

If You Have a Love of the Truth, This Is Your Wake-Up Call

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If You Have a Love of the Truth, This Is Your Wake-Up Call

Over the past sixteen years, I have provided insight into *The Apostolic Teaching* piecemeal, or as the Prophet Isaiah says, “a little bit is here, a little bit is there.” That was intentional. I was just playing a little “three-card Monty” with Pretenders because I knew they would be too intellectually lazy to put all the bits and pieces together for themselves. They want to be spoon-fed titillating tidbits that have no logical coherence so that they can go on believing whatever nonsense makes them feel comfortable. Some fools who *think* they understand will even try to put *The Teaching* together and make it easier for other Pretenders to understand. Bad move. Unfortunately for all who are stupid enough to participate in that dumbness, *The Apostolic Teaching* has a much more incredible coherence than they will be able to “see” until it is too late for it to do them any good.

Now that the removal of the sixth seal is almost upon us, the time has come for me to step up the pace a bit. So I am going to explain some things in this article that only “those who have insight” will be able to accept. But before I do that, I want to summarize a few of the basics I have been emphasizing since the very beginning.

For starters, I will assume you have already read and understood either *The Advent of Christ and AntiChrist* or *The AntiChrist* and are therefore familiar with what Irenæus and Hippolytus—the third- and fourth-generation disciples of the Apostle John—tell us about the Antichrist. That is, he is going to: 1) be the messiah the Jews are expecting, 2) rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem, and 3) reign as king of the Jews for three and a half years before devastating the Earth. I will also assume you have read and understood the article “Wanna Hear the Whopper the Liar Came Up With? (I

Doubt You’ll Believe It!)” in the October 1996 issue of *The Voice of Elijah* newsletter. Those two sources should have made you aware that Satan’s delusion already has a firm grip on most “Christians” today.

Assuming you have that basic information as a background, I will begin by quoting something the Prophet Daniel wrote:

“In that time Michael, the great prince who stands over the sons of your people, will stand; and there will be a time of distress that hasn’t been seen since there was a nation until that time. In that time your people (everyone found written in the scroll) will be set free. Many will awaken from sleeping in the dust of the ground. These? To life of ‘olam! But these? To reproach and repulsion of ‘olam. Those who have insight will enlighten like the One enlightening the expanse; and those who lead the Many to righteousness like the stars to ‘olam and beyond. But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal up the scroll, until an End Time. Many will go seeking and the knowledge will increase.” Then I, Daniel, looked; and Look! Two others were standing: One on this bank of the river; one on that bank of the river. And He said to a man dressed in linen (who was above the waters of the river), “How long until the end of the incomprehensible things?” Then I heard the man dressed in linen (who was above the waters of the river). He raised his right hand and his left hand to the Sea of Waters, and He swore by the Eternally Living One that (it was) for ‘a festival, festivals, and a half.’ When finished, He will have broken the strength of the people of holiness; all these will be completed. Now I had heard, but I couldn’t understand. So I said, “My Master! What is the culmination of these {things}?” But He said, “Go, Daniel! Because the words are locked up and sealed until an End Time.

Many will be purified, made white, and refined. The guilty will condemn {themselves}, and all those who are guilty will not understand. But those with insight will understand."

(Daniel 12:1–10) —my translation

Most conservative "Christians" today agree that the "End Time" mentioned in that passage refers to the time of the Antichrist. Therefore, Daniel has just told True Believers two things they need to know about the time of the Antichrist: 1) the words of the Prophets of Israel were "sealed" so that no one would be able to read and understand what they had written until the arrival of an "End Time," and 2) even then only those who have been declared "not guilty" by God will be able to understand what has been "sealed."

Concerning the sealing of prophecy, the Early Church Father Hippolytus wrote the following some-time around A.D. 200:

And that the things spoken of old by the law and the prophets were all sealed, and that they were unknown to men, Isaiah declares when he says:

"And they will deliver the book that is sealed to one that is learned, and will say to him, Read this; and he will say, I cannot read it, for it is sealed." [Isaiah 29:11b]

(The Advent of Christ and AntiChrist, pp. 121–122)

I reiterate: Hippolytus was a fourth-generation disciple of the Apostle John by way of Polycarp and Irenæus. That is, he was mainstream Christianity all the way. He would have been elected head of the church in Rome shortly after A.D. 200 if Pretenders had not already managed to take control of the Church. So, instead of becoming the most influential member of the orthodox Church, he ended up being the first known "protest-ant" to renounce the imbecilic goings on in the Church at that time. [See "Poetry Ain't All Bad (Contrary To What I Thought Yesterday)" *The Voice of Elijah Update*, February 1993.]

