an opinion, for this is expedient for you, who for a year past, undertake before, not only to do but to be 11 willing also. Yet now complete the doing also, so that even in accord with the eagerness to will, thus also may be the completion, out of what you have. For if eagerness lies before, it is acceptable according to what one may have, not according

to what he has not. For it is not that, to others ease, yet to you affliction, but by an equality, in the current period, your superabundance is for their want, that their superabundance also may be coming to be for your want, so that there may be coming to be an equality, according as it is written: "The one with much increases not, and the scant one

lessens not". Now thanks be to God, Who is imparting the same diligence for 17 you to the heart of Titus, seeing that he, indeed, receives the entreaty, yet belonging to the more diligent, of his own accord he came 18 out to you. Now we send together

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18 It is probable that Titus' companion later returned with Paul when he conveyed the contribution to Jerusalem, and was one of the company which went with him into Asia (Ac. 204). These were Sopater of Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus of Thessalonica, Gaius of Derbe, Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. Timothy would have been mentioned by name. Luke also was with them. Trophimus, we know, went as far as Jerusalem. It would be especially fitting that he should be among the bearers of this offering to the saints at Jerusalem and that they should thus requite him for his kindness, for Paul's long imprisonment began as a result of Trophimus' presence in Jerusalem. Jews thought that Paul had taken him into the sacred precincts of the temple.

20 It was necessary that one in whom they had implicit confidence should have a hand in the conveyance of the collection to Jerusalem, lest Paul should leave open any possibility for false suspicions.

22 This brother was probably another of those who accompanied Paul on his return to Asia, possibly Tychicus.

23 It is interesting to note the usage of the word apostles in this connection. The Authorized Version hides it by translating "messengers". The American Revision repeats this, but puts "apostles" at the foot of the page. Others render it "ambassadors". But this occurrence is by far the best example by which to define the true meaning of "apostle". Sopater, Aristarchus. Secundus. Gaius. Tychicus and Trophimus are not ordinarily rated as apostles. While they were not apostles of the Lord, they certainly were apostles of the ecclesias. They had been elected and commissioned by the ecclesias to represent them in this This shows that an apostle is an official representative, bearing a commission.

4 The Macedonians had hurried their collection. The Corinthians had been preparing for it long before them. How would it appear if they should not be ready?

in the evangel is through all the 19 ecclesias, yet not only so, but who was elected also by the ecclesias to be our fellow traveler with this grace, which is being dispensed by us to the glory of the Lord Him-20 self: our eagerness also putting it thus. No one should find flaws in us in this exuberance being dis-21 pensed by us, for we are provid-

ing the ideal, not only before the Lord, but before men also.

Now we send together with them our brother, whom we test in many things, often being diligent, yet now much more diligent. Now our ²³ confidence in you is much, whether for the sake of Titus, my mate and fellow worker for you, or our brethren, the apostles of the ecclesias, .24 the glory of Christ. Then the dis-

play of your love and our boast over you to them is being displayed in the face of the ecclesias.

For, indeed, concerning the dispensation for the saints, it is super-² fluous for me to write to you. For I am aware of your eagerness, of which I am boasting over you to the Macedonians, that "Achaia has been prepared a year past". And your zeal provokes the majority. 3 Yet I send the brethren, lest our boasting over you should be made void in this particular, that you may be prepared according as I said, lest somehow, if the Macedonians should be coming together with me and finding you unprepared, we may be disgraced (not that we should say you!) in this assumption of boasting.

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- 5 God has no need. Gifts acceptable to Him must spring from a pure motive. It is better not to give at all than to give with a heavy heart or from an unworthy motive. Extortion, whether by appeals to pride, competition, tithing, or anything except the voluntary, spontaneous response to His grace, is not in keeping with His attitude toward us now.
- While giving should never be mercenary, in hope of some return, it is doubtless most profitable in every way. It brings immediate happiness and satisfaction and it bears a harvest in the future. The farmer who stints his seed will reap a spare crop. Many of us, in that day, will wish that we had been more bountiful in our sowing for, no doubt, the harvest will be a hundred fold.
- 7 Hilarious is the English adaptation of the Greek word we have rendered "gleeful". One may give with cheerful resignation, but more than this is desired by the Lord. When we do it with irrepressible joy, then we come into closest communion with the God Who gave His Son and with Him gives us all.
- 12 Paul had promised James, Cephas and John, that, in carrying out his distinctive ministry, he would not fail to remember the poor saints among the Circumcision (Gal.210). They may have had no higher thought than to relieve their distressed brethren. Paul was impelled by a worthier motive. Jews of the Circumcision were continually harassing him and threatened to create a bitter antagonism between the Jews and the ecclesias he had founded. They were already at work in Corinth and Galatia. If he could carry to Jerusalem some signal proof of the good will of these foreign believers he might repair the widening breach, and bring glory to God through the mutual interest and the thankfulness it would create. But they responded by putting him in chains. When the apostle came to bring the alms to Jerusalem, instead of giving him an ovation and gladly sharing their spiritual wealth with the nations, the mere suggestion that Paul had brought one of the aliens into the temple precincts nearly cost him his life.

- I deem it necessary, then, to entreat the brethren that they may be coming before to you and should be adjusting beforehand your previously promised bounty, that this be ready thus, as a bounty and not as greed, yet as this: who is sowing sparingly shall be reaping sparingly also, and who is sowing bountifully shall be reaping bountifully also, each according as he has proposed in his heart, not sorrowfully, or of compulsion, for God
- is loving a gleeful giver. Now God is able to lavish all grace on you, that, having all contentment in everything always, you may be superabounding in every good work, according as it is written, "He scatters, He gives to the drudges, His righteousness remains for 10 the eon". Now may He Who is supplying seed to the sower. and bread for food, be furnishing and multiplying your seed and be causing the product of your 11 right eousness to grow, being enriched in everything, for all generosity, which is producing through 12 us thanksgiving to God, seeing that the dispensation of this ministry is not only replenishing the wants of the saints, but is superabounding also through much thanksgiv-13 ing. to God, through the testedness of this dispensation, glorifying God at the subjection of your avowal
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Paul now turns his attention to the minority in Corinth, who were still opposed to him. They may be that party which said, "I am of Christ" (1 Co.112) and seem to have been led by an emissary of the Judaisers. These men were proud and imperious, quite unlike the Christ in Whom they boasted, hence Paul appeals to the meekness and lenience of Christ. They walked according to the flesh and were continually opposing him on that ground. misinterpreted his gentleness. called it cowardice, they said he was brave enough at a distance, but afraid to put his threats into execution when present. Paul, in reply, hopes he may not be called upon to exercise the authority he possesses in a destructive way, but makes it plain that he has the spiritual power to wage a campaign if necessary. By a bold figure he likens his spiritual warfare to the pulling down of the forts of the enemy, and leading all opposition into captivity. The most powerful weapons are not material but spiritual. Neither are place and prestige as potent as Paul alone was more than a match for the judaizing legates sent out from Jerusalem. False brethren such as these were his most virulent enemies.

The unspiritual, fleshly minded man looks only on the surface. But nowhere are appearances so deceiving as in things spiritual. Our Lord Himself had none of the superficial marks of greatness. Paul seems to have been specially deficient in those qualities which were demanded from those who aspired to leadership in the world. His public speaking seems to have been the special point on which his enemies attacked him. Greek orators were probably the most accomplished the world has ever seen. By comparison Paul's presence was weak and his delivery contemptible. But what has become of all those masters of forensic art? They are dead and their efforts have died with them. The few that remain are models of beauty but are devoid of all spiritual power. Paul's words transformed his hearers, not by his mode of delivery, but by their truth and potency.

15 scendent grace of God on you. Now thanks be to God for His indescribable gratuity!

10 Now I, Paul, myself am entreating you through the meekness and lenience of Christ, who, as to personal appearance, indeed, am humble among you, yet, being absent, have courage toward you. Yet I am beseeching that I may not, being present, have courage with the confidence with which I am reckoning to dare some who reckon us as walking according to the flesh. For, walking in flesh we are not were

walking in flesh, we are not warring according to the flesh. For
the weapons of our warfare are
not fleshly, but powerful to God
toward the pulling down of bulwarks; pulling down reasonings and
every height elevating itself against
the knowledge of God, and leading into captivity every apprehen-

sion into the obedience of Christ, 6 and in readiness to avenge every disobedience, whenever your obedience may be completed.

Are you looking on the surface? If anyone is presuming to have confidence in himself to be Christ's, let him be reckoning this again with himself, that, according as he is Christ's, thus also are we. For if I, as well, should be boasting somewhat more excessively concerning our authority (which the Lord gives us for edification and not for pulling you down), I shall not be put to shame, lest I should seem as though terrifying you through epis
10 tles, seeing that he is averring, "His

strong, yet his bodily presence is weak and his expression contemp-11 tible". Let such a one be reckoning this, that such as we are in

epistles, indeed, are weighty and

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11 Even forbearance and gentleness have their limits. The apostle makes it clear that, when he came to them again he would act quite as severely as he wrote in dealing with those who still opposed him. He does not wish to be judged by their standard, for it is of no use at all to measure men by men. Anyone can be great in a community of dwarfs. If the standard is false, so is the greatness.

12 These opponents of his were overstretching themselves. They never came as far as Corinth in proclaiming the evangel, but after Paul had toiled, then they came along and boasted as if they, not he, had outstripped others in bringing it to them. Paul was planning to carry the evangel beyond them into regions where it had never been proclaimed. Were they intending to outstrip him in reaching out to virgin fields, that they might have a real cause for boasting? It is evident that it suited them better to boast in what was already accomplished by another, rather than endure the toil and privation of a missionary journey with all its difficulties and dangers.

Paul had a right to boast, if anyone had. He ought to have been so high in their esteem that no one could displace him in their regard, least of all those who had no real claim on them and who chose to defame the one who had toiled and suffered for them in their very midst.

Paul did not wish the Corinthians to divide their allegiance among a number of men, nor indeed, to yield it to anyone but Christ. When a virgin is engaged, she is no longer free to follow other men, but should keep herself for her affianced. So with us. Let us not follow men, but be single toward Christ. The point in this figure is confined to the singleness and purity of the espoused virgin. It must not be overstretched into an allusion to the marriage state. The faithful in Israel are the bride of the Lambkin.

Israel was Jehovah's wife, but was divorced for her unfaithfulness. John the Baptist introduced the bride to the Bridegroom. His disciples left him for his Lord. The new Jerusalem will be on earth, the home of the twelve tribes of Israel. Ours is a heavenly allotment.

word, through epistles, being absent, such also are we in act, being present. For we do not dare to judge ourselves by, or compare ourselves with, some who are commending themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves and comparing themselves with themselves, do not understand.

Now we shall not be boasting immeasurably, but according to the measure of the rule which God parts to us—a measure to reach

as far as you also (for it is not as though, not reaching to you, we are overstretching ourselves, for we outstrip [others] even as far as you in the evangel of Christ),

not boasting immeasurably in others' toil, yet having the expectation, your faith being grown, to be magnified among you superabun-

16 dantly, according to our rule, so as to preach the evangel beyond you, not to boast in another's rule for

that which is ready. Now he who is boasting, let him be boasting in
 the Lord. For not he that com-

mends himself is qualified, but whom the Lord is commending.

11 You ought to have borne with

me in any little imprudence. Nay,

and be bearing with me, for I am
jealous over you with a jealousy of
God. For I betroth you to one
Man, to present a pure virgin to

³ Christ. Now I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deludes Eve by its craftiness, it should be corrupting your minds from the singleness and

the purity which is in Christ. For if, indeed, he who is coming is proclaiming another Jesus whom we do not proclaim, or you are obtaining a different spirit, which

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18-PROCLAIMING

The newcomers in Corinth did not have anything to proclaim more than Paul had already made known to them. Paul's speech may have been plain, but his knowledge was not deficient by any means. In this, more than in anything else, he was far beyond any other apostle. He knew all that the Circumcision had to proclaim. They could tell him nothing that he did not fully apprehend already. They, on the other hand, had to learn of his commission and the truth he taught, from him. Peter, the greatest of them, found some things in his epistles hard to understand (2 Pet.316). We may well go further than his own words, and acknowledge that he towers far above all the rest, especially in those later revelations which, at the time this epistle was penned, had not yet been made known.

7 The only charge they could sustain against him was that he had proclaimed the evangel to them without receiving anything from them, not even enough to pay for his scanty wants. Poor Macedonia helped to supply his necessities in rich Corinth. Here is an excellent example for our modern evangelism. Where are the evangelists today who can say, I have preached the evangel gratuitously? Did these opponents of Paul in Corinth follow in his footsteps in this regard? Their mercenary motives would doubtless lead them in quite an opposite extreme.

13 Satan changes his tactics to conform to God's administrations. times he deceives, and again he destroys. Peter speaks of him as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet.58). Such will be his course in the judgment era following the present administration of grace. when the epistles of Peter will have their application. Now Satan is transfigured into an angel of light. He is not hideous, but beautiful. vants stand for righteousness and pose as apostles of Christ. His work is not found in the sinks of iniquity. but in the efforts to educate and reform mankind apart from the blood of Christ. He deceives by assuming the very role which he is popularly supposed to oppose.

you did not obtain, or a different evangel, which you do not receive, you are bearing with him ideally.

For I am reckoning to be deficient in nothing pertaining to the para-6 mount apostles. Now even if I am

plain in expression, nevertheless not in knowledge, but in everything being made manifest in all for you.

Or do I sin in humbling myself that you may be exalted, seeing that I preach God's evangel to you gratuitously? I despoil other ecclesias, getting rations for dispensing to you. And when I was present with you and in want, I am an encumbrance to no one (for the brethren coming from Macedonia replenish my wants), and in everything I keep and shall be keeping myself from being burdensome to you.

The truth of Christ is in me, seeing that I will not be barred from this boasting of mine in the regions 11 of Achaia. Wherefore? Seeing

that I am not loving you? God 12 is aware! Now what I am doing and will be doing is that I may strike off the incentive from those wanting an incentive, that wherein they are boasting they may be

13 found according as we also. For such are false apostles, fraudulent workers, being transfigured into the

¹⁴ apostles of Christ. And no marvel, for Satan himself is being transfigured into a messenger of light.

15 It is no great thing, then, if his servants also are being transfigured as dispensers of righteousness whose consummation will be according to their acts.

Again I am saying, no one should presume me to be imprudent. Yet if otherwise, receive me as imprudent, that I also should

17001	PAUL TO	THE C	ORINTHIANS	(II.)	CHAPTER 11
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ANY SHOULD-BE-BOASTING

20 Paul's patient and forbearing behavior among them was in striking contrast to the course of his detractors. They treated the Corinthians like slaves, while Paul served them like a slave. They devoured their substance. Paul provided for himself by his own labor or the gifts of other ecclesias. They took what they could obtain. Paul refused to take anything from them. They set themselves high above the Corinthians. Paul humbled himself among them. They even treated them to personal indignities. confesses ironically that he was too weak to intimidate them in this fash-And yet they not only tolerated but actually relished such treatment!

²² "Hebrews" denotes not merely Israelites, but that party in the nation which was zealous for the law and the traditions, in contrast to the Hellenists, who were tainted with Greek culture. (See Ac.61).

22 Paul now, in his assumed imprudence, compares himself with them. As to physical descent he can match them on every point. But when it comes to his service, he stands unparalleled and unapproachable. Here was a man by no means strong, often suffering from some form of physical infirmity, leading a life of incessant peril, enduring and daring all for the sake of the evangel. The record in Acts seems full of his sufferings, but it is evident that the account in Acts is by no means complete. There is no record of the five Jewish scourgings. Only one of the Roman beatings. the one at Philippi, is elsewhere mentioned. The stoning was at Lystra (Ac.1419). Not one of the shipwrecks is found in the account in Acts. for the one there recorded was long after this.

26 Travel was attended with much hazard in Paul's time, especially as he probably went unattended and unarmed. But more dangerous than the robbers who infested the highways was the constant plotting of the Jews to kill him, and the opposition on all sides to his evangel, which often clashed with the prejudice and material interests of the nations.

¹⁷ be boasting a little! What I am talking, I am not talking in accord with the Lord, but as in imprudence.

in this assumption of boasting. Since many are boasting according to the

¹⁹ flesh, I also shall be boasting. For with relish are you tolerating the ²⁰ imprudent, being prudent. For you are bearing with it if anyone is enslaving you, if anyone is devouring, if anyone is obtaining, if anyone is elevating himself, if any-

²¹ one is lashing you in the face. I am saying this by way of dishonor, as

that we are weak.

Now in whatever anyone is daring (I am saying it in imprudence), ²² I also am daring. Are they Hebrews? I also. Are thev Israelites? I also. Are they the ²³ seed of Abraham? I also. they servants of Christ? Being insane, I am talking for the sake of "I". In weariness more exceedingly, in jails more exceedingly, in blows inordinately, in deaths often. By Jews five times ²⁵ I got forty save one. Thrice am I flogged with rods, once am I stoned, thrice in a shipwreck, a night and a day have I spent in a marsh, in journeys often, in dangers of rivers, in dangers of robbers, in dangers of my race, in dangers of the nations, in dangers in the city, in dangers in the wilderness, in dangers in the sea, in dangers among false brethren; in weariness and labor, in vigils often, in famine and thirst, in fasts often. ²⁸ in cold and nakedness, apart from what is outside, that which is coming upon me daily, solicitude for all the ecclesias.

²⁹ Is anyone weak and I am not weak? Who is snared and I am ³⁰ not on fire? If I must boast, I will boast in that which is of my

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82 When Paul returned from Arabia to Damascus and preached boldly in the name of Jesus, he confounded the Jews who lived at Damascus, proving that he was proclaiming the Mes-Here was something for him to boast about! But no. He boasts only in his weakness. He had no strength to withstand the Jews who sought to kill him. They had the whole garrison of the city on the alert to arrest him. So he boasts in his humiliating escape, being lowered through the wall, probably at some overhanging window, in a wicker bas-

1 Now, however, Paul comes to that which is, doubtless, his greatest ground for glorying. Fourteen years before finds him on his first missionary journey after his severance at Antioch. At Lystra he is stoned and left for dead (Ac.1426). It is more than likely that this, the time when his battered body was supposed to be finished with this life, is when he is transported in spirit to the third heaven. There are three heavens in Scripture. The first was of old (2Pet.35) and perished, but was followed by "the heavens which are now" (2 Pet.37). But these, too, are transient. The third heaven is viewed by the apostle John in the Unveiling (Un.211). John, however, does not enter the new heaven, but confines himself to a description of the new earth. Paul entered the third heaven and there saw (what he afterward revealed in his Perfection Epistles) the universal supremacy of Christ and the supernal dignity and bliss conferred on the ecclesia which is Christ's body. He also enters the new earth and its park, which John describes (Un.222). All of this he had seen, but he was not allowed to disclose it until the time was ripe. This came when Israel's apostasy was full blown, as recorded at the close of the Till then he does not book of Acts. even claim to be the man who had seen and heard such transcendent revelations.

7 Who would not be elated beyond

31 weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, Who is blessed for the eons, is aware that I am not ly-

ing. In Damascus the ethnarch of Aretus, the king, garrisoned the city of the Damascenes, wanting to
 arrest me, and I am lowered in a wicker basket through a window

through the wall, and I escaped his

hands.

12 If I must boast, it is not expedient, indeed, yet I shall also be coming to apparitions and revela-² tions of the Lord. I am acquainted with a man in Christ, such a one, fourteen years ago (whether in a body I am not aware, or outside of the body, I am not aware—God is aware) was snatched away to the third heaven. And I am acquainted with such a man (whether in a body or outside of the body I am not aware—God is aware) that he was snatched away into paradise and hears ineffable declarations. which it is not allowed a man to speak. Over such a one I shall be boasting; yet I shall not be boasting for myself, except in my infirmities. For, should I be wanting to boast, I shall not be imprudent, for I shall be declaring the truth. Now I am reticent, that no one should be reckoning me to be above anything that he is observing or hearing of

Wherefore also, lest I should be lifted up by the transcendence of the revelations, there was given me a splinter in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, that he may be buffeting me, lest I should be lifted up. For this I entreat the Lord thrice, that it should withdraw from me. And He has protested to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in infirmity". With the greatest relish, then, will I

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measure at such revelations as had been confided to him? But Paul had good reason to refrain from boasting. A painful physical infirmity was given him to keep him humble. A thorn in the flesh is hardly adequate, a splinter is nearer, but still too weak an expression, for Paul would not entreat thrice for the removal of some minor distress. But it was not removed. Instead, he received grace and the assurance that God's power finds infirmity its fittest tool. He needs none of man's strength. It hinders the manifestation of His power. O, that we could learn this lesson! We repine and are dejected when infirmity and persecution and necessity press upon us, when we should rejoice. Paul delighted in them, not for their own sake, but that the power of Christ may be manifested through them. May His grace be our sole sufficiency!

14 What a fund of fatherly affection is revealed in his protest, "I am not seeking yours but you!" And it must have humbled them to think of their own lack of care and consideration. They deserved nothing further at his hands. But instead of rebuking them and asserting his rights as an apostle. he proposes to lavish still more affection on them. And he will do this even if it should still further dampen their affection for him. Is not this a reflection of God's dealings with us in grace? We accept His bounty with all too feeble a response, yet He is not offended, but pours it out in more lavish style.

16 Paul anticipates a subtle insinuation which his enemies might suggest, even if he had cleared himself of their charges. He had sent Titus and others to them. Perhaps he had used them as tools to overreach them, so as to shield himself from blame. But it seems that Titus and those whom he had dispatched to them all were worthy delegates of the apostle, for they followed the same course he had done.

19 Thus he closes his appeal. His own defense was necessary for their edification.

rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ should be tab-10 ernacling over me. Wherefore I delight in infirmities, in outrages, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake, for whenever I may be weak, then I am powerful.

I have become imprudent: you compel me. For I ought to be commended by you, for I am not deficient in anything pertaining to the paramount apostles, even if I am nothing. Indeed, the signs of an apostle are produced among you in all endurance, in signs as well as miracles and powers. For is there anything in which you were discomfited over the rest of the ecclesias, except that I myself am no encumbrance to you? Deal graciously with me for this injustice!

Lo! this third time I am in readiness to come to you, and I shall not be an encumbrance, for I am not seeking yours but you. For the children ought not to be treasuring up for the parents, but the parents for the children. Yet with the greatest relish shall I spend and be bankrupted for the sake of your souls, even if loving you more exceedingly diminishes your love for

Now, let be, I do not overburden you, but belonging to the crafty, I ¹⁷ got you by guile! Did not any of those whom I dispatched to you?
Through him I overreach you! I entreat Titus, and dispatch together with him a brother. Does Titus not overreach you in something? Walk we not in the same spirit? Not in the same foot-prints?

Again, you are presuming that we are defending ourselves to you. In God's sight, in Christ, are we speaking, yet all, beloved, for the

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21 It was probably some months before Paul fulfilled his intention of visiting them again in person. During the interval he went over Macedonia, and possibly as far as Illyricum, giving them much exhortation. all this time his heart was in Corinth. He had written to them. He had sent messengers to them. They had given him much sorrow not unmixed with joy. He had exhorted and he had He had made it plain that he would not spare when he came again in person. Can we imagine his feelings as he approached the city? How he shrank from being severe! Yet he must be severe, should it be necessary. Doubtless the majority would receive him with hearts full of joy and affection. But what of the rebellious minority? It was with such powerful emotions that he followed this epistle some months later.

It would seem from the uncanonical epistle of Clement, that his efforts for the Corinthian ecclesia were not in vain, but bore precious fruit. According to Acts (Ac.202), he stayed in Greece three months, and, as usual, had to leave because the Jews lay

in wait for him.

- 4 The power of Christ had been manifested amongst the Corinthians, yet Paul reminds them that even He was once crucified in utter weakness. Pilate and Herod and the chief priests all seemed stronger than He. But out of that very weakness came the power that saved them and that triumphed over His adversaries and that raised Him to the highest place in all the universe. So, says Paul, will it be with my weakness. The same power that raised Christ from the dead will impart strength to my weakness, and triumph over my adversaries.
- 7 Paul had no desire, however, to exercise the power he possessed. This might serve to prove his qualification for the office of an apostle, but it would be ill for them. Rather would he appear as disqualified and spare them such a proof as this. No matter what he did, however, it would be for the sake of the truth, for he had no power against the truth.

sake of your edification. For I am afraid, lest somehow, on coming, I may not be finding you such as I want, and I may be found by you such as you do not want; lest somehow there be strife, jealousy, fury, factions, vilifications, whisperings, puffing up, turbulences.

Not again at my coming will my God be humbling me toward you, and I shall be mourning for many who have sinned before and are not repentant of the uncleanness and prostitution and wanton-

ness which they commit.

Lo! This is the third time I am coming to you. By the mouth of two witnesses, and three, shall every declaration be made to stand. I have declared before, and am predicting as if being present the second time, and now, being absent, to those having sinned before and to all the rest, that if I should be coming again, I shall not spare. since you are seeking a test of Christ speaking in me, Who is not weak for you, but powerful among you. For even if He was crucified out of weakness, nevertheless He is living by the power of God. For we also are weak together, with Him, but we shall be living together with Him by the power of God for you.

Be trying yourselves, if you are in the faith; be testing yourselves. Or are you not recognizing yourselves that Christ Jesus is in you, except some are disqualified? Now I expect that you will know that we are not disqualified! Now we are wishing to God that you do no evil, not that we may appear qualified, but that you may be doing that which is ideal, yet we may be as disqualified. For we are not able for anything against the truth,

21***	PAUL TO THE C	ORINTHIANS (II.)	CHAPTERS 12-15
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10 Edification should ever be the aim of God's servant in dealing with His erring saints. All other means should be exhausted before sharpness and severity should be used. They are a last resort, and seldom need be called into play if the example of Paul were followed, as it is given us in this epistle.

11 The epistle closes with characteristic tokens of affection. Throughout the appeal is to the feelings. This is especially true of the evangel and its proclamation. God on His part beseches the sinner to be conciliated. The saint is reconciled. He is not merely righteous, but at perfect peace with God. This is the fruit of the evangel which is so delicious to God's heart and to ours. Let us not fail to appreciate the marvelous affection of His message!

but for the sake of the truth. For we are rejoicing whenever we may be weak, yet you may be powerful. Now this are we wishing also:

your readjustment. Therefore I am writing this being absent that, being present, I should not be using severity, according to the authority which the Lord gives me for edification and not for pulling down.

Furthermore, brethren, be rejoicing, be readjusted, be entreated, be mutually disposed, be at peace, and the God of love and of peace

will be with you. Greet one an other with a holy kiss. All the

saints are greeting you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the holy spirit be with you all! *Amen!*

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GALATIANS

PAUL'S Galatian epistle is the divine commentary on the doctrine of justification as set forth in the first four chapters of his epistle to the Romans.

Some time after Paul had been severed (Ac.132) and had gone among the nations preaching justification by faith (Ac.1329) and had returned to Antioch, Judaising teachers came down from Jerusalem teaching that "If you should not be circumcised after the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." (Ac.151). The matter was taken up in the council of the apostles at Jerusalem, and Paul and Barnabas were sent with the decrees which made it manifest that circumcision was not necessary for the nations who believed.

After they had delivered these decrees Paul passed through the Galatian province (Ac.166) and founded the ecclesias to which this epistle is addressed. Some years later he visited the Galatian province again, establishing the disciples (Ac.1823).

We never hear again that the Judaisers taught that circumcision was essential to salvation. The decrees of the twelve effectually forbade this. Now, however, they try to graft the law on to the evangel and make circumcision and the keeping of the law a further privilege and a means of perfection for the believers among the nations. It is against this subtler form of error that this epistle is di-Paul shows that spirit and rected. flesh, grace and works, faith and law. cannot be reconciled.

Paul is called upon to present a defense of his evangel. This is divided into two distinct lines of thought. First he discusses its origin and then its essence. He proves that its origin was quite independent of Peter and the twelve. He demonstrates that its essence is incompatible with the keeping of the law. Then he further shows that its fruits cannot be produced in legal bonds.

The origin of the evangel involves Paul's personal history after his call, and his points of contact with the twelve, especially Peter. He carefully

THE LITERARY FRAMEWORK OF GALATIANS

GREETINGS, extended 11-5

EPISTOLARY: The Rival Gospels 16-9
Their contrary character

PERSONAL DEFENSE:

Origin of Paul's Gospel 110-221 Paul versus Peter

DOCTRINAL DEFENSE:

Essence of Paul's Gospel 31-512 Promise versus Law

ETHICAL APPLICATION:

Fruit of Paul's Gospel 513-610 Spirit versus Flesh

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rehearses the details of his three meetings with Peter, showing that he had no opportunity to receive his evangel from him, but that, in each case, he communicated his evangel to Peter and the others.

The doctrinal defense discusses the difference between the Abrahamic and Sinaitic covenants, showing the priority of the Abrahamic promise and the subordinate and temporary function of the law. It acted as an escort, during the minority of the chosen nation, to lead them to Christ. It was a guardian, suitable only for those under age. It must not continue. If faith came four hundred years before its advent, it is in no need of law. When law utterly fails then faith remains. Hence the utter folly of the Galatian ecclesias, to whom the law was never given by God, in voluntarily subjecting themselves to its demands when they already had far more than it could ever give them. Before law came, and after it fails, the just lived by faith. It never could give either righteousness or life. The Galatians had both, by faith in Christ.

In practise the law is powerless through the flesh. But grace, working through faith, can overfill the law's demands by ignoring its commands

and curses.

From Cornell, worker 57 or Special 57. Act-20:2-3 1:1-13 PAUL TO THE GALATIANS

¹ Paul loses no time in coming directly to the heart of the trouble at Galatia. If he received his commission from the twelve apostles at Jerusalem or through Peter, he could have no distinct evangel for the nations. But he insists that he, as well as they, received his evangel directly from the risen Lord. He was given it without the intervention of Peter, he proclaimed it on a par with Peter, he maintained it in spite of the opposition of Peter.

Unlike Paul's other epistles, there is no note of thanksgiving or blessing in this opening strain. Corinth, with all its moral and doctrinal evil, did not fail to call this forth. But here, the defection is too serious. Instead, he marvels at the Galatians and hurls his anathema at those who are disturbing them.

The two evangels were different in kind and could not be classed together. They had been called in the grace of Christ. They were being transferred to the bondage of law.

- The intense zeal of the apostle for the evangel he had proclaimed comes out in the fact that he calls down this anathema on himself, in case he should be guilty of distorting the message he is proclaiming. It is worthy of note that he is not objecting to the apostles of the Circumcision preaching a distinct evangel to them. That was what they had been commissioned for. But they had agreed that they would not go to the nations. he repeats the words to you thrice. 9 The apostle now includes the Judaising teachers in the second ana-
- 11 Those who were disturbing the Galatians had no message except what they had received from the twelve apostles. But Paul is unwearied in his insistence that he received nothing from them. His evangel was a fresh revelation made known to him by the Lord Himself. If Paul merely proclaimed what the twelve taught, why did he not receive it through them? What need for the Lord to descend and call him on the Damascus road? Why should he be severed from the rest at Antioch? Why did the believing Jews in Jerusalem oppose his

ministry among the nations?

thema.

Paul, an apostle (not from men, neither through a man, but through Jesus Christ and God, the Father, Who rouses Him from among the dead), and all the brethren with me, to the ecclesias of Galatia:

Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus
 Christ, the One giving Himself for our sins, so that He might extricate us out of the present wicked eon, according to the will
 of our God and Father, to Whom be glory for the eons of the eons.

be glory for the eons of the eons.

Amen!

I AM MARVELING that you are

transferred thus swiftly, from Him Who calls you in the grace of Christ, to a different evangel,

which is not another, unless some who are disturbing you want also to distort the evangel of Christ.

8 But if we also, or a messenger out of heaven, should be preaching an evangel to you beside that which we preach to you, let him be ana-

thema! As we have declared before and at present I am saying again, if anyone is preaching to you an evangel beside that which you accepted, let him be anathema!

For, at present, am I persuading men or God? Or am I seeking to please men? If I still pleased men, I should not be a slave of Christ. For I am making known to you, brethren, the evangel which is being preached by me, that it is not in accord with

man. For neither did I accept it from man, nor was I taught it, but through a revelation of Jesus

13 Christ. For you hear of my behavior once, in Judaism, that I inordinately persecuted the eccle-

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14 While his opposers know nothing of the grace of Paul's evangel, he was better acquainted with Judaism than they were. And not only so, but he had exceeded them in the energy and zeal with which he had defended it.

16 The first revelation which came to Saul of Tarsus prepared the way for those which were to follow. He was called outside the land. Hence he found his sphere of service among the nations. He was not seeking God, but was His most implacable human en-He is saved by a display of emy. grace which had hitherto been unknown. Hence his evangel is the exponent of the unadulterated grace of God. His first meeting with Christ was after His ascension and glorification. Hence he is concerned, not with His earthly life, but with His heavenly position. He recognizes Him as the Son of God, and, as such, he immediately proclaims Him (Ac.91-20).

17 The natural course for one in Saul's case would be to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and submit to them what he had received from the Lord and seek their patronage and fellowship in its proclamation, or, indeed, ask their opinion and permission to promulgate it. But what did he do? He went into the desert where no human influence was at work. He waited three years before telling Peter about it, and then he does not even form the acquaintance of the twelve or of the ecclesia. They actually did not know him personally, though they were glorifying God for the great change in him. All of this shows conclusively that Paul did not, at that time, derive his doctrine from Peter or the twelve.

Paul's next visit to Jerusalem was pursuant to a revelation. The time had come to obtain official recognition of his apostleship and evangel. occasion was furnished by those of the Circumcision themselves. They insisted that it was needful to circumcise those among the nations who had believed, and to teach them to observe the law of Moses. Paul and Barnabas were sent to Jerusalem to put this question before the apostles and obtained from them the assurance that circumcision and law keeping were not necessary for salvation.

¹⁴ sia of God and ravaged it. And I progressed in Judaism beyond many contemporaries in my race, possessing more exceedingly a zeal for the traditions of my fathers.

Now when it delights God, Who severs me from my mother's womb and calls me through His grace, to unveil His Son in me that I may be evangelizing Him among the nations, I did not immediately sub
17 mit it to flesh and blood, neither came I up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I came away into Arabia, and I return again to Damascus.

Thereupon, after three years, I came up to Jerusalem to relate my story to Cephas, and I stay with him fifteen days. Yet I became acquainted with none of the different apostles, except James, the brother of the Lord. Now what I am writing to you, lo! before God,

into the regions of Syria and ²² Cilicia. Yet I was unknown by face to the ecclesias of Judea who ²³ are in Christ. Only they were hearing that "He who was persecuting us once, now evangelizes the faith which once he ravaged".

²¹ I am not lying. Thereupon I came

24 And they glorified God in me.

2 Thereupon, after the lapse of fourteen years, I again went up to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus also along with us. Now I went up in accord with a revelation, and submitted to them the evangel which I am proclaiming among the nations, yet privately to those of repute, lest somehow I should be racing or ran for naught.

PAUL TO TH	E GALATIANS CHAPTERS 1-2
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TEPTOANOYCCYNHAIKIOT 80 VER MANY TOGETHER-PRIMEIS	ETPA DYMINIA OYENOTIO 80 YET I-AM-WRITING to-YOUP BE-PERCEIVING IN-VIEW
ACENTUTENÉ MOYNEPICC 100 IN THE breed OF-MB more-exceedingly	NTOYBEOYOTIOYYEYAOMA600 of-the God that NOT I-AM-FALSifyING
OTEPOCZHAOTHCYTAPXON 20 BOILER belonging	IETEITAHAONEICTAKAI 20 21 ON-THEREAFTER I-CAME INTO THE regions
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IACMHTPOCMOYKAIKAAGC ²⁰⁰ of-mother of-me and calling	AHCIAICTHCIOYAAIACTA700 CALLEDS OF-THE JUDEA THE
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ATOKA AYYAITONYION AYT 40 16 TO-FROM-COVER THE SON OF-Him	YONTECHCANOTIO A I WKWN 40 THEY-WERE that THE One-CHASING
OYENGMOINAGYAFFEAIZ 60 IN ME THAT I-MAY-BE-WELL-MESSAGIZ-	HMACHOTENYNEYAFTEAIZ 60 P-when NOW IS-WELL-MESSAGIZING
QMA I AYTONENTO I CEONEC 80 ING Him IN THE NATIONS	ETAITHNIICTINHNIOTEE 80 THE BELIEF WHICH ?- when he-
INEYOE COY TPOCANEOGM 300 immediately NOT I-TOWARD-UP-PLACED	TOPOEIKAIGAOZAZONENE ⁸⁰⁰ 24 ravaged and they-esteemized in me
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ANHAGONGICIEPOCOAYMA 40 1-UP-CAME INTO JERUSALEM	EKATECCAPONETONIIA AIN 40 FOUR YEARS AGAIN
TPOCTOYCIPOEMOYATOCT60 TOWARD THE BEFORE ME commissioners	ANGBHNGICIGPOCOAYMAM® I-UP-STEPPED INTO JERUSALEM WITH
OAOYCAAAATHAOONEICA 80 but 1-FROM-CAME INTO A-	GTABAPNABACYNПАРА AAB 80 Barnabas TOGETHER-BESIDE-GETTING
PABIANKAINAAINYNECTP400 RABIA AND AGAIN I-I-ETURN	QNKAITITON ANEBHNAGKA ⁹⁰⁰ 2 AND TITUS I-UF-STEFFED YET accord- A Al for ©
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Paul's method in Jerusalem seems to have taken into account the low spiritual state and prejudices of the Jewish believers. It would have been practically impossible to impress the whole company with the character and divinity of his commission to the nations, so he singles out the leading brethren and seeks to show them how God has committed a distinct work to him. Peter and James seem to have grasped the essential points which he wished to impress upon them. Peter had had some preparation for this change, through the vision given him in connection with the proselyte Cornelius (Ac.157-11).

3 Titus was taken along as a test case. If circumcision was essential, then he must submit to it. If it was not essential, then he was to be a living proof that it was not necessary.

At the private meeting with those of repute Paul obtained the fullest recognition of his apostleship. Cephas and John, who were recognized as the chiefs, acknowledge his commission. This puts Paul on a par with Peter, the chief of the Circumcision apostles. There was a mutual understanding arrived at among them that they would confine themselves to the Circumcision, while Paul and Barnabas went to the nations. This agreement should have kept the judaizing disturbers of the Galatian believers from interfering with them. Paul kept his part of the compact, especially that which concerned the collection for the poor saints in Judea. He brought gifts from the nations. In return they harassed those to whom he had been sent and would have killed him.

11 Paul's third meeting with Peter is most conclusive. At his first meeting he tells Peter of his commission. At his second he gets Peter's recognition. At his third he towers far above him and withstands him to the face. Peter had been taught not to call anyone common or unclean who had the witness of the holy spirit, so that, when he first came to Antioch, he ate with the uncircumcised. But he was afraid of the Circumcisionists, and changed his attitude when they came down from Jerusalem. What prestige these men had, who could intimidate the very chief of the apostles!

But not even Titus, who is with me, being a Greek, is compelled to be circumcised. Yet, because of the false brethren who were smuggled in, who erept in to spy out our freedom which we have in Christ Jesus, that they shall be enslaving us—to whom, not even for an hour do we simulate by subjection, that the truth of the evangel should be

continuing with you.

Now from those reputed to be somewhat-what kind they once were is of no consequence at all to me (God is not taken up with the human aspect)—for those of repute submitted nothing to me. But, on the contrary, perceiving that I have been entrusted with the evangel of the Uncircumcision, according as Peter of the Circumcision (for He Who operates in Peter for the apostleship of the Circumcision operates in me also for the nations), and knowing the grace which is being given to me, James and Cephas and John, who are supposed to be pillars give to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we, indeed, are to be for the nations, yet they for the Circumcision-10 only that we should be remembering the poor, which very thing I

Now when Cephas came to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, seeing that he was self-censured.

endeavor also to do.

12 For before some came from James he ate with those of the nations. Yet when they came, he shrank back, and severed himself, fearing those

¹³ of the Circumcision. And the rest of the Jews play the hypocrite with him, so that Barnabas also was led

¹⁴ away with their hypocrisy. But when I perceived that they are not

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14 Peter's double dealing did not deceive Paul, though he seems to have dragged all the rest of the Jews in Antioch with him, not even excepting Barnabas. Paul is left alone as the champion of the truth. He has far more cause to fear Peter than Peter has to fear his misguided subordinates, but he does not flinch. He exposes Peter's inconsistent conduct.

Paul's logic is unanswerable. Peter had been living as the nations. If he was right then the nations were right in living as they did, and the Judaisers were wrong in trying to make Jews out of them. He could not withdraw with-

out incriminating himself.

15 Paul then takes up the case from the standpoint of the Jews who were with him. He and they were justified by the faith of Christ, apart from the law. Should they now voluntarily resume their former relations to the law they would become sinners, and Christ a dispenser of sin, for the law is not laid down for the just but for sinners. In fact, to go back under law would prove either that they had been wrong in leaving it or were wrong in returning to its bondage.

19 Death is the ultimate effect of the law, yet it is also deliverance from law.
20 We have endeavored to transcribe this marvelous compendium of the faith as nearly as possible as it is in the original, for even the order of the words is exquisite. The sentence opens and closes with *Christ*, and a negative *I* occupies its center. It may be shown graphically thus:

with Christ
have I been crucified,
yet I am living—
no longer I,
but living in me is
Christ.

²¹ What a contrast between the slavery of the law and the exultant life by faith of the Son of God and the gift of His love!

DOCTRINAL DEFENSE

Paul has now finished his personal defense, thereby establishing his own apostleship and the unique character of his evangel, which, far from being derived from Peter, he upholds in spite of Peter.

correct in their attitude toward the truth of the evangel, I said to Cephas in front of all, "If you, belonging to the Jews, are living as the nations, and not as the Jews. how are you compelling the nations 15 to be judaizing? We, who are Jews by nature, and not sinners 16 of the nations, having perceived that a man is not justified by works of law, except it be through the faith of Christ Jesus, we also believe into Christ Jesus that we may be justified by the faith of Christ and not by works of law, seeing that by works of law shall no flesh be ¹⁷ justified. Now if, while seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves also were found sinners, is Christ, consequently, a dispenser of sin? 18 May it not come to that! For if I am building again what I demolish, I am commending myself as a ¹⁹ transgressor. For I, through law, died to law, that I should live to ²⁰ God. With Christ have I been crucified, yet I am living-no longer I, but living in me is Christ. Now that which I am now living in flesh, I am living in faith of the Son of God, Who loves me, and is giving 21 Himself up for me. I am not repudiating the grace of God, for if righteousness is through law, consequently Christ died gratu-

sequently Christ died gratuitously".

3 O foolish Galatians! What bewitches you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ has been graphically

² crucified? This only I want to learn from you: Did you obtain the spirit by works of law or by the

3 hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Undertaking in spirit, are you now being completed in flesh?

4 Was so much suffering of yours a

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³ Paul now appeals to the experience of the Galatians themselves. Before the Judaisers came they received the spirit of God, and suffered for the evangel, and did mighty works quite apart from the law.

6 Three great names are associated, in Scripture, with three distinct lines of truth. David is the one with whom the kingdom covenant was made, and his name is foremost in the proclamation of the evangel of the kingdom. When justification is in view we are taken back to Abraham and his faith in God. God's covenant with him was unconditional and included all nations in its scope. The conciliation engages us with Adam, and embraces all mankind in its gracious provisions.

All injustice finds its earliest source in the unbelief of Eve, and all righteousness acceptable to God is based on a reversal of the lack of confidence her act revealed. Nothing can be more just

than to take God at His word.

many as are of faith are blessed. Accursed is everyone who does not remain in all which has been written in the scroll of the law to do it. Who would be so perverse as to choose law? Yet the heresy of Galatianism is far more prevalent today than ever. Life under law can only come to one who keeps every precept perfectly at all times, yet is forfeited at the slightest infringement. Life through faith does not depend on conduct but on the One in Whom the faith is placed.

13 The sacrifice of Christ made provision for all classes and all contingencies. For those under law He bore its curse, so that they may receive the blessing of Abraham. And He bore the sins of those not under law that they, too, may obtain the righteousness of Abraham. So both, through faith, receive the spirit, by which they may exceed the righteous demands of the law.

15 A contract, or agreement, or covenant, once ratified, cannot be set aside, neither can any of its provisions be altered. The Abrahamic covenant contained no conditions to invalidate it. It did not depend on obedience to confirm it. It depended solely on God, who swore by Himself that He would carry it out (Gen.22¹⁵⁻¹⁸).

sham? If, to be sure, it was even a sham!

He, then, who is supplying you with the spirit, and operating works of power among you—did you get the spirit by works of law or by the hearing of faith accord-

or by the hearing of faith, according as Abraham believes God, and it is reckoned to him for righteous-

7 ness? Know, consequently, that those of faith, these are sons of

8 Abraham. Now the scripture, perceiving before that God is justifying the nations by faith, preaches before an evangel to Abraham, that "In you shall all the nations be

9 blessed". So that those of faith are being blessed together with be-

lieving Abraham.

For as many as are of works of law are under a curse, for it is written that "Accursed is everyone who is not remaining in all things which have been written in the scroll of the law to do them".

Now that no one is being justified in law with God is evident, seeing that "The just by faith shall be living". Now the law is not of

faith, but "Who does them shall be living in them". Christ reclaims us out of the curse of the law, becoming a curse for our sakes, seeing that it is written, "Accursed is everyone being hanged on a

14 tree," that the blessing of Abraham may be coming into the nations in Jesus Christ, that we may be obtaining the promise of the spirit through faith.

Brethren (I am saying this as a man), a human covenant likewise having been ratified, no one is re-

¹⁶ pudiating or modifying it. Now to Abraham the promises were declared, and to his Seed. He is not saying "And to seeds," as of

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NAAAAOCEGENOCKAITOCII5000 but as on one and to-the seed 17 The priority of the promise is most important. Nearly half a millennium elapsed before the law was given. The promise is in no way dependent on the law for its fulfillment.

19 Law changes sin from a mere mistake into the over-stepping of a divine command. It enhances the sinfulness of sin. Transgression is sin against a known law, entailing not only the usual penalties, but the added displeasure of God against one who defies His precepts. The law was not given to the people directly, but through Moses, who acted as the mediator. Neither was it given through Christ, the Seed of the promise.

21 Far from being against the promises, the law was intended to guard those to whom the promise was made and to lead them to Christ. It could not give life or justify in itself, but it could bring them to a realization of the sinfulness of sin and the need of a Saviour. These were its functions, and these it fulfilled. This was, however, only until the Seed should come.

²⁴ It was the custom in well-to-do Greek families, to have the children taken to and from school under the guardianship of an escort, usually a slave. These were inclined to be somewhat severe in their discipline. Such was the law.

25 Those who believe are not under law. The grown sons would scorn the escort of their boyhood days. His presence would be an insult to their manhood. So those who know their maturity in Christ refuse the bondage of law as both unnecessary and humiliating. We are not children but sons. Law leads minors. Faith controls sons.

27 Baptism, as practised in Paul's early ministry, was a symbol of unity with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. "As many as" shows that not all the Galatians had been baptized. Nevertheless the truth of unity with Christ held for all, for in Him all physical distinctions vanish. In service, or in the Lord, the slave was still a slave, the sexes were still recognized, but in Christ, by faith, all have the same high place of privilege. All are entitled to the promise and the righteousness which comes by faith in God.

many, but as of One, "And to your Seed", which is Christ. Now this am I saying, a covenant, having been ratified before by God, the law, having come four hundred and thirty years afterward, does not invalidate, so as to abrogate the 18 promise. For if the enjoyment of the allotment is of law, it is no longer of promise. Yet God has graciously given it to Abraham through the promise.

What, then, is the law? It was added on behalf of transgressions until the Seed should come to Whom He has promised, being prescribed through messengers in the hand of a mediator. Now there is no mediator of one. Yet God is

Is the law, then, against the promises of God? May it not come to that! For if a law were given, able to vivify, really, righteousness would be out of law. But the scripture locks up all together under sin, that the promise out of Jesus Christ's faith may be given to those who are believing.

Now before the coming of faith we were garrisoned under law, being locked up together for the faith about to be revealed. So that the law has become our escort to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith.

Now, on the coming of faith, we are no longer under an escort, ²⁶ for, through faith, you are all sons ²⁷ of God, in Christ Jesus. For as many as are baptized into Christ, ²⁸ put on Christ, in Whom there is no Jew nor yet Greek, no slave nor yet free, no male and female, for ²⁹ you all are one in Christ Jesus. Now if you are Christ's, consequently you are of Abraham's seed, enjoy-

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The place of an infant heir differs from that of a slave in right but not in fact. Though entitled to all, he is treated as though master of nothing. He is watched by guardians, and supervised by stewards. This was the position of Israel under the law. Theirs was the sonship and the glory and the covenants, but these are all reserved for future display. Dignities are suited to capacity; privileges to Infancy is debarred from their use, not merely by the formal legal prohibition, but by intrinsic disqualification. The responsibilities of property are beyond the strength and understanding of a child.

3 Israel, during the period of minority, was in bondage under the "elements" of the world. These "rudiments" or elementary religious observances, while "infirm and poor" (9) and put in contrast with Christ (Col.28), were necessary to their education and served an essential purpose in the progress of revelation. But no one who knows the liberty of sonship would tolerate their shackles for an instant.

4 In Israel the assumption of the responsibilities and dignities of manhood was a notable event in a man's life. In the life of the nation this was signalized by the advent of God's Son, Who reclaimed them from the bondage of the law.

The people in our Lord's day were bi-lingual. They used an Aramaic dialect in the familiar talk of the household, but all understood Greek, which was almost a universal language at that time, "Abba" is Aramaic, corresponding to our familiar "Papa".

It is most remarkable that the apostle puts the Mosaic ceremonial on a par with heathen rites. They were not turning back to their previous idolatry but to the observances under the law, which they had not practised before. But he insists it is all the same in God's sight as if they really had returned to the rites of heathenism.

10 Do any of us observe these things? Paul would be afraid of us!

12 If Paul had given up the Mosaic ritual and became as they were for their sakes, surely they ought to follow his example, for he certainly had far more reason to cling to it than they had to lapse back into it.

ers of the allotment according to the promise.

Now I am saying, for as much time as the enjoyer of the allotment is a minor, he is of no more consequence than a slave, being master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time purposed by the father. Thus also we, when we were minors, were enslaved under the elements of the world. Now when the full time came, God delegates His come of a woman, come under law, that He should be reclaiming those under law, that we may be getting the place of a son. Now, seeing that you are sons, God delegates the spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying "Abba! Father!" So that you are no longer a slave, but a son. Now if a son, an enjoyer also of God's allotment, through Christ.

But then, indeed, having no perception of God, you are slaves of those who, by nature, are not gods. Yet now, knowing God, yet rather being known by God, how are you turning back again to the infirm and poor elements for which you want to slave again anew? You are scrutinizing days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid of you lest somehow my toil for you is a sham.

Become as I, since I am even as you, brethren, I am beseeching you.
 You in jure me in nothing. Now you are aware that because of the infirmity of the flesh I preach the evangel to you formerly. And your trial, in my flesh, you do not scorn, neither do you loathe it, but you receive me as a messenger of God, as Christ Jesus. Where, then, is your happiness? For I am

6^{001}	PAUL TO TH	E GALATIANS	CHAPTERS 3-4
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15 Eye diseases are very common in the East. Paul's first acquaintance with the Galatians was when, as a sick traveler, he proclaimed the evangel to them in the midst of his infirmities. From this passage we get a glimpse of the fervent love his message evoked, and are led to suppose that he had some affliction of the eyes.

17 The words zealous and jealous probably were once the same in English, as they are so closely allied in form and meaning. They represent a single Greek word. It is not always clear which is the better rendering, but here jealousy, rather than zeal, seems to satisfy the context.

19 What affectionate mothering stirs the apostle as he broods over his erring children!

22 The controversy turns on the question "Who are the heirs of Abraham?" Is the ground of sonship circumcision and law keeping, or faith? The Judaisers said, We are Abraham's sons! Abraham had two sons, says Paul. Which line do you belong to, Ishmael or Isaac? You are Ishmaelites, sons of Hagar, born of the flesh, born into slavery. You are not heirs of Abraham! Isaac, the child of promise, is the true heir. These two sons of Abraham illustrate the relation between law and promise, flesh and spirit. Ishmael came into Abraham's home between the promise and the advent of the true heir. Born of unbelief, he was a continual trial and persecuted the son of promise. But finally the decree went forth: Cast out this maid and her son!

It could hardly be that the Galatians are listening to any but so-called "believing" Jews who were associated with the apostles, and with James. They would not listen to the persecutors of the ecclesia in Jerusalem. Tens of thousands of Jews "believed" but they all were zealous of the law (Ac.2120). This shows that those associated with the Pentecostal administration were virulently opposed to Paul and his doctrine of grace. When he was in Jerusalem they led the multitude against him and nearly killed These Jewish Christians were the most troublesome enemies of the ecclesias among the nations which had been founded by Paul.

testifying to you, that, if possible, gouging out your eyes, you would give them to me. So that I have become your enemy by being true to you!

They are jealous over you, not ideally, but they want to debar you that you may be jealous over
them. Now it is ideal for you to be jealous in the ideal always, and not only in my presence with you.

Little children mine, with whom I am travailing again until Christ may be formed in you!—yet I wanted to be present with you at present, and to change my voice, seeing that I am perplexed about you.

Tell me, those wanting to be under law, are you not hearing the For it is written, that Abraham has had two sons, one out of the maid and one out of the ²³ free woman. But the one, indeed, out of the maid has been begotten according to flesh, yet the one out of the free woman through the ²⁴ promise. Which is allegorizing, for these women are the two covenants, one, indeed, from Mount Sinai, generating into slavery, ²⁵ which is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, yet she is in line with Jerusalem which now is, for she is in slavery with her children. Yet Jerusalem above is ²⁷ free, who is mother of us all. For it is written, "Be glad, sterile one, who art not bringing forth; burst forth and implore, thou who art not travailing; seeing that many are the children of the desolate, rather than of her who has the husband". Now you, brethren, as Isaac, are

Now you, brethren, as Isaac, are children of promise. But even as then, he who is generated according to flesh persecuted him according to spirit, thus also it is

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- This paragraph is the summary and conclusion of the doctrinal argument. Tersely, he puts the case. Which shall it be, Christ or circumcision? No half hearted allegiance here, no serving of two masters. Circumcision might have been a badge of privilege in the past, but now it has become a sign of apostasy. It does not lead to justification from sin, but to exemption from Christ. It is incumbent on such to keep the entire law. Grace has no room in which to operate.
- "Falling from grace" is not, as usually supposed, a loss of the benefits of Christ's salvation through breaking the law, but, on the contrary, through attempting to keep the law. He who falls into sin does not forfeit the grace of God. Blessed to relate, grace abounds in such a case (Rom.61). But he who seeks to establish his own salvation by works has no need of the grace of God and forfeits all right to the benefits flowing from His redemption. He thus repudiates grace. He falls out of the sphere where grace operates. This is what "falling from grace" really means.
- 5 Righteousness is here put before us as an expectation for which we are waiting. This is required by the contrast between that produced by the law and that effected by faith. present, in God's sight, the one righteous thing to do is to believe Him. The man who believes God is absolutely right in that act. If we could view this from God's side we would see that such a man is just, and needs nothing more to make him righteous. The effect of this on his dealings with others may not be fully in harmony with this fact now, but the time is coming when our conduct will partake of the righteousness of faith. This is the "expectation of righteousness".
- 11 The proclamation of circumcision, or of lawkeeping, or of any human effort to attain the favor of God entails no persecution. The cross is a snare, which not only captures but crushes us. No human pretensions can abide the great fact of His utter humiliation and shameful death for us on the cross, and the sober truth that such were our deserts, not His. Christ Himself is our righteousness. We loathe every effort of our own.

on ow. But what is the scripture saying? "Cast out this maid and her son, for by no means shall the son of the maid be enjoying the allotment with the son of the free woman". Wherefore, brethren, we are not children of the maid, but of the free woman.

For freedom Christ frees us! Stand firm, then, and be not again enthralled with the yoke of slavery. Lo! I, Paul, am saying to you that if you should be circumcising, Christ will be of no benefit to you at all. Now I am testifying again to every man who is being circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. You were exempted from Christ, any who are being justified in law. You fall out of grace. For we are awaiting, in spirit, the expectation of righteousness by faith. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision is availing anything, nor uncircumcision, but faith, operating through love.

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will not be at all disposed otherwise. Now he who is disturbing

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Now I, brethren, if I am still proclaiming circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? Consequently the snare of the cross of Christ has vanished. They who are raising you to insurrection ought to strike themselves off also.

For you were called for freedom, brethren, only not freedom for an incentive to the flesh, but through love be slaving for one another.

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15 The Galatians were biting and devouring one another, while they supposed themselves to be keeping the law. The law usually acts thus. It makes men self-righteous and contentious. Instead of fulfilling its letter they destroy its spirit. Law should lead to regard for others and find its fruition in love. But it leads its votaries to despise others and finds its fruit in hate.

16 Here is the divine prescription for our most troublesome problem-the flesh. Every attempt to directly control the flesh, to curb it or cure it, must end in failure. The only way to deal with it is to ignore it. In the epistle to the Romans this is fully set forth under the figure of death. Rome want. Here the conflict between flesh and 81/4 spirit, you are not still under law. pation with the spirit, that no opportunity is left for the flesh to accomplish its desires.

19 In this list there are some sins which we have come to condone or even justify, yet they are in the midst of a catalogue of crimes. Enmity and strife, jealousy and faction, too often assume a righteous garb. Sectarianism is defended as though it were an improvement on the divine unity of the body of Christ. In the kingdom of God there will be no one practising such things.

22 The flesh acts, the spirit bears fruit, delicious not only to us but to God. Fruit is not the result of mechanical effort but the natural expression of life and growth. If we love others we will need no legal restrictions to keep us from injuring them. Law is a useless incumbrance to those who walk after the spirit. They need no promptings to do good and are above the penalties imposed on evil doers.

24 The crucifixion of the flesh means far more than putting it in the place of death. It gives it the kind of death it deserves, for it is a criminal of the deepest dye. The shameful, ignominious death borne by Christ for our sins is the only fit finish for the flesh.

1 A true self-knowledge will humble us so that we can deal meekly with a brother who has suddenly slipped. The law would condemn him, but we are to seek to bring him back into line.

14 For every law is fulfilled in one word, in this, "You shall be loving 15 your associate as yourself". Now if you are biting and devouring one another, beware that you may not be consumed by one another.

Now I am saying, Be walking in spirit, and you should under no circumstances be consummating ¹⁷ the lust of the flesh. For the flesh is lusting against the spirit, yet the spirit against the flesh. Now these are opposing one another, lest you should be doing what you 18 want. Now, if you are led by

apparent, which are adultery, pros-²⁰ titution, uncleanness, wantonness, idolatry, enchantment, enmities, strife, jealousies, furies, factions, ²¹ dissensions, sects, envyings, murders, drunkennesses, revelries, and the like of these, which, I am predicting to you, according as I predicted before also, that those committing such things shall not be enjoying the allotment of the kingdom of God.

Now the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, fidelity, meekness, selfcontrol: against such things there is ²⁴ no law. Now those of Christ Jesus crucify the flesh together with its passions and lusts. If we may be living in spirit, in spirit we may be observing the fundamentals also. 26 We should not be becoming vain-

glorious, challenging one another, envying one another.

Brethren, if a man should be overtaken also in some offense, you who are spiritual be attuning such a one, in a spirit of meekness, noting yourself, that you also may ² not be tried. Be bearing one another's burdens, and thus fill up

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- 5 There is a contrast here between a burden and a load. Burden is from the element meaning heavy. Both of these elements occur together in Mt. 234 "heavy loads". In Mt.1130 our Lord did not say "My burden is light", but "My load is light". When a brother becomes overburdened it is our duty and privilege to help him bear his burden. But the load the Lord lays on us is not too heavy. We cannot do a service which God has assigned to another. In this each one must bear his own load.
- ⁶ In order to perpetuate the instruction of His saints God has made it obligatory that such a service should be recognized and proper compensation provided for those who instruct.
- The figure of sowing and reaping is a most encouraging one to consider. The farmer plants the seed and sees no results at all for some time. He waits long and patiently ere he reaps the harvest. So we, too, may see little come of our sowing for the spirit, but in the proper season we shall reap as we have sown. That which is for the flesh will rot. That which is for the spirit will endure for the eons. There is much, very much, to make us despondent, but we should ever keep in mind the eonian harvest for which we are preparing.
- 11 It seems probable that the rest of the epistle was penned by Paul himself. His usual custom was to write only a short ending to attest the genuineness of a letter, but here he is so concerned that he rehearses the heart of the argument in his own handwriting. It has been suggested that the writing was in large characters because of his defective eyesight.
- 12 In this marvelous finale, Paul focuses the light of the cross upon the motives actuating both sides of the controversy. The Circumcisionists played for popularity. They dreaded persecution. They appealed to the flesh. How many of us are following the spirit of this course today? Paul boasted only in the cross, which puts an end to the flesh, whether in us or in the world. Now there is a new creation, in which the flesh has no This should settle the whole controversy.

- 3 the law of Christ. For if anyone is supposing [himself] to be anything, being nothing, he is impos-
- ing on himself. Now let each one be testing his own work, and then he shall be having his boast for him-
- 5 self alone, and not for another, for each one shall be bearing his own load.
- Now let him who is being instructed in the word be contributing to him who is instructing, in all good things. Be not deceived, God is not to be sneered at, for whatever a man may be sowing, this shall he be reaping also, seeing that he who is sowing for his own flesh, from the flesh shall be reaping corruption, yet he who is sowing for the spirit, from the spirit shall be reaping eonian life. Now we should not be despondent in ideal doing, for in due season we shall be reaping, not fainting. Consequently,
- then, as we have occasion, we are working for the good of all, yet specially for the family of faith.
- See with what big letters I write
 to you with my own hand! As
 many as want to put on a fair face
 in the flesh, these are compelling
 you to be circumcised, only that
 they may not be persecuted for the
- 13 cross of Christ Jesus. For not even they who are circumcised are maintaining law, but they want you to be circumcised that they should be boasting in that flesh of yours.
- Now may it not be mine to be boasting, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom the world has been crucified to me.
- ¹⁵ and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything, but there
- 16 is a new creation. And as many as

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16 Paul does not wish to condemn all of the Circumcision indiscriminately for the sins of his opponents. Those amongst them who acknowledge the power of the cross in the midst of their observances, on these he invokes peace and mercy, for they are the true Israel of God.

17 It was customary to mark a slave with the brand of his master. Paul's many persecutions had doubtless left many marks, all of which indicated his loyalty to his Lord.

18 Note the emphasis on spirit, in line with the teaching of the epistle.

shall observe the fundamentals by this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and on the Israel of God.

17 For the rest, let no one afford me weariness, for *I* am bearing in my body the brand marks of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren! Amen!

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PAUL'S PERFECTION EPISTLES

Paul's perfection epistles are emphatically the truth for the present. The Ephesian letter, being addressed to all believers in Christ Jesus, in contrast with the Circumcision, who hardly knew Him by this title, is the ranking revelation for the members of the body of Christ. Here first are revealed those secrets which distinguish this administration from all others. Never before has the heavenly destiny of the present ecclesia been declared. All the other scriptures deal with the elementary and immature, but here we find perfection. God's purpose had been only partially made known before and seemed confined to earth. But in this final transcendent revelation His ultimate universal goal is first revealed. These three letters are closely related to each other and should be studied together. in the outline of Paul's epistles, this may be graphically presented thus:

EPHESIANS 1-3, Doctrine—The Body: its Members
EPHESIANS 4-6, Deportment
PHILIPPIANS, Deportment
COLOSSIANS. Doctrine—The Body: its Head

Ephesians begins by presenting a careful and comprehensive statement of the truth for the present secret economy, laying stress on those aspects which concern the *members* of Christ's body. Colossians is the counterpart of this, dealing with the same doctrines but presenting them in their relation to the *Head* of the body.

Both begin with God and with His primordial purpose. The members of the body were chosen before the disruption and now become the beneficiaries in His heavenly allotment. Christ is His Image, being the Firstborn of all creation and now becomes

the Head of all creation in heaven as well as on earth.

Ephesians, then, unfolds the truth of the joint body in which all the members are of equal rank. Colossians makes Him the Head over the body and the members subordinate to Him.

Two secrets or "mysteries" are dis-The secret closed in these epistles. of Christ (Eph.1934Col.2243) was previously revealed but not as it is now revealed. His headship over the earth had been made known to the prophets of old. His headship in the heavens was made known to the apostles, especially Peter (1Pet.322). But the secret economy, the present administration of grace, was never disclosed to any one except through Paul (Eph.39). It was not partially hidden, like the mystery of Christ, but was an absolute secret, hid in God. It is the function of the first three chapters of Ephesians to explain its three aspects for the believer, and of Colossians to reveal the position which it accords to Christ.

These letters should be read in this light. It is only when we apprehend their radical difference and vast advance over the epistles written by others than the apostle of the nations (Eph.31) that we can appreciate their marvelous message. It is only as we allow them to dominate and modify Paul's previous epistles, of which they are the ripened fruit, that we are able to entertain the transcendent nature of their contents.

The title Christ Jesus, calling attention to His present place of power, is the key to the marvelous grace which came to them after the nation of Israel had been rejected, as recorded at the close of the book of Acts. As associated with Jesus Christ they

would be still subordinate to the favored nation, for He is still rejected. But the title which recognizes His present glory in the heavens makes it possible for the far off. "Gentiles" to be blessed in celestial realms equally with a favored few of the nation of His choice.

Paul's Perfection epistles are based upon his Preparatory epistles to the Thessalonians, the Romans, the Corinthians, and the Galatians. They are addressed to those who had received the truth taught in his earlier ministries. who were in a state of prior expectancy (Eph.112 1 Thes.110), who had been sealed with the holy spirit (Eph.113 2Col22), which was an earnest of more to come (Eph.114 2Co.55). They had been enjoyers of an allotment (Ro.817 Ga.47), and now become joint allottees (Eph.36). Once they were members of a body in which the members were of various rank (Ro.124 5 1Co.1212). Now that Israel is set aside and the celestial destiny revealed, it is changed to a ioint body, in which all the members are equally exalted (Eph.36). The nations become joint partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus (Eph.36) which once they held as guests of Israel's covenant.

All saints, during the eonian times. are under God's government, belong to His family, and become the nucleus of His worship. On earth, the nations are subordinate, for Israel must be the head. Such was the place of those who received Paul's message, before the Perfection epistles were penned. The new revelation not only changed their destiny to heaven, but made them the peers of the favored nation. We are We are not merely fellow citizens. guests, but members of God's family. We are an integral part of the temple which God is building for His worship (Eph.219-22).

The Perfection epistles should be studied as a group. The truth is set forth didactically and logically in the opening chapters of Ephesians. Philippians goes over the ground experimentally, showing the truth operating in Christ and Paul and other examples. It applies the teaching of Ephesians to daily conduct. The "calling above" (Ph. 314) is the celestial calling of Ephesians 13. Colossians corrects departure from Ephesian teaching, with special stress upon the glories of Christ in creation and reconciliation.

Some of the chief figures in these epistles have often been misunderstood. especially that of Christ's headship of the ecclesia. It is usually taken that all of the body except the head figures the ecclesia. This is not true. head is reckoned as a member. The headship of Christ is not figured by the head of the body. Its parts, such as the eyes and nose, are members. Christ is not a member of the body. but Head over the ecclesia, as a husband is head over his wife (Eph.523). The wife has a head apart from the headship of her husband.

The new humanity (Eph.2¹⁵) is an entirely distinct figure from that of the body. It refers to the race, giving Christ the place lost by Adam. It can be put on (Eph.5²⁴), or taken off. This cannot refer to our union with Christ under the figure of the body.

It should also be remembered that the "mystery", or secret, is not the body of Christ, for that had been known before. It is threefold, and includes our relationship to God as allottees, and to saints as partakers, as well as to Christ as His body. It consists in the fact that, in each of these relationships, grace has raised those among the nations who believe to equal rank, so that all are joint allottees and joint partakers, and members of a joint body.

EVANCEL IN EPH

1:13. of your Salvation

3:6. through my evangel

6:15. evangel of place

6:19. secret of the evangel

THE zenith of divine revelation, this heavenly epistle, leaving the earth. where the Christ is repudiated by His own people Israel, seats us among the celestials, where He is enthroned at God's right hand (120). His saints, blessed with every spiritual blessing in Him (13) in heaven (26), are an object lesson to manifest God's manifold wisdom to celestial beings (310), so that the purpose of the eons (311), which embraces Christ's headship over the heavens as well as the earth (110), may be effected through the transcendent riches of grace (27) which has come to the nations through the repudiation of faithless Israel, until their salvation and reception (Ro. 1112).

The dimensions of the present grace are not constricted as with Israel. It reaches back to a time prior to the entrance of sin and forward to its exit. It includes not only all mankind who believe in the present economy, but is intended to affect the heavens as well. It takes men far below the plane of privilege on which Israel dwelt, with no claims whatever on God's mercy, and seats them far above the highest in heaven. May He help us to learn something of this This knowledge leads us into grace! the realm of the unknowable, for it reveals to us the transcendent love of Christ which we will never be able to fathom fully and which will always yield new delights.

As to time, it reverts to a period prior to the disruption of the first of Genesis (14Gen.12) and leads to the exaltation of Christ, not only in the coming eon (121), but in the eon of the eons, too (27321), which is the economy of the fullness of the eras (110).

Being addressed to those who believe in Christ Jesus, in contrast to those of the Circumcision whose blessings, on the earth, are postponed until His return in glory, this letter was intended only for those who had received Paul's previous ministries and were expecting to be with Him before His coming to the earth (112).

The omission of "in Ephesus" (11), the lack of the slightest local allusion, and the very general character of the epistle, all tend to show that it is the charter of the church of this economy, a treatise on present truth—the touch-

stone and standard by which all truth for today must be tested.

The letter proper is an elaboration of the definition of the present secret economy (36) "that, in spirit, the nations are to be joint-enjoyers, and a joint-body, and joint-partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus" through the evangel of which Paul became the dispenser.

FRAMEWORK OF "EPHESIANS" Reversion

Paul's commission 1¹ Salutation 1²

The allotment—in heaven—blessing 13-14 Paul's prayer for them 115-19 The body-in Christ 120-210 The members Participation—believers 211-22 The new humanity NT ENJOYERS INT MEMBERS IT PARTAKERS SUMMARY Summary of grace now shown to the nations 31-13 Petitioning the Father 314-21 Beseeching the saints 41-6 Summary of grace which had been shown to the saints 47-16 No participation—unbelievers 417-526 The new humanity The body—in the Lord 521-69 The Head The allotment—in heaven—warfare 610_17

Tychicus' commission6²¹-²² Salutation 6²²-²⁴
The joint allotment is distinctly stated in 1¹³-¹⁴. It is expanded in

Their prayer for Paul 618-20

13-18, and enforced in 610-20.

The joint body seats both Jew and Gentile together (26) among the celestials in Christ Jesus. This is detailed in 119-210 and in 521-69.

The joint participation is seen in creating the Circumcision and the Uncircumcision into one new humanity (215). It is fully discussed in 211-22, and is applied to our deportment in 417-520.

A summary of the new revelation is given in 31-13, which is reviewed as to its results in 47-16.

The heart of the epistle is filled with two petitions, one to the Father, and one to the saints to preserve the spiritual unity which is founded on the transcendent truths and fathomless favor and limitless love which are revealed in this lovely letter.

¹ The title "Christ Jesus" is the token of His exaltation; "Jesus Christ" refers us to His humiliation. "Christ Jesus" is used by Paul, especially in his later ministries.

The words "in Ephesus" seem to have been added after the significance of "Christ Jesus" had been lost. The epistle is confined to those who, in contrast with the Circumcision, base their blessings on His present heavenly exaltation, rather than on His future glorious manifestation to the earth for the blessing of Israel and the other nations.

THE JOINT ALLOTMENT ---IN HEAVEN BLESSING

- 4 "Disruption" is demanded by its elements (down-casting) as well as its usage, rather than "foundation", which represents another Greek word. The disruption suggests the sin of celestial beings and the cataclysm of Gen.12.
- 4 Not, as the English words suggest, that we may be in the future, but "to be" at present.
- ⁵ Sonship involves privileges and dignities not granted to children (Ga. 41-7). The "new" birth has no place in Paul's writings, for he enters the new creation (2Co.517).
- "Pardon" of sins becomes forgiveness when associated with offenses. 10 The heading up of the universe in Christ is the so-called "mystery" or secret of Christ referred to in 34-5 (see 1Pe.322). It must not be confounded with the secret economy (39) which is in force at present. The two are in accord, but distinct. Christ's headship over the earth had been previously revealed. His heavenly headship was revealed to Peter. present economy was an absolute secret made known to Paul only.
- 12 The "perfect" or complete form of the verb marks a state rather than an action. The Circumcision looked for signs and did not expect Messiah until after the great affliction. Those under Paul's ministry were expecting Him at any time. Hence they were in a state of prior expectancy. To such as these this letter was written. To others the epistle to the Hebrews is addressed.

- PAUL, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, to all the saints who are, and believe in, Christ Jesus:
- ² Grace to you and peace, from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3 BLESSED be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who blesses us with every spiritual blessing among the celestials, in
- 4 Christ, according as He chooses us in Him before the disruption of the world, we to be holy and flaw-
- bless in His sight, in love designating us beforehand for the place of a son for Him through Christ Jesus; in accord with the delight of
- ⁶ His will, for the laud of His grace glorious, which graces us in the
- 7 Beloved: in Whom we are having the deliverance through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses in accord
- 8 with the riches of His grace, which He lavishes on us in all wisdom and
 - prudence, making known to us the secret of His will (in accord with His delight, which He purposed in
- 10 Him) to have an administration of the complement of the eras, to head up the universe in the Christ in the heavens as well as on the
- 11 earth—in Him in Whom our lot is cast also, being designated beforehand according to the purpose of the One Who is operating the universe in accord with the counsel of
- 12 His will, that we should be for the laud of His glory, who are in a state of prior expectancy in the Christ.
- In Whom you also—when hearing the word of truth, the evangel

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13 The subject of these paragraphs is the evangel of the nations: its seal¹³, its recognition¹⁷, its prospect¹⁸, its allotment¹⁴ ¹⁸, and its power¹⁹. This subject is kept in mind throughout.

The argument is as follows: Paul and his associates of the Circumcision received the celestial, spiritual blessings which have been detailed. The earnest of their allotment in Christ was the holy spirit which was a pledge of its deliverance. As the believers among the nations received the same spirit when they believed, it is a seal to them that they too!3 will enjoy the celestial, spiritual favors which are lavished upon those of the Circumcision who believe in Christ Jesus during His rejection by the nation of Israel.

14 The "spirit of promise" is not what was promised, but a spirit which promises, a promissory spirit.

Note carefully the pronouns us 3 4 5 6 8 9 and we 7 12 and our 14, and the contrastive you 13 15 16 18 and your 13.

15 "The faith which relates to you" refers to the new truth set forth in this epistle.

This letter was probably sent to Ephesus where Paul had taught for two years (Ac.19¹0) and where he had not shunned to declare the whole counsel of God (Ac.20²¹). His prayer for "a spirit of revelation" makes it evident that this epistle deals with a secret (3³) of God's purpose (3¹¹) quite distinct from His counsels which had been revealed before.

THE BODY-IN CHRIST

23 The sovereignty of the earth is given to the nation of Israel, according to the prophets. The sovereignty of the heavens is the portion of the ecclesia which is His body. Between the two the entire universe is brought under the administration of Christ. Thus His body is the plerōma, or complement, which fills up the lack which earth's deliverance would still leave in the celestial realms. Its function is to fulfill God's purpose for the entire universe, only part of which His people Israel.

of your salvation—in Whom, when believing also, you are sealed with the holy spirit of promise (which is an earnest of the enjoyment of our allotment, until the deliverance of that which has been procured)

for the laud of His glory!

Therefore, I also, when hearing of the faith which relates to you in the Lord Jesus, and that for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you, making mention in my prayers that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father glorious, may be giving you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in its realization, the eyes of your heart having been

enlightened, for you to perceive what is the prospect of its call, and what the glorious riches of the enjoyment of its allotment among the saints, and what the transcendent greatness of its power for us who

are believing, in accord with the operation of His mighty strength, ²⁰ which has operated in the Christ

when rousing Him from among the dead and seating Him at His right

²¹ hand among the celestials (up over every sovereignty and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this eon, but also in that which is

²² future: and subjects all under His feet, and gives Him the head-

23 ship over all to the ecclesia which is His body, the complement which is completing the entire universe.

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ING DEAD to-THE BESIDE-FALLS

1 Compare the condition of the two classes with that of the individual believer in Ro.6². Such as have "died to sin" "together with Christ", "are vivified together with Him", and "are reckoning themselves to be dead, indeed, to sin" (Ro.6⁸⁻¹¹), so here the nations and some of the Jews, collectively, are dead to sins and offenses, and are roused conjointly and seated conjointly, in Christ.

by We have not only been saved by grace, but salvation also introduces us into the sphere of grace's operation. Salvation calls for further favors of being vivified, and roused, and seated in Christ together with an election out of Israel. We are not risen with Christ, for rise refers particularly to

the body.

7 The on-coming eons—themselves the scenes of the riches of God's grace—will be directed to God's favor lavished upon us as the supreme, transcendent achievement of His un-

assisted, unforced grace.

⁸ Salvation, in its beginning, is of faith, in order to accord with grace (Ro.416). As a state, or condition, it continues to preserve its gracious character. It is not of us; it is God's way of winning our favor. This is the force of the technical term "oblation", which was used of the *corban*, or approach offering (Lev.1²2¹3¹, etc., Mk.7¹¹).

PARTICIPATION—BELIEVERS

THE NEW HUMANITY

11 This section deals only with the place that believers among the nations occupied in flesh, as physically uncircumcised, in the era before this epistle was penned. It is a complete contrast to the place occupied by the nations, as set forth in Acts, not as presented in Physically Paul's previous epistles. only may it be said that they had been apart from Christ, aliens, having no expectation, without God. Trophimus, the Ephesian, would understand this, for when he was in Jerusalem the mere rumor that he had approached as near to the reputed dwelling place of God as a Jew caused the whole city to rise up against Paul who, they supposed, had brought him into the sanctuary. What Paul was accused of doing then, physically, he does now. in spirit, and far more, for we have free access to the Father's presence.

And you, being dead to your offenses and sins-in which you once walk, in accord with the eon of this world, in accord with the chief of the aerial jurisdiction, the spirit now operating in the sons of Stubbornness (among whom we also all conducted ourselves once, in the lusts of our flesh, doing the behests of the flesh and of the comprehension, and were, by nature, children of Indignation, even as 4 the rest), yet God, being rich in mercy, because of His vast love with which He loves us (we also being dead to the offenses and the lusts), vivifies us together in Christ (you have been saved for grace) and rouses us together and seats us together among the celes-⁷ tials, in Christ Jesus, in order that, in the on-coming eons. He should be displaying the transcendent riches of His grace in His kindness to us ⁸ in Christ Jesus. For you have been saved through faith for grace, and 9 this is naught of yours: it is God's oblation, not of works, lest any one 10 should be boasting. For we are His achievement, being created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God makes ready beforehand in order that we should be walking in them.

Wherefore, be remembering that once you, the nations in flesh—who are being termed "Uncircumcision" by that being termed "Circumcision", in flesh, made by

12 hands—that in that era you were apart from Christ, being alienated from the citizenship of Israel, and guests of the promise covenants, having no expectation, and without God in the world.

2001 PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS CHAPTER 2 B ON-FEELINGS ETIOYMIAIC ANIOICENXPICT@IHCOYI20 TOMACINKAITAICAMAPTI20 ANOINTED AND THE TNT NAGNAGIZHTAIGNTOICAL A CAYTON OF-selves AICYMONENAICHOTEREPI# IN WHICH ?-when 7 THAT He-SHOULD-BE-IN-SHOWING IN THE YE-ABOUT-OF-YOU? OCINTOICE HEPXOMENOIC® **GNATHCATEKATATONAION™** according-to THE con THE ON-COMING **ATOYKOCMOYTOYTOYKATA®** ΤΟΥΠΕΡΒΆΛΛΟΝΠΛΟΥΤΟΟΤ: this according-to THE OVER-CASTING OR-THE SYSTEM HCXAPITOCAYTOY€NXPHC™ TONA PXONTATHCE ZOYCIA 100 chief OF-THE authority or-Him tw kindness TOTHTIE OHMACEN XPICTO 20 CTOYAGPOCTOYTNGYMATO® spirit ANOINTED OR-THE AIR THE ON TIS TN IHCOYTHFAPXAPITIECTE* CTOYNYNENE PROYNTOCEN® NOW IN-ACTING 8 JESUS to-THE for grace TOICYIOICTHCATE 0. (Blinge) A adds of the THC CECOCMENOIDIANICTEOC® OF-THE UN-PERSUADA bleness BONS ones-having-been-saved THRU BELIEF AYEY 80. CENOICKATHMEICHANTEC® KAITOYTOOYKE ZYMWN860* WHOM AND WE AND this NOT OUT OF-YOU? **ANECTPA¢HMEN∏OTEENTA™** UP-TURNED (behaved) OUT OF-ACTS ?-when IN THE oblation NOT THAT AL OF-God OCOY ICETIOYMIAICTHCCAPKO® AMHTICKAYXHCHTAIAYTO® ON-FEELings OR-THE PLESH ANY SHOULD-BE-BOASTING or-Him CHMONITOIOYNTECTABEAH# **ΥΓΆΡΕ**СΜΕΝΠΟΙΗΜΆΚΤΙ**CΘ**[®] achievement BEING-CREATED DOING MATATHCCAPKOCKAIT@NA® **ENTECENXPICT WIHCOYET**® OF-THE FLESH AND OF-THE THRU-ANOINTED JESTIS A HMEN A nature offsprings IANOI ONKAIHMEBATEKNA® **ΙΕΡΓΟΙ**CΑΓΑΘΟΙCΟΙCΠΡΟ™ AND WE-WERE offsprings WHICH BEFORE-**ФYCEIOPTHC@CKAIOIAOI**™ HTOIMACENOBEOCINAENA 800 OF-INDIGNATION AS AND to-nature THE rest makes-READY THE God THAT IN s adds O slightly erased ΠΟΙΟΔΕΘΕΟCΠΛΟΥCΙΟCΦΝ²⁰ YTOICHEPINATHC@MENAI²⁰ THE YET God BICH WE-SHOULD-BE-ABOUT-TREADING THRU-REING 82 YE ?-when OMNHMONEYETEOTITOTEY . **ϾΝΕΛΕΕΙΔΙΑΤΗΝΠΟΛΛΗΝΑ**Φ that ?-when THRU THE much WHICH BE-YE-remem berING YE **LAUHNAALOAHNHLAUHCEN®** MEICTAEONHENCAPKIOIA® or-Him WHICH LOVES THE NATIONS IN FLESH HMACKAIONTACHMACNEKP® **ELOWENOIYKLOBACLIYU**® BEING AND being-said uncircumcision B adds EN IN OYCTOIC HAPANTOMACI38 отнелегоме инсперітом∞ RESIDE-FALLS one-being-said ABOUT-CUTTING SA OMIT AND THE ON-FEELINGS
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Joint Participation

14 The central wall of the barrier was the so-called "soreg", a stone wall, for a partition, with inscriptions which forbade any foreigner to go in under pain of death. One of these was recently unearthed with the following inscription:

MHOENA AAAOFENHEISTIO
PEYES OAIENTOS TOYTIE
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No alien is to enter within the balustrade and embankment about the sacred place. Whoever is caught will be responsible for his death, which will ensue.

15 The decrees issued from Jerusalem

by the apostles (Ac.1520164).

15 The enmity in His flesh is the national or race hatred between Jew and Gentile. In His flesh He confirmed the promises which gave primacy to the Jew. This was figured by the barrier which shut the aliens out of the sanctuary.

¹⁵ The new humanity is quite a distinct matter from the one body. It can be put on $(4^{24},^{25})$ and is in contrast with the old humanity (4^{22}) .

19 Here we have our relation to the saints of other economies defined. All saints, whatever their peculiar position, have three things in common. They all are under God's government; all belong to His family; all are His dwelling place. These do not define the blessings which are our special privileges, but those which we share with the saints of every other administration.

SUMMARY

1 Contrast Paul as a prisoner of Christ Jesus, summing up the doctrines of the secret economy with Paul the prisoner of the Lord (41), inculcating the deportment which adorns the doctrine.

1 Paul insists that he is the one through whom God's revelation to the nations is given. It can be found nowhere but in his writings.

Yet now, in Christ Jesus, you, who once were far off, are become

see Dan 9:7.

14 near by the blood of Christ. For He is our Peace, Who makes both one, and razes the central wall of

15 the barrier (the enmity in His flesh), abrogating the law of precepts in the decrees, that He should be creating the two, in Himself, into one new humanity, making

16 peace; and should be reconciling both to God in one body, through the cross, killing the enmity in it.

¹⁷ And coming, He preaches the evangel of peace to you, those afar, and

18 peace to those near, seeing that, through Him, we both have had the access, in one spirit, to the Father.

Consequently, then, you are no longer guests and sojourners, but are fellow-citizens of the saints, and members of God's family,

being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, the capstone of its corner being Christ

²¹ Jesus, in Whom the entire building, being connected together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord:

²² in Whom you, also, are being built together for God's dwelling place, in spirit.

3 On this behalf, I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you, 2 the nations—since you surely hear of the stewardship of God's grace

which is given to me for you, seeing that the <u>secret</u> is made known to me by revelation (according as I

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Summary of the Present Grace

The present secret economy, which there is no hint in any scriptures before this epistle was penned,~ consists essentially of three separate items, all of which are marked by the The nations enjoyed prefix joint. Christ (1Co.1213,27), they were guests of the promises (212), but they had all this subordinate to the Jews. They were not joint allottees, or a joint 5 body or joint sharers in those promises. Now they have their heavenly allotment on equal terms, they are members of a body in which no member can claim precedence on account of physical descent, the promises in Christ Jesus are equally theirs with Paul and his Jewish companions. It is of the utmost importance to note that Paul only was given this stewardship and that it is worse than useless to seek for it outside of his writings. It was concealed in God, not in the scriptures. No trace of it can be found in the prophets or in the preceding books of the Greek scriptures.

8 The "untraceable riches of Christ" include celestial honors which were not revealed before. His earthly riches can be traced throughout the previous Hebrew and Greek scriptures. was to be the King of Israel and the Ruler of the whole earth. But now we know of heavenly honors which were hid from us before. These are revealed at the same time that the heavenly destiny of the body of Christ is disclosed, for it is necessary that He should have the highest place in heaven before we could be associated with Him in its administration.

PETITIONING THE FATHER

14 This petition commences at 31 but was interrupted by a summary of the grace which is its motive. Now the prayer is resumed.

It is evident, and experience has confirmed the fact, that the greatest power is required, not for service, but to enable us to realize and appreciate the marvelous revelation of God's grace and love which is ours in Christ Jesus. May God exercise our hearts to this end!

hend my understanding in the secret of Christ, which is not made known to other generations of the sons of humanity as it was now revealed to His holy apostles and 27), they were members of the body of 2. prophets): in spirit the nations are Christ (100 1213 27) to be joint enjoyers of an allotment, and a joint body, and joint partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus, through the evangel of which I became the dispenser, in accord with the gratuity of God's grace, which is granted to me in accord with His powerful operation. To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace granted: to preach the evangel of the untraceable riches of Christ to the nations. and to enlighten all as to the secret administration which has concealed from the eons in God, ¹⁰ Who creates the universe, that now, to the sovereignties and the authorities among the celestials, may be made known, through the ecclesia, the multifarious wisdom 11 of God, in accord with the purpose of the eons, which He makes in 12 Christ Jesus, our Lord; in Whom we have boldness and access with confidence, through His faith. ¹³ Wherefore I am requesting you not to be despondent at my afflictions for you, which are your glory.

-On this behalf am I bowing my knees to the Father of our ¹⁵ Lord Jesus Christ, after Whom all the kindreds in the heavens and on 16 earth are being named, that He may be giving you the power, in accord with His glorious riches, to be

staunch, through His spirit, in the

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Petitioning the Father

17 Every lack in the universe is filled by Christ. He is God's Pleroma, or Complement, Who supplies every deficiency. We, as members of His body. are His complement. To fit us for this place He wishes us to grasp the grace which this involves, which in turn will reveal the transcendent love of Christ. Thus we will be filled or completed—brought to that finished state which fits us for our future destiny.

20 It is most satisfying to know that God's ability is not limited to our requests, neither are His purposes for us confined to our meagre apprehen-

sion.

DEPORTMENT

BESEECHING THE SAINTS

1 How apt the titles used by our Lord and his servants! Here it is the prisoner in the Lord who deals with our walk.

We are not asked to make the spirit's unity, but not to break it. God's saints are one: let them be assiduous to recognize this by refraining from anything which mars the display of the spiritual unity made by God.

4 During the era covered by the book of Acts there were several bodies, and baptisms, and faiths, and expectations, but now that the secret economy is in operation there is no longer one faith for the Jew and another for the Gentile: but all have the same faith. Nothing should ever divide the saints of this economy.

SUMMARY

THE PREVIOUS GRACE

7 The readjustment of the saints, changing them from a condition of tutelage and dependence on the blessings of Israel to mature manhood and independent celestial blessings, was effected by sending them specially endowed apostles and prophets, pastors and teachers. The service of the apostles and prophets is now superseded by the scriptures, such as this epistle, which were written to accomplish the same end. This is in contrast to the giving of the law, which brought them into captivity (Ps.6818). This grace sets aside all enslaving laws and decrees.

17 inner man, Christ to dwell in your hearts through faith, that you, having been rooted and grounded in love, should be strong

to grasp, together with all the saints, what is its breadth and

19 length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ as well. which transcends knowledge—that vou may be completed for the entire complement of God.

Now to Him Who is able to do exceedingly above all that we are requesting or apprehending, according to the power which is 21 operating in us, to Him be glory in the ecclesia and in Christ Jesus for all the generations of the eon of the eons! Amen!

I am entreating you then—I. the prisoner in the Lord—to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, with all humility meekness, with patience, bearing with one another in love. endeavoring to keep the unity of

the spirit with the tie of peace: one body and one spirit, according as you were called also with one expectation in your calling; one

Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, Who is over all, and through all, and in all.

Now to each one of us was given grace in accord with the measure of the gratuity of Christ. Wherefore He is saying.

"Ascending on high He captures captivity And gives gifts to mankind."

Now the "He ascended", what is it except that He first descended also into the parts of the earth 10 below? He Who descends is the Same Who ascends also, up over all

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Summary of Previous Grace

13 Before the revelation of the secret administration by means of this enistle the saints among the nations were in a period of adolescence. fully set forth by the apostle in writing to the Corinthians (1Co.1310). The gifts then given were for the purpose of leading them on to maturity but were to be set aside when "perfection" came. Paul's prison epistles bring maturity (Phil.315Col.128412). The shifting changes incident to the period of growth which characterized the era from Paul's call until his imprisonment, which brought the saints among the nations from a position like proselytes to Judaism to a place entirely independent of Israel, were all intended to prepare them for this final revelation in which they become Christ's complement.

We should not build upon all the doctrines of that transitional era, but only such as accord with the present grace. In Romans "to the Jew first" (Ro.210) is now obsolete; in Corinthians the gift of prophecy and of languages (1Co.138) have become in-

operative.

16 This is a notable comparison between the spiritual body of Christ and our physical bodies. Not only does the Head preside over the actions of the members of the body but only through it do the members receive sustenance and grow. Just as the nervous system unites the head to every individual member of the body, so each member of Christ's body is in touch with the Head and is dependent on Him for food and development.

JOINT PARTAKERS

NO PARTICIPATION WITH UNBELIEVERS

"practical" 17 Notwithstanding the trend of modern science, and the increasing knowledge of the physical universe, men do not comprehend anything. They are not aware of the source or object of things, being interested only in the present profit or pleasure which can be derived from them. Their inventions and investigations have not affected the happithem. ness of the race: they are vain. Their ignorance of God leads them to seek satisfaction and pleasure in temporary expedients which lead to misery. the heavens, that He should complete the universe. And He, indeed, it is Who gives the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the

¹² pastors and teachers for the readjusting of the saints, with a view to the work of dispensing, for the upbuilding of the body of

13 Christ, until we should all attain to the unity of faith, and the realization of a son of God, to mature manhood, to the adult stature of

14 Christ's complement, that we should by no means still be minors, surging hither and thither and being carried about by every wind of teaching, by human caprice, by craftiness with a view to the sys15 tematizing of the deception. Now,

being true, in love in all we should be growing into Him Who is the

16 Head—Christ—out of Whom the entire body, being articulated together and united through every assimilation of the supply, in accord with the proportionate operation of each single part, is making for the growth of the body, for the upbuilding of itself in love.

This, then, I am saying and testifying in the Lord: You are by no means still to be walking according as the nations also are walking, in

18 the vanity of their mind, their comprehension being darkened, having been estranged from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the callousness

19 of their hearts, who, being past feeling, greedily give themselves up with wantonness to all uncleanness as a vocation. CYTEPANOTIANTONTONOYP 20
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No Participation with Unbelievers 22 In Christ there is a new humanity. The divisions which mar the present humanity are gone in Him and the conduct which disgraces mankind should also be "put off" like a wornout, filthy garment. The new humanity is "put on" by acting as those wno no longer belong to the race of Adam but acknowledge Christ as their Head. Let us then be renewed in the spirit of our minds. Every exhortation here given depends upon our previous apprehension of His grace. standards of conduct are far too low and in an entirely different key.

26 "Being indignant" may also be rendered "Be indignant" but the context is against this rendering. It certainly is not a command to be angry, for we are distinctly charged to forego anger in this very chapter (81Col.38). The next statement is evidently a parallel to this. In one we have indignation, in the other vexation. both we are exhorted not to carry what may be quite right and just to an extreme which will make them injurious and sinful. It may be paraphrased: "Do not let indignation degenerate into anger: do not cherish a grudge. Do not flare up: do not let your resentment smoulder."

28 Restitution, single, double, fourfold or fivefold is the requirement of Sinai (Ex.221.5). Now the thief is to work that he may give to those in need.

dom is righteousness: love is the true spring of all that pleases Him in this economy. The most powerful motive and perfect method to put this into practise is to charge our hearts with an overpowering apprehension of His grace toward us. This will not fail to influence our conduct toward others.

God "walks in love"—He is Love. He is our Father. Just as pet children copy the actions of their parents, so we should reflect; His love to all with whom we come in contact. God's glory should be the underlying motive of every act.

Now you did not thus learn ²¹ Christ, since you surely hear Him and were taught by Him (accord-²² ing as the truth is in Jesus) to put off, as regards your previous behavior, the old humanity which is being corrupted in accord with ²³ its seductive desires, yet to be rejuvenated in the spirit of your 24 mind, and to put on the new humanity, which, in accord with God, is being created in righteousness ²⁵ and benignity of the truth. Wherefore, putting off the false, let each be speaking the truth with his associate, seeing that we are members of one another.

26 Being indignant, do not be sinning also. Do not let the sun 27 sink on your vexation, nor yet be 28 giving place to the slanderer. Let him that steals by no means still be stealing: yet rather let him be toiling, working with his hands at what is good, in order that he may have 29 to share with one in need. Let no tainted word be issuing out of your mouth, but whatever is good for needful edification, that it may be giving grace to the hearers.

And do not be sorrowing the holy spirit of God by which you are sealed for the day of deliver
and anger and clamor and calumny be taken away from you with all

malice, and become kind to one another, tenderly compassionate, dealing graciously among your-selves, according as God also, in Christ, deals graciously with you.

Become, then, imitators of God, as beloved children, and be walk-

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² The sacrifice of Christ has many aspects. The opening chapters of Leviticus deal with these in detail. The sin and trespass offering seem to be entirely for man's benefit. But the first offering of all, and the most important, the ascending offering, called a "burnt" offering, seems to have been entirely for God; nothing in it was for man. So with Christ.

No Participation with Unbelievers

In it was for man. So with Christ. The questions of human sin and transgression were secondary in His sacrifice. It was, first of all, His obedience to the will of God which gave His death its infinite value. His object was to please His Father. This is the true motive for service acceptable to our God.

³ Here the spirit of God has laid a finger on the sore spots which all our advance in civilization has only served to accentuate. Physical excesses, sordid cupidity and questionable speech are but symptoms of the cankerous evil which pervades society in this day of boasted advance. As the literal Greek puts it, "more-having", or avarice, is more pronounced than ever, and does not need to hide its face, for it is disguised as a virtue. In the kingdom of God none of these will be able to take root.

8 To behave as children of light is the complement of imitating Him as beloved children, for God is Light as well as Love. In nature light is indispensable for fruit: nothing will produce without it. The same is true in spiritual things. The most flourishing saint is the one who has the most light, who knows what his Lord's will is. The most strenuous endeavor to serve God will not meet His approval if it is out of line with His revealed purpose and plans. Let us rouse ourselves from our lethargy and the darkness which surrounds us and bask in the light of Christ.

to God, for a fragrant odor. Now, all prostitution and uncleanness or greediness—let it not be named among you, according as is becoming in saints-and vileness and stupid speaking or jesting, which are not proper, but rather thanksgiving. For this you perceive, knowing that no paramour or unclean or greedy person, who is an idolater, has any allotment to enjoy in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Now let no one be seducing you with empty words, for because of these things God's indignation is coming on the sons of Stubbornness. Do not, then, become joint partakers with them, for you were once darkness, yet now you are light in the Lord.

Be walking as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light is in all goodness and righteousness and ¹⁰ truth), testing what is well pleasing ¹¹ to the Lord. And be not joint-participants in the unfruitful acts of darkness, but rather be exposing ¹² them, for it is a shame even to say what hidden occurrences are done ¹³ by them. Now all that which is being exposed by the light is made manifest, for everything which is ¹⁴ being manifested is light. Wherefore He is saying.

"Rouse! O drowsy one,
And rise from among the dead
And Christ shall dawn upon you!"

Then be observing accurately, brethren, how you are walking, not
 as unwise, but as wise, reclaiming the era, seeing that the days are
 wicked. Therefore do not become imprudent, but understand what
 the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, in which is

8 SACRIFICE AND TOWARD-CARRY NTPOCOOPANKAIOYCIANT" **ΚΑΙΟCYNΗΚΑΙΑΛΗΘΕΙΑΔΟ»** TOWARD-CARRY AND SACRIFICE 10 ice AND TRUTH € inserted by s **WOEGEICOCMHNEY WAIACH®** KIMAZ ONTECTIECTINEYA# 3 THE God INTO ODOR OF-WELL-ODOR ANY IS WELL PROS-PECTONTOKY PIOKAIMHCY ** OPNEIA∆EKAIAKA8APCIA® YET AND uncleanness 11 PLEASING to-THE Master AND NO BE-YE-TITUTION A Al for E B* F NKOINONGITETOICEPPO! TACAHTA€ON€ ΣΙ AMH∆€ON® OR MORK-HAVING NO-YET TOGETHER-COMMUNIONING to-THE ACTS OMAZECOOENYMINKAOOCTI 100 CTOIC AKAPHOICTOYCKOT™ BE-being-named IN YOUP according-AS IS-UN-FRUITful OF-THE DARKNESS PETEIATIOICKAIAICXPO® ογςμαλλονδεκαιελείχε» 4 BEHOOVING to-HOLY-ones AND VILEness YET AND BE-EXPOSING RATHER AB insert C As1 H OR for AND THCKAIM@POAOFIAHEYTP# TETAFAPKPYOHFINOMENA* AND INSIPID-saying OR WELL-THE for HIDDen BECOMING **ΑΠΕΛΕΙΑΑΟΥΚΆΝΗΚΕΝΆΛΛ®** YMAYTONAICXPONECTINK® REVERTING WHICH NOT proper but. UNDER them VILE AB insert C **AMAAAONEYXAPICTIATOY® ΑΙΛΕΓΕΙΝΤΑΔΕΠΑΝΤΑΕΛΕ®** TO-BE-SAYING THE YET ALL RATHER thanking this 13 AB insert 🖯 **ΓΧΟΜ€ΝΑΥΠΟΤΟΥΦΦΤΟCΦΑ**[™] TOTAPICTETINOCKONTEC 200 YE-ARE-PERCEIVING KNOWING UNDER THE LIGHT IS-being-EXPOSED for A inserts N **ОТІПАСПОРНОСНАКАВАРТ²⁰** ΝΕΡΟΥΤΑΙΠΑΝΓΑΡΤΟΦΑΝΕΏ THE being-madethat EVERY paramour OR Unclean-ons made-Appear EVERY for A adds C OCHTACONEKTHCOECTINE " POYMENON & CECTINAIO A ... THRU-WHICH OR MORE-HAVER WHO IS idol- 14 APPEAR LIGHT 18 ΙΔΦλολατρηςογκέχεικλ[®] **ELEIELEILEOKYBEAVONK®** NOT IS-HAVING tenancy He-IS-Saying BE-BOUSING THE one-DOWN-LOUNGING AND ater AIANACTAEKTONNEKPONK® **HPONOMIANENTHBACIAGI®** THE KINGdom OUT OF-THE DEAD IN UP-STAND probably reads Anointed Jesus A adds sesus after God ATOYXPICTOYKALOEOYMH:00 **λΙΕΠΙΦΑΥCEΙCOΙΟΧΡΙCΤ™** OF-THE ANOINTED AND God WILL-BE-ON-APPEARING YOU THE ANOINTED NO-A8 KAINOIC Bs1 omit brothers **ΔΕΙCΥΜΑCΑΠΑΤΑΤΟΚΕΝΟΙ²⁰ ΟCBΛΕΠΕΤΕΟΥΝΑΔΕΛΦΟΙΠ²⁰** LET-BE-SEDUCING to-EMPTY THEN brothers YET-ONE YOUP 15 BE-YE-looking s1 omits for € inserted by B actly bow CAOFOICAIATAYTAFAPEP 40 sayings these for 18-**OCAKPIBOCHEPINATEITE®** sayings EXACTLY YE-ARE-ABOUT-TREADING XETAIHOPPHTOY BEOYETI® **МНФСАСОФОІАЛЛФССОФОІ**® THE INDIGNATION OF-THE God UN-WISE but AR AS so. (Bsmall) TOYCYIOYCTHCATEIBEIA® **EZATOPAZOMENOITONKAI®** BONS OF-THE UN-PERSUADA bleness 16 OUT-BUYING THE REASON CMHOYNFINECOECYNMETO 400 PONOTIAIHMEPAI∏ONHPA™ NO THEN BE-YE-BECOMING TOGETHER-WITH-HAVwicked that THE DAYS ab insert 🖯 XOIAYTONHTEFAPHOTECK® IEICINDIATOY TOMHTINE® or-them YE-WERE for ?-when DARK-THRU this NO RE-YE-RE-**ΟΤΟCΝΥΝΔΕΦΦΟCENKYΡΙΦΦ** COEAPPONECAAAACYNIET* NOW YET LIGHT IN Master coming imprudent but BE-understanding PIDISPOSITION OPPONENTA A God OFFOY B adds OF ITO OF A HMATOYKYPIOY ** 81 DISPOSITION OPONHMA CΤΕΚΝΆΦ ΦΤΟCΠΕΡΙΠΆΤΕΙ® offsprings OF-LIGHT BE-YE-ABOUT-TREADING ANY THE WILL OF-THE Master a Al HMWN OF-US KAIMHMEOYCKECOEOINŒ6® **ΤΕΟΓΆΡΚΑΡΠΟΣΤΟΥΦΌΤΟς »** 18 AND NO BE-YE-being-DRUNK THE for FRUIT OF-THE LIGHT to-WINE IN

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18 Excess of wine leads to drunkenness, which is not good, but an overflowing spirit is to be commended.

It manifests itself in songs and thanksgiving and subjection.

19 Spiritual songs suggests the need of conforming even our songs to the truth of this present time and singing with understanding as well as the lips. Most of the destructive errors of the day are based on or supported by popular hymns.

THE JOINT BODY-IN THE LORD

THE HEAD

21 As is the case with every exhortation in the second division of the epistle, the deportment of husbands and wives is founded on the doctrine previously developed in the first division. A reference to the framework will show that it is based on the truth of the joint body. Wives are to be subject because the man is head of the woman as Christ is Head of the body. Husbands cannot be exhorted to love their wives on the ground that the ecclesia occupies this relation to Christ, for the faithful in Israel, who have no part in the blessings of this epistle, are figured as the wife or bride, not of Christ (an official title), but of the Lamb. Hence the argument of Eden is introduced showing that husband and wife become one Christ and the ecclesia are one body. Hence the husband is exhorted to love his wife as his own body, for it is thus that Christ loves the ecclesia. What limitless love is involved in the statement, "No one at any time hates his own flesh"! Men have hated their wives: Jehovah divorced His unfaithful wife (Jer.38-20). But Christ is so one with the members of His body that He cannot cast them Thus should a husband love his own wife, who has become one flesh with him. How exultantly precious is this close relationship to Him! What could be nearer? What could be dearer? Even evil, sinful men cannot hate their own bodies. So much the more Christ cannot but love us as He loves Himself! God grant that we may drink deeply of this delicious draught!

profligacy, but be filled with ¹⁹ spirit, speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and playing in ²⁰ your hearts to the Lord, giving thanks to God the Father always for all things in the name of our ²¹ Lord, Jesus Christ, being subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

Wives, be subject to your own hus bands as to a master, seeing that the husband is head of the wife even as Christ is Head of the ecclesia,

and He is the Saviour of the body.

Nevertheless, as the ecclesia is subject to Christ, thus are the wives also to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, be loving your wives according as Christ also loves the ecclesia, and gives Himself up for ²⁶ it, in order that He should be hallowing it, cleansing it in the bath ²⁷ of the water (in a declaration), in order that He should be presenting to Himself a glorified ecclesia, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that it may be holy and ²⁸ flawless. Thus, husbands also ought

to be loving their own wives as their own bodies. He who is loving

29 his own wife is loving himself. For no one at any time hates his own flesh, but is nourishing and cherishing it, according as Christ also the

30 ecclesia, seeing that we are mem-

31 bers of His body. Corresponding to this a man will be leaving his father and mother and will be joined to his wife, and the two will be one flesh.

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The Joint Body—In the Lord

32 There are three secrets in Ephesians: the secret of Christ (19), the secret economy (39) and the secret of marriage, here referred to. The physical fact that the marriage union makes husband and wife a physical unit is used as one premise in the argument that husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. The secret of the evangel is also referred to (619). There is no such expression as "the bride of Christ" in scripture.

It is of principal importance that we distinguish the double relationship which we sustain to Christ and to the Lord. In Christ all physical distinctions vanish. There are no slaves and masters, even the sexes are not distinguished "in Christ" (Gal.328). But "in the Lord" these physical distinctions are recognized and made the basis of our conduct toward one another. Wives are subject, children are obedient, slaves are subservient "in the Lord".

The key to all correct conduct lies in the recognition of our heavenly Master. The true slave seeks to please Him; the master acknowledges Him in his behavior toward his slave. Children obey their parents "in the Lord", for such is His wish. Fathers train them "in the Lord", conforming to His gracious methods.

The slave is especially encouraged by the fact that he will receive his due from his heavenly Master even though he receives nothing from his earthly one.

THE JOINT ALLOTMENT —IN HEAVEN

WARFARE

10 Israel's warfare is with flesh and blood on the earth. Ours is with wicked spirits in the celestial realms. We should always remember that those who oppose us are merely the intermediaries used by the spiritual forces and treat them accordingly. It is not our place to wrestle with blood and flesh but to look beyond the human instrument to the real adversary in the spirit world. Material weapons are worse than useless. Our attitude toward men should be one of purest conciliation, not strife (615).

32 This secret is great: yet I am speaking as to Christ and as to the 33 ecclesia. Moreover, you also, individually, each be loving his own wife thus, as himself, yet that the wife may be fearing the husband.

6 Children, be obeying your parents, in the Lord, for this is just.

Be honoring your father and mother (which is the first precept
with a promise) that it may be becoming well with you, and you should be a long time on the earth.

4 And fathers, do not be vexing your children, but be rearing them in the discipline and admonition of the Lord.

Slaves, be obeying your masters as to flesh, with fear and trembling, in the singleness of your heart, as to Christ, not with eye slavery, as man pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from

7 the soul, slaving with good humor, as to the <u>Lord</u> and not to men,

having perceived that, whatever good each one may do, for this he will be requited by the Lord, whether slave or free.

And masters, be doing the same toward them. Be lax in threatening, having perceived that their Master as well as yours is in the heavens, and there is no partiality with Him.

Furthermore, brethren mine, be invigorated in the Lord and in His

¹¹ mighty strength. Put on the panoply of God, to enable you to stand in spite of the stratagems of

12 the Slanderer, seeing that it is not ours to wrestle with blood and flesh,

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The Joint Allotment in Heaven

14 The spiritual armor here given covers the whole body and is for defense only. Truth will give us strength to withstand the attacks of error. Righteousness will preserve us from the wounds of wickedness. The evangel of peace, wherewith we go, will conciliate the human weapons used by the spirit powers which are directing human affairs.

16 An ancient mode of warfare was to fasten fire to arrows which would not only wound but burn. It was especially used against elephants to cause them to stampede. When the adversary sends some burning dart in the direction of the believer it is his privilege to shield himself by means of the faith which this epistle affords. This will effectually stop the arrows and quench their fire.

when all this has been done then we receive (not take) the helmet of salvation. And then we are entrusted with the sword of the spirit—a divine declaration. We have no offensive power at all except an explicit statement of God. The scriptures contain many statements of men, such as the assertions of Job's friends, which are false. Hence only the declarations which proceed out of the mouth of God constitute the spirit's sword.

THEIR PRAYER FOR PAUL

18 What a marvelous picture Paul presents of the ministry of conciliation! God's ambassador in a chain! Could anything show more clearly God's attitude towards mankind? Nothing is surer to provoke war than the maltreatment of an ambassador. God's ambassador goes to Rome, the greatest of earth's governments, and he gets a chain. Yet, instead of declaring war, he proclaims peace. This is the true spirit of the evangel for the present economy. It calls for conciliation notwithstanding everything which should provoke hostilities. The answer to this prayer is found in Phil. 112.

TYCHICUS' COMMISSION

²¹ Tychicus means "Fortunate", and such he was, for no fortune could compare with the riches which this epistle was to him and to those to whom he brought it.

but with the sovereignties, with the authorities, with the worldmights of this darkness, with the spiritual forces of wickedness ¹³ among the celestials. Therefore be taking up the panoply of God, that you may be enabled to withstand in the wicked day, and, having effected all, to stand.

Stand, then, girded about your loins with truth, and putting on
 the cuirass of righteousness, and your feet sandaled with the readi-

16 ness of the evangel of peace; with all taking up the large shield of faith, by which you will be enabled to extinguish all the fiery arrows of
 17 the wicked one. And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is a declaration

of God.

18 In every prayer and petition be praying on every occasion, in spirit, and be vigilant for it 19 with all perseverance and petition concerning all saints, and for me, that expression may be granted to me, in the opening of my mouth with boldness, to make known the 20 secret of the evangel, for which I am conducting an embassy in a chain, that in it I should be bold,

as I must speak.

21 Now that you also may become acquainted with my affairs, and what is engaging me, all will be made known to you by Tychicus, a brother beloved and a faithful ser
22 vant in the Lord, whom I send to you for this very thing, that you may know what concerns us, and he should be consoling your hearts.

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SALUTATION

- ²³ What a balm this benediction brings! Peace, love, faith—may these be the portion of all who read these lines!
- 24 Here we have the true test—those who truly love our Lord. May favor, indeed, be theirs!
- Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God, the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ²⁴ Grace be with all who are loving our Lord Jesus Christ in incorruption! Amen!

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PHILIPPIANS

The Philippian epistle is a divine commentary on the latter half of Ephesians, and, like it, is especially concerned with the deportment demanded by the transcendent doctrines developed in the first half of the Ephesian letter. This is the key to its contents. It does not deal with doctrines, but with deportment. This will illumine many a difficult passage in it and this has been allowed to color the wording of the version.

As shown in the literary framework, the epistle is a perfect, though complex reversion. Its controlling theme is Participation in the Evangel, not only by its public proclamation, but especially by a conduct consis-

tent with its teachings.

Following the Introduction and preceding the Conclusion the Philippians' fellowship with Paul by contributions and in sufferings is detailed, interspersed with Paul's own experiences in preaching the evangel.

The main subject, the Living Expression of the Evangel, or, "Having on the Word of Life" (210), is illustrated by four examples: Christ and Paul, Timothy and Epaphroditus. Four exhortations are introduced in this division. The entreaty to imitate Christ opens it and Paul places himself before them

as a model at its close. So, too, the service of Timothy is preceded by an exhortation and the sufferings of Epaphroditus are followed by an ap-

neal.

These two themes, suffering and service, pervade the whole epistle, from the introduction, where Paul and Timothy style themselves slaves, rather than apostles, to the end where the grace of the Lord, or Master, rather than Christ, is invoked.

The humility of Christ is presented, in harmony with the transcendent truth of this economy. It did not begin with His birth or result only in His exaltation over the earth. It

FRAMEWORK OF PHILIPPIANS Complex Reversion

Introduction 11 Salutation 12 The Philippians-Contribution-Doxology 13 Paul—his bonds in Christ 112 Paul—his indifference to death 119 The Philippians—suffering with Paul 127 || Exhortation to imitate Christ 21 CHRIST 25 ¹ In God's form Empties Himself Slave's form 3 Human shape Humbles Himself EVANGEL EVANGEL 5 the Cross | Exhortation to Obedience 212 TIMOTHY-his character and service THE O.F **Q19** PARTICIPATION IN TI THE LIVING EXPRESSIONS EPAPHRODITUS—his character and his sufferings 225 Exhortation to Beware 31 PAUL 34 ⁷Law justness—blameless ⁶ Zeal—persecuting saints ⁵ Law—Pharisee ⁴ Hebrew of Hebrews ³ Tribe of Benjamin ² Race of Israel Circumcision Exhortation to imitate Paul 317 The Philippians—their care of Paul 410 Paul—his complacency in want 411 Paul—his strength in Christ 4¹³ The Philippians-Contribution-Doxology 414 Conclusion 421

> commenced in glory before His incarnation, which was but a step in His downward path of obedience to God's will. It led from the highest place in the universe to the lowest, under the curse of the cross. It will exalt Him to headship over all creation, which will bow to Him as its Master, for God, the Father's glory.

> For Christ to become flesh meant humiliation. Paul's physical connections were his boast. They pledged to him all the privileges and advantages which belonged alone to the Jew. But all of these are flung away once he knows Christ after the spirit, and

His heavenly exaltation.

Salutation 423

¹ This epistle was not written by Paul and Timothy in the character of apostles, but slaves. This is important, as it gives us a key to the character of the whole letter. The mention of the overseers, or supervisors, and servants leads to the same conclusion. The grace also is from the Lord. If we keep this in mind it will greatly simplify the understanding of difficult portions of the epistle.

THE PHILIPPIANS' CONTRIBUTION

A contribution, in its scriptural sense, is a sharing in common. The servant of God shares with the saints what he has received from God, and his hearers share with him the material wealth which they have obtained.

How refreshing it is to see the intimate interest of the Philippians in Paul's welfare and the mutual love which made their intercourse so delightful to read about after all these Here we have a picture of the ideal relations between the Lord's saints and those of His slaves who are seeking to defend the evangel. There is greater need now than in Paul's day. The evangel needs to be recovered before it can be confirmed or defended. God still uses such miserable means as an imprisoned apostle to make it known.

PAUL'S BONDS

12 When Paul was taken to Rome he was permitted to dwell by himself with a soldier who guarded him. He had liberty to speak to the chief Jews and he delivered the final kingdom message to them. And then he lived two whole years in a rented house and received all who came to him. He spoke with all boldness and no one forbade him (Ac.2816-21). unusual privileges proved plainly, as the incidents on the voyage had already shown, that he was indeed a "prisoner of the Lord" (Eph. 41). His bonds were "in Christ" and. PAUL and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, together with the supervisors and servants:

² Grace to you and peace, from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I AM THANKING my God at every
 remembrance of you, always, in every petition of mine for you all,
 making the petition with joy, for

your contribution to the evangel from the first day until now, having this same confidence, that He Who undertakes a good work in you will be performing it until the

day of Jesus Christ: according as it is just for me to be thus disposed toward you all, because, having me in your heart, in my bonds as well as in the defense and confirmation of the evangel, you all are joint participants with me of grace, for God is my Witness how

I am longing for you all in the compassions of Christ Jesus. And this I am praying, that your love may be superabounding still more and more in realization and all

order that you may be sincere and no stumbling block for the day

of Christ, having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which is through Jesus Christ, for the glory and laud of God.

Now I am intending you to know, brethren, that my affairs have rather come to be for the progress of the evangel, so that my bonds in Christ become apparent in the whole pretorium and to all

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Paul's Bonds

though they were designed to put a stop to the evangel, they aided its progress. Hitherto Paul had worked to support himself, now he was free to give all his time to the Lord's service. He evidently reached some in the very household of Cæsar (422).

16 Paul was located at Rome, at the very center of government, where his influence, even though he was a prisoner, especially among Cæsar's retinue, was doubtless used by God to control the opposition to the evangel. How like Him to station the defender of the faith in the very citadel of His enemies!

PAUL'S INDIFFERENCE TO DEATH

20 The historical record emphasizes the fact that Paul taught the things which concern our Lord Jesus Christ "with all boldness, unforbidden" (Ac.

- 21 If Paul lived, his efforts would further the fame of Christ: if he died a martyr's death, even that would be gain for the cause of Christ, for the martyrs proved to be the seed of the Paul could not be thinking church. of his own gain in this connection.
- 23 A martyr's death would claim a martyr's reward, yet Paul lived at least two years at Rome, writing his letters from thence. Undoubtedly there has been more fruit from this work than from all of his previous service.
- 23 The solution of Paul's dilemma, life or death (neither of which he would choose because of his longing for another, much better condition) is the resurrection life with Christ. This "solution" might be referred to the dissolution of his body at death (2Tim.46) if it were not set in con-The same term trast with death. is used in Lu.1236 of the breaking up Words used in of a wedding party. the physical sense are often used in a metaphysical sense in the epistles. We dissolve material things but solve spiritual problems.

14 the rest, and the majority of the brethren, having confidence in the Lord as to my bonds, are more exceedingly daring to speak the word 15 of God fearlessly. Some, indeed, are

even proclaiming Christ because of envy and strife, yet some also because of delight, these, indeed, of

16 love, having perceived that I am located for the defense of the evan-

17 gel, yet those are announcing Christ out of faction, not purely, surmising to arouse affliction for my 18 bon ds. What then? — Moreover, seeing that, by every method,

whether in pretense or in truth. Christ is being announced, I am rejoicing in this also, and will be rejoicing nevertheless.

For I am aware that, for me, this will be eventuating in salvation through your petition and the supply of the spirit of Jesus ²⁰ Christ, in accord with my premonition and expectation, that in naught shall I be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, now also. Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether through life or ²¹ through death. For to me to be living is Christ, and to be dying 22 gain. Now if it is to be living in flesh, this to me means fruit from work, and I am not making known ²³ what I shall be preferring. (Yet I am being pressed out of the two, having a yearning for the solution,

even to be together with Christ, ²⁴ for it, rather, is much better.) Yet to be staying in the flesh is more

25 necessary because of you. And, having this confidence, I am aware that I shall be remaining and shall be abiding with you all for your progress and joy of faith, in order

that your glorying may be superabounding in Christ Jesus in me PAITOPIONAITOICAOITO 20 TORIUM rest

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²⁷ The citizenship or enfranchisement
here referred to is in heaven (32°),
not on earth.

THE PHILIPPIANS' SUFFERING

²⁹ It is our privilege to enjoy the sufferings which come to us in seeking to do God's work, for they are not, as we are wont to think, a token of His displeasure, but a favor which is granted to the few who are faithful in the performance of His will.

PUTTING ON THE EVANGEL

This division takes up the body of the epistle, setting before us the four models, Christ, Timothy, Epaphroditus and Paul, mingled with exhortations to imitate their example.

EXHORTATION TO IMITATE CHRIST

¹ Our conduct should reflect the unselfish humility of Christ, considering others and their honor rather than our own.

THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST JESUS

Form denotes outward appearance, as is shown by Paul's use of it in the contrast, "having a form of devotion, yet denying its power" (2Ti.35). We have found it impossible to sustain the idea that it refers to intrinsic essence. Figure or fashion denotes the form prevailing at any time. Christ was the Image of God, the visible representation of the Deity. He appeared as God to the saints of old, as in Eden and on Sinai. This form was laid aside for that of a slave, at His incarnation.

Adam and his progeny seek to exalt themselves and will be humbled. But Christ, Who might easily assume the place of equality with God, found His delight in submission and humiliation.

The ending -mos of the word for pillaging denotes the act, not the object of pillage. When He was in the form of God He was given the same place as God by men (Gen.1611,132211, 12 3228,30 Ex.32,6 Josh.513,15 Judges 612, 23). All of the divine titles, Elohim, Jehovah, Adonai, etc., were assumed by Him just as if He were God, because He is His Image.

7 Empties cannot refer to a partial relinquishment of His previous state, but a total change of form, in which none of God's glory was apparent to the physical sight.

through my presence with you ²⁷ again. Only be citizens worthy of the evangel of Christ, in order that, whether coming and making your acquaintance, or being absent, I should be hearing of your concerns, that you are standing firm in one spirit, one soul, competing together ²⁸ in the faith of the evangel, and not startled at all by the opposers, which is to them a proof of destruction, yet of your salvation,

destruction, yet of your salvation,
²⁹ and this from God, seeing that to
you it is graciously granted, for
Christ's sake, not only to be believing on Him, but to be suffering for

30 His sake also, having the same struggle such as you perceive in me, and now hear to be in me.

If, then, there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any communion of spirit, if any compassion and pity, fill my joy

full, that you may be mutually disposed, having mutual love, joined in soul, being disposed

toward one thing—nothing according ing with strife, nothing according with vain glory—but with a humble disposition deeming one

another superior to one's self, not each noting his own things, but each those of the others also.

For let this disposition be in you, which is in Christ Jesus also, Who, subsisting in the form of God, deems it not pillaging to be equal to

God, nevertheless empties Himself, taking the form of a slave, coming to be in the likeness of humanity,

8 and, being found in fashion as a man, He humbles Himself, becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. YHENXPICTUIHCOYENEMO 20
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The Example of Christ

The enormous sweep of this synopsis of Christ's service and suffering takes in the whole universe and all the eons, from the beginning to the consummation. Being in the form of God. He was above all, under the curse of the cross He was beneath all. Yet, as He voluntarily descended from the highest to the lowest place. so, too, shall be His exaltation. Every tongue will acclaim Him Lord for God the Father's glory. This cannot be until every heart will have been subdued at the consummation (1Cor. Until then there are enemies who oppose His rule. Ever since His resurrection God has been engaged in His exaltation. Even now, many celestial powers are subordinate to Him (1Pe.322). When He comes again the earth will be added to His domain. until finally the whole universe will be reconciled to God by the blood of His cross (Col.120). This is His reward. It is as Jesus (Jehovah the Saviour), the name of His humiliation. that He will be exalted to the place supreme. He Who was lowest shall become the highest.

EXHORTATION TO OBEDIENCE

12 There is no question here of sinners working for salvation. This is an exhortation to saints to make the salvation they have effective in their daily life and action.

16 The "word of life", or a living expression of the evangel consists in conduct so consistent with it that the life alone will proclaim the spirit of the message apart from its formal announcement. Christ, Paul, Timothy and Epaphroditus were living expressions, for their service and sufferings exemplify its message.

17 The priest in Israel, officiating at the altar, poured a libation, usually of wine, upon the sacrifice (Num.155). Paul wished to be the libation on their sacrifice.

TIMOTHY

19 Timothy was the ideal servant. Though himself suffering with infirmities, he was not concerned about himself but took a genuine interest in the saints whom he served.

Wherefore, also, God highly exalts Him, and graces Him with the name which is over every name, that in the name of Jesus every knee should be bowing, celestial and terrestrial and subterrational nean, and every tongue should be acclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord, for the glory of God, the Father.

So that, my beloved, according as you always obey, not as in my presence only, but now much rather in my absence, be carrying your own salvation into effect with ¹³ fear and trembling, for it is God Who is operating in you to will as well as to work for the sake ¹⁴ of His delight. Be doing all with-¹⁵ out murmuring and reasoning, in order that you should be becoming blameless and artless, children of

crooked and perverse generation, among whom you are appearing as ¹⁶ luminaries in the world, having on the word of life, for me to glory in, in the day of Christ, that I did not run for naught, neither that I ¹⁷ toil for naught. Nay, even if I am a libation on the sacrifice and ministration of your faith. I am joying

God, flawless, in the midst of a

and rejoicing together with you ¹⁸ all. Now, to be mutual, you also be joying and be rejoicing together with me.

Now I am expecting, in the Lord Jesus, to send Timothy to you quickly, in order that I also may be of good cheer when I know of your concerns. For I have no one equally sensitive, who will be so genuinely solicitous of your concerns, for all are seeking their own, not that which concerns ²² Christ Jesus. Now you know the

22 Christ Jesus. Now you know the test of him, that as a child with a father he slaves with me for the 23 evangel. This one, indeed, then,

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The Living Examples

19 The word soul has lost its significance in English, especially in its compounds, hence we render idiomatically "good cheer," for "well souled" and "equally sensitive" for "equalsouled."

EPAPHRODITUS

25 This is a most pathetic picture of the suffering which often accompanies the service of the Lord in this economy. In the previous economy Paul could and would have healed Epaphroditus, for his very handkerchief was potent with power. That course was in keeping with the kingdom which he then proclaimed. But now, when all blessing is spiritual (Eph.13), Paul does not attempt to heal Epaphroditus and tells Timothy to use a sip of wine for his frequent infirmities (1Tim. 523). How full of feeling is the statement that he was depressed, not by his own condition, but because the Philippians had heard of it and would be concerned about him!

26 Epaphroditus was commissioned by the Philippian ecclesia to bring their contribution to Paul. He was their apostle. His case aptly illustrates the meaning of the term.

EXHORTATION TO BEWARE

2 Those who are elsewhere called the Circumcision are here termed the "Maimcision", and true believers in Christ Jesus are the genuine Circumcision. Circumcision signified the cutting off of the flesh, but speedily became a badge in which the flesh took great pride. Instead of cutting off the flesh it gave it the place of privilege. Only those circumcised dared to hope for God's blessings. Now a mere mutilation of the flesh is replaced by doing, in spirit, what cir-We cut off the cumcision typified. physical altogether.

The divine ritual of Judaism is replaced, in our case, by real spiritual worship, acceptable to God wherever it is offered.

THE EXAMPLE OF PAUL

4 Paul is the most brilliant example of the results of a divine religion in which the flesh is given a place. His birth gave him the most favored place among men. His attainments gave him the highest place among his own race.

I am expecting to send forthwith. as soon as I should drop my con-²⁴ cerns. Now, I have confidence in the Lord that I myself shall also be coming quickly.

25 Now I deem it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your apostle and minister for my need, since, in fact, he was longing for you all and was depressed, because you hear that he

²⁷ is infirm. For he is infirm, also, very near to death, but God is merciful to him, and not to him only, but to me also, lest I should be

²⁸ having sorrow on sorrow. The more diligently, then, I send him, that you may be rejoicing at seeing him again and I may be more sorrow

²⁹ free. Receive him, then, in the Lord with all joy, and have such 30 in honor, seeing that he draws near unto death because of the work of the Lord, risking his soul in order that he should fill up your want of ministration toward me.

Furthermore, my brethren, be rejoicing in the Lord. To be writing the same to you is not, indeed, irksome for me, yet it is your security. Beware of curs, beware of evil workers, beware of the maincision, for we are the circumcision who are offering divine service to God in spirit, and are glorying in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in flesh.

And am even I having confidence in the flesh, also? If any other one is presuming to have confidence in the flesh, I rather: circumcised the eighth day, of the race of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews, in relation to law, a Pharisee, in

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The Example of Paul

But he forfeits all this and flings it from him because it interferes with the superior position accorded to him in Christ. His religion made him the chief of sinners, Christ's bitterest enemy. Now he will have no more of his own, but that which is founded on Christ.

- Refuse is defined (Syr.274) when one sifts with a sieve, the refuse remains." "What is thrown to the dogs." (Suid.)
- 10 It is notable that Paul never engages our attention with the life of Christ while on earth. Then, he tells us, He was a Servant of the Circumcision (Rom.158). All His practises and precepts were directed toward the proclamation of the kingdom. which is now in abevance. We have no vital relation with Him until His resurrection. We, too, are accounted as alive in resurrection. are ascended and seated among the celestials in Him (Eph.25.6). Let us in to His death, if somehow I should conduct ourselves, then, in harmony be attaining to the resurrection with this. This is our goal. Let us approximate it as nearly as we can in anticipation. The apostle has no doubts about attaining the actual resurrection. He is not so sure that he realizes its power in his present experience. All will be raised then. Not all realize it now. We should. however, accommodate ourselves to those who are still observing the rudiments.
- 14 We have here the ideal experience of a believer in Christ Jesus. shortcomings and sins, the aims and ambitions of the past are all forgotten. lest they hinder us in our race to the goal, which is conformity to Christ Jesus in His glory. Though we cannot fully attain this until resurrection, we should aim to come as near it as possible in our present experience. He who comes nearest this ideal will obtain the prize.

EXHORTATION TO IMITATE PAUL

17 The imitation of Christ, when He was concerned with an economy which was, in some ways, the opposite of the present, has led to endless failure and confusion. The reason for Paul's exhortation that he be made a model for their imitation arises from the

relation to zeal, persecuting the ecclesia, in relation to the righteousness which is in law, becoming

blameless. But what things were gain to me, these I have deemed a

forfeit because of Christ. But, to be sure, I am also deeming all to be a forfeit because of the superiority of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord, because of Whom I forfeited all, and am deeming it to be refuse, that I may be gaining

Christ, and may be found in Him, not having my righteousness, which is of law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is from God for faith:

10 to know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the participation of His sufferings, being conformed

11 to His death, if somehow I should 12 out from among the dead. Not that I already obtained, or have already been perfected, yet I am pursuing, if I may be grasping also that for which I was grasped

13 also by Christ Jesus. Brethren, not as yet am I counting myself

14 to have grasped, yet one thingforgetting, indeed, that which is behind, yet stretching out in front toward the goal—I am pursuing for the prize of God's calling above in

15 Christ Jesus. As many, then, as are mature may be thus disposed, and if in anything you are differently disposed, this also shall God

16 reveal to you. Moreover, in what we outstrip others, there is to be a mutual disposition to observe the same fundamental rule.

Become imitators together of me, brethren, and be noting those who are walking thus, according as

18 you have us for a model, for many are walking of whom I often told

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Exhortation to Imitate Paul

fact that in him alone do we see the resurrection life of Christ interpreted in terms of present conduct. Christ's earthly life needs no such interpretation, so none of the other apostles are models in this sense even for the Circumcision.

18 The enemies of the cross of Christ are those who, failing to apprehend the significance of His shameful death, still cling to the earthly and the physical.

The cross of Christ brings before us the manner of His death. It was an ignominious, shameful, malefactor's death, to which God's curse was attached. Hence we may avail ourselves of the efficacy of His blood, and yet, by clinging to the world and the flesh, become enemies of His cross.

20 Our citizenship, or enfranchisement, in contrast to that of Israel, is in the heavens. We have no political privileges where the sovereignty of our Lord has been rejected. But we have high hopes both politically and physically. We shall reign with Christ in the celestial spheres. And this body of humiliation will be transfigured to conform to His glorious body. He is coming as a Saviour.

²¹ Here we have the definite assurance of His ability to subordinate the entire universe. This will not be accomplished until the consummation (1Cor. 15²⁴-2²).

- ⁵ The Lord is always near when men are high handed with us. It is not our place to retaliate but to be lenient and considerate, for He is near and will take care of our interests.
- Worry kills more men than war. To get beyond its reach is one of the most precious privileges of all who belong to Christ. There is no promise here that our prayers will be answered, or that, if several agree, they shall have their request. It goes far deeper than The knowledge that God is guiding all things to the goal He has set before Him, unhindered by the stress and storm which so distresses us, leads us to wonder whether our own petitions are in line with His will, and whether it is better to leave all with Him, confident that He will grant that only good which we crave but do not apprehend. We enter into His peace and acquiesce in His will whether our prayer be answered or not.

you, and now am lamenting also, as I tell it, who are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose consummation is destruction, whose God is their bowels, and whose glory is in their shame, who are disposed to terrestrial things. For our citizenship belongs to the heavens, out of which we are awaiting a Saviour also, the Lord, Jesus Christ. Who will transferure the

Saviour also, the Lord, Jesus ²¹ Christ, Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation, to conform it to His body glorious, in accord with the operation which enables Him to subject even the universe to Himself.

So that, brethren mine, beloved

and longed for, my joy and wreath, stand firm thus in the Lord. my beloved. I am entreating Euodia and I am entreating Syntyche, to be mutually disposed in the Lord. Yes, I am asking you also, genuine yokefellow, be aiding these women who compete together with me in the evangel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers whose names are in the scroll of life. Be rejoicing in the Lord always! Again, I will declare, be rejoicing! Let your lenience be known to all men: the Lord is near. Let nothing be worrying you, but in every prayer and petition let your requests be made known to God with thanksgiving, and the peace of God, being superior to every mental state, shall garrison your hearts and your apprehensions in Christ Furthermore, brethren, Jesus. whatever is true, whatever dignified, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is agreeable, whatever is renowned—if there is any virtue and if any applause, be taking these into account. What you learned also, and accepted MINNYNAGKAIKAAI CONAGE 20
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THE PHILIPPIANS' CARE OF PAUL

10 The Philippians seem to have had Paul constantly on their hearts though circumstances, at times, kept them from contributing to his needs.

PAUL'S COMPLACENCY IN WANT

11 It is blessed for the believer to recognize the fact that his environment and his condition are all of God, Who is using them for his welfare. Wealth or want, opulence or poverty are alike means for our blessing. There is no real contentment apart from this.

PAUL'S STRENGTH IN CHRIST

What encouragement there is in this brief word! Nothing is too great for those who know their own weakness and the invigorating power of Christ.

THE PHILIPPIANS' CONTRIBUTION

- 14 The gift of the Philippian ecclesia is especially precious because of the memories it awakens in Paul's mind. They alone came to his aid at the first, and then helped him even in Thessalonica, among his friends. Their contribution, being a token of their heartfelt appreciation and love, not only meets his need, but ascends, like the sacrifice of old, redolent with the perfume which speaks of the sacrifice of Christ. In return he reminds them of the glory that Christ has brought to God and that they, in Him, shall have all their needs supplied according to God's estimate of His work.
- 19 While God does not fill all our wants. He supplies all our needs. Nor does He do this in accord with our service or deserts, but in harmony with the glory which has come to be His in Christ Jesus. Thus He ever deals with us, not as we are in ourselves, but as He sees us in Christ. This should assure our hearts of His continual care and provision notwithstanding appearances to the contrary. Paul was humbled at times, and hungry, yet this to him was an evidence of His care as well as the times of superabundance.
- 21 Every saint "in Christ Jesus" limits this greeting to those who know Christ, not after the flesh, but after the spirit. The Circumcision are not included.

and hear and perceived in me, these be putting into practise, and the God of peace shall be with you.

Now I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that somehow, at length, your disposition toward me blossomed, to which you were disposed also, yet you lacked occasion.

Not that I am hinting at a want,

for I learned to be content in that

12 in which I am. I am aware what
it is to be humbled and I am aware
what it is to be superabounding
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I have been initiated even to be
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to be superabounding and to be in

13 want. I have strength for every-

13 want. I have strength for everything in Him Who is invigorating

me—Christ!

Moreover, you do ideally in your joint contribution in my affliction.
 Now you Philippians also are

aware that, in the beginning of the evangel, when I came out from Macedonia, not a single ecclesia participates with me in the matter of giving and getting, except you ¹⁶ only, seeing that, in Thessalonica

also, you send, once and again, ¹⁷ to my need. Not that I am seeking for a gift, but I am seeking for fruit which is increasing for

- your account. Now I am paid in full, and am superabounding. I have been filled full, receiving from Epaphroditus the things from you, a fragrant odor, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing
- 19 to God. Now my God shall be filling your every need in accord with His riches in glory in Christ
- ²⁰ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be glory for the eons of the eons! *Amen!*
- Greet every saint in Christ
 Jesus. The brethren with me are
 greeting you. All the saints are

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AFIOIMAAICTAAGOIGKTH8000 HOLY-ones RATHEBEST YET THE OUT OF-THE 22 Grace finds its trophies in the very household of that infamous monster, Nero!

²⁸ The epistle closes as it began, with the emphasis on conduct, by the use of the title *Lord*.

greeting you, yet especially those of Cæsar's household.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit! Amen!

CHAPTER 4

CKAICA POCOIKIA CHXA PI²⁰
-23 CAESAB HOME THE grace

92 NANTON OF ALL for the spirit
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OF-YOUP

CTOYKYPIOYIHCOYXPICT®
OF-THE Master JESUS ANOINTED

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Colossians is the complement Paul's epistle to the Ephesians. mysteries dominate both. Ephesians elaborates the present Secret Economy, which concerns the members of the body of Christ: Colossians dwells upon the secret of Christ. Who is the Head of that body. Ephesians, however, teaches the truth, while Colossians corrects departure from it.

The literary framework gives us a clear clue to its contents. Within the Salutations and Mutual Reports, the whole body of the epistle deals with the details of the Secret of Christ. First the apostle, in one of the most sublime passages in Holy Writ, sets forth the secret glories of Christ as

the Son of God.

At the close of the epistle he speaks of this again, desiring to make it known.

The bulk of this letter deals with correction in doctrine and deportment necessitated by departure from the Secret of Christ. A knowledge of this secret is vital to the spiritual welfare of all who know God.

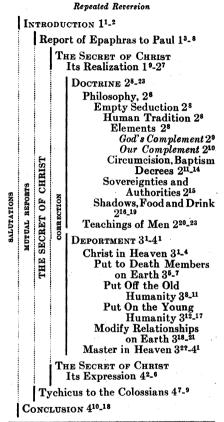
Rationalism and ritual, the philosophy of the nations and the religion of Israel, are the two great enemies to the truth which find correction in Colossians

Gnosticism, with its false fullness or pleroma of angelic intermediaries between God and man, is set aside by the great truth that Christ is God's Complement. As our Complement He displaces all the decrees and rites of Judaism. In Christ we are complete and need naught else to fit us for the

Father's presence.

The secret of Christ is presented in its future aspect in Ephesians. There is to be a harvest era in which Christ is to be supreme, not only on earth, but in the heavens also. His sway will be universal (Eph.11033). In Colossians, however, the emphasis is placed on His past headship in creation and His present headship in redemption with a view to a future reconciliation of the universe. The unity of creation has led philosophers to

FRAMEWORK OF COLOSSIANS



trace it back to a common origin, by some called a "primordial germ." This first element in creation, however simple it may be said to be, must possess within itself a potential universe. The Son of God, the Firstborn of Creation, is the satisfactory solution to all questions which concern creation. Creation did not begin in chaos but in Christ. It will not end in ruin wrought by man but in universal reconciliation wrought by the blood of His cross.

- ¹ "Paul, a commissioner of Christ Jesus," introduces us to a glorified Christ in heaven and invokes the authority vested in Paul as His legate. Contrast the character assumed by Paul in Philippians.
- Their faith in Christ Jesus and their heavenly hope reminds us of the opening words of Ephesians. these letters were written the saints among the nations had no clear indications of a heavenly destiny. This is practically unknown outside Paul's epistles. and even in them it is gradually approached. The Thessalonians are taught the Lord's descent from heaven to meet them in the air (1 Thess. The secret of the resurrection is made known to the Corinthians (1Cor.1551), showing that our bodies will be changed to fit the celestial spheres. But not until the prison ship epistles were penned are we given definite assurance that the saints are destined to enjoy a heavenly allot-
- ⁶ A true realization of God's grace is the accomplishment most to be desired of all things, for it is impossible to please God without faith and an intelligent grasp of His gracious purpose. Zeal must be directed by knowledge,

THE SECRET OF CHRIST ITS BEALIZATION

- ⁹ Here we have a prayer which is well worthy of our imitation.
- 13 The kingdom of His Son is a figurative allusion to the kingdom of Christ. Messiah's kingdom is literal and future and destroys and displaces earth's kingdoms (Dan.244). The kingdom of the Son here spoken of is a present spiritual power. We are not rescued from earth's governments but from the powers of Darkness which direct and dominate them. The term "pardon" is borrowed from the kingdom phraseology to accord with this figure.
- 15 God is an invisible Spirit (Jno.424 1Ti.616). The Son of God is the visible, tangible embodiment of Deity. Only in Him can we see God. All other images are condemned because they are false and dishonor God (Deut.58). All creation was in Him, as the tree and its fruits are found in the seed. In Him

- PAUL, an apostle of Christ Jesus, through the will of God, and brother Timothy, to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ in Colosse:
 - Grace to you and peace, from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- WE are thanking the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always concerning you,
 when hearing of your faith in

Christ Jesus and the love which

- of the expectation which is reserved for you in the heavens, which you hear before in the true
- 6 expression of the evangel, which, being present with you, according as in all the world also, is being fruitful and growing, according as it is among you also, from the day you hear and realized the grace of
- God in truth, according as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow slave, who is a faithful
- 8 dispenser of Christ for us, and who makes evident also to us your love in spirit.
- Therefore we also, from the day we hear, do not cease praying for you and requesting that you may be filled with the realization of His will, in all wisdom and spiritual ¹⁰ understanding, you to walk worthily of the Lord for all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work,
- and growing in the realization of ¹¹ God; being endued with all power, in accord with His glorious might, for all endurance and

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The Secret of Christ

God created all else, for the whole universe was created in Him. This includes the celestial as well as the terrestrial spheres and every form of spiritual power and dignity. These exist through Him and for Him and He makes all a unit for the accomplishment of God's purpose.

18 As God's Complement, His supremacy becomes pre-eminent in redemption as well as creation. Their relation may be shown as follows:

The Firstborn of all Creation Image of God The Universe Heaven and Earth Created in Him THE PRE-EMINENCE OF THE The Firstborn from the Dead SON OF GOD

Comple-The Universe ment of Earth and Heaven God Reconciled thru Him

The two paramount points in universal history are the creation and the resurrection of the Son of God. Through His death and vivification He will yet more than restore the lost creation to the Father. The cross, which speaks of His estrangement from God, is the basis on which reconciliation is built. The benefits it brings are not confined to earth or mankind, but include the celestial realms as well.

20 Just as His glories in creation take us back to the very beginning, so the greater glories of reconciliation take us to the very consummation. The universal reconciliation cannot be fully accomplished until the close of the eonian times, when all sovereignty and authority and power and even death are rendered inoperative (1Cor. 1524-27) and when all mankind are saved (1Tim.410) and justified (Rom. This takes us far beyond the new earth portrayed at the end of the Unveiling of Jesus Christ, for there He still reigns, many of mankind are still lost, and death is not abolished.

21 At present reconciliation includes only those who, like the Colossians, believe in Him and have not lost their hold on this great truth (or indeed, have never heard of it). Salvation depends only on the work of Christ and is not affected by our moods: reconciliation depends, on our side, upon our enjoyment of His favor. 12 patience with joy; at the same time giving thanks to the Father, Who makes you competent for a part of the allotment of the 13 saints, in light. Who rescues us out of the authority of darkness, and transports us into the king-14 dom of the Son of His love, in

Whom we are having deliverance,

15 the pardon of sins. Who is the Image of the invisible God. Firstborn

16 of every creature, seeing that the universe in the heavens and on the earth is created in Him-the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or sovereignties or authorities—the universe has been created through Him and

17 for Him, and He is before all, and the universe has its cohesion in

18 Him. And He is the Head of the body, the ecclesia, Who is Sovereign. Firstborn from among the dead, that in all He may be be-

19 coming first, seeing that the entire complement delights to dwell in

20 Him, and through Him to reconcile the universe to Him (making peace through the blood of His cross), through Him, whether on the earth or in the heavens.

And you, being once estranged and enemies in comprehension, in acts of wickedness, vet now He rec-²² onciles by His body of flesh, through His death, to present you holy and

flawless and unimpeachable, in His 23 sight, at least if you are persisting in the faith grounded and settled, and are not removed from

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OF-THE BODY

THE HEAD

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23 The scope of reconciliation is not confined to mankind; it is as broad as creation. Its proclamation was made to every creature under heaven. It is God's loving purpose to bind all His creatures to Him with the cords of affection. To accomplish this purpose demands suffering—not only the essential suffering of Christ on the cross, but those of His afflictions which He endures in His members in the course of its dispensation.

25 This epistle was not by any means the last of the Greek scriptures to be The Unveiling of Jesus penned. Christ and all of John's writings were written, we are told, long afterward. Paul completed or filled up the word of God in another sense. All the other scriptures were limited in their scope to the earth, as to space, and to the eons, as to time. They were concerned with a fragment of the universe. In them the nations could have only a subordinate place and portion. As the secret of Christ breaks beyond the barriers of Judaism, these restrictions vanish. On earth Messiah never left the land of Israel. Now, in spirit, He walks among the nations, dispensing blessing as He did in the days of His earthly sojourn. Christ, Who never went among the nations before His ascension, met Paul outside the land, on the Damascus road, not as the lowly Jesus, but as the glorified Son of God. Gradually, in spirit, through the apostle's ministries, He unfolds His secret purpose to be to the nations, in spirit, all that He had been to Israel in flesh, and far more. This is the secret: Christ among the nations, a glorious expectation. Not a subordinate place in the earthly kingdom, but a pre-eminent place in His celestial domains.

Let us, too, note the tremendous importance which he attaches to an appreciation of this most marvelous mystery or secret. It satisfies both the heart and the head. It reveals depths of affection in which we may revel. It discloses the treasures of wisdom and knowledge for which earth's sages and philosophers have been groping without avail. It solves the riddle of the universe—its beginning and its end, its creation and its reconciliation.

the expectation of the evangel which you hear, which is being proclaimed in the entire creation which is under heaven, of which I,

²⁴ Paul, became a dispenser. I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh, in His stead, the deficiencies of the afflictions of Christ, for His body.

which is the ecclesia of which I became a dispenser, in accord with the stewardship of God, which was granted to me for you, to complete

26 the word of God—the secret which has been concealed from the eons and from the generations, yet now

²⁷ is made manifest to His saints, to whom God wills to make known what are the glorious riches of this secret among the nations, which is:

Christ among you, a glorious ex-

28 pectation—Whom we are announcing, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, in order that we should present every man mature in Christ Jesus;

²⁹ for which I am toiling also, struggling in accord with His operation, which is operating in me in power.

2 For I want you to perceive the stupendous struggle I am having for your sakes and for those in Laodicea, and as many as have not seen

may be consoled, being united in love, even unto all the riches of the assurance of understanding, unto a realization of the secret of

3 the God and Father of Christ, in Whom all the treasures of wisdom

4 and knowledge are concealed. Now

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DOCTRINAL CORRECTION

- It is difficult to discern that the divine religion given to Israel in the flesh may be one of the greatest hindrances toward an appreciation of the grace which is ours in Christ Jesus. Hence the spirit of God forces it down to the same level with human philosophy and tradition by alternating them in this passage. The empty seduction and rudiments, the circumcision, baptism, and shadows refer to the rites and ritual Jehovah gave His earthly people. Yet they are interspersed with references to the authority and teachings of men. Ritual is just as dangerous an enemy as rationalism. As God's Complement, Christ is the answer to philosophy: as our Complement. He is the end of religion.
- 8 By a striking figure the apostle warns us lest we lose all our possessions in Christ by a legal process, such as is served when property is seized for debt. Legality levies an attachment on us so that we lose the enjoyment of our possessions and philosophy interferes in the same way. 11 The spiritual history of those who know Christ as their Complement may be summarized in three words: death, burial, and resurrection. Not. of course, literally, but in Him. rites, in Israel, set this forth in figure. Circumcision is the cutting off of the It signifies death. pictures both burial and resurrection. Now the believer need not be circumcised, for Christ, his Complement, descended into death itself. In Christ's burial he has been baptized. In His resurrection he has been raised from the dead. Faith in God's operation is all the ceremony needed to place the believer beyond the tomb in full possession of every privilege ever procured by the rites of religion. Christ, our Complement, makes full provision for our approach into the divine presence, just as the brazen altar and the laver provided for the approach of the priest in the tabernacle (Ex.2713017). 14 The decrees issued by the apostles from Jerusalem (Acts1523-29) were a standing symbol of the subjection of the nations to the Circumcision even

though they absolved them from ob-

serving all the rudimentary rites.

especially circumcision.

- I am saying this, that no one of you should be beguiled with persuasive words. For even if I am absent in flesh, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing and observing your order and the stability of your faith in Christ.
- As, then, you accepted Christ Jesus, the Lord, be walking in Him, having been rooted and built up in Him, and being confirmed in the faith according as you were taught, superabounding in it with thanksgiving.
- Beware that no one shall be despoiling you through philosophy and empty seduction, in accord with human tradition, in accord with the elements of the world, and not in accord with Christ, seeing that in Him the entire complement of the Deity is dwelling to bodily. And you are complete in Him, Who is the Head of every
- ¹¹ sovereignty and authority, in Whom you were circumcised also with a circumcision not made with hands, in the stripping off of the body of flesh in the circumcision
- of Christ. Being entombed together with Him in baptism (in Whom you were roused together also through faith in the operation of God, Who rouses Him from among
- 13 the dead, you also being dead in the offenses and the uncircumcision of your flesh), He vivifies us together jointly with Him, dealing graciously with all our of-
- 14 fenses, erasing the handwriting of the decrees against us, which was hostile to us, and has taken it away out of the midst, nailing it to the
- 15 cross, stripping off the sovereign-

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Doctrinal Correction

15 Not only is the believer exempt from the authority of the apostles of the Circumcision, but, in spirit, he is beyond the reach of all human jurisdiction. Even before His resurrection our Lord reminded Pilate that he had no authority whatever in His case except what had been granted him from above (Jno.1910-11). By His rising He reversed the sentence of death pronounced against Him by the Sanhedrin and the Roman governor.

16 The prohibition of certain foods under the law, the observance of festivals and fasts and rest days, all foreshadowed the rest and joy and plenty of that future kingdom on the earth, in which the body of Christ has no part. The divine picture of our portion is the physical body of Christ, risen and ascended and seated at God's right hand in the celestial spheres. As the physical members are to this body, so we, His spiritual members, are to Him. We, too, are roused and seated there, and are the instruments through which He will effect His Father's will in the empyrean.

19 "Holding the Head" is a succinct expression of our duty as members of the body of Christ. A conscious connection and subjection to Him as our Head will sever us from the things of the world, whether it be its religion (however divine its origin) or its philosophy. Any attempt to improve our position before God by physical means, whether it be an appeal to the senses or a curbing of its normal needs, denies our completeness in Christ.

CORRECTION-DEPORTMENT

The secret of pleasing God is a conduct conformed to our spiritual position. The key to this position is the great truth that we have not only died and have been roused with Christ, but we have ascended into heaven with Him. Our interests, our expectations, are no longer on earth at all, but in the celestial regions. Let this great and glorious truth be behind our motives and guide us into the path that pleases Him.

ties and authorities, He boldly makes a show of them, triumphing 16 over them in it. Let no one, then, be judging you in food or in drink or in a particular festival, or new 17 moon, or sabbaths, which are a shadow of those things which are future—but the body is of 18 Christ. Now let no one be arbitrating against you willfully, by humility and the ritual of messengers, parading what is seen, affectedly puffed up by his fleshly mind. 19 and not holding the Head, out of Whom the entire body, being supplied and united through the assimilation and ligaments, is grow-²⁰ ing in the growth of God. If, then, you died together with Christ from the elements of the world, why, as living in the world, are you ²¹ subject to decrees: "You should not be touching, nor tasting, nor 22 having the slightest contact" (which things are all for corruption by use) in accord with the directions ²³ and teachings of men, which are, indeed, an expression having its wisdom in a willful ritual and a humble disposition and asceticism —not of any value against the surfeiting of the flesh.

3 If, then, you were roused together with Christ, be seeking that which is above, where Christ is sitting ² at the right hand of God. Be disposed to that which is above, not ³ to that on the earth, for you died and your life has been hid together ⁴ with Christ in God. Whenever Christ, our Life, should be manifested, then you also will be manifested together with Him in glory.

Put to death, then, your members which are on earth: prostitution, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and greed, which is idolOR IN

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Correction—Deportment

We are exhorted to transform faith into fact. Are we dead to the world? Then let us live as those who are past the practises which pollute it. How can we keep on in the course which will draw down God's indignation—not upon us—but upon those who do not trust Him?

9 The old humanity, with its diversity and division, no longer reflects the Image of its Creator. In the new, or fresh, humanity, in which Christ displaces Adam, these divisions disappear. The religion of the Jew and the philosophy of the Greek, the privileges of the Circumcision and the proscription of the Uncircumcision, the subjection of the slave and the superiority of the freeman—all these find no place in the young humanity of which Christ is the Head. We should so behave that it will be recognized as created in His image.

12 The greater our appreciation of our Lord's grace toward us, the greater grace will we show towards all who belong to Him. Without this compelling power we shall be able only to exercise our natural, ungracious dispositions.

14 Love, the greatest of the abiding trinity (1Cor.1313), is the tie which binds us to the Lord and should be the tie which unites us to our fellow saints. Before maturity, in the preparatory era preceding the present economy, the saints were united (or rather divided) by a common rite, as Circumcision, or a common ancestor, as Israel. Now that these are abolished there is a spiritual unity unmarred by any division (Eph.43-6). Love is the tie that makes us one, peace is the tie that keeps us one.

15 All difficulties should be submitted to the arbitration of the peace of Christ.

heart full of grace. It should be the overflow of a heart surcharged with an appreciation of God's love. All other motives are a mockery, and discordant to His ears.

¹⁷ God is jealous that His Son be duly honored in all we do or say. Even our thanksgiving must be accompanied by the incense of His name. 6 atry, because of which God's indignation is coming on the sons of

⁷ Stubbornness — among whom you also once walked, when you lived in

these things.

8 Yet now you also be putting away all these—anger, fury, malice, calumny, obscenity out of 9 your mouth. Do not lie to one another, stripping off the old humanity together with its practises, 10 and putting on the young, which is being renewed into recognition, to accord with the Image of the 11 One Who creates it, wherein there is no Greek and Jew, Circumci-

is no Greek and Jew, Circumcision and Uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, freeman, but all and in all is Christ.

Put on, then, as God's chosen

ones, holy and beloved, pitiful compassion, kindness, humility, ¹³ meekness, patience, bearing with one another and dealing graciously among yourselves, if anyone should be having a complaint against any. According as the Lord also deals graciously with you, thus also you.

¹⁴ Now over all these is love, which is ¹⁵ the tie of maturity. And let the peace of Christ be arbitrating in your hearts, for which you were called also in one body; and be-

16 come thankful. Let the word of Christ make its home in you richly, in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing yourselves; with psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, singing, in the grace which is in ¹⁷ your hearts, to God. And every-

thing, whatever you may be doing, in word and in act, let all be in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

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" SA O. **WKAINANOTIËANNOIHTEE®** Correction—Deportment

17 We should always distinguish between our place "in Christ" and "in the Lord". "In Christ" physical distinctions vanish, even the distinction between the sexes is gone. There is neither male nor female (Gal.328). But "in the Lord" these are all recognized and regulated. Let us never base conduct on our place in Christ, always in the Lord. Service is to the Lord, not to Christ. In the Lord. woman is subject, in Christ, she is the equal of the man.

18 The ideal family is characterized by love on the part of the husband, which smoothes the way for subjection on the part of the wife and obedience on the part of the children. It is a sign of the last days that children no longer heed this injunction (2Tim.

22 As slavery is almost a thing of the past, these injunctions may well be the guide of those whose service is voluntary rather than compulsory. It is a marvelous help to look beyond all earthly masters and work for One above. Our employer may be hard to please, or unjust, or harsh, not giving proper compensation, but if we become the slave of Christ our work will be sincerely done and we will look to Him for appreciation and due deserts. On the other hand we will be restrained from injurious acts by the fear of Him in that day.

1 Masters, too, by remembering that they are His slaves, will deal justly with those who serve them.

THE SECRET OF CHRIST

ITS EXPRESSION

² The great burden on the apostle's heart at this time was the transcendent revelation of Christ and His secret glories, which had been comwhich smooths the way for subjection his message when he was a prisoner at the court of Rome? God's ways are not our ways. If the apostle had been free he would probably have proclaimed Christ's universal dignities by word of mouth. Being bound, he committed his message to writing, a method which has been immeasurably more effective.

giving thanks to God, the Father, through Him.

Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. 19 Husbands, be loving your own wives and be not bitter toward ²⁰ them. Children, be obeying your

parents in all things, for this is ²¹ well pleasing in the Lord. Fathers.

do not be vexing your children, lest they may be disheartened.

Slaves, in all things be obeying your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-slavery as man pleasers, but with singleness of ²³ heart, fearing the Lord. whatever you may be doing, be working from the soul, as to the ²⁴ Lord and not to men, being aware that you will be getting the compensation of the enjoyment of an allotment from the Lord: you are ²⁵ slaving for the Lord Christ. For he who is in juring shall be requited for that which he injures, and

Masters, be tendering that which is just and equitable to your slaves. being aware that you also have a Master in heaven.

there is no partiality.

Be persevering in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving, and praying at the same time concerning us, that God should open up for us a door of the word, to speak the secret of Christ, because of which I have been bound also. that I should be making it manifest, as I must speak. Be walking in

wisdom toward those outside, reclaiming the era, your word being always with grace, seasoned with salt, perceiving how you must answer each one.

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Mutual Reports

7 Tychicus is well named, for who ever had a better "chance" than the bearer of this epistle as well as the letter to the Ephesians? (Eph.621). The spiritual wealth with which he was entrusted passes our utmost comprehension.

10 The mention of Mark is another. affectionate touch. Barnabas and Saul brought him from Jerusalem to Antioch (Acts1225) and took him with them on their first missionary journey. but he forsook them and returned to Jerusalem (Acts1313). For this Paul refused to take him the next time, causing the separation of Paul and Barnabas (Acts 1537-40). But Paul has been drinking deeply of grace. He no longer holds Mark's failure against him. He tells Timothy that "he is useful for the service" (2 Ti. 411). Now he makes sure that his friends And this man, whose receive him. service was so unsatisfactory, is the one chosen by God to write the account of the perfect Servant!

10 Aristarchus, Mark and Justus are not to be reckoned as members of Christ's body destined to a celestial allotment. They were of the Circumcision, who still proclaimed the kingdom. Here we have the point of contact between these two companies. The course of the Circumcision is traced in the epistle to the Hebrews.

12 Epaphras seems to have been the principal teacher in the Colossian ecclesia (17) through whom they learned the grace of God. How effectively that grace wrought in his own heart is evident by his prayers and anguish while absent from them. His great concern was that they should be mature and complete in all the will of God. How rare are such saints in these days!

16 It is likely that the Laodicean epistle here referred to is the same as that now called the epistle to the Ephesians. It has the character of a circular letter, copies of which were sent to various ecclesias.

18 The epistle was probably penned by a professional scribe, but the apostle appended the greeting with his own hand.

loved brother and faithful servant
and fellow slave in the Lord, whom
I send to you for this same thing,
that you may know what concerns
you and he should be consoling
your hearts, together with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother,
who is one of you. They shall make
known to you all things here.

Aristarchus, my fellow captive, is greeting you, and Mark, cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom vou obtained directions -- if he should be coming to you, receive ¹¹ him), and Jesus, termed Justus, who are of the Circumcision: these are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who became a 12 solace to me. Epaphras is greeting you, who is one of you, a slave of Christ Jesus, always struggling for you in prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in 13 all the will of God. For I am testifying of him that he has much misery over you and those in Laodicea and those in Hierapolis. Luke, the beloved physician, is

15 greeting you, and Demas. Greet the brethren in Laodicea, and Nympha, and the ecclesia at her
16 home. And whenever the epistle should be read to you, cause that it should be read in the Laodicean ecclesia also, and that you also may
17 be reading that of Laodicea. And

The reading that of Laodicea. And say to Archippus: "Look to the service which you accepted in the Lord, that you fulfill it."

18 The salutation is by my hand— Paul. Remember my bonds! Grace be with you! Amen!

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PAUL'S PROMISE EPISTLES

THE blessed expectation of our Lord's return before the day of His indignation is the subject of these, Paul's earliest epistles. It is the early opening wedge between those who received his ministry among the nations and those of the Circumcision, who looked for Messiah's advent after the display of His indignation and the destruction of man's kingdoms.

The historical background for this change is given in the book of Acts. though the doctrine itself is not found there because the Acts is a treatise on the kingdom of God for Israel. In the ministry of our Lord and His twelve apostles His coming is always presented in its connection with the promised kingdom. It will be with power and great glory (Mt.2430Mk.13 ²⁶Lu.21²⁷). His feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives (Acts111-12Zech. 141-5). All the predictions of the prophet Daniel and in the Unveiling of Jesus Christ will be fulfilled at that time. It will follow an era of the most awful and terrific judgments mankind will ever be called upon to endure. So long as the kingdom was impending these judgments, also, were hanging over a rebellious race.

At first Paul, like all the rest, confined his ministry to the Jews. At Antioch, where the disciples were first called "Christians," there were none except Jews and proselytes. From this he was separated (Acts 13²). At Pisidian Antioch he first turned to the attions, or Gentiles. After that, though he spoke to the Jews first, he proclaimed Christ freely among the nations, preaching grace. One of the first questions for these believers

among the nations was, What shall become of us in the great judgments which precede the coming of the kingdom? Will God pour out His bowls of wrath upon our heads? In answer to this the apostle is given an entirely new revelation concerning the future presence of the Lord. The believers among the nations were saved on the ground of grace. This is to characterize all God's dealings with them. Hence they cannot remain in the scene which is visited by His indig-They must be sheltered or removed. Some saints in Israel are sheltered, but the new company, composed principally of saints from the other nations who have believed Paul's preaching, are to be removed. Paul receives the revelation that, long before the Lord descends in glory to set up His kingdom, He will descend, not to the earth, but to the air, and His saints will be caught up to meet Him there. Thus they will be above the lightnings and thunders of the terrible day of the Lord.

In later epistles, as the truth was gradually developed, more details were added to this glorious revelation. The Corinthian mind found difficulties in this doctrine, so the apostle unfolds to them the secret or mystery of the resurrection (Co.1551,52), that our bodies, which, at present, are adapted only to an earthly environment, are to be changed to suit the celestial spheres. The Philippian letter caps the climax by the added revelation that they shall be transfigured into the glorious likeness of our Lord Himself!

I THESSALONIANS

THE historical setting and occasion for this epistle is found in the book of Acts (171-15185). By constraint of the spirit of God, after he had revisited the scenes of his first missionary journey, Paul is led to go across to Macedonia. He perceived a vision in which a Macedonian entreated him. "Cross over into Macedonia. Help us!" In response to this appeal Paul and his party founded an ecclesia in Philippi, to which also he afterwards penned the epistle of that name. After being beaten and imprisoned, they are besought to leave the city, and came to Thessalonica.

Paul first reasoned with the Jews in the synagogue for three sabbaths, showing from their scriptures that Christ must suffer and rise from the dead and that Jesus was their Messiah. Some believed but some did not. As at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 1346-48). Paul then turns to those outside the nale of Judaism and of these a vast multitude believe. But, as at Pisidian Antioch, the unbelieving Jews stirred up a persecution against them so that they were sent away. After going to Berea (Ac.1710) and Athens (Ac.17 15-34), he came to Corinth, where both Silas and Timothy joined him (Acts 185, 1 Thess.36) and where he probably wrote this, the first of all the writings of the Greek scriptures.

Paul did not desire to leave the Thessalonians. They had only just received the evangel and needed to be taught and confirmed in the faith. He was deeply concerned about them and sought twice to return to them, but was hindered. So he sent Timothy in his stead. The report of Timothy greatly comforted him. Not being able to go to them, he pens this epistle.

The literary framework shows that the whole epistle takes its color from the persecutions endured by the Thessalonians. At present they are sufferFRAMEWORK, I. THESSALONIANS
Complex Reversion and Alternation

SALUTATION 11

THANKSGIVING: receive, imitate, wait, rescued from indignation 11-110
PAUL'S ENTRANCE to the Thessalonians 21-212

THANKSGIVING: receive, imitate, suffer, indignation upon Jews 2¹³·2¹⁵
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THE LORD'S PRESENCE 3¹²-3¹³

ASKING AND ENTREATING 4¹-4⁸

WRITING: not necessary 4⁹-4¹²

THE LORD'S PRESENCE: those asleep, consolation 4¹³-4¹⁸

WRITING: not necessary 5¹-5³

THE LORD'S COMING: those drowsing, consolation 5⁴-5¹¹

ASKING AND ENTREATING 5¹²-5²²

THE LORD'S PRESENCE 5²³-5²⁴

SALUTATION 5²⁵-5²⁸

ing from the anger of men, but they shall be saved from the indignation of God. The Jews who persecute them are drawing down God's indignation, but the Thessalonians will never be subjects of His wrath (110 21659).

The doctrinal burden of the epistle is based on the truth of the Lord's future presence. He had taught this during the few days he was with them but it needed further explanation.

Some had died and some were indifferent. Would these two classes be left out when He comes? The answer is that those who are asleep will be roused first and accompany the living when they are caught up to meet the Lord in the air. They will not be left behind.

So, too, those who do not watch. The death of Christ provides for their salvation from future wrath quite apart from their present walk. All who are His, whether watchful or drowsy, shall live together with Him.

PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS (1)

PAUL'S THANKSGIVING

- is the pattern This pastoral Paul's deep concern leads epistle. him to constant prayer for them, for he knows their need and has been torn from them before it was possible for him to teach them much.
- 3 It is most significant to find in the opening strain of this, Paul's earliest epistle, that abiding trinity, faith, expectation and love, which have continued the leading characteristics of his ministry and which alone remain throughout this economy (1 Cor.13 13). Expectation is expounded in these Promise Epistles. Faith is fully set forth in the Preparatory Epistles, especially Romans. Love overflows in the Perfection Epistles. When all the "gifts" vanished, these remained.

It is the character not the quantity of work that counts with God. Apart from faith it is impossible to please Him. Let us avoid all efforts which are not firmly founded on faith. Even toil and weariness depend on their motive to meet His approbation. Love alone can give value to our toil. Expectation, not the indefinite, uncertain desire which "hope" suggests, but an assured and confident prospect of their Lord's return, gave these young believers their endurance in the midst of persecution.

- 4 Paul might well question the reality of the work done in Thessalonica. In a few weeks' time a great multitude heard and believed. There was danger that the enthusiasm of the moment had carried many into their company who were never the subjects of God's grace. But as Paul reflects upon the vision which sent him there (Ac.169) and the mighty power of the preaching. and their subsequent service and sufferings, he is convinced that God has chosen them. At this very time God assures him that He had many people in Corinth (Ac.1810).
- 6 What fervor, what zeal, was shown by this ecclesia! Only a few months before they bowed down to idols. Now, in the face of a furious persecution, they fearlessly proclaim Christ. They have no thought of confining themselves to their own city or even their own province. This was indeed a model even at that time, and how

- PAUL and Silvanus and Timothy to the ecclesia of the Thessalonians in God, the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ:
- Grace to you and peace, from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ² WE are thanking God always concerning you all, making mention
- of you in our prayers, unintermittingly remembering your work of faith and toil of love and endurance of expectation of our Lord Jesus Christ, in front of our God
- and Father, having perceived, brethren beloved, your choice by
- God, seeing that the evangel of our God did not come to you in word only, but in power also, and in holy spirit and much assurance, according as you are aware, such as we became among you because of you.
- And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, receiving the word in much affliction with joy of holy spirit, so that you become models to all those who are believ-
- 8 For from you the word of the Lord has been sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and in Achaia, but in every place your faith toward God has come out, so that we have

ing in Macedonia and in Achaia.

no need to be speaking aught, for they are reporting, concerning us, what kind of entrance we have had to you, and how you turned back to God from idols, to be slaving for the living and true God

10 and to be waiting for His Son out

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Thanksgiving

much more so now! Every member was a missionary. Their conduct forced the very enemies of Paul to bear testimony to the reality of his work amongst them (Ac.176).

10 Waiting has no English equivalent. It is used in the papyri of those who were required to settle their debts without waiting the full term.

The secret of Paul's Thessalonian evangelism is twofold. He did not seek to turn them from their idols. That was incidental. He turned them to God. God and His grace provide the impelling power. In doing this they must needs turn their back on the idols they had worshiped. But more than this, he put before them a vital expectation. It was not a dead Christ he proclaimed to them. Nor did he stop with the resurrection. He engaged their hearts with the ascended Son of God, Whom they might expect to leave His place in heaven in order to receive them to Himself.

PAUL'S ENTRANCE

4 There is an overwhelming temptation to please men, in evangelistic work. The marvelous success of Paul's short ministry in Thessalonica arose from his determination to please God at any cost.

5 The apostle, in discussing his own motives and methods, gives us an ideal by which to test all such efforts. Flatterv is barred out. Avarice is denounced. He himself did not even get a living for his labor, for the Philippians sent him aid even in Thessalonica (Phil.416). How many are willing to work for such wages today? As an apostle he deserved the highest honors, and could have demanded them, but he preferred to get no glory from men. His personal presence was weak and his oratory despicable (so said the Corinthians, 2 Cor. 1010), but his love was great, his tenderness was touching, his toil and labor, to avoid being a burden to them, were more eloquent than words, and his conduct above reproach.

of the heavens, Whom He rouses from among the dead, Jesus, Who is rescuing us out of the coming indignation.

2 For you yourselves are aware, brethren, that our entrance to you has not come to be for naught, ² but, though suffering before and being outraged at Philippi, according as you are aware, we are bold in our God to speak the evangel of God to you with a vast struggle.

For our entreaty is not out of deception, nor yet out of uncleanness,

as we have been tested by God to be entrusted with the evangel, thus are we speaking, not as pleasing men, but God, Who is testing our bearts. For neither did we at any

5 hearts. For neither did we at any time become flattering in expression, according as you are aware, neither with a pretense of greed,

6 God is witness, neither seeking glory from men, neither from you, nor from others, when we could be

7 a burden as Christ's apostles. But we became gentle in your midst, as if a nurse should be cherishing her

8 own children. Thus being ardently attached to you, we are delighting to share with you not only God's evangel, but our own souls also, because you came to be beloved by us.

⁹ For you remember, brethren, our toil and labor: working night and day so as not to burden any of you, we proclaim to you God's ¹⁰ evangel. You are witnesses, and God, how benignly and justly and blamelessly we became to ¹¹ you who are believing, even in

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7 What figure could more touchingly convey the apostle's genuine affection for the Thessalonians than that of a nursing mother? How unselfish and gentle and self-sacrificing is her care! The soul is the seat of sensation. To impart his own soul to them conveys the thought that he, like the true mother, would endure any discomfort or weariness for their sakes.

11 The figure of a father is no less affectionate. His solicitude for his own is spontaneous and real. He has the welfare of his children at heart. So Paul dealt with the beloved saints at Thessalonica.

PAUL'S THANKSGIVING

13 Nothing is more important than that the scriptures, in their pristine purity, be received as the word of God. Greece and the adjacent provinces were famed for their philosophies. Yet which of them ever produced effects to compare with the few words spoken by the apostle? He who fails to get beyond the preacher to the One Whose word he speaks has less than nothing. The one who hears the words of God receives everything.

16 What an exhibition of God's sovereign grace! The Jews, with all their advantages and their divine ritual, suffer a foretaste of God's indignation as it will be displayed in the day of the Lord. After the siege of Jerusalem under Titus, their temple was destroyed, their city razed and their whole polity brought to an end. When they go back to their land and establish their religious rites again they will meet the more disastrous indignation of Jehovah. The Thessalonians, who had no claims on God's mercy, suffer, indeed, from countrymen, but are promised immunity in the day of His indignation.

PAUL BEREAVED

17 Paul was torn from the Thessalonians long before he wished to go, but God had other work for him to do, especially in Corinth, where he wrote this letter. It does not seem that his desire was gratified till some years later, when he went over Macedonia on his way to Greece (Ac.202).

accord with what you are aware—
to each one of you, as a father to
his own children, consoling and
¹² comforting you and testifying
unto you to walk worthily of God,
Who calls you to His own kingdom and glory.

And therefore we also are thanking God unintermittingly that, in accepting the word heard from us, you receive of God, not the word of men, but (according as it truly is) the word of God, which is operating also in you who are believing.

14 For you became imitators, brethren, of the ecclesias of God which are in Christ Jesus in Judea, seeing that you suffered the same—even you by your own fellow-tribesmen according as they also by the Jews, who also killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and banish us, and are not pleasing to God, and are contrary to all man
16 kind, forbidding us to speak to the nations that they may be saved, to

⁶ kind, forbidding us to speak to the nations that they may be saved, to fill up their sins always. Yet they have a foretaste of the consumating indignation. See /μ/εγκαίτουσ

17 Now we, brethren, being bereaved of you for the period of an hour, in face, not in heart, endeavor the more exceedingly to see your face, with much yearning,

18 because we want to come to you, indeed I Paul, once—even twice—

¹⁹ and Satan hinders us. For what is our expectation, or joy, or wreath of glorying? Is it not even you, in front of our Lord Jesus, at =2

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1 The record in the book of Acts passes over this journey of Timothy back to Thessalonica from Athens. Timothy and Silas were. indeed. charged to come to him at Athens (Ac.1715) and came back from Macedonia to Corinth (Ac.185), but visit, being outside the scope of the book of Acts, finds no place there. Such was the apostle's solicitude for them that, seeing that he cannot return to them himself, he sends his son in the faith. The persecution which forced him to leave rages about them and threatens to undermine their faith, for unlike Corinth and Ephesus, where the apostle remained for years, he had been with them but a few weeks and even then spent much of his time toiling for his living.

10 The "deficiencies" in the faith of the Thessalonians are met in this epistle and in his second letter to them, as well as in all his nine letters to the seven ecclesias. The historical order of Paul's epistles should always be borne in mind. While the Thessalonian epistles come after the Ephesian group in the canon, they were written long before, during one of the earlier ministries of the apostle. Perhaps one of the important lessons for the apostle himself lay in his enforced absence from Thessalonica. The spiritual contact of an epistle accords much more with the trend of his ministries than his personal presence. His epistles, also, have ministered to millions who have found themselves in need of the same help that he extended to the Thessalonians.

This is the key to much that is inexplicable in the later epistles of Paul. He is always looking forward with confidence to a physical presence with those to whom he wrote. Even if the expectations were fulfilled, the Scriptures are silent, and leave us with the impression that his presence, like his ministry, forsook the physical. ²⁰ His presence? For you are our glory and joy.

Wherefore, when we could by no means longer refrain, it seems well
 for us to be left at Athens alone,

and we send Timothy, our brother and God's servant in the evangel of Christ, to establish and to console

you in behalf of your faith. Now no one is to be swayed by these afflictions, for you yourselves are aware that we are located for this.

For even when we were with you we predicted to you that "we are about to be afflicted", according as it occurred also, and you are aware.

Therefore, when I could by no means longer refrain, I send to know of your faith, lest somehow the tryer try you and our toil may be coming to be for naught.

6 Yet at present, because of Timothy's coming to us from you and bringing us the evangel of your faith and love, and that you have a good remembrance of us always, longing to see us even according as

we also you — therefore we were consoled, brethren, over you in all our necessity and affliction, through

8 your faith, seeing that now we are living if you are standing in the

⁹ Lord. For what thanksgiving are we able to repay to God concerning you for all the joy with which we are rejoicing because of you in

front of our God, night and day beseeching exceedingly to see your face and to readjust the deficiencies

of your faith? Now may God Himself, even our Father, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you!

3 ⁰⁰¹ PAUL	TO THE TH	IESSALONIANS (I.)	CHAPTERS 2-
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THE LORD'S PRESENCE

12 Paul gives us the true motive and incentive of a holy life and a steadfast faith. It springs from the overflow of love to our fellow saints and to all others as well. It looks forward to the presence of Him Who does not decide by the outward appearance, but rewards according to the secret motives of the heart. The presence of our Lord is to be understood in its plainest literal sense. This is His absence. Whenever He is actually near and known, He will be present.

ASKING AND ENTREATING

3 Looseness in marriage relations is one of the saddest spots on the history of mankind. The gods of the nations were most offensive in this regard and their reputed misdeeds gave ample excuse for the trespasses of their devotees. Besides this the religious ceremonies and rites by which they were worshiped gave sanction to the most debasing excesses and abuses. No wonder the apostle speaks plainly and sharply. He will allow no trifling. Each one is to have his own wife and is not to interfere with his brother in this matter. No doubt the apostle refers to special customs and abuses in Thessalonica.

WRITING NOT NECESSARY

- 9 One of the earliest impulses of the new life of the believer is to love his fellow saints. We are taught by God. It is instinctive and should be fostered and encouraged. Let us not allow party lines and differences in details to divide between us and all who have the same life and harbor the same love.
- 11 In the midst of such a great spiritual awakening as occurred at Thessalonica there is a temptation to neglect the necessary duties of life and mistake enthusiasm and noise for the quiet yet powerful operations of the spirit. The apostle urges them to attend to their own affairs and provide for their needs, so that their enemies will not find occasion to reproach them.

- Now may the Lord cause you to increase and superabound in love for one another and for all, even
- ¹³ according as we also for you, to establish your hearts unblamable in holiness in front of our God and Father, in the presence of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.
- 4 Furthermore, then, brethren, we are asking you and entreating in the Lord Jesus, that, according as you accepted from us how you must be walking and pleasing God (according as you are walking also), that you may be superabound-
- ² ing yet more, for you are aware what charges we give to you through
- 3 the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God—your holiness. You are to be abstaining from all prostitution;
- 4 each of you is to be aware of his own vessel, to be acquiring it in holiness
- 5 and honor, not in lustful passion even according as the nations also
- 6 who have no perception of God. No one is to be circumventing and overreaching his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the Avenger of all these, according as we said to you before also and
- 7 certify, for God calls us, not for 8 uncleanness, but in holiness. Sure-
- ly, in consequence, then, he who is repudiating is not repudiating men, but God, Who is also giving you His holy spirit.
- Now concerning brotherly affection we have no need to be writing to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to be loving one 10 another, for you are doing it also to all the brethren who are in the

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THE LORD'S PRESENCE THOSE REPOSING

13 We do not sorrow when our dear ones are literally reposing. The reference is to death under a most beautiful figure for the distressed Thessalonian saints. The resurrection of Jesus is the guarantee that all who are His will likewise be raised. til Paul received this revelation, the only resurrection of the saints was the "resurrection of life" (Jn.529) called the "former" resurrection (Un. 205), at the beginning of the thousand years, after the judgment period. Then the Lord comes down to earth. saints are not snatched into the air. But this resurrection follows the Lord's presence in the air long before His coming to the earth. It precedes the great judgment era which ushers in the day of Jehovah. Being justified in the blood of Christ, we shall be saved from God's indignation through Him (Rom.59). God has not assigned us to indignation but to the procuring of salvation (59). This new revelation is further unfolded to the Corinthians (1Co.1551), where the secret is disclosed that the living, as well as the dead, will be changed. Both will be given incorruptible, spiritual, celestial bodies, without which, indeed, they could hardly meet Him in the The crowning glory of this blessed expectation was made known to the Philippians. These bodies of humiliation will be transfigured to 17 conform them to that glorious body which blinded Paul when first he beheld Him (Phil.321Ac.93,8,18).

17 "We, the living." Paul does not insist that he must survive to the advent, any more than he meant to assert positively that he should die when he said the Lord Jesus "shall raise

us up" (2 Cor.414).

² This is man's day (1 Cor.43). It is near its end. The day of Jehovah, with its awful divine judgments, is fast approaching. It will give no notice of its coming. On the contrary, it will seem unnecessary and imposible. Is it not true that never, in the history of the race, was there such a hope and expectation of the end of war? The parliament of nations, the reduction of armaments, the federation of the world—are we not already boasting in peace and security?

whole of Macedonia. Now we are entreating you, brethren, to be 11 superabounding yet more, and that you be ambitious to be quiet, and to be engaged in your own affairs, and to be working with your own hands, according as we charge you, 12 that you may be walking respectably toward those outside, and you

may have need of nothing. Now we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are reposing, lest you may be sorrowed according as others also ¹⁴ who have no expectation. For if we are believing that Jesus died and rose, thus also, those who are put to repose, will God, through Jesus, 15 lead forth with Him. For this we are saying to you by the word of the Lord, that we, the living, who are surviving unto the presence of the Lord, shall by no means outstrip those who are put to ¹⁶ repose, seeing that the Lord Himself will be descending from heaven with the shout of command, with the voice of the Chief Messenger, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ shall be rising first. Thereupon we, the living who are surviving, shall at the same time be snatched away together with them in clouds, for meeting the Lord in the air. And thus shall we always be together with the Lord.

18 So that, be consoling one another with these words.

Now concerning the times and the eras, brethren, you have no need to be written to, for you yourselves are accurately aware that the day of the Lord is as a thief in the night—thus is it com-Now whenever they may be saying "Peace and security", then extermination is standing

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THE LORD'S PRESENCE

THOSE DROWSING

4 The day of the Lord with its terrors and destruction is not for us. The cry of "peace and security" should not lull us to sleep. We should be on the alert, knowing the futility of all security and peace apart from Christ. And, though aware of the whirlpool into which this world is sweeping, we have no fear, for it will not engulf us. But, suppose that we, too, relax our vigilance and take a nap along with the rest. Will we be left for judgment? At His coming to set up the kingdom it is vital that they watch or they will lose their reward (Mt.24422513Mk.13 34Lu.1237Un.331615). Not so here. Those who received Paul's gospel of faith apart from deeds, find their salvation a matter of pure unadulterated grace. This is true of the future as well as the past. The death of Christ, not our conduct, our watchfulness or the lack of it, is the foundation on which our future salvation rests just as really as the salvation which we This confidence will already enjoy. not lead to laxness.

The believer's armor is defensive. His only weapon is the spirit's sword. the word of God. Not, indeed, every statement in the scriptures, for some of it is an inspired record of human philosophy and the very lies of the adversary are contained in its pages, but every actual declaration which has proceeded forth from God through His accredited prophets and apostles. These are powerful and effective. No other weapon should be used. For defense we rely on faith and love for the present and on the blessed expectation of our gathering together unto Him for the future. figured by the helmet. No judgment from above can harm us. When heaven's judgments fall we will be safe above them in His presence.

ASKING AND ENTREATING

12 Love and patience should characterize all our intercourse with fellow saints. Love will lead us to acknowledge those who are over us and to bear with those below. It will rule out all retaliation.

¹⁶ Constant joy, constant prayer, constant thanksgiving is the normal privilege of all saints.

over them unawares, even as travail over the pregnant, and they may by no means escape.

Now you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should be overtaking you as a thief, for you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We are not of the night 6 nor of darkness. Consequently then, we should not be drowsing, even as the rest, but we may be watching and sober. For those who are drowsing are drowsing at night, and those who are drunk are drunk at night. Yet we, being of the day, may be sober, putting on the cuirass of faith and love, and the helmet, the expectation of salvation, seeing that God did not appoint us to indignation, but to the procuring of salvation through our Lord Jesus 10 Christ, the One dying for us, that, whether we may be watching or drowsing, we should be living at

the same time together with Him.

Wherefore, be consoling one another and edifying one the other, according as you are doing also.

Now we are asking you, brethren, to perceive those who are toiling among you and presiding over you in the Lord and admonsishing you, and to deem them exceedingly distinguished in love, because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. Now we are entreating you, brethren, admonish the disorderly, comfort the faint-hearted, uphold the in-

15 firm, be patient toward all. See that no one may be rendering evil for evil to anyone, but always be pursuing that which is good for one 16 another and for all. Be rejoic-

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20 These exhortations are made in view of the changing character of Paul's ministries. They became more spiritual as time advanced. The gift of prophecy was especially adapted to meet the need of the saints until God's complete revelation should be given (1 Cor.1210133). Yet they were to be tested and only those in line with the ideal toward which God was working were to be permanent.

23 The lame man who sat at the Beautiful gate of the temple (Ac.32-16) had unimpaired health and strength after he was healed. The same word is used here but is extended to the soul and spirit as well. This, and far more, will be our lot in His presence even should any part be lame or deficient now!

God in Christ Jesus for you.

19 Quench not the spirit.

20 Scorn not

²¹ prophecies, but be testing all, re-²² taining the ideal. Be abstaining from every appearance of wickedness.

Now may the God of peace Himself hallow you wholly; and may your unimpaired spirit and soul and body be kept blameless in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ!

²⁴ Faithful is He Who is calling you, Who will be doing it also.

²⁵ Brethren, be praying for us also. ²⁶ Greet all the brethren with a holy

²⁷ kiss. I am adjuring you by the Lord, that this epistle is to be read to all the holy brethren.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you! Amen!

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II THESSALONIANS

This second letter to the Thessalonians is a sequel to the first. The Thessalonians are still unable to distinguish between the rage of man and the wrath of God. Their continued trial and persecution leads them to conclude that God is against them instead of for them. The kingdom of God, which was proclaimed among them, is to be introduced with divine judgments. The day of the Lord, in which it will be set up, opens with an unparalleled display of divine indignation. They still persist in imagining that this day had begun, especially as, in some way, this was represented to be the apostle's teaching (22).

In reply Paul and his fellow workers define these dreaded judgments as those which fall only on those being unacquainted with God and who do not obey the evangel, especially on such as their persecutors. Their main argument is founded on the teaching of the first epistle in reference to the Lord's presence and our assembling with Him in the air. There they had been definitely taught that this must occur before the day of His indignation.

The secret phase of lawlessness has been in operation throughout this economy, but its full development has been held in check by the presence of the saints. When we are taken out of the midst, then, and not till then, will the apostasy bear its bitter fruit. Its presence will be indicated by the presence of the man of lawlessness, corresponding to the head of the wild

beast of the Unveiling of Jesus Christ (Un.131) who will be seconded by the false prophet who does signs and miracles to prove his claims (Un.1311). By these mankind is deluded to its destruction.

But the Thessalonians are not deceived by God but preferred for salvation and belief of the truth and the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The latter part of the epistle is devoted to some practical disorders, especially busybodies who do not work for their living.

FRAMEWORK, II. THESSALONIANS Reversion and Alternation

SALUTATION, Grace and peace 11-12

THANKSGIVING 13
Reason 13-15 Ease 16-110

PRAYER, Paul for the Thessalonians 1¹¹-12
The Name of the Lord 1¹² Glory 1¹²
Admonition: The Apostasy 2¹-2¹²

THANKSGIVING 213-217

Reason 213 Glory 214

PRAYER, the Thessalonians for Paul 3¹⁻⁵ The Lord's Word 3¹-3⁴ Endurance 3⁵ ADMONITION: Disorder 3⁶-3¹⁵

SALUTATION, Peace and grace 316-318

The literary framework is a simple alternation within the salutations. A thanksgiving, a prayer, and an admonition are found in this order in both the former and latter half of the letter.

If the epistle is read with its leading thought in mind—that we are delivered from the coming divine indignation—it will be seen to give it color and warmth everywhere, and especially in the assurances of God's mind toward them in their trials.

1:1-11

1 While Silvanus and Timothy are associated with Paul in this salutation. the epistle is practically by Paul himself and its genuineness is attested at the close by Paul's own signature (317).

From Carenthe Act 18:1.

THANKSGIVING

3 The sufferings which were distressing the Thessalonians were the occasion of toy and boasting on the part of the apostle, for it proved the reality of their faith in Christ and developed their affection for one another. adroitly turns their mistaken idea, that God is afflicting them, into the opposite, that their very sufferings are a sure index that those who afflict them will suffer at His hands. He lavs due stress on the fact that God's indignation comes upon those who do not know Him and who do not obey the evangel. By thus turning the minds of the Thessalonians to the future he consoles them in their present trials. Then the opposers will suffer. not only for their sins, but for their persecution of God's saints, while those who are now in distress will enjoy ease and relaxation during the unveiling of the Lord Jesus from heaven. This passage alone should restrain us from including the saints of this economy in any of the companies of the saved mentioned in the scroll of His Unveiling. The persistence with which this thought clung to the Thessalonians is accounted for by the fact that the Circumcision did expect to go through the terrors of that day. Those who endured to the end would be saved. Paul was introducing a new and unknown doctrine. corresponding to his evangel for the nations, in which God's unadulterated grace is far more pronounced than in the gospel of the kingdom as proclaimed by the other apostles.

PRAYER

12 His prayer for them was that they might respond to this grace of God by a present conduct, in the midst of suffering, which would glorify God and His Christ.

PAUL and Silvanus and Timothy to the ecclesia of the Thessalonians in God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ:

- ² Grace to you and peace, from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3 WE ought to be thanking God always concerning you, brethren, according as it is meet, seeing that your faith is flourishing and the love of each one of you all for one 4 another is increasing, so that we ourselves glory in you in the ecclesias of God. for your endurance and faith in all your persecutions and the afflictions which you are bearing—a display of the just judgment of God, to deem you worthy of the kingdom of God. for which you are suffering also, if so be that it is just of God to repay affliction to those afflicting you, and to you who are being afflicted. ease, with us, at the unveiling of the Lord Jesus from heaven with His powerful messengers, in flaming fire dealing out vengeance to those who are not acquainted with God and those who are obeying the evangel of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall incur the justice of eonian extermination from the face of the Lord, and from the glory of His strength; on) 10 whenever He should be coming to be glorified in His saints and to be marveled at in all who believe

11 which For we are always praying also concerning you, that

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ADMONITION-APOSTASY

The controlling thought in this section of the epistle is based on the teaching of the first letter. Had they fully accepted and understood what he had already written to them they never would have been led to believe that the day of the Lord was already present. In the meantime it seems that Paul has been misrepresented in this matter, perhaps by a forged letter (317). He now gives two of the salient signs which will be present when the day of the Lord comes: the apostasy and the man of lawlessness. Neither of these was present at that time.

3 The man of lawlessness (as the two best manuscripts name him) seems to correspond closely with the head of the wild beast (Un. 131-8). The whole earth will worship him except the few whose names are written in the Lamb's scroll of life. It is evident from this passage that, at the time of the end, there will be a temple of God. That this should be elsewhere than Jerusalem seems impossible. So we may look, not only for a return of the Jews to their own land, but also for a restoration of their ancient ritual and a rebuilding of their temple. For anyone except a priest to enter the holy place is itself a terrible desecration, but for any man to usurp Jehovah's place in the holy of holies and demonstrate his own divinity is the most awful and appalling crime of which a human being is capable. This leads to the desolating abomination of Daniel 927, which probably consists in placing the image of the wild beast (Un. 1314) in the holy place of the temple. Our Lord warns those living in Judea to flee to the mountains (Mt. 2415-22), for then the great affliction (which alarmed the Thessalonians) would come.

7 The influences which will bring about the great apostasy of the end time have been at work from the beginning, but have been restrained by another, counteracting force. What is this? Some have supposed it to be the spirit of God. But the spirit of God will continue to work throughout the apostasy, enabling a few to endure to the end, and empowering

our God should be counting you worthy of the calling, and should be fulfilling every delight of goodness and work of faith in power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, in accord with the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus

Christ.

2 Now we are asking you, brethren, in behalf of the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling with Him, that you be not quickly shaken from your mind, nor yet be alarmed, either through a spirit, or through a word, or through an epistle as through us, as that the day of the Lord is present. No one should be deluding you by any method, should not the apostasy be coming first and the man of lawlessness be unveiled, the son 4 of destruction, who is opposing and elevating himself above everything termed a god or an object of veneration, so that he is seated in the temple of God, demonstrating that he himself is God? Do you not remember that, being still with you. I told you these things? And now you are aware what is detaining, for him to be unveiled in his own era. For the secret phase of lawlessness, already in operation, is only till that which

veiled (whom the Lord Jesus will despatch with the spirit of His mouth and will abolish by the adovent of His presence), whose presence is in accord with the operation of Satan with all power and signs and false miracles, and with

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others to be faithful unto death. It has been suggested that Satan "holds fast" his place in the celestial spheres. for when he is cast out the apostasy commences. His ejection does mark the crisis between the secret and open manifestation of the apostasy, but that which is restrained is evidently the apostasy, not a place in the celestial realms. The apostasy is restrained by the presence of the saints. When we are taken out of the midst by our assembling with Christ in the air, then the apostasy and all its terrible train of afflictions will deluge the earth with Thus the apostle proves that their own presence on earth is conclusive evidence that they were not enduring the afflictions of the Lord's dav.

9 Nothing is more necessary in these declining days of this dispensation than to warn the saints of the danger of being deceived, not by that which appears evil. but by that which has all the outward evidences of good. Satan is transformed into a messenger of light and his servants are servants of righteousness (2Co.1114,15). in the next era, God will be back of the deception. The false prophet will do the very signs which, in Elijah's day, proved the deity of Jehovah (1Ki.1824Un.1513), and he is empowered even to give a spirit to the image of the wild beast (Un.1315) so that it will actually speak. Thus will the man of lawlessness demonstrate his divinity.

THANKSGIVING

13 The Thessalonian saints (and all who believe in Christ) need have no fear of the terrible trial which is coming on the earth, for God has not sent them a deception, to condemn them. but prefers them for salvation through belief of the truth and for the procuring of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. What a glorious contrast!

PRAYER

1 Paul desired their prayers that he might lead others into the blessed position which they occupied.

everv seduction of injustice among those who are being destroved, because they do not receive the love of the truth, for 11 their salvation. And therefore God will be sending them an operation of deception, that they 12 should believe the falsehood, that all may be judged who do not believe the truth, but delight in

injustice.

Now we ought to be thanking God always concerning you, brethren, beloved by the Lord, seeing that God prefers you from the beginning for salvation, in hallowing of the spirit and belief of the 14 truth, into which He also calls

us through our evangel, for the procuring of the glory of our Lord

15 Jesus Christ. Consequently, then, brethren, stand firm, and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether through word or 16 through our epistle. Now may our

Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God, our Father, Who loves us, and is giving us an eonian consolation and a good expectation in

17 grace, console your hearts and grand establish you in every good work and word.

Furthermore, be praying, brethren, concerning us, that the word of the Lord may race and be glorified, according as it is with you also,

² and that we may be rescued from abnormal and wicked men, for not

all have faith. Yet the Lord is faithful. Who will establish and guard you from the wicked one.

4 Now we have confidence in you in the Lord that what we are charging, you are doing also and will be doing. Now may the Lord be

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⁵ The appreciation of God's love would destroy the idea that He was pouring out His indignation upon them. The contemplation of the endurance of Christ would help them to endure.

ADMONITION

6 Discipline was necessary even in such a warm-hearted, zealous eccle-The occasion sia as Thessalonica. was not doing wrong but doing noth-Just as the grace of God provides for our salvation from all trial and all affliction in the future, but brings both in the present, so it will also bring rest and relaxation in that day but calls for toil and labor until then. We should not shirk our work. He who does not work has no right to eat. And if anyone goes about as a busybody, seeking his food from his friends, we should avoid him, yet treat him with all the grace necessary to correct his disorderly conduct.

"Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn" is the divine law for God's servants. They have a right to require support, for the Lord has appointed that those who are proclaiming the evangel should live of the evangel. But Paul did not use this right, but availed himself of the higher privilege of making the evangel absolutely free (1 Cor.91-19). He pursued the same course in Corinth and doubtless wrote this letter in an interval between evangelistic labors and tent making, for he worked with Aquila and Priscilla at that trade (Ac.181-3). Thus he was able to point to his own conduct as a model for the disorderly. The power of such an argument is apparent.

16 In closing Paul once more tenderly touches the theme of the epistle. Their Saviour is "the Lord of peace" and He will never visit them in judgment but give them peace through all their trials by all the means at His disposal.

directing your hearts into the love of God and into the endurance of Christ!

Now we are charging you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you be putting from you every brother who is walking disorderly and not in accord with the tradition which they accepted from us. For you yourselves are aware how you must be imitating

us, seeing that we are not disorderly among you, neither did we eat bread gratuitously from any one, but, with toil and labor, we

worked night and day, so as not burden any of you. Not that we have not the right, but that we may be giving you ourselves as a model, that you should be

imitating us. For even when we were with you we charged you thus, that "If anyone is not willing to work, neither let him eat".

11 For we are hearing that some among you are walking disorderly, not working at all, but are med-

dling. Now such we are charging and entreating in the Lord Jesus Christ, that, quietly working, they

13 may eat their own bread. Now you, brethren, should not be despondent

14 in well-doing. Now if anyone is not obeying our word through this epistle, let this be a sign to you not to commingle with him, that he

¹⁵ may be abashed, and do not deem him as an enemy, but be admonishing him as a brother.

Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace continually by every means! The Lord be with you all!

17 The salutation is by my hand—

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17 It is evident that the apostle did not pen his own epistles. To avoid forgery, however, he wrote the greeting himself and, in this case, signed his own name (2²). Paul—which is a sign in every 18 epistle: thus am I writing. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all! Amen!

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CHAPTER 3

TACHETICTO AHOYTOCT PA 20 EVERY letter thus I-AM-WRIT-

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ΦΦΗΧΑΡΙ CTOYKY PI OYHMΦ⁴⁰
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PAUL'S PERSONAL EPISTLES

PAUL's letters to Timothy and Titus are concerned with conduct in service. Not only are they given instructions for their own guidance, but rules are laid down for the selection and service of elders, or supervisors, and servants. These two classes were officially recognized and appointed and their functions defined. Besides this there are exhortations for all the various classes in the ecclesias, old and

young, the rich and the dependent widow, and slaves. Indeed, these epistles contain the constitution of the church. The second epistle to Timothy is especially applicable to the last days, showing whom and what to avoid, and with whom we may associate.

Philemon makes most gracious provision for those in bondage to believing masters.

I TIMOTHY

As a guide in understanding the great contrast between Paul's two epistles to Timothy it is important to know when the first epistle was penned. If it was written to Timothy in Ephesus while Paul went to Macedonia, we have no situation corresponding to it in the book of Acts, and it is difficult to understand why the instructions given should be needed in Ephesus where Paul had labored so long and which had the benefit of his personal superintendence for years.

If we reverse the situation and send Timothy to Macedonia to the ecclesias from which Paul had been driven before he could set them in order, and to which he dared not go on peril of his life, every precept in the epistle is full of point, and we have circumstances which exactly correspond in Acts 1922. This places the epistle at the second crisis in the apostle's min-(Ac.1921Ro.15192Cor.516). istry second epistle was written after the third and final crisis. This places a great gap between them which accounts for the vast difference in the aspect of affairs.

In the first epistle we have the ecclesia described as God's house, the pillar and base of the truth (315). In the second it has become a "great house" with utensils of various kinds, both honorable and base (220). In the first the pristine power of faith holds

all together. In the second the dominant note is apostasy.

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Complex Reversion with Alternations

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- Translators have experienced much difficulty with this opening sentence. because it seemed to lack the principal verb. The A. V. adds so do, the Revisers, so do I now. If, however, we take the first word, "accordingly", as an independent link with some previous consultation of Paul and Timothy, and render "entreat" by its alternative, "console", (as in Mt.218 1 Thes.418 etc.), there is no need of supplying any verb. Furthermore, the clause "going into Macedonia that you may charge . . ." may be allowed its natural sense, which is, that Timothy, not Paul, is the one referred to. Then, connecting the infinitive with the verb to which it refers, we find that Paul is to remain in Ephesus. It was dangerous for Paul to go to Macedonia. Timothy entreats him to delay until he had gone first. So Paul dispatches him (Ac.1922), following himself later (Ac.201). This letter combines Timothy's instructions and credentials.
- The interminable genealogies and teaching of the law point directly to the Circumcision. The unbelieving Jews were not only the bitterest enemies Paul encountered, as the record in Acts reveals, but those who joined the believers were often unable to break away from their inborn traditions. It was just at this time that Paul announced the new creation, in which physical relationships are ignored (2 Cor.516). The genealogies of Judaism have their place, but not in his evangel.
- 8 The law, too, had its place and mission. It was never given to the nations (Ro.214). By it is the recognition of sin (Ro.320). It was added, long after the promise was given, to involve Israel in transgression, until the Seed came to Whom the promises were made (Gal.319). He redeems them from it and gives them the place of sons (Gal.45). Christ is the law's consummation to everyone who believes (Ro.104). Against the believer there is no law (Gal.523). We are not under law, but under grace (Ro.614).
- 11 "Happy" seems to be the only word we have which enables us to distinguish between this term and "blessed".

- PAUL, an apostle of Christ Jesus, according to the injunction of God our Saviour, and the Lord Jesus Christ, our Expectation, to Timothy, a genuine child in faith:
- Grace, mercy, peace, from God, our Father, and Christ Jesus, our Lord.
- Accordingly, I console you by remaining in Ephesus, that you, while going into Macedonia, should be charging some not to be teaching differently, nor to be heeding myths and interminable genealogies, which are affording exactions, rather than God's steward-

ship which is in faith.

- Now the consummation of the charge is love out of a clean heart, and a good conscience, and unfeigned faith, from which some, swerving, were turned aside into vain prating, wanting to be teachers of the law, neither apprehending what they are saying, nor that
- concerning which they are insist
 8 ing. Now we are aware that the
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 9 lawfully, being aware of this, that
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 but for the lawless and insubordinate, the irreverent and sinners, the
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 10 matricides, homicides, paramours,
- sodomites, kidnapers, liars, perjurers, and if there is any other ¹¹ thing opposing sound teaching, in accord with the evangel of the glory of the happy God, with which I was entrusted.
- I am grateful to Him Who invigorates me, Christ Jesus, our Lord, seeing that He deems me faithful, assigning me a dispension, who formerly was a cal-

0001 PAUL TO TIMOTHY (I.) TAYACATOCTOACCXPICT20 AIOAOFIANBEAONTECEINº commissioner OF-ANOINTED 7 saying WILLING OYIHCOYKATE TITALHNOE AINOMODIDACKAAOIMHNO® according-to injunction PERTIA or-God LAW-TEACHERS NO MIND-A omits Master bo. OYCOTHPOCHMONKAIKYPI® OYNTECHHTEAAEFOYCINM® OF-US AND Master NO-BESIDES WHICH THEY-ARE-SAYING NO-ANOINTED JESUS OY INCOYXPICTOYTHCGATS HTGTGPITINONALABEBAL® ANOINTED THE EXPECT-BESIDES ABOUT THEY-ARE-THRU-IDOCHMONTIMO8€@FNHCI™ OYNTAIOIDAMENDEOTIKA: 2 ATION OF-US to-Timothy genuine 8 confirming WE-HAVE-PERCEIVED YET that IDEAL **OTEKNOENTICTEIXAPICE²⁰ AOCONOMOCEANTICAYTON®** offspring IN BELIEF grace MER-IF-EVER ANY it OMIMOCXPHTAIGIAOCTOY 40 **AEOCEIPHNHAIIO0EOYIIAT**® PEACE FROM God FATHER IS-USING HAVING-PERCEIVED this Asl omit OF-US POCHMONKAIXPICTOYING. TOOTIDIKAL ONOMOCOYKE. OF-US AND ANOINTED JESTIS. that to-JUST LAW NOT IS-**ΟΥΤΟΥΚΥΡΙΟΥΗΜΦΝΚ**Ά<u>Ͼ</u>Φ**Ϲ**® ITAIANOMOIC∆EKAIANY™® Master THE OF-US according-AP to-UN-LAWED YET AND to-un-under-ΠΑΡΕΚΑΛΕCACE ΠΡΟCME I Nººº OTAKTOICACEBECIKAIAM700 I-BESIDE-CALL YOU TO-TOWARD-REMAIN to-un-reverers and to-AIENEAECŒTO PEYOMENOC® APTOAOICANOCIOICKAIB 20 IN EPHESUS GOING missers to-UN-BENIGN AND b C for Al EICMAKAIDONIANINANAP# EBHAOICHATPOAMAICKAI# MACEDONIA THAT YOU-SH'Dto-FATHER-THRESHERS profane AND AFFEIAHCTICINMHETEPO® MHTPOAWAICANAPO4ONOI® ANY NO TO-BE-DIFFERto-MOTHER-THRESHERS to-MAN-MURDERERS ΔΙΔΆCΚΆΛΕΙΝΜΗΔΕΠΡΟCE® CHOPNOICAPCENOKOITAI® 4 ENTLY-TEACHING NO-YET TO-BE-heeding 10 to-paramours to-sodomites CANAPATIONICTAL CYCY CT 800 XEINMY80ICKAILENE 970300 myths AND generate-sayings to-kidnapers to-FALSifiers A inserts C **FIAICATIE PANTOICAITIN²⁰** AICETIOPKOICKAIEITIE® UN-OTHER-SIDE WHICH-ANY to-ON-OATHERS AND IF ANY DIFb omits our-**ECEKZHTHCEICHAPEXOYC**® TEPONTHYFIAINOYCH&I& OUT-SEEKings ARE-tendering to-THE being-sound A inserts © 18-opposing omitted by A ACKAAIAANTIKEITAIKAT® b HOME-BUILDing A INMAAAONHOIKONOMIAN6® on stewardship according-OF-11 ing IS-opposing RATHER ATOGYALLGYIONTHC705H: **€OYTHNENΠICTEITO∆ETE**® OF-THE esteem to THE WELL-MESSAGE

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16 Paul's case is a pattern of God's present ways in grace. Instead of reforming and repenting and seeking to gain God's favor, he was madly endeavoring to do all in his power against Christ and His people (Ac.9 1-2). He was the foremost sinner of his day, and deserved the direct doom. Instead, he receives the greatest grace. Once outside the land of Israel, where God's grace was unrestrained by the law and His dealings with the covenant people, God calls him and transforms him into His most brilliant exponent of grace. Corresponding to the gracious character of his call, he is assigned to the dispensation of God's grace among the nations, a ministry distinct and different from that of any of the twelve apostles. They had mercy for the nations as a result of Israel's blessing: he dispensed grace in spite of, and resulting from, Israel's failure.

17 The title "King of the eons" does not limit God to the eons in time, even as "the Lord of the earth" does not limit Him in space. It describes His sovereignty during the eons, for only in them is kingly government known (1 Cor.15²⁴).

- 1 At the crisis in the apostle's career when this epistle was written. he first made known the secret of the evangel, the conciliation (Ro.511). The scope of blessing has been gradually widening. The evangel of the kingdom, linked with the name of David, included only Israelites and proselytes. The evangel of God, associated with the name of Abraham, brought blessing to those among the nations who believed. The secret of the evangel (Ro.1625) set forth in the fifth of Romans, called the conciliation, refers us to Adam, and reaches the whole race, though it brings reconciliation only to those who receive it. Hence our sympathies and prayers should go out for all mankind.
- 4 God's will for all mankind will not be fulfilled until the consummation (1 Cor.1524). Only those who believe receive eonian salvation now. Those who acknowledge that God is greater than man, and that His will is more powerful than man's will, believe and exult in the final salvation of all mankind.

umniator and a persecutor and an outrager: but I was shown mercy, seeing that I did it ignorantly, in

14 unbelief. Yet the grace of our Lord overwhelms, with faith and

- 15 love in Christ Jesus. Faithful is the saying, and worthy of all welcome, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, foremost
- 16 of whom am I. But because of this was I shown mercy, that in me, the foremost, Jesus Christ should be displaying all patience, for a pattern of those who are about to be believing on Him for eonian life.

Now to the King of the eons, the incorruptible, invisible, only wise God, be honor and glory for the eons of the eons! Amen!

This charge I am committing to you, child Timothy, according to the preceding prophecies about you, that in them you may be warring the ideal warfare, ¹⁹ having faith and a good conscience, which some thrusting

away, have made ship wreck as concerns the faith; of whom are Hymeneus and Alexander, whom I give up to Satan, that they may be trained not to blaspheme.

- 2 I am entreating, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, pleadings, thanksgiving be made for all mankind, for kings and all those in a superior station, that we may be leading a mild and quiet life in all devoutness and gravity, for this is ideal and welcome before
- 4 God our Saviour, Who wills all mankind to be saved and to come into a realization of the truth.

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This passage is primarily intended to break down the bounds in which salvation had hitherto been confined. The testimony of past eras is no basis on which to build in this era. testimony to the nations, committed to the apostle Paul (which he deems it necessary to solemnly affirm) is to the effect that Christ was not only the Son of David, to confirm the kingdom to Israel, or the Son of Abraham, to bring blessing to the faithful, but He is Adam's greater Son, a Man, and as such, is the Mediator for the whole human race. Nor is Israel's God limited to them: for there is only one God for all mankind. The Man Christ Jesus is giving Himself as a Ransom for all. Only a few, comparatively, are vitally affected by this fact at present. but, in due time, the offense of Adam will be much more than offset by the just award of the Man. Christ Jesus (Ro.518). Paul was assigned this testimony for the present era. No other apostle presents it, for it is foreign to their ministry. Christ gave His soul a ransom for many (Mt.2028), but gives Himself a ransom for all. Redemption is for the saints, during the eons. Ransom is for all when the eons end.

9 The dancing women of the East, who are, perhaps, the only class who appear in public, braid their hair with strands strung with gold and pearls, and their vesture is most elaborate, to attract the attention of the men, who form their audience. How much better, for those whose reputation is bound up with the glory of God, to be adorned with acts which reflect Hislove and grace!

14 The part played by Adam in the temptation receives much light from this passage. While Eve was utterly deluded, Adam was not, and probably partook so as to involve himself in the same plight as Eve. In this light, his defense, "the woman that thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat" (Gen.312) has more of truth than is usually conceded. Perhaps it is especially in this sense—as deliberately involving himself in Eve's transgression—that we are to consider him as a type of Christ.

For there is one God, and one Mediator of God and mankind, a Man, Christ Jesus, the One giving Himself a correspondent Ransom for all (the testimony in its own eras), for which I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the nations in knowledge and truth.

I am intending, then, that men pray in every place, lifting up benign hands, apart from anger and reasonings. Similarly, the women also are to be adorning themselves in decorous raiment, with modesty and sanity, not with braids and gold, or pearls or costly vesture, 10 but (what is becoming to women professing a reverence for God) 11 with good works. Let a woman be learning in quietness with all 12 subjection. Now I am not permitting a woman to be teaching, neither to be domineering over a 13 man, but to be quiet (for Adam was first molded, thereafter Eve. ¹⁴ and Adam was not seduced, but the woman, being deluded, has come 15 to be in the transgression). Yet she shall be saved through the bearing of children, should they be remaining in faith and love and

3 Faithful is the saying: "If anyone is craving the supervision, he is desiring an ideal work".

2 The supervisor, then, must be irreprehensible, the husband of one wife, sober, sane, decorous, hospitable, apt to teach, no toper, not quarrelsome, but lenient, pacific, not fond of money, controlling his own household ideally, having his children in subjection with all gravity—now if anyone is not

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Each ecclesia in Paul's day seems to have had two distinct classes of officers, if we may so term them. There were the supervisors (sometimes called overseers or bishops), and the servants (or deacons). The supervisors seem to have had a general oversight of the ecclesia and its members, while the servants took a subordinate place, rendering such service as the ecclesia stood in need of. The qualifications for these positions are here given. Young and untested men were not welcome to these responsi-Indeed, it seems taken for bilities. granted that the supervisor is an elder (Compare Tit.15 and 17). Both supervisors and servants must show their fitness by controlling their own households.

15 In this epistle the ecclesia is the public exponent of the truth. It is called "God's house." Like a pillar in the temple it upheld and manifested the truth of God. In Paul's second letter to Timothy, written after the apostasy had set in, he calls the ecclesia a "great house" in which are utensils both honorable and otherwise. Such is the case today. The church is no longer "the pillar and base of the truth."

16 Not only is the manuscript evidence against the reading "God manifest in flesh", but other considerations force us to the same conclusion. In the typical teaching of the tabernacle the curtain. represented His flesh (Heb. 10^{20}). Now the veil did not reveal, but rather hid the Divine presence. It could not be said to manifest it. The phrase "justified in spirit" is also inept when applied to Christ. The proclamation among the nations is out of place, as no such ministry was attempted until long after He had been "taken up in glory."

The whole passage is concerned with conduct. The secret of devout conduct is traced in its various manifestations in those who are its subjects. It should be manifested in flesh by the ideal acts which it produces, it enjoys justification in spirit, is the subject of angelic inspection (Eph.3 10), is proclaimed among the nations, and will be removed from the world before the Lord appears in judgment.

aware how to preside over his own household, how will he care for the ecclesia of God?—no novice, lest, being conceited, he should be falling into the judgment of the Slanderer.

7 Yet he must have an ideal testimony also from those outside, that he should not be falling into the reproach and trap of the Slanderer.

Servants, similarly, are to be grave, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not avaricious, having the secret of the faith ¹⁰ in a clear conscience. Now let these also first be tested: afterward let them be serving, being unim-11 peachable. The wives, similarly, are to be grave, no slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. Let servants be husbands of one wife. presiding over children and their 13 own households ideally, for those who serve ideally are procuring for themselves an ideal rank and much boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

These things I am writing to you, expecting to come to you speedily, 15 yet, should I be tardy, that you may be perceiving how one must conduct one's self in God's house, which is the ecclesia of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth. And avowedly great is the secret of devoutness, which was manifested in flesh, justified in spirit, viewed by messengers, proclaimed among the nations, believed in the world, taken up in glory.

4. Now the spirit is saying explicitly, that in subsequent eras some will be withdrawing from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and the teaching of demons,

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ASIAI CAAIMONI ONENYTTO4000 OF-demons IN hypocrisy

- The signs of the last days are all present with us now. The teaching of deceiving spirits and demons has become one of the great and popular cults of the day. Their deception seems chiefly to take the form of pretended communication with the dead, whom they personate. Their teaching, so far, has been fragmentary and contradictory, but an effort is being made to collect and publish their vague presentations. The following is a condensed epitome of their creed:
 - 1. The Fatherhood of God.

2. The Brotherhood of Man.

- 3. Continuous Conscious Existence.
- 4. The Communion of Spirits.
- 5. Personal Responsibility.
- 6. Compensation and Retribution in the Hereafter.
- 7. Endless Progression.

That most of these are held for truth in Christendom proves this passage to be true. We should thoroughly purge ourselves of these doctrines of demons.

- 3 The prohibition of marriage, for a limited class, has long defied this scripture, but now the sentiment against it is growing in many quarters which hitherto have not opposed it. Abstinence from certain foods, especially meat or flesh food, has become a recognized feature of some creeds.
- ⁷ Physical gymnastics has largely replaced spiritual exercise in many religious institutions.
- There are three "faithful sayings" in this epistle (1153149). These should be especially heeded and enforced. There is a logical relation between this one and the first. If Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. and has saved the foremost, it follows that, since all men are sinners, He is the Saviour of all mankind. At present this takes effect only in those who believe: the rest are not saved until the consummation. Worthy of all welcome as this faithful saying is, it led Paul into reproach. Nevertheless, he charged Timothy: These things be charging and teaching.
- How expressive is the phrase "be in them"! Such meditation makes these things a part of our very being and so molds our motives that our progress will appear in all our actions.

in the hypocrisy of false expressions, their own conscience having been cauterized, forbidding to marry, abstaining from foods, which God creates to be partaken of with thanksgiving by those who be-

4 lieve and realize the truth, seeing that every creature of God is ideal and nothing is to be cast away, be-

ing taken with thanksgiving, for it is hallowed through the word of

God and pleading. By suggesting these things to the brethren, you will be an ideal servant of Christ Jesus, fostering with the words of faith and the ideal teaching which you have fully followed.

Yet be refusing profane and old womanish myths, but be exercising yourself in devoutness, for bodily exercise is beneficial for a few things, but devoutness is beneficial for all, having promise for the life which now is, and that which is

future.

Faithful is the saving and 10 worthy of all welcome (for for this are we toiling and being reproached), that we rely on the living God, Who is the Saviour of all mankind, especially of those ¹¹ who believe. These things be charging and teaching. Let no one be despising your youth, but become a model of those who are believing, in word, in behavior, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give heed to reading, to en-¹⁴ treaty, to teaching. Neglect not the gracious gift which is in you, which was given to you through

15 the hands of the eldership. Be meditating on these things: be in them: that your progress may be 16 apparent to all. Be attending to

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Much love and consideration should characterize the acts of one who, like Timothy, has temporary oversight of an ecclesia. This applies especially to his dealings with the older men, some of whom, when he is absent, supervise its affairs. Widows presented a special problem, and they were the wards of the ecclesia under some circumstances. Young widows, or those having a claim on relatives, were not to become dependent on the ecclesia. The younger ones are charged to marry; those having children are expected to be supported by them.

3-16 It is supposed that a list of church widows was kept, which probably included all widows of sixty years and over, whether self-supporting or not. Those who were entered on this list undertook certain duties and promised to give themselves to the work. The younger widows were not to be put on this list lest they should tire of their promise and break faith (13). They might grow restive, and so fall into judgment. As the whole passage refers to widows, this is supplied in verse fourteen, after "younger".

⁵ The widows seem to have been a special charge even in the pentecostal era (Ac.6¹).

17 The highest place in an ecclesia seems to be accorded to an elder who makes it his task to teach. Indeed, the passages quoted seem to suggest that such a one should receive support. In the East grain was threshed by driving cows over it to separate the grain from the stalk. It was a law (Deut.254) that such animals should not be muzzled, but allowed to eat as much as they needed. The apostle claims this privilege for all who minister the word (1 Cor.99). The Lord has prescribed that those who proclaim the evangel should live of the evangel (1 Cor.914). The Lord Himself said to the seventy He sent forth, "The worker is worthy of his wages." (Lu.107).

yourself and to the teaching. Be persisting in them, for doing this will save both yourself and those who are hearing you.

You should not be upbraiding an elder but be entreating him as a father, the younger men as brethren, the elder women as mothers. the younger as sisters, in all purity. Be honoring widows who are really widows. Now if any widow has children or descendants. let them learn to be devoted to their own household first and reciprocate by paying their progenitors, for this is welcome before God. Now one really a widow, and alone, relies on God and is continuing in petitions and prayers night and day. Yet she who is living as a prodigal is dead. And these things be charging, that they may be irreprehensible. Now if anyone is not providing for his own, and especially his family, he has disowned the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever. Let no widow be listed of less than sixty years, having been the wife of one man, having the testimony of ideal acts: if she nourishes offspring, if she is hospitable, if she washes the saints' feet, if she relieves the afflicted, if she follows up every good work. Yet be refusing younger widows, for whenever they should be restive against Christ, 12 they are wanting to marry, having judgment, seeing that they repudi-

gossips also, and meddlers, speaking what they must not. I am intending, then, for younger

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19 Unless sufficient evidence to establish his guilt is produced, no charge against an elder is to be entertained. A single witness may be mistaken, or biased: he must be corroborated by one or more others. When, however, an elder's guilt is clearly established, his sin is to be made public. Such a punishment will deter others from similar offenses.

²¹ Prejudice and partiality should have no place in the judicial acts of an ecclesia. Natural inclination should be laid aside and all done in view of the Invisible.

²² The imposition of hands for the impartation of some grace (2 Tim.16) was to be done deliberately, without haste, so that only those who would honor the gift might receive it.

²³ At this juncture in the apostle's ministry we begin to note the decline of physical blessings. His own thorn in the flesh was not removed (2 Cor. 127), Timothy, his nearest and dearest friend, is afflicted with frequent infirmities. Instead of healing him, or recommending such a course, he suggests a remedy.

Paul's ministry was divided into four periods separated by three crises. The first crisis occurred in Antioch when he was severed from the rest (Ac.132). The second crisis occurred while Paul is at Ephesus, and is brought before us in the words "As these things were fulfilled" (Ac.1921). The third was at Rome, when the Jews finally refused the kingdom (Ac.28 25-28). We have found that this letter was written at the second, central crisis in his career. Then it was that he no longer knew anyone according to the flesh. Except in the lingering testimony to the kingdom, all physical blessing vanishes. Otherwise he surely would have cured Timothy and Epaphroditus (Phil.226). once the progress of Paul's ministries is recognized, from glory to glory (2Co.318), away from the earthly and physical to the celestial and spiritual, healing and other gifts will be seen to be among those things which belong to immaturity.

[widows] to be marrying, bearing children, managing the household, giving an opposer not the least

15 incentive to revile: for some al16 ready turn aside after Satan. If
anyone who is believing has
widows let him be relieving them
and let not the ecclesia be burdened, that it should be relieving
those who are really widows.

17 Let elders who have presided ideally be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who are toil-

18 ing in word and teaching, for the scripture is saying: "You shall not be muzzling the threshing ox" and "The worker is worthy of his

19 wages". Be assenting to no accusation against an elder outside and except with two or three

witnesses. Those who are sinning be exposing before all, that the

²¹ rest also may have fear. I am conjuring, before God and Christ Jesus and the chosen messengers, that you should guard these things, apart from prejudice, do-

²² ing nothing from bias. Impose hands hastily on no one, neither be participating in the sins of others. Be keeping yourself pure.

23 By no means still be drinking water, but be using a sip of wine for your stomach and your frequent

²⁴ infirmities. Some persons' sins are taken for granted, preceding them into judgment, yet some

²⁵ are following up also. Similarly the ideal acts also are taken for granted, and those which are otherwise cannot be hid.

6 Let as many as are slaves under the yoke deem their own owners worthy of all honor, lest the name of God and the teaching may be 2 blasphemed. Yet let those having OYNNE OTE PACTAMEINTEK 20
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TEACHING MAY-BE-being-HARM-AVERRED

¹ A slave with a believing owner was sometimes above his master in faith, and would be tempted to forget his subordinate position. They are exhorted to take their true place as slaves, in the flesh, even though they are brethren in spirit.

⁵ The tendency to make capital out of religion has greatly increased since the apostle's day. Devoutness as a means to material gain is one of the most insidious of sins, which finds its followers everywhere. From the "rice Christians" of China to the very highest ecclesiastical dignitaries, its baneful influence has paralyzed God's testimony. One of the great benefits of persecution is to purge the saints of this sin.

Material gain, beyond what needed for sustenance and shelter, is not true capital. It cannot give contentment in the present, and is a total loss in the future. True capital is contentment, which gives happiness now, and devoutness, which insures a reward in the life to come. These. indeed, are great capital-far greater than the billions which men amass, but which they cannot use, and which they are sure to lose. The really rich man is he who, having provided for shelter from the elements, a house and clothing and sustenance in the form of food and drink, banks the balance in such a way that it will follow him into the future.

Those who refuse this course will find that they lose in every way. Riches do not give contentment, but breed foolish and harmful longings, the gratification of which is destructive to happiness and lead away from the faith. Money getting and the hoarding of means not needed for our own welfare, not only is a prolific source of evil, but robs the rich of happiness now, and only increases our loss in the life to come.

13 To make alive or vivify does not refer to the giving of life in creation, but is always used of the impartation of immortality and incorruption when used of mankind (Ro.417 1 Co.1538).

believing owners not be despising them, seeing that they are brethren, but rather let them slave for them, seeing that they are believing and beloved, being supported by the benefaction.

These things teach and entreat. 3 If anyone is teaching differently and is not approaching with sound words, even those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the teaching in accord with devoutness, he is conceited, versed in nothing, but morbid concerning questionings and controversies, out of which is coming envy, strife, calumnies, wick-⁵ ed suspicions, altercations of men of a decadent mind and deprived of the truth, who infer that devout-6 ness is capital. Now devoutness with contentment is great capital: 7 for it is evident that we carry nothing into the world, neither can we carry anything out. Now, having sustenance and shelter, with these 9 we shall be sufficed. Now those intending to be rich are falling into a trial and a trap and many foolish and harmful desires, which are submerging men in extermination and ¹⁰ destruction. For fon dness money is a root of all that is evil. which some, craving, were led astrav from the faith and probe themselves on all sides with much pain.

Now you, O man of God, be fleeing from these things: yet be pursuing righteousness, devoutness, faith, love, endurance, suf-

12 fering with meekness. Be contending the ideal contest of the

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It is distinguished from resurrection $(Jn.5^{21})$ in that it refers to spiritual life $(Ro.8^{11}\ 2Co.3^{6})$. Resurrection refers primarily to the body, rousing to the soul, and vivification to the spirit. Elsewhere we are told that all mankind will be vivified $(1Co.15^{22})$. Here the whole universe is included in God's mighty purpose to defeat death.

16 Christ Jesus is the only One Who has been vivified. No one else has life beyond the reach of death. Immortality is His exclusive possession. The glory of deathlessness shines forth in Him with an intensity beyond the possibility of human perception. The apostle himself came as near to this as anyone, but the brilliance blinded him. He saw Him (1Cor.91), but He appeared as a Light, which his eyes could not bear. At His advent, they shall be like Him, since they shall view Him as He is (1 Jn.32).

17 Those who are rich, in contrast to those already considered, who are fond of money with the intention of becoming wealthy, are exhorted not to place their dependence on their possessions, which may desert them at any moment, but to rely on God, Who alone can make their enjoyment possible. Their most profitable course lies in the employment of their wealth for the benefit of others. This brings them present happiness (for it is blessed to give), and, at the same time deposits their wealth in the divine treasury where it will appear to their account in that day. In this way they will assure for themselves real life, both now and for the eons.

20 All knowledge or "science" which is not in line with God's revelation has been found false in the past and will be so in the future. There is no conflict between true science and the

Scriptures.

faith. Get hold of eonian life, for which you were called, and you avow an ideal avowal before many witnesses.

 I am charging you before God, Who is vivifying all, and Jesus Christ, Who witnesses an ideal
 avowal before Pontius Pilate, that you keep this precept unspotted, irreprehensible, unto the advent of

15 our Lord, Christ Jesus, which will be showing, to its own eras, the happy and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

Who alone has immortality, making His home in light inaccessible, Whom not one of mankind perceived or can be perceiving, to Whom be honor and might eonian!
Amen!

Be charging those who are rich in the current eon not to be haughty, nor to rely on the dubiousness of riches, but on God, Who is tendering us all things

18 richly for our enjoyment; to be doing good acts, to be rich in ideal acts, to be liberal contributors,

19 treasuring up for themselves an ideal foundation for the future, that they may get hold of real life.

O Timothy! Guard that which is committed to you! Turn aside from the profane prattlings and antipathies of falsely named

21 "knowledge", which some are professing. They swerve from the faith.

Grace be with you! Amen!

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II TIMOTHY

PAUL's second epistle to Timothy is, perhaps, the last letter from his pen. In all his other epistles he looks forward to further service. Now he tells Timothy that he had finished his career (47). The period of his dissolution was imminent (46). The whole epistle takes character from this fact.

The first epistle was probably written at that great crisis in the apostle's ministry when he first formed his purpose to go to Rome (Ac.1921). Its subject is service. Its object was the organization of the ecclesias to uphold God's truth. The subject of the second epistle is suffering (23). The ecclesias themselves have become filled with evil. Separation from the evil becomes the duty of all who wish to please God.

This letter should be especially prized by the Lord's slaves in these last days, for the apostasy which began even in Paul's time has become worse with each succeeding century. The practical question, How shall we serve in the midst of present day departure? is fully answered in this, Paul's latest letter.

The remedy for the present distress is clearly shown in the literary framework. The epistle proper begins with an exhortation to have the pattern of sound words (1^{13}) . It closes with the charge to proclaim the word (4^2) . Its central subject contains the command to "correctly partition" the word of truth (2^{15}) . The Sacred Scriptures

FRAMEWORK OF II TIMOTHY Complex Reversion with Alternation INTRODUCTION 11 Timothy's Grace: Rekindle 16 Paul's Commission 111 That Day The Pattern of Sound Words 113 Apostasy 115 DOCTRINE Onesiphorus 116 Paul's Instructions 21 Exhortation: Endure2³ God's Faithfulness 211 Upsetting 214 Worker 215 Gangrene 217 Subvert 218 | Stand 219 Great House, 220 Slave 224 Antagonizing 225 DEPORTMENT The Last Days: 31 Paul's Example 310 Exhortation: Remain 314 The Sacred Scriptures 315 Proclaim the Word 41 Apostasy 48 Timothy's Dispensation: Discharge 46 Paul's Career 46 That Day Conclusion 49

are the one great need for these degenerate days (316). It is the aim of the CONCORDANT VERSION to furnish a pattern of sound words, without which the truth has eluded us. It is the aim of the notes to "correctly partition" the truth, assigning each truth its proper place out of which it becomes dangerous error.

Timothy had been with the apostle in Rome, whence he was probably sent to Philippi (Phil.219). The most loving and intimate relations existed between them, and Paul continually refers to him as his own child in the His father was a Greek, but his mother was a Jewess (Ac.161). His grandmother Lois and his mother were believers and he seems to have inherited their faith. He was constantly associated with the apostle in his labors, often being sent on some mission which Paul himself could not fulfill. His name is joined with Paul's in the salutation of six of his epistles (2Cor.11, Phil.11, Col.11, 1Thess.11. 2 Thess.11,Philemon1). He seems to have suffered imprisonment for a time but was set at liberty (Heb.1323). Paul gives him the highest possible praise, so that he himself is given as an example of true service and the letters sent to him are most important to all who wish to engage in a like service.

The apostle's prolonged imprisonment, and the growing evils which were creeping into the ecclesias, seem to have had the effect of dampening and discouraging Timothy. To counteract this tendency the apostle reminds him that God's calling is not dependent on men's acts but on His own purpose and grace, and this cannot be disturbed or hindered by the flood of evil, for it was given us in Christ Jesus before eonian times. The eons are the times of evil. Before the times of the eons there was no evil. neither will there be any after they have run their course. As a result, God's purpose is before and above evil, and we should not be unduly moved by its presence. Death is sin's ultimate. The crucifixion of Christ is the furthest limit to which sin can go. The vivification of Christ is the first step in the abolition of death. can die no more. At His coming advent the saints will triumph over death and receive eonian life. final abolition, however, is at the end of the eons, called the consummation.

10 The abolition of death is put in the indefinite or *aorist* tense, as He has done it in His own case and will do it for all in the future.

PAUL, an apostle of Christ Jesus, through the will of God, in accord with the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, to Timothy, a child beloved:

Grace, mercy, peace, from God, the Father, and Christ Jesus, our Lord.

GRATEFUL am I to God, to Whom I am offering divine service from my ancestors with a clear conscience, as I have an unintermittent remembrance of you in my petitions, night and day, longing to see you, remembering your tears, that I may be filled with joy, getting a reminder of the unfeigned faith which is in you, which first makes its home in your grandmother Lois, and in your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded that it is in

ing you to be rekindling the gra-

you also.

For which cause I am remind-

cious gift of God which is in you through the imposition of my hands, for God gives us, not a spirit of timidity, but of power and of love and of sanity. Then you should not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me, His prisoner, but suffer evil with me in the evangel in accord with the power of God, Who saves us and calls us with a holy calling, not in accord with our acts, but in accord with His own purpose and the grace which is given to us in Christ Jesus before eonian times, 10 yet now is manifested through the advent of our Saviour, Christ indeed, abolishes Jesus, Who, death, yet illuminates life and in-11 corruption through the evangel of which I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher of 12 the nations. For which cause I

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12 The transcendent truths committed to the apostle Paul always meet with opposition and bring suffering on their exponents. But God Himself guards them and revives them from time to time even though the vast majority of His saints hardly know of their existence.

13 The pattern of sound words is one of the most serious needs for the student of the Scriptures. If it was necessary for Timothy to cling to the particular Greek expressions used by the apostle, how much greater is the need for some definite pattern on which to model the words of a version? How can the English reader hope to fulfill this exhortation when the translations which he uses publicly proclaim their avoidance of any uniformity or pattern in their production? The constant and consistent use of correct terms is one of the greatest possible aids in assimilating and teaching truth. The greatest hindrance is the inconsistent use of inexact terms which have their force nullified by use in incorrect contexts.

- 1 "The grace which is in Christ Jesus" is a most comprehensive expression including all the infinite favor associated with a present acknowledgment of Christ's exaltation in the heavens. Salvation, justification, reconciliation and every spiritual blessedness among the celestials is surely enough to invigorate all who appreciate their possession even in a feeble measure.
- 3 To inflict evil is the object of the world's soldiers. All their training is to this end. To suffer evil is the duty of the ideal soldier in the ranks of faith.
- A most important principle, almost unheeded. Effort and endeavor is of no avail in God's service unless it be in strict conformity to the rules. Hence it is of prime importance to acquaint ourselves first of all with God's instructions and adhere to them Otherwise the most pretentious effort, which seems to meet with most success, may be utterly rejected at the judge's stand. Do not attempt to work for God until you know the will of God.

am suffering these things also, but I am not ashamed, for I am aware Whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that He is able to guard what is committed to me, for that day.

13 Have a pattern of sound words. which you hear from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

¹⁴ Guard that ideal thing committed to you, through the holy spirit which is making its home in us.

Of this you are aware, that all those in the [province of] Asia turned from me, of whom are Phy-

gellus and Hermogenes.

May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, seeing that he often refreshes me and 17 was not ashamed of my chain, but coming to be in Rome, he seeks 18 me diligently and found me. May the Lord grant to him to be find-

ing mercy from the Lord in that day! And how much he serves in Ephesus you know quite well.

You, then, child of mine, be invigorated by the grace which is in Christ Jesus. And what things you hear from me through many witnesses, these commit to faithful

men, who shall be competent to teach others also.

Suffer evil with me as an ideal soldier of Christ Jesus. Now no one who is warring is involved in the business of a livelihood, that he should be pleasing the One enlisting him. Now if anyone should be competing also, he is not given a wreath if he should not be competing lawfully. The farmer who is

toiling must be first to partake of the fruits. Apprehend what I say, for the Lord will be giving you understanding in it all.

Remember, Jesus Christ, Who has been roused from among the dead,

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The literal resurrection of Christ as the Seed of David seems to be the apostle's answer to the theory of a spiritual resurrection. The Seed of David can be nothing less than a literal Man.

10 "The salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eonian glory" is a most apt description of the grace shown to

11 This faithful saying shows that our life and all that comes to us by His grace is immutable—it depends on His faithfulness. Service, however, has two sides, reward and loss. Endurance will be recognized by a place of authority in His celestial realm. we disown Him we cannot expect Him to give us a public place of power in the future. This does not infringe in the least degree on our salvation or life or anything which is ours by His grace.

15 Translators have found great difficulty in rendering the phrase "correctly partitioning". Desiring to improve on the common rendering "rightly dividing", the Revisers have translated it very loosely "handling aright". This is very vague. meaning is clear from the illustration which follows. Hymeneus and Philetus did not deny the resurrection. like the Corinthians (1 Cor. 1512), but they misplaced it. They made it past, when it was future. So all truth has its appropriate place, out of which truth itself becomes the most insidious error, because it seems to have the support of scripture. must not transfer the truth of one eon into another, nor of one economy into another. We should leave truth concerning Israel to them and that for us should not be mixed with it. no other way can we really have the

19 God's solid foundation still stands. The "pillar of the truth" (1 Tim.315) has fallen under the flood of false teaching, which is found in the Bible, but through misplacement has become distorted into error. But the founda-The Lord Himself is tion is fixed. never at a loss to recognize His own. We, on our part, may demand that those who take His name upon them should act accordingly.

is of the seed of David, according to my evangel, in which I am suffering evil unto bonds as a malefactor—but the word of God

10 has not been bound. Therefore I am enduring all because of those who are chosen, that they also may happen upon the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eon-

ian glory.

Faithful is the saving: "For if we died together, we shall be living 12 together also; if we are enduring, we shall be reigning together also; if we are disowning, He also will 13 be disowning us; if we are unfaith-

ful. He is remaining faithful—He cannot disown Himself."

Remind them of these things, conjuring them before the Lord not to engage in controversy for nothing useful, to the upsetting of those who are hearing.

Endeavor to present yourself to God. qualified, an unashamed worker, correctly partitioning the ¹⁶ word of truth. Yet stand aloof

from profane prattlings, for they will be progressing to more ir-17 reverence, and their word will

spread as gangrene, of whom are ¹⁸ Hymeneus and Philetus, who swerve from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already occurred, and are subverting the faith of some.

Howbeit, God's solid foundation stands, having this seal: "The Lord knew those who are His" and "Let everyone naming the name of the Lord withdraw from injustice."

Now in a great house there are not only gold and silver utensils. but wooden and earthenware also, some indeed for honor, yet some

²¹ for dishonor. If, then, anyone should be purging himself from

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21 The figure of a "great house" is most appropriate in the present day. The struggling, persecuted, unrecognized ecclesia of the early days has become great, but with its greatness it has lost its primitive purity and Like the utensils needed in the service of a mansion, it harbors two classes. Some, like gold and silver plate, are fit for honorable uses: others, like the pots and buckets of the scullery, are for degraded service. The method of transforming ones selfinto holy and desirable utensils, fit for honorable uses, is very simple. We are to purge ourselves from the unclean utensils. It is personal, individual heart cleansing that is needed rather than outward reforms.

22 On the positive side, we are to confine our fellowship to those who call upon the Lord out of a clean heart. This is the true basis of fellowship in the midst of the failure in which we find ourselves. It is not doctrine, however desirable it is that we should It is not church government. It is not the knowledge of the truth, but the motive which underlies it. We should not exclude from our fellowship anyone who calls on the Lord out of a clean heart, however much his person or his doctrine may repel us. Every creed, man-made, is crude and full of error. No one should subscribe to aught but the Word of God. 24 The Lord's slave must not fight. for his object is not destruction, but salvation. He does not aim to wound or disable, but to capture his antagonists alive and subject them to God's will.

We, who are living in these last days, will bear witness to the truth of the Scriptures, for no one today could give a more accurate indictment of the times than is given in this passage. The whole list from selfishness to self-gratification is characteristic, yet nothing more so than the form of devoutness which is devoid of its vital power. We are not asked to correct this condition, but to shun those who are involved in it.

⁶ The diminutive, "little women", expresses contempt.

these, he will be a utensil for honor, hallowed, and useful to the Owner, ready for every good act.

Now youthful desires flee: yet pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace, with all who are invoking the Lord out of a clean heart. 23 Now stupid and crude questionings refuse, being aware that they ²⁴ are generating fightings. the Lord's slave must not be fighting, but be gentle to all, apt 25 to teach, bearing with evil, in meekness training those who are antagonizing, if perchance in time God may give them repentance to come into a realization of the truth, 26 and they should be sobering up out of the Slanderer's trap, hav-

ing been caught alive by him for

that one's will. Now know this, that in the last days perilous periods will be pres-² ent. for men will be selfish, fond of money, ostentatious, proud, calumniators, stubborn to parents, ungrateful, malign, without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, uncontrollable, fierce, averse to the good, traitors, rash, conceited, fond of their own gratification ⁵ rather than fond of God, having a form of devotion, yet denying its power. These, also, shun. For of these are they who are slipping into homes and are leading into captivity little women, heaped with sins. being led by various lusts and grat-⁷ ifications, always learning and yet not at any time able to come into a realization of the truth. Now, by the

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12 This is a crucial test of our true state. Are we suffering persecution? If not, are we in earnest in our will to live devoutly in Christ Jesus? All who tread this path will be persecuted. Paul himself delighted in persecutions for Christ's sake (2Cor.1210). bold stand for the evangel invited them at every turn. At Lystra they stoned him and left him for dead (Ac. 1419). Nor are we to look for any improvement in the course of time. for wicked men and swindlers will wax worse and worse, not only deceiving others but being themselves deceived.

14 Again and again the apostle returns to the Sacred Scriptures as the one sufficient recourse. What Timothy had heard from Paul has since been incorporated in them, being recorded in the epistles he has penned, both in his personal letters and in his epistles to the seven ecclesias.

16 The inspired Scriptures are the sole and sufficient equipment for the man of God in these trying times. All else has failed and fallen into ruin. has become an imperative and absolute necessity that the sacred writings should be recovered in something like their pristine purity, for they alone are the last resort of the saints. Their inspiration is confined to the original Whatever promises the closest contact with the inspired records, and 16 the safest index of their contents is the best equipment possible for the man of God. The accompanying version, with its consistent sublinear and its concordance, will, we trust, be used by God to meet the one prime necessity of the times.

3 Proclaim the word! This is the greatest need in the last days. There is no lack of preaching or of proclaiming, but the word of God has entirely too little place in them. The next need is to stand by it, whether it seems opportune or not.

method by which Jannes and Jambres withstand Moses, thus these also are withstanding the truth, men of a deprayed mind, disquali-

9 fied for the faith. But they shall be progressing no more, for their folly shall be obvious to all, even as theirs became.

Now you fully follow my teaching, motive, purpose, faith,

¹¹ patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings, such as occurred to me in Antioch, in Iconium, in Lystra: which persecutions I undergo, and out of them

¹² all the Lord rescues me. And all also who want to live devoutly in Christ Jesus shall be persecuted.

Yet wicked men and swin dlers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Now you be remaining in what you learned and were entrusted with, being aware from whom you

¹⁵ learned it and that from a babe you are acquainted with the sacred scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

All scripture is inspired by God, and is beneficial for teaching, for exposure, for correction, for discip-

of God may be equipped, fitted out for every good act.

4. I am conjuring you before God and Christ Jesus, Who is about to be judging the living and the dead, in accord with His advent and His 2 kingdom: Proclaim the word, stand by it, opportunely, inoppor-

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6 The pathos of this passage appears when we recall the many plans of the apostle which it repeals. He intended to go into Spain (Ro.1524), he wished to winter in Nicopolis (Titus 312) and he hoped to be granted to the Colossians (Philemon 22). There is no record that any of these wishes were ful-Now he faces death with an filled. exultant cry of triumph. His contest is over, his career is ended, the faith is kept, the reward remains. Hitherto the advent filled his heart and his horizon. Now that he realizes the imminence of his dissolution, he passes on that blessed expectation. The wreath of righteousness is promised to all who love His advent. This alone should be a sufficient incentive for us not only to love but to proclaim that blessed expectation. There is no evidence in the scriptures that Paul was released and later imprisoned a second time. Even if it was a fact, the truth demands the entire removal of everything physical from the scene.

⁹ "Loving the present eon" is in direct contrast to loving His advent. If the present evil eon appeals to us, and engages our affections, we will have no desire for the glorious grace which His advent will reveal.

11 How touching is this commendation of Mark! He had proven unfaithful (Ac.1313) and Paul had refused his services, notwithstanding it cost him the companionship of Barnabas (Ac. 1538). Yet God's grace operates in him so as to win this commendation from Paul and he is inspired to write the account of the Faithful Servant, for that is the character of our Lord in Mark's evangel.

16 There was a custom in Rome that, when a man was tried for any crime, his friends attended him in court to countenance and assist him. Roman law recognized the legality of such assistance and even the emperors did not shun their friends under such circumstances. The early believers were derided because they availed themselves of this privilege. How majestic stands the solitary figure of the apostle! His friends in Asia had abandoned him (115). Demas abandoned him (410). And now all abandoned him (410).

tunely, expose, rebuke, entreat, with all patience and teaching.

For the era will be when they will not tolerate sound teaching, but, their hearing being tickled, they will heap up for themselves teachers in accord with their own desires, and, indeed, they will be

sires, and, indeed, they will be turning their hearing away from the truth and will be turned aside

to myths.

Yet you be sober in all things, suffer evil as an ideal soldier of Christ Jesus, do the work of an evangelist, fully discharge your service. For I am already a libation, and the period of my dissolution is imminent. I have contended the ideal contest, I have finished my career, I have kept the faith. Furthermore, there is reserved for me the wreath of right-

faith. Furthermore, there is reserved for me the wreath of right-eousness, which the Lord, the just Judge, will be paying to me in that day; yet not to me only, but also to all who have loved His advent.

⁹ Endeavor to come to me quickly,

for Demas, loving the current eon, abandoned me, and is gone to Thessalonica, Crescens to Galatia,

Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Taking Mark, lead him back with you, for he is useful to

12 me for service. Now Tychicus I

¹³ dispatch to Ephesus. When you come, bring the valise which I left in Troas with Carpus, and the scrolls, especially the vellums.

Alexander the coppersmith displayed to me much evil: the Lord will be paying him in accord with AEF ZONE TITIMH CONTAPA 20 POSE rebuke

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doned him to his fate. He stands before his accusers unfriended and alone, except for his faithful Lord. Nor did this embitter him. Like his Lord, he prays, "May it not be counted against them!" This is our last glimpse of the apostle of the nations. To the last he stands as God's herald, welcoming death itself if it only gives him an opportunity to proclaim the evangel to all the nations.

18 Paul realizes, at length, that his work on earth is finished and he now looks forward to the celestial kingdom, of which he, and all who accepted his message, were participants.

20 Trophimus is a picture of the place the nations occupied before Paul's final ministry. His name means "nourished". The nations were nourished at Israel's board. As their apostasy increased the nations received less and less spiritual food from them. If it had not been for Paul's last letters from Rome they, too, like Trophimus, would have pined away. His case is significant, too, of the fact that all blessing is now spiritual, else Paul could easily have healed him. But neither he nor Timothy nor Paul himself is healed. God's grace becomes their sufficiency, in the midst of physical weakness.

15 his acts—whom you also guard against, for very much has he with-

16 stood words of ours. At my first defense no one came along with me, but all abandoned me. May it not be counted against them!

17 Yet the Lord stood beside me, and He invigorates me, that through me the proclamation may be fully discharged, and all the nations should hear, and I am rescued out

18 of the mouth of the lion. The Lord will be rescuing me from every wicked work and will be saving me for His celestial kingdom: to Whom be glory for the eons of the eons. Amen!

19 Greet Prisca and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus. 20 Erastus remains in Corinth, yet

Trophimus I left in Miletus in ²¹ feeble health. Endeavor to come

before winter. Eubulus and Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brethren are greeting you.

The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit! Grace be with you! Amen! TOYONKAICY DYAAC COYA [20 15 him WHOM AND YOU BE-GUARDING VERY As the withstood ANT=CTH bo.

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TITUS

THE only recorded visit of the apostle Paul to Crete was when his ship was detained there some time on his journey to Rome (Ac.277-12). The writer of the Acts was with the apostle, and doubtless others, as Demas and Crescens, accompanied him, including, it would seem. Titus, as far as Crete. Paul's direction that he should leave the island and meet him in Nicopolis (312) seems to confirm this, for, later, Paul writes to Timothy that Titus had gone to Dalmatia (2 Tim.410). There was a Nicopolis on the Adriatic near the boundary of Macedonia and Dalmatia. Hence this letter was probably written from Rome not long after his arrival. His early intention to visit Spain (Rom.1524), and his decision to winter in Nicopolis (312), seems to have failed of fruition, for he is still in Rome when he informs Timothy of his imminent dissolution (2Tim.46).

The evident purport of the epistle is hortatory. It deals with the practical duties of life. No doctrine is developed. As shown by the literary

FRAMEWORK OF TITUS Reversion

Introduction 1¹
Character of Elders 1⁵
Insubjection 1¹⁰
Old Men 2²
I Old Women 2³
I Young Women 2⁴
Voung Men 2⁶
Conduct of Slaves 2⁹
Subjection 3¹
Conclusion 3¹²

framework, the chief subjects are the appointment of elders who are to serve as supervisors, and the conduct of those who are slaves. The paragraph dealing with elders is logically followed by one describing their duties and difficulties due to the insubjection of some. The section on slaves is fittingly followed by one on subjection, for even those who are not in physical bondage owe subjection to the government and to their fellow men.

The central subject sets forth the ideal character of men and women, old and young.

2

- ¹ Paul writes this letter in the character of a slave. This shows that the epistle deals with service. He adds the title apostle, to give weight to his injunctions.
- ² Eonian life, usually called "everlasting" life, is here put, as is usual in Paul's epistles, as a future expectation. God promised it before the times of the "evers" or eons and it will last until the eons come to an end (Heb.9²⁶).
- 4 Titus is not mentioned in the narrative of the Acts, doubtless because his case and ministry were not at all in line with the subject of that treatise. Only that aspect of Paul's work is there touched upon which was in subjection to the Circumcision and connected with the proclamation of the kingdom to Israel. Titus was a Greek whom Paul refused to circumcise, so that he might be a standing reminder of the fact that circumcision was not a part of his evangel for the nations (Gal.21-5).
- ⁵ The island of Crete is now named Candia. It is the most fertile island in the Mediterranean.
- The elder and supervisor seem to be different aspects of the same office. The name elder was given in recognition of their age and dignity. The term supervisor describes the character of their service. His relations with the world and his own family must be such as will not compromise the ecclesia which he serves. His name in the world must be above reproach, his domestic relations must be ideal. Men with many wives were not eligible.
- 10 It was very natural for the Circumcisionists to arrogate to themselves the supervision of the ecclesias to which they belonged, but they were often unfit for the office.
- 11 In the very early days impostors set themselves to use devious means for securing their own advantage and getting dishonest gain. This is a most destructive plague in teachers, for, as soon as they make wealth their

Paul, a slave of God, yet an apostle of Jesus Christ, in accord with the faith of God's chosen ones and a realization of the truth which accords with devoutness, in expectation of eonian life, which God, Who does not lie, promises before eonian times, yet manifests His word in its own eras by a proclamation with which I was entrusted, according to the injunction of God, our Savour; to Titus, a genuine child according to the common faith:

Grace and peace from God, the Father, and Christ Jesus, our Saviour.

On this behalf I left you in Crete, that you should be amending what is lacking and constitute elders to suit each city, as I prescribe to you. If anyone is unimpeachable, the husband of one wife, having believing children not accused of profligacy or insubordinate—for a supervisor must be unimpeachable as a steward of God, not given to self gratification, not irritable, no toper, not quarrelsome, not avaricious; but hospitable, fond of that which is good, sane, just, benign, self-controlled: upholding faithful word according to the teaching, that he may be able to entreat also with sound teaching and to expose those who contradict. For many are insubordinate,

praters and impostors, especially those of the Circumcision, who must be gagged, who are subverting whole households, teaching what they must not, for sordid gain.

One of them, their own prophet, said: "Cretans are eyer liars, evil wild beasts, idle bellies." This

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object of pursuit, they necessarily endeavor to be popular and obtain the favor and support of the people. This is almost sure to be followed by corruption in teaching.

12 It is supposed that this is a quotation from Epimenides, a poet and philosopher who lived about six hundred years before Christ. It was common to give the Cretans a bad name, for to "Cretanize" was the equivalent of lying and deception. Paul adds his confirmation in order to aid them in guarding against these grave defects in the national character.

14 The Jewish doctors have so covered the law with their myths and traditions that little, if any, of the law is left. Ceremonial uncleanness is a constant menace to the orthodox Hebrew. So much is unclean that their consciences and minds are contaminated. This is entirely out of tune with the grace which has come to those who are themselves ceremonially unclean, yet have been subjects of God's cleansing grace. A true knowledge of God's grace acknowledges, as Peter did, that what God has cleansed is not to be called unclean (Ac.1014).

¹⁵ True cleanliness is an inward condition which views all without from its own standpoint. A defiled mind and conscience will defile even that which is, in itself, clean.

- The apostle segregates the ecclesia into young and old, men and women, and gives to each the appropriate exhortation. All are entreated to be sane (2,5,6). The usage of this word in the Greek corresponds very closely with its English equivalent. In Mk. 515 and Lu.835 it is used of those who had been insane. Here and elsewhere it is used of mental soundness and good judgment. The term "slanderers" is the term usually applied to the "Devil". This passage is the key to (The word "devils" is its meaning. a different word, which we transliterate demons). The sphere of the young women is in the home.
- 9 Slaves are given the privilege of adorning the teaching, by their good behaviour.
- 11 The saving grace of God, properly appreciated, has no equal as a means for training God's saints to live ac-

testimony is true. For which cause be exposing them severely, that they may be sound in the

14 faith, not heeding Jewish myths and precepts of men who are turn-

is clean to the clean, yet to the defiled and unbelieving nothing is clean, but their mind as well as

onscience has been defiled. They are avowing an acquaintance with God, yet by acts are denying it, being abominable and stubborn, and disqualified for every good act.

2 Now you be speaking what is becoming to sound teaching. The aged men are to be sober, grave, sane, sound in the faith, in love,

3 in endurance; the aged women, similarly, in demeanor as becomes the sacred, not slanderers, nor enslaved by much wine, teachers of

4 the ideal, that they may bring the young wives to a sense of their duty to be fond of their husbands,

fond of their children, sane, chaste, domestic, good, subject to their own husbands, that the word of God

6 may not be blasphemed. The younger men, similarly, be en-

⁷ treating to be sane, in all things tendering yourself a model of ideal acts, in teaching, uncorrupt-

ness, gravity, sound, uncensurable speech, that those of the contrary part may be abashed, having nothing bad to say concerning us.

Slaves are to be subject to their own owners, to be pleasing them well in all things, not contradict-

ing; not emblezzling, but displaying all good fidelity, that they may

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- 14 The ransom of Christ has a present power. Lawlessness is that basic conception of sin in which it is viewed as a departure from the normal and natural course of things. The ransom of Christ will eventually restore us into that ideal condition which conformity to the laws of the universe produces. At present this takes the form of zeal for good deeds.
- The place of the believer is one of subjection in this eon. It is not our time to reign (1 Cor.48). That will come in the next eon. The path of the saints is not at all aggressive. It is not for them to redress wrongs, but to yield to injustice, not to speak evil of others even if they justly deserve it, not to stir up trouble, but to be pacific, making allowance for the failure of others, meekly enduring what would naturally inflame our indignation.
- ³ The emphatic we, repeated in the fifth verse, suggests that the apostle is now referring to himself as one of the Circumcision—those who, indeed, ought to have kept the law and who thought that their salvation depended on their righteousness, but who needed to be regenerated and renewed by the holy spirit, as the Lord taught Nicodemus (Jn.3⁵), according to His mercy.
- 5 The Septuagint uses this word loutron twice for a bath in the Song of Solomon (4266), but renders laver by another form, louter, in all of its occurrences. Hence it is evident that here it is not the instrument which contained the water, but the element itself which is a figure of renascence. Though literally regeneration, the word is always used in a much looser sense of any renewal, much like our word renascence.

be adorning the teaching of God, our Saviour, in all things.

For the saving grace of God made its advent to all humanity,

12 training us that, disowning irreverence and worldly desires, we should live sanely and justly and devoutly in the current eon,

¹³ anticipating the happy expectation and glorious advent of our great God and Saviour, Jesus

Christ, Who gives Himself for us, that He should be redeeming us from all lawlessness and be cleansing for Himself a special people
 zealous of ideal acts. Be speaking of these things and be entreating

and exposing with every injunction. Let no one be slighting you.

3 Remind them to be subject to sovereignties, to authorities; to be

yielding, and to be ready for every good work, not to be calumniating anyone, to be pacific, lenient, displaying all meekness toward all mankind. For we also were once

foolish, stubborn, deceived, slaves of various desires and gratifications, led on by malice and envy, detestable, hating one another.

⁴ Yet when God our Saviour's kindness and fondness for humanity

5 made its advent, He saves us, not for works of righteousness which we do, but according to His mercy, through the bath of renascence

6 and renewal of holy spirit, which He pours out on us richly through

⁷ Jesus Christ, our Saviour, that, be-

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9 It would seem that by far the largest share of the difficulties of the early ecclesias was introduced by the Circumcision-the very ones who ought to have been a help instead of a hindrance. The record of the book of Acts is full of their opposition to the evangel and they were directly responsible for Paul's imprisonment in Rome. Even those who believed were the source of continual turmoil. They could not clear themselves of the trammels of Judaism. They could not rise to the new revelation vouchsafed to Paul. With their genealogies, and circumcision, and contentions about the law, they were continually drawing the saints from the ground of grace and faith down to law and works. Finally the apostle put a stop to the discussion of these subjects.

10 Though this is the Greek hairetikon, it does not refer to a heretic, but one who belongs to a sect. It is applied to the Sadducees (Ac.517), the Pharisees (Ac.155265), and the Nazarenes (Ac.245). These could not all be called heretics. Sectarianism is essentially preferring to associate with a class or clique. The Circumcision would readily prefer their kind.

12 Tychicus was later sent to Ephesus (2 Tim.412). As he delivered the letter to the Ephesians (Eph.621), it appears that this letter to Titus was written some time before the Perfection epistles. Titus seems to have gone to Nicopolis, but Paul remained in Rome.

ing justified by that grace, we should be becoming enjoyers, in expectation, of the allotment of conian life.

Faithful is the saying, and I am intending you to be insistent concerning these things, that those who have believed God may be concerned to preside for ideal acts. These things are ideal and beneficial for humanity. Yet stand aloof from stupid questionings and genealogies and strifes and fightings about law, for they are without benefit and vain. A sectarian man, after one and a second admonition, refuse, being aware that such a one has turned himself out, and is sinning, being

Whenever I shall be sending Artemas to you, or Tychicus, endeavor to come to me in Nicopolis, for I have decided to winter there.

self-condemned.

¹³ Forward Zenas, the lawyer, and Apollos diligently, that nothing

14 may be lacking to them. Now let those who are ours also be learning to preside for ideal acts for necessary needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

¹⁵ All those with me are greeting you. Greet our friends in faith. Grace be with you all. *Amen!*

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PHILEMON

This, the only private, personal letter from the pen of the apostle Paul, is a perfect specimen of its kind. Its powerful yet pathetic appeal is the ripe fruitage of that overwhelming grace which Paul dispensed from his Roman prison. Himself a prisoner, he captures the runaway slave and gives him the freedom of Christ, yet sends him back to the master from whom he had escaped.

This note was doubtless written at the same time as the epistles to the Colossians and Ephesians. Onesimus accompanied Tychicus (Eph.621) to Ephesus and Colosse (Col.47-9). From the fact that Onesimus is spoken of as "one of you" (Col.49), we may inferthat Philemon belonged to the ecclesia at Colosse, and that he was given the message to masters in that epistle at the same time (Col.41). But this precious little letter goes far beyond what is "just and equal" so far as Onesimus is concerned. No picture of God's grace can better this. Not only a slave, but subject to torture and death for stealing from his master, he is first reconciled to God through Paul's preaching, and then is reconciled to his master through Paul's pleading. He is caught upon the very crest of the great tidal wave of grace which was just then ready to overflow the whole world. The transcendent grace of Paul's perfection epistles was

doubtless his precious possession even before it was delivered to Philemon. Can we realize what this must have meant to him? To be taken from the deepest depths of social degradation and to be seated with Christ in the celestial realms, by faith, almost exhausts the possibilities of grace. And now upon all this, he is given this precious passport to his master's heart! Is it not a lovely little letter?

In literary form, too, it is a perfect example of a simple reversion. Every topic is repeated in reverse order, as set forth in detail in the following literary analysis.

FRAMEWORK OF PHILEMON

Reversion

1-3

	Prayer—Paul for Philemon 4-7						
	Paul's Authority 8						
	Paul Beseeches 9-10						
	Paul's child Onesimus 10						
	Onesimus' Wrong 11-12						
	Paul and Philemon 13-14						
	Onesimus' Departure 15						
	Onesimus' Reception 15						
	Paul and Philemon 16						
	Onesimus' Wrong 18						
	Philemon a convert of Paul's 19						
	Paul Pleads 20						
	Paul's Confidence 21						
ĺ	Prayer—Philemon for Paul 22						
ċ	onclusion 23-25						

- ⁴ The name Philemon means "fond". He seems to have been a most exemplary character, whose reputation had reached Paul's ears, and had given him joy in the midst of the sorrows and dangers of his situation in Rome. But Paul is not thinking of himself but of the service Philemon renders to the saints.
- ⁸ Paul's apostolic authority gives him the right to dictate to Philemon regarding Onesimus. It would have been perfectly proper to have held the runaway slave for his own comfort and service without consulting his master in the matter. Yet grace does not demand its rights, or stand upon its privileges, but, led by love, entreats. What a glorious sunset to such a life as Paul's! The rare graces of the gospel glow in the aged apostle and prisoner with greater splendor than ever before. Age has not soured but rather mellowed him.
- 11 There is a pleasing play upon the name "Onesimus", which means prof-itable. Paul uses it as a verb in verse twenty. He may be regarded as a picture of those of the nations who had strayed away from God, who are the fruit of Paul's bonds as Onesimus was, and who now return to God to become His "profitable" slaves. He is also a marvelous example of God's method of tranforming evil into good. No one would condone the act of Onesimus in running away from his master, yet God made it a blessing not only to Onesimus, but to his master and to Paul. All were enriched by it. In this way He is able to make all evil subserve His purpose. It is the background of His grace and will become the means of drawing His creatures infinitely closer to Himself and His affections than would be possible if sin had never invaded the universe.
- 15 The short period of Onesimus' absence was not worth reckoning compared with the fact that, as a brother in Christ, Philemon would have him for all the eons. So the short term of sin (which seems to us so long) is not worth reckoning compared with the eonian and everlasting tenure of the bliss which follows it.

- PAUL, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and brother Timothy, to Philemon, the beloved, and our fellow worker, and to Apphia, our sister, and to Archippus, our fellow soldier, and to the ecclesia at your house:
- Grace to you and peace, from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ⁴ I AM THANKING my God always, making mention of you in my prayers, hearing of your love and the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, so that the fellowship of your faith may be becoming operative in the realization of every good ⁷ thing which is in us for Christ Jesus. For I have had much joy and consolation in your love, seeing that the compassions of the saints are soothed through you, brother.
- Wherefore, having much boldness in Christ to be enjoining you as to what is proper, through love I am rather entreating, being such a one as Paul the aged, and now a prisoner also of Christ Jesus.

 I am entreating you concerning my child, whom I beget in my bonds, Onesimus [Profitable], once
- useless to you, yet now useful to 12 you as well as to me, whom I send back to you. Him—this means my compassions—take to yourself,
- 13 whom I intended to be retaining for myself that, for your sake, he may be serving me in the bonds of
- 14 the evangel. Yet apart from your opinion I will do nothing, that your good may not be as of compulsion
 15 but voluntary. For parhans he is
- but voluntary. For perhaps he is separated for an hour because of

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15 Have as a liquidation, FROM-HAVE, is a special term used in the papyri for receiving in full for any debt or obligation. The noun means a receipt in full. Thus the Lord, in the sixth of Matthew, said concerning those whose deeds were done before men, that "they have their wages in full"—there is no more due them from God.

18 Philemon was evidently called under Paul's preaching, so that he owed all he had in grace to his ministry. With all this to his credit, Paul may well assume all of Onesimus' debts to his master.

20 There is a play on the name Onesimus, or Profitable. If he should be sent back to Paul, to serve him in the evangel, he would indeed be "Profitable" to Paul, both in name and in fact.

²² At this time Paul still hoped to be released and return to his itinerant ministry. But the very spiritual character of his latest ministry did not demand his physical presence. It was more in keeping to convey it by epistles. We have no evidence to show that he ever went to Colosse.

23 Later, all except Luke left him (2Ti.411). Demas abandoned him. And to this very day his inspired epistles, by means of which he still speaks, and which are the only source of the truth for this economy of God's grace, are unheeded, neglected, abandoned, forsaken.

this: that you may have him as an eonian liquidation, no longer as a

16 slave, but more than a slave, a brother beloved, especially to me, yet how much rather to you, both

¹⁷ in the flesh and in the Lord! If, then, you have me for a mate, take

18 him to yourself as me. Now if in anything he injures you, or is owing aught, be charging this to my

ing aught, be charging this to my account. I, Paul (I write with my own hand), I will refund it. (Not that I may tell you that you are

²⁰ owing me even yourself!) Yea, brother, may I be "profiting" from you in the Lord! Soothe my

compassions in Christ!

Being confident of your obedience, I write to you, seeing that I perceive that you will do even more than I say. Now, at the same time, make ready also a lodging for me, for I am expecting that, through your prayers, I shall be graciously granted to you.

Epaphras, my fellow captive in
 Christ Jesus, Mark, Aristarchus,
 Demas, Luke, my fellow workers,

are greeting you.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit! Amen!

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THE CIRCUMCISION EPISTLES

AT the notable conference in Jerusalem when Paul submitted his evangel to those of repute, they submitted nothing to him, but perceived that he had been entrusted with the evangel of the Uncircumcision as Peter had been with that of the Circumcision (Ga. 2 James. Cephas and John gave him the right hand of fellowship. He was to be for the nations, they for the Circumcision. The decision of this conference is reflected in the epistles written by those who were present. The epistles written by James, Peter, John, and Jude, the brother of James. form the greater part of the following collection, hence we term them

THE CIRCUMCISION EPISTLES.

Nothing will contribute more to the understanding of these writings than the clear cut apprehension that, in every detail, they differ from Paul's epistles, and do not apply at all to the present interval of God's gracious dealings with the nations, during Israel's temporary defection. Not a single truth is discussed in these writings which cannot be duplicated on a higher plane in the writings for the Uncircumcision.

The vital difference is this: In these epistles all blessing comes to or through faithful Israel: in the present economy of grace all blessing overflows notwithstanding that Israel's apostasy choked the channel of blessing. We are blessed in spite of Israel's failure. They will be blessed, and the nations will be blessed through them, in the coming day to which these epistles apply, on the ground of their return to God.

The final sphere of blessing in Paul's epistles was transferred to heaven (Eph.13). No such note is struck in the Circumcision epistles. They are all concerned with Israel on the earth, not with an election from the nations having a celestial destiny. They are all based on a physical relationship to Messiah, and lay great stress on His flesh, while Paul came to

the point where he eliminated this from his ministry entirely (2 Co.5¹⁶).

They deal with Christ as He was on earth and as He will return to earth. Paul commences at His ascension and reveals a prior return of Christ, not to the earth, but to the air, to call His saints to Him there.

As Paul's name implies, he deals with an interval, a parenthesis in God's program. Hence we should read from the book of Acts right on to Hebrews and through to Jude (omitting Paul's parenthetic epistles) to get the true

parenthetic epistles) to get the true connection between the proclamation of the kingdom in the book of Acts, and the epistles dealing with the temporary consequences of its rejection.

Paul's ministries changed with fresh revelations, so that his career in the book of Acts is only premonitory to his written revelation, especially that given at its close. Not so with the other apostles. Nothing new is revealed in their epistles; they are but the modification of their former ministry due to the conditions consequent on the temporary rejection of the kingdom.

The perplexities of those Pentecostal believers who remained faithful to the end are answered in Hebrews. The difficulties of those who will suffer when the kingdom is once more on the divine program are met by Peter, who enters the kingdom through suffering and death. The course of those who will be guided through the time of trouble and enter the time of blessing alive is prefigured and provided for by John (See Jn.21¹⁸⁻²³). James deals especially with the rebellious and the rich.

None of these writings can be "applied" to the saints today without incalculable confusion and loss. As it is of more present importance to distinguish this line of truth from our own than to fully understand its message for the Circumcision, special attention will be given to its contrast with the grace which is ours in Christ Jesus.

These epistles do not treat of such themes as the body of Christ, the church as a spiritual organism, the believers' identification with Christ, exemption from law, righteousness by faith, the conciliation, and the heavenly destiny. Failure or refusal to discern that Paul brought a distinct revelation accounts for the prevailing confusion as to what the gospel for the present administration really is.

Much has been written concerning the authorship of Hebrews, but nothing is so helpful as the fact that the writer did not reveal himself. Anyone who has imbibed the spirit of his epistles will agree that Paul not only did not but could not write such an exhortation. It is impossible for him to associate himself with a company of people from which he had been separated by the holy spirit, whose destiny is utterly different from his. In contrast with this, the epistles of James, Peter, John, and Jude are to be interpreted in the light of their characters and careers.

James links us with the last and lowest period, in the book of Acts, for the nation will be in an even more serious spiritual state when God begins to recall them to Himself. Peter was destined to suffer. Hence he writes with reference to the sufferings which are still in store for the apostate nation. John was to tarry to His coming. Consequently he writes for those who will live through the day of indignation, and will enter the kingdom without dying.

The main point to perceive is that all of these men belong to the Circumcision, and write for the Circumcision, not for the nations. Their ministry and message is in abeyance so long as the present administration of celestial favor, apart from the mediacy of Israel, will continue. Paul alone writes for us. He, with a few Hellenists, are granted a grace which far transcends anything in the Circumcision epistles. And, as it is pure grace, those among the nations who believe are associated with them on equal exalted terms.

THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS

Hebrews resumes the subject of the book of Acts. Paul's epistles are a parenthesis in God's administrations. In Acts the kingdom is proclaimed, and rejected by the nation of Israel as a whole. Yet there was a remnant who believed. Of these the Hellenists followed the revelations given to Paul and found a new and a celestial destiny. But the Hebrews, associated with the twelve apostles and James, whose destiny is the kingdom as promised by the prophets, are left in a distressing situation due to the national defection of Israel. What is to become of them during the time that the nation stumbles? The kingdom cannot come until after the fulness of the nations has come in. That could hardly be during their lifetime. The book of Hebrews deals with the problem of these Pentecostal believers and takes them back to the same position as was occupied by the patriarchs and prophets of old. as explained in the eleventh chapter. They died in faith, not having received the promises.

An important distinction between Hebrews and Hellenists will help in understanding this epistle. Both were Jews, of the stock of Israel as to the flesh. Both are brought before us in the sixth of Acts, where the widows of the Hellenists were distinguished from the widows of the Hebrews. Both spoke Greek. But the culture and training of the Hebrews was essentially Eastern and according to the traditions of their ancestors. The Hellenists, who were composed mostly of those who had lived in foreign lands, were Greek in culture and customs. So distinct were they that they had special synagogues in Jerusalem. The Hebrews were strong for ritual and the religion of their fathers. They are the special subject of this epistle, as is manifest from the opening strain.

As the faith of the Pentecostal believers rested on signs and wonders and miracles in anticipation of the powers of the kingdom, some fell away when these manifestations ceased and the promised kingdom failed to appear. Their apostasy is dealt with in the sixth and tenth chapters-passages which can have no application in the present administration of grace, but which have hung as a cloud over the heads of those who imagine themselves in a similar position. Saints in Israel were conditionally pardoned. Its continuance depended upon their extension of this pardon to the other nations, as in the parable of the ten thousand talent debtor. The pardon could be and was withdrawn. It is not in force now. We have the infinitely higher favor of justification.

Hebrews is the antitype of the wilderness journey of Israel from Egypt to the promised land. It brings Christ before us as the true Mediator, greater than Moses, the true Saviour, greater than Joshua, the true Chief Priest, greater than Aaron. It holds forth better promises concerning the land and the kingdom. Its type is the tabernacle and its ministry, before Israel entered the land.

1 Though the title, "Hebrews" is not inspired, the opening strain shows that this epistle is addressed to Israelites "whose are the fathers" (Ro. 95), and who alone had the oracles of God. No author is given. This is an inspired omission. It is a grave mistake to seek to supply one. It is fatal to put Paul's name here, for his ministries are distinct from and above all that this epistle has for the Hebrews.

² The Son is the Speaker to Whom the Hebrews are directed. His glories, as they relate to the kingdom and their blessing, is the great theme of the epistle. Beginning with a brilliant cluster, showing His relationship to God, He is given a place superior to angels, and to all the great figures in Hebrew history.

² "Tenant" seems the nearest word in English for one who has the possession and enjoyment of a thing, yet is not the owner. But it should also include the distribution by lot. So we have used the phrase "enjoyer of the allotment". The whole universe was created for the Son (Col.1¹⁶). He is Elohim, the God of Space. He is Jehovah, the God of Time, for He also made the eons. Thus the Hebrews are informed that the Son is the God of their ancient oracles.

We speak of seeing the sun, but it is hid behind its brilliant beams. So the Son is the Effulgence of the invisible God. The shekinah glory, which filled the temple, was a token of His presence. God condescends to assume certain characters in relation to His creatures in order to reveal Himself to them. Even as Father, He cannot be known except through the Son (Jn. 14 9,10). It is only through His Emblem that God reveals Himself. Not only the creation, but the operation of the universe is in His hands. The entrance and presence of sin in the universe is all accounted for by one word —He has made a cleansing of sins. It is evident that, in His grand concerns, sins are considered only as a temporary stain on His escutcheon, already disposed of in truth, as they will be eventually in fact. The right hand of the divine Majesty is the true place of the One Who wields all the power of God, and Who, for creatures such as we, is the only One in Whom we can apprehend and approach the Deity.

By many portions and many modes, of old, speaking to the fathers in the prophets, God, in the last of these days, speaks to us in a Son, Whom He appoints enjoyer of the allotment of the universe, through Whom He makes the eons

through whom he makes the cons

also; Who, being the Effulgence of
His glory and Emblem of His assumption, as well as carrying on
the universe by His powerful declaration, making a clean sing of sins,
is seated at the right hand of the

Majesty in the heights; becoming so much better than messengers as He has enjoyed the allotment of a more excellent name than they.

5 For when said He to any of the

messengers,

"Thou art My Son,
Today have I begotten Thee"?
And again,

"I shall be to Him for a Father And He shall be to Me for a Son"?

Now, whenever He may again be leading the Firstborn into the inhabited earth, He is saying,

"And let all the messengers of God worship Him."

And, indeed, to the messengers He is saying,

"Who is making His messengers blasts.

And His ministers a flame of fire."

8 Yet to the Son:

"Thy throne, O God, is for the eon of the eon,

And a scepter of rectitude is the scepter of Thy kingdom.

Thou lovest righteousness and hatest injustice,

Therefore God, Thy God, anoints
Thee with the oil of exultation
beyond Thy partners."

 10 And

"Thou, Lord, in accord with sov ereignties, dost found the earth, And the heavens are the works of Thy hands.

11 They shall be destroyed, yet Thou art continuing, And they all shall age as a cloak,

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4 The term "messengers", often rendered "angels", does not denote nature but office. They may be men. Many in the Hebrew Scriptures, as well as John the Baptist (Mt.1011), his disciples (Lu.724), the Lord's disciples (Lu.952) are called by this appellation. Applied to celestial beings it denotes those who are God's couriers, who have the power of moving about freely in the universe, and thus perform the duties of Our Lord Himself is messengers. God's Chief Messenger (1 Thes.416). The Hebrew oracles had come through messengers. The law was prescribed thus (Gal.319). Now all further revelations will flow through the only begotten Son.

God has had many "sons". When earth's corner stone was laid, all the sons of God shouted for joy (Job 387). Adam was a son of God (Lu.338). The sixth of Genesis speaks of the sons of God. Hosea foretells the time when all Israel shall be called the sons of God (Hos.110). So that the particular point in this passage is the introduction of His Son, not by creation, but by begettal. He is His only begotten Son (Ps.2(1)7:Mt.123:Lu132,33:Jn.114). As such He is infinitely better fitted to communicate the heart of God to man. 5 This, in its first application, was said of Solomon (2 Sam. 714) the type of David's greater Son.

⁶ See Ps.977 and Deut.3243.

7 The messengers are like the forces of nature, mere instruments to carry

out His will (Ps.1044).

⁸ As Christ, He reigns over the next eon, including the thousand years. After that, in the new earth, He reigns as Son. This is called "the eon of the eon", because it is the fruit of His reign during the preceding eon. When the Son has reigned to such purpose that there is no further need of His rule, He abdicates, turning over the kingdom to God the Father (1 Co.15²⁸; see also Ps.45⁶,7).

10 The Greek word here used means "beginning" in the singular, referring to time. But in the plural, as here, it often denotes sovereignties (Eph.310; Col.116; Tit.31). These were associated with Him in the foundation of the earth, much as the saints in Israel will be in the administration of the kingdom. It corresponds to "hands" in the

parallelism.

12 And, as if clothing, Thou wilt be rolling them up as a cloak, And they shall be changed. Yet Thou art the same, And Thy years shall not be defaulting."

Now when has He declared to any of the messengers

"Be sitting at My right hand till I should be placing Thine enemies for a footstool for Thy feet"?

¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits commissioned for service because of those who are about to be enjoying the allotment of salvation?

2 Therefore we must more exceedingly be heeding what is being heard, lest at any time we may be drifting by. For if the word spoken through messengers came to be confirmed, and every transgression and disobedience obtained a fair reward, how shall we be escaping when neglecting a prodigious salvation, which, obtaining a beginning through the speaking of the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who hear Him, God corroborating, by signs as well as miracles and various

according to His will?

For not to messengers does He subject the future inhabited earth concerning which we are speaking.

Yet someone somewhere certifies,

powers and partings of holy spirit,

saying,

"What is man, that Thou art mindful of him?

Or a son of man, that Thou art visiting him?

Thou makest him some whit inferior to the messengers, Thou wreathest him with glory and honor,

And dost place him over the works of Thy hands.

Thou dost subject all underneath his feet."

For in the subjection of all to him, He leaves nothing unsubject

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11 The destruction of the earth and the heavens is but a crisis in their change (12), for they are not to be made non-existent, but created anew. All things are in a state of flux until the consummation. Only the Son remains the same, and through Him all else attains permanence and perfection.

13 David's Son and David's Lord will, like him, subdue all His enemies (1 Chron.2218; Ps.1101). It is the very essence of His glory that this is only "till". When the last enemy has been abolished, the Son subordinates Himself. All enmity being banished, His sovereignty ceases.

14 Nothing is said here of the great part which angels play in judgment, for judgment, in its last analysis, is but a prelude to salvation. Paul says nothing of angelic ministry now, because our nearness to God precludes the necessity of any intermediaries. The higher the revelation, the nearer we approach the consummation, the more intimate is the creatures' fellowship with God and the less need there is of any link until finally all these vanish when God becomes All in all.

1-4 Here the teaching of Hebrews is definitely linked to that of the Lord in the gospels and those who heard him, in the Acts. Paul's ministries are thus carefully excluded. The fact that these ministries had failed to eventuate in the kingdom, is the ground for this exhortation, for, doubtless many paid no further heed to the promises, now that they seem to have failed of fruition. That the kingdom is in view is shown in the next paragraph. A study of the contexts of the above quotations reveals the fact that they all deal with "the future inhabited earth whereof we speak".

Nowhere are messengers or angels accorded a place of rule. In the future, in the heavens, we shall judge them. On the earth the Circumcision saints will have dominion. Even now the sovereignties and authorities in the heavens are distinguished from the messengers (Un.58-12).

e Man's inferiority to angels is only temporary. In the resurrection they will no longer be greater in strength and power (2 Pe.2¹¹). Even in the heavens the saints of this economy will be above them. This is only hint-

to him. Yet now we are not as yet seeing all subjected to him. Yet we are observing Jesus, having been made some whit inferior to messengers (because of the suffering of death, wreathed with glory and honor), so that He should, by the grace of God, be tasting death for the sake of all. For it behooved Him, because of Whom all is, and through Whom all is, in leading many sons into glory, to perfect the Inaugurator of their salvation through sufferings. For He Who is hallowing as well as those who

is hallowing as well as those who are being hallowed are all of One, for which cause He is not ashamed

12 to be calling them brethren, saying, "I shall be reporting Thy name to My brethren,

> In the midst of the ecclesia shall I be singing hymns to Thee."

¹³ And again,

"I shall have confidence in Him." And again,

"Lo! I and the little children whom God gives Me!"

14 Since, then, the little children have participated in blood and flesh, He also was very nigh in partaking of the same, that, through death, He should be abolishing him who has the control of death, that 15 is, the Slanderer, and should be

clearing those whoever, in fear of death, were through their entire life

¹⁶ liable to slavery. For assuredly it is not taking hold of messengers, but it is taking hold of the seed of

Abraham. Whence He must in all things be made like the brethren, that He may be becoming a merciful and faithful Chief Priest in that which is toward God, to make
 propitiation for the sins of the

s propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He has suffered, being tried, He is able to help those who are being tried.

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ed in Hebrews. The immediate "all" refers only to the earth (Ps.8).

s The resurrection and exaltation of the suffering Saviour is the promise and pledge that He will elevate all who are His during the eons into the place of dominion over the universe. Only the One Who has been lowest can claim the place supreme.

⁹ The words "by the grace of God" may, originally, have been "apart from God". This reading is supported by several early fathers and versions, as well as by the context.

It is not easy, in English, to distinguish between the celestial calling. here referred to, and the "calling above" (Phil.314) of Paul's latest revelation. That which is celestial as to location is often spoken of in Ephesians, as our blessing among the celestials (13). His seat (120), our seat (26), the sovereignties and authorities (3^{16}) , our conflict (6^{12}) . This is in the dative case, which gives us the place in which anything is found. It occurs once in Hebrews (1222). The genitive denotes source or character. The shadow of the divine service of the celestials (Heb.85) was on earth. So the city sought by the faithful (Heb.1116) will descend to earth (Un. 2110), and the celestial calling is from the ascended Christ, not to heaven, but from heaven. We are called to heaven, the Hebrews are addressed from heaven. They have no part in the calling above. Their blessings, though celestial in character, are on earth.

Our calling is gracious (Ro.1129), for God's glory (1 Co.126), fraught with the highest expectations (Eph.118), not in accord with our acts, but in accord with His own purpose and the grace which was given us in Christ Jesus before eonian times (2 Tim.19), but this calling is conditional (38-14) as in Peter, who exhorts his readers to confirm their calling through ideal acts

(2 Pet.110).

The spiritual in Israel are God's house (1 Pet.25). Just as, at the exodus, Moses was over the nation, so now, God's Son is their mediator. And as Moses combined the office of apostle with that of priest, so Christ is commissioned by God to the people and stands before God for the people.

The Pentecostal period is the anti-

3 Whence, holy brethren, partners of a celestial calling, consider the Apostle and Chief Priest of our

avowal, Jesus, Who is faithful to Him Who makes Him, as Moses also

was in His whole house. For this
One is worthy of more glory than
Moses by as much as He Who constructs it has more honor than the

4 house. For every house is being constructed by some one, yet He

⁵ Who constructs all is God. And Moses, indeed, was faithful in His whole house as an attendant, for a testimony of that which shall

be spoken. Yet Christ, as a Son over His house—whose house we are, that is, if we should be retaining the boldness and glorying of the expectation confirmed unto the consummation.

Wherefore, according as the holy spirit is saying,

"Today, if you should be hearing His voice.

You should not be hardening your hearts

As in the embitterment of the day of trial in the wilderness,

Where your fathers try Me in the testing

And were acquainted with My acts forty years.

Wherefore I am disgusted with this generation, and said, 'Ever are they straying in heart; Yet they know not My ways,'

As I swear in My indignation,
'If they shall be entering into My
stopping—!'"

Beware, brethren, lest at some time there shall be in any of you a wicked heart of unbelief, in with drawing from the living God. But be entreating yourselves, each day, until what is called "today",

lest any of you may be hardened

14 by the seduction of sin. For we
have become partners of Christ,

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type of the wilderness experiences. As Israel wandered forty years in the desert, so now they wander a like period in the wastes of unbelief. The kingdom does not come.

The Hebrew of Ps.957-11 reads "as at Meribah" and "the day of Massah", and the passage refers to the twentieth of Numbers. The quotation substitutes their meanings. Meribah is "contention," or "bitterness," Massah is "trial." Thus he brings before us the two great occasions which exhibited the unbelief of the people. They followed the report of the ten spies, and refused to go into the land (Nu. 13, 14). Jehovah proposed to wipe them out and make a greater nation of Moses. But He relented, yet doomed them all, but Caleb and Joshua, to die in the wilderness. At Meribah or Massah the people had no water and they murmured against Moses and Jehovah (Ex.171-7; Nu.201-13). All those in the wilderness had been redeemed out of Egypt, yet they failed to enter the land because of unbelief. Pentecostal believers who are addressed here find themselves in precisely the same predicament. The Lord had come, offering the kingdom, but they had refused to enter in. Now again the kingdom had been proclaimed, and now those who had been redeemed murmur because the kingdom is not set up. This epistle is meant for those at Meribah.

This quotation is the keynote of the warnings of this epistle. Despite them the bulk of the nation drew back, and we witness its wanderings to this day. Abraham was not an Israelite, nor a Jew, but his descendants who imitated his faith in obedience to the exhortations of this epistle are He-

brews indeed.

3 That the entrance into the land was only a typical suggestion of the reality is evident when the psalmist speaks of a future entrance. The word "rest" is not a correct rendering of the Hebrew "sabbath" or the Greek word here used. God was not tired when He first instituted the sabbath (Gen.22). He stopped, not rested. So the unbeliever is not asked to rest from his works, to gather strength to resume them, but to stop because God has finished His work.

that is, if we should be retaining the beginning of the assumption confirmed unto the consummation, ¹⁵ while it is being said

"'Today', if you should be hearing His voice,

You should not be hardening your hearts

As in the embitterment."

16 For some, hearing, embitter Him; but not all who come out of 17 Egypt through Moses. Now with whom is He disgusted forty years? Was it not with those who sin, whose carcases fall in the wilderness?

Now to whom does He swear, not to be entering into His stopping, except to those who are stubborn?

¹⁹ And we are observing that they could not enter because of unbelief.

4 We may be fearing then, lest, when a promise is being left of entering into His stopping, some one of you may be seeming to have been deficient. For we also have been evangelized, even as they. But the word heard does not benefit them, not having been blended with faith in those who hear. Then we who believe are entering into the stopping, according as He has declared,

"As I swear in My indignation,
"If they shall be entering into My stopping—!""

although the works occur from the
disruption of the world. For He
has declared somewhere concerning the seventh thus: "And God
stops on the seventh day from all
His works." And in this again,
"If they shall be entering into My
stopping—!"

Since, then, it is left for some to be entering into it, and those to whom the evangel was formerly preached did not enter because of stubbornness, He is again specify-

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s Joshua (in Greek the same as Jesus) signifies Jehovah the Saviour. He brought them into the land. Hence, while Moses and Aaron are discussed at length, their ministry being in the wilderness, Joshua is barely mentioned. This shows how consistently this epistle clings to the wilderness experiences of Israel. It is not concerned with the entrance into the promises.

From the sabbatism which remains for Israel is the millennial kingdom. Those who, like Caleb and Joshua, spy out the land, and have confidence that God will fulfill His promise, enjoy the sabbatism by faith. All the rest are

strewn along the wilderness.

12 The soul has to do with the physi-It is usually confused cal senses. with the spirit. The nation in the wilderness was soulish. They sighed for the flesh pots of Egypt. They were sensual. So too with the people in our Lord's day, who responded to the loaves and fishes, but could not digest His words. And this is the danger with these Hebrew believers. They sighed for the physical blessings of the kingdom. But when the signs which accompanied its proclamation in the Pentecostal era withdrew, they fell away. Only the word of God is able to judge whether an action is spiritual or soulish.

13 "Him to Whom we are accountable" is an impressive and suggestive description of God whose Word makes apparent every thought of the heart. 14 Priesthood is a standing symbol of distance and alienation. no priest in Eden. There is no temple in the new creation (Un.2122). In the present economy of grace each one has unhindered access, by one spirit, to the Father (Eph.218). The Aaronic priesthood arose out of Moses' inability to perform all the functions of a mediator. As Christ has no such disabilities He exercises all the duties pertaining to mediatorship, and thus becomes a Priest of a different order. From the time when no priest was needed, through Melchisedec, who was both priest and king, down to Aaron was a descent. The ascent is through Christ, Who is both Priest and King, to the last eon, when priesthood vanishes in reconciliation.

ing a certain day, "Today"—saying in David after so much time, according as has been declared before,

"Today, if you should be hearing His voice,

You should not be hardening your hearts."

For if Joshua causes them to stop, He would not have spoken concerning another after these days.

Consequently a sabbatism is left for the people of God. For he who is entering into His stopping, he also stops from his works even as God from His own.

We should be endeavoring, then, to be entering into that stopping, lest some should be falling into the same example of stubbornness. For the word of God is living and active, and keener than any two-edged sword, and penetrating up to the parting of soul and spirit, as well as the articulations and marrow, and is a judge of the sentiments and thoughts of the heart.

And there is not a creature which is not apparent before it. Now all is naked and bared to the eyes of Him to Whom we are accountable.

Having, then, a great Chief Priest, Who has come through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, we may be holding to the avowal.

15 For we have not a Chief Priest not able to sympathize with our infirmities, but One Who has been tried in all respects alike, apart from

16 sin. With boldness, then, we may be approaching the throne of grace, that we may be obtaining mercy and finding grace for opportune help.

5 For every chief priest obtained from among men is constituted for

PIZEIHMEPANCHMEPONEN® **EYMATOCAPMONTEKAIMYE**²⁰ DAY OF-CONNECTIONS BESIDES AND OF-MARROWS ΔΑΥΕΙΔΛΕΓ ΦΝΜΕΤΑΤΟCOY 40 **AWNKAIKPITIKOCENBYMH**® DAVID SAVING after so-much (spinal) AND JUDGE OF-IN-FEELings CEWNKAIENNO WNKAPLIA ΤΟΝΧΡΟΝΟΝΚΆΘΦΟΠΡΟΕΙΡ: according-AS HAS-been-BEFORE-TIME AND OF-IN-MINDS OF-HEART BKEN HTAICHME PONE ANTHOODN® **CKAIOYKECTINKTICICAO®** declarED toDAY IF-EVER OF-THE SOUND CREATION HCAYTOYAKOYCHT@MHCKAIII **ΆΝΗ CEN ΦΠΙΟΝΆΥΤΟΥ ΠΆΝΤ** 600 or-Him YE-SHOULD-BE-HEARING NO YE-SHOULD-APPEARING IN-VIEW OF-it. **НРҮНТЕТАСКАРДІ АСҮМФ**²⁰ **ΆΔΕΓΥΜΝΑΚΑΙΤΈΤΡΑΧΉΛΙ**²⁰ BE-HARDENING THE HEARTS OF-YOU? AND HAVING-been-NECKIZED **NEILABAALOACIHCOACKY** CMENATOICO 48 AMOICAY IF for them JESUS. DOWNto-THE VIEWers TETAYCENOYKANTEPIAAA® ΤΟΥΠΡΟCONHMINOΛΟΓΟCE® CEASES NOT EVER ABOUT other 14 Him TOWARD WHOM to-US THE saying XONTECOYN APXIEPE AMET® HCEAAAEIMETATAYTAHME® chief-SACRED-One THEN He-talked after these DAYS ING GREAT 81 omits con. 18-b.-F.-L. sp o. B o. o. A © o. PACAPAAHOAGIHETAICAB 200 ΑΝΔΙ*Ε*ΛΗΛΥΘΟΤΑΤΟΥ**С**ΟΥΡ⁷⁰⁰ CONSEQUENTLY IS-being-from-lacked Sarbath-HAVING-THRU-COME THE heavens s1 omits sabbathism to-the people of-the God **ANOYCIHCOYNTONYIONTO®** BATICMOCTO A AUTOY 0 COY 20 to-the people of-the God JESUS THE SON OF APEICE ABONE ICTHNKA Y860YKP AT© MENTHCOMO A ** 10 THE for one-INTO-COMING WE-MAY-BE-HOLDING OF-THE avowal INTO THE DOWN-TATAYCINAYTOYKAIAYTO® OFIACOYFAPEXOMENAPXI® 15 CEASing or-Him AND he NOT for WE-ARE-HAVING chief-S2+TA but erased
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- The chief priest in Israel was able to sympathize with the human frailties of the people because he himself had the same, and sinned, like the rest. But Christ's sufferings, unspeakably more trying than any priest's, never led Him into sin. The priest could offer a sacrifice for himself. Christ could not, for He was the Sacrifice, which must be without blemish. Yet, though He had no sin and did no sin. His close contact with sin and its sufferings enables Him to enter into perfect sympathy with those thus placed.
- The honors of the priesthood have been coveted or usurped only at awful Korah, Dathan and Abiram claimed the priesthood and were swallowed up by the earth (Nu.16). The censers of those with them were made into broad plates to cover the altar as a memorial that no stranger, not of the seed of Aaron, may come near to offer incense before the Lord (Nu. 1640). King Uzziah also transgressed against the Lord his God, and went into the temple of the Lord to burn incense upon the altar of incense. In consequence, the leprosy rose up in his forehead before the priests, and he was thrust out, and was a leper to the day of his death (2 Chron.2616-21). Hence it would appear a most serious matter for anyone outside the line of Aaron to set himself up as a priest. Only one called by God dare aspire to the honor. It is necessary, therefore that Christ Himself, Who was not of the tribe of Levi, much less a son of Aaron, should have a definite call. Not by personal ambition, but by the call of God which involved such suffering as is most repugnant to flesh and blood, did Christ obtain His priesthood. God did save Him out of death, but not from the "cup".
- 11 The Jews were blind to the failures and disabilities connected with the Aaronic priesthood, hence could not appreciate the necessity of a new order for the Messiah. This made the whole subject a difficult one to unfold The principal lessons are drawn from the inspired omissions in the record, which require a measure of spiritual apprehension which they did not possess.

men in that which is toward God, that he may be offering oblations

as well as sacrifices for sins. able to be moderate with the ignorant and straying, since he also is encom-

passed with infirmity, and because of it, he ought, according as for the people, thus for himself also, be offering concerning sins.

And no one is getting the honor himself, but on being called by God, according as even Aaron, also.

Thus Christ also does not glorify Himself by becoming a chief priest. but He Who speaks to Him.

"Thou art My Son, Today have I begotten Thee,"

according as in a different place also He is saving.

"Thou art a priest for the eon According to the order of Melchisedec."

Who, in the days of His flesh, offering petitions as well as supplications with strong clamor and tears to Him Who is able to save Him out of death, was hearkened to also for

His piety. And even He, being a Son, learned obedience from that

which He suffered. And, being perfected. He became the cause of eonian salvation to all who are obey-

10 ing Him, being accosted by God "a Chief Priest according to the order

11 of Melchisedec," concerning whom there are words, many and abstruse, for us to say, since you have become dull of hearing.

12 For when also, because of the time, you ought to be teachers, you have need again of one to teach you what are the rudimentary elements of the oracles of God, and you have come to have need of milk, and not 13 of solid nurture. For every one

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The six rudiments which form the foundation which the Hebrews are exhorted to leave for more mature teaching are closely connected with the proclamation of the kingdom, and are not the substructure of present truth. Repentance and baptism are the kevs to the kingdom, and are not for the body of Christ. Peter, at Pentecost, proclaims repentance and baptism to the Jews-perhaps to some who later received this epistle. Faith is the basis on which the present administration of grace is built. The Jews were zealous religionists. Their ritual was the dead works of which they repented when they turned to Messiah.

"Faith on God" is probably the equivalent of our "belief in God", that is believing that He is, rather than what He has said. Believing God, as in Abraham's case, leads to justification, a grace entirely absent from this

list.

² Paul did not put baptism in the foundation of his evangel. He insisted that Christ had not sent him to baptize, but to evangelize (1 Co.1¹⁷). Now there is only one baptism—that in spirit, which unites us into one body (Eph.4⁵). In the kingdom proclamation, however, baptism in water was essential.

The imposition of hands for the conveyance of spiritual benefits especially through the apostles is also a characteristic of the kingdom economy.

There seems to be no reference here to the "resurrection from among the dead", but rather to resurrection in general, apart from which the kingdom cannot be set up. At that time will the saints in Israel awake and possess the kingdom promised to them in the prophets.

Eonian judgment characterizes the inception and progress of Messiah's reign. It begins with the severest judgments this earth has known.

These are the six foundation stones cast down by those who fell away among the Hebrews. They should have left them for maturity. Instead, they forsake them for apostasy. Instead of going back to Judaism, they would crucify again for themselves the Son of God.

4 This description applies only to those who participated in the Pentewho is partaking of milk is untried in the word of righteousness, for he ¹⁴ is a minor. Now solid nurture is for the mature, who, because of habit, have faculties exercised to discriminate between the ideal and the evil.

Wherefore, leaving the rudiments of the word of Christ, we should be brought on to maturity, not disrupting again a foundation of repentance from dead works, and faith on God, of the teaching of baptizings, besides the imposition of hands as well as the resurrection of the dead, and on a conian judgment. And this will we be doing, that is, if God should

be permitting.

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, besides tasting celestial gratuity. the and becoming partakers of holy spirit. and tasting the ideal declaration of God, as well as the powers of the future eon, and are falling aside, to be renewing them again to repentance while crucifying for themselves the Son of God again and holding Him up to infamy. For land which is drinking the shower coming often upon it, and bringing forth herbage fit for those because of whom it is farmed also, is partaking of blessing from God, yet, bringing forth thorns and star thistles, it is disqualified, and near a curse, whose consummation is burning.

Now we are persuaded better things concerning you, beloved, and those which have salvation, even if

we are speaking thus. For God is not unjust, to be forgetting your work and the love which you display for His name, when you serve

11 the saints, and are serving. Now

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costal blessings. They were enlightened, they tasted the celestial gratuity, they became partakers of holy spirit, and God's declaration, and they only experienced the powers of the kingdom eon, and many of them fell aside. These blessings were based on their repentance, or change of mind. which was induced largely by the miracles which they saw. When the kingdom failed to appear, and its powers vanished, their repentance went also. Hence the impossibility of renewing it, for the means which produced it were no longer in evidence. Such a course is not possible in a day of grace, such as we live in. In place of repentance and pardon, we have faith and justification, which know no falling away, being entirely of grace, from first to last.

11 Brotherly kindness manifested in the service of the saints is several times commended in this epistle (10 34,131), and will be rewarded in accord with the promise of Mt.1040-42.

12 "Through faith and patience" the promises may be enjoyed even by those who are actually strangers and expatriates on the earth.

13 That all are not to apostatize is evident from God's oath to Abraham. This truth is offered as an incentive to those who still remain faithful, to persevere to the consummation. It is only thus that the salvation of the Pentecostal saint was assured. The general fulfilment of God's oath to Abraham was beyond question, for God swore by the highest possible power to fulfil it, yet the special blessing of each one of his physical descendants depends, in some degree, not merely on their faith, but their This is the great disfaithfulness. tinguishing feature, which sinks it far below the grace which is lavished on us, sinners of the nations. We do not need this anchor of the soul, hence it is extended only to those who belong to Abraham by ties of flesh.

Melchisedec is notable chiefly for what is not recorded of him. There is no reason to believe that he was, personally, the mystical and miraculous character which is his as a picture of the priesthood of Christ. He doubtless was a man like other men, for God had some among the nations who

we are yearning for each of you to be displaying the same diligence toward the assurance of the expectation until the consummation, that you may not be becoming dull. Now be imitators of those who through faith and patience are enjoying the promises of the allotment.

For God, promising Abraham, since He had no one greater to swear by, swears by Himself, saying, "In sooth, if it is blessing, I shall be blessing you, and multiplying, I shall be multiplying you!" And thus, being patient, he happened on the promise.

16 For men are swearing by a greater, and to them an oath for confirmation is an end of all con-17 tradiction, in which God, intending more superabundantly to exhibit to the enjoyers of the allotment of the promise the immutability of His counsel, interposes with an oath, 18 that by two immutable matters, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have a strong consolation, who are fleeing for refuge to lay hold of the expectation lying 19 before us, which we have as an anchor of the soul, both secure and

confirmed, and entering into the in²⁰ terior beyond the curtain, where
the Forerunner, Jesus, entered for
our sakes, becoming Chief Priest
according to the order of Melchisedec for the eon.

7 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of God Most High, who meets with Abraham returning from the combat with the kings and blesses him, to whom Abraham parts a tithe, also, from all, being

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The Melchisedec priesthood should be studied in its contrasts with the Aaronic priesthood. Its greatest difference lies in the fact that it combines the office of king with that of priest. This is the ideal way. It was only because of the failure of Moses that Aaron was given a share in his mediatorial office. It is God's purpose that the nation of Israel shall be a kingdom of priests (Ex.196), a royal priesthood (1 Pet.28). They will rule the nations for God and bring the nations' offerings to God. So it behooves their Head to be both Priest and King.

The other great point of dissimilarity lies in the matter of succession. The continuance of the Aaronic priesthood was made a matter of descent, and nothing was so vital to a priest as his genealogy. He must be able to tell his father and his mother and trace his lineage clear back to Aaron or he could not even be a priest. And he must provide for this succession by marrying within the priestly caste. In notable contrast to this we have no recorded genealogy of Melchisedec whatever, no mention of father or mother, and no succession, for his death is carefully excluded from the fleeting glimpse we get of him on the pages of inspiration. These omissions are intentional, for only thus can his priesthood picture the priesthood of Christ, Who does not require a genealogy or a successor.

- ² The writer fixes our attention on the significance and sequence of these titles. Righteousness must underlie peace in Christ's priestly work as elsewhere (Psa.723 8510 Isa.3217 94). So also justification is the ground of the infinitely greater favor of peace (Ro.51).
- ³ The Aaronic priesthood was a treadmill which never accomplished its object. The Melchisedec priesthood of Christ lasts during the millennium, and accomplishes its purpose, for no priest is found necessary in the new creation (Un.22²²), when God dwells with mankind (Un.21³).
- 4 As further evidence of the superiority of the Melchisedec priesthood, our attention is directed to the tithe,

first, indeed, translated "king of righteousness", yet thereupon king of Salem also, which is "king of Peace", fatherless, motherless, without a genealogy, nor having a beginning of days or consummation of life, yet picturing the Son of God, is remaining a priest to a finality.

Now you are beholding how eminent this one is to whom the patriarch Abraham gives a tithe also of the best of the booty. And, indeed, those of the sons of Levi who obtain the priestly office have directions to take tithes from the people according to the law, that is, their brethren, though they have come out of the loins of Abraham. Yet he who is not in their genealogy has tithed Abraham, and has blessed him who has the promises.

Now, beyond all contradiction, the inferior is blessed by the better.
 And here, indeed, dying men are obtaining tithes, yet there one of whom it is testified that he is living.
 And, so to speak, through Abraham, Levi also, who is obtaining tithes,
 has been tithed, for he was still in the loins of his father when Mel-

chisedec meets with him.

Indeed, then, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for the people have been placed under law by it) what need is there still for a different priest to arise according to the order of Melchisedec, and not be accounted according to the order of Aaron? For, the priesthood being transferred, of necessity there is coming to be a transference of law also, for He of

Whom these things are said has partaken of a different tribe, from which no one has given heed to the ¹⁴ altar. For it is taken for granted

that our Lord has risen out of Ju-

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ACMETECXHKENAPHCOYAE 10000 HAB-WITH-HAD FROM WHOM NOT-YET- which, in Israel, was the special portion of the Levites. Abraham, himself, the progenitor of the nation, actually paid tithes to this priest, and in him, the whole Levitical priesthood paid tithes to another and higher order. Nor is this all, for Melchisedec blessed Abraham, and so bestowed his benediction on the Levitic succession. This alone shows that his order is distinctly superior to that of Aaron.

11 It would be very difficult for the Hebrews to acknowledge the failure of the Aaronic priesthood. Yet this is distinctly involved in the announcement of a priest after a different order. Had our Lord come of the family of Aaron. He would have been associated with an order which began in failure and which will never effect the reconciliation between God and His creatures which priesthood is intended to bring about: Hence His genealogy proclaims Him Israel's King, but He ignores all genealogies in His priestly place. Instead, He has the much higher honor of being qualified for office by the divine oath, including an assurance that, unlike the Aaronic priesthood, there will be no regrets for the failure and insufficiency of His ministry.

23 If the Melchisedec priesthood should last forever (instead of for the eon) then it too, would come under the condemnation of never bringing anything to perfection or finality. Then there would be a temple and priesthood on the new earth; indeed, it would continue beyond the consummation, and form an insurmountable barrier between God and some of His creatures. Priesthood is a sign of estrangement; it vanishes when God is at peace with His people. though the Lord's life is indissoluble (716) and the priesthood inviolate (724), unbroken by death, it is always limited to one eon, beyond which there can be no priesthood, because there is no estrangement.

26 The glories of this Chief Priest refer to His relation to God, to men, to the law. He is knit to God by loving devotion. He is innocent of any tinge of malice toward men, and He is undefiled by a spot of moral defilement. He is separate from sinners because of His exaltation to His office.

dah, to which tribe Moses speaks

nothing concerning priests. And
it is still more superabundantly
sure, if a different priest is arising according to the likeness of Mel-

¹⁶ chisedec, Who has not come to be according to the law of a fleshy precept, but according to the power of an indissoluble life. For He is

testifying that

to God.

"Thou art a priest for the eon According to the order of Melchisedec."

18 For, indeed, there is coming to be a repudiation of the preceding precept, because it is weak and 19 without benefit, for the law perfects nothing, yet is the superinduction of a better expectation, through which we are drawing near

And, inasmuch as it was not apart from the swearing of an oath (for they, indeed, are priests, having become so apart from the ²¹ swearing of an oath, yet He with the swearing of an oath by Him Who is saying to Him,

"The Lord swears and will not be regretting it, "Thou art a priest for the eon According to the order of Melchisedec.'")

²² by so much also has Jesus become the sponsor of a better covenant.

And they, indeed, are more [than one], having become priests because death prevents them from
 abiding, yet He, because He is re-

maining for the eon, has an invio²⁵ late priesthood. Whence, also, He
is able to save to the uttermost
those approaching God through
Him, always being alive to be
pleading for their sakes.

For such a Chief Priest became us, benign, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and coming to

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27 The fact that the sacrificial system under the law demanded sacrifices for the sins of the priests as well as for the people, shows that it was a weak and imperfect and temporary expedient. Add to this the fact that these sacrifices continued to be offered daily, and never brought any permanent relief, and we see clearly that it was never intended to do more than suggest the true Sacrifice, which the Son offered once, which needs no repetition. It is evident, therefore, that He could not have associated Himself with the Aaronic order without degrading His great sacrifice. They served among the shadows of the heavenly tabernacle. He entered the true.

The tabernacle and temple furniture did not include a seat. The high priest's work was never completed, hence, he never sat down in the holy places. In striking contrast, the Chief Priest of the new order has finished His work, and sits at the right hand of the Majesty in the heavens.

The "sum" is that the sanctuary is heaven itself: the Chief Priest is the Son of God. His priestly work began after His ascension (v. 4). priesthood was instituted at Sinai (Ex.24) after Israel had been redeemed, for the purpose of maintaining the people in the blessedness of

redemption.

The tabernacle and its service were patterned after a heavenly original. It was not an exact copy, however, but an adumbration or shadow, merely giving the main outlines. The heavenly offerings seem to be mainly oblations or gifts, and probably had no sacrificial victims other than great sacrifice of Christ. The earthly copy was given to teach the great lessons of God's righteousness and holiness, and man's unfitness and distance from Him, as well as the way of approach which is acceptable to Him until the true Sacrifice pours out His soul and makes an end of sins.

The heavenly tabernacle is not associated with the covenant and promises which came from Sinai along with the earthly model. Everything connected with the new Mediator is bet-This is especially true of the new covenant which He will make when the kingdom commences.

²⁷ be higher than the heavens, Who has no necessity daily, even as the chief priests, to be offering up sacrifices previously for their own sins. thereupon for those of the people, for this He does once, when of-28 fering up Himself. For the law is constituting men chief priests who have infirmity, yet the word sworn in the oath which is after the law,

the Son, perfected for the eon. Now this is the sum of what is being said: We have such a Chief Priest, Who is seated at the right of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the holy

places and of the true tabernacle. which the Lord pitches, and not

man.

For every chief priest is constituted to offer oblations as well as sacrifices. Whence it is necessary for This One also to have something which He may offer. Indeed, then, if He were on earth He would not even be a priest, there being those who offer oblations according to the law, who are offering an example and shadow of the divine service of the celestials, according as Moses has been apprized when about to complete the tabernacle, "For be seeing," He is averring, "that you shall be doing all in accord with the model shown you in the mountain."

Yet now He has happened upon a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is the Mediator, also, of a better covenant, which has been instituted on better promises. For if that first one were unblamable, no place would have been sought for a second. For, blaming them, He is saving.

"'Lo! the days are coming', the Lord is saying.

'And I shall be concluding with the house of Israel and with the for

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8 Few phrases are so unfortunately confusing as "the New Testament". The Greek word for "testament" and its Hebrew equivalent never carry the ordinary meaning of a will, or legal instrument for the disposal of property after death. They are close equivalents of our "covenant" or "contract". To speak of the Greek Scriptures as "the New Testament", and the Hebrew as "the Old Testament" is most misleading, because, as a matter of fact the new covenant is found in the "Old Testament". Jeremiah gives it in full (Jer.3131-34). It has never been in force yet, and "New Testament times" will not come until after the time of great affliction when Jehovah calls Israel and Judah back to Himself. In truth, the new covenant is not for the nations at all, though, of course, a large section of the "New Testament" is especially for the nations.

The "old covenant" is not the Hebrew scriptures, but the compact made with Israel at Mount Sinai. It was two-sided. The people proposed to do their part and Jehovah engaged to do His. They promised to obey Him, but dismally failed to do so, consequently He could not fulfill His promises to bless them.

The new covenant which He will make with them after they have been restored to their land, and have received their Messiah, is radically different from the old. The people have no active part in it whatever. depends on Jehovah. Hence it will not be a failure. The law that was written on stones will be written on their hearts. Instead of demanding a penalty for every infraction, He will be propitious. Instead of recalling their sins and lawlessnesses. He will blot them out. Instead of an "atonement" or shelter for sin made by the blood of he-goats and calves, the blood of Christ will put them completely away. At present we have the infinitely higher privilege of confidence in God Himself, not His promises or His covenants. The law is not inscribed on our hearts, but we were caused to die to the law through the body of Christ. We are not a regeneration but a new creation.

house of Judah a new covenant,
Not in accord with the covenant
which I make with their fathers
In the day of My taking hold of
their hand to be leading them
out of the land of Egypt,
Seeing that they do not remain in

Seeing that they do not remain in

My covenant,

And I neglect them', the Lord is saying,

'Seeing that this is the covenant which I' shall be covenanting with the house of Israel after those days,' the Lord is saying: 'Imparting My laws to their comprehension,

Even on their hearts shall I be

inscribing them,

And I shall be to them for a God, and they shall be to Me for a

pe ople.

11 And by no means should each be teaching his [fellow] citizen, And each his brother, saying, "Know the Lord!"

Seeing that all will be acquainted with Me, from their little to their great,

12 Seeing that I shall be propitious to their injustices,

And of their sins and their lawlessnesses should I under no circumstances be still reminded'."

13 In saying "new" He has made the former old. Now that which is aging and decrepit is near its disappearance.

9 The former also, indeed then, had just statutes of divine service, be-

sides a worldly holy place. For a tabernacle is constructed, in the front of which is the lampstand as well as the table and the showbread, which is termed the holy place.

Now after the second curtain is the tabernacle which is termed the holy of holies having the golden

4 holy of holies, having the golden censer and the ark of the covenant covered about everywhence with gold, in which was the golden urn having the manna, and Aaron's staff which germinates, and the

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12001			HEBREWS	CHAPTERS 8-9
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WHICH-PLACE to-GOLD (dim.) IN

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or-him

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² In the holy place of the tabernacle. just before the curtain which separated it from the holy of holies, were two pieces of furniture, the table with the bread on the north, the lampstand on the south (Ex.2635; 4022-25). These typified the great truths of communion and testimony. No sunlight could enter the holy places. All light was supplied by the holy oil, which typified the holy spirit, thus indicating that all real knowledge of God must come, not through the light of nature. but through divine revelation. bread is typical of Christ, the Bread which is God's delight and man's sustenance. Communion with God is possible only through Him.

The holy place speaks of man's need in approaching God. The holy of holies exhibits the higher truth of God's desire for worship. Sweet incense floated up to Him from the golden altar. His Presence abode above the ark of the covenant between the cherubim. The stone tablets of the covenant were securely hid from sight beneath the lid of the ark, which was the propitiatory or mercy seat. Here it is that Jehovah met the mediator of His people.

The word rendered "censer" is sometimes translated "golden altar". But it is used twice in the LXX of a "censer in his hand" (2 Chron.2619; Ezek.811), and never of the golden altar. This was before the curtain, not in the holy of holies. Worship is not in view, so the altar is not mentioned.

The chief lesson of the tabernacle structure (as well as that of the temple) never seems to have entered the minds and hearts in Israel. A God Who hid Himself behind thick curtains, and Who forbade access into His presence except on rare occasions, Who divided the holy places into two compartments and dwelt alone in the furthest one, out of reach of all except the high priest once a year, makes it evident that the way to Him is far from open. And, as a consequence, the services based on these barriers must be impotent to clear the way, and were temporary measures, lasting only until Christ would crush all barriers by His surpassing sacrifices, and open the way of access to His presence.

tablets of the covenant. Now up over it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the propitiatory, concerning which there is nothing in particular to be said now.

Now these having been constructed thus, the priests, indeed, pass continually into the front tabernacle performing the divine service, yet into the second, the chief priest only, once a year, not apart from blood, which he is of fering for himself and the errors of the people, by

this the holy spirit making it evident that the way of the holy places has not as yet been manifested while the front tabernacle still has a standing: which is a parable for the present period, according to which oblations as well as sacrifices are being offered which cannot make

the one offering divine service per¹⁰ fect as to the conscience, only (in
foods and drinks and baptizings excelling, and just statutes for the
flesh) lying on them until the period of reformation.

Now Christ, coming along a Chief Priest of that future good, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made by hands, that is, not of this creation,

12 entered once into the holy places, for all

entered once into the holy places, not through the blood of he-goats and calves, but through His own blood, finding eonian redemption.

13 For if the blood of he-goats and of bulls and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the contaminated, is hallowing to the cleanness of the flesh.

14 how much rather shall the blood of Christ, Who, through the eonian spirit offers Himself flawless to

HGACAKAIAINAAKECTHCA20 INTEREI WCAITON AATPEY THE tablets THE one-offering-divine-OF-THE COV-ОНТАМОНОНЕ ПІВ РШМАСЇЙ 4 ΙΑΘΗΚΗΟΥΠΕΡΆΝΦΔΕΆΥΤΗΦ 5 enant YET OF-her OVER-IIP 10 SERVICE ONLY ON CXEPOYBEINAOZHCKATAC® ΚΑΙΠΟΜΑ CINΚΑΙΔΙΑΦΟΡΟ CHERUBIM or-esteem DOWN-SHADING DRINKS AND to-excelling Asl* omit and KIAZONTATOLAACTHPION® ICBANTICMOICKAIAIKAI® THE PROPITIATORY DIPPings AND JUST-effects s adds but crases EN BO.

THE PI CHOYKECTINNYNAET 100 **OMATACAPKOCMEXPIKALP®** ABOUT WHICH NOT it-18 UNTO **EINKATAMEPOCTOYTONAE®** ΟΥΔΙΟΡΘΦΟΕΦΟΕΠΙΚΕΙΜΕ²⁰ 6 saying according-to PART OF-these OF-THRU-ERECTING ON-LYING OYTUCKATECKEYACMENUN® ΝΑΧΡΙCΤΟCΔΕΠΑΡΑΓΕΝΟΜ⁴⁰ HAVING-been-constructed 11 thus ANOINTED YET BESIDE-BECOMING B OF-BECOMINGS FENOME EICMENTHN TIP OUTHNOKHNHO **ENOCAPXIEPEYCTONMEAA®** INTO INDEED THE BEFORE-most chief-sacred-one OF-THE being-about NAIAMANTOCEICIACINOI® ONT WHAT A BOUND LATH CMG ! ** THRII EVERY INTO-ARE THE GOODD THRU THE GREATER AΦ ZONOCKAITE/JETÓTEPACC® IEPEICTACAATPEIACETI200 THE DIVINE-SERVICE more-mature TEAOYNTE CE I CAETHNAEY® KHNHCOYXEIPOROIHTOYT²⁰ 7 FINISHING INTO YET THE second NOT HAND-made this TEPANAMA ETOYENIA YTOY OYTE CTINOYTAYTHCTHCK* ONCE OF-THE year NOT OF-this CRE-Al omits THE MONOCOAPXIEPEYCOYXOP® TICE OCCYAE ALAIMATOCT® THE chief-sacred-one 12 ATION NOT apart-from NOT-YET THRU BLOOD PATONKAIMOCXONAIAA6T® ICAIMATOCOMPOCOEPELY® WHICH he-IS-TOWARD-CARRYING O-AND OF-CATTLE BLOOD HE-GOATS THRU YET OF-ΠΕΡΕΧΥΤΟΥΚΑΙΤΏΝΤΟΥΛΑ **ΟΥΙΔΙΟΥΑΙΜΑΤΟ**СΕΙ**CΗ**Λθ⁸⁰⁰ AND THE OF-THE PEOPLE THE OWN BLOOD He-INTO-CAME 81 adds CICTAATIA INTO THE HOLIES OYATNOHMATO NTOYTOAHA® **ΕΝΕΦΑΠΑΣΕΙCTΑΑΓΙΑΑΙΦ**²⁰ 8 ON-ONCE UN-KNOW-effects this OF-mak-INTO THE HOLIES eonian ΟΥΝΤΟCΤΟΥΠΝΕΥΜΑΤΟCΤΟ# NIANAYTP COCINEY PAMENO 40 ING-EVIDENT THE spirit Loosening FINDING **ΥΑΓΙΟΥΜΗΠΦΠΕΦΑΝΕΡΨΟΘ®** CEITAPTOAIMATPATŒNKA® HOLY NO-as-yet TO-HAVE-been-made-APPEAR for THE BLOOD OF-HE-GOATS AITHNTONATION ODONETI® **ΙΤΑΥΡ**ΦΝΚΑΙ CΠΟΔΟCΔΑΜΑ[®] OF-THE HOLIES OR-RITLES AND ASHES THCTPOTHCCKHNHCEXOYC *** **AECICPANTIZOYCATOYCKE®** OF-THE BEFORE-most BOOTH SPRINKLING THE HCCTACINHTICTAPABOAH® KOIN OMENOYCATIAZEITIP 20 STANDING WHICH-ANY BESIDE-CAST HAVING-been-COMMONED IS-HOLVIZING TOWARD **EICTONKAIPONTONENECT®** OCTHNTHCCAPKOCKABAPO*

THE SEASON OF-THE FLESH cleanness THE HAVING-IN-STOOD **НКОТАКАӨНН∆ФРАТЕКАІӨ**® ϮͰͰϽͲϴϹϢϻϪλλοΝΤΘΑΙΜΆ® according-to WHICH oblations BESIDES AND to-how-much BATHER TOYXPICTOYOCALATINEYM® **ΥCIAIΠΡΟCΦΕΡΟΝΤΑΙΜΗΔ**⁸⁰ OF-THE ANOINTED SACRIFICES ARE-beING-TOWARD-CARRIED NO WHO THRU Spirit s2 has AFIOY HOLY in margin ATOCALONIOYEAYTONII PO 14000 YNAMENAIKATACYÑEIAHC500 Self ING-ABLE according-to conscience eonian TOWARD-

13 This refers to the two great sinofferings of Lev. 16 and Num. 19. The victim was burned, the ashes preserved, and water that flowed over them availed to purify. This ordinance fills an important place in Israel's future as well as its past (Ezek.

15 This new covenant is for Israel and Judah only. The nations have no part in it at all. They never had the law and never will have it. They never had a divine service or a tabernacle, neither were the promises made to them. All of this is for the Hebrews only.

¹⁶ Covenants, in ancient times, were ratified by means of sacrifices. When Jehovah wished to confirm His covenant with Abram, five different animals were divided into halves, which were laid over against one another so that the contracting parties could pass in between them, thus indicating that they ratified the covenant (Gen.158-21). As this covenant was one of pure grace on God's part, Abram was not allowed to pass between the pieces. The symbols of Jehovah's presence passed through alone, thus confirming the covenant without conditions on the part of Abram. Until the victims have been slain no covenant was considered binding.

16 The rendering "testament" "testator" has no concord whatever with the context. It is true that a testament is of no force while the testator is living, but that has no possible application here. If the covenant with Abram were a testament made by God, then, according to the reasoning, it has no force so long as God The old covenant was confirmed by death-not the death of either party to the covenant, but by the sacrifices which the young men offered (Ex.245-8). The blood of these victims was sprinkled on the scroll of the covenant and on the people.

18 The old covenant, under which the people rashly contracted to do all that the law demanded, was dedicated with the blood of calves and he-goats. The new is inaugurated with the blood of Christ, which has power to fend all failure, and refuses all human help.

God, be cleansing your conscience from dead works to be offering divine service to the living and true God?

And, therefore, He is the Medi-15 ator of a new covenant, so that, a death occurring for the deliverance of the transgressions of those under the first covenant, they who have been called may be obtaining the promise of an eonian en-16 joyment of the allotment. For, where there is a covenant, it is necessary to bring in the death of the 17 covenant [victim], for a covenant is confirmed over the dead, since it is availing at no time when the

covenant [victim] is living. 18 Whence neither the first has

been dedicated apart from blood. ¹⁹ For, every precept being spoken by Moses to the entire people according to the law, taking the blood of calves and of he-goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, he sprinkles the scroll itself as well as ²⁰ the entire people, saving, "This is the blood of the covenant which God

21 directs with you." Now the tabernacle also, and all the vessels of the ministry he likewise sprinkles with

22 blood And almost all is being cleansed in blood according to the law, and apart from bloodshedding is coming no pardon.

It is necessary, then, for the examples, indeed, of what is in the heavens to be cleansed by these, yet the celestial things themselves by ²⁴ better sacrifices than these. For Christ entered not into holy places made by hands, representations of the true, but into heaven itself, now to be disclosed before the face 25 of God for our sakes. Nor is it

that He may be offering Himself

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26 It is evident that Christ did not appear at "the end of the world", nor, indeed, at the conclusion of the eons. Neither has sin been completely eliminated. Such, however, is the efficacy of His sacrifice, that we know that sin must eventually be banished from the universe. And we know also that this will be at the conclusion of the eons. Hence this somewhat complicated sentence has been rendered to this effect. 27 This is not a general statement concerning all men, but the men who have been in view continually, that is, the Levitical priests. The word judgment has no reference to the judgment of mankind for sin, but the setting to rights of those cases in Israel which continued until the death of the high priest. The innocent man-slayer lived in the city of refuge until the death of the great priest (Nu.3522-29). Then he might return to his patrimony. This was his "judgment". The parallel demands that this judgment correspond with the salvation which will come to those who are awaiting Christ. He. the great Chief Priest, has died, and in due time Israel, the man-slayer, shall return to the land of his possession.

28 This appearance of Christ refers to His return to Israel. He will bring salvation to all, whether they watch or are drowsy (1 Thess.510) when He comes for us. But to Israel He brings salvation to those awaiting Him. Just as the high priest entered the holy of holies on the great day of atonement and came out to bless the waiting throng, so Christ has entered the heavenly sanctuary and will bring a benediction when He comes.

The sacrifices under the law were but dim figures of the great Sacrifice. They made atonement, that is, a shelter for sin. The offering up of Christ made a real propitiation, for it put away the sins which had been covered by the blood of bulls and goats. Atonement covered sin, pardon put it away, but justification, which we enjoy, goes far beyond both. The Hebrews were not justified.

5 The unbeliever's objection that the God of Israel was a terrible God Who delighted in the blood of slain beasts, is here directly denied. The whole sacrificial system, not only as an

often, even as the chief priest is entering into the holies of holies yearly by the blood of others, since then He must often be suffering from the disruption of the world, yet now, once, has He been manifested through His sacrifice, for the repudiation of sin at the conclusion of the eons.

And, inasmuch as it is reserved to the men to be dying once, yet ²⁸ after this a judging, thus Christ also, being offered once for the bearing of the sins of many, will be seen a second [time], by those awaiting Him, apart from sin, for salvation, through faith.

10 For the law, having a shadow of future good, not the very image of the matters, they with their same sacrifices which they are offering yearly are never finally able to per-

fect those approaching. Else should they not cease being offered, because those offering divine service, having been once cleansed, have no longer a
 conscience as to sins? But in them

there is a recollection of sins yearly, for it is impossible for the blood of bulls and of he-goats to be eliminating sins.

Wherefore, entering into the world, He is saying,

"Sacrifice and offering
Thou wilt not,
Yet a body dost Thou adapt to Me.
In holocausts and those concerning sin

Thou dost not delight.

Then said I,

'Lo! I am arriving (in the summary of the scroll it is written concerning Me)

To do Thy will, O God.'"

Further, when saying that "Sacrifice and offering and holocausts

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atonement for sin, but also as a means of worship by whole burnt offerings, gave Him no pleasure in itself, but only as it was typical of the true. The physical perfection of an animal was nothing to Him except as a reminder of the moral and spiritual perfection of the One Who came to do His will. The blood of beasts could cover sins. but had no power to put them away. yet it foretold the true Sacrifice, and the sufferings which suffice to offset all sins-covered or uncovered-and eventually to justify all who have committed them as well as to vindicate God for the presence of sin in the world. These grander results are not, of course, in view in this epistle.

7 So Christ "offers Himself flawless to God", not at the cross, but on coming into the world, as the Israelite presented his sacrifice at the door of

the tabernacle (Lev.11-5).

11 The great difference between the Levitical sacrifices and that of their Antitype is graphically brought before us in the action of the chief priests and the inaction of Christ. Indeed. had the sacrifices of the law been really efficacious, like that of Christ, there never would have been a priesthood and a sacrificial system. Moses would have offered one sacrifice, such as that at the inauguration of the covenant (Ex.245), and, there being no further necessity for sacrifice, there would have been no need for a priesthood. The Aaronic priesthood is built on its own inadequacy. Its continuous round of unavailing ritual knew no goal, brooked no cessation, and gave no rest. No priest was allowed to sit in the holy places, for his work was never final. In these things the type is in contrast with the antitype, for Christ is seated in the holy of holies so far as His priesthood is concerned. 15 Under the new covenant, when Judah and Israel are restored to their land, the sin offering will be offered again (Eze.4322), but it is evident that it will not be for those who have been pardoned.

19 The "recently slain way" is a reference to the path into the temple. On either side were the bodies of the sacrifices which had just been slain, and offered to Jehovah. It, however, was a dead way, and no one but a priest

and those concerning sin Thou wilt not, neither dost Thou delight" (which are being offered according to law) then He has declared, "Lo! I am arriving to do Thy will, O God!" He is despatching the first, that He should be establishing the second. By which will we are hallowed through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once.

And every chief priest, indeed, stands ministering daily and offering often the same sacrifices, which never can take sins from about us.

12 Yet This One, when offering one sacrifice for sins, is seated to a finality at the right hand of God,

waiting furthermore till His enemies may be placed as a footstool

14 for His feet. For by one offering He has made those who are hallowed perfect to a finality.

15 Now the holy spirit also is testifying to us, for after having de16 clared, "This is the covenant which I shall be covenanting with them after those days, the Lord is saying, imparting My laws to their hearts, I shall be inscribing them
17 on their comprehension also, and

of their sins and their lawlessnesses shall I under no circumstances be still reminded," Now where there

is still reminded.'' Now where there is a pardon of these, there is no longer offering concerned with sin.

Having, then, brethren, boldness for the entrance of the holy places
 by the blood of Jesus, by a recent-

by the blood of Jesus, by a <u>recent-ly slain</u> and <u>living way</u> which He dedicates for us, through the cur-

21 tain, that is, His flesh, and a great

²² Priest over the house of God, we may be approaching with a true

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TOWARD-COMING WITH TRUE

dared enter upon it. The way now lies through the death and resurrection of Christ, hence is a living way, though recently slain Then even the priest dares not venture through the curtain. behind which the Shekinah glory dwelt. Now, however, the Hebrews of every tribe have access, not only into the outer court of the priests, but into the holy place and into the holy of holies, where the high priest went but once a year. He went with fear and trembling, but they are invited to enter with assurance, because of the efficacy of this sprinkled blood and the cleanliness which comes through His word (Jn.153). It is as worshipers they are to approach. This epistle speaks of Christ's priesthood, and not of that of His people.

27 Under the law, one who sinned "presumptuously" (Nu.1530), or, as the Hebrew has it, "with a high hand", was to be cut off from among his people, because he had despised the word of Jehovah and broken His commandment. The man who gathered sticks on the sabbath day was stoned to death (Nu.15³²-³⁶). The voluntary sin here referred to is doubtless the repudiation of the truth and apostasy from the faith. The faith of the Hebrews. having been founded on the powers and signs which were given as a token of the near approach of the kingdom, was sorely tried when these signs ceased and the kingdom did not come. But those who drew back could not do so without reproaching God and trampling on the Son of God and inviting the fiery jealousy of Jehovah. such there is no sin offering, since they refuse the only Sacrifice that is of any avail. They are calling down the vengeance of God.

How great is the contrast between these Hebrews and those who came under the ministry of Paul! Their faith did not fail for lack of evidence, because it was never founded on it (2 Co.57). They come so completely under the dominion of grace, that persistence in sin would only increase the outflowing of favor (Ro.61). We are beyond the sphere of condemnation (Ro.81). The Hebrews were never introduced into such grace as this, for their destiny is the kingdom.

heart, in the assurance of faith, with hearts sprinkled from a wicked conscience, and a body bathed in clean water.

We may be retaining the avowal of the expectation without wavering, for faithful is He Who prom
24 ises. And we may be considering one another to incite to love and ideal acts, not abandoning the assembling of ourselves together, according as the custom of some is, but entreating, and so much rather as you are observing the day drawing near.

For our sinning voluntarily after obtaining the recognition of the truth is no longer leaving a sacri-²⁷ fice concerned with sins, yet there is a certain fearful waiting for judgment and fiery jealousy, about to be 28 eating the hostile. Anyone repudiating Moses' law is dying without pity on [the testimony of] two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be counted worthy who tramples on the Son of God, and deems the blood of the covenant by which he is hallowed common, and outrages the 30 spirit of grace? For we are acquainted with Him Who is saying, "Vengeance is mine, I shall retaliate!' the Lord is saying," and again, "The Lord will be judging His people." It is fearful to be falling into the hands of the living God!

Now be recollecting the former days in which, being enlightened, you endure a vast competition of sufferings, in this, indeed, being a gazing stock of reproaches as well as afflictions, yet in this, becoming participants of those behaving

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CTPEOOMENUNTENHOENTE 18000 TURNING (behaving) BEING-BECOME 1 Faith is neither "substance" nor "evidence", as is the usual rendering of this passage. The word stance" is changed to "confidence" in most later translations, as this word seems to agree with its context in 2 Co.94; 1117. But "confidence" is not at all suitable in He.13, where the A. V. has "person". The Revisers change this to "substance"—the very rendering they refuse in this passage! But faith is intangible, the very opposite of substance. It assumes that to be truth which it expects to become fact in the future. The word "assumption" fits every passage in which this word occurs and opens up a marvelous vista of truth, as when we are told that the Son is the Emblem of the divine assumptions. God assumes various characters during His administration of the eons. He is Creator, Saviour, Judge, and Reconciler. In every assumption He is represented by His Son, Who, as His Emblem, is also the Creator, Saviour, Judge, and Reconciler. In his second epistle to the Corinthians, Paul assumes the attitude of boasting. Faith cannot become "substance" without being transmuted into sight.

3 That the worlds were framed is not pertinent to this passage. It deals with the change in God's administration of the eons as a result of the refusal of the kingdom proclamation. God has come in afresh, and, through the revelations made to the apostle Paul, has readjusted the eons to suit the conditions brought about by the apostasy of Israel. Those associated with this new grace find that, in spirit, not the kingdom, but the new creation has come (2 Co.517), and not only so, but the very consummation has arrived (1 Co.1011). This does not preclude the actual kingdom in the future for which the Hebrews hope. died in faith, like the elders, not having received the promises. The faith of the Pentecostal Hebrews was largely founded on miracles and signs. Our sheer faith has no foundation but God's declaration. Therefore, in spirit, we soar far ahead of the Hebrews, beyond the Regeneration, into the New Creation.

4 Cain is a type of natural religion, which offers a bloodless sacrifice,

34 thus. For you sympathize with my prisoners also, and anticipate the pillage of your possessions with joy, knowing you yourselves have better and permanent property in the heavens.

You should not, then, be casting away your boldness, which is having a great reward, for you have need of endurance, that, doing the will of God, you should be requited that the promise. For still how very little, "He Who is coming

will be arriving and not delay-38 ing." "Yet My just one shall be living by faith," and "If he should be shrinking, My soul is not delight-

39 ing in him." Yet we are not of those shrinking back to destruction, but of faith for the procuring of the soul.

11 Now faith is an assumption of what is being expected, a conviction concerning matters which are not

being observed; for in this testimony was borne to the elders. By faith we are apprehending the eons to have been readjusted to a declaration of God, so that what is being observed has not come out of what is apparent.

By faith Abel offers to God more of a sacrifice than Cain, through which it was testified that he was just, having God's testimony to his oblations, and through this, dying, he is still speaking.

By faith Enoch was transferred, so as not to perceive death, and was not found, because God transfers him. For before his transference he has the testimony of having been well pleasing to God. Now apart from faith it is impossible to be well pleasing, for he who is approaching God must believe that He is, and is becoming a Re-

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which it has "acquired" from the cursed ground. Abel, "vanity", recognizing sin, was the first man whose blood was shed. Cain would not shed the blood of an animal, but does not shrink from shedding his brother's.

⁵ Enoch, in order to believe God, had a special revelation. Jude quotes from this early prophecy (Ju.¹⁴,¹⁵). Though he walked with God, he evidently walked in the midst of a most ungodly generation, which, indeed, prepared the earth for the deluge. He registered his faith in the approaching judgment by naming his firstborn son Methuselah, which has been interpreted as "when he is dead it shall be sent". The deluge came in the year of his death. His longevity speaks of God's longsuffering.

As Enoch's faith kept him out of the impending judgment to which he testified, so Noah's faith led him safely through it. One was called upon to warn, the other to work. The building of the ark must have been a tremendous task to undertake in the face of the derision and opposition of the whole world. It was a continual reminder of the threatened doom, and condemned them by its very presence. 8 In this account God takes no notice of the failures of faith. Abraham, indeed, obeyed, when called out of Ur. Yet it was a partial obedience, and tardy, for he did not leave his father's house, but tarried in Haran until his father's death. Neither is there any hint here of his sojourn in Egypt (Gen. 1210), of his effort to fulfil God's promise by taking Hagar, or, at the very height of his faith, requiring a covenant to confirm Jehovah's promise (Gen.158). Such lapses as these are not in line with this catalogue of the faithful, but, in Abraham's case especially, it helps us to see that even he failed in his highest excellence.

he failed in his highest excellence.

18 Here we have the key to this notable chapter. The Hebrews did not desire faith; they wanted fulfilment. They wanted no more promises, but performances. They wanted the king-dom to come. But the time had not yet arrived. The nation is apostate. God had begun a work among the nations, through the apostle Paul, which must be finished first. What then, is left for the Hebrews? They are ex-

warder of those who are seeking Him out.

By faith Noah, being apprized of that which is not as yet being observed, being pious, constructs an ark for the salvation of his house, through which he condemns the world, and became an enjoyer of the allotment of the righteousness which is in accord with faith.

By faith Abraham, being called, obeys, coming out into the place which he was about to obtain to enjoy as an allotment, and came out, not versed in where he is coming.

⁹ By faith he sojourns in the land of promise as an alien, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the joint tenants of the same prom-

having the foundations, whose Artisan and Architect is God.

By faith Sarah herself also obtained power for the disruption of seed, and brought forth beyond the period of her prime, since she deems the Promiser faithful. Wherefore

also were begotten by one, and these of one made dead, according as the constellations of heaven in multitude, and as the sand beside the sea shore innumerable.

These all died in faith, not being requited with the promises, but, perceiving them at a distance, salute them also, and avow that they are strangers and expatriates on the

¹⁴ earth. For they who are saying such things are disclosing that they are seeking for a country of their

15 own. And, if, indeed, they had remembered that from which they came out they might have had occa-

16 sion to go back again. Yet now they are craving a better, that is, a

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horted to take the same ground as the faithful of old, who died in faith, not having received the promised blessings. Only in resurrection would they find the fulfilment which they longed for. Abraham never really enjoyed the land which was given to him. In the resurrection he and his seed will not only possess the land, during the day of the Lord, but they will have the still higher and better portion of the holy city, new Jerusalem, in the new creation.

17 That all this is in resurrection is further enforced by the offering of Isaac. Abraham had such confidence in God, that he was ready to slay his son, believing that God would rouse him from the dead in order to fulfil His promise. This is the faith that pleases God and which will count in the kingdom. Though Isaac was not killed on this occasion, his very birth had been like life from the dead, and his sacrifice was practically accomplished, so far as Abraham's faith was concerned.

20 Isaac was the depository of the promises, and it was his faith that led him to pass on the blessing. Nothing is said here of his failure to perceive that Jacob, not Esau, the firstborn of the flesh, was in the line of promise. See Gen. 27.

21 Jacob had learned one lesson of faith, doubtless from his own case. The firstborn of the flesh are not necessarily the first in the purpose of God. So Jacob had received the blessing Isaac intended for Esau. And now. when blessing Joseph's sons, he guided his hands deliberately so as to give the greater blessing to the younger son, even though Joseph had purposely placed them so that the firstborn should be at his right hand (Gen. 488-20). And so Ephraim was preferred to Manasseh, though Joseph would have desired to have it otherwise.

²² Joseph believed the word that God had spoken to Abraham, saying that his people should sojourn in Egypt and be afflicted, and afterward should come out (Gen.15¹³,1⁴). Therefore he told them before his death, "God will notably note you, and you shall bring up my bones from this place" (Gen.50²⁵).

celestial, wherefore God is not ashamed of them, to be invoked as their God, for He makes ready for them a city.

17 By faith Abraham, being tried, has offered Isaac, and he who receives the promises offered the 18 only begotten; he to whom it was spoken that "In Isaac shall your 19 seed be called," reckons that God is able to be rousing him from among the dead also, whence he recovers him in a parable also.

20 By faith Isaac blesses Jacob and Esau concerning the future also.

²¹ By faith Jacob, when dying, blesses each of the sons of Joseph, and worships on the top of his staff.

22 By faith Joseph, at his decease, remembers concerning the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gives directions concerning his bones.

23 By faith Moses, being born, was hid three months by his fathers, because they perceived that the little boy was handsome, and they were not afraid of the mandate of the king.

By faith Moses, becoming great, disowns the term "son of Phar
25 aoh's daughter", preferring rather to have evil with the people of God than to have a temporary enjoy
26 ment of sin, deeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt, for he looked

27 away to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the fury of the king, for he is staunch as seeing the Invisible.

28 By faith he has the passover

²⁸ By faith he has the passover made and the pouring of blood, lest

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23 Moses' fathers also believed what God had spoken to Abram, and looked for Him to judge Egypt and deliver His people. No mandate of Pharaoh could thwart God's purpose or hinder the fulfilment of the promise. They were confident that the mandate would not be carried out. It is quite evident that it was not, or there would not have been a man in Israel, at the exodus, under forty years of age. On the contrary, this astute method of curbing Israel's power was used by God to place Moses in the family of Pharaoh. so that the brilliant king himself might provide the very instrument to defeat his own purpose.

24 Moses is a marvelous example of the power of faith to wean from the world and its allurements. With the brightest prospects possible, he deliberately turns his back on the treasures of Egypt, and possibly the throne itself, in order to share in the eonian reward of the faithful. Had he enjoyed the temporary pleasures of Egypt, his name would probably have been forgotten long ago, yet now his fame and memory are enshrined in the heart of the human race. will be his reward in the resurrection! 27 Moses feared when he found that his attempt to help his brethren became known (Ex.214). And we would naturally suppose that it was fear that drove him to the back side of the desert, but we are assured that he did not fear, though he fled. Far greater still must have been the faith that stood firm before Pharaoh, that prepared the passover, that led the people out of the land in defiance of the forces of Egypt, and brought the people into the wilderness through the Red Sea.

30 The wilderness seems to be almost devoid of faith, for the enumeration of faith's victories passes from Egypt to Indeed, with faith there the land. would not have been the wanderings in the wilderness. And this is the inspired type of which the Pentecostal era is the antitype! Had the nation believed, the kingdom would have come. Now the few faithful who are left are pointed to the worthies who, like themselves, have nothing but God's bare word, yet believed it, and anticipated its fulfilment, seldom receiving the benefits which it promised. the exterminator of the firstborn should come into contact with them.

29 By faith they crossed the Red Sea as through dry land, which attempting, the Egyptians were swallowed up.

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fall, being surrounded on seven days.

By faith Rahab the prostitute perished not with the stubborn, receiving the spies with peace.

And what may I still be saying? For time will be lacking for me to relate concerning Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephtha, David, as well as

33 Samuel and the prophets, who, through faith, subdue kingdoms, work righteousness, happened on promises, bar the mouths of lions,

quench the power of fire, fled from the edge of the sword, were invigorated from infirmity, became strong in battle, rout the camps of aliens,

³⁵ women obtained their dead by resurrection, yet others are bastinadoed, not anticipating deliverance, that they may be happening upon a better resurrection.

Now others got a trial of scoffings and scourgings, yet still further of bonds and jail. They are stoned, they are sawn, they are tried, they died, murdered by the sword, they wandered about in sheep skins, in goat skins, in want, afflicted, maltreated (of whom the world was not worthy), straying in wildernesses and mountains and

caves and the holes of the earth.

39 And these all, having testimony through faith, are not requited with

21 ⁰⁰¹	TO THE I	HEBREWS	CHAPTER 11
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- This cloud of "witnesses" consists of those just enumerated, who witness to the life of faith. It has no reference to any who are watching the Hebrews. A witness is one who testifies. and it is the testimony of all the faithful, from Abel down, which constituted the moral atmosphere in which the Hebrews lived. Nevertheless, their popular sin was unbelief. their fathers had witnessed the faith of Moses and saw the signs, yet were strewn along the wilderness for their lack of faith in God, so the Hebrews were prone to question the promises and to turn from the trials that lay along the path of faith.
- All the other examples of faith pale before the supreme Example. Abraham, the father of the faithful. failed once and again in the very virtue for which he is distinguished. But the Saviour, as a man, never faltered in His implicit confidence in God. He did always those things which pleased God without regard to the consequences to Himself. When His message was rejected. He acquiesced. Even though His God forsook Him in the hour of deepest need and sorest suffering, it did not shake His faith, for, at the very last. He committed His spirit into the Father's hands. And He alone, of all the faithful, has risen and received some reward for His faithfulness, for He has ascended to the right hand of God's throne. Such an example as this should be the most powerful of all incentives for the Hebrews to endure the trials of the way, and persevere to the end.
- God's discipline is too often mistaken for His indignation. The presence of trials and distresses are not a proof of sin and God's anger, but may be the tokens of His love. Job's friends tried to convince him that his calamities came as the penalty of his Job himself thought own misdeeds. that God was his enemy and had conspired against him. All were wrong, for the blessed result of a closer knowledge of his Maker fully vindicated God for all the afflictions He had brought upon him. Job had heard of Him, but after his trial he could say that he had seen Him-a more intimate acquaintance.

- 40 God's promise concerning us, looking forward to something better, that, apart from us, they may not be perfected.
- 12 Surely, in consequence, then, we also, having a cloud of so many witnesses encompassing us, putting off every impediment and the popular sin, may be racing with endurance the contest lying before us,
- looking off to the Inaugurator and Perfecter of faith, Jesus, Who, instead of the joy lying before Him, endures a cross, despising the shame, besides has been seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

For take into account One Who has endured such contradiction by sinners among them, lest you should be faltering, fainting in your souls.

You did not as yet repulse unto blood, contending against sin. And you have been oblivious of the entreaty which is arguing with you as sons.

"My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord, Nor faint when convicted by Him.

- For whom the Lord is loving He is disciplining,
 Yet He is scourging every son to whom He is assenting."
- You are enduring for discipline; God is bringing it to you as to sons, for what son is there whom the fasther is not disciplining? Now if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, consequently you are bastards and not sons. Thereafter, indeed, we had discipliners—the fathers of our flesh—and we respected them. Yet shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits and be living?
- 10 For they, indeed, disciplined for

22001 TO THE HEBREWS CHAPTERS 11-12 Ap+E A C ANTOTHNE HALLEY INTOY 10 OCANTIKATE CTHTE TIPOC 40 promise OF-THE YE-INSTEAD-DOWN-STOOD TOWARD BEOYNEPIHMONKPEITTON HNAMAPTIAN ANTAL ONIZO US INSTEAD-CONTENDING 8p Al ΤΙΠΡΟΒΛΕΨΆΜΕΝΟΥΙΝΆΜΗ: MENOIKAIEKAEAHCOETHC® AND YE-HAVE-been-OUT-OBLIVIOUS OF-THE ANY OF-BEFORE-looking THAT NO X OPICHMUNTE A EL O O O CIN® **ΠΑΡΑΚΛΗCEΦCHTICÝMINΦ**® apart-from US THEY-MAY-BE-BEING-matured WHICH-ANY to-YOUP AS 81* H NIK CYIOICAIAAETETÄIYIEM® TOITAPOYNKAIHMEICTOC: 12 to-THE-for-THEN AND WE so-much to-sons IS-THRU-SAVING SON! A8 O. OYTONEXONTECHEPIKEIM® OYMHOAIT OPEINAIDEIAC® ABOUT-LYING NO BE-FEW-SEEING discipline HAVING p adds and KAI p omits yet
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10 Human discipline is too often without a definite object, or lacks entirely the corrective element which should always be present. Punishment as a mere deterrent, or as a penalty, is of little use in forming character. The ideal chastening is that which fits the offense in such a way that it forms and strengthens those elements in character which are weak and which led to the evil doing. God is the only Father Who has the requisite wisdom to choose such chastening for His children. However heavy His hand may seem we may be sure that it is held by a heart that sympathizes with our passing distress, and helps us to bear fruit for our own profit and His glory.

12 Flaccid hands and paralyzed knees are a realistic picture of utter discouragement on the part of those who fail to see the presence of God's hand in their disheartening circumstances, or that these are but part of the process by which He is bringing them into the larger and nearer place He has prepared for them.

16 The example of Esau should have made a powerful appeal to the Hebrews, in their perplexity and distress. They, too, could ease their souls and enjoy the pleasures of the world by rejecting their birthright, for they were the firstborn of the kingdom. If they should barter their birthright for a brief respite then they, too, would be rejected, however much they might regret it later on.

¹⁷ Esau was not seeking forgiveness nor salvation, but to undo the effect of a former state of mind with regard to the birthright. But his bargain was irrevocable. These Hebrews were in danger of forfeiting their birthright.

18 The nation in the wilderness, at Mount Sinai, came to the terrible spectacle which inaugurated the law (Ex. 1912-20). The whole scene was prophetic of the relation they would sustain to Jehovah under the legal covenant. He forbade a near approach under pain of death. It brought no peace or assurance, but fear and terror. This is the function of the law. It came, not to bring them near to God, but to convict them of their inability and unworthiness.

a few days as it seemed [best] to them, yet He for our expedience, for us to be partaking of His holi-¹¹ ness. Now all discipline, indeed, at present is not seeming to be a

at present is not seeming to be a joy, but a sorrow, yet subsequently it is rendering the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those exercised

12 through it. Wherefore stiffen the flaceid hands and the paralyzed

¹³ knees, and make upright tracks for your feet, that the lame may not turn aside, yet rather may be healed.

Be pursuing peace with all, and holiness, apart from which no one shall see the Lord; supervising, that no one be wanting of the grace of God, nor any root of bitterness, sprouting up, may be annoying you, and through this the majority may be defiled, nor any paramour, or profane person, as Esau,

who, for one feeding, gave up his ¹⁷ own birthright. For you are aware that afterwards also, wanting to enjoy the allotment blessedness, he is rejected, for he did not find a place of repentance, though seeking it carefully with tears.

18 For you have not approached that which is tangible and burning with fire, and murkiness, and gloom, 19 and tornado, and the blare of a

trumpet, and the voice of declara-

tions, which they who hear refuse, that no word be added to them, for they did not carry out that which was cautioned, "And if a wild beast should come in contact with

the mountain, it shall be pelted with stones," and, so fearful was the spectacle, Moses said, "I am terri-

22 fied and in a tremor;" but you have approached mount Zion, and the city of the living God, the celestial ATOAOKOYNAYTOICE TAIA 20 to THE SEEMING to the SEEMING

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²² There is a studied contrast here between the scene presented to the physical eye at Mount Sinai and the prospect of faith in connection with the new covenant. Mount Sinai itself is suggestive of another mountain which is the ultimate home of Israel in the new earth. The Lord is present, as He was in the wilderness, but here He is the Light, rather than the Lightning. Instead of being warned away for fear of death, the saints dwell near Him and enjoy the fruits of the tree of life and the draught of the river of life (Un.21, 22).

The law was given by the mandate of messengers (Ac.753). Now they are ministering spirits commissioned for service because of those who are about to be enjoying the allotment of salvation (Heb. 114).

The universal convocation here referred to is probably that which is convoked at the opening of the day of the Lord when the representatives of the whole creation are summoned together before the judgments which usher in the kingdom are visited on the earth (Un.4.5).

23 The ecclesia of the firstborn recalls the passover, when the firstborn in Egypt were saved by the blood (Ex. As a consequence Jehovah claimed all the firstborn for Himself (Ex.13²; 34¹⁹). Later the Lord took the Levites in exchange for the firstborn (Nu.312-13). Thus those ransomed by blood were the "ecclesia of the firstborn" in the wilderness. These Jehovah claimed for His own and these He brought near to Him in the Levites. So that the "church of the firstborn" comprises those under the shelter of the blood before the kingdom is set up. In the wilderness they were numbered on earth (Nu.342), here they are registered in heaven.

God as Judge is especially appropriate to those who were waiting for Him to arise and judge His own people and the whole earth, as a preparation for the establishment of the kingdom. Not so do we know God.

²⁴ Under the law the spirits of the just never reached perfection, for its rites brought nothing to a finality. Perfection comes only through the Antitype of the ritual of the law.

Jerusalem, and ten thousands of messengers, a universal convoca-

²³ tion, and the ecclesia of the firstborn registered in the heavens, and to God the Judge of all, and to the

²⁴ spirits of the just perfected, and to Jesus, the Mediator of a fresh covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling which is speaking better

than Abel.

25 Beware! You should not be refusing Him Who is speaking! For if those escaped not, refusing the One apprizing on earth, much rather we, who are turning from Him from the heavens, Whose voice then shakes the earth! Yet now He has promised, saying, "Still once more shall I be quaking, not only the "Still once more" is making evident the transference of that which is being shaken, as of that having been made, that what is not being

shaken should be remaining.

Wherefore, accepting an unshakable kingdom, we may be having grace through which we may be offering divine service in a way well pleasing to God with piety and dread, for our God is also a con-

suming fire.

13 Let brotherly affection be re² maining. Be not forgetting hospitality, for through this some were
³ oblivious when lodging messengers.

Be mindful of those bound, as bound together; of those maltreated, as being yourselves also in the body. Matrimony is honorable in all and the body madellal for

in all, and the bed undefiled, for God will be judging prostitutes and adulterers.

In manner not fond of money, being sufficed with what is present, for He has declared,

"Under no circumstances may I be lax,

24^{001}	TO THE HEBREWS	CHAPTERS 12-1
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AND NOT I-SHALL-BE-BEING-afraid

- ²⁴ Moses was the mediator of the old covenant, but now One Who is more than Moses inaugurates a fresh covenant which cannot fail as the former, because it is founded on God's faithfulness alone.
- 25 The judgments which will usher in the kingdom will be far more terrible and widespread than those at Mount Sinai. Under the sixth seal, the great cataclysm includes the sun, moon, and stars (Un.612,13).
- The leaders were not official rulers, but men who were guides in ministry of the word and exemplary conduct.
- It should be remembered that "the same" is a pronoun, and has reference to His personality, not to His administrations or assumptions. The same One pours out grace upon us and indignation on the nations in the Lord's day. The same One Who was weary at Sychar's well is now all-powerful. He Who was once lowly is now exalted, Who healed hundreds when on earth, refused to remove Paul's thorn in the flesh, Who hung on Calvary's cross and lay lifeless in the tomb is now alive and has ascended to God's right hand. His person, service, and dispensations change to accord with God's purpose, but He Himself remains the same.
- ⁹ It is evident that the strange teachings here referred to do not tend toward grace but physical gratification.
 ⁹ Foods and drinks, which were a part of the ritual of the first tabernacle, (9⁹⁻¹⁰) cannot confirm the heart in grace. In connection with Christ's sacrifice there is no sacrificial meal. The carcase of the sin offering was not eaten either by priests or people, but was burned.
- 11 The camp can refer to nothing else than the established ritual of Judaism. The great Sin Offering suffered outside the city of Jerusalem. So it behooved His followers to forsake the city and the system of religion which cast Him out, and follow Him outside of it all. Jerusalem was not the permanent abode of God's saints. It was to be utterly destroyed. This was done not long after this epistle was written. The eye of faith looked forward to the heavenly Jerusalem on the earth.

- Neither may I be abandoning you by any means."
- 6 So that we have courage to say, "The Lord is my helper, And I shall not be afraid of what man shall be doing to me!"
- Be remembering your leaders, who speak the word of God to you, contemplating the sequel of their behavior, whose faith be imitating: Jesus Christ, yesterday and today; the same for the eons also.
- Be not carried aside by varied and strange teachings, for it is ideal to confirm the heart by grace, not by foods, by which those who walk were not benefited.
- We have an altar from which they have no right to be eating, who offer divine service in the taber
 11 nacle. For the animals whose blood is carried into the holy places by the chief priest for sin, the bodies of these are burned up outside the camp.
- Wherefore Jesus also, that He should be hallowing the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Now, then, we may be coming out to Him outside the camp, carrying His reproach.
- ¹⁴ For here we are not having a permanent city, but we are seeking for ¹⁵ the future one. Through Him, then, we may be offering up the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of the lips, avowing His name.
- Now be not forgetful of well doing and contributing, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.
- ¹⁷ Be persuaded by your leaders, and be deferring to them, for they are vigilant for the sake of your souls, as having to render an account, that they may be doing this with joy, and not with groaning, for this is disadvantageous for you.

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13 This is the climax of the epistle. The choice is between faith and apostasy. The reference is to the ritual of the golden calf (Ex.33). It would have been apostasy to go outside the camp had there not been apostasy in the camp. Israel had again ceased to be "the congregation of the Lord", and they must either take sides with Messiah who suffered outside the gate or apostatize. An apostate recognizes truth and refuses to obey it.

20 The God of peace—what an anchor for the turbulent souls of the Hebrews in the tumult of the times in which they lived! Josephus could write a whole book on the subject of the Jewish War which kept Palestine in continual turmoil up to the destruction of Jerusalem under Titus. How fitting to close the epistle with this title! In the coming kingdom Christ will be King of Salem (or peace) as well as King of righteousness. In perfect keeping with this is the pastoral picture of the great Shepherd. As the good Shepherd He gave His soul for the sheep. Now, as the great Shepherd, in resurrection, He still cares for and protects His own. Beautiful as this picture is, it finds its place on earth, and may be applied only to Israel, the nation of His choice. The church is not a sheepfold. Israel is not "one fold", as in A. V., but "one flock" (Jn.1016). Within the fold sheep do not need the Shepherd's care, but when they are led out to pasture he guides and defends them. Hebrews were far from the fold.

Be praying concerning us, for we are persuaded that we have an ideal conscience, in all wanting to

behave ideally. Now I am entreating you more exceedingly to do this, that I may be restored to you more speedily.

more specury.

Now may the God of peace, Who is leading up our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, from among the dead by the blood of the every good work, to do His will, doing in us what is well pleasing before Him, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory for the eons of the eons. Amen!

Now I am entreating you, brethren, bear with the word of entreaty, for I dispatch the letter to you by

23 bits. Know that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom, if he should be coming more speedily, I shall be seeing you.

Greet all your leaders, and all the saints. They from Italy are greeting you.

25 Grace be with you all. Amen!

26⁰⁰¹ TO THE HEBREWS s² TIETOIOAMEN-HAVE and s^{1*}OTIKA AHNOA NTEIOMEOAFAPOTIKA AH²⁰ TOYALAIHCOYXPICTOYWH® that IDEAL Ĥim WE-ARE-being-persuaded for ANOINTED THRU JESUS NCYNEIAHCINEXOMENENT# **AOZAGICTOYCAIDNACTON®** conscience WE-ARE-HAVING IN esteem INTO THE eons ACINKAAWCAGAONTGCANA® **ΔΙΨΝΨΝΑΜΗΝΠΑΡΑΚΑΛΦΔΕ®** IDEALLY WILLING TO-RE-TIP-22 eons AMEN I-AM-BESIDE-CALLING YET CTPE DE CANTILE PICCOTEP ** YMACAAEA#OLANEXECHET# 19 TURNING (behaving) more-exceedingly brothers BE-YE-tolerating OF YOUD **ΦCΔ6 ΠΑΡΑΚΑΛΦΤΟΥΤΟΠΟΙ**100 **ΟΥΛΟΓΟΥΤΗ** ΕΠΑΡΑΚΛΗ CE W²⁰ YET I-AM-BESIDE-CALLING this OF-THE BESIDE-CALLING THE saying sl* omits for HCAIINATAXIONATIOKATA® CKAITAPAIABPAXEQNETIE* AND THAT SWIFTER V I-MAY-BE-BEINGfor THRIT RITE I-letter CTAOWYMINOAGOGOCTHCG# CTËIAAYMINTIN@CKETET® 20 restored to-YOUP THE YET God OF-THE PEACE 23 to-YOUP BE-KNOWING s2 cancels or-us ΘΝΑΔΕΛΦΟΝΗΜΦΝΤΙΜΟΘΕΟ® IPHNHCOANAT AT WHEKNEK® brother THE One-UP-LEADING OUT OF-DEAD-OF-US Timothy **Ρ ϢΝΤΟΝΠΟΙΜΈΝ** ΆΤϢΝ ΠΡΟΒ ∞ ΝΑΠΟΛΕΛΥΜΕΝΟΝΜΕΘΟΥΕΑ500 SHEPHERD OF-THE sheep HAVING-been-FROM-LOOSED WITH WHOM IF-EV-NTAXIONEPXHTAIOYOMAI® ATONTONMET ANEN AIMATI200 GREAT RLOOD he-may-be-coming i'll-be-viewing **ΔΙΑΘΗΚΗCALŒNIOYTONKY®** ΥΜΑCΑCΠΑCΑCΘΕΠΑΝΤΑCΤ# or-covenant THE Master 24 γουν greet eonian ALL OYCHTOYMENOYCYMWNKAI® PIONHMONIHCOYNKATAPT# 21 MAY-He-DOWNones-Leading OF-YOUP AND JESUS. ICAIYMACENTIANTIEPF®A60 ΠΑΝΤΆ CTOYC ΑΓΙΟΎ C Α΄ ΓΙΑ 80 GOOD THE HOLY-ones ARE-greeting EQUIP YOU'D IN EVERY ACT AT.T. OF W AND saying ABDEICTOROLHCAITOBE® Z ONTAI YMAC OI ATI OTHCIT THE TO-DO THE WILL THE-ones FROM THE ITALY INTO

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JAMES TO THE TWELVE TRIBES

None of the Circumcision epistles so clearly indicates the class to whom it is written as the letter of James to the twelve tribes in the dispersion. Its conflict with Paul's epistles is so pronounced that Luther rejected its authority, and endless attempts have been made to find a means of reconciliation, without coming to any satis-Once it is apprefactory solution. hended that this epistle is for a different people and a distinct administration, all need of reconciliation vanishes and we are not tempted to tone down Paul or drag up James to a common level.

The contrast between the ministry of James and that of Paul is graphically illustrated in their lives: Paul was born at a distance from the land of Israel, and had no relations with the Lord until after His ascension into heaven. James, on the contrary, was born of the same mother as the Lord, and lived in the land all his life. In Paul the spiritual comes to the

fore, in James, the physical.

The very name of James is suggestive. It is practically the same as Jacob, or Supplanter, who, in his career, exemplified the energy of the flesh, and whose name was changed to Israel when the flesh was subdued. The name was also applied to the nation when their crooked ways called for it rather than for the name Israel. Hence it may be taken to indicate the low spiritual state of those to whom this epistle is addressed.

In the early part of Acts Peter has his rightful place at the head of the apostles, but, even as early as Paul's first visit to Jerusalem, James had a prominent place, though he was not an apostle (Gal.1¹⁹). Fourteen years later he had risen to be one of the pillars in Jerusalem and was named before Peter and John (Gal.2⁹). Peter

was afraid of some who came from James (Gal. 2^{12}).

At the council in Jerusalem to consider the question of circumcising the nations and putting them under the law, James had the decisive word and formulated the decrees, which were hostile to the nations (Col.2¹⁴), and which were nullified when the present secret administration was inaugurated (Eph.2¹⁵).

At Paul's last visit to Jerusalem James was apparently the only one worth mentioning in authority in the city. The Lord's chosen apostles have disappeared and in their position the people have placed one whose chief claim was his physical relation to our Lord. James rises in proportion to the depth of the nation's apostasy.

So that, at the close of Acts we have two men who embody the two divergent lines, the downward trend of Israel and the upward trend of the nations. Paul repudiates all physical relationship to Messiah and enters the realm of spiritual blessedness among the celestials (2 Co.5¹⁶). James emphasizes his physical kinship with Christ and drags the nation down into the sphere of flesh, thus preparing the way for their repudiation by God.

In this light we are able to understand the unusually low plane of truth in this epistle. It begins with physical limitations and closes with physical healing. It teaches justification by works and law keeping. All these had their place in that failing economy, but let us beware that we do not adulterate the precious truth for the present with such unspiritual doctrines.

There are three Jameses mentioned in the Greek Scriptures, James, the son of Zebedee, the first martyr among the Twelve (Acts 12²); James the Less, the son of Alpheus (Mat.10³); and the writer of this epistle.

- ¹ James is never called an apostle and does not write this epistle in that character. Rather, he puts himself in the place of a slave. Hence the epistle is not concerned with authoritative teaching so much as with service.
- ¹ Nothing can be plainer than the fact that this letter is addressed to a special class. It is not for the tribes in the land. It is absolutely impossible to apply it indiscriminately to the nations without causing the utmost confusion. It is solely and exclusively for the sons of Israel outside the land, in the dispersion.
- The tumultuous times, the provocation and persecution of the Romans, the fanatical commotions of the Jews, the repeated insurrections and revolts in the land, all contributed to bring many trials upon those of the dispersion who espoused the cause of Christ. At one time Claudius commanded all Jews to depart from Rome (Ac.182), and those of the Circumcision who believed never ceased considering themselves Jews. The "Christians" were understood to be a Jewish sect.
- It has been pointed out that the papyri sometimes use the word "testing" as an adjective, the equivalent of "tested" or "genuine", as it is in this passage and especially in 1 Pe.17, the only other occurrence. But it was not their faith which was producing endurance, but the testing of their Hence the word has its usual grammatical force here. In Peter also, the Greek idiom, which we have tried to carry over into English, accounts for the difficulty, and allows us to translate the word uniformly. papyri were mostly written in upper Egypt, far from the land of Israel and the countries to which the scriptures were first sent. Not only are they tinged with local idiom, but were written loosely, as we write English in our every day transactions, with little regard for the correctness and accuracy which characterize a divine They are no criteria as revelation. to the meaning of words which occur several times in the scriptures, or are found in the Septuagint.
- ⁵ This letter records more of our Lord's teaching as recorded in the gospels than any other epistle.

James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the dispersion, Rejoice!

ALL joy deem it, my brethren, whenever you should be falling into
 various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith is producing
 endurance. Now let endurance have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and unimpaired, lack-

ing in nothing.

Now if any of you is lacking wisdom let him be requesting it from God, Who is giving to all generously, and is not reproaching, and it shall be given to him. Yet let him be requesting in faith, doubting nothing, for he who is doubting simulates a surge of the sea driven by the wind and tossed. For let not that man be surmising that he shall be obtaining anything from the Lord: a man double-souled, turbulent in all his ways.

Now let the humble brother be glorying in his exaltation, yet the rich in his humiliation, seeing that, as the flower of grass, he shall pass by. For the sun rises, together with a scorching wind, and withers the grass, and its flower falls off, and the comeliness of its aspect was destroyed. Thus the rich also in his goings shall fade.

Happy is the man who is enduring trial, seeing that, becoming qualified, he will be obtaining the wreath of life, which He promises to those loving Him. Now let no one, being tried, be saying that "I am being tried by God", for God is not tried by evil, yet He is trying

no one.

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- ⁵ Even faith is different in quality in James from that found in Paul's writings. There faith is the necessary channel of grace, because it has no merit in itself. Here faith is more in the nature of a meritorious act, apart from which no blessing can be expected.
- James doubtless has a very special application to Israel in the time of the end. At that time (we seem to be on the verge of it even now) there will be many wealthy men among the Jews, so that their combined riches will enable them to have "a kingdom over the kings of the earth". They will form a plutocracy such as the earth has never seen. Yet they will be destroyed in the fall of Babylon (Un.18). Some of God's people will be in the city (Un.184). James' warning seems to be most apt in the case of these. Should they lose their wealth in the destruction of the city, they would have nothing but their own allotment in the land. Even if not involved in Babylon's overthrow. it is impossible for a rich man to enter the kingdom with his riches (Mk.1023), for the readjustments of that day will take his wealth from him.
- 12 Life, in James, is the result of endurance to the consummation. Hence it is figured by the victor's wreath. We cannot boast of our life in Christ, but, in the kingdom, life comes to those who overcome.
- 17 It is a fact that all physical blessing may be traced to the sun as its source. All life that teems on the earth is directly or indirectly dependent on it. Hence God is compared to the sun in His beneficence. All spiritual good comes down from Him just as all natural good descends from the sun. The moon, however, is not a source of light, but a mere reflection. It is inconstant, now full orbed and now a faint streak in the sky. The earth, too, in its turning, changes from light to darkness.
- ²¹ The salvation of the soul has to do with the feelings and experience, not, as is usually supposed, with ultimate destiny. The soul is the seat of sensations. If these are pleasant and agreeable, if there is comfort and joy, the soul is saved. To lose the soul is to part with the power of enjoyment.

- Now each one is being tried, being drawn away and lured by his
- own desire. Thereafter, the desire, conceiving, is bringing forth sin. Now sin, fully consummated, is teeming forth death.
- 16 Be not deceived, my beloved 17 brothron All good giving and
- brethren. All good giving and every perfect gratuity is from above, descending from the Father of lights, in Whom there is no mutation or shadow from its revo-
- 18 lution. By intention, He teems forth us by the word of truth, for us to be some first-fruit of His own creatures.
- Now be aware, my beloved brethren! Yet let every man be swift to hear, tardy to talk, tardy to an-
- 20 ger, for the anger of man is not working the righteousness of God.
- ²¹ Wherefore, putting off all filthiness and superabundance of evil, receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.
- Now become doers of the word,
 and not only listeners, beguiling
 yourselves, seeing that, if anyone
- is a listener to the word and not a doer, this one simulates a man considering the face he inherited in
- ²⁴ a mirror, for he considers himself and has come away, and immediate-
- 25 ly forgot what kind he was. Now he who peers into the perfect law of freedom and abides, not becoming a forgetful listener, but a doer of the work, this one will be happy in his doing.
- 26 If anyone is seeming to be a ritualist, not bridling his tongue,

1001	JAMES ?		TWELVE	TRIBES	CHAPTER 1
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26 The outward form of divine service, the rites and ceremonies of the sacerdotal system of Moses, was but the exterior shell of truth. It was the letter: truth was the spirit. The ritual was full of precious meaning. But most ritualists feed on the husks and throw away the kernel. It should have its counterpart in a righteous and beneficent life. With us, who serve God in spirit, and have no confidence in flesh, ritual is a relapse into the shadows, when we have the substance in Christ. We are warned against it in the epistle to the Colossians. let no one be arbitrating against you willfully, by a humble disposition and the ritual of messengers, parading what is seen, affectedly inflated by his fleshly mind, and not holding the Head . . ." (Col.218).

² The word "synagogue" is translated "assembly" in the A. V. As it occurs over fifty times and is always (except once "congregation", Acts 13⁴³) rendered "synagogue" elsewhere, there is no real reason for rendering it otherwise here. It is significant of the fact that we have here, not an ecclesia, or called-out company, but a gathering based on physical relationship. For the synagogue was the gathering center of Jews, and Paul invariably separated his converts from it.

The scene here depicted could hardly be imagined outside the traditional synagogue of that early day, for the ecclesias or "churches" had not yet become as like the synagogues as those we know today. One of the signs of present apostasy is this spirit of toadying to the rich and despising the poor. It can have no place where our position in Christ is appreciated. A rich man who enjoys God's grace is pained by such partiality.

s James writes to those under the law. Showing partiality to the rich and offending the poor is an infraction of the precept to be loving your associate as yourself. But the law is not only intersocial. It has a divine side. A single transgression, no matter what it is, brings in a breach between the One Who gave the law and the culprit. The breaker of one commandment is not "guilty" of all, but enters into the same condemnation as those who commit all the other crimes in its category.

but seducing his heart, the ritual of this one is vain, for clean ritual and undefiled with God, even the Father, is this, to be visiting the bereaved and widows in their affliction, to be keeping oneself unspotted from the world.

My brethren, be having no partialities in the faith of our Lord ² Jesus Christ of glory. For if there should be entering into your synagogue a man with a gold ring, in splendid attire, yet there should be entering a poor man also in filthy attire, and you should be looking on the one wearing the splendid attire and be saying, "You be sitting here in this fine seat," and to the poor be saying, "You be standing there", or "Be sitting here under my footstool," were you not discriminating among yourselves and did you not become judges with wicked reasonings?

Does not God choose the poor in the world, rich in faith and enjoyers of the allotment of the kingdom which He promises to those who are loving Him? Yet you dishonor the poor one. Are not the rich tyran-

nizing over you? And they are drawing you to tribunals. Are not they blaspheming the ideal name which is being invoked over you?

B Howbeit, if you are discharging the royal law, according to the scripture, "You shall be loving your associate as yourself", you are doing ideally. Now if you are showing partiality, you are working sin, being convicted by the law 10 as transgressors. For anyone who should be keeping the whole law, yet be tripping in one thing, has be-

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14 James looks at faith entirely from the human side, Paul from the divine. What a man says he has, if he has it not, cannot, of course, save him. But James is not speaking of a pretended faith. He boldly says that faith cannot save. He insists that faith apart from works is dead. Yet Paul is affirming that righteousness is through faith, that it may accord with grace (Ro.416). And he insists that if it is grace, it is no longer out of works, else grace comes to be no longer grace (Ro.116). The salvation which James refers does not include justification, hence there is not the necessity for grace. Paul speaks of grace continually, and refers to it over a hundred times in his epistles. James only mentions it twice in one passage (46). James is dealing with a nation in covenant relationship with God, and an administration in which faith and works are mingled, whereas Paul is connected with the dispensation of unadulterated grace to those who have no claim on God whatever.

Such a combination as James insists on would do away entirely with all the blessings which have come to the nations on the ground of grace, for it is impossible for grace to operate except through sheer, unaided faith. It will not do to say that such faith is vital and must manifest itself in works. This is true, yet such works are in no sense the root of righteousness. They are the fruit. To add works to a dead faith would not vivify it.

Briefly, the differences between Paul and James are not to be explained away. They are irreconcilable contradictions if we take them to refer to the same divine administration and the same people. Left to their own time and place, there is no reason why they should agree. God is continually changing His methods, to conform to the various objects He has in view.

18 The solid foundation stands with this seal: "The Lord knew those who are His" (2 Ti. 219). Suppose we do not know? That does not affect their salvation. God knows the heart and does not need any demonstration. Not so with men. Before we accept a man's faith we demand that he depart

11 come liable for all. For He Who is saying, "You should not be committing adultery" said also "You should not be murdering." Now if you are not committing adultery, yet are murdering, you have be
12 come a transgressor of law. Thus

be speaking and thus be doing, as those about to be judged by means

¹³ of the law of freedom. For the judgment is merciless to him who exercises no mercy. Mercy is vaunting against judgment.

What is the benefit, my brethren, if anyone should be saying he has faith, yet may have no works? The

15 faith cannot save him. If a brother or sister should be naked and lack-

16 ing nurture for the day, yet any of you may be saying to them, "Go away in peace, be warmed and satisfied", yet you should not be giving them what is requisite for the

17 body, what is the benefit? Thus, also, is faith, if you should not have works: it is dead by itself.

18 But someone will be declaring, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from the works and I shall be showing you my faith by my works.

19 You are believing that God is one. You are doing ideally. The demons also are believing and shuddering.

Now are you wanting to know,
 O empty man, that faith apart
 from works is dead? Was not
 Abraham, our father, justified by

works, offering up his son Isaac ²² on the altar? You are observing that faith worked together with his works, and by works was faith

²³ perfected. And the scripture was fulfilled which is saying, "Now Abraham believes God, and it is reckoned to him for righteous-

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from iniquity. This is the ground of James. It is not what appears to the Lord, but to men.

20 The case of Abraham is most helpful in further defining the distinct viewpoints of Paul and James. The former refers us to the fifteenth chapter of Genesis, the latter to the twenty-In the fifteenth chapter second. Abram's spiritual seed alone is in view, for Abram is taken outside his tent and shown the stars of heaven. And the Lord said to him, "So shall your seed be." And he believed the Lord; and He counted it to him for righteousness. This was followed by the unconditional covenant.

The twenty-second chapter is a trial of the faith which he had, in that the seed through whom his promised posterity should come was to be sacri-Here we have the ficed and slain. perfecting of his faith and the fulfillment of the previous passage.

The fifteenth chapter deals with Abram before circumcision, and his spiritual seed, and their justification. The twenty-second chapter deals with Abraham after his circumcision, and his physical seed (some of whom would be spiritual also), and their blessing, as well as their becoming a channel of blessing to the other nations. Paul cannot take the latter passage because he speaks of faith righteousness to the uncircumcised in an era when no blessing flows through Abraham's physical seed. James naturally and rightly takes it because it is the one which refers especially to the twelve tribes to whom he is writing. It was Abraham's faith combined with his obedience which was the basis of their blessing, and it is their faith combined with works which saves them. The works of Abraham were meritorious only as an evidence of faith.

Let us leave this to those who belong to the Circumcision, who are Abraham's seed according to the flesh, and who live under the kingdom administration. We have an immeasurably better and higher place than can be accorded those who mix their own efforts with God's beneficence. undiluted grace brings blessings which are possible only when God is left to carry out the dictates of His heart unhindered by human help.

ness', and he was called "the 24 friend of God". You see that a man is being justified by works, and not by faith only.

Now likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when entertaining the messengers and ejecting them by a different ²⁶ way? For even as the body apart from the spirit is dead, thus also faith apart from works is dead.

Do not become many teachers, my brethren, being aware that we shall be getting greater judgment.

For we all are tripping much. If anyone is not tripping in word, this one is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body also. Now if

we are putting the horses' bits into their mouths so that they are yielding to us, we are steering their

4 whole body also with it. Lo! the ships also, being prodigious, and driven by the hard winds, are being steered by the least rudder, where the impulse of the helmsman is

intending. Thus the tongue, also, is a little member and is grandiloquent.

Lo! A stupendous fire is kindling a stupendous amount of material. And the tongue is a fire, a world of injustice. The tongue is constituted among our members that which is spotting the whole body, and setting the wheel of our lineage aflame, and is set aflame by Gehenna.

For every nature, of wild beasts as well as flying creatures, reptiles as well as of the salt sea, is being tamed and has been tamed by human nature. Yet the tongue can no man tame, a turbulent evil, distended with death-dealing venom. With it we are blessing the Lord and Father, and with it we are cursing

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It seems almost incredible to find such a low moral standard in this epistle, especially as works are demanded for salvation. The untamable tongue, cursing, jealousy, strife, battles and fighting are all spoken of as common amongst the twelve tribes. They are charged as being friends of the world, sinners, impure of heart What a contrast and double souled. is this with such epistles as Philippians and Thessalonians, even though these are written to those who. but a short time before, were steeped in heathenism and idolatry! The pure grace of God, unaided by legal precepts or other inducements, is far more potent in producing conduct which is pleasing to God than all the efforts prompted by the desire for salvation or controlled by the terrors of the law.

Our conduct should accord with God's attitude. Now that grace reigns, we are told to bless and not to curse (Ro.12¹⁴). But James seems to have no such precept in his royal law. The law curses all who break its commandments, and did not forbid cursing, so we should not be surprised when James includes the saints, "we are truncing men."

12 The fig. the olive, and the vine, are all symbols of Israel. The fig speaks of national righteousness. When our Lord saw a fig tree on the road He sought some figs, but finding none, He cursed the tree and it withered So He came seeking national righteousness. As there was none the nation has withered away. The olive, being the source of the illuminating oil in the holy places, is a symbol of the light of God's revelation, which comes through Israel. The olive tree is Israel, the nations are simply temporary grafts, while Israel is apostate. God's word is confided to our keeping only until Israel is restored. Israel was an empty vine. They did not cheer the heart of God or man. Christ came as the real Vine. In the kingdom, as in Cana of Galilee, there will be spiritual joy and gladness from the vine Jehovah planted.

There can be little doubt that the adultery here referred to is defined in the next statement. In the Hebrew scriptures, an alliance with the world

men who have come to be in accord with God's likeness.

Out of the same mouth is coming forth blessing and cursing. There is no need, my brethren, for this to become thus. Is any spring venting out of the same hole the sweet and the bitter? Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a grape vine figs? Thus neither does sweet

water produce brine.

Who is wise and an adept among you? Let him show his works by an ideal behavior in meekness of wisdom. Now if you are having bitter jealousy and strife in your heart, are you not vaunting against and falsifying the truth? This is not the wisdom coming down from above, but terrestrial, soulish, defenoniacal. For where jealousy and strife are, there is turbulence also, and every foul practise.

17 Now the wisdom from above is first, indeed, pure, thereupon peaceable, lenient, compliant, bulging with mercy and good fruits, 18 undiscriminating, unfeigned. Now the fruit of righteousness is being sown in peace, by peacemakers.

Whence are the battles and whence the fightings among you? Are they not hence: from your gratifications warring in your members? You are coveting and have not. You are murdering and are jealous, and you cannot encounter it. You are fighting and battling, and you have not because you are not requesting. You are requesting and not obtaining because you are requesting evilly that you should be spending on your gratifications.

Adulterers and adulteresses!

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was often spoken of in this way. Its fullest and most fitting application will be in the time of the end. Israel, as a nation, was to be separate and holy to the Lord. Now that they are scattered among the nations they are not only in the world but of it. chief object is to get as much of this world's goods as possible, and they are ready to make any alliance to accomplish this end. There will be a strong temptation for the believers among them in that day to fall in with this prevailing apostasy. Some of them will be found in great Babylon when it is destroyed.

- This passage has puzzled the commentators, and there are many and various explanations offered to solve what seems to be one of the most difficult passages in the scriptures. simple explanation, which allows a literal translation, is that the natural spirit of the Jew is to be envious. They are jealous of others' possessions God uses this trait of or welfare. their character in bringing them back to Himself. He provokes them to jealousy by dealing out grace to the nations. It is this envying of others' good which tempts them to make friends with the world, so that they may possess themselves seems so desirable in others. attainment of this longing produces pride.
- The preceding verses contain one of the strongest possible indictments. In this there breathes a different spirit from that usually found in the epistle. Grace follows severity. Though God's love is outraged he does not readily spurn the faithless. He offers a grace conditioned on obedience and humility.
- When we are still sinners. Christ died for us (Ro.58). The whole tenor of Paul's epistles is against the application of this term to the believer in Christ Jesus. The exhortation to cleanse their hands cannot but suggest that they have been employed in defiling pursuits.
- 15 The abbreviation D. V., from the Latin Deo volente, God being willing. probably had its origin in this passage. It is one of the most characteristically Jewish pictures in the whole epistle. Who are like them in going from city to city, trafficking and getting gain?

Are you not aware that the friendship of this world is enmity with God? Whoever, then, should intend to be a friend of the world is constituted an enemy of God. Or are you supposing that the scripture is saying for naught, the spirit which dwells in us is longing see R.F. to envy? Yet He is giving greater grace. Wherefore He is saying, "God is resisting the proud, yet is giving grace to the humble."

Be subject, then, to God, yet withstand the Slanderer and he will be fleeing from you. Draw near to God and He will be drawing near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, double souled! Be wretched and mourn and lament. Let your laughter be converted into mourning, and joy into dejection. 10 Be humbled, then, before the Lord and He shall be exalting you.

Do not be speaking against one another, brethren. He who is speaking against a brother, or judging his brother, is speaking against law and is judging law. Now if you are judging law, you are not a doer of law, but a judge. 12 There is One Lawgiver and Judge, Who is able to save and to destroy. Now who are you who are judging an associate?

Come now, you who are saying, "Today or tomorrow we will be going into some city and should be spending a year there, and we will be trafficking and getting gain" 14 —who are not versed in that which is the morrow's, for what is your life? For you are an exhalation, appearing briefly and thereupon disappearing—instead of your saying "Should the Lord be willing, and we shall be living, we also will

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COMENTOYTOHEKE NONYN 7009 16 DOING this OR that NOW for the church, in its spiritual poverty, caters to the rich, and does not desire to offend them by pressing this denunciation. And, indeed, it is evident that it cannot be applied universally without great injustice to some. But if we apply it to the last days, and to the sons of Israel in the coming era of Jacob's affliction, its full force is readily seen, and its just condemnation can be easily conceded. The immense accumulations of the Jews are being continually augmented by pandering to the lowest passions of the gentile Almost all forms of diversion and amusement are in their hands. No wonder such riches are rotted! Their income from interest alone equals the world's production of gold, so that they receive, without any effort on their part, all the gold that is mined. Their grasping for gain has become a proverb. No other people, as a class, is as shrewd and unscrupulous in making money. condition of affairs is conti continually growing, so that, at the time of the end. it will be the most prominent feature of Judaism. Hence, if James' epistle 45 is especially designed for that day, as we believe, it is a striking confirmation to find this strong denunciation of the rich Israelites as a part of its. message.

7 The "presence" of the Lord is specially applied to that period of time, at the opening of the day of the Lord, when He begins His work of judgment up to His open manifestation. Then will be the judgment of the rich men, and its close will witness the reward of those who patiently plod on for the prize. In that era He will act as Judge (*), for it is in this character that He purges His people. How much better is our expectation! We are awaiting a Saviour (Phil.32°), not a Judge. Rich or poor, for us there is no condemnation.

11 The supreme exhortation to the Circumcision is endure. Salvation itself depends on enduring until the consummation. This is the natural accomplishment of the gospel of the kingdom in which faith and works are both essential. In fact faith and works combine to produce endurance. Without faith there would be no in-

This is a most unpopular passage, for the church, in its spiritual poverty, caters to the rich, and does not desire to offend them by pressing this desired to offend them by pressing the desired to offend them by pressing the desired to offend them by pressing the desired to offend them by pressing the desired to offend them by pressing the desired to offend them by pressing the desired to offend them by pressing the desired them by pressing the desired to offend the desired to offend the desired to offend the desired to offend the desired to offend the desired to offend the desired to offend the desired to offend the desired to offend the desired them by pressing the desired the desired to offend the desired to offend the desired to offend the desired to offend the desired to offend the desired the desired to offend the desired the desired to offend the desired the desired the desired the desired the desired the desired the desired the desired the desired the desired the desired the desired

¹⁷ Then to one perceiving to be doing the ideal and not doing it, to him it is sin.

5 Come now, rich ones, lament, howling for your wretchedness

which is coming on you. Your riches have rotted and your garments have become food for moths.

3 Your gold and silver have corroded and their venom will be a witness to you, and the venom will be eating your flesh as fire. You hoard 4 in the last days. Lo! the wages of the workers who are mowing your country places, of which you have cheated them, are crying, and the imploring of those who reap has entered into the ears of the Lord Sabaoth. You luxuriate on the earth, and squander. You nurture your 6 hearts as in a day of slaughter. You convict, you murder the just. He

is not resisting you.

Be patient, then, brethren, till the presence of the Lord. Lo! the farmer is awaiting the precious fruit of the land, being patient about it till he should be getting the first and late fruit. You, also, then, be patient, establish your hearts, seeing that the presence of the Lord has drawn near.

Be not groaning, brethren, against one another, lest you may be judged. Lo! the Judge stands before the doors.

Be taking, my brethren, the example of suffering evil and patience you have—the prophets who 11 speak in the name of the Lord. Lo!

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CONOMATIKYPIOYIAOYMA 8000 11 NAME OF-Master BE-PERCEIVING WE- centive to continue, and those who are striving would lose heart. With us the emphasis is on believe. Faith in God is the ground of grace which allows of no admixture of works, so far as salvation is concerned.

12 This prohibition is essentially the same as that given by our Lord (Mt.

15 "The prayer of faith will save the sick" is a very loose rendering of this passage. The word which they translate "prayer" thirty-seven times is not here. In its place is one of its elements, which the A. V. itself renders "vow" on the only other occasions on which it occurs (Ac.1815;2123). neither context can it possibly mean prayer. So we are sure that a vow, not a prayer, is intended here.

So, also, with the word "falter". In Heb123, the only other occurrence, they rendered it "wearied", because it is evidently a synonym of "faint". But they were not willing to say "shall save the wearied". It may be that the confession of sins to one another here inculcated, as a condition for healing, is the text which originally led to the It has no appeal for confessional. those who realize their completeness in Christ and the exclusively spiritual character of God's transcendent grace in this economy.

17 Elijah prayed in his prayer. He did not apportion praise and blame to men, or seek to flatter men and dictate

18 This epistle, in a vague way, seems to be a literary reversal, that is, each subject is considered once in the first half, and referred to again in the second half, but in reverse order. We have the request for wisdom in the beginning (15) and the prayer for healing near the end (513-16). But the correspondences are not sufficiently close or consecutive to create a real skeleton of the epistle.

19-20 The peril of straying will be specially great in the last days (Un. 2²⁰;12⁹;13¹⁴). The ministry of restoration will be necessary. A deceived is in a worse plight than a sick man. The elders may help the latter, anyone may help the former. The ministry is its own reward. It does not mean that one can cover his own sins by trying to correct other peoplea too common practise, we fear.

we are counting those happy who endure. You hear of the endurance of Job. and you perceived the Lord's consummation, seeing that the Lord is very compassionate and pitiful.

Now before all, my brethren, do not be swearing, either by heaven, or by earth, or any other oath. Now let your "yes" be "yes", and "no" be "no", lest you should be falling under judgment.

Is anyone suffering evil among you? Let him be praying. Is anyone cheerful? Let him be playing 14 [music]. Is anyone infirm among

you? Let him call the elders of the ecclesia, and let them pray over him, rubbing him with olive oil in

15 the name of the Lord. And the vow of faith will be saving the faltering and the Lord will be rousing him up, and, should he have done sins, they will be forgiven him.

16 Then be confessing sins to one another and be praying over one another, so that you may be healed.

The active petition of the just is ¹⁷ availing much. Elijah was a man of like emotions with us, and he prays in prayer for it not to rain, and it does not rain on the earth 18 three years and six months. And again he prays, and heaven gives a shower and the earth germinates her fruit.

My brethren, if anyone among you should be led astray from the way of the truth, and some one should be turning him back, let him know that he who turns back a sinner out of the deception of his way will be saving his soul from death and covering a multitude of sins.

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PETER TO THE DISPERSION

PETER'S EPISTLES correspond with Peter's personal experiences. In contrast with Paul, he was a devout Israelite who accepted the Messiah at the beginning of His ministry, not a fierce persecutor after His ascension. name was changed from Simon (Hearing), the son of John, to Peter (Rock). the son of Jonah (Dove). As such he becomes the foundation on which the Circumcision ecclesia is founded. He was the chief of the twelve apostles, yet was superseded by the Lord's brother, James, who was no apostle, when the Pentecostal ecclesia became apostate. He was given the keys to the kingdom-repentance and baptism-and he used them in opening its proclamation. He was chosen to open it to proselytes, as Cornelius, but obeyed only after receiving a special vision. His course was much criticised by the Jerusalem ecclesia.

If it were not for his epistles we would be much puzzled as to "what had become of Peter", for he (as well as the rest of the twelve apostles) vanishes from the history in the book of Acts soon after Paul becomes

prominent.

The character of Peter's epistles is indicated by the personal commission given him by the Lord after His resurrection (Jn.2015-19). They are based on his special fondness for his Lord. In these he carries out the command to graze the lambs and tend the sheep of His flock. And in these he reflects the sufferings with which he himself was about to glorify His Lord. These epistles are especially suited to the believing remnant in Israel who suffer and die in the terrible persecutions which precede the inauguration of the kingdom. They are in contrast with John's epistles, in that he and his writings are especially in point for those who (like himself, in spirit) live through the time of trial and enter the kingdom without dying,

The special occasion of Peter's writing seems to have been the great persecution of the Christians under Nero. because of the false charge that they had burned Rome. Not only were they

put to terrible torture in the imperial city but the persecution spread to the provinces throughout the sphere of Roman rule.

Peter wrote to the expatriates of the dispersion in the upper provinces of what is now called Asia Minor. This conclusively confines it to the Circumcision, for the gentiles were never scattered there from their own land. This cannot, however, refer to the general dispersion of the Jews, for few of them were of the faith. doubtless refers to the fact that, from the dispersion at the stoning of Stephen, continuous persecutions in the land had driven many Jewish Christians into exile. After seeking an asylum from their fierce fellow countrymen among the idolators, they now find that these, too, turn persecutors because of Nero's edict.

While these epistles can have no present interpretation, they doubtless will find their fullest application to the sons of Israel after the present economy of God's grace has passed by, and God deals once more with the Circumcision at the opening of the day of the Lord. Then judgment will begin at the house of God, and they will be beset with trials, such as these epistles foretell and provide for. Only in such an atmosphere and at such a time will the message Peter brings be fully appreciated and really understood. Just as it was difficult for him to apprehend the epistles of Paul (2 Pt.316), so it is only by an earnest effort to place ourselves in the position of those to whom these epistles are sent, that we shall be able to partially apprehend their message.

Peter received his commission to write these epistles from the Lord. after His ascension. On the shores of the sea of Tiberius, after the miraculous draught of fishes, he is charged to graze His lambkins and to tend His sheep $(Jn.21^{15}, ^{16}, ^{17})$. This is the ministry which he fulfills in these two

pastoral epistles.

The people addressed, unlike "the church which is his body", are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation".

- ¹ Note the contrast between Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, and Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus. Peter proceeds on the ground of His present rejection on earth, Paul on His exaltation in heaven.
- The expatriates were those Jews who had left their homes in the land of their fathers, probably as a result of persecution. Since then the Jews have been scattered all over the earth. Peter's epistles will have a special appeal for those of them who, at the time of the end, after the Lord once more begins to deal with His people Israel, are chosen among the nations, and suffer for their faith.
- The allotment of the Circumcision is heavenly in character and source, but will be enjoyed on earth. A concrete example is the heavenly Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven, all prepared for their dwelling on the new earth. The kingdom is called the kingdom of the heavens, not that it will be in heaven, but because the heavens will rule.
- 5 There are two distinct salvations brought before us in this passage, neither of which refers to what is usually intended by the term. The first one is the salvation which the faithful of Israel have long desired, that deliverance which comes to them at the advent of their Messiah. It is not salvation from sin, but from the nations and from Satan, and from the judgments of the time of the end. It ushers in the millennium. It was not a present possession, but is to be revealed at the unveiling of Jesus Christ.
- The other salvation was a present experience. We seldom read of the salvation of the soul in Scripture. The soul is the sentient part of man, that which feels, that which suffers and enjoys. Ultimately all salvation will result in satisfying and delicious sensations. In the time of trial to which Peter refers, there seems to be little place for such a salvation, yet it is found in the joy and exultation of faith.
- The prophets foretold the salvation proclaimed by Peter; the grace which has come to us was hid from them (Eph.3°,°).

PETER, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the chosen expatriates of the dispersion of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, [the province of] Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in hallowing of the spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you!

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who, according to His vast mercy, regenerates us into a living expectation, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from among the dead, for the enjoyment of an allotment incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, having been kept in the heavens for you, who are garrisoned by the power of God, through faith, for salvation ready to be revealed in the last era. in which you are exulting: briefly, at present, if it must be, being sorrow-7 ed by various trials, that the testing of your faith, much more precious than gold which is perishing, yet, being tested by means of fire, may be found for applause and glory and honor at the unveiling of Jesus 8 Christ, Whom, not perceiving, you are loving, in Whom, not seeing at present, vet believing, you are exulting with joy unspeakable and glorious, being requited with the consummation of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Heb in 30

Concerning which salvation the prophets seek out and search out, who prophesy concerning the grace which is for you, searching into what or what manner of era the spirit of Christ in them made evident, when testifying beforehand to the sufferings pertaining to

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11 The sufferings pertaining to Christ were clearly foretold in the Hebrew Scriptures, especially in such types as Joseph and Moses, David and Heze-His earthly glories were also revealed, including His exaltation as the Son of Man and the Son of David. He receives the place supreme on earth, but there is no hint of heavenly headship. These are the traceable riches of Christ. The prophets knew nothing of "the untraceable riches". These consist in His heavenly exaltation, and were revealed to Peter and Peter tells us that He has "gone into the heavens, messengers and authorities and powers made subject to Him" (322). gives Him the place of universal supremacy, and tells of a time when all in the heavens as well as on the earth will be headed up in Him (Eph.110). Of this the prophets are silent. It was a secret or "mystery" unrevealed until the heavenly destiny of the ecclesia which is Christ's body was made known.

18 The grace which is for us comes before the unveiling of Jesus Christ, at His presence in the air, previous to the apocalyptic judgments which accompany His manifestation. Not so with those to whom Peter writes. It is only after His unveiling that the blessings which they expect will become theirs. The unveiling itself is God's means of bringing in the kingdom and all its accompanying benefits.

20 The fact that Christ's sacrifice was foreknown even before the disruption throws a marvelous light upon God's plan and purpose. It shows that sacrifice is not an afterthought intended to repair an unforeseen disaster, but that it precedes sin, and that sin was introduced to give it occasion. Speaking as a man, there never would have been sin unless God had previously prepared a Sacrifice, and neither should be considered by itself, but as 22 one of the necessary factors in God's great purpose to reveal the deep recesses of His love and the boundless expanse of His affection.

²³ Regeneration is a requisite for entrance into the kingdom (Jn.3³). In spirit, we skip the kingdom and enter the new creation (2 Co.5¹⁷), which

Christ and the glories after these.

12 To whom it was revealed that, not to themselves, yet to you they dispensed them, of which you are now informed through those who are preaching the evangel to you by holy spirit dispatched from heaven; into which messengers are yearning to peer.

Wherefore, girding up the loins of your comprehension, being sober, expect perfectly the grace which is being brought to you in the unveiling of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, not configuring to the former desires, in your ignorance, but, according as He Who calls you is holy, you also become holy in all behavior, because it is written that "You shall be holy, seeing that I am holy."

And if you are invoking the Father, Who is judging impartially according to each one's work. you may behave, for the time of your so journ, with fear, being aware that you were ransomed from your vain behavior, handed down by tradition from the fathers, not with 19 corruptible silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a flawless and unspotted lamb, foreknown, indeed, before the disruption of the world, yet manifested in 21 the last times because of you, who through Him are believing in God Who rouses Him from among the dead and is giving Him glory, so that your faith and expectation is to be in God.

Having purified your souls, by the obedience of truth, for unfeigned fondness for the brethren, love one another earnestly, out of a true heart, having been regenerated, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word of

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will not become a physical reality until after the thousand years. There is a vast difference between the two. Paul does not proclaim the new birth. That is not nearly sufficient to describe the great change necessary for fitting us for our celestial destiny. In the resurrection we shall not only be renewed but changed (1 Co.1552). As at present constituted we could not enter into our celestial allotment. Hence we are the subjects of a radical recreation. The Circumcision in the kingdom on the earth will need no such great change to adapt them to conditions as they will be in that day, so the figure used of them is that of regeneration. The Lord spoke of the kingdom as "the regeneration" (Mt. 1928), during which the old creation will be renewed, the curse removed. the law observed, by a people who have a "change of heart" (Jer.3136). and the old earth will enjoy its sabbath. So regeneration is not the creation of a new man but the regeneration of the old.

24 Isa.406-8.

- ⁴ Our Lord, speaking to the chief priests and elders, told them that the kingdom of God would be taken from them and given to a nation bringing forth its fruits, in proof of which He also quotes Ps.118²². The parable of the vineyard was spoken to them on this occasion (Mt.21³³.46). They fulfilled this parable in rejecting Him, and He takes the kingdom from them and gives it to those who receive Him, and who form the nucleus of the believing nation of that day.
- 6 Isa.2816.
- 7 Peter himself, soon after the day of Pentecost, before the chief priests, charged them with rejecting the Stone which was to be the head of the corner (Ac.411).
- When Jehovah brought His people to Himself on eagles' wings, He purposed that they should be His peculiar treasure above all peoples, and that they should be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Ex.194-6). Hitherto, through unbelief, they have not realized this ideal, but those who receive Christ shall fulfill it in the coming kingdom. As kings they will then rule the nations for God and as priests bring the nations to God.

²⁴ God, living and permanent. Be-

"All flesh is grass,
And all its glory is as the flower of grass.

The grass is withered
And the flower falls off,

Yet the declaration of the Lord is remaining for the eon."

Now this is the declaration preached to you in the evangel.

Putting off, then, all malice and all guile and hypocrisies and envies and all vilifications, as recently born babes long for the logical, unadulterated milk, that by it you may be growing for salvation, if so be that you taste that the Lord is kind: Whom approaching, a living Stone, having been rejected indeed by men, yet chosen by God, held in honor, you, also, as living stones, are being built a spiritual house, into a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, most acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Wherefore it is included in the

scripture,

"Lo! I am laying in Zion a corner capstone, chosen, held in honor:

And he who is believing on it may by no means be disgraced."

To you, then, who are believing is the honor, yet to the unbelieving "The Stone which the builders reject."

This came to be for the head of the corner,"

And

"A stumbling block and a snare rock;"

who also are stumbling at the word, being stubborn, to which also they were appointed.

Yet you are "A chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a procured people" that you should be recounting the virtues of Him Who calls you out of darkness into

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10 The phrases "not a people" and who "have not been shown mercy" are usually referred to the gentile nations, in contrast with Israel. This passage is then adduced in favor of applying Peter's epistles indiscriminately to all men at all times, especially to the present ecclesia which is Christ's body. But a closer consideration will show that this passage proves the very opposite, for it quotes from the prophecy of Hosea, who speaks of the sons of Israel, and cannot possibly be interpreted of any other people. One passage reads as follows (Hos.19-11):

And He is saying:

"Call his name 'Lo Ammi' [Not My people],
For you are not my people
And I will not be yours.
And the number of the sons of Israel
Shall be as the sand of the sea Which shall not be measured
And shall not be numbered.
And it shall occur, in the place where it is being said to them

'You are not My people,'
It shall be said to them
'Sons of the living Deity.'
And the sons of Judah and the sons of Israel

Shall be gathered together as one,
And shall place over them one head,
And ascend from the land,
For great is the day of Jezreel."

The companion passage is equally plain (Hos. 2^{23}):

And I compassionate the uncompassioned,
And I say to Lo Ammi [Not My People],

'You are My people!'
And he shall say, 'My God!'"

By no means may these quotations refer to any people but the chosen nation. 12 "Your behaviour among the nations," or gentiles, confirms our conclusion that Peter is addressing those of his own nation outside the land. 13 The word "creation" here is the same word which is always so rendered in every other occurrence. Possibly the idea that creation is a prerogative of God led our translators to alter to "ordinance" here. Yet such contexts as this are the very ones which the English reader needs to correct his conception of this word, for according to this passage, man can create, and the word does not mean to bring into being that which heretofore had no existence.

10 His marvelous light, who once were "not a people" yet now are "the people of God", who "have not been shown mercy", yet now are "being shown mercy."

Beloved, I am entreating you, as sojourners and expatriates, to be abstaining from fleshly lusts, which ¹² are warring against the soul, having your behavior among the nations ideal, that in that in which they are talking against you as evil doers, being spectators of ideal acts, they should be glorifying God in the day of visitation.

Be subject to every human creation because of the Lord, whether to
the king, as a superior, or governors, as being sent by Him for vengeance on evil doers, yet for the applacement of good, seeing that thus it is the will of God, by doing good to be muzzling the ignorance
of imprudent men; as free and not as having freedom for a cover of
evil, but as slaves of God. Honor all; be loving the brotherhood; be fearing God; be honoring the king.
Domestics, be subject to your

owners, with all fear, not only to the good and lenient, but to the 19 crooked also, for this is grace, if, because of conscience toward God, anyone is undergoing sorrows, suf-20 fering unjustly. For what credit is it if, sinning and being buffeted, you shall be enduring it? But if, doing good and suffering, you shall be enduring, this is grace with God.

For for this were you called, seeing that Christ also suffered for your sakes, leaving you a copy, that

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21 Following in the footprints left by our Lord while He was on earth is often taken as the ideal of human deportment for believers in Christ. And so it is—for the Circumcision, to whom Peter writes. His path may be copied by them, for they find themselves in similar circumstances and under identical conditions. with the nations in this economy of God's grace. In preparing Paul for his part as the channel through which the truth for today was to be revealed. God kept him from contact with Christ during our Lord's life on earth. both before and after His resurrection. It was only after His ascension into glory that He called Saul, and changed his name to Paul, and made him the medium for the special truth which is in force during the apostasy of Israel. Saul's call might have occurred long before, but it was deliberately deferred so as to conform to the truth with which he was entrusted. He, and we, know Christ only as ascended and glorified. If we were connected with His earthly life, then we, like the Syro-phenician woman (Mk. 726) could get nothing more than a few crumbs from Israel's board. He does not act in glory as He acted on earth. Now He makes no distinction between Jew and gentile, but lavishes unutterably greater grace on both than was possible when He was the Servant of the Circumcision (Ro.158). The key to conduct which pleases God is to copy His present attitude toward us in our relations with our fellow men. It is not reasonable to follow in His steps when He came only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel and kept Himself from contact with the outside nations. His walk in the land is no model for our conduct outside the land. Hence we are exhorted to be imitators of Paul, as he is of Christ (1 Co.111), for he knew Christ ascended and glorified. And we are exhorted to be imitators of God, as beloved children (Eph.51). Such a place we, sinners of the gentiles, did not have when Christ confined Himself to the favored nation.

The duties of the marital relationship are treated by Peter and Paul with characteristic difference. Paul (Eph.521) enjoins submission and love in the light of the relation between

you should be following up in the ²² footprints of Him Who does no sin, neither was guile found in His ²³ mouth, Who, being reviled, reviled not again, suffering, threatened not, yet gave it over to Him Who ²⁴ is judging justly, Who Himself bears our sins in His body on the tree, that, having come away from sins, we should be living for righteousness; by Whose welt you ²⁵ may be healed. For you were as straying sheep, but now you turned

²⁵ may be healed. For you were as straying sheep, but now you turned back to the Shepherd and Supervisor of your souls.

Likewise wives are being subject to their own husbands, that, if any also are stubborn as to the word. they will be gained without a word, through the behavior of their wives, being spectators of your pure behavior in fear, whose adornment, let it not be the outside, in braiding the hair and decking with gold, or putting on of garments, but the hidden human of the heart, in the incorruptibility of a meek and quiet spirit, which is costly before God. For thus once the holy women also, whose expectation was in God, adorned themselves, being subject to their own husbands, as Sarah obeys Abraham, calling him "lord", whose children you became, doing good and fearing no dismay.

Husbands, likewise, are making a home with them according to knowledge, awarding honor to the feminine as to the weaker vessel, as to those who are also joint enjoyers

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Christ and the church; Peter points back to Sarah and Abraham.

Like our Lord in His sermon on the mount, the apostle sets a much higher mark than the law for the conduct of those who are candidates for the kingdom. Compare Mt.539. etc., and Lu.627, etc. An eye for an eye, or strict justice, gives place to a forgiving spirit. This is carried even further in connection with the pres-We are to vanquish evil ent grace. with good (Ro.1221), and to heap embers of fire on the heads of our enemies and to bless those who persecute us (Ro.1214). In a word, we are to be walking in love (Eph.52).

10 This quotation from PS.3412-16, without any introductory phrase to show its relation to the subject in hand, clearly indicates that the Psalms as a whole are perfectly in accord with the administration to which Peter and the twelve belonged. Our experience should harmonize with them to a certain point, but should rise far above their highest conceptions of conduct. To "love life and see good days" is a much lower motive than is presented to us.

14.15 In view of the coming storm of persecution Peter quotes and varies a word from Isa.812-13 spoken in similar circumstances, but with the significant substitution of "the Lord Christ" for "Jehovah of Hosts". Remembering Jewish reverence for the letter of scripture and the intense dread of having any God but one, we see how firmly Peter is convinced that Christ is the Jehovah of the Hebrew Scriptures.

18 A grasp of the apostle's argument here will help us through this difficult passage. The subject is suffering for doing good. The Example is Christ and those sufferings which came to Him as they come to His disciples, because of the sin which surrounded Him. The argument is that He, though put to death, has now been exalted, even over the messengers and authorities and powers of the spirit realm (22), therefore those who suffer for doing good will also be exalted in due time.

With this in mind, it is evident that it is not the evangel which is proclaimed to the spirits in prison, for that would be entirely out of line with of the varied grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered.

Now the finish: Be all of a like disposition, sympathetic, fond of the brethren, tenderly compassionate, of a humble disposition, not rendering evil for evil, or reviling for reviling—yet, on the contrary, blessing, seeing that you were called for this, that you should be enjoying the allotment of blessedness.

10 "For he who is wanting to love life and be acquainted with good days,

Let his tongue cease from evil
And his lips from speaking guile.

Now let him avoid evil and do
good.

Let him seek peace and pursue it,
Seeing that the eyes of the Lord
are on the just

And His ears are for their petition, Yet the face of the Lord is on evil doers."

And who will be ill-treating you, if you should become zealous of good?

14 Yet if you suffer also because of righteousness, happy are you. Now you should not be afraid with their

15 fear, nor yet be disturbed, yet hallow the Lord Christ in your hearts, ever ready with a defense for everyone who is demanding from you an account of the expectation in you,

but with meekness and fear, having a good conscience, that, in what they are talking against you as evil doers, those traducing you may be mortified by your good behavior in Christ.

For it is better to be suffering for doing good, if it be the will of God,

18 than for doing evil, seeing that Christ also, for our sakes, once died concerning sins, the just for the sake of the unjust, that He may

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the argument. It would imply that, as a result of their sufferings, their enemies will be evangelized. Such grace is foreign to Peter's epistles. The word here used is not evangelize, but proclaim. It tells us, not that they were blessed, but that He was exalted. And what is more likely than that, after His ascension, He should be proclaimed the universal Suzerain to all creation, obedient or rebellious?

19 Who are these imprisoned spirits? Are they not the same that Peter mentions in his second epistle (24) who were thrust down to the gloomy caverns of Tartarus, and the messengers of Jude's epistle (6), who kept not their own sovereignty and left their own habitation, and sinned in like manner as Sodom and Gomorrah? This seems to identify them with the sons of God of the sixth of Genesis. It seems that, to avoid a repetition of their crime, they are kept from further connection with humanity.

The fact that they are called spirits, assures us that they are not human. The proclamation was not made to them during our Lord's death, but after He had been made alive. It was a token of His exaltation.

²¹ Baptism, with repentance, are the two essentials for entrance into the

kingdom (Ac.238).

This difficult passage depends, for its interpretation, on the force of the interjected "indeed", which is usually omitted in translation. Even when present in the English, its force is not readily perceived. It must be evident to all that there is a turn in the argument, for the evangel is not the precursor of judgment from God, nor is it according to men. This judgment, then, is not God's but man's. Men judged them according to their own standards. They are judged, "indeed", but not in the judgment of the living and the dead just mentioned (5). The next statement, that they should be living according to God, makes it evithat the evangel preached to them after they had died. Men could not judge them, in flesh, nor could they live according to God, in spirit, after they had died. are dead now, but the preaching and judging and living were all a part of their experience before they fell asleep.

be leading us to God; being put to death, indeed, in flesh, yet vivified ¹⁹ in spirit, in which, being gone to the spirits in the jail also, He ²⁰ proclaims to those stubborn at one time, when the patience of God awaited in the days of Noah while the ark was being constructed, in which a few, that is eight souls were ²¹ conveyed safely through water, the representation of which, baptism, is now saving you also—not putting off the filth of the flesh, but the inquiry of a good conscience to God, through the resurrection of Jesus

²² Christ, Who is at God's right hand, being gone into heaven, messengers and authorities and powers being

made subject to Him.

Christ, then, having suffered for our sakes in flesh, you also arm yourselves with the same thought. seeing that he who is suffering in flesh has ceased his sins, by no means still to spend the rest of his time in the flesh in human desires. but in the will of God. For sufficient is the time which has passed by to have effected the intention of the nations, having gone on in wantonnesses, lusts, debauches, revelries, drinking bouts, and illicit idolatries, in which they are thinking it strange of you not to race together into the same puddle of profligacy, calumniating you: who shall be rendering an account to Him Who is in readiness to judge the living and the dead. For for this an evangel is preached to the dead also, that they may be judged, indeed, according to men in flesh, yet should be living according to God. in spirit.

Now the consummation of all has drawn near. Then be sane and sober for prayers, before all, having

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- The human love that covers over the sins of those on whom it is placed is but an intimation of the divine love which is the source of all affection. But human love is limited, both in its ideals and its performances. There is a striking similarity, however, between the expression of divine love under the law, before the sacrifice of Christ, and the love here spoken of. In both cases sin was covered, not put away or pardoned, much less justified. As we hide the misdeeds of our loved ones, so the blood of slain animals served to cover over the sins of Israel. Propitiation is not for us. Paul refers to it but once, and then in reference to the sins of the past (Ro.325). It is for the Circumcision and the nations in the day of the Lord $(1Jn.2^2)$.
- ⁹ All other graces flourish where love is found. It not only stimulates their growth but enhances their quality. To do what is loving is well: to do it in a loving way is better. The manner of hospitality means more than mere hospitality itself. Gracious giving glorifies the gift.
- 12 Peter is the representative of the suffering saints of the Circumcision, and his ministry is especially intended for such. The persecutions of the first century were foretastes of the terrible time which precedes the coming of the kingdom. Hence these exhortations fit both occasions equally well. Then judgment will begin from the house of God, as detailed in the second and third chapters of the Unveiling.
- 15 Paradoxical as it may seem, only Jews are Christians in the Scriptures. The term is never applied to the nations, but only to Jews or proselytes. Paul never uses the name in his epistles. It occurs only in Acts, which is concerned with the past rejection of the kingdom, and in Peter, which looked forward to its future realization. It is a notable example of the manner in which Scriptural terms have been utterly perverted from their original use.
- The beautiful picture of a shepherd with his flock is peculiarly appropriate to God's earthly people. Even in ancient times they alone were the flock of His pasture. In the wilder-

earnest love among yourselves, seeing that love is covering a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one

of another without murmuring. Each, according as he obtained the gracious gift, be dispensing it among yourselves, as ideal stewards of the

- varied grace of God; if anyone is speaking, as the oracles of God; if anyone is dispensing, as out of the strength which God is furnishing, that God may be glorified in all, through Jesus Christ, to Whom is the glory and the might for the eons of the eons. Amen!
- Beloved, do not think the conflagration among you, which is becoming a trial to you, strange, as something strange befalling you,
- something strange betating you,

 13 but be rejoicing, according as you
 are participating in the sufferings
 of Christ, that you may be rejoicing, exulting in the unveiling of
- 14 His glory also. If you are being reproached in the name of Christ, happy are you, seeing that the spirit of glory and power, and that of God has come to rest on you.

For let not any of you be suffering as a murderer, or a thief, or an evil-doer, or as an interferer in oth-

16 er's affairs, yet if as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, yet let him be

that it is the era for the judgment to begin from the house of God. Now if first from us, what is the consummation of those who are stubborn as

18 to God's evangel? And "If the just one is hardly being saved, where will the irreverent and sinner

¹⁹ appear?" So that, let those also who are suffering according to the will of God, commit their souls to a faithful Creator, in the doing of good.

7001			DISPERSION	V (I.)	CHAPTERS 4-5
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ness He guided them like a flock (Ps. 7852). When the Lord came Israel was as a flock having no shepherd (Mt.9 36). He is the Great Shepherd of the sheep (Heb.1320;1 Pt.225). As the Good Shepherd He laid down His soul for the sheep $(Jn.10^{11})$. As the Chief Shepherd He will reward the under shepherds for their work when He comes again in the day of His manifestation (54). It must be remembered that, in the East, a shepherd does not drive his flock, but leads them. He does not send a dog after them, but calls them each by name. His care and protection is symbolized by his crook and his club, the former for the sheep and the latter for their ene-The nearest that Paul ever comes to including the nations in this figure is the single occurrence of the word "shepherd" or pastor (Eph.411). but its context shows that it is there a faded metaphor and has lost its figurative meaning, just as its Latin equivalent "pastor", which once also meant a shepherd. A pastor is not now a literal shepherd.

5 The apron was a part of a slave's uniform which distinguished him as a slave and which he put on when he meant work. Humility serves (Jn.13 1-16), and service tests humility.

The writer was loth to lose this precious promise when he began to see his place in Paul's epistles. How restful to toss all his worries on Him, and confide all to His care! But he soon found that he forfeited nothing by "losing" this passage, for the truth found in Paul's epistles eclipsed it and made it inoperative. Paul takes higher ground, and says, "Let nothing be worrying you, but in every prayer and petition let your requests be made known to God with thanksgiving, and the peace of God, being superior to every mental state, shall garrison your hearts and your apprehensions in Christ Jesus" (Phil.47). If, then, I allow nothing to worry me, how can I toss all my worries on Him? This is a specimen of the constant differences between the ministries of Peter and

10 The grace of God is indicated by the short seasons of suffering and the long eons of glory to which they are the preparation and the prelude.

The elders then among you I am entreating (who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a participant of the glory about to be revealed). shenherd the flocklet of God among you, supervising, not of compulsion, but voluntarily, according to God, nor yet avariciously, but eagerly, nor yet as lording it over the allotments, but becoming models for the flocklet, and, when the Chief Shepherd is manifested, you will be requited with an unfading

wreath of glory.

Likewise, younger men, be subject to the elder, yet all wear the servile apron of humility with one another, seeing that God is resisting the proud, yet is giving grace to the humble. Be humbled, then, under the mighty hand of God, that He may be exalting you in season, tossing your entire worry on Him, seeing that He is caring concerning you.

Be sober! Watch! seeing that your plaintiff, the Slanderer, is walking about as a roaring lion, seeking some one to swallow up: whom withstand, solid in the faith, having perceived the same sufferings completed in your brotherhood in the world.

Now the God of all grace, Who calls you into His eonian glory in Christ, while briefly suffering, will Himself be readjusting establish-

11 ing, firming, founding you. Him be glory and might for the

eons of the eons. Amen!

Through Silvanus, a faithful brother, as I am reckoning, I write briefly to you, entreating and deFAM T sadds TOYC THE

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13 Peter in Babylon is exceedingly suggestive of the apostasy of Israel. He should have been ruling in Jerusalem. Instead, we find him in the great world capital which has always been the enemy of God's people, yet which, at the time of the end, will be the center and stronghold of Israel in their final and most fearful stand against Jehovah.

posing that this is the true grace of God. Stand therein.

13 The ecclesia in Babylon, chosen together with you, is greeting you,

14 and Mark, my son. Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to you all who are in Christ. Amen!

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The introduction of the name Simeon, before Peter, and slave in addition to apostle, gives us a clue to the character of this second epistle. The emphasis is laid on practise rather than precept. It is concerned with living rather than learning.

² The recognition of God and of Jesus Christ, our Lord, is the source of grace and peace, as well as all that tends to life and devoutness. This is indicated by beginning the epistle proper by "So . . ." and by the repetition of the thought: "through the recognition of Him Who calls us to His own glory and virtue." The word "recognition" probably includes the wider range of realization and appreciation. It is a favorite word in this epistle, for it occurs again in verse 8, and again in 220. Standing, as it does, at the threshold of an epistle devoted to conduct, it teaches the important lesson that knowledge is essential to good deportment. Those who refuse to recognize God are given over to a disqualified mind to commit the whole catalogue of crime (Ro.128). The only salvation from these things is a vision of His glory and virtue, in this manner becoming a participant of the divine nature which flees from corruption. Consequently, the most powerfully practical course to pursue is to gain a grasp of God's glories and virtues, so that they may operate in us to produce their like.

⁵ The path of the saint is one of progress or apostasy. If he is not adding, he will probably be subtracting. Hence Simeon Peter exhorts his readers to advance, making each spiritual grace the container of another and a better, until they all unfold for the display of love, the highest and best of all.

⁵ Faith is the radical virtue. By it all others are possible. In the repeated groupings of graces found in the epistles, faith is invariably assigned the first place, being made to stand nearest the Source of every virtue.

10 Peter, like James, is apt to present the human side of redemption. Calling and choice are purely divine, yet their confirmation in the eyes of men depends on the evidence of ideal acts. The divine side is hidden to all but the one who is called. His conduct should SIMEON PETER, a slave and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are chancing upon equally precious faith with us, in the righteousness of our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ:

- May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the recognition of God and of Jesus Christ our Lord!
- So His divine power has presented to us all that tends to life and devoutness: through the recognition of Him Who calls us to His own
 glory and virtue: through which have been presented to us the precious and greatest promises, that through these you may become participants of the divine nature, flee-

ing from the corruption which is in

the world by lust.

Now for this very thing also, employing all diligence, in your faith supply virtue, yet in virtue knowledge, yet in knowledge self control, yet in self control endurance, yet in endurance devoutness, yet in devoutness brotherly fondness, yet in brotherly fondness love. For possessing these and increasing is constituting you that you are neither idle nor unfruitful in the recogni-

tion of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he in whom these are not present is blind, closing his eyes, getting oblivious of the cleansing from the penalty of his old sins.

Wherefore, rather, brethren, endeavor, through ideal acts, to confirm your calling and choice: for, doing these things, you should under no circumstances be tripping at 11 any time. For thus an entrance

into the eonian kingdom of our

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confirm his confession before the world.

14 In that marvelous resurrection scene in John's evangel, where our Lord commissions Peter for the ministry which he fulfills in writing these epistles, He also intimates the character of his death. Peter was to follow Him to the very end, and die like his Master, Who said, "Verily, verily, I am saying to you, when you were young you girded yourself and walked whither you would, yet, whenever you may be decrepit, you will stretch out your hands, and another shall be girding you and carrying you whither you would not" (Jn.2118). And it is immediately added, "Now this He said, signifying by what death he will be glorifying God."

16 Peter and James and John were especially chosen to accompany the Lord to the Mount of Transformation (commonly called the Transfiguration) to witness a foreglimpse of the coming kingdom and its power and magnificence. Thus they perceived undeniable evidence of its reality and glory. They heard the voice from heaven saying, "This is My beloved Son, Be hearing Whom I delight. Him!" They saw the lowly Nazarene transformed so that His face shone as the sun, and His garments became white as light. They recognized Moses and Elijah talking with Him concerning His impending exodus (Mt.171-8. Mk.92-7,Lu.928-85). Here were all the elements of the kingdom. might well represent the dead in Israel awakened from their sleep. Elijah may typify those who are living at His advent. His own face and form assume the glory which belongs to them. The power and glory of the kingdom are anticipated in this scene. It is at once a sample and an assurance of the magnificence and splendor of His millennial reign. There were seven persons present, Peter, James, and John are types of those believers on earth who shall witness the coming of the Lord and enter the kingdom. This reference to Christ's Transformation by one of the eyewitnesses is one of the internal proofs of the Petrine authorship of this epistle. 19 The day star is the coming of the Lord. The lamp is prophecy. No one

Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ will be richly supplied to you.

Wherefore I shall ever be about to be reminding you concerning these things, though you are aware of them and have been established in

13 the present truth. Now I am deeming it just, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to be rousing you by a

14 reminder, being aware that my tabernacle is to be put off swiftly, according as our Lord Jesus Christ

15 also makes evident to me. Now I shall endeavor to have you, after my exodus, to be reminded of these things, ever and anon.

For we make known to you the power and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, not following out wisely made myths, but we became spectators of His magnificence.

¹⁷ For, getting from God, the Father, honor and glory, what a voice is being carried to Him by the Glory Magnifical: "This is My beloved

18 Son, in Whom I delight!" And this voice we hear being carried out of heaven, being with Him in the holy mountain.

And we are having the prophetic word more confirmed, which you, doing ideally, are heeding (as a lamp appearing in a dingy place, till the day should be breaking and the day-star should rise) in your 20 hearts, knowing this first, that no

prophecy of scripture is becoming

²¹ its own explanation. For prophecy was not at any time carried on by the will of man, but holy men of

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can find his way in this world without the illumination of the prophetic word. All is dark without it. But prophecies themselves did not always know the import of their predictions. Now, however, that the word of God is complete, and some has been fulfilled, and each intimation may be sorted and compared with all of like tenor, the whole outline of prophecy may be readily perceived. Prophecy is not an attempt by the prophet to explain the purposes of God in current or future events. It is not the result of his observation and experience, or his interpretation of God's ways. Not the human will but God's spirit produced the words of the writers of prophecy.

The program of prophecy has gradually become clearer with added revelation. The pre-exile Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah know only one advent. In the post-exile prophets the second advent is distinguished from the first, and Israel's dispersion comes in between. Ezekiel, however, sees still further, and predicts an end to the Messianic kingdom. This is also the farthest range of Peter in his epistles and John in the Unveiling. But Paul goes far beyond, and sees a conclusion to the post-Messianic eon, when kingly government is brought to an end and the Son abdicates because all need for rule has disappeared. Then God becomes All in all. This is the climax of prophecy. It explains its purpose and solves its enigmas.

The "gloomy caverns" of Tartarus are distinct from the unseen, from gehenna, and from the lake of fire. They are the temporary dungeon of spirits,

4 Peter recounts the ancient judgments of God with a view to establishing the certainty of the impending judgments of the end time. That, too. will be a judgment on spirit beings, for Satan will be bound. It will be visited on a world which has reverted to the wickedness which drew down the deluge, and which is guilty of the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah. Then, too, the righteous shall be delivered, as Lot out of Sodom, and as Noah through the flood.

God speak, being carried on by holy spirit.

often seem obscure. The prophets 2 Yet there came to be false prophets also among the people, as among you also there will be false teachers, who will be smuggling in destructive sects, and disowning the Owner Who buys them, bringing on themselves swift destruction.

And many will be following out their wantonness, through whom the glory of the truth will be calumniated, and in greediness, with suave words, they will traffic in you, whose judgment of old is not idling, and their destruction is not nodding.

For if God spares not sinning messengers, but, thrusting them into the gloomy caverns of Tartarus, gives them up to be kept for chastening judgment, and spares not the ancient world, but guards Noah, an eighth, a herald of righteousness, bringing a deluge on the world of the irreverent, and condemns the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, reducing them to cinders by an overthrow, having placed them for an example for those about to be irreverent, and rescues just Lot, harried by the wanton behavior of the dissolute (for the just man dwelling among them, observing and hearing from day to day, tormented his just soul by lawless acts), the Lord is acquainted with the rescue of the devout out of trial, yet is keeping the unjust for the chastening in the day of 10 judgment, yet specially those go-

ing after the flesh in defiling lust

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10 No one acquainted with the world as it is, and especially the tendency of the times, but will conclude that Peter's epistles will have a very special fulfillment in the dreadful days that are to come. Even now, the revolt against authority has overthrown vast empires, and undermines all established government. Millions "despise dominion", and are drifting toward a worse despotism than any the world has ever seen. But this is most evident in the sphere of religion. The sovereignty of God is unknown and unrecognized. Whole nations defy the Deity and seek to deny His existence. And this leads to the second great sin of the end time. Loosed from the restraints of even formal religion, the world is plunging into the defilements of the flesh. The marriage bond is slack or slighted altogether. Divorces are becoming more and more frequent. The world is rapidly ripening for the time when these sins will have the sanction of religion and the worship of the wild beast will be encouraged by the gratification of the lowest lusts of the flesh.

15 The story of Balaam (Num.22-25) shows the fearful lengths men will go for reward, even in the face of divine displeasure. They are lower than the brute beasts in their rejection of God's revealed will, if it leads to preferment or pecuniary advantage.

17 This paragraph brings before us some of the same characters which are found in the sixth and tenth chapters of Hebrews. There were and will be apostates among the Circumcision who will go great lengths in following the Messiah, even as Judas did, yet finally they fall away and repudiate their profession. Our Lord had many such followers who left Him.

Recognition of the truth concerning Christ may prevail with men for a time so as to compel separation from defilements that still allure. The apostle is not contemplating such as have become participants of the divine nature, and so flee the corruption that is in the world by lust; but those whose inner malady is not healed, who have reformed under the influence of truth, and who are still curs and swine.

Audacious, given to self gratification, they are not trembling when calumniating glories, where messengers, being of greater strength and ability, are not bringing against them a calumniating judgment before the Lord. Now these, as irrational animals, born naturally for capture and corruption, calumniating in that in which they are ignorant, shall be corrupted also in their corruption, being requited with the wages of injustice.

Deeming gratification by day a luxury, they are spots and flaws, luxuriating in their love feasts, ¹⁴ carousing together with you, having the distended eyes of an adulteress, and that do not stop from sin, luring unstable souls, having a heart exercised in greediness, children of a curse.

Leaving the straight path, they were led astray, following out the path of Balaam of Bosor, who loves
 the wages of injustice, yet was exposed for his own outlawry. A voiceless donkey, uttering with a human voice, forbids the insanity of the prophet.

These are waterless springs, and mists driven by a storm, for whom the gloom of darkness has been last kept. For, uttering pompous vanity, they are luring by the lusts of the flesh, in wantonness, those who are scarcely fleeing from those who are behaving with deception; promising them freedom, they belong with slaves of corruption, for by whom anyone is discomfited, to this one he has been enslaved also. For if, while fleeing from the defile-

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It is the special function of the Circumcision epistles to reaffirm and enforce the ancient prophetic scriptures and the words of our Lord before His death and ascension. This is notably lacking in Paul's epistles. Seldom is the life of our Lord referred to, or His teaching recalled. There is little of prophetic reference. When prophets are quoted it is usually to show their harmony or agreement, rather than direct fulfillment. quotations are introduced by such connectives as "as" or "according to". This is because Paul is detailing an administration outside of the range of the prophets and beyond the scope of our Lord's ministry. Not so Peter and the Circumcision. They are concerned with the fulfillment of the prophetic predictions and are engaged in the same ministry as our Lord when on earth, for He proclaimed the kingdom as well as they.

3 Not only scoffers, but many who believe the Bible, have fallen into the error of supposing that all things have continued without change from the beginning. The great disruption chronicled in the second verse of the first of Genesis-"the earth becomes waste and sterile" (for it was not created so, Isa.4518)—has been well nigh forgotten. What system of biblical cosmogony accounts for an earth "cohering out of water and through water"? This is more in accord with some of the theories of science than theology. It seems evident from this passage, as well as the accounts in Genesis and Job, that the earth has gone through much the same processes which we observe in the present condition of It probably other planets. swathed in vapors like Venus or Jupiter, and once had rings like Saturn. The Hebrew "heavens" is dual, meaning a pair of heavens. We know that, in the new earth, there will be no seas, as on the moon or Mars. It has been and is subject to vast geologic changes, effected, in the past by water. It is stored with fire, which will be one of the means of its next great cataclysmic renovation. Fire in the heavens (perhaps a nebula) and in the earth will form the crucible for the new creation.

ments of the world by the recognition of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, yet, being again involved in these, they are being discomfited, their last state has become worse than the first. For it were better for them not to have recognized the way of righteousness, than, recognizing it, to go back again to what was behind, from the holy precept given over to them. Now the true proverb has befallen them: "A curturning back to its own vomit," and "A bathed swine to its wallowing in the mire."

This is already, beloved, the second epistle I am writing to you, inwhich I am arousing your sincere comprehension by a reminder to remind you of the declarations declared before by the holy prophets. and the precept of your apostles of the Lord and Saviour, knowing this first, that, in the last days scoffers will be coming with scoffing. going according to their own desires, and saving, "Where is the promise of His presence? For from what time the fathers were put to repose, all is continuing thus from the beginning of creation."

For they want to be oblivious of this, that there were heavens of old, and an earth cohering out of water and through water, by the word of God; through which the then world, being deluged by water, was destroyed. Yet the heavens now, and the earth, by the same word, are stored with fire, being kept for the day of the judgment and destruction of irreverent men.

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Time, with God, has none of the limitations which it has with us. The events of a day are vivid in our minds for a brief period, then they vanish and are forgotten. We know nothing of the future. But past and future are alike to God. As the psalmist says, "A thousand years in Thy sight are as yesterday when it is past" (Ps.904). We can readily recall the record of the previous day. It seems but a brief space of time. So a thousand years seems to Him. Since Peter penned these words nearly two thousand years have passed and His promise to Israel is not yet fulfilled, but there are indications that the time is near.

10 The day of the Lord, though it lasts for more than a thousand years, is treated as though its arrival is to be immediately followed by its end, in harmony with the preceding paragraph. It will come as a thief (1 Thes. 52). It will close with the great cataclysm (Un.2011;211) which ushers in the day of God, in the new creation. Two great convulsions divide the history of the heavens and the earth into three grand divisions. One is found at the forefront of revelation, this one is near its finish. The heavens and earth were destroyed by water (Gen. 12). In the future this will be effected by fire. The past was a physical re-The future will be a generation. chemical recreation. Water, in the form of seas, is found only on the present earth. It was not on, but about, the previous one. It will be absent in the third earth (Un.211). The changing character of the earth on which we live is due largely to the presence of water. It disintegrates the solid rocks. As glaciers, it grinds down the mountains. In streams, it washes the soil into the sea. This is undoubtedly a parable of the impermoral manent processes through which mankind is passing. The new earth will be unchanging, permanent. Having passed through the great crucible of the divine Alchemist, its stones will be precious gems, hard as flint, and indestructible. And this will also be a parable of the moral purity which has been purged by fire and abides. This chapter reveals the fact that the new creation will be the third earth and third heaven (2 Co. 122).

Now of this one thing you are not to be oblivious, beloved, that one day with the Lord is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one

day. The Lord is not tardy as to the promise, as some are deeming tardiness, but is patient because of you, not intending any to be destroyed, but all to make room for

repentance.

Now the day of the Lord will be arriving as a thief, in which the heavens shall be passing by with a booming noise, yet the elements will be dissolved by combustion, and the earth and the works in it will be

found. All these, then, being dissolved, what manner must you belong to in holy behavior and

12 devoutness, hoping for and hurrying the presence of the day of God, because of which the heavens, being on fire, will be dissolved, and the elements are decomposed by

13 combustion! Yet we, according to His promises, are hoping for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness is dwelling.

Wherefore, beloved, hoping for these things, endeavor to be found by Him in peace, unspotted and

¹⁵ flawless. And be deeming the patience of our Lord salvation, according as our beloved brother Paul also writes to you, according to the

16 wisdom given to him, as also in all the epistles, speaking in them concerning these things, in which are some things hard to apprehend, which the unlearned and unstable are twisting, as the rest of the scriptures also, to their own destruction.

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GCOGINAMHTHTUNAOCCMU 6000 THAT NO tO-THE OF-THE UN-PLACED 15 It is evident that Peter, great apostle though he was, could not apprehend fully the ministry of Paul. He did see, however, that the seeming delay in the setting up of the kingdom was being used by God, through Paul, and that salvation was by no means dependent upon Israel's attitude. This subject, which is merely alluded to by Peter, is fully set forth by Paul in the eleventh chapter of his epistle to the Romans.

led off with the deception of the dissolute, you should be falling from 18 your own steadfastness. Yet be growing in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

To Him be glory even now, and for the day of the eon. Amen!

CHAPTER 3

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Perhaps no greater service can be rendered to students of the writings of John than to point out their inapplicability to the present secret econ-John, just as truly as Peter omv. and James, ministered to the Circumcision, and referred to the nations as outside the sphere of fellowship (3 Jn. 7). Even when he widens the scope of blessing to include the whole world. he lays the heaviest stress on its relation to the favored nation. "He is the Propitiation concerning our sins (Israel's) yet not concerning ours only. but concerning the whole world also" $(1 Jn.2^2).$

Furthermore, while our present grace is based on the repudiation of all privilege which comes through the flesh (2 Co.516), since the nations have no physical connection with Christ. John commences his epistle by enforcing the physical evidence on which his ministry is founded. He knew Christ after the flesh for many years, and had rested in His bosom. This is the sphere into which he introduces us in his writings. In contrast to this. Paul never met Christ until He was glorified, and thus became the divine illustration of our relationship with Him.

The clue to the character and application of John's ministry, both personal and written, lies in the Lord's question to Peter (Jn.2122) "If I should want him to be remaining till I am coming, what is it to you?" The Lord did not say that he actually would remain alive until His return, but we have little room to doubt that, in spirit, this is true. His writings have special application to those who enter the kingdom without dying, and provide the doctrinal basis of the kingdom itself. This is further confirmed by the fact that, in his apocalyptic visions, John enters the kingdom, in spirit.

And this is the reason why his writings have made such an appeal to the saints of today. During the kingdom eon blessing will flow through Israel to the nations. So in John we have God's love for the world (Jn.316) and Christ's propitiation is world-wide in

its scope. But never is there any hint anywhere of blessing for the nations during Israel's apostasy, as is the case in the Pauline epistles.

It is a fact but little realized that John's writings were not penned until after the death of Paul and Peter and most of the saints who come before us in the Scriptures. They all preached and taught without having ever seen the gospel or the epistles of John. Paul's marvelous ministries were not only carried out without these writings, but he followed lines of truth decidedly distinct from that of John's record. They are ours to read and interpret in their true setting, but not to apply to a time for which they are neither fitted nor intended. John's gospel and epistles were written too late to be used by most of the Circumcision in the past, hence have their special sphere and application in the future. John has not yet come to his own, and will have to tarry for his fullest ministry till the Lord comes.

The subject of these epistles is life in the saints rather than life in Christ. This life manifests itself in conduct which must satisfy the severe tests applied for the exposure of a spurious spirituality. The professor is tested as to where he walks (16), his profession of sinlessness (18) and perfection (110), his knowledge of God (24), his remaining in Christ (26), his love of the brethren (29) and his love of God (420). John's "if we should say," is like James' test "If anyone should be saving." John sets God before the believer as Light. Love and Spirit. while Paul sets the believer before God in Christ.

John's teaching approximates that of Hebrews in many respects. It puts Jesus Christ as a Entreater between the Father and His children as Hebrews puts the Son of God as Priest between God and believing Israelites.

John says very little about himself. In his gospel there is only one John—the Baptist. He speaks of himself as one whom Jesus loved (Jn.13²³;21²⁰). A single page of Paul is more self-revealing than all John has written, and this picture of our pattern (1 Ti. 1¹⁶) is given for our imitation.

The ministry of John is based upon his personal acquaintance with the Lord in the flesh. Indeed, this was the prime qualification of all the twelve apostles (Ac.121). They were to bear witness to the evidence of their senses, both before and after His resurrection. They saw and handled Him, and heard His words of life. Paul, the one to whom the present secret administration of God's grace was revealed (Eph.39), had no personal contact, and did not know Christ until after His ascension and glorification. The first few verses are a condensed summary of John's account of our Lord's life. In it, as here, the Lord is presented under the figure of the divine Expression, or Word. In Paul's epistles He is set forth as the Image of God (2 Co.44; Col.115). John appeals to our ears, Paul to our eyes. Job contrasts the two, when he says to God: "I heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear, yet now my eye sees Thee" (Job 425). As in nature sight is a much higher sensation than sound. so we have a much loftier revelation of God through Christ as His Image than as His Expression. The Expression, or Word, became flesh (Jn.114) in order to declare God.

- Jesus Christ is the title of our Lord's humiliation, the time to which John refers. Christ Jesus is the title of His exaltation, which, as viewed in John's writings is still future, but which, for us is His present place. So that our fellowship is not with Jesus Christ but with Christ Jesus.
- ⁵ God is spirit. God is light. God is love. The first is a fact. The last two are figures, but they reveal His heart to our hearts.
- The Circumcision evangel demands repentance, baptism (Ac.238) works (Ja.214), and good conduct, and conferred a probational pardon, calling for continual cleansing. knew nothing of the justification by faith which is ours in Christ Jesus (Ro.81), in which all possibility of condemnation vanishes and leads to an experience altogether above that here set forth by the apostle. We have sinned, but are justified or vindicated, without reference to our own conduct. which is based upon this favor.

THAT which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we gaze at, and which our hands handle, is concerned with the word ² of life. And the life was manifested, and we have seen and are testifying and reporting to you the eonian life which was toward the Father and was manifested to us. That which we have seen and heard we are reporting to you, that you also may be having fellowship with us, and yet this fellowship of ours is with the Father and with 4 His Son, Jesus Christ. And these things we are writing that our joy

may be full. And this is the message which we have heard from Him, and are informing you, that God is light, and darkness in Him there is none.

If we should be saying that we are having fellowship with Him and should be walking in darkness, we are lying and are not doing the ⁷ truth. Yet if we should be walking in the light as He is in the light, we are having fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, is cleansing us from every sin.

If we should be saying that we have no sin we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we should be avowing our sins, He is faithful and just that He may be pardoning us our sins and should be cleansing us from all injustice.

10 If we should be saying that we have not sinned we are making Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

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Fellowship with God as the Light leads to the discovery of all that is of the darkness. Sin in the saint is made manifest by the light. Away from the light sin may not be detected: it may be unknown. The Circumcision have constant recourse to the pardoning and cleansing virtues of the blood. Under the present reign of grace sin is always submerged by God's favor, so that no pardon is required or possible. Some will say that this puts a premium on sin. This is the very objection which is discussed and refuted in the sixth chapter of the epistle to the Romans. But it works out the very opposite in practise. Man is a contradiction. When the law says "Thou shalt not" it awakens in him a desire to do the very thing that God prohibits. And it is a blessed fact that, when the sluice gates of grace are opened wide so that there is no condemnation no matter what he does, he loses the desire to sin and finds in the very grace which guarantees immunity a latent power which enables him to rise above it.

The rendering "Advocate", in the sense of an attorney before a judge, is not at all in keeping with the character God assumes here. An advocate does not practise before a Father. The Revisers recognized this, and put "Helper", and "Par-"Comforter", aclete" in their margin as alternatives. It is rendered "Comforter" four times in John's evangel. The verb covers the territory which we assign to the two words "entreat" and "console". A paraclete is either an entreater or a consoler. The latter hardly seems possible in connection with sin. We have made it an Entreater in this passage and a Consoler in John's evangel.

The strong contrast indicated by the emphatic "ours" should be noted. It is between Israel, the favored nation, and the whole world. Under the law propitiation was confined to them, but in the great antitype it embraces all mankind.

15 John speaks of the world oftener than all other writers of the Greek scriptures put together. It means to him the prevailing system lying in the wicked one (519) which knows not God, hates His children, and is filled with lust and vanity. Fellowship with

not be sinning. And if anyone should be sinning, we have an Entreater with the Father, Jesus Christ the Just. And He is the propitiation, concerned with our sins.

yet not concerned with ours only, but concerned with the whole world also

And in this are we knowing that we know Him, if we should be keeping His precepts. He who is saying that "I know Him" and is not keeping His precepts, is a liar, and the truth of God is not in him. Yet who ever may be keeping His word, truly in him the love of God has been perfected.

In this we are knowing that we are in Him: he who is saying that he is remaining in Him ought also himself to be walking according as He walks. Beloved, I am not writing a new precept to you, but an old precept, which you had from the beginning. The old precept is the word which you hear.

Again, I am writing a new precept to you, which is true in Him and in you, seeing that the darkness is passing by, and the true light already is appearing. He who is saying that he is in the light and is hating his brother is a liar and is 10 in darkness hitherto. He who is loving his brother is remaining in the light, and there is no snare in 11 him. Yet he who is hating his brother is in darkness and is walking in darkness, and is not aware whither he is going, seeing that the darkness blinds his eyes.

I am writing to you, little children, seeing that your sins have been forgiven you through His 13 name. I am writing to you, fathers, seeing that you know Him Who is from the beginning. I am writing

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God is forfeited by attachment to it. and the proof of evil is that it comes into competition with the love of God. In spirit on Patmos he has seen this world pass away and give place to one which will be in harmony with God. 18 The term "antichrist" occurs only in John's epistles. The prefix "anti" now has the meaning of "against" and antichrist signifies one who is against Christ. But "anti" originally meant "instead of", and this is its significant cance in "antichrist". An antichrist is one who takes Christ's place, a substitute or counterfeit christ. John speaks of them as coming out from amongst the circle of the saints.

The indiscriminate use of this term for the coming prince of Daniel (Dan. 926), the lawless one of Paul (2 Thes. 28), and the first wild beast of the Unveiling (Un.131) is to be deplored. No clear conceptions can come of confusing these titles. Antichrist, as a substitute for Christ, is probably to be identified with the second wild beast which had horns like a lambkin (Un. 1311). This one only has a likeness to Christ and deceives those dwelling on the earth.

The antichrists are probably identical with the false christs which were foretold by our Lord (Mt.2424; Mk.13 22) who would deceive, if it were possible, the very elect. The spirit of antichrist is already in the world and may be known by certain definite characteristics. One is the denial that Jesus is the Christ. The second is the disowning of the Father as well as the Son. The third is the disavowal of the flesh of Christ, that He has come in flesh in the past (1 Jn.43) and that He is coming in flesh in the future (2 Jn. 7). Only those who definitely deny these things are in reality possessedof the spirit of antichrist. It should not be applied to all who oppose Christ, or who teach false doctrine, but rather to those who deceive by pretending to take the place of Christ. The term is never associated with open opposition but rather with secret deception. Whoever, and whatever, displaces Christ is imbued with the spirit of antichrist. It will culminate in the future manifestation of one who will be received by Israel as their long desired Messiah.

to you, youths, seeing that you have conquered the wicked one. I write to you, little children, seeing that you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, seeing that you know Him Who is from the beginning. I write to you, youths, seeing that you are strong and the word of God is remaining in you and you have conquered the wicked one.

Be not loving the world, neither what is in the world. If anyone should be loving the world, the love of the Father is not in him, seeing that everything in the world, the desire of the flesh, and the desire of the eyes, and the ostentation of living, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world is passing by, and its desire, yet he who is doing the will of God is remaining for the eon.

hour, and, according as you hear that the antichrist is coming, now also there have come to be many antichrists, whence we know that it is the last hour. They come out from us, but they were not of us, for if they were of us, they would have remained with us. But it was that they may be manifested that they are not all of us. And you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all are aware.

I write not to you seeing that you are not acquainted with the truth, but that you are acquainted with it, and that no lie is of the ²² truth. Who is a liar, if not he who is denying, [saying] that "Jesus is not the Christ"? This one is the antichrist, who is disowning the ²³ Father and the Son. Every one disowning the Son neither has the Father. He who is avowing the Son has the Father also.

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25 The life eonian is life for the course of the eons. It will last during the millennial kingdom and the following eon, up to the consummation, when death is abolished. It would be of little import to promise "eternal" life, for this will become the portion of all when there is no death. special portion of the saints is life up to the consummation, during the eons, for it is only during the times of the eons that death has any place in God's universe. Moreover, this eonian life is not for this eon, but for the last two eons. It does not commence now, or God's saints would never die. It is impossible to speak of being in present possession of "eternal" or "everlasting" life without claiming immunity from death. None of the saints who have died had "everlasting" life, or they would not now be dead. All had eonian life, which will be enjoyed by them in the resurrection at the presence of Christ.

Relationship to God is expressed by various figures of speech. The Father has children by regeneration and sons by the new creation. Entrance into the kingdom on earth for the Circumcision is aptly figured by a new beget-They will go through a process corresponding to a birth to fit them for the millennial kingdom (Jn.33). Such a change would not be radical enough to fit us for the heavenly realms, so Paul speaks of a secret connected with the resurrection, by which we are to be changed from terrestrial to celestial creatures (1 Co. 15^{51}). Hence we are not in the regeneration, but in a new creation in Christ (2Co.517). As in John three sixteen, John stresses the manner of God's love. It is not sons here, but children. It is the affection of the family circle. God is known as Father.

² Christ in resurrection, before His ascension, is an index of what glory awaits the Circumcision in the kingdom. They shall see Him and be like Him. Christ in glory, after His ascension, as Paul beheld Him on the Damascus road, shows what surpassing glory awaits us when we are transfigured into the body of His glory (Phil.3²¹).

Let that which you hear from the beginning be remaining in you. If that which you hear from the beginning should be remaining in you, you also shall be remaining in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise which He promises us: the life eonian.

These things I write to you concerning those who are deceiving you. And the anointing which you obtained from Him is remaining in you, and you have no need that anyone should be teaching you, but as His anointing is teaching you concerning all, and is true, and is no lie, according as it teaches you also, be remaining in it.

And now, little children, be remaining in it, that, should He be manifested, we should be having boldness and not be put to shame before Him in His presence. If you should be perceiving that He is just, you know that everyone also who is doing righteousness has been begotten of Him.

Lo! what manner of love the Father has given us, that we may be called children of God! And we are! Therefore the world is not knowing us, seeing that it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we children of God, and it was not as vet manifested what we shall be. We are aware that, if He should be manifested, we shall be like Him, seeing that we shall see Him according as He is. And every one who has this expectation on Him is purifying himself, according as He is pure.

Every one who is doing sin is doing lawlessness also, and sin is lawlessness. And you are aware that He was manifested that He should be taking away our sins, and

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8 The title "Slanderer" has far more 6 aptness than is at first apparent. Satan is known to us only through his work. He never appears otherwise than as the evil creature indicated by his titles. From his very beginning his work has 7 been to oppose and destroy. In Eden's garden he is seen as the Slanderer of God. He imputed a false motive to the commandment not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He aimed directly at the character of God and brought in the estrangement. On the other hand, he is also the Slanderer of the saints (1 Pt. 58). As such, he accused Job falsely (Job 25)

Sin was introduced and is being perpetuated by his slanders. Wrong thoughts and mistaken notions concerning God are at the root of all law-lessness, and lawlessness is sin. God is misunderstood, misjudged and hated because of the Slanderer's lies. Hence the Son of God has come to annul his acts by making God known.

The work of the Slanderer is really one of the essential factors for a true knowledge of God. Sin is a necessary prelude to salvation, and estrangement precedes reconciliation, and it is only through these that God's heart could be bared and His affections shared by mankind. But the office of sin and estrangement is not effected until they are annulled and replaced by righteousness and peace.

The purpose for which the Son of God was manifested was to undo what the Slanderer had done. We do not see this purpose accomplished yet. It will have a partial fulfillment in the next eon, when the Slanderer will be bound. Its complete culmination will not be seen until the consummation when death, the Slanderer's crowning success, is abolished, and he himself, together with all creation, will be reconciled to God (Col.120). Thus it is that the Son of God will completely annul the acts of the Slanderer.

10 Two spiritual paternities are indicated by conduct, righteousness and love on the one side and unrighteousness and hate on the other. The latter tendency reaches its goal in murder (12) and the former in self-sacrifice (16).

6 in Him is no sin. Every one who is remaining in Him is not sinning. Every one who is sinning has not seen Him, neither has known Him.

Little children, let no one be deceiving you. He who is doing righteousness is just, according as He is just. Yet he who is doing sin is of the Slanderer, seeing that the Slanderer is sinning from the beginning. For this was the Son of God manifested, that He should be annulling the acts of the Slanderer.

Every one who is begotten of God

Every one who is begotten of God is not doing sin, seeing that His seed is remaining in him, and he cannot sin, seeing that he has been begotten of God. In this are apparent the children of God and the children of the Slanderer: everyone who is not doing righteousness and who is not loving his brother, is not of God, seeing that this is the

message which you hear from the beginning, that we may be loving 12 one another, not according as Cain was of the wicked one and slays his brother. And for what does he slay him? Seeing that his acts were wicked, yet his brother's just.

Marvel not, brethren, if the world is hating you. We are aware that we have proceeded out of death into life, seeing that we are loving our brethren. He who is not loving is remaining in death.

Every one who is hating his brother is a mankiller, and you are aware.

is a man-killer, and you are aware that no man-killer has eonian life remaining in him.

that He lays down His soul for our sakes. We also ought to lay down our souls for the sake of the brethren.

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18 This is a warning against a danger of the so-called "social gospel". It makes mere philanthropic talk and social theory a substitute for personal deeds of compassion. True beneficence is the product of a regenerate and instructed heart, and not of ostentatious and superfluous organization that seeks to raise the masses while it neglects the heart needs of the individual.

23 This precept seems almost an anticlimax, for believing is usually put down as entirely outside the category of practical virtues. Yet believing is the most practical exercise in the world. All action is dependent on belief; all effort is qualified by it. Eve believed the serpent and opened the sluice gates of sin. Christ believed God and secured salvation. The fall resulted from lack of faith in God and every phase of the return to Him is founded on faith.

Take the practical precepts of the preceding paragraphs. One who heartly believes God has the most powerful incentive possible to please Him by relieving the distress of his needy brother, for his faith would find an impelling motive in the love which belief has engendered. True faith is not idle: it acts. But the important point is the fact that the quality of its acts meets the approval of God.

Furthermore, as is implied in the second part of the precept, true faith is the most fertile field of love. It is only as the love of God is realized that it is possible to display it to others. It is intensely practical to recognize this, for every effort to cultivate love apart from faith will be fruitless. If, then, more and greater love is needed, it is to be found in the fuller appreciation of God's love, not in the contemplation of our own.

The only true standard for testing spirits is the written revelation of God and its testimony to the living revelation, which became flesh and remains flesh. In this passage the reference is to His coming in the past. In John's second epistle he warns against the deceivers who are not avowing Jesus Christ coming in flesh—that is, in the future. In both cases those who make Him a spirit are associated with the spirit of antichrist (2 Jn.7).

Now whoever may be having the world's living, and may be beholding his brother in need, and should be locking his compassions from him—how is the love of God remaining in him? Little children, we should not be loving in word, neither in tongue, but in act and

And in this shall we be knowing that we are of the truth and shall be persuading our hearts in front of Him, seeing that, if our heart should be censuring us, God is greater than our heart and is knowing all.
 Beloved, if our heart should not be

censuring us, we have boldness to²² ward God, and whatever we should
be requesting, we are obtaining
from Him, seeing that we are keeping His precepts and are doing
what is pleasing before Him.

And this is His precept, that we should be believing in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and may be loving one another according as He gives us a precept. And he who is keeping His precepts is remaining in Him, and He in him. And in this we are knowing that He is remaining in us, by the spirit which He gives us.

4. Beloved, be not believing every spirit, but be testing the spirits, if they are of God, seeing that many false prophets have come out into ² the world. In this you are knowing the spirit of God: every spirit which is avowing Jesus Christ ³ having come in flesh is of God, and every spirit which is not avowing Jesus the Lord having come in flesh is not of God. And this is of the

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The spirit of antichrist is the spirit of the world. It does not want the Christ of the Scriptures, but prefers some substitute more suited to its taste. This spirit has come to pervade, not only the world, but the nominal church, which has become largely a religious world. In it rites and ceremonies are substituted for the salvation of Christ, the energy of the flesh takes the place of the power of the spirit, and the wisdom of men displaces the wisdom of God. The world is to be saved by social service and sanitation and reconciled by reform. Everywhere are signs that the majority of the churches have lost faith in God's Christ and are attempting to find some better means of carrying on God's work than through the power of His

We are never told that God is justice, or God is power, or God is wis-These are His attributes, not His essence. The distinction is of vital import, in the conflicting maze of reasoning concerning God's ways and words. Justice and power and wisdom are relative, but love is absolute. He is never so just as when He justifies the unjust, for that is in line with love. He is never so strong as when weakness overpowers human strength, for that links it to love. He is never so wise as when His foolishness confounds the wisdom of men, for that glorifies love. All His attributes appear and withdraw at the beck of love. All serve it, and never go counter to its commands. We cannot reason that God will do thus and so because He is just, or strong or wise. Love may not give leave. But we can safely lay our heads on the bosom of His love and there learn the great lesson that He IS love, and has both the power and wisdom to carry out the dictates of His affection. What clearer proof can be given that all that He has done and is doing is leading up to that grand ultimate when He will be All in all, and love will rest in being loved?

9-10 Consistently with the era for which John writes he does not mention grace. The design of the incarnation is the manifestation of God's love, which proves to be no idle display but a transforming energy.

antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and is now al
ready in the world. You are of God, little children, and you have conquered them, seeing that greater is He Who is in you than he who is in the world. They are of the world, therefore they are speaking of the world and the world is hearing them. We are of God. He who is knowing God is hearing us. He who is not of God is not hearing us. By this we are knowing the spirit of truth and the spirit of de-

ception.

Beloved, we may be loving one another, seeing that love is of God, and everyone who is loving God has been begotten of God, and is knowing God. He who is not loving knew not God, seeing that God is love. In this was manifested the love of God among us, that God has dispatched His only begotten Son into the world that we should be living through Him. In this is love, not that we love God, but that He loves us, and dispatches His Son, a propitiation concerned with our sins.

Beloved, if God loves us thus, we also ought to be loving one another. No one has ever gazed upon God. If we should be loving one another, God is remaining in us,
and His love is perfected in us. In this we are knowing that we are remaining in Him, and He in us, seeing that He has given us of His
spirit. And we have gazed [upon Him], and are testifying that the Father has dispatched the Son, the

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17 The day of judgment here spoken of is not the so-called "general judgment", of which the Scriptures know nothing, but one of the many judgments which it makes known. It is difficult to imagine this judgment in some far-off future day. It is spoken of as a time when love will give boldness and cast out fear. As the believer of this present economy cannot by any means come into condemnation, and shall not enter any judgment, we shall do well to leave this experience with the Circumcision. to whom John wrote. They will enter the day of judgment which precedes the day of the Lord. They will pass through the terrible tribulations portrayed in the Unveiling. above will conspire with the earth beneath to pour out God's hoarded wrath upon the earth. The earth will reel, the stars will fall, the elements will be charged with death. In such a time there will be much meaning to the passage we are considering. Nothing but perfect love, that is, love in the maturity of its powers, will be able to stand unshakable in that day.

19 The inculcation of love to God is of little avail, unless first of all His love has been expounded and finds a place in our hearts. It should be the aim of the evangelist and teacher to elaborate God's love in the gift of His Son. in the salvation which He has provided, in the mercy or grace which attends it, and in the future bliss which it will provide, and the nearness to Himself which it involves. The power of such a presentation will produce a responsive love in all who believe, such as could by no means be provoked by exhortations or commands.

The new birth is confined to the Circumcision, nevertheless, as we also are members of God's family, it should be natural for us to love all who know him as their Father. This should break through all barriers of church or creed, race or nationality, for spiritual kinship is stronger than any natural tie. Children of God are one by a permanent and indissoluble tie, and the renewed life is put under the stimulus and inspiration of the greatest of all relationships.

Saviour of the world. Who ever should be avowing that Jesus is the Son of God, God is remaining in

16 him and he in God. And we know and have believed the love which God is having in us. God is love, and he who is remaining in love is remaining in God, and God is remaining in him.

In this has love been perfected with us, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, seeing that, according as *He* is, so are *we* also in this world. Fear is not in love, but perfect love is casting out fear, seeing that fear has chastening. Now he who is fearing has not been

19 perfected in love. We are loving God, seeing that He first loves us.

20 If anyone should be saying that "I am loving God", and should be hating his brother, he is a liar, for he who is not loving his brother whom he has seen cannot be loving God

²¹ Whom he has not seen. And this precept have we from Him, that he who is loving God may be loving his brother also.

5 Everyone who is believing that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten of God. And everyone who is loving Him Who begets is loving him also who has been begotten by

Him. In this we are knowing that we are loving the children of God, whenever we may be loving God and

may be doing His precepts. For this is the love of God, that we may be keeping His precepts. And His

precepts are not heavy, seeing that everyone begotten of God is conquering the world. And this is the

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6 It is a remarkable fact that the word testify is used concerning the Lord's baptism in water (Jn.134), and concerning His crucifixion (Jn.1935), and here again of the spirit (6). This is confirmed by the statement of the seventh verse. Three are testifying, the spirit, and the water and the blood. First there was His baptism in water accompanied by the testimony of John the Baptist as well as the descending dove and the voice from heaven, saying, "This is My Son, the Beloved in Whom I delight" (Mt. 317). At His crucifixion one of the soldiers punctures His side with a lance head, and immediately blood and water came out (Jn.1934). After His glorification, the spirit which He poured forth testified to His exaltation. that we have testimony to His anointing, to His death, and to His exaltation. These three unite to prove that Jesus is the Son of God. This threefold testimony concerning God's Son is stronger than any mere human evidence. It was given at the very commencement of His ministry, and again at its close. Nothing in between these two points contradicts this testimony, but much that He did and said confirmed it. Only the Son of God could deal with the demons and eject them. He alone could command the elements. The quaking earth at His crucifixion convinced the centurion, who exclaimed "Truly this was the Son of

11 John, the beloved disciple, is dead. How then could he insist so strongly that he had "everlasting" life, and that all who are not believing this have made God a liar? It is evident that he did not have what we would understand by "everlasting" life or he would still be living. The rendering "eonian" avoids this difficulty. life does not commence until the resurrection and lasts until death is no longer in action, at the consummation at the close of the eonian times. It will be, in effect, without end, but it would be foolish to predicate life when there is no death.

13 As in his gospel (2031) so here John states his purpose in writing. The epistle aims to confirm the faith of believers, to deepen in their hearts a knowledge of security, and to establish that peace and confidence in God

conquest which conquers the world:

Now who is he who is conquering the world if not he who is believing that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is He Who is coming through water and blood and spirit—Jesus Christ—not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood. And it is the spirit which is testifying, seeing that the spirit is the truth,

seeing that there are three that are
 testifying, the spirit, and the water,
 and the blood, and the three are

for the one thing.

If we are obtaining the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, seeing that this is the testimony of God, that He has testified concerning His Son. He who is believing into the Son of God has the testimony in himself: he who is not believing God has made Him a liar, seeing that he has not believed into the testimony which God has testified concerning His ¹¹ Son. And this is the testimony.

that God gives us eonian life, and 12 this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life. He who has not the Son of God has not the life.

These things I write to you that you who are believing into the name of the Son of God may be perceiving that you have eonian life. And this is the boldness which we have toward Him, that if we should be requesting anything according to

15 His will, He is hearing us. And should we be aware that He is hearing us, whatever we may be requesting, we are aware that we have the requests which we have requested from Him.

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which is essential to unselfish service. Such assurance belongs of right to all "who are believing in the name of the Son of God". Knowledge of God's gift translates itself into confidence toward God, which asks great things of God, so releasing his power and becoming the agent of his purposes.

16 The sin to death is probably the same as that of the sixth and tenth of Hebrews-apostasy from the faith of Christ, or, in view of the times for which this is written, the reception of the emblem of the wild beast (Un. 1410). That this is the setting in which this passage is to be interpreted is further suggested by the phrase in the nineteenth verse, "the whole world is lying in the wicked one". This will be especially true in the time of the end. Furthermore, we have the striking conclusion of the epistle, which can hardly be understood in any other light. "Little children, guard yourselves from idols." What idols? Does it not seem clear that the apostle, with prophetic eye, is anticipating that marvelous image, which all will be compelled to worship under pain of death? (Un.1315).

his brother sinning a sin not to death, he shall be requesting and He will be giving life to him—to those sinning not to death. There is a sin to death: I am not saying that he should be asking concerning that. All injustice is sin, and

there is a sin not to death.

We are aware that everyone who

has been begotten of God is not sinning, but he who is begotten of God is keeping himself, and the wicked ¹⁹ one is not touching him. We are aware that we are of God, and the whole world is lying in the wicked ²⁰ one. Yet we are aware that the Son of God is arriving, and has given us a comprehension, that we are knowing the True One, and we are in the True One, in His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eonian life.

Little children, guard your-

selves from idols!

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- ¹ It is a striking fact that John never appeals to his apostleship in his epistles. In this short note, as well as in the next one, he is simply an elder. This accords with the private character of this missive, yet it undoubtedly reflects the waning authority of the twelve apostles as the apostasy of the chosen nation developed. They are not given any place in Jerusalem in the latter part of the book of Acts.
- The main characteristics of the Circumcision epistles reappear in this brief letter. There is the emphasis on conduct and the physical aspect of truth. The very brevity of the letter tells us that the elder much preferred to convey his message in person. Even if we should take the lady as a type of Israel, the tie which is recognized is a physical one. In all this there is a great contrast with the latest ministry of Paul.
- The difference in viewpoint between John and Paul is seen in their attitude toward the law. In one case "he who is loving another has fulfilled law" (Ro.13*). In the other love is the motive that they may be walking according to His precepts. In one case there is emancipation from law. In the other there is ability to fulfill law. God will write the law on their hearts, under the new covenant (Heb. 81°). We are not under law, but under grace (Ro.615). We were exempted from the law . . . so that it is for us to be slaving in newness of spirit and not in oldness of letter (Ro.76).
- The principal object of this letter seems to be a warning against those who spiritualize the coming of Christ, and deny His physical appearance in the future. In the first epistle it is "having come" (42). Here the present participle is used—"coming"—and can refer only to His manifestation in the day of the Lord. (See Mt.1628, 2430, 2664, Mk.1326, 1462, Lu.2127.) This involves the great truth of His physical resurrection and ascension, and confirms the literal understanding of the prophecy that "And His feet stand in that day on the mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem from the east" (Zech. 144).

Truth is emphasized in this as love is emphasized in the third epistle. The many deceivers cause grave con-

- THE ELDER to the chosen lady and her children, whom I am loving in truth, and not I only, but all also, who have known the truth, because of the truth which is remaining in us, and shall be with us for the con.
- With us will be grace, mercy, peace from God, the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.
- 4 I WAS OVERJOYED that I have found of your children walking in truth, according as we obtained a precept from the Father. now I am asking you, lady, not as writing a new precept to you, but the precept which we have from the beginning, that we may be loving one another. And this is love, that we may be walking according to His precepts. This is the precept, according as you hear from the beginning, that you may be walking in it, seeing that many deceivers came out into the world, who are not avowing Jesus Christ coming in flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. Be looking to yourselves, lest you should be destroying your work, but that you may be getting full wages.

Everyone who is taking the lead and not remaining in the teaching of Christ has not God. He who is remaining in the teaching, this one has both the Father and the Son.

10 If anyone is coming to you and is not bringing this teaching, be not taking him into your home, and say

11 not to him "Rejoice!" For he who is saying to him to be rejoicing is participating in his wicked acts.

Having much to be writing you, I resolved not to do it with paper and

6 one-another

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cern. Truth is imperiled and is now to be made a test of fellowship and a condition of offering hospitality (10). It will not be a time of recovery of truth but of its perversion. The test of fellowship in the present is conduct and not doctrine.

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ink, but I am expecting to be coming to you and to speak to you mouth to mouth, that your joy may be full.

13 The children of your chosen sister are greeting you.

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- ² The prosperity of the soul must not be confounded with spiritual prosper-Like the salvation of the soul (1 Pt.19), it refers to that physical enjoyment and satisfaction which will be fully known in the coming kingdom. The Circumcision are promised all physical blessing on the earth; we are blessed with every spiritual blessing among the celestials (Eph.13). Such a salvation as this is not at all suited to our calling above in Christ Jesus.
- "Getting nothing from the nations" is positive proof of the Jewish character of this note. If this were literally obeyed by those who proclaim the truth today, they would have no support whatever. This statement is like a flash of light in a dark place. It shows us that, in early days, there were two entirely distinct churches, one connected with the kingdom proclamation and the hope of Israel, which has since passed away, and the other connected with the preaching of Paul to the nations.

Much of the confusion today is the result of mingling truth intended for one church into that which belongs to the other. The truth found in the Circumcision epistles will come into play again after the present administration of grace has come to an end.

It is significant that any man would dare to oppose an apostle. phes evidently did it in order to secure for himself the highest place in the ecclesia. There is no suggestion of any difference in doctrine. spirit, which was severely condemned by our Lord, has been the cause of much harm to the saints. True servants of the Lord are taught by His example, and do not desire to exalt themselves, knowing well that He will abase such, and will Himself exalt all who truly deserve it in that day. Diotrephes exalted himself and, as a result, his name has been a by-word down the centuries since. Demetrius does not seem to have thought of himself yet his name is honored and his place a permanent one in the annals of the good.

Three typical characters. Diotrephes, and Demetrius supply the topics of the letter. "The elder, Gaius", showed fidelity and hospitality. Pride THE ELDER, to Gaius, the beloved, whom I am loving in truth:

Beloved, concerning all I am wishing that you be prospered and sound, according as your soul is prospered. For I was overjoyed at the coming of the brethren and your testimony to the truth, according

as you are walking in truth. I am having no greater joy than this, that I am hearing of my children

walking in the truth.

Beloved, you are doing a faithful thing whatever you should work for the brethren, and strangers at that, who testify of your love before the ecclesia, to whom you will be doing ideally by sending them forward worthily of God, for they come forth for the sake of the Name, getting nothing from the nations. We, then, ought to be taking up with such, that we may become fellow workers in the truth.

I write somewhat to the ecclesia, but Diotrephes, who is fond of being foremost among them, is not re-10 ceiving us. Therefore, if I should be coming, I shall be reminding him of his acts which he is doing, babbling about us with wicked words, and not being sufficed with this, he is not receiving the brethren besides, and is forbidding those who are intending to, and is casting them out of the ecclesia.

¹¹ Beloved, do not be imitating the evil, but the good. He who is doing good is of God. who is doing evil has not seen God.

¹² Demetrius has been testified to by all, and by the truth itself. Now we also are testifying, and you are aware that our testimony is true.

I had much to write to you, but do not want to be writing to you with ink and pen.

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ink AND REED to-von of place seems to be the sin of Diotrephes. He rails against John and refuses his message, excommunicating from the church those who receive the brethren. Demetrius receives a triple commendation. He is testified to by all, by the truth, and by John.

- Yet I am expecting to see you immediately, and we will be talking mouth to mouth.
- Peace be to you! The friends are greeting you. Greet the friends by name.

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14 TO-BE-WRITING I-AM-EXPECTING YET immediately

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As Jude speaks of the apostles (17), he is not the apostle of this name (Jn. 1422). Neither was James, his brother, an apostle, for James and John were the two sons of Zebedee (Mt.2637). The other James was not prominent enough to be referred to in this way. So Jude was evidently the brother of James, the Lord's brother, who occupied by far the most prominent place among the saints of the Circumcision, although he was not an apostle. This makes Jude himself a brother of the Lord.

This fact throws much light on the character of its teaching, its harmony with the other Circumcision epistles, and its strong contrast with the later teaching of the apostle Paul. Paul repudiates even the distant physical bond existing between him and the Lord, and bases all on a spiritual relationship in grace. Jude deals with the judgment of those who are closely united to Him in the flesh.

While the apostasy here set forth is not to be applied to the Uncircumcision during the present period of grace, its beginnings can be clearly seen among the Jews, as God is gathering them from the nations and restoring them to their own land. As in the exodus from Egypt, He will deal with the nation of Israel as a whole, yet destroy the apostates among them

during the era of His indignation. With this in view, Jude addresses this epistle to the faithful, lest they, too, become involved in the apostasy.

Unlike those to whom Paul writes these will not have justification, but only a pardon of sins, which can be revoked. Hence even believers among the Circumcision may fall away, especially during the fearful afflictions of the time of the end.

The framework shows that the main theme, the judgment of apostasy, is presented, as usual, from the divine side first and then reviewed, in inverse order, from the human aspect.

From verse fifteen, as shown by the framework, we return over the same ground as we came, but from a different viewpoint. In the former division all was viewed in its Godward aspect: then we look on the manward side. First we have the mercy from God (2), lastly the mercy shown to man (21-23). And so with each subject.

The closing ascription is in close harmony with the epistle. Glory, majesty, might and authority belong to God when He is executing His strange work of judging the earth and inaugurating the reign of His Christ, as is set forth in detail in the book of His unveiling.

FRAMEWORK OF JUDE

Called and kept 1

Mercy from God 2

Contend for the faith 3

Barter, disown, before 4

Reminder—prophets 5-7

Dreamers 8-13

The Lord's Coming in

Judgment 14,15

Murmurers 16

Reminder—apostles 17

Scoffers of the last time 18,19

Build selves in faith 20

Mercy on others 21-28

Guarded and established 24,25

GODWARD

MANWARD

¹ Jude's stress on human relationships is very strong, especially as James, his brother, gained the ascendancy among the Circumcision because of his physical relationship to the Lord. Even Peter and John were eclipsed by James, in the latter part of Acts, though he was not even an apostle.

The absence of grace from this salutation is very striking. As it will have its prime fulfilment in an era of divine indignation, nothing higher

than mercy is possible.

This faith, once given over to the saints, is the evangel of the Circumcision (Ga.27) which was entrusted to Peter and the twelve apostles. It is radically distinct from the evangel of the Uncircumcision, entrusted to Paul. The error of the present day, of mixing their mercy into the present grace, will have its counterpart when they seek to mingle our grace with their mercy. Then the usual objection to grace will be fulfilled, for, being out of place, it will degenerate into a license to do evil, and lead to insubordination. Now, the transcendent grace of God is the most powerful incentive to a godly life; then it will be an excuse for lax morals. Misplaced truth is mighty error.

The present day decadence of morals and contempt for government is but an index of the trend of the apostasy in Israel in the last days. As in the exodus, where all Israel was redeemed out of Egypt, yet nearly all bleached their bones in the wilderness, so it will be again. Only a remnant will enter the kingdom, for lack of faith and following the flesh.

The word "habitation" is used but once elsewhere, and then it refers to the glorified human body (2 Co.52). By such means alone could the angels commit an unnatural act comparable

to the sin of Sodom.

The destruction of Sodom and the surrounding cities is still apparent to all who visit the region. In this way these cities are experiencing the justice of eonian fire. The fire has long ceased but its effects will remain and testify to God's judgment until the close of this eon, after which Sodom shall return to her former estate (Ezek.1653-56).

Judas, a slave of Jesus Christ, yet a brother of James, to those who are called, beloved in God the Father, and kept by Jesus Christ.

May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you!

3 Beloved, while giving all diligence to be writing to you concerning our common salvation and life, I have had the necessity to write entreating you to be contending for the faith once given over to the saints.

For certain men slip in who long ago have been written beforehand for this judgment; irreverent, bartering the grace of our God for wantonness, and disowning our only Owner and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Now I am intending to remind you, you who once are aware of all, that the Lord, when saving the people out of the land of Egypt, secondly destroys those who believe not. Besides, the messengers who keep not their own sovereignty, but leave their own habitation, He has kept in imperceptible bonds under gloom for the judgment of the great day. As Sodom and Gomorrah/and the cities about them, in like manner to these committing ultra-prostitution, and coming away after other flesh, are lying before us, a specimen, experiencing the justice of eonian fire.

Howbeit, these dreamers also, likewise are indeed defiling the flesh, yet are repudiating dominion, and calumniating glories. Now when Michael, the chief messenger, doubting the Slanderer, argued concerning the body of Moses, he dares not bring a calumniating judgment,

O ⁰⁰¹ THE EPISTI	LE OF JUDE CHAPTER 1
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¹¹ The way of Cain is the bloodless religion which offers the fruit of its own cursed toil (Gen.4³;3¹⁷), yet, for all its abhorrence of sacrifice, does not hesitate to shed fraternal blood. They will work for God's favor, but will not debase themselves so as to receive it as His gift, through the blood of His Anointed.

11 The temptation to profit by the priestly or prophetic office seems to be the ruling principle of all religions. Balak, when he wished Israel cursed (Nu.22¹⁷), was told by Balaam that he would require great wages for the work. So the religion of the end time will be a popular vocation, affording a good opportunity for money making.

11 The lawless assumption of sacred functions on the part of those not qualified drew down God's judgment on Korah and his company in the wilderness (Nu.16). They were swallowed up alive by the earth for their presumption (Nu.1622). The terrible time of Jacob's trouble will gather all these festering evils together in the day of His indignation.

14 The designation of Enoch as the seventh from Adam (Gen.518) is significant of the end of the first cycle of human history and corresponds with the seven earthly economies which precede the judgment. These are. Adam in Innocence, Seth with Conscience, Noah with human Government. Abraham with Promise, Moses with Law, the Incarnation (the Pentecostal, Transitional and Secret economies are parenthetic) and the day of Indignation. After this an entirely new cycle of human history commences under the reign of the Son of Mankind.

14 The statement that Enoch "prophesies" is indefinite as to time. It does not necessarily recognize the so-called "Book of Enoch" which has been found in an Ethiopic translation, and contains a passage substantially the same as the one given by Jude. The indefinite form of the verb allows the possibility that Enoch, as one of the two witnesses (Un.113) may yet deliver this prophecy to the irreverent in the great crisis at the time of the end.

but said, "May the Lord rebuke you!" Yet these indeed are calumniating whatever they are not acquainted with, yet in whatever they are instinctively adept, as the irrational animals, in these things they are being corrupted.

Woe to them! seeing that they were gone in the way of Cain, and in the deception of Balaam's wages they were poured out, and they were destroyed in the contradiction

of Korah.

These are the reefs in your love feasts, carousing together fearlessly. shepherding themselves, waterless clouds carried along by winds, sear, unfruitful trees, twice dying, up-13 rooted, wild billows of the sea frothing forth their own shame, straying stars, for whom the gloom of darkness has been kept for an 14 eon. Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesies to these also, saving, "Lo! the Lord came among 15 tens of thousands of His saints, to do judgment against all, and to expose all the irreverent concerning all their irreverent acts in which they are irreverent, and concerning all the hard words which irreverent 16 sinners speak against Him." These are murmurers, complainers, going according to their desires, and their mouth is talking pompous things, marveling at the aspect of things on behalf of benefit.

Yet you, beloved, remember the declarations which have been declared before by the apostles of our ¹⁸ Lord Jesus Christ, that they said to you, "In the last time there will come scoffers, going according to their own irreverent desires."

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14 The following quotations from an English translation of the Book of Enoch are notable: "I, as the seventh, am born in the first heptad, while justice and judgment were delayed" (93:3). This is true of the period from Adam to Messiah. Another passage confirms this: "In the seventh heptad there shall arise an apostate generation" (60:8).

18 Peter (2 Pe.31-4) tells us of the scoffers and their scoffing. It all culminates in the challenge, "Where is the promise of His presence?" Since Adam hid himself in the garden, man's chief desire seems to be to get rid of the divine presence.

20 This faith, as in the beginning of the epistle, is the evangel of the Circumcision. The very wording of the exhortation shows that it is not for those who know the depths and heights of grace revealed for us. "Building yourselves up" and "keep yourselves in the love of God" is foreign to the phraseology of unforced favor which is ours in Christ Jesus. We do not anticipate the "mercy" of Jesus Christ at His coming but the transcendent riches of glorious grace at His presence.

¹⁹ These are they who seclude themselves, soulish, not having the spirit.

Now you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy

²¹ faith, praying in holy spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, anticipating the mercy of our Lord

²² Jesus Christ for eonian life. And to some, indeed, who are doubting,

²³ be merciful, yet others be saving, snatching them out of the fire, yet to others be merciful with fear, hating even the tunic which has been spotted by the flesh.

Now to Him Who is able to guard you from tripping and to stand you flawless in sight of His glory, in exultation, to the only God, our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, might and authority before the entire eon, and now, and for all the

eons. Amen!

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THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE UNVEILING

THE title of this scroll, "THE UNVEILING OF JESUS CHRIST," is an epitome of this whole prophecy. Hitherto Christ has hid Himself. Here He is about to throw off the covering and take His public place in the affairs of mankind. He must be unveiled. His name and title are the clue to the character of this unveiling.

Our Lord's personal name, Jesus, means Jehovah the Saviour. Jehovah is the God of Israel. Hence Christ is presented in this prophecy as the Saviour of the people of the covenant. The name Jehovah is emphasized by its translation into "Him Who is, and Who was, and

Who is coming"(14).

Our Lord's official title, CHRIST (the Anointed), is the key to His unveiling, for it contains within itself the three characters in which He appears. Just as our realization of the beauties and blessings of light is greatly enhanced when we see it refracted into its three primary colors, yellow, red and blue, so the threefold elements of the title Christ are presented to us separately, yet mingled now and then, that we may get a clear and cordial appreciation of the blessings and beauties which will be seen when He rises as the Sun of Righteousness upon this dark and dismal world. Of old three classes were anointed: prophets, potentates and priests. Each of these received the holy anointing oil upon entering his office. Samuel the prophet, David the king, and Aaron the priest, were all "christs" by virtue of their anointing. JESUS CHRIST combines these three offices in Himself. In this prophecy He is first unveiled as Prophet to His people (14- 3^{22}), then as King (41-1118) and as Priest $(11^{19}-20^{15})$. After the climax is reached at the new creation (211) these titles are rehearsed in reverse order in the concluding division. The Temple (211-27) and the Throne (221-5) occupy us first and then the Prophet reappears with His closing message (226-17).

The literary structure divides this book into two grand divisions, one staged on this present earth and the other on the next. The first deals with the day of Jehovah, the second with the day of God.

The time occupied by this prophecy is called the eons of the eons—the two final

eons or ages. The first division covers the first of these eons, the second is in the last, which is called the eon of the eons. The second division may last a long time, but is very briefly told; while the first division, if we except the thousand years, of which little is said, occupies the bulk of the book, though it is a very short period. This is the great judgment era which prepares the earth for the advent of Messiah.

The judgments of this book are for the purpose of enforcing the right of Christ to be its Potentate and Priest. Judgment must begin at God's house, hence He first presents His claims as Prophet among the synagogues of His own people Israel in the messages to the seven ecclesias.

Then heaven's throne is set and His regal rights are established. The world He ransomed as the Lamb will be redeemed by the Lion. The Throne Judgments are divided into three closely related yet distinct sections; the Seals, the Trumpets and the Thunders. The opening of the Seals gives us a general record of the whole period right up to the establishment of the kingdom. The judgments, especially the first four, are providential in character and affect saint and sinner alike. The fifth seal calls for vengeance on Israel's foes. The Trumpets are the answer to this cry. The intervening section makes provision for the protection of the saints during the sounding of the trumpets, the 144,000 being sealed and shielded from them. These judgments result in the kingdoms of this world coming under the sovereignty of our Lord's Anointed.

The Temple Judgments are twofold. First God's covenant with Israel is in view and Jerusalem is shielded from the wild beast. Then the law is exposed and its curses are poured out, especially upon those of the apostate nation who enjoy a false sovereignty over the earth in Babylon. This is followed by the marriage of the Lambkin, and the millennium. The section ends with the Great White Throne judgment, which winds up the affairs of this present earth.

In the last grand division God is reconciled to all mankind. Priesthood vanishes but rule continues to the consummation.

THE LITERARY FRAMEWORK OF THE UNVEILING OF JESUS CHRIST

Fourfold Reversion

INTRODUCTION (1^{1,3}) The Swift Unveiling of Jesus Christ.

**Blessing on the Reader, Hearer and Keeper.

MESSAGES TO THE ECCLESIAS (14-322) Reward according to acts (223, etc.)

THE THRONE (41-1118) The Political Redemption of the Earth.

Preparatory Vision: The Throne, the Scroll and the Lambkin (4¹-5¹⁴).

THE SEVEN SEALS restore Earth's Sovereignty to God.

The Four Horses (Providential):

Distant Conquest, War, Famine, Pestilence (6¹⁻⁸).

The Saints Slain. The Great Convulsion. (6⁹⁻¹⁷)

Preparatory Vision: The 144,000 and the Vast Crowd (71-17).

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS (an expansion of the Seventh Seal).

The First Four (Providential):

The Land, the Sea, the Waters, the Sun (87-12).

The Three Woe Trumpets, the Abyss, the Euphrates.

Preparatory Vision: The Messenger and the Open Scroll (101-3).

THE SEVEN THUNDERS (sealed up) (104).

The Little Scroll Eaten (105_11).

The Temple Measured. The Two Witnesses (11¹-1⁴). The Seventh Trumpet (11¹⁵-1³).

THE TEMPLE (1119-2015) The Religious Redemption of the Earth.

The Ark of of the Covenant in View (Faithful Israel Redeemed 1119).

The Star-Crowned Woman and her Male Son (121-2,5-6,14-16).

The Dragon and his Messengers (123-4,7-12,17).

The Wild Beast and his Prophet (13).

The 144,000 and the Blessed Dead (141-13).

The Harvest, blessing (14¹⁴-16) The Vintage, judgment (14¹⁷-20)

The Tabernacle of the Testimony in View (Apostate Israel Destroyed).

THE SEVEN BOWLS (151-1621)

The Unfaithful Woman (171-6).

The Scarlet Wild Beast (177-11).

The Ten Horns (17¹²-18).

Great Babylon (18-195).

The Marriage of the Lambkin, blessing (196-10). God's Great Dinner, judgment (1911-21).

Satan Bound: The Millennium (201-4).

The Former Resurrection: Judgment of Saints (205-6).

Satan Loosed: The Brief Era of War (207-10).

The Latter Resurrection: Judgment of Sinners (20¹¹-15).

THE TEMPLE (211-27) The Lord God Almighty and the Lambkin (2123).

The Holy Jerusalem Descends from Heaven.

THE THRONE (221-5)

The River of Life (not lightning and thunder) Issues out of the Throne bringing Blessing (not wrath).

MESSAGES TO THE ECCLESIAS (226-17)
Pay according to work (2212).

CONCLUSION (2218-21)

Curse on him who Adds or Subtracts from this Scroll. The Swift Coming of the Lord Jesus.

THE DAY OF JEHOVAH

Thrist 🗚

POTENTATE

DAY OF GOD

THE TIME PERIODS OF THE UNVEILING

The chart is designed to give, at one glance, all the time periods mentioned or referred to, from the grand eons or ages down to the days of Daniel's visions. In order to accomplish this the short era of judgment at the inception of the Lord's Day is expanded, as indicated by the oblique lines. In this era most of the events in this scroll occur.

The Eons or Ages are five in number. This scroll is a prophecy covering the last two, which, as they spring out of the first three, are called "the eons of the eons" (16,1849,10513712106111514111571932010225).

The first of these two cons includes the day of the Lord, the second the Day of God. The present is Man's Day (1 Co.43).

The Seventy Heptads, or "Weeks", are foretold in Daniel (924). From the twentieth year of Artaxerxes (Neh.21,5), to Christ's entry into Jerusalem (Lu.1937,44) was a period of exactly 173,880 days, or 69 heptads of years, counting 360 days to

a year. The seventieth heptad is still future (Dan.926). Daniel divides it in half by the breaking of a treaty when the sacrifice and gift offering are stopped (Dan. 927). This leaves us the period often referred to in this scroll of 42 months (112) 135), 1260 days (113126), and "season, seasons and half a season" (1214). These are principally in the last half of the heptad. The middle of the heptad is the beginning of most of the movements in this scroll and the end closes them.

This prophecy is not given in chronological order, but gives a general view under the Seals, expands the seventh seal under the Trumpets, and probably expands the seventh Trumpet under the Bowls. The end of the seventieth heptad is reached at least five times, and the narrative goes back again to fill in further

details.

The days after Christ's epiphany are taken from Daniel's prophecy.

THE DAY OF JEHOVAH

The day of the Lord, or Jehovah (Isa. 139), is a day of destruction, a cruel day with wrath and anger (Isa.1313Zeph.22,3), in which the stars and constellations, and the sun and moon will be darkened (Joel $2^{10,30,31}3^{15}cf$.Un.6¹²), in which He punishes the inhabitants of the world for their evil. in which Babylon will be overthrown (cf.Un.18), and when Jehovah sets His people Israel in their own land and gives them rest (Isa.141,3). It is a day of battle (Eze.135), a day of famine (Joel 116cf.Un. 66), and fire (Joel 1^{19} cf.Un.87), a day of thick darkness and subterranean horrors (Joel 22,4cf.Un.917), a great and terrible day (Joel 211), when He roars out of Zion (Joel 316), a day of woe (Amos 518,20cf. Un.813). It will judge the nations (Obad. 15,21Eze.303), and in it He will take the kingdom (Un.1115). It is a day of wrath (Zeph.114,15cf.Un.617), of trouble and distress (Zeph.1¹⁵cf.Un.7¹⁴). In that day Jerusalem will be besieged and taken by an army from all nations (Zech.142cf.Un. 1614), and His feet shall once more stand upon the Mount of Olives (Zech.144Ac. 110,12). In it

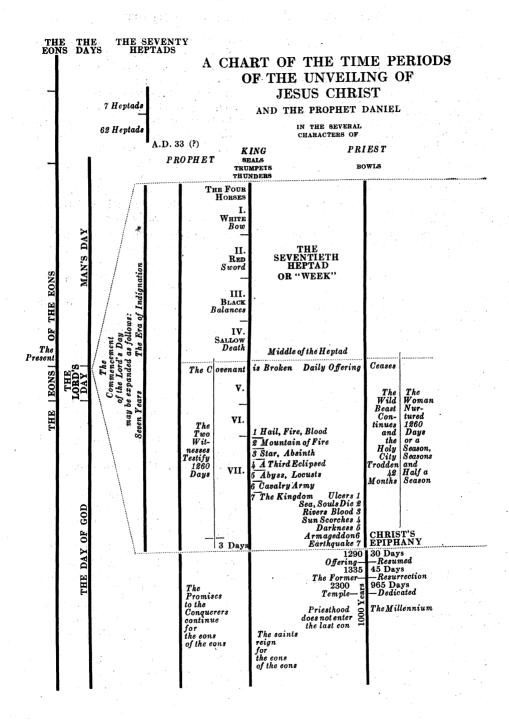
"The haughtiness of human eyes is lowered, And the height of men prostrated, And Jehovah alone is an inaccessible retreat in that day" (Isa. 211,12).

This is in contrast with the present, which is "man's day" (1 Co.43), when men are haughty and high and self-sufficient.

The day of Jehovah will come as a thief in the night (1 Thes.52 2 Pt.310). It cannot come until after the apostasy (2 Thes.23). It closes with the dissolution of the heavens and the earth (2 Pet. $3^{10,18}$ cf.Un.2011) and the creation of a new heavens and a new earth (Isa.6517 2 Pt.313cf.Un.211-5).

Those under Paul's preaching were promised deliverance from that day of wrath (1 Thes.11051-11 2 Thes.22Ro.59). Before it comes they will be assembled together to the Lord at His presence (2 Thes.21).

At the end of Jehovah's day the heavens will be dissolved and the elements will melt with heat because of the presence of the day of God (2 Pt.312). Then there will be a new heavens and a new earth (2 Pt.313cf.Un.211).



¹ This is the unveiling of a Person— Jesus Christ-not merely a prediction revealed through Him. God gives it to Him as a reward for His sufferings.

Swiftly-not soon, but with speed. On the morning of the resurrection John and Peter started together, but John ran more swiftly than Peter (Jn. 204). If this prophecy started soon after John wrote, it has moved very slowly indeed. When it does commence, it will run with great rapidity. God lingers in dispensing grace but hastens in executing judgment. This calls for an entirely future fulfillment. Signify-not necessarily by signs, but in the ordinary sense of this word in English, as, the Lord signified His death (Jn.1233 1832), and foretold Peter's (Jn.2119), and Festus signified Paul's crimes to Cæsar (Ac.2527). There are only three distinct signs in this scroll: the woman clothed with the sun (12^1) , the dragon (12^3) , and the seven messengers who have the seven calamities (151). Besides this the false prophet (1313,141920) and the spirits of demons do signs (1614). None of the rest is communicated by signs.

Near denotes a conditional proximity. The kingdom of the heavens was near during the early part of our Lord's ministry. It was postponed by His rejection. It was near again when proclaimed by the apostles but once more rejected by the nation of Israel. Peter writes "the consummation of all things is near" (1 Pt.47), yet nearly twenty centuries have passed and the consummation or end is still future.

THE PROPHETIC SECTION

4 The Divine Name, Jehovah, is a union of the three tenses of to become. יהוה

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HE-WILL-BECOME BECOMING HE-BECAME The reverse arrangement of this is used once (48) by the four animals. Here and in 18 the present tense is put first to emphasize the fact that He is now present:

O ON O HN O EPXOMENOC THE BEING THE WAS THE COMING-One

In 1117 and 165 the phrase "Who is coming" is omitted, because He is regarded as having come at that time. The Name is flexible and adapts itself to times and conditions.

THE UNVEILING OF JESUS CHRIST. which God gives to Him, to show to His slaves what must occur swiftly: and He signifies it, dispatching through His messenger to His slave, John, who testifies to the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, whatever he perceived.

3 HAPPY is he who is reading and they who are hearing the word of the prophecy, and who are keeping that which is written in it. for the era is near.

⁴ John, to the seven ecclesias which are in the [province of] Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him Who is, and Who was, and Who is coming, and from the seven spirits which are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the Faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Suzerain of the kings of the earth.

To Him Who is loving us and looses us from our sins by His blood and makes us a kingdom and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and might for the eons of the eons! Amen! Lo! He is coming with clouds, and every eye will be viewing Him-those, also, who stab Him-and all the tribes of the land will be grieving over Him. Yea! Amen!

8 "I am the A and the Z", the Lord God is saying, "Who is, and Who was, and Who is coming, the Almighty."

I, John, your brother and joint participant in the affliction and kingdom and endurance in Jesus Christ, came to be in the island which is called Patmos, because of the word of God, and because of the testimony of Jesus Christ. ANOKAAYYICIHCOYXPICT 20 FROM-COVERING OF-JESUS ANOINTED

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The Prophetic Section

10 In spirit, John is transported into the future day of Jehovah of which the prophets have often spoken. The Hebrew phrase "the day of the Lord" is changed to "the Lord's day" in order to shift the emphasis from the character of the day to the time, which is the important point in this passage. This is done in three ways, by changing the grammatical form, the rank, and the order of the words. The direction of the thought is altered by putting "Lord" in the dative instead of the genitive case, so that it locates rather than describes the day. Its force is further weakened by making it an adjective rather than a noun, and by shifting it from its prominent place at the end of the sentence and giving that striking location to "day".

13 Seven lampstands stand for a scattered Israel, as the one seven-branched lampstand in the tabernacle and temple stood for a united nation. These ecclesias are all in the "dispersion".

13 The description and acts ascribed to Christ are not priestly, but accord with His prophetic office. The prophet's function was to point out God's method of procedure. At first this was done privately, by the seers; then officially by prophets. Prophets are sent especially in apostasy. Christ wears none of the priestly vestments except the girdle, and this is of gold, not of fine twined linen (Ex.3929). The scene is one of judgment, which the apostle tells us must begin at the house of God (1 Pet.417). The sword indicates this (cf.Dan.105).

16 Stars stand for those whose spirits

are in touch with God (Dan.123, C. V.). Abraham's seed was to become as the stars of heaven. His physical progeny are like the sand upon the seashore.

17 First and Last (Isa.4144464812Un.28 2213) is a title of Jehovah, the King of

Israel, and his Redeemer.

19 The word "are" must be given the same sense here as in verse 20 "the seven stars are," and "the lampstands are." It is a metaphor.

20 There are three "mysteries" or secrets in this scroll. The seven stars and lampstands are in Christ's hands as Prophet. The secret of God (107) is finished when Christ as King receives the sovereignty of the world. The secret of Babylon is in the Temple section (175,7).

10 I came to be, in spirit, in the Lord's day, and I hear behind me a voice,

11 loud as a trumpet, saying: "What you are observing write in a scroll and send to the seven ecclesias: to Eph esus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

And I turn about to look for the voice which talked with me. And, turning about, I perceived seven

13 golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like a son of mankind, dressed in a garment reaching to the feet, and girded about the breasts with a

¹⁴ golden girdle. Now His head and hair are white as white wool-as snow, and His eyes are as a flame

15 of fire: and His feet are like white bronze, as fired in a furnace; and His voice is as the sound of many

16 waters. And He has in His right hand seven stars; and issuing out of His mouth is a sharp two-edged saber; and His countenance is as the sun appearing in its power.

And when I perceived Him, I fall at His feet as dead. And He places His right hand on me, say-

18 ing, "Fear not! I am the First and the Last, and the Living One: and I became dead, and lo! I am living for the eons of the eons. (Amen!) And I have the keys of

19 death and of the unseen. Write, then, what you perceived, and what they are, and what is about to be 20 occurring after these things: the se-

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The Prophetic Section

20 The vision is figurative. The explanation is literal. It must not be further "explained". The seven stars are seven messengers. The seven lampstands are seven ecclesias. These will be found at the places indicated at the opening of the Lord's day. They are God's luminaries in the dense darkness of that judgment era.

THE SEVEN LETTERS

These letters fall into two groups. In the first three the injunction to hear precedes the promise. In the last four this order is reversed. In the former the wilderness experiences of Israel are recalled: their first love in Ephesus, their trials in Smyrna, Balaam in Pergamos. The latter recall their history in the land—two for Israel and two for Judah; Jezebel in Thyatira, Israel's blotting out in Sardis, the temple in Hezekiah's reign in Philadelphia, and the declining days of the Minor Prophets in Laodicea.

EPHESUS

- 4 Their "first love" is an allusion to Israel's espousals in the wilderness (Hos.11¹Jer.2²Eze.16⁸,1⁰Ex.19⁴,⁶).
- ⁶ The Nicolaitans (Conqueror People) are probably Israelitish votaries of the wild beast. Their name indicates their allegiance to the great world conqueror. First their acts are condemned and then their doctrine (2¹⁵). It was the same as Balaam's (Nu.25²).
- 7 The "tree" of life is, literally, the wood or log of life, for the wood is dead, and, in this phrase, always speaks of life out of death, or resurrection.
- ⁷ The promise reminds us of the tree of life in Eden and has its consummation in the new Jerusalem (22²). Our destiny is heaven (Eph.1³).

SMYRNA

- s In each message the Lord alludes to such particulars of the preceding vision as meet the case of the ecclesia. His resurrection life is a pledge of the wreath of life He promises to those who are faithful until death.
- What force can there be to the claim to be Jews unless the Smyrna ecclesia was composed of Jews? Their allegiance to Satan's (or the Adversary's) synagogue would have no point if the Smyrnaites did not belong to God's synagogue.

perceived on My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands. The seven stars are messengers of the seven ecclesias, and the seven lampstands are seven ecclesias.

2 To the messenger of the ecclesia in Ephesus write: 'Now this He is saying Who is holding the seven stars in His right hand, Who is walking in the midst of the seven

golden lampstands.

- "I am aware of your acts, and your toil, and your endurance, and that you can not bear evil, and you try those saying that they themselves are apostles, and are not, and you found them false, and you have endurance, and you bear because of My name, and are not wearied. But I have against you that you desert your first love. ⁵ Be remembering, then, whence you have fallen, and repent, and do the former acts. Otherwise, I am coming to you, and shall be moving your lampstand out of its place, if you should not be repenting. But this you have, that you are hating the acts of the Nicolaitans, which I, also, am hating.
 - Who has an ear, let him hear what the spirit is saying to the ecclesias.

To the one who is conquering, to him shall I be granting to be eating of the tree of life, which is in the center of the paradise of God."

- And to the messenger of the ecclesia in Smyrna write: 'Now this He is saying Who is the First and the Last, Who became dead, and lives.
- ⁹ "I am aware of your acts and affliction and poverty (but you are rich) and the calumny of those professing themselves to be Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of ¹⁰ Satan. Be fearing naught of what

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The Prophetic Section

10 The ten days' affliction alludes to Israel's trial in the wilderness. That lasted forty years. This will be brief. Jews often suffer from anti-Semitic riots.

10 A wreath or garland, often of laurel, was awarded the successful contestant in the ancient games. This was the trophy of victory. It is not the symbol of rule, but the reward of faithful effort. The wreath of life will be worn by all who gain life as a reward of their deeds. It is given to the one who endures trial (Ja.112). The life we have in Christ is a gratuitous gift, in no sense the reward of our efforts, so it cannot be figured by a wreath.

11 The allusion in this promise is to the entrance of death when Adam sinned. The fulfillment of the promise will wait until the great white throne judgment (2011). This promise cannot be applied now, for all in Christ are beyond judgment.

PERGAMOS

14 Balaam (Nu.25). The sorry scene at Shittim will be repeated in the day of Jehovah. In ancient times sacrifices to the gods were accompanied by ceremonial prostitution, which will also characterize the worship of the wild beast. Compare 220920,211442182215Jude 15,16,23. Balaam was killed with the sword (Nu.318Josh.1322). The Nicolaitans are threatened with a similar fate. This is put in execution when the followers of the wild beast are "killed by the saber which is coming out of the mouth of Him Who is sitting on the horse" (1921).

17 Unless they worship the image of the wild beast they will not be able to obtain food, unless God gives it as He gave the manna. So the star-crowned woman will be nourished in the wilderness (1214). Then they will pray as He taught them: "Be giving us today our dole of bread" (Mt.611), for every other source is cut off.

The white pebble was used in allotting the land. Each man's name was written on a pebble, and these were put into a bag. As each allotment is called, a pebble is withdrawn. The allotment is given to the man whose name is on it. Thus the white pebble will be an earnest of their allotment in the kingdom. This is for Israel, not for the body of Christ.

you are about to be suffering. Lo! the Slanderer is about to be casting some of you into jail that you may be tried, and you will be having affliction ten days. Become faithful until death, and I shall be giving you the wreath of life.

Who has an ear, let him hear what the spirit is saying to the

ecclesias.

The one who is conquering may under no circumstances be injured by the second death."

And to the messenger of the ecclesia in Pergamos write: 'Now this He is saying Who has the

sharp two-edged saber.

''I am aware where you are dwelling—where Satan's throne is —and you are holding My name, and do not disown My faith in the days in which Antipas, My faithful witness, was killed among you,
where Satan is dwelling. But I

where Satan is dwelling. But I have a few things against you, that you have there those holding the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a snare before the sons of Israel, to be eating idol sacrifices, and to commit prostitution.

Thus you, also, have those holding the teaching of the Nicolaitans,
 likewise. Repent then! Otherwise,
 I am coming to you swiftly and shall be battling with them with

the saber of My mouth.

Who has an ear, let him hear what the spirit is saying to the ecclesias.

To the one who is conquering, to him shall I be giving of the hidden manna, and I shall be giving him a white pebble and on the pebble a new name written, which no one is aware of except the one who is obtaining it."

And to the messenger of the ecclesia in Thyatira write: 'Now this the Son of God is saying,

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OF-THE SATAN(Heb.adversary) AND YOU-AREs1 OF-YOU C (by s3)

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The Prophetic Section THYATIRA

18 Tertullian and Epiphanius say that there was no ecclesia in Thyatira when John wrote these letters. On this ground many rejected this prophecy in early times. There is no difficulty in this if we recognize the fact that, in spirit. John was transported into the day of Jehovah. Then there will be an ecclesia in Thyatira which will correspond perfectly with the epistle addressed to it.

20 This is an allusion to the period of the Kings $(1Ki.16^{31})$. The error of Balaam (2Pt.215 Jude 10,13) becomes the state religion (cf.920,21172,4183). The fact that Ephesus (26) and Pergamos (214) and Thyatira are all warned against this evil shows that the worship of the wild beast will revive the seductions of idolatry.

23 Plague — literally death (cf. black death). See 68.

23 "Kidneys and hearts" is a Hebrew phrase signifying purity of motive. 24 The depths of Satan are in contrast to the depths of God (1 Co.210). The latter are explored by the spirit and are unknown to the soulish man. Satan's depths are found in consecrating the most debased passions to religion. Every appeal to the senses, whether to the eye, in magnificent buildings and ritual, or to the ear by the mesmeric influence of music, or to the taste in suppers and banquets, or to the lower sensual appetites, is a descent into the depths of Satan. In the beginning he appealed to the woman through her senses (Gen.31,6). His desire for worshipers leads him to offer them the strongest sensual inducements guised under the sacred sanction of divine worship.

27 The shepherd's mace was a heavy club with a thong to hold it securely to his wrist, and a large head, bristling with spikes, at the end. He carried a crook for the sheep and a club for their enemies (1251915). He will rule with rigor. Israel, not the body of Christ, will rule the millennial earth. 27 In the East pottery was crushed into bits to make a kind of cement. 28 The Morning Star is especially appropriated by the Son of David (2216). He is the Herald of approaching day. A place in the earliest phase of the kingdom is awarded the conqueror.

Who has His eyes as a flame of fire, and Whose feet are like white bron ze.

"I am aware of your acts and love and faith and service and your endurance; and your last acts are more than the former. But I 20 have much against you, seeing that you pardon that woman of yours, Jezebel, professing herself to be a prophetess, and she is teaching and enticing my slaves to commit prostitution and to be eating idol sacri-²¹ fices. And I give her time that she may be repenting, and she is not willing to repent of her prostitu-²² tion. Lo! I will be casting her into a couch, and those committing adultery with her into great affliction, if they should not be repenting of her acts. And I shall be killing her children with the plague. and all the ecclesias will know that I am He Who is searching the kidneys and hearts. And I shall be giving to each of you in accord ²⁴ with your acts. Now to you I am saying—to the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this teaching, those who do not know 'the depths of Satan,' as they are saying—I will be casting on you no other bur-²⁵ den. Moreover, hold what you have until I should be arriving.

And the one who is conquering and keeping My acts until the consummation, to him shall I be giving ²⁷ authority over the nations; and he shall be shepherding them with an iron club, as vessels of pottery are being crushed, as I also have ob-28 tained from My Father. And I

shall be giving him the morning star.

Who has an ear, let him hear what the spirit is saying to the ecclesias."

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The Prophetic Section

The seven spirits of God are literal. They are seen under various figures, according to the connection. Before the throne they appear as torches of fire (45). On the Lambkin they are seen as seven horns and seven eyes (56). They are commissioned for the entire earth. The stars are limited to the ecclesias. 3 Christ's coming is presented under various figures. He comes as a thief in the day of the Lord (1 Th.52 2 Pt.310 cf. 1615). The Lord warned His disciples of this aspect (Mt.2442,44 Lu.1239). When they shall say "peace and security" then sudden destruction will come upon the unwatchful (1 Th.53). But we are not in darkness that it should overtake us as a thief (1 Th. 54,11).

5 Any man, woman, family or tribe who turned from Jehovah to worship the gods of the nations was to be rubbed out (Deut.2918,20). David rubs out the names of some of his mighty men because they did not remain true to him (2 Sa.238,39). Joab, once over all the host (2 Sa.2023), and Ahithophel were also erased. Here too, life and position depend on conduct. Our life is hid with Christ in God (Col.33). The scroll of life is referred to seven times in this book. It contains the names of those who do not worship the wild beast (138178). It is opened at the great white throne (2012) and any whose names were not found written in it were cast into the lake of fire (2015). Those enrolled in it may enter the new Jerusalem (2127). Those who take from the sayings of this prophecy will have their part taken from the scroll of life (2219).

PHILADELPHIA

7 David's key (Isa.2215-25) refers to the deposing of Shebna and the raising up of Eliakim to be the treasurer of the temple, or minister of the court (See Isa.3622). This letter moves in the temple, where the treasures are, where safety is found, and where worship is carried on.

It is impossible to escape the inference that the Philadelphian ecclesia is composed only of Jews and are members of God's synagogue. As every other consideration points in this direction we may conclude that all of these ecclesias are Jewish. Each will worship in a synagogue, which has a "messenger" who will read to them.

And to the messenger of the ecclesia in Sardis write: 'Now this He is saying Who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

"I am aware of your acts, that vou have a name that you are living and are dead. Become watchful, and establish the rest who were about to be dying; for I have not found your acts complete before My God. Be remembering, then, how you have obtained, and hear, and be keeping and repent. If ever then, you should not be watching, I shall be arriving on you as a thief, and under no circumstances will you be knowing at what hour I shall be arriving on you. But you have a few names in Sardis which do not pollute their garments, and they shall walk with Me in white, seeing that they are worthy.

The one who is conquering, he shall be clothed in white garments, and under no circumstances shall I be erasing his name from the scroll of life, and I shall be avowing his name in front of My Father

and before His messengers.

Who has an ear, let him hear what the spirit is saying to the ecclesias."

And to the messenger of the ecclesia in Philadelphia write: 'Now this is saying the True, the Holy One, Who has the key of David, and Who is opening and no one shall be locking, and locking and no one shall be opening.

"I am aware of your acts. Lo! Before you have I granted an open door which no one is able to lock, seeing that you have a little power, and you keep My word and you do not disown My name. Lo! I have granted to those of the synagogue of Satan, (who are professing themselves to be Jews and are not, but are lying)—Lo! I shall be mak-

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The Prophetic Section

10 Endurance will be a cardinal virtue in that day of stress and distress. Seven times are we reminded of it (1922,3,1931013101412). He that endures to the end shall be saved (Mt.10222413 Mk.1313). In the present economy salvation depends entirely on faith in Christ.

¹⁰ The English idiom to keep out, conveys a false impression to many. Here it does not mean to keep from, but to keep those who are in the trial so that they come out victoriously.

12 The conqueror with but little power who hides in the temple during the hour of trial will be openly acknowledged in the kingdom by giving him a place of prominence and power like the great pillars, Jachin and Boaz. It may be that they will have a special place of authority over the vast crowd who serve Him day and night in His temple (715).

12 The 144,000 are sealed on their foreheads (73) which exempts them from the judgment of the locusts (94). This seal is probably the Father's name. In the new earth the slaves of the Lambkin are thus sealed (224). On the other hand, the false prophet causes all to receive the emblem of the wild beast (1316), marking them for God's indignation (149). Only those who refuse this symbol live and reign with Christ the thousand years (204).

LAODICEA

14 God's creative Original. See Col.115 note. He is called the Origin or Beginning three times in this scroll in the phrase "Origin and Consummation" (2162213).

16 To spew as the result of an emetic.
17 Naked in the sense of scantily clad, not necessarily nude.

21 The promises to the conquerors increase in proportion to the apostasy with which they contend. In Ephesus they are promised a place in the paradise of the new earth. This will doubtless be shared by all the other conquerors as well. In Laddicea, the nauseating ecclesia, the conqueror is promised a place with Christ on His millennial throne. This is the highest place to which an Israelite could aspire (Mt. 2021). This is fulfilled when the wages are paid (1118) and the saints reign with Him the thousand years (204).

ing them that they will be arriving and worshiping before your feet, and they may know that I love you.

Seeing that you keep the word of My endurance, I, also, shall be keeping you out of the hour of trial which is about to be coming on the whole inhabited earth to try those

who are dwelling on the earth. I am coming swiftly! Be holding to that which you have, that no one may be taking your wreath.

The one who is conquering, him shall I be making a pillar in the temple of My God, and he may be coming out nevermore, and I shall be writing on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which is descending out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Who has an ear, let him hear what the spirit is saying to the ecclesias."

⁴ And to the messenger of the ecclesia in Laodicea write: 'Now this He is saying Who is the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, and God's creative Original.

"I am aware of your acts, that you are neither cool nor zealous. You ought to be cool or zealous!

Thus, seeing that you are indifferent, and are neither cool nor zealous, I am about to spew you out of My mouth. Seeing that you are saying that 'I am rich!' and 'I have become rich and have need of nothing!' and you are not aware that you are wretched and

forlorn and poor and blind and naked, I am advising you to buy of Me gold refined in the fire that you should be rich, and white garments that you should be clothed, and the shame of your nakedness should not be made manifest, and eyesalve

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The Prophetic Section

²² A low state of spirituality is denoted by the hearing ear. Job said "I heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees Thee (Job 42⁵).

THE THRONE SECTION

CHRIST AS KING

This section deals with the establishment of the kingdom of Christ and His saints (Dan.714,18) over the whole earth, as the Temple Section (1119-2015) breaks down all opposition to the worship of Jehovah and the priesthood of Israel. There are three distinct divisions in this section: the Seals, the Trumpets, and the Thunders. Each of these is preceded by a preparatory vision, the Seals by the Throne, the Scroll and the Lambkin, the Trumpets by the 144,000 and the Vast Multitude, the Thunders by the Messenger and the Open Scroll.

¹ The "openings" of this prophecy should be given careful consideration. They are like the rising curtain which reveals the next act in this great tragedy. There are four pairs of "openings", each of which should be studied together. They are as follows:

Heaven—A Door (41) Providential Judgments.

Heaven (1911) Public Judgments.

The Earth—A Well (92) The Terrible Cavalry.

Its Mouth (1216) Swallows the Flood.

The Scrolls—Seven Seals (5234596135791281).

TheScrolls(2012) Individual Judgment.

The Temple—The Temple(1119) Ark, Covenant.

Tent of Testimony (155) Law Exposed.

- The emerald rainbow assures us that God will remember His covenant with every living creature (Gen.99,17). There shall not be another deluge. These days will be like the days of Noah in many other respects (Mt.2437 Lu.1726).
- ⁴ Elder, or senior or presbyter, is a title of honor and respect implying authority rather than advanced age, as in our "alderman". These elders follow the living creatures in worshiping the Creator (4¹⁰). An elder assures John that the Lion will break the seals (5⁵) and when He takes the scroll they celebrate (5⁸, 1¹). They fall and worship in unison with all creation (5¹⁴). They echo the worship of the vast crowd (7¹¹) and one of them tells John who they are (7¹⁴).

to anoint your eyes, that you may be observing.

19 As many as I should be fond of,
I am exposing and disciplining. Be
20 zealous, then, and repent! Lo! I
stand at the door and am knocking.
If ever any one should be hearing
My voice and be opening the door,
I shall also be coming in to him and
dining with him, and he with Me.

The one who is conquering, to him shall I be granting to be seated with Me on My throne as I, also, conquer, and am seated with My Father on His throne.

Who has an ear, let him hear what the spirit is saying to the ecclesias.""

4 After these things I perceived, and lo! a door has been opened in heaven, and lo! the first sound which I hear, is as of a trumpet talking with me, saying, "Ascend here! and I shall be showing you what must be occurring after these things".

Now immediately I came to be in spirit, and lo! a throne, located in heaven, and on the throne One sitting. And He who is sitting is, to sight, like a jasper stone and a carnelian. And a rainbow surrounding the throne is, to sight, like an emerald.

And surrounding the throne are twenty-four thrones, and on the twenty-four thrones elders are sitting, clothed in white garments, and on their heads are golden wreaths.

And out of the throne are issuing lightnings and voices and thunders. And seven torches of fire are burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God.

⁶ And before the throne it is as a glassy sea, like crystal.

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Throne Section—The Scroll

At the seventh trumpet they fall and worship, the tenor of their words showing that they are not included among His slaves the prophets or the saints (1116). They hear the song of the 144,000 (143) and join the hallelujahs at the destruction of Babylon (194). David patterned the twentyfour courses of the priesthood after them (1 Chr.243,5Heb.85923). They lead heaven's worship and combine the offices of prophet, priest and king, for they sit on thrones, present the worship of others, and speak for God. Their "crowns", however, are not regal, but wreaths of victory.

The throne attendants of the Divine Majesty vary according to the character and title which He assumes. Jehovah is attended by the Living Ones, or Cherubim. These are intensely animate and are incorporated into the very throne itself. All creation is represented in this august session. The heads of the heavenly hosts sit on thrones. The messengers attend. All of these

are heavenly spirit beings.

The realm of earth is represented by the heads of the animal kingdom, including man. These are the divisions 10 of creation (Gen.1) except fish and creeping things. With these only God established His covenant after the flood (Gen.99,10). They are living souls, rather than spirits. They conform to the scene about them. When we first see the cherubim, guarding the way to the tree of life (for this tree was a source of the life they represented) no wings are mentioned (Gen.324). When they form part of the mercy seat, they seem to have had two wings (Ex.2520). When Ezekiel sees them they have four wings (Eze.16). Here they have six wings each. Ezekiel tells us they looked like living coals of fire. Here they are full of eyes. Ezekiel calls them by the same name they are given here when he says: "It is the animal which I saw under the God of Israel at the stream Chebar: and I know that they are cherubim" (Eze.1020). According to these passages they do not seem to be confined to a set physical manifestation, but conform to their spiritual activity and environment. Isaiah calls them Seraphim or Burning Ones in connection with the title Adonai.

11 The elders worship the Creator rather than a Redeemer.

And centering in the throne and around the throne are four animals replete with eyes in front and And the first animal is behind. like a lion, and the second animal is like a calf, and the third animal has a face like as a human being, and the fourth animal is like a flying vulture. And the four animals—each one of them has six wings apiece. Around and inside they are replete with eyes.

And they have no rest day and

night, saying,

"Holy! holy! holy! Lord God Almighty, Who wast and Who art And Who art coming!"

- And whenever the animals should be giving glory and honor and thanks to Him Who is sitting on the throne, Who is living for the eons of the eons (Amen!), the twenty-four elders, also, will be falling before Him Who is sitting on the throne and will be worshiping Him Who is living for the eons of the eons (Amen!), and they are casting their wreaths before the throne, saying,
- "Worthy art Thou, O Lord, our Lord and God, To get glory and honor and power: For the universe Thou dost create, And because of Thy will it is created and was."
- And I perceived on the right hand of Him Who is sitting on the throne a scroll, written in front and on the back, and sealed up with seven seals. And I perceived a strong messenger proclaiming with a loud voice: "Who is worthy to open the scroll, and to loose its

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Throne Section—The Lambkin

- The scroll is not a "book". It was applied to a legal document (Mt.197 Mk.104). This is its probable meaning here, for it is endorsed on the back and sealed like a mortgage "according to the law and custom" which obtained in Israel in ancient times (Jer.328-14). What the breaking of the seals involves is clear from the new song of the animals and elders (59) when the Lambkin gets the scroll. The sovereignty of the earth, which is Israel's. has passed from them. It is held by alien powers which must be dispossessed. It is Jehovah's purpose that Israel shall reign over the whole earth. The redemption of their lost heritage is the subject of this section. Nothing could more aptly portray the process of this redemption than the gradual breaking of the seals of the scroll. When all are broken the incumbrance is removed—the sovereignty of the earth becomes our Lord's and His Messiah's for the eons of the eons (1115). 6 Lambkin, the diminutive form, is used to distinguish it from the usual word lamb (Jn.129,36Ac.832 1Pt.119). It is used only once elsewhere (Jn.2115), in contrast to a full grown sheep. This tender and delicate form adds much to the loving pathos of this prophecy. The utter weakness of a very young Lamb is in striking antithesis to His character as the Lion and to the mighty acts which He performs as a result of His suffering and death. It is in beautiful accord with the new name of His wife, who is now called the
- s The ancient "harp" was shaped like the lyre and was used in prophecy (1 Sa.1051 Chr.251) and thanks and praise (1 Chr.253 Ps.921-3 1493), which are seen in this new song which theysing.

bride. Youth is renewed in resurrec-

tion.

- ⁸ The prayers of the saints may be summed up in one word: "Thy kingdom come!" (Mt.610). How fit that these should find remembrance when He is about to fulfill their request!
- The elders and animals are bought, not redeemed. They celebrate Israel's deliverance. The failure to note this distinction and the consequent attempt to reconcile the two parts of this song, has led to much confusion in the manuscripts.

- seals?" And no one in heaven, nor on earth, nor underneath the earth, was able to open the scroll,
 neither to look at it. And I lamented much that no one was found worthy to open the scroll,
 neither to look at it. And one of the elders is saying to me, "Do not be lamenting! Lo! He conquers!
 The Lion out of Judah's tribe, the
- and to loose its seven seals!"

 And I perceived, in the center of the throne and of the four animals and in the center of the elders, a Lambkin standing, as though slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God, commissioned for the entire earth.

Root of David, is to open the scroll

- And It came and has taken it out of the right hand of Him Who is sitting on the throne.
- And when It took the scroll, the four animals and the twenty-four elders fall before the Lambkin, each having a lyre and golden bowls brimming with incenses, which are the prayers of the saints. And they are singing a new song, saying,

"Worthy art Thou to be taking the scroll and to open its seals, For Thou wast slain and dost buy us for God by Thy blood.

Out of every tribe and language and people and nation Thou dost also make them a king-

Thou dost also make them a kingdom and a priesthood for our God,

And they will be reigning on the earth."

And I perceived, and I hear a sound as of many messengers around the throne and the animals and the

MANY

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Throne Section-The Seals

13 It has been suggested that the Syriac version preserves the true reading here. After "bliss" it goes right on and gives every creature to the Lambkin, rather than getting praise from them.

> And every creature which is in heaven

And on earth and under the earth And in the sea and all those in them.

And I hear Him Who sits on the throne, Who says,
"To the Lambkin be given blessing and honor and glory and might For eons of eons!"

- The seals fall into two groups. The first are "the beginning of travail" (Mt.248). Then follows "the time of Jacob's trouble" such as has not been from the beginning of creation and never shall be again (Mt.2421Mk.1319).
- The first four seals correspond with the opening words of our Lord's address on the Mount of Olives (Mt.24-25 Mk.13 Lu.215-36).
- Compare Mt.245. The false messiah comes forth on a white horse after the manner of the real Messiah.
- The horse is prepared against the "day of battle" (Prov.2131 cf. Job 3919-25). Its absence denotes peace (Zech. 910103). They were not in common use in the land of Israel. The king was forbidden to multiply horses (Deut.1716). They were used chiefly as cavalry and for drawing chariots.
- The bow is a symbol of distant warfare. It is probable that these four seals describe the time when the great western nondescript monster (Dan.77) tramples upon and devours the three eastern beasts (cf.131). This will provoke wars all over the earth.
- 3 Compare Mt.247. Whole nations will rise against other nations. Universal conscription of man-power and all industries will make war a much more terrible experience than in the past.
- Compare Mt.247, "There shall be famines."

The Greek word zugon was used of two different Hebrew words: ol, a yoke, and maznim, balances, scales (Lev.1936 Job 316 Dan, 527 Chaldee). It may mean either a yoke or a pair of balances, according to the context. Here it seems to stand for the weighing of food in time of famine. Thus Ezekiel was given ten ounces of food and a pint of water each day (Eze.49-12).

elders, and their number was ten thousands of ten thousands and 12 thousands of thousands. with a loud voice.

"Worthy is the Lambkin which has been slain To get power and riches and wisdom and strength

And honor and alory and bliss!"

13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and underneath the earth and on the sea, and all those in them, I hear saying,

"To Him Who is sitting on the throne-

To the Lambkin-

Be bliss and honor and glory and

For the eons of the eons!"

And the four animals said. "Amen!" And the elders fall and worship.

And I perceived when the Lambkin opens one of the seven seals; and I hear one of the four animals saying, as with a voice of thunder, "Come!"

And I perceived, and lo! a white horse, and he who is sitting on it has a bow, and to him was given a wreath. And he came forth conquering and that he should be con-

And when It opens the second seal. I hear the second animal saying, "Come!" And another horse, fiery red, came forth, and it was given to him who is sitting on it to take peace out of the earth, and that they should be slaying one another. And a huge sword was

given to him.

And when It opens the third seal, I hear the third animal saying. "Come!" And I perceived and lo! a black horse, and he who is sitting on it has a pair of balances in his hand. And I hear as it were a voice in the midst of the four animals saying, "A chenix

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Throne Section-The Seals

- ⁶ A chenix is supposed to be the daily ration for one person. A denarius was the daily wage of a laborer (Mt.202-13). Hence a day's labor will barely suffice to buy enough food to exist.
- 8 The fourth horse is the ghastly greenish tinge of young or sickly vegetation.
- The Unseen is, literally, the Unperceived, or Imperceptible. It corresponds with the Hebrew sheol (shaul), from shal, to ask. The unseen powers of evil which come before us in this scroll, the dragon and its messengers (123,4), are called "the gates of the unseen" (Mt.1618) because the rulers of an eastern city sat in its gate.
- ⁸ Plague is, literally, death. This Greek word stands for two Hebrew words, one of which is dbr, plague. In the LXX famine and plague are joined nine times (1 Ki.83° 2 Chr.20° Jer.217,924104418Eze.611715,15), in all of which they translate "plague" by "death". We also speak of the "black death".
- The soul is the seat of sensation. As the spirit is associated with the breath and the body with the soil, so the soul (not the life) is in the blood (Gen.94,5Lev.1711,14,14). Christ poured out His soul unto death. It represents the suffering and anguish which He endured. The blood of the sin offering was poured out at the foundation of the altar (Lev.47). In Solomon's temple there was a vast pit under the altar to receive the blood of the sacrifices. Abel's blood cried from the ground, where it had been poured. So these martyrs are accounted by God as sacrifices on the altar. Their sensations of suffering called for vengeance on those who had sacrificed them because of their testimony. This event marks the middle of Daniel's seventieth heptad.

Compare Mt.249. These martyrs are mentioned often (2101210,11204).

10 We bless those who persecute us (Ro.1214). In the days of the seals the "acceptable year" will have given place to "the day of vengeance" (Isa.612Lu. 418,19). The parable of the importunate widow (Lu.181-8) is applicable at this time.

"For He will avenge the blood of His servants,
And will return vengeance to His foes"
(Deut.3243).

[1½ pints] of wheat a denarius [15.7¢, 7d3f], and three chenix of barley a denarius—and you should not be injuring the olive oil and the wine!"

And when It opens the fourth seal, I hear the voice of the fourth animal saying, "Come!" And I perceived, and lo! a greenish horse, and the name of him who is sitting upon it is Death, and the Unseen followed him, and jurisdiction was given them over a fourth of the earth to kill with the saber and with famine and with the plague and by the wild beasts of the earth.

And when It opens the fifth seal, I perceived underneath the altar the souls of those who have been slain because of the word of God and because of the testimony which 10 they had. And they cry with a loud voice, saying: "Till when, O Owner, holy and true, art Thou not judging and avenging our blood on those who are dwelling on 11 the earth?" And to each of them was given a white robe, and it was declared to them that they should be resting still a little time, till their fellowslaves, also, and their brethren, who are about to be killed as they also were, should be completing them.

And I perceived, when It opens the sixth seal, and a great cataclysm occurred, and the sun became black as sackeloth of hair, and the

whole moon became as blood, and the stars of heaven fall on the earth as a fig tree is casting its shriveled figs, quaking under a great wind.

¹⁴ And heaven recoils as a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its

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Throne Section-The 144,000

- 12 Compare Mt.2429.
- ¹² This cataclysm affects heaven as well as earth. There will be many quakes at the time of the end (8⁵11¹³, ¹⁹16¹⁸). Compare Hag.2⁶, ⁷ and Heb.12²⁶. See also Hag.2²¹Zech.14⁴, ⁵.
- 13 Figs which form in the winter are shaded so that they fail to mature and are easily shaken off in the spring. This is true also of figs without sufficient moisture or which are not fertilized. They wither and fall at the slightest shock. Figuratively the fig tree stands for government.
- ¹² Before the great and terrible day of Jehovah comes manifestly "The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood" (Joel 2³¹Ac.2²⁰). Compare Isa,2¹⁰,1¹¹3⁶-1³24²0-2³3⁴4.
- 16 Our Lord quoted Hos. 108 in referring to this time (Lu. 2380). Compare Joel 210,11,30,31315.
- 17 See Mt.2430. The Son of Mankind appears immediately after the great convulsion. This seal takes us up to His advent, the same point we will reach under the seventh trumpet (11 15). The following visions are a review of the period we have already traversed, filling in details and treating it from various viewpoints.
- 17 Two classes will be able to stand: the 144,000 and the vast multitude.
- ¹ The four winds. Compare Mt.24³¹ Dan.7²8⁸11⁴Jer.49³⁶.
- 3 The wild beast's followers have the symbol of its name on their foreheads (1316); so these have His Father's name on their foreheads (141).
- Twelve is the number of government and the kingdom. There were twelve patriarchs, twelve tribes, etc. The Lord chose twelve commissioners who will rule the twelve tribes. The twelve times twelve thousand sealed will administer the kingdom. Here they are seen as slaves. Later they are seen as worshipers. Just as Jehovah reserved seven thousand for Himself in Ahab's days (1 Ki.1918), so He keeps these for Himself during this judgment era. Just as 1000 were taken from each tribe to go against the Midianites and none were lacking at the close (Nu.3149), so with this chosen company. The full 144,000 will enter the kingdom unscathed.

- ¹⁵ place. And the kings of the earth, and the magnates, and the captains, and the rich, and the strong, and every slave and freeman, hide themselves in the caves and in the rocks
- of the mountains. And they are saying to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him Who is sitting on the throne, and from the indig-
- on the throne, and from the indig-17 nation of the Lambkin, seeing that the great day of Their indignation came, and who is able to stand?"
- 7 And after this I perceived four messengers standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth that the wind may not be blowing on the land, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.
- And I perceived another messenger ascending from the orient, having the seal of the living God. And he cries with a loud voice to the four messengers to whom it was given for them to injure the land
- 3 and the sea, saying, "You shall not be injuring the land, nor the sea, nor the trees, until we should be sealing the slaves of our God on
- 4 their foreheads." And I hear the number of those who have been sealed: a hundred forty-four thousand who have been sealed out of every tribe of the sons of Israel.
- ⁵ Out of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand have been sealed; out of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand; out of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand; out of the tribe
- 6 of Asher twelve thousand; out of the tribe of Nephthalim twelve

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Throne Section—The Vast Multitude
7-8 Levi and Joseph appear here as tribes in place of Dan and Ephraim, who are "blotted out" because they introduced idolatry into Israel. Jehovah threatened to blot out the name of any tribe that served other gods and worshiped them (Deut.2918-26). The accounts of their apostasy will be found in Judg.18, 1 Ki.1228-30. Ephraim, later, was joined to his idols (Hos.417). They will, however, be restored to their allotment in the land (Eze.48) when the kingdom comes. But none of these are

protected by God's seal during this

time of affliction.

Palm branches were used in celebrating the feast of tabernacles (Lev. 2340). It was a sign that they had come into the land. Here it is the assurance of entrance into the kingdom. The 144,000 are the first fruits (144). These correspond to the feast of ingathering after the full harvest (Lev. 2339). The fact that they come out of every nation and all tribes and peoples and languages does not forbid their being Israelites, for Jews are scattered among all the peoples of the earth. The fact that they keep this feast is sufficient evidence that they, like the 144.000, are out of the sons of Israel. These are those of the dispersion who conquer through the blood of the Lambkin (7141211) and do not love their souls until death. They are the martyrs needed to complete those slain before the great affliction (611) seen under the altar under the fifth seal. 14 Literal washing under the law was always in water, not in blood (Lév.1125 Nu.821). The literal sense of this passage is that they cleansed themselves by their behavior, and faith in the sufferings of the One Sacrifice fitted them for God's presence. Such mingling of deeds and faith can have no place in this day of grace. Grace refuses to be mixed with deeds without losing its essential character (Ro.44116). will deal differently in the coming era of vengeance.

14 This great affliction was foretold by our Lord (Mt.2421). It will be unexampled in the annals of the race. It will be shortened, or not even the elect would be saved. It is essentially an anti-Semitic outbreak on the part of the nations of the earth, in a last attempt to wipe out the name of Jehovah from the earth.

thousand; out of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand; out of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand: out of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand; out of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand; out of the tribe of Zebulon twelve thousand; out of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand; out of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand have been sealed.

After these things I perceived, and lo! a vast throng which no one was able to number, out of all nations and the tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lambkin, clothed in white robes and palms 10 in their hands. And they are crying with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation be our God's,

Who is sitting on the throne, And of the Lambkin!"

¹¹ And all the messengers stood around the throne and the elders and the four animals. And they fall on their faces before the ¹² throne, and worship God, saying:

"Amen!
The bliss and glory and wisdom and thanks
And honor and power and strength be our God's
For the eons of the eons.
Amen!"

And one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in white robes—who are they, and whence came they?"

And I have declared to him: "My lord, you are aware." And he said to me, "These are they who are coming out of the great affliction. And they rinse their robes, and they whiten them in the blood of

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Throne Section—The Trumpets

- ¹⁵ The fact that they perform priestly functions shows that they are of the priest nation. No other nation will have access to the temple (Ex.196 1 Pt. 29Un.16).
- ¹⁶ This description of millennial blessing is in accord with many passages in the prophets, notably the description of Jerusalem by Isaiah (45,6).
- ¹ The hush is occasioned by the intense expectation which accompanies this, the last seal, just as the crowd who clamored for Paul's death hushed when he was about to speak (Ac.2140). Hitherto there have been cries for vengeance and bursts of praise, but now the crisis has come and all hold their breath, as it were, to see the outcome. The delay shows that the inflictions are deliberate, not vindictive.
- ² The trumpet was sounded in Israel in case of war (Nu.10°). This was done by Ehud (Jud.3²⁷) and Gideon (Jud.6³⁴ 78,¹⁸) and Saul (1 Sa.13°). Zephaniah (11⁴-16) calls the day of Jehovah a "day of trumpet and shouting". Joel says (2¹) "Blow a trumpet . . . for the day of Jehovah comes". The trumpet judgments are the divine response to the prayers of the souls under the altar (6°).
- ² The seven messengers may be identical with the seven who pour out the seven bowls (15¹), and the seven spirits before the throne (1⁴), one of whom is Gabriel (Lu.1¹⁹).
- The golden altar is distinct from the brazen altar of the fifth seal, which was in front of the temple and tabernacle. This altar was in the holy place, before the curtain, behind which was the ark and mercy seat, which was Jehovah's throne (Ex.306 405,26).
- 5 Compare the action of the messenger with the tenth of Ezekiel (105,8), where fire is taken from between the Cherubim and strewn over Jerusalem in token of its doom.
- 7 Blood and fire are signs of the day of the Lord (Joel 23°). One of the plagues of Egypt was sounds and hail, and fire (Ex.923-25°). This will be repeated on a grander scale. Compare Joel 119. We have no more reason to make the effects of the Trumpets figurative than the effect of Moses' rod in Egypt. A greater One than Moses is here.

- 15 the Lambkin. Therefore they are before the throne of God and are offering divine service to Him day and night in His temple. And He Who is sitting on the throne will be
- tabernacling over them. They shall be hungering no longer; nor shall they be thirsting any longer; no, nor should the sun be falling on
- them, nor any heat, seeing that the throne-centered Lambkin shall be shepherding them, and shall be guiding them to living springs of water, and every tear shall God be brushing away from their eyes."
- 8 And when It opens the seventh seal, a hush occurred in heaven as it were half an hour.
- ² And I perceived the seven messengers who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.
- And another messenger came and was standing at the altar, having a golden thurible. And much incense was given him that he will be imparting to the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar be-
- fore the throne. And the fumes of the incense with the prayers of the saints ascended out of the messen ger's hand before God. And the
 - ger's hand before God. And the messenger has taken the thurible, and he crams it with the fire of the altar and casts it into the earth. And thunders and voices and lightnings and an earthquake occurred.
- And the seven messengers who have the seven trumpets make themselves ready that they should be trumpeting.
- And the first trumpets. And there came to be hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was cast into the

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CTPOCEYXAICTUNATIONS 80 prayers OF-THE HOLY-ones OUT

KXEIPOCTOYAFFEAOYEN (D700)
OF-HAND OF-THE MESSENGER IN-VIEW

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NOAFFEAOCTONAIBANOTO 40
THE MESSENGER THE frankincenser(Heb.WHITE)

NKAIEFEMICENAYTONEKT® out of-

OYTHY POCTOY BY CLACTHP1 80
THE FIRE OF-THE SACRIFICE-place
A GABON 1-GOT

OYKAIEBAAENEICTHNTHN 800
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KAIETENONTOBPONTAIKA 20 AND BECAME THUNDERS AND

CEICMOCKAIOIETTAATTE 60
6 QUAKING AND THE SEVEN MESSENGERS
8 omits THE

AOIOIEXONTECTACETTAC 80
THE ORGS-HAVING THE SEVEN TRUMAs1* omit ©

AATIITACHTOIMACANEAY 900 pets make-ready selves

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THAT THEY-SHOULD-BE-TRUMPETING AND

OTPOTOCECAMICENKAIE 40
THE BEFORE-MOST TRUMPETS AND BE-

CAME hail AND FIRE BAVING-

BON for A
MITMENAENAIMATIKAIEB 80
been-MIXED IN BLOOD AND it-WAS-

AHOHEICTHNITHNKAITOTP 15000 CAST INTO THE LAND AND THE third

Throne Section-The Trumpets

- This burning mountain may be a volcano, for this time is characterized by seismic disturbances of unparal-leled violence (Ex.720,21 Ps.7844 10520 Hos. 43 Isa. 216).
- 9 If we believe that the river of Egypt was turned into blood and the fish in the river died (Ex.720,21) when Moses smote the waters, what reason is there why we should not look for a similar judgment in Jehovah's day? (Ps.7844 10529). But under no circumstances may these judgments be found in this day of grace.
- 10 The "star" seems to be a gaseous comet which will be readily absorbed by water. Absinthin, a yellow, crystalline compound, is the bitter principle of wormwood, which is highly poisonous when taken in large doses.
- lations precede the coming of the Son of Mankind (Lu.2125), though the usual reference is to the final cataclysm (612). Compare Amos 89 Jer. 423.
- 13 The vulture is noted for its swiftness (Deut.2849Jer.413Hab.18). Unlike the eagle, it goes in company, seldom alone. Hence the significance of one vulture. It feeds on the carcases of the dead, and is foraging for prey.

THE WOE TRUMPETS

The last three trumpets, because of the unexampled and terrible nature of their inflictions, are called the three woes.

- The abyss is a vast waste of waters which were on the surface of the earth after the cataclysm of Gen.12, but which later subsided into its bowels, to emerge once more at the deluge (Gen. 71182) and to recede again afterwards. It is called the abyss (depth) reclining under (Gen.4925 Deut.3313). It is the subterranean source of springs (Deut.87Prov.828). In the beginning there was no abyss (Prov.8²⁴). It occurs in Lu.8³¹ Ro.10⁷ Un.9¹,2,11 11⁷ 17⁸ 201,3. It plays a prominent part in this Unveiling, for the wild beast ascends out of the abyss (117178) and Satan is imprisoned there during the thousand
- The "well" is not a mere pit but is used of Jacob's well from which water is still drawn. This is in line with the meaning of abyss.

earth, and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

And the second messenger trumpets. And as it were a huge mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood, and a third of the creatures which are in the sea, which have a soul, died, and a third of the ships decayed.

And the third messenger trumpets. And a large star falls out of heaven, burning as a torch. And it falls on a third of the rivers and 12 Signs in the sun, moon, and constel- 11 on the springs of water. And the name of the star is said to be Absinth. And a third of the waters became absinth and many of mankind died of the waters, seeing that they were made bitter.

> And the fourth messenger trumpets. And a third of the sun and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars were eclipsed, that a third of them may be darkened, and day should not be appearing for a third of it, and night likewise.

> And I perceived, and I hear one vulture flying in mid-heaven saying with a loud voice: "Woe! woe! woe! to those dwelling on the earth as a result of the rest of the soundings of the trumpets of the three messengers who are about to be trum peting!"

And the fifth messenger trumpets. And I perceived a star fallen out of heaven into the earth. And to him was given the key of the well of the abyss. And he opens the well of the abyss, and

OF-THE LAND WAS-DOWN-BURNED AND

TOTPITONTONAGNAPONKA 40
THE third OF THE TREES WAS-

TEKAHKAITACXOPTOCXA© 60
DOWN-BURNED AND EVERY FODDER GREEN

POCKATEKAHKAI OAEYTEP 80 8 WAS-DOWN-BURNED AND THE SECOND

OCAFFEAOCECAATICENKA100

MESSENGER TRUMPETS AND b omits to-FIRE

AS MOUNTAIN GREAT TO-FIRE BURNING

ENONEBAHOHEICTHNOAAA 40

WAS-CAST INTO THE SEA

CCANKAIEFENETOTOTPIT60
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ONTH COA AACCH CAIMAKAI 80
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OCECAATICENKAIETTECEN300
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11 OF-THE Waters AND THE NAME

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OF-THE GLEAMER IS-being-said THE
si* ION adds KAIACTETAI AND IS-being-said

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POTONATEGANONEKTONY A500 FROM-DIED OUT OF-THE Waters

ATONOTIGHIK PANOHC ANK 20 that THEY-WERE-MADE AND

AIOTETAPTOCAFFEAOCEC 40
THE FOURTH MESSENGER TRUM-

AATICENKAIETAHTHTOTP 60
PETS AND WAS-given-a-BLOW THE third

TONTOYHAIOYKAITOTPI 80 OF-THE SUN AND THE third

TONTHCCEAHNHCKAITOTP 600 OF-THE MOON AND THE third

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OF-THE GLEAMERS THAT MAY-BE-BE-

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b the third of-her no may-be-appearing the day a TGTAP

THE DAY NO MAY-BE-APPEARING THE third

TON FOURTH
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13 OF-her AND THE NIGHT LIKE-AS AND

Ab o.
AIEIAONKAIHKOYCAENO C700
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YPANHMATIAETONTOCOMN 40 heaven saying to-sound

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9 BE-TRUMPETING AND THE FIFTH MES-

FIEAOCECAATICENKAIËI80
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WELL OF-THE abyss AND he-UP-OPENS (b o.) THE WELL OF-THE abyss HNOIZENTOOPEAPTHCABY 80

he-up-opens the well of-the abyss
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CCOYKAIANEBHKATHOCEK16000

OUT

AND UP-STEPPED smoke

Throne Section-The Locusts

³ The detailed description of these locusts forbids our taking them in any way but as literal creatures just as they are described. Their time limit is the same as natural locusts—five months—but they differ from them in many ways. Common locusts are harmless to mankind. They devour only the vegetation (Ex.10¹²). These are designed to torment mankind without killing them, yet do no damage to the grass or the herbs or the trees.

They are a fourfold combination of the horse, the lion, the scorpion and the human. They are swift as horses, terrible as lions, intelligent as human beings and malignant as scorpions. It will be a far more terrible scourge than anything which has preceded it. There is good reason for calling it a

Locusts have no king over them (Prov.30²⁷), but these are the subjects of the messenger of the abyss. His name is given in both Greek and Hebrew. Both Apollyon and Abaddon signify "Destroyer".

Defensively they are armed with iron cuirasses, an armor covering the entire trunk with both breast and back plates. Their offensive power lies in their tails, which are like scorpions. The sting of the scorpion is very painful, much more so than that of the hornet. Men have been known to die of its effects.

Just as Satan was licensed to torment Job, but forbidden to take his life, so these locusts are limited to their work of torment and cannot take life. Their sting is so terrible, however, that the votaries of the wild beast would be glad to die, if they could, to escape it.

All of this is in direct contrast and actual opposition to God's dealings in the present economy of grace. Hence it is worse than futile to seek any fulfillment in the history of the past. Such scenes as this can come only once in the history of the race and must necessarily be of brief duration. Those who have God's seal will escape.

The locusts in the introduction to Joel's prophecy represent the four Assyrian invasions which devastated the land in the four generations referred to. Two of these, involving Judah, are the immediate subjects of Joel's prophecy.

fumes ascended out of the well as the smoke of a large furnace, and the sun and the air are darkened by the fumes of the well. And out of the fumes came forth locusts into the earth, and license was granted them as the scorpions of the earth have license. And it was declared to them that they should not be injuring the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree. except those of mankind who have not the seal of God on their foreheads. And it was granted to them, not that they may be killing them, but that they shall be tormented five months; and their torment is as the torment of a scorpion, whenever it should be striking a man. And in those days mankind will be seeking death, and under no circumstances shall they be finding it. And they will be yearning to die, and death is fleeing from them. ⁷ And the likenesses of the locusts are like horses made ready for battle, and on their heads are as it were wreaths like gold, and their faces are as it were human faces, 8 and they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth are as if they were lions'. And they had cuirasses, as it were iron cuirasses, and the sound of their wings is as

the sound of many chariot horses

tails like scorpions, and stings, and

their license is to injure mankind

have a king over them-the mes-

11 five months with their tails. They

10 racing into battle. And they have

AND

TOYOPEATOCOCKATINOCKA 20 as smoke

b KAIOMENHC BURNING MINOYMETAAHCKAIECKOT⁴⁰ BURNER

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ΙΕΚΤΟΥΚΑΠΝΟΥΕΣΗΛΘΟΝΑ™ OUT OF-THE smoke

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ΑΟΜΟΙ ΦΜΑΤΑΤ ΦΝΑΚΡΙΔΦΝ® LIKEnesses OF-THE LOCUSTS

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bΟ ΦΠΆΑΝΘΡ ΦΠ ΦΝΚΑΙΘΙΧΆΝΤ⁷⁰⁰ 8 or-humans AND THEY-HAD HAIRS

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ΟΥ CKAIH Φ ΦΝΗΤΦΝΠΤΕΡΥΓ 800 AND THE SOUND OF-THE fivers

ONAYTUNUCOUNHAPMATON²⁰ SOUND or-chariots AS

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GICTIONEMONKAIEXOYCIN® 10 INTO BATTLE AND THEY-ARE-HAVING

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TONALIKHCAITOYCANOPO THE them TO-injure **₽** 5

MOYCHHNACHENTEEXOYCI® THEY-ARE-HAVING MONTHS FIVE

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NAME

OF-THE abyss

SENGER

Throne Section—The Horses
THE SECOND WOE

The second woe is even more terrible than the first and, like it, cannot be understood otherwise than literally. 14 These are probably the messengers who were delivered into chains of darkness to be reserved for the judgment (2Pt.24), or, as Jude says, reserved in imperceptible [everlasting] chains under darkness, for the judgment of the great day (6). Now that the specific hour and day and month and year has come, they are sent about their work of killing a third of mankind. The detailed description of these creatures is necessary because no one has ever seen such monsters. It is difficult to imagine two hundred million cavalry such as these, in which the horses themselves are provided with death-dealing mouths and tails. This is certainly one of the marvels "which are not created in all the earth, nor in all the nations" (Ex.3410).

None of men's instruments of destruction can compare with these. They combine the latest methods of warfare, flame projectors and poison gas, with the serpent's sting.

Preceding judgments may have reduced the population of the earth to about six hundred million. A third of this is two hundred million, which will allow every horse a human victim. None of man's armies can kill so effectively.

17 Amethystine, the ancient hyacinth, corresponds to our amethyst, a transparent, violet colored gem, or our sapphire, of purple hue. The context here suggests the amethyst.

17 Sulphur was much used as a purifier in the religious rites of the nations, hence its name in the Greek is "divine". Fire and sulphur were regarded as the divine lustrations or purifying agents.

20 That such a judgment should not change the minds of those who are spared seems incredible. Yet such is man. The most terrible trials but harden his heart instead of producing repentance. They continue as before in their idolatry and sin. We may learn from this that men do not change their minds from compulsion or fear, even in the proclamation of the kingdom. This will be accomplished by milder means.

senger of the abyss. His Hebrew name is Abaddon, and in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

One woe passed away. Lo! Two woes still are coming after these things.

And the sixth messenger trumpets. And I hear one voice out of the horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth messenger who has the trumpet: "Loose the four messengers who have been bound at the great Eufphrates river." And the four messengers

¹⁵ phrates river." And the four messengers were loosed, who have been made ready for the hour and the day and the month and the year, that they may be killing a third of mankind. And the number of the troops of cavalry was two hundred millions—I hear their number.

¹⁷ And thus I perceived the horses in the vision, and those who are sitting on them, having fiery and amethystine and sulphurous cuirasses; and the heads of the horses are as the heads of lions, and out of their mouths are issuing fire and

18 fumes and sulphur. By these three calamities the third of mankind were killed: by the fire, and the fumes and the sulphur, which is

19 issuing out of their mouths. For the license of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like serpents, having heads, and with them they are in-

20 juring. And the rest of mankind who were not killed in these calamities repent not of the acts of their hands—that they will not be b inserts A b omite AND to-him to-HEBREW ABADON AND b adds AG YET A A S HE-IS-HAVING NAME A SECTION AND IN THE GRECIAN HONOMA 6 40 he-

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13 TWO WOES after these AND

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THE SIXth MESSENGER TRUMPETS

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ENΦΠΙΟΝΤΟΥΘΕΟΥΛΕΓΟΥC²⁰⁰
14 IN-VIEW OF-THE God SAYING

A o. but b has O for H A a omits sixth

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b inserts INTO THE CICTHN s omits DAY AND
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THEY-after-MIND OUT OF-THE ACTS

Throne Section—The Seven Thunders
1 The symbol of the rainbow suggests
the covenant of God with creation.

² The planting of the messenger's feet on the sea and on the land is a token of possession. "Every place on which the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours" (Deut.11²⁴Josh. 13).

The opened scroll shows that the incumbrance has been lifted, just as the sealed scroll was a sign of the bond which burdened it. Were it not for the fact that this opened scroll is, according to the best readings, always called a little scroll (biblaridion) while the closed scroll was the usual diminutive (biblion), we would be tempted to identify these two scrolls. It seems best to take this as a still smaller scroll which deals with the deliverance of Israel as the larger scroll dealt with the whole earth. It is evident from the messenger's acts and his words that the earth and the sea are no longer under bond, and that there will be no further delay in ejecting the usurpers out of the sovereignty which is Christ's.

- ³ Bellowing—not roaring after its prey (1 Pt.5⁸), but the sound lions use when calling to one another. Applied to cattle this word is used for their lowing.
- Besides the seven thunders here introduced, thunder is mentioned seven times, three before and four after these special seven. Thrice it describes the voice of one speaking: one of the four animals saying Come! (61), the song of the 144,000 (142), and the voices of God's slaves saying "Hallelujah, for the Lord God, the Almighty reigns!" Four times it is associated with voices and lightnings. They issue out of the throne (45), follow the casting of the thurible into the earth (85), the opening of the temple (1119), and the pouring out of the seventh bowl into the air (1618). As thunder is the audible effect of that which we see as lightning, and always follows it, the thunders probably record the effect of the seven final lightning strokes, or bowls. This brings us to the coming of the kingdom. The next vision is retrospective, going back to the middle of Daniel's seventieth heptad.
- ⁶ The delay commences under the fifth seal (6^{11}) .

worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and copper and stone and wood, which are not able to be observing nor to be hearing ²¹ nor to be walking—and they repent not of their murders, nor of their enchantments, nor of their

prostitution, nor of their thefts.

10 And I perceived another strong messenger descending out of heaven clothed with a cloud, and the rainbow on his head, and his face as the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire, and having a tiny opened scroll in his hand. And he places his right foot on the sea, yet the left on the land. And he cries with a loud voice, even as a lion is bellowing.

And when he cries, the seven thunders speak with their own voices. And when the seven thunders speak, I was about to be writing. And I hear a voice out of heaven saying: "Seal what things the seven thunders speak", and "You should not be writing them."

And the messenger whom I perceived standing on the sea and on the land lifts his right hand to heaven and swears by Him Who is living for the eons of the eons, Who creates heaven and that which is in it, and the earth and that which is in it, and the sea and that which is in it, that there will be no longer delay, but in the days of the seventh messenger's voice, whenever he may be about to be trumpeting, the secret of God is

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Throne Section—The Two Witnesses
⁷ Surely Adonai Jehovah will do nothing but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets (Amos 37).

- 9 Compare this action with Eze.2933-14.
- 9 The eating of the scroll, corresponding to the digesting of its contents, was very sweet to John, for it assured the ejection of the usurpers and the establishment of the kingdom. But it also involved much more bitter judgment which he had not yet apprehended.
- 11 Concerning, literally on (Lu12⁵²⁻⁵³).
- The rod or mace is the shepherd's means of defense against the sheep's enemies. The crook is for the sheep. It is the symbol of power and as such may be called a sceptre (Heb.18). To shepherd with an iron club will be the reward of the conqueror in Thyatira (227), the place of the male son (125), and the White Horse Rider (1915). To measure with a mace is significant of the fact that Israel's Shepherd will maintain these measurements by force. The sheep will be safe within them.
- The temple seems to be a sanctuary for the faithful. The period of fortytwo months (measured by the moon, a symbol of the powers of darkness, 121) measures the career of the "wild beast" (135). The same length of time expressed in days (measured by the sun. a symbol of God's glory, 121) marks the duration of the ministry of the two witnesses (113) and the period during which the star-crowned woman is nourished in the wilderness (126). same period is called, after the Hebrew of Dan.127, "a season, seasons, and half a season" (1214). This period is probably the last half of Daniel's seventieth heptad (Dan.927). The prince that shall come makes a treaty with the majority of the Jews, but breaks it after three and a half years, causing the sacrifice and gift offering to cease. leaving the period here spoken of, in which he insists that all worship must be directed to him.

It appears from this that the worship of Jehovah will be stamped out of the earth except in the temple in Jerusalem, which will be preserved with divine power, and in the wilderness, where the woman (the faithful inhabitants of Jerusalem) is sustained by

miraculous means.

consummated also, as He evangelizes to His own slaves and the prophets.

And the voice which I hear out of heaven speaks again with me and is saying: "Go, get the tiny scroll which is opened in the hand of the messenger who stands on the sea and on the land." And I came away to the messenger, saying to him to give me the tiny scroll. And he is saying to me, "Take it and devour it; and it will be making your bowels bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey."

And I took the tiny scroll out of the messenger's hand, and devoured it. And in my mouth it was sweet as honey. And when I ate it, my bowels were made bitter.

¹¹ And they are saying to me: "You must prophesy again as to peoples and nations and languages and many kings."

And a reed like a rod was given me, saying: "Rouse and measure the temple of God and the altar and those worshiping in it. And the court outside of the temple cast outside-and you should not be measuring it, seeing that it was given to the nations, and they will be treading the holy city for ty-two months. And I will be endowing My two witnesses and they will be prophesying a thousand, two hundred sixty days, clothed in sack-These are the two olive cloth. trees, and the two lampstands which stand before the Lord of the earth. And if any one is wanting

to injure them, fire is issuing out of

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Throne Section—The Two Witnesses

⁴ The two olive trees remind us of Joshua the high priest and Zerubbabel (Zech.3-4), who witnessed for Jehovah

in a former apostasy.

The ministry of the two witnesses has much in common with the ministry of Elijah. Both cause a great drought for three and a half years (1 Ki.171). Both kill their enemies by miraculous fire. The prophet Malachi predicts this ministry (45): "Lo! I send you Elijah the prophet before the great and fearful day of Jehovah comes." John the baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah, but they did not receive him (Mt.1710-131114Lu. 117), hence he is still to come as was foretold. As he did not die, but was taken up into heaven in a whirlwind (2 Ki.211), and as he appeared with Moses on the Mount, speaking of the Lord's exodus which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem (Lu.930,31), he would make an excellent witness to 8 the Lord's life and death. Some think that Moses, because his place of burial is unknown (cf. Jude 9) and because he, too, appeared on the mount, is the other witness. Others prefer Enoch (Gen.524).

- These judgments are just and salutary, for men reject the testimony to the blood of Christ and the blessing that it brings. They are taught that their souls depend upon the abiding efficacy of His death.
- 7 Just as the two witnesses will be invulnerable until their testimony is complete, so it is with every slave who is doing God's will. Nothing in heaven or on earth can hinder the witness which has God back of it. And when it is finished the enemies of God will be confounded even in their death.
- 11 The short space of time—three and a half days—allowed for the news of the death of the two witnesses to travel over the earth, besides giving time for them to celebrate and send gifts, would seem to be a great difficulty to early students of this prophecy. It would take months and years to do this a century ago. Yet we have come to a time when this would be a matter of course. Everything will move with incredible swiftness when the judgments of God are in the earth. Let us not doubt God or judge His word by our own ignorance.

their mouth and is devouring their enemies. And if any one should be wanting to injure them, thus must he be killed. These have authority to lock heaven, that there may be no showers of rain for the days of their prophecy. And they have authority over the waters to be turning them into blood, and to smite the earth with every calamity whenever they will. And whenever they should be finishing their testimony, the wild beast which is ascending out of the abyss will be doing battle with them and it will be conquering them and killing them. And their corpse will be at the square of the great city, which, spiritually, is being called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord, also, was crucified. And those out of the peoples and tribes and languages and nations are observing their corpse three days and a half, and they are not letting their corpses 10 be placed in a tomb. And those dwelling on the earth are rejoicing over them and are making merry. and will be sending oblations to one another, seeing that these two prophets torment those dwelling on 11 the earth. And after the three days and a half the spirit of life out of God entered into them and they stand on their feet. And great fear falls on those beholding 12 them. And they hear a loud voice out of heaven saying to them: "Ascend here!" And they ascended into heaven in a cloud, and

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Throne Section—The Kingdom Comes
¹³ This earthquake, coming so near the
end of the judgment period, may be a
precursor of the one under the seventh
bowl (1618). It seems to affect Jerusalem principally—the city in which
the two witnesses testify and where
they will be killed.

15 The details of the events under the seventh trumpet are not given here, but in connection with the Temple Section. That there is some terrible infliction is certain, for it is the worst of the woes. We suggest that it includes the bowls (157) and the battle of the great day when the armies of the entire earth are arrayed against Jerusalem and are slain by the Rider on the White Horse (1911-17). It certainly ends with His coming in glory and taking over the governments of earth. 15 This completes the Throne Section. Christ is King! He reigns! This brings us to the era of the resurrection and the thousand years, which is detailed in the early part of the twentieth chapter.

18 The "judgment of the dead" here refers to the former resurrection and the awards given to those who have lost their lives for His sake. It corresponds with the word "judgment is granted them" (204).

THE TEMPLE SECTION CHRIST AS PRIEST

The "opening" of the temple (41 note), giving a view of the covenant. is the key to the first division of the Temple Section (1119-154). The covenant and the divine ritual are the exclusive prerogatives of one nation, Israel (Ro.94, etc.). Jehovah remembers His covenant with them, to fulfill it. In awful contrast with this is the opening of the second division of the Temple Section (155). There the tabernacle of the testimony is opened and the law is exposed. The first division is filled with blessing for the faithful in Israel, the second with terrible judgments for those of them who apostatize. This division centers around the faithful city Jerusalem; the next division is much concerned with unfaithful Babylon.

This section gives us the religious aspect of judgment, as viewed from the standpoint of the temple. Just as the books of Kings and Chronicles present

- their enemies behold them. And in that hour occurred a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city falls, and there were seven thousand names of the men killed in the earthquake. And the rest became affrighted, and give glory to the God of heaven.
- 14 The second woe passed away.

 Lo! the third woe is coming swiftly!
- And the seventh messenger trumpets. And loud voices occurred in heaven, saying: "The world kingdom became our Lord's and His Christ's, and He shall be reigning for the eons of the eons! Amen!"
- And the twenty-four elders who are sitting on their thrones before God fall on their faces and worship
- ¹⁷ God, saying, "We are thanking Thee, Lord God Almighty, Who art and Who wast, seeing that Thou hast taken Thy great power
- 18 and dost reign. And the nations are angered, and Thy indignation came, and the era for the dead to be judged, and to give wages to Thy slaves the prophets, and to the saints and to those who are fearing Thy name, the small and the great, and to blight those who are blighting the earth."
 - And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened, and the ark of God's covenant was viewed in His temple, and lightnings and voices and thunders and an earthquake and a great hail occurred.

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Temple Section—The Male Son

the same historical events from two sides, Kings from the human, Chronicles from the divine, so this section reviews the period which has already been presented in its relation to the 2 throne. These two sections correspond to the two great missions of the chosen nation (Ex.196). They were to be a royal priesthood (1 Pt.29). The Throne Section gives them the sovereignty of the nations. This section recovers their priestly functions. In that they will rule the nations for Jehovah: in this they bring them to Jehovah. The theme is no longer the political redemption of the earth. The dragon, the wild beast and the false prophet demand divine honors. They want worship. This is refused by the faithful in Israel. The apostates, especially those in Babylon, with all the rest of mankind, join the great confederation to blot out the worship of Jehovah from the face of the earth.

This woman is in contrast with the false woman, the city of Babylon (18), hence is a sign of the faithful city of Jerusalem. Clothed with the sun indicates the possession of authority to rule in the day of Jehovah. The law, which reflects God's glory and controls her walk, is under her feet. The twelve stars signify the twelve apostles, who will administer the kingdom. Her condition is like that of the nation in Isa. 2617. Unparalleled persecution will be her portion. This is directed especially against a select company out of her, which seems to correspond to the 144,000 who were sealed in the previous section (73). They seem to have a safe asylum in the temple (111) on Mount Zion (141) while the woman flies into the wilderness. They are celibates (144), hence are called male sons. 3 The dragon is explained as Satan. It is a composite figure, like the Lambkin (56), the seven heads and ten horns denoting subordinate powers which are a part of its organization. They are the real powers behind the great empire of the end, for, when the beast arises, it, too, has seven heads and ten horns, the counterpart of the dragon.

The times of God's saints are measured by the sun—twelve hundred sixty days. The same period, when concerned with the wild beast is measured by the moon—forty-two months.

12 And a great sign was viewed in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon underneath her feet, and on her head a wreath of twelve stars. And, being pregnant, she is crying, travailing, and being tormented to be bringing forth.

And another sign was viewed in heaven, and lo! a great fiery-red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads seven diadems. And its tail is dragging a third of the stars of heaven, and cast them into the earth. And the dragon stands before the woman who is about to be bringing forth. that it should be devouring her child whenever she may be bringing forth. And she brought forth a son, a male, who is about to be shepherding all the nations with an iron club. And her child is sn atched away to God and to His throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, there where she has a place made ready by God, that there they may be nurturing her a thousand two hundred sixty days.

And a battle occurred in heaven. Michael and his messengers battle with the dragon, and the dragon battles, and its messengers. And they are not strong enough for him, neither was their place still found in heaven.

And the great dragon was cast down, who is the ancient serpent called Slanderer and Satan, who is deceiving the whole inhabited earth. It was cast into the earth, and its messengers were cast with it. And I hear a loud voice in

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Temple Section—The Dragon and its Messengers

- ⁷ When the dragon attacks Jerusalem it comes into conflict with Michael, one of the chief princes (Dan.10¹³), who is Israel's prince (Dan.10²¹) in God's government. Prince Michael and his messengers eject the dragon and its messengers out of heaven.
- Satan is now in heaven (Job 16Eph. 612) and will not be ejected until about the middle of Daniel's seventieth week.
- ⁹ Satan is Hebrew, meaning adversary. This is a common term applied to the angels of Jehovah (Nu.22²²,3²), David (1 Sa.294), the sons of Zeruiah (2 Sa.19²²), etc. Later, when used in its untranslated form in Greek, it always seems to refer to the personality whose appellations are gathered together in this passage.
- 10 Michael's victory over the dragon secures the final overthrow of its power, though it continues for a short period, concentrated on the earth. Those still on the earth are warned that the fury of the Slanderer will be bitter because brief.
- 13 Compare Mt.2416. Our Lord counsels them to flee into the mountains of Judea, which are a wilderness, when they see the abomination of desolation (Dan.927) standing in the holy place. This fixes the time as the middle of the last heptad. The season and seasons and half a season (counted by harvests, as their sustenance is in question) corresponds to the last half of the seventieth heptad.
- 14 The great griffon vulture of Palestine has enormous strength and swiftness of wing. Unlike the eagle, it is bald (Mic.116), and it congregates in flocks. It was held in highest esteem by the ancients. Assyria and Persia and Rome adopted it for their ensign. This has been followed by some modern nations.

The aptness of this figure lies in the fact that these vultures inhabit the inaccessible cliffs (Jer.4910) where no human hand can touch them. Thus the inhabitants of the city of Jerusalem will find an asylum in the impenetrable fastnesses which abound in the vast mountainous wilderness not many miles from the city. There they will be sheltered and sustained until their Messiah is manifested in power.

heaven saying: "Now came the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ, seeing that the accuser of our brethren was cast down, who was accusing them

- 11 before our God day and night. And they conquer him through the blood of the Lambkin, and because of the word of their testimony, and they love not their soul, unto death.
- 12 Therefore, make merry, O heavens, and those who are tabernacling in them! Woe to the land and the sea, seeing that the Slanderer descended to you having great fury, being aware that the season he has is brief."
- 13 And when the dragon perceived that it was cast into the earth, it persecutes the woman who brought
- of a large vulture were given to the woman that she may be flying into the wilderness into her place there, where she is nurtured a season and seasons and half a season
- 15 from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast water as a river out of its mouth behind the woman that she should be carried away by
- 16 its current. And the earth helps the woman, and the earth opens its mouth and swallowed the river which the dragon cast out of its
- 17 mouth. And the dragon is angry with the woman, and came away to do battle with the rest of her seed, who are keeping the precepts of God and who have the testimony of Jesus.

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Temple Section—The Wild Beast

18 The dragon, not John, was stationed so as to bring up the wild beast.

The beast from the sea (which is the equivalent of the abyss) has hitherto enacted the rôle of a deceiver and is known as the false christ (Mt.245 cf. Un.61,2) and the white horse rider. That was in the political sphere. This is the religious section. Here the figure is a wild beast and corresponds to the antichrist.

The wild beast is a composite of the four beasts of the seventh of Daniel:

1. Lion 1 h	eads	0	horns
2. Bear1	**	0	"
3. Leopard4	**	0	. "
4. Nondescript1	"	10	• • •
The Wild Beast 7	**	10	"

Here we have the same wild beasts seen by Daniel after the nondescript has devoured the other three.

The Chaldee k'd'm. before, refers to position, not time (Dan.77,10), and may have the sense of east as in Hebrew. In that case the ten-horned beast is a confederacy of western powers and the other three beasts are eastern powers.

It will be noted that worship rather than rule is the dominant note here. These beasts bring before us kingdoms and confederacies bound together by a common religion. The western beast will be confederate Christendom. The ten horns will be ten Christian military powers. There are, in the East, three great religions, Brahmanism in India, Buddhism in Japan and China, Islamism or Mohammedanism in Turkey and the adjacent countries. These will form three great eastern combinations which will be, in time, conquered by Christendom, and absorbed into the one great world religion which will worship the dragon and the wild beast. Thus a confederacy of the whole world's religious powers will be concentrated against the few Jews who remain faithful to Jehovah.

This world empire will not be limited to any ancient boundaries but will include every tribe and people and language and nation-all who dwell on the earth-not only the Roman empire. 10 As the beast is to conquer the saints during its period of forty-two months,

24001 And it was standing on the sand 13 of the sea. And I perceived a wild beast ascending out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on its horns ten diadems, and on its heads blasphemous names. And the wild beast which I perceived was like a leopard, and its feet were as a bear's, and its mouth as the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gives it its power and its throne and great authority. And one of its heads was as it had been slain to death, and its death blow was cured, and the whole earth marvels after the wild beast. And they worship the dragon, seeing that it gives authority to the wild beast, and they worship the

wild beast, saying, "Who is like the wild beast?" and "Who is able to battle with it?" And to it was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies. And to it was given authority to do what it wills forty-two months. And it opens its mouth in blasphemies toward God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, and those tabernacling in heaven. And to it was given to do battle with the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given to it over every tribe and people and language and nation. And all who are dwelling on the earth will be worshiping it, everyone whose name is written in the scroll of life of the Lambkin Which has been slain

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Temple Section—The Second Wild Beast

the saints are warned not to commit any acts of violence during this period. They are exhorted to endure to the end.

11 The second wild beast emphasizes the religious character of the first. It is called a prophet (1613), and makes every effort to get worship for the beast. The calling down of fire from heaven was the test of deity in Elijah's day: "the God Who answers by fire, He is God" (1Ki.1824). Hence this will be a "strong delusion" (2 Th.211) like the giving of life to the image.

There is a marked similarity between the career of the first beast and Christ. As the Lord was crucified and raised again, so the wounded head descends into the abyss and is recalled to life by the dragon. Before that he will be a deceiver. The second beast is also patterned after Christ, for it points to the first, even as Christ points to the Father.

15 Spirit is the source of life. "The spirit is that which is vivifying" (Jn. 663). So that, giving spirit to the image results in its manifesting signs of life. This is man's poor imitation of Christ, Who is the Image of God (Col. 115). But God's Anointed was given God's spirit, not only to speak, as this image, but to give life. This image cannot give life, but causes all who do not bow to it to be killed. After centuries of civilization and culture and religion, mankind will actually descend to the worship of an image because it has miraculous powers!

16 The "mark" of the wild beast will be the emblem or flag or symbol of the world confederation. It must be worn, or be branded, in a most conspicuous place so that any one may be able to tell at a glance if any one is not a worshiper of the beast. Such a mark or badge has often been used to indicate political or religious affiliations, and usually consists of some appropriate and significant design expressive of the character or purpose of the unity which it represents. As all who belong to the body of Christ will be in heaven by this time, all the world will gladly receive this badge as the pledge of their allegiance to the world federation of religion, except the few Jews who will be faithful to Jehovah.

⁹ If any one has an ear, let him ¹⁰ hear. If any one is for captivity, into captivity he is going. If any one will be killing with the sword, he must with the sword be killed. Here is the endurance and the faith of the saints.

heast ascending out of the land, and it had two horns like a lambkin, and it talked as a dragon.

And it is exercising all the authority of the first wild beast before it, and making the earth and those dwelling in it to be worshiping the first wild beast whose death blow

was cured. And it is doing great signs, that it may be causing fire, also, to descend out of heaven into the ¹⁴ earth before mankind. And it is deceiving those dwelling on the earth because of the signs which were given it to do before the wild beast, saying to those dwelling on the earth to make an image to the wild beast which has the blow of 15 the sword and lives. And it was given to it to give spirit to the image of the wild beast, that the image of the wild beast should be talking also, and should be causing that whoever should not be worshiping the image of the wild beast may be killed.

And it is causing all, small and great, and rich and poor, and free and slaves, that an emblem may be given them on their right hand, or on their forehead, and that no one may be able to buy or sell except the one having the emblem of the wild beast, or its name, or the number of its name.

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Temple Section-The 144,000

18 All will be obliged to have one of three marks to indicate their worship of the wild beast: either its symbol, its name, or its number. The number, we are told, is the number of humanity. This has nothing to do with its name. The number seven, which is used throughout this scroll, is significant of sufficiency, completion. This is its meaning in Hebrew. The number six comes one short of this. It is significant of insufficiency. This entire era is marked by man's supreme attempt to attain perfection apart from God. All his achievements fall short of the divine standard. He accomplishes the federation of mankind-except a few Jews. He unites all the world under one religion-except a handful in Judea. He conquers all who oppose-except Christ. In everything humanity falls one step short of its goal. Hence its number is 666. This is the summit of all man's efforts.

1 This is the same company of 144,000 who are sealed in the Throne Section (73-8). There they are slaves, here they are worshipers, standing on Mount Zion, where the temple is. The seal on their foreheads (73), the names of the Father and the Lambkin, take the place of the name of the wild beast (1317), which the unfaithful receive. This is the time of the harvest and these are the first fruits (Lev.2310) before the full harvest, which is represented by the vast multitude (79). They will be, literally, celibates, whose worship is in marked contrast to the sensuous ritual which will characterize the worship of the wild beast.

6 The eonian evangel is not for this day. It is for the hours of judgment. In the midst of wrath He remembers mercy. But it does not call upon them to believe, as the gospel does today, for that is adapted to a time of undiluted grace (Ro.416). It is not even repent, for that is the door into the kingdom before the hour of judgment has struck (Ac.238). It is fear—fear for God in His most elemental character as the Creator. It is a demand that no one be worshiped but the One Who created the universe. This is His answer to the demands of the false prophet that all worship the wild beast and the dragon (cf. Ac.1724-31). 8 This notation fixes the time of

Babylon's overthrow, which is greatly

18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has a mind calculate the number of the wild beast, for it is the number of mankind, and its number is six hundred sixty-six.

14. And I perceived, and lo! the Lambkin standing on mount Zion, and with It a hundred forty-four thousand, having Its name and Its Father's name written on their foreheads. And I hear a sound out of heaven as the sound of many waters and as the sound of loud thunder, and the sound which I hear is as lyre singers playing on their lyres. And they are singing a new song before the throne and before the four animals and before the elders. And no one was able to learn the song except the hundred forty-four thousand, who have been bought from the earth. These are they who were not polluted with women, for they are celibates. These are they who are following the Lambkin wherever It may be going. These are bought from mankind, a first fruit to God and the Lambkin. And in their mouth falsehood was not found, for

And I perceived another messenger flying in mid-heaven, having an eonian evangel to preach over those situated on the earth, and over every nation and tribe and language and people, saying with a loud voice, "Fear ye God and be giving glory to Him, seeing that the hour of His judgment came; and

they are flawless.

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The Temple Section—The Emblem of the Wild Beast

expanded in the next division of this section, where God deals particularly with the apostates of the chosen nation. It falls just before the final judgments which usher in the priestly kingdom. This makes it clear that the Harvest and the Vintage follow Babylon's destruction and that, when we take up the next division of the Temple Section we must go back in time to a period prior to these announcements. 10 This so-called "cup of malediction" (Ps.758603Isa.5117-23), was wine fortified with myrrh, frankincense or some other bitter drug. In this case it is not tempered with water (186 cf. Mt. 2784Mk.1528).

11 The torment spoken of in this prophecy is of various lengths and limited to specific classes. All of mankind who have not the seal of God on their foreheads will be tormented months by the locusts, under the fifth trumpet (95). Satan and the wild beast and the false prophet will be tormented (2010). The fumes of the torment of those here spoken of last for the eons of the eons. These are the supreme sinners from among mankind, hence suffer the severest doom. others will share this fate with them. 13 "Happy are the dead who are dying in the Lord henceforth" can only be applied to this particular crisis. The reason is clear. No one, unless especially protected by God, can remain true to Him when they cannot buy or sell, or have any intercourse with their fellow men unless they have the emblem of the wild beast. It will mean certain death to accept the eonian evangel and worship the Creator.

THE HARVEST

14 The One like a son of mankind is, most probably, Christ Himself, hence the words "son of mankind" do not refer to Him directly but indirectly, for He is like him.

The harvest is the result of the eonian evangel. The darnel has been gathered into bundles; now the wheat is to be gathered into His barn (Mt. 1330). This division of the Temple Section is based on the covenant with Israel, hence ends in the blessing of His people and the destruction of their enemies. These are accomplished in the Harvest and the Vintage.

worship the Maker of heaven and the land and the sea and springs of water."

- And another, a second messenger, follows, saying, "It falls! It falls! Babylon the great has made all nations drink of the furious wine of her prostitution!"
- And another, a third messenger, follows them, saying with a loud voice, "If any one is worshiping the wild beast and its image, and is getting the emblem on his fore
 10 head or on his hand, he, also, is drinking of the wine of God's fury, which has been blended undiluted in the cup of His indignation, and he will be tormented in fire and sulphur before the holy messengers

 11 and before the Lambkin. And the fumes of their torment are ascending for the eons of the eons. And they are having no rest day and
- is getting the emblem of its name.

 12 Here is the endurance of the saints, who are keeping the precepts of God and the faith of Jesus."

night—those worshiping the wild

beast and its image, and if any one

- And I hear a voice out of heaven, saying, "Write: 'Happy are the dead who are dying in the Lord henceforth! "Yea," the spirit is saying, "that they will be resting from their toil, for their acts are accompanying them.""
- And I perceived, and lo! a white cloud, and on the cloud One sitting like a son of mankind, having a golden wreath on His head, and a

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Temple Section—Harvest—Vintage

THE VINTAGE

20 A stadium was 600 Greek feet, 625 Roman feet, or 125 paces, or one-eighth of a Roman mile. This is about 606% English feet. The race course at Olympia was this length. From this standard length, it became the usual name for a race course (1 Co.924).

From Harmageddon down through the valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 31,2, 9-16) to Bozrah (Isa.346-8631-6) is a line about this length. It is likened to an enormous trough for treading grapes such as was found in almost every vineyard in Palestine. The grapes were cast in and trodden with the feet, the juice running into the vat

The Vintage is referred to again in the next division, when the Rider on the white horse treads the wine trough of the furious indignation of God the Almighty (1915). Joel seems to fill in many details of this scene (Joel 39,16). After a proclamation inviting the nations to battle in the valley of Jehoshaphat, the account proceeds:

"Send forth the sickle, for the harvest is ripe:

Come, descend, for the wine trough is full,

The vats run over; For their evil is much.

Throngs, throngs in the vale of de-

For the day of Jehovah is near in the vale of decision!"

It is called The Vale of Decision. for here the controversy between Jehovah and the nations is finally decided.

Compare also Zeph.38Isa.341,8.

THE SEVEN BOWLS

Before the seven bowls are poured out we are given a vision which is the counterpart of the souls under the altar (69). They are bidden to rest until their number is completed. Here we have all those who suffer on account of their loyalty to God standing on a glassy sea. This is the laver. Only the altar and the laver stood in the temple court. Instead of cleansing, the glassy sea speaks of their permanent purity for resisting the worship of the wild beast and its image, and refusing to wear its emblem.

15 sharp sickle in His hand. And another messenger came out of the temple crying with a loud voice to Him Who is sitting on the cloud, "Thrust in Thy sickle and reap! for the hour came to reap, for the harvest of the earth is dried."

16 And He Who is sitting on the cloud cast His sickle on the earth and the earth is reaped.

And another messenger came out of the temple which is in heaven, he, also, having a sharp sickle.

And another messenger came out of the altar, having jurisdiction over the fire, and he shouts with a loud voice to him who has the sharp sickle, saying: "Thrust in your sharp sickle and pick the clusters of the earth's grapevine, for its

grapes are dead ripe." And the messenger cast his sickle into the earth, and picks the grapevine of the earth, and he casts them into the great trough of the fury of God.

And the trough was trodden outside the city, and blood came out of the trough to the horses' bits, from a thousand six hundred stadia [183.86 miles].

15 And I perceived another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven messengers having the last seven calamities - seeing that in them God's fury is consummated.

And I perceived as it were a glassy sea, mixed with fire, and those who come off conquerors from the wild beast, and from its image, and from the number of its name, standing on the glassy sea, having the lyres of the Lord God. And

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Temple Section-The Bowls

- 3 That these are saints out of Israel is evident, for they sing the song of Moses (Deut.321-43), which rehearses God's dealings with Israel throughout their history, and forms the ground upon which the judgment of the bowls is based. The song testifies against them. It vindicates God in pouring out the judgments upon them. To this they add the song of the Lambkin, which anticipates the results of His just awards.
- The temple of the tent of the testimony must be carefully distinguished from the temple of God with the covenant in view. The covenant calls upon God to fulfill His obligations, which He does in the judgments of the Harvest and the Vintage. These are directed against the confederation of the nations who oppose the worship of Jehovah and the priesthood of His people. In this section the testimony or law is in view. These judgments are specially directed against the apostates of the nation, especially the city of Babylon.
- The bowls were shallow basins used in the service of the temple. Before they are poured out those who are faithful in Israel have been killed or are in refuge. While they follow the same general course as the trumpets. being poured out upon the land, the sea, the water and the sun, they differ from them in intensity and character, corresponding to the different objects to be attained. The trumpets are usually limited in their effects to a third; the bowls seem to have no such limita-The trumpets are a political measure and close with the sovereignty of the earth in the hands of Christ. The bowls are distinctly religious. They are poured out on the worshipers of the wild beast and on those who shed the blood of the saints and His prophets. The seven messengers who trumpet "stand before God" (82). Another messenger is at the altar (83). The seven messengers who have the bowls come out of the temple. A voice out of the temple bids them perform their duty. No worship is possible while these judgments continue.

There is no reason why these inflictions should not be as literal as the plagues of Egypt, which they resemble (Isa.1116).

2 Compare Ex.98-11Job 27Deut.2827.

they are singing the song of Moses, the slave of God, and the song of the Lambkin, saying,

"Great and marvelous are Thy acts, Lord, God Almighty! Just and true are Thy ways, King of the eons!

Who ne'er may fear Thee, Lord,
And glorify Thy name?
For Thou only art benign,
For all the nations will arrive
And worship before Thee.

For Thy just awards were made manifest."

And after these things I perceived, and the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony opened in heaven. And the seven messengers, who have the seven calamities, came out of the temple, dressed in clean, resplendent linen, and girded about the chest with golden girdles. And one of the four animals gives to the seven messengers seven golden bowls brimming with the fury of God. Who is living for the eons of the eons. (Amen!) And the temple is dense with the fumes of the glory of God and of His power. And no one was able to enter into the temple until the seven calamities of the seven messengers should be consum-16 mated. And I hear a loud voice out of the temple, saying to the seven messengers, "Go and be pouring out the seven bowls of

God's fury into the land."

And the first came forth and pours out his bowl into the land. And an evil and malignant ulcer came upon those of mankind having the emblem of the wild beast, and those worshiping its image.

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Temple Section—The Bowls

- ³ This corresponds very closely with the second trumpet (88). That was limited to a third and affected the ships. The blood here is "as of the dead".
- 4 The third trumpet (810) affects a third of the rivers and springs in the same way as the third bowl. The first plague of Egypt (Ex.717-21) is a limited sample of this very judgment.
- 5 "The messenger of the waters" gives us a glimpse into the divine economy. The various departments of nature seem to be under the guidance and control of special executives who are responsible for their operation. The messenger of the waters acquiesces in this infliction on the ground that the blood of God's witnesses whom they had slain demanded such a retribution. This is echoed by a voice from out of the altar, where the souls of the martyrs are waiting for this very action (69). They call for vengeance on their enemies. This is right, in its place, but must not be imported into the present economy of God's grace. Our only recourse is to heap coals of fire on the heads of our enemies by returning good for their evil (Ro.1220).
- 8 The fourth bowl, like the fourth trumpet (812) affects the sun, but in an opposite way. Then a third of the sun and the moon and the stars were eclipsed. Now the heat of the sun is greatly intensified. This is one of the signs in the sun foretold by our Lord (Lu.2125). This is the day that burns as an oven (Mal.41) and its inhabitants are burned (Isa.2464225). Yet they do not obey the evangel and repent (147).
- ¹⁰ This infliction corresponds to the three days' plague of darkness in Egypt (Ex.10²¹-²³). Our Lord predicted a total withdrawal of the light of the sun and moon (Mk.13²⁴). Joel says that the sun should be turned into darkness (Joel 2³¹Ac.2²⁰). Under the fifth trumpet the sun and air are darkened by the fumes out of the well of the abyss (9²).
- 12 In view of the reason given, the drying up of the Euphrates must be a literal event. Only so can it have any effect on the mobilization of the oriental armies. It is always best to interpret literally unless that is impossible. There is nothing contrary to fact here.

- And the second pours out his bowl into the sea. And it became blood as if of the dead, and every living soul died which is in the sea.
- And the third pours out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water. And they became blood.
- ⁵ And I hear the messenger of the waters saying: "Just art Thou, Who art, and Who wast, Benign One, seeing that Thou judgest
- these, seeing that they shed the blood of saints and prophets and Thou dost give them blood to drink
- 7—they deserve it!" And I hear one from the altar saying: "Yea, Lord God, Almighty, true and just are Thy judgments!"
- And the fourth messenger pours out his bowl on the sun. And it was given to him to scorch mankind with fire. And men are scorched with the great heat, and they blaspheme the name of God, Who has the jurisdiction over these
 - calamities, and they do not repent, to give glory to Him.

 And the fifth pours out his bowl
- on the throne of the wild beast. And its kingdom became dark; and they gnawed their tongues for ¹¹ misery and blaspheme the God of heaven for their miseries and their
 - heaven for their miseries and their ulcers; and they do not repent of their acts.
- on the great river Euphrates. And its water is dried up in order that the road of the kings of the orient may be made ready. And I per-

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The Temple Section-Harmageddon

¹⁵ The best text reads "I am coming". The reference seems to be to the watchers in the temple at Jerusalem, in view of the great army coming against it. The inspector of the guard was wont to take away the cloak of any one found napping. Christ is not coming for us as a thief (1 Th.54). He is coming with a shout (1 Th.416).

16 Har Megiddon, the mountain district of Megiddo, overlooks the great plain of Esdraelon, about forty miles north of Jerusalem. Here Barak defeated the Canaanites (Jud.519), Gideon the Midianites, and the Egyptians Josiah (2 Ki. 2329). There will be no battle of Arma-It is the place where the geddon. armies of the earth will mobilize for the battle with the Rider on the White Horse (1919). The battle line will extend from Esdraelon down to Bozrah, a distance of about 184 miles. battle which follows is described later (1911-21) when the Rider on the White Horse mobilizes His heavenly army and fights them with the sword which issues out of His mouth. This battle is also referred to in the Vintage (1417-20), where the battle line is compared to a long winetrough and the blood to the juice of grapes.

18 Does not this imply that there have been such seismic disturbances before mankind was on the earth, thus confirming the facts of geology? And do not the very strata of the earth's surface prove the possibility of such upheavals? There have been violent local earthquakes during the tenancy of mankind, but this one will be far more destructive and terrible than any in the experience of the race hitherto.

19 This is the climax of all the climaxes in this scroll. It ends the seventh bowl which ends the seventh trumpet which ends the seventh seal. The great earthquake destroys all the cities of the earth except Jerusalem. This is divided into three parts. The destruction of Babylon is detailed in the following chapters.

21 This hail is like one of the plagues of Egypt (Ex.918-26). The stones will weigh over eighty-five pounds each. The effect of the earthquake and the hail will be like the springing of a mine beneath and a bombardment from above. It will be terrific.

ceived, out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the wild beast, and out of the

14 mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits, as if frogs (for they are spirits of demons doing signs), which are going out to the kings of the whole inhabited earth, to be mobilizing them for the battle of the great day of God Almighty.

15 ("Lo! I am coming as a thief! Happy is he who is watching and keeping his garments, that he may not be walking naked and they may

16 be observing his indecency!") And they mobilized them at the place called, in Hebrew, "Harmageddon".

¹⁷ And the seventh messenger pours out his bowl on the air. And a loud voice came out of the temple of God, saying, "It has occurred!"

18 And lightnings and voices and thunders occurred. And a great earthquake occurred such as did not occur since mankind came to be on the earth, a quake prodig-

19 ious, it is so great. And the great city came to be divided into three parts; and the cities of the nations fall. And Babylon the great is brought to remembrance before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His furious indignation.

²⁰ And every island fled, and the ²¹ mountains were not found. And hail large as a talent weight is descending out of heaven on men. And men blaspheme God as a result of the calamity of hail, seeing that great is its calamity—tremendous!

32 supplies of the dragon and **EKTOYCTOMATOCTOYAPAK²⁰** OUT OF-THE MOUTH OF-THE DRAGON

OUT OF-THE MOUTH OF-THE WILD-BEAST AND OUT OF-THE ONTOCKAIGKTOYCTOMATO AND OUT OF-THE MOUTH

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The Temple Section—The Scarlet Woman

The following chapters (17-19⁵) are a detailed expansion of the announcement of Babylon's fall in both the first and second divisions of the Temple Section (14⁸ 16¹⁹). We know the fact and the time; now we are told the reason and the circumstances which lead up to it.

³ The false woman is in contrast with faithful Jerusalem (12¹). The true woman is arrayed with heavenly splendor, ready to take her place in the kingdom of God. The false is decked with earthly ornaments and is supported by the wild beast (13¹), which is a composite of all the false religious powers of the world, organized and energized by Satan.

The secret consists in the fact that the unfaithful woman—apostate Israel—attains to world supremacy and blessing altogether apart from Jehovah or His Christ. By their own efforts the Jews have amassed untold wealth. When their capital is combined they will be able to dictate to any government on earth. Covetousness is idolatry. They worship wealth, and all the world has bowed down at the same shrine. The love of money leads to every other form of evil. It has been a fruitful source of earth's ills.

5 Babylon is the only city which has been the capital of a world empire in the past. Here Nebuchadnezzar had his capital, Medo-Persia made it theirs, and Alexander of Greece made it his after conquering the world. No other city has ruled the whole earth. The decree of Cæsar Augustus, that the whole inhabited earth should be registered (Lu.21) was a vain pretense. It could not be enforced in Babylon itself, for the Romans could not conquer it.

The present ecclesia is nowhere called the "bride of Christ", so present apostasy is not presented under the figure of marital unfaithfulness.

- 7 Babylon is supported in her ascendancy by the united religions of the earth. No wonder John marvels that, while God's saints are being slaughtered, the unfaithful should attain to almost millennial bliss!
- 8 This is a note of time. After the wild beast is recalled from the abyss by the dragon (131) it no longer supports the woman.

17 And one from among the seven messengers who have the seven bowls came, and he talks with me. saving: "Hither! I shall be showing you the sentence of the great prostitute who is sitting on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth commit prostitution, and those dwelling in the earth are made drunk with the wine of her prostitution." And he carries me away, in spirit, into a wilderness. And I perceived a woman sitting on a scarlet wild beast, replete with blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was clothed with purple and scarlet, and gilded with gold and precious stone[s] and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand, brimming with the abominations and uncleannesses of the prostitution of her and the earth. And on her forehead is written a name:

SECRET

BABYLON THE GREAT
THE MOTHER OF THE PROSTITUTES
AND THE ABOMINATIONS
OF THE EARTH

And I perceive the woman drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus.

And perceiving her, I marvel at the great marvel. And the messenger said to me: "Why do you marvel? I shall be declaring to you the secret of the woman and of the wild beast which is bearing her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. The wild beast which you perceived was, and is not, and is about to be ascending out of the abyss, and to be going away into destruction. And those dwelling on the earth, whose names are not written on the scroll of life from

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The Temple Section—The Wild Beast

8 When the wild beast emerges from the sea one of its heads was as though it had been slain (133). This, it would seem, is the eighth head, which is also one of the seven. These kings must be taken literally, for they explain to us what the heads represent.

12 In Daniel's vision (7) the western wild beast had ten horns, hence the ten horns probably stand for ten western military powers in Christendom. In a federation of many governments it is easily seen how they could temporarily delegate their powers to the head of the world league. When the call goes forth for an international force to destroy the rebellious Jews in Jerusalem the federation of the West as well as the kings of the East will mobilize at Armageddon. will be slain by the Rider on the White Horse (1919-21). This is their end. But before this they are used in the destruction of Babylon.

15 The Jews in Babylon will be supported principally by the toil of the great masses in the western nations. The enormous interest on the national debts will make the people comparative slaves of those to whom the interest is paid. When it becomes known that the greater part of this money is used by the Jews in Babylon for their luxurious magnificence, it will arouse the hatred of the peoples and the governments who are under a perpetual tribute, as there is no possibility of paying off the principal. This hatred will lead to the unanimous opinion that Babylon must be destroyed. The wild beast upon which Babylon rests, after being obsessed by the dragon, becomes her implacable enemy. This is God's means of destroying the apostates in Israel.

17 By a bold figure of speech God is said to have an "opinion". The ten horns pride themselves in forming their own opinion and in carrying it out, when, as a matter of fact, they are obliged, by the purpose of God, to think and act as they do. Man is moved by ulterior motives. God provides these and men, conscious only of their own selfish aims, accomplish His end. God wants Babylon destroyed: they gladly do it for their own sakes, not for Him.

the disruption of the world, will be marveling, observing the wild beast, seeing that it was, and is not, and will be present.

Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains where the woman is sitting on them, and they are seven kings. Five fall, one is, the other came not as yet: and whenever he may be coming, he must remain briefly. And the wild beast which was, and is not, it is the eighth, also, and is from among the seven.

and is departing into destruction.

And the ten horns which you perceived are ten kings—those who obtained no king dom as yet, but are obtaining authority as kings at one

hour with the wild beast. These have one opinion, and they are giving their power and authority to

14 the wild beast. These will be battling with the Lambkin, and the Lambkin will be conquering them, seeing that He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with Him are called and chosen and faithful."

15 And he is saying to me, "These waters which you perceived, where the prostitute is sitting, are peoples and throngs and nations and languages. And the ten horns which you perceived, and the wild beast, these will be hating the prostitute. and they will be making her desolate and naked, and they will be eating her flesh, and they will be burn-17 ing her up with fire, for God imparts to their hearts to form His opinion, and to form one opinion, and to give their kingdom to the wild beast, until God's words will

be accomplished.

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The Temple Section-Babylon's Fall

18 The basic law which underlies all figures of speech pleads with us to make this city a literal fact. No one presumes to make the woman literal. She must be figurative. The city, however, explains to us what the woman represents, and must be taken as a literal city. If not, there is no end to the "explanations" which may be offered, each of which may, in turn, be further explained.

18 The city is Babylon, on the Euphrates, which will be rebuilt in due time. But, instead of being a gentile city, as in time past, it will become a Jewish city, composed of the apostates of Judaism. When the Jews return to Palestine, many will find that place unsuited to their genius for trade and commerce, or for the beautiful city which they plan for themselves, so they move over to the plains of Shinar and build Babylon, making it the commercial and financial center of the world. At this time the vision of the Ephah (Zech.55-11) will have its fulfillment. The ephah was a measure used in commerce. This is a symbol of the Jews throughout the earth. They are merchants. A woman was cast into the ephah and swiftly borne to the land of Shinar, as Babylonia was called. There she will be established and take her toll of the traffic of the West with the East.

- ² Babylon has never fallen as is predicted in the prophets (Isa.13,47,Jer.50-51). Its final overthrow will be sudden (Isa.47¹¹) and it will become a desolation without any inhabitants (Jer.51²⁹). No Arabian will pitch his tent there. Yet hitherto it has gone into gradual decay until, of recent years, it is being restored. Peter lived there (1 Pt. 5¹³). To this day there has always been a considerable town in the center of its site. Moreover, its destruction is to be in the day of Jehovah (Isa.13⁶), when there are signs in the heavens (Isa.13¹⁰Un.6¹²), and when the sons of Israel and Judah come and seek the Lord their God (Jer.50⁴).
- 4 Some of God's true saints will be in the city before her destruction. These are warned to come out of her.
- ⁶ These sentiments are quite foreign to the present display of God's grace, for this is *not* a day of vengeance.

- And the woman whom you perceived is the great city which has a kingdom over the kings of the earth."
- 18 After these things I perceived another messenger descending out of heaven, having great authority. And the earth is illuminated by his 2 glory. And he cries with a strong voice, saying, "It falls! It falls! Babylon the great—and became the dwelling place of demons and a jail of every unclean spirit and a cage of every unclean and hateful 3 bird, seeing that all nations have fallen as a result of the furious wine of her prostitution. And the kings of the earth commit prosti-
- of the earth are rich as a result of her ability to indulge."

 And I hear another voice out of heaven, saying, "Come out of her, My people, lest you should be participating in her sins, and lest you should be getting her calamities, socian that her sins are piled up to

tution with her and the merchants

- seeing that her sins are piled up to heaven, and God remembers her injuries.
- Be paying as she also pays, and double the doubles, in accord with her acts. In her cup in which she blends, blend double for her.

 As much as she glorifies herself and indulges, so much torment and mourning be giving her, seeing that she is saying in her heart, 'I am sitting a queen, and am no widow, and mourning I may never see.'
- Therefore in one day her calamities will be arriving—death and mourning and famine—and she

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                                                            CHAPTERS 17-18
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DEATH b of-famine Y Temple Section—Burning of Babylon

11 Because of their enormous wealth
the Jews in Babylon will import every
luxury which their heart desires, so
that it becomes the best market for the
most valuable commodities of all kinds.
This will employ ships and merchants
who will make large profits. They will
mourn and lament, not out of sympathy with the suffering city, but because their means of gain is gone.

Babylon is not on the sea coast, but the Euphrates can easily be made navigable for large ships as far up as the site of the ancient city. It is notable that most of the great ports of the world have been inland on a river or bay. London, Antwerp, Hamburg, and New York, are all some distance from the open sea. The greatest maritime centers are on sheltered inland waterways to an open roadstead on the coast. Engineers are already at work on vast irrigation enterprises, to control the waters of the rivers. When there is a market, the Euphrates can easily be dredged to Babylon.

12 This is a list of the luxuries and necessities of a large city. Any attempt to "spiritualize" these items cannot fail to impress us with the futility of any but a literal interpretation of this marvelous metropolis of the end time. 12 Citron wood (callitris quadrivalvis) is found in the Atlas mountains of North Africa, and belongs to the cypress family. It is like lignum vita, and is still used in Algeria for inlaying. It is dark brown, heavy, close grained and fragrant. It was used, as its Greek name implies, to burn incense.

13 Ginger, or amomum, is a genus of aromatic herbs from which the "grains of paradise" of commerce are obtained. 14 Fruition, literally the "juice hour", is an expressive term denoting the time when fruit is fully ripe. Figs are insipid and the white juice which exudes from them is poisonous but a few hours before it becomes sweet as honey. There is typical teaching in this. Israel is the true fig tree. Babylon seeks to take her place and establish the kingdom and thus realize the blessings promised by the prophets, which is suggested by the delicate sweetness of the fig's syrup. Instead they eat the bitter, unpalatable poison, but a little while before the true kingdom is established.

shall be burned up with fire, seeing that strong is the Lord God Who is judging her.

And the kings of the earth who commit prostitution and indulge with her will be lamenting and grieving over her whenever they may be observing the smoke of her conflagration, standing afar off because of the fear of her torment, saying, "Woe! Woe! that great city! Babylon, the strong city! seeing that in one hour your judgment came."

And the merchants of the earth are lamenting and mourning over her, seeing that no one is buving 12 their cargo any more—a cargo of gold, and silver, and precious stone[s], and pearls, and cambric, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and every kind of citron wood, and every ivory utensil, and every utensil of the most valuable wood. and of copper, and of iron, and marble, and cinnamon, and ginger. and incense, and attar, and frankincense, and wine, and olive oil. and flour, and wheat, and beasts, sheep, and horses, and coaches, and bodies, and human souls. "And the fruition for which your soul yearned passed away from you, and all that is sumptuous and splendid perished from you, and they will be finding them 15 nevermore." The merchants of these things who are rich through her will be standing afar off because of the fear of her torment, lamenting and mourning, saying, "Woe! woe! the great city which

was clothed in cambric and purple

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Temple Section—Babylon's Destruction
16 "Gilded" seems to be a figure for all
mere outward show, for it is with gold,
and precious stones and pearls.

²¹ In the East the millstone is used to grind the meal for the daily bread.
²² The ancient harp was in the form of a lyre. It was used to accompany solo singing. "Entertainers" denoted those devoted to the arts of the muses, history, poetry, tragedy, astronomy, dancing and song. A flageolet is a flute blown from the end, as anciently.

²³ Enchantment comes from the word drug, but is used in this sense in the LXX as the equivalent of k'sh'ph, usually rendered sorceries or witch-craft (Ex.711-17 Deut.1810 2 Ki.922Isa.479 Jer.279Dan.22Mic.512Nahum 34).

23 The rapid rise of the power and influence of wealth has made it possible for riches to rule. Not only locally does the man of means control the government, but the policies of nations are determined by their financial obligations. In this way will the merchants of Babylon become the great men of the earth. Holding its weal in their hands, being the creditors of many nations, they will be able to dictate to them in any matters which affect their interests. By means of their capital they will conquer all nations. Kings will cringe before them, for they alone will be able to buy their bonds. Nations will slave for them, for they must pay the interest. The world will be theirs in spite of Jehovah's frown. He purposes to bless His people by making them a blessing to the nations. They obtain the desire of their souls by becoming a curse. They are the head of the new despotism-the autocracy of capital. Money rules the world far more really than emperors or kings or the public. The great confederacy which seems certain to arise out of the present world crisis, will have all political power, but will preside over a bankrupt world. Above them will be this woman-faithless, apostate Israel -and she will have dominion over the kings of the earth. No wonder they conspire to slay her rather than pay her the enormous tribute which her bonds demand!

²⁴ Just as the Jews of our Lord's generation were held guilty of crimes committed long before (Mt.23³⁵), so Babylon is charged with all previous blood-

shed.

and scarlet, and gilded with gold ¹⁷ and precious stone[s] and pearl, seeing that in one hour so much riches were desolated."

And every navigator, and every one who is sailing to the place, and mariners and as many as are working on the sea, stand afar off, and, observing the smoke of her conflagration, they cried, saying, "Is there any like the great city?" And they cast soil on their heads, and cried, lamenting and mourning, saying, "Woe! woe! the great city, by which all who have ships on the sea are rich, as a result of its preciousness, seeing that, in one

Make merry over her, O heaven, and ye saints and apostles and prophets, seeing that God passes

your sentence upon her.

hour, it was desolated."

And one strong messenger lifts a stone, as large as a millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying that "Thus Babylon, the great city, will be hurled down, and she may be ²² found in her nevermore. And the sound of the lyre singers and entertainers, and flutists and trumpeters shall be heard in you nevermore; and every artisan of every trade may be found in you never-²³ more; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard in you nevermore; and the light of a lamp may be appearing in you nevermore; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride shall be heard in you nevermore: seeing that your merchants were the magnates of the earth, seeing that by your enchantment all nations were deceived."

And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all

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Temple Section—Marriage of the Lambkin

1 Hallelujah, Greek alleluia, is the Hebrew Hallelu Jah, "praise ye Jah". This exclamation is used only in the "Hallelujah Psalms" (Ps.1043510545106 1,48 1111 1121 1131,9 11518 11619 1172 1351,3,21 1461,10 1471,20 1481,14 1491,9 150 1,6) and always in response to the execution of judgment. It occurs only in this passage (191,3,4,6) in celebrating the destruction of Babylon. It should never be used in rejoicing or worship in the present dispensation of God's grace.

7 We are first introduced to the bride of the Lamb by John the baptist (Jn. 328-30). She was composed of those in Israel who acknowledged Him to be Jehovah's Lamb for their sins. Just as the water blushed into wine at Cana of Galilee (Jn.21-11), so He will transform the law into brimming cheer when this marriage comes. It was the custom for the festivities to last for seven days or a fortnight. The wedding of the Lambkin will last for a whole millennium.

Israel is often presented under the figure of the wife of Jehovah. At Sinai He became her Husband (Jer.3132). He puts His comeliness upon her (Eze. 168-14). But she forsook Him to go after other lovers (Hos.26-13). So He gave Israel a bill of divorce (Deut.241-4). They were sent into captivity. According to the law they can never be His again. Nevertheless He invites her to return (Jer.31). He promises to wait for her and to keep her for Himself until the latter days. "You shall not have a husband, moreover I also am for you" (Hos.33). He will call them "'Return, sons of returnings," avers Jehovah, 'for I own you,' " says Jeremiah (314). When our Lord came He called them a wicked and adulterous generation, for they had forsaken Jehovah. But those who received Him became a part, not of the wife of Jehovah or the Lamb, but the bride of the Lambkin. Not a sad reunion in old age, but with youth renewed. The eastern bride was arrayed in the most gorgeous manner possible. Hence the prophet's question:

"Shall a virgin forget her ornaments?
A bride her ribbons?" (Jer.232)

8 The white apparel is symbolic of the rewards of their just acts.

who have been slain on the earth.

19 After these things I hear as it were the loud voice of a vast throng in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power is of our God, for true and just are His judgments, for He judges the great prostitute who corrupts the earth with her prostitution, and avenges the blood of His slaves at her hand." And a second time have they declared, "Hallelujah!" And her smoke is ascending for the eons of the eons.

And the twenty-four elders and the four animals fall and worship God, Who is sitting on the throne, saying, "Amen! Hallelujah!" And a voice came out from the throne, saying, "Be praising our God, all His slaves, and those who are fearing Him, small and great."

And I hear as it were the voice of a vast throng, and as it were the sound of many waters, and as it were the sound of strong thunders, saying, "Hallelujah! for the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns! We may be rejoicing and exulting and will be giving glory to Him, seeing that the wedding of the Lambkin came, and Its bride makes herself ready." And to her it was granted that she should be clothed in clean, resplendent cambric, for the cambric is the just awards of the saints.

And he is saying to me, "Write, 'Happy are they who have been invited to the wedding dinner of the Lambkin." And he is saying to me, "These are the true sayings of 10 God." And I fall in front of his feet to worship him. And he is say-

ONECOATMENONETITHCTH²⁰ THE ones-having-been-slain OF-THE LAND

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Temple Section-The Great Dinner 11 Contrast this scene with His entry into Jerusalem (Mt.211-9 etc.). There He presented Himself as their King, lowly, and mounted as any poor peasant would ride. Now He comes seated on a white horse. In the East it is a mark of dignity to ride on a white animal, especially a horse. This is allowed only to those of high rank. There is another contrast between this Rider and the false messiah under the first seal (62), whose conquests were followed by war, famine and pestilence. This battle is followed by a thousand years of peace and plenty and prosperity. The pseudo-messiah will be unfaithful and false, this Rider is Faithful and True.

11 This opening is in contrast with the open door (41) with which the Throne Section begins. Today there is no communication between heaven and earth. When the judgment begins it is still restricted, as is suggested by the figure of a door, but when this Rider comes forth, heaven itself is opened, showing that, at last, the barriers between heaven and earth are removed.

This is the glorious coming for which all His earthly people have longed, and concerning which the prophets have often spoken. Compare the passage in Isaiah (631-6), which reminds us of the Vintage (1417-20), which seems to be another aspect of this same scene, for they are combined in the question:

"Wherefore is Thy clothing red And Thy garments as the treader in the wine trough?"

14 The armies in heaven have already expelled the dragon out of heaven (12 7-9). Now they are about to finish the judgment of the earth. This was fore-told as early as the days of Enoch: "Behold, the Lord is coming with ten thousands of His holy ones to execute judgment upon all" (Jude 14,15).

This is the full end of all man's misrule and the prelude to the reign of Christ and His saints. The so-called second psalm finds its fulfillment in this battle. He meets the vast international army which worships the beast and the dragon, and, by van-quishing it, establishes His own rule and the worship of Jehovah. Then He takes His true place at the head of all earthly sovereignty.

ing to me, "See! No! I am a fellow-slave of yours and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

And I perceived heaven opened, and lo! a white horse. And He Who is sitting on it is called "Faithful and True," and in righteousness is He judging and 12 battling. Now His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, having names written of which no one except Himself is ¹³ aware, and He is clothed in a cloak dipped in blood, and His name is 14 called "The Word of God." And the armies in heaven followed Him on white horses, being dressed in 15 cambric, white and clean. And out of His mouth a sharp saber is issuing, in order that with it He should be smiting the nations. And He will be shepherding them with an iron club. And He is treading the wine trough of the furious indigna-16 tion of God, the Almighty. And on His cloak and on His thigh He has a name written: "King of kings and Lord of lords."

And I perceived another messenger standing in the sun. And he cries with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which are flying in mid-heaven, "Hither! Be gathered for God's great dinner, that you may be eating the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the

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AICAPKACXIAIAPXONKAI39000 FLESH OF-THOUSAND-chiefs AND Temple Section—The Thousand Years ¹⁷ God's great dinner after the battle shows how terrible will be the slaughter. The battle referred to in Ezekiel (39¹⁷⁻²²) is probably after the thousand years (20⁹).

19 The name "wild beast" is given both to the world empire and to its last head. This head and the false prophet are evidently superhuman—the "supermen" for whom the world is already looking. Their fate is in accord with their deeds. The fact that the wild beast was once slain but was recalled to life by the dragon, and the fact that the false prophet imparted life to the image, seem to indicate that they cannot be killed as the rest, hence suffer in the lake of fire during the thousand years. Their fate is unique, and must not be taken as the lot of all who die out of Christ.

²¹ This is like the destruction of Sennacherib's army on a grander scale (2 Ki.19³⁵).

² Satan, the Hebrew for Adversary, is, as his name implies, the great adversary of Christ. Here he is given all his various appellations. In Eden he was seen under the guise of the serpent (Gen.3^{1.5}). In this scroll he is seen under the figure of a dragon (12³). As the Slanderer (usually translated "devil" cf. 1 Ti.3¹¹ 2 Ti.3³ Tit.2³) he misrepresents God, as witness his attempts to seduce our Lord in the wilderness (Mt.4¹⁻¹¹Lu.4²⁻¹³).

4 Judgment here, as often, refers to awards rather than punishment. This "judgment" of the saints consists in granting to each one the place in the kingdom which he deserves. It is to be deplored that there is no good English word for judgment, which calls for the setting of matters right, whether the action be favorable or the reverse. God judges His saints as well as sinners—all get their due, whether their title to it is based on their own acts or on His promises.

From the usage of this word it is clear that even the condemnation of the unbeliever is no mere exhibition of aimless rage, but is carefully calculated to right the wrongs of all concerned. The claims of God and Christ, and of the sinner himself are all as conscientiously considered as in the first judgment in Eden (Gen.3¹⁴⁻¹⁹), where the very curse put upon the ground was for man's sake.

flesh of the strong, and the flesh of horses and of those who are sitting on them, and the flesh of all freemen as well as slaves, and of small and great."

And I perceived the wild beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered to do battle with Him Who is sitting on the ²⁰ horse and with His army. And the wild beast is arrested, and with it the false prophet who does signs before it, by which he deceives those getting the emblem of the wild beast, and those worshiping its image. Living, the two were cast into the lake of fire burning with sul-²¹ phur. And the rest were killed by the saber which is coming out of the mouth of Him Who is sitting on the horse. And all the birds are satiated with their flesh.

20 And I perceived a messenger descending out of heaven, having the key of the abyss and a large chain in his hand. And he lays hold of the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is the Slanderer and Satan, and binds him a thousand years. And he casts him into the abyss and locks it, and sets a seal upon it (lest he should still be deceiving the nations) until the thousand years should be finished. After these things he must be loosed a little time.

And I perceived thrones, and they are seated on them, and judgment was granted them. And the souls of those who have been executed because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of

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Temple Section—The Former Resurrection

- ⁴ Those who have suffered death for their loyalty during the great persecutions of the end time are especially included in the former resurrection. This is the time spoken of by Daniel (7²²) when "the saints safeguard the kingdom". This is the resurrection of the just (Lu.1⁴¹⁴) and the resurrection of life (Jn.5²⁹), in contrast to the resurrection of judgment (20¹²). But those who suffer martyrdom or who endure to the end will have the added privilege of reigning with Him and will be His priests for the thousand years. Their trials have wrought an eonian weight of glory for them. They will be happy and holy indeed.
- The statement that "the rest of the dead do not live until the thousand years may be finished" was omitted in the best manuscript. As the same codex also omits the tribes of Gad (75) and Simeon (77) from the hundred forty-four thousand, too much stress must not be laid on any such omission. These tribes must go in to make up the required number (144,000) in that manuscript. If we accept the insertion of the tribes we must also accept the insertion of this statement, for it rests on the same evidence. It could easily have been overlooked by a copyist, for the preceding sentence ends with the same words as this one does—"the thousand years" (see the Greek text). It is easy, in copying, to skip from the first "thousand years" to the next, and thus omit the intervening statement.
- ⁶ The thousand years limits their reign as *priests*. As kings they reign for the eons of the eons (22⁵)—a much longer period.
- The loosing of Satan finds mankind as a whole unregenerate after the thousand years of peace. They are ready as ever to follow the deceptions of Satan and oppose the Christ of God. But they are given short shrift, for fire descends from heaven and devours them. The lake of fire was prepared for the Slanderer and his messengers (Mt.2541). Now he receives his doom.
- 11 The Great White Throne judgment has no place for those who are Christ's, for they have all been made alive and have been enjoying eonian life for more than a millennium.

- God, and those who do not worship the wild beast or its image, and did not get the emblem on their forehead and on their hand—they also live and reign with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead live not until the thousand years should be finished.) This is the former resurrection.
- Happy and holy is he who is having a part in the former resurrection; over these the second death has no jurisdiction, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will be reigning with Him the thousand years.
- And whenever the thousand years should be finished. Satan will be loosed out of his jail. And he will be coming out to deceive all the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to be mobilizing them for battle, their number being as the sand of the sea. And they ascended over the breadth of the earth, and surround the citadel of the saints and the beloved city. And fire descended from God out of 10 heaven and devoured them. And the Slanderer who is deceiving them was cast into the lake of fire and sulphur, where the wild beast and where the false prophet are also. And they will be tormented day and night for the eons of the eons.
- 11 And I perceived a great white throne, and Him Who is sitting upon it, from Whose face earth and heaven fled, and no place was found for them.

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Temple Section-Jerusalem

12 This is not a "general" judgment, though it approaches nearer to it than any other. Only the dead appear before this throne. Those who are Christ's will have been made alive at His presence more than a thousand years before (1 Co.1523). Those who are His will not die during the thousand years. nor can they be hurt by the second death. Hence only those who have not believed in Christ appear in this judgment. They will all receive their just deserts, according to their acts, during the period between their resurrection and second death. Hence they are condemned, for all fall short of God's standard. They are not vivified, or made alive, as the saints are, by a better resurrection, hence they die again.

13 Thus all evil is segregated in the lake of fire, where Satan and the wild beast and the false prophet already are (2010). "This is the second death" defines the lake of fire. Those who have been raised from death return to the same state in the second death. The only immunity from condemnation lies in having a place in the scroll of life.

SECOND TEMPLE SECTION

- 1 In this section we enter a new eon. Peter, in his second epistle (37) tells us that the present heavens and earth are a storehouse of fire, and that they will pass away with a rushing noise and the elements be dissolved with fervent heat. The earth and the works in it shall be burned up by reason of the coming of the day of God. Isaiah (6517) has promised a new heaven and a new earth. Righteousness rules during the thousand years. It dwells in the new creation.
- ² The new Jerusalem is heavenly as to character, but will be located on the earth. It comes down "out of heaven". The present heavens and earth are not the first. There was an earth before the present (2 Pt.35). The world that then was perished by water (Gen. 12). The present is the second earth. The one in this vision is the third.
- That these are not final scenes is indicated by the temporary nature of God's habitation (Heb.119). Though all are His peoples, and He comforts all, He does not as yet, dwell amongst His creatures.

- And I perceived the dead, great and small, standing before the throne. And scrolls were opened, and another scroll was opened, which relates to life. And the dead were judged by that which is written in the scrolls, in accord with their acts.
- And the sea gives up the dead in it, and death and the unseen give up the dead in them. And they were condemned, each in ac-
- 14 cord with their acts. And death and the unseen were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death—
- the lake of fire. And if any one was not found written in the scroll of life, he was cast into the lake of fire.
- 21 And I perceived a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth pass away, and the sea is no more.
- And I perceived the holy city, new Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having been made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I hear a loud voice out of the throne saying.
- "Lo! God's tabernacle is with mankind, and He will be tabernacling with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them. And He will be brushing away every tear from their eyes. And death will be no more, nor mourning, nor clamor, nor misery: they will be no more, seeing that the former things passed away."
- And He Who is sitting on the throne said, "Lo! I am making all new!" And He is saying, "Write,

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Second Temple Section—The Holy City

This is written from the standpoint of the time when John wrote, at Patmos, hence all is put in the future tense. This is vital to a true understanding of this section.

⁶ "The Origin and the Consummation" gives Him His true place in creation and redemption. God begins with Him and He brings all God's purposes to fruition.

10 This is the city for which Abraham looked (Heb.1110). Since the capture of Zion by David (2 Sa.5), Jerusalem has been God's choice to rule over the nation and over the whole earth. The city descends out of heaven to the earth and seems to be shaped like an enormous mountain. Jerusalem and Zion are almost always described as a mountain. The contrast with Sinai (Ga.424-26He.1218-22) implies as much, while Ezekiel's vision of a very high mountain (4024312) may refer first of all to the millennial city, yet it is suggestive of the shape of the new Jerusalem.

No other shape could very well have its length and breadth and its height equal and be surrounded by a wall much lower than the city itself. The millennial city, as measured in Ezekiel. will be about twelve times as great as Jerusalem in the past, while the new Jerusalem of this vision will raise it to the seventh power. city has twelve gates, named after the twelve tribes (4831-34). There is a river, flowing from Jehovah's house, descending about three and a half feet per mile. If the throne be at the summit of this glorious city, such a river could wind about it with no greater descent than that in the millennial scene.

11 The word here used for luminosity, or light bearer, is applied to the sun and the moon (Gen.114,16). It is used figuratively of believers (Phil.215). But the sun and moon are not needed, for the glory of God illuminates the city (2123225) and its Lamp is the Lambkin (2123). Natural light was excluded from His habitations.

11 The jasper is probably the most valuable variety, called *plasma*, a translucent green stone. Like the gold of the city, its Luminosity will be crystalline in its translucent radiance. The Enthronned One looks like a jasper gem (43).

for these sayings are faithful and 6 true." And He said to me: "I have become the A and the Z, the Origin and the Consummation. To him who is thirsting I shall be giving of the spring of the water of 7 life gratuitously. He who is conquering will be enjoying these things and I shall be his God and he will be a son of Mine. Yet the timid, and unbelievers, and the abominable, and murderers, and paramours, and enchanters, and idolaters, and all the false—their part is in the lake burning with fire and sulphur, which is the second

And one of the seven messengers who have the seven bowls brimming with the last seven calamities came and talks with me, saying, "Hither! I shall be showing you the bride, the wife of the Lamb-10 kin." And he carries me away, in spirit, on a mountain, huge and high, and shows me the holv city, Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God; having the glory 11 from God; her luminosity is like a stone most precious, as a crystalline jasper gem: having a wall. 12 huge and high; having twelve portals, and at the portals twelve mes-

which are the names of the twelve ¹³ tribes of the sons of Israel. From the east are three portals, and from the north three portals, and from the south three portals, and ¹⁴ from the west three portals. And

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14 from the west three portals. And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them the twelve names of the twelve apostles Ainserts-Gings BELIEVING AND TRUE
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17 A cubit was the length from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger.
18 Josephus applies the term "in-building" to a mole or breakwater.

19 Lapis lazuli, anciently called sapphire, is a mixture of minerals, ultramarine in color, with specks of iron which look like gold. Pliny (Nat. Hist. xxxii, 9) describes it as sky blue with golden spots.

19 Chalcedony is probably a waxy, translucent gem, from white to bluish grey in color (Plin.xxxvii,8).

20 Sardonyx (a variety of onyx, socalled from its resemblance to the substance of a finger nail or claw) consists of alternate layers of light-colored onyx between reddish layers of carnelian or "sard".

²⁰ Carnelian, or sardius, is used for the Hebrew *ohdem*, red $(Ex28^{17}39^{10}Eze.28^{13})$ and for the onyx $(Ex.25^{7}35^{9})$.

²⁰ The gold stone, or chrysolite, of the ancient is our topaz, while their topaz is our peridot.

20 The best beryl is of a sea green color.
20 Chrysoprase is the palest of the green beryls of a golden cast.

²⁰ Amethyst, the ancient hyacinth, resembles the flower of this name. It is a transparent gem of violet color (cf. 917). The amethyst of the ancients is now called garnet (917).

22 Six temples "made with hands" are indwelt by Jehovah in the eons. The first was the Tabernacle in the wilderness (Ex.25°). The second was erected by Solomon (2 Sa.71°). It was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar (2 Ki.25°). The third was built by Ezra at the command of Cyrus (Ezra 6°). Herod's temple is the fourth. The fifth is called "the temple of God" (2 Th.24) and is measured in this scroll (111). The sixth is described by Ezekiel (40-43). It is intensely interesting to note the development of the truth in the first, second and sixth. Here we have the true Temple, God Himself, with the true Sacrifice, the Lambkin.

15 of the Lambkin. And he who is talking with me had a golden measuring reed, in order that he should be measuring the city, and 16 its portals, and its wall. And the city is lying four-square: and its length is as much as the breadth. And he measures the city with the reed-twelve thousand stadia [1378.97 miles]. Its length and 17 breadth and height are equal. And he measures its wall, a hundred forty-four cubits [about 200 feet] of a man, which the messenger's 18 measure is. And the buttress of its wall is jasper, and the city is clear 19 gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the city's wall have been adorned with every precious stone. the first foundation with jasper, the second lapis lazuli, the third chal-²⁰ cedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh topaz, the eighth beryl, the ninth peridot, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh amethyst, the ²¹ twelfth garnet. And the twelve portals are twelve pearls. Each one of the portals was respectively of one pearl. And the city square is gold, clear as translucent glass.

And I perceived no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lambkin are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun nor of the moon that they should be appearing in it, for the glory of God illuminates it, and its Lamp is the Lambkin.

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SECOND THRONE SECTION

²⁴ The vision has ended. John now is back again in Patmos and tells what will be in the days of the vision. It is not that the common and abominable will be outside the city, unable to enter. Then all will be God's people and misery will be no more (21³,4). But those who are false before—these have no hope of entering into the city. In Israel, this is a reward.

1 The river of living water can be traced from the laver of the tabernacle (Ex.3018) through the ten lavers and the molten sea of Solomon's temple (2 Chr.42-6) and the waters which flowed from the threshold of Ezekiel's house (Eze.47) to the crystal stream here described.

² Ezekiel describes the trees which line the millennial river (477,12).

² The square, or common, or plaza, was a wide open space which had corners (Mt.65) and a center. The streets of eastern cities could not be denoted by this word, which means wide, broad, for they have always been exceedingly narrow, and were called by a distinct name (Mt.6°Lu.14°1Ac.9¹¹12¹⁰).

³ At this point the seer changes his viewpoint back to Patmos. What was present to his gaze is now put in the future. His slaves will minister; they will reign. Hence their reign is for the eons of the eons. This would present a difficulty if John spoke from the standpoint of the last eon, for only one eon will then remain in which they can reign (1 Co.15²⁴).

3 The "curse" is not yet gone or the leaves of the trees were useless. But there is no more anything devoted to God for destruction. His way with men has changed.

Though the temple and priesthood are gone, they continue to reign for the eons of the eons. This corresponds with the Hebrew scriptures, for the temple with its ritual lasts "for ever" (for the eon) but the kingdom continues "for ever and ever" (for the eons of the eons).

SECOND PROPHETIC SECTION

6 This section should not be referred to the far future which John has been describing. He reverts to the time when the prophecy was given to him. Hence the era is impending, the Lord is still to come, the sayings of the prophecy may still be kept.

by means of its light, and the kings of the earth are carrying their ²⁵ glory into it. And its portals should under no circumstances be locked by day (for there will be no ²⁶ night there). And they will be carrying the glory and the honor ²⁷ of the nations into it, and under no circumstances may anything contaminating, or one who is making an abomination and a lie be entering into it, except those having been written in the Lambkin's

scroll of life. And he shows me a river of water of life, resplendent as crystal, issuing out of the throne of God and the Lambkin. In the center of its square, and on either side of the river is the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, rendering fruit appropriate to each month. And the leaves of the tree are for the cure of the nations. And there will be no more any doom, and the throne of God and the Lambkin will be in it. And His slaves will be offering divine service to Him. And they will be viewing His face. and His name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more, and they have no need for lamp light and sun light, seeing that the Lord God will be illuminating them. And they will be reigning for the eons of the eons.

And He said to me, "These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, commissions His messenger to show to His slaves what must occur swiftly. And lo! I am coming swiftly! Happy is he who is keeping the sayings of the prophecy of this scroll."

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Second Prophetic Section

10 It is God's will that this prophecy should be known by His slaves. Daniel was commanded to seal up his vision because much was to intervene before its fulfillment. As this era is impending—there is nothing between the present and this prophecy—it is time for it to be studied and understood.

Nothing (except a knowledge of the special epistles written for the present) will help us more in estimating the true trend of present day movements than a clear conception of their outcome in the great judgment period just ahead. All of the factors of the end time are rapidly taking on the form which they will have in that day. Israel is going back to the land. The nations are forming the great confederacy. The religions of the earth are uniting. In it all God is given no place.

12 As in the first chapter (18), the Lord Jesus suddenly intervenes and closes the prophecy with His own august declarations. The three-fold title, the A and the Z, the First and Last, and the Origin and the Consummation, are most appropriate after the revelation of the marvelous jeweled city and the glories of the new earth. At present He has only begun: then He will finish. The A and the Z suggests that He is the whole alphabet of God's revelation, the First and the Last, His place in the times in which it is accomplished, and the Origin and Consummation, His place in the purpose which underlies it.

16 The night is darkest just before the dawn. His earthly people will long for the Morning Star to herald the approach of day. Then He, from Whom David sprang and Who descended from David, will fulfill all the promises which God made to Him.

17 Come! All who know Him and His will cannot but obey this last request. The hearts of all saints should well up into one grand shout to urge His speedy return. There is no other help, no other hope. Come! Lord Jesus!

Come, then, and, added to Thy many crowns, Receive yet one, the crown of all the earth, Thou Who alone art worthy! It was Thine By ancient covenant, ere Nature's birth; And Thou hast made it Thine by purchase since And overpaid its value with Thy blood.

Thy saints proclaim Thee King; and in their hearts Thy title is engraven with a pen Dipped in the fountain of eternal love."

COWPER, in The Task

And I. John, am the hearer and observer of these things. when I hear and observe, I fall to worship in front of the feet of the messenger who is showing me these things. And he is saying to me: "See! No! I am a fellowslave of yours and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who are keeping the sayings of this scroll: worship God!" And he is saying to me, "You should not be sealing the sayings of the prophecy of this 11 scroll, for the era is near. Let him who is injuring, injure still; and let the filthy be filthy still; and let the just do righteousness still; and let the holy be hallowed still."

12 "Lo! I am coming swiftly, and My wage is with Me, to pay each 13 one as his work is. I am the A and the Z, the First and the Last, the Origin and the Consummation.

¹⁴ Happy are those who are rinsing

their robes, in order that it will be

their license to the tree of life, and they may be entering the portals ¹⁵ into the city. Outside are curs, and enchanters, and paramours, and murderers, and idolaters, and everyone fondling and fabricating falsehood.

I, Jesus, send My messenger to testify these things to you in the ecclesias. I am the Root and the race of David, the resplendent Morning Star. And the spirit and the bride are saying, 'Come!' And let him who is hearing say 'Come!' And let him who is thirsting be coming. Let him who is wanting it take the water of life gratuitously.

8 I am testifying to everyone who is hearing the words of the prophecy

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Conclusion—Warning—His Coming 18 It is one of the saddest commentaries on the frailty of mankind to find that this warning has about seven variant readings in the three manuscripts we consult. Who would not suppose that these lines would be most anxiously and scrupulously copied by the scribe? Surely no transcriber would dare to add or subtract a single letter! Yet there is not only one transposition. but four additions and three omissions in a passage fearfully denouncing such a practise. May God forgive if we, unwittingly, have failed to restore or expunge these mutilations! 20 The desire for the coming and presence of the Lord is the truest test of spiritual condition. The saints long for

Him, not merely for their own happi-

ness but for the manifestation of His glories and the blessing of all creation.

of this scroll: If ever any one may be appending to them, God will be appending to him the calamities which have been written in this scroll. And if ever any one should be eliminating from the words of the scroll of this prophecy, God will be eliminating his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, which are written in this scroll.

He Who is testifying these things is saying: 'Yea, I am coming swiftly'.''

"Amen! Be coming, Lord Jesus!"

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints! Amen!

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