We will look at the verse that Hippolytus quotes from Isaiah 29 a bit later. But first, you need to consider what the Apostle Paul said about the appearance of the Antichrist. In his best-known statement concerning that subject, he agrees completely with Daniel's assertion that only "those with insight will understand" what has been sealed up in the Hebrew Scriptures:

But we ask you, brothers, concerning the coming of our Majesty Jesus Christ and our "gathering" to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from the understanding or be disturbed either by a spirit, or by a word, or by a letter as {though} from us, as {though} the day of His Majesty has come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, because {that cannot be} unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of "the lawlessness" is revealed—the son of the annihilation—the one who opposes and elevates himself above everything called "god" or "object of worship," so that he seats himself in the temple of God, himself proclaiming that he is God. Don't you remember me telling you these things while I was still with you? And you now know what is holding fast so that he will be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of "the lawlessness" is already "working"—{which is} only the one now holding fast until he comes out of the midst. And at that time "the lawless one" will be revealed, whom His Majesty [Jesus] will kill by the "Spirit" of His mouth and wipe out by the appearance of His coming; the one whose coming is according to the "working" of Satan—in all power, and signs, and lying wonders, and in all deceptive injustice for those who are perishing—against those who did not receive the love of the Truth for them to be saved. And because of this, God will send upon them a delusional "working" so that they believe "the lie," in order that all those who did not believe the Truth but took pleasure in "the injustice" would be judged. (2 Thessalonians 2:1–12) —my translation

As should be obvious to those who are still able to understand the Truth, the Apostle Paul understood exactly the same thing that Daniel understood: When the Antichrist appears, those who are taken in by his delusion will be "those who did not receive the love of the Truth for them to be saved." As for those who read what I am writing and ignorantly prefer to believe "the lie" that Satan has already propagated, Paul plainly describes their situation this way: "God will send upon them a delusional 'working' so that they believe 'the lie.'" Under those circumstances, the question you might want to ask yourself is this: "How much do I love the Truth?"

If you have not already been questioning what you believe to make sure that what you believe is true, the answer to that question is fairly obvious: Not much. In which case, perhaps you should also consider how the Apostle John describes Satan:

And the great dragon—the old serpent, the one called “Devil” and “Satan,” who deceives the whole world—was thrown down to the Earth. And his messengers were thrown down with him.

(Revelation 12:9) —my translation

Consider the “Harlot”

Now that I have explained why “the guilty” will have no insight at all into the Truth when the Antichrist appears, let’s take a look at the statement from Isaiah 29 that Hippolytus quoted when he made the assertion that the Prophets were “sealed.” Before you can understand what Isaiah said, however, you need to understand the context in which he said it. So I’ll begin my explanation of the biblical text with Isaiah 28. But unfortunately, you can’t understand what Isaiah says in Isaiah 28 unless you first understand what he is *talking about*. So we will back up and start there.

As background to what I say here, you should read the books *Not All Israel Is Israel* and *The Mystery of Scripture*, as well as a few of the articles I have written over the years. Here is the short list: “The Parabolic Pantomimes of Jesus Christ,” *The Voice of Elijah*, January 1991; “The Sad, Sordid History of the People of God,” *The Voice of Elijah*, July 1996; “So Why Would a Nomad ‘Build a House’ and Settle Down?” *The Voice of Elijah*, October 1997; “Jesus Is the Carpenter Who ‘Built the House’ of God,” *The Voice of Elijah*, October 2002; “A Promise Is Good, But a Promise Kept Is Better,” *The Voice of Elijah*, October 2005; “The Problem With Liars? They Always Try to Rewrite History,” *The Voice of Elijah*, January 2006; “A ‘New’ Covenant Is Only New Once,” and “Questions & Answers,” *The Voice of Elijah*, April 2006.

In the articles I just mentioned, I have already explained some things about the ancient beliefs that stand behind the sacred prostitution ritual that was associated with the worship of the Canaanite god Baal. If you are familiar with what I said there, this article will tie a few more of those things together for you. But it will not answer all of your questions either. That is just *The Way* the principle of “a little bit here and a little bit there” works. As someone once said, those who “hunger” and “thirst” for “righteousness” will *eventually* be “filled.” Those who don’t won’t. Solomon warned us in the parables of the Book of Proverbs that fools who have no concern for “walking in *The Way*” will “fill”

their “belly” with whatever tripe is handy. That said, those of you in The Next Step program might also want to review the things I explained concerning the sacred marriage ritual in the first few Next Step tapes.

In essence, the Canaanite mythology related to the sacred marriage ritual goes like this: The Canaanites believed their god Baal was—like the Greek god Zeus—the god of the thunderstorm. If you are familiar with the climate in California, the same basic weather pattern applies to the Holy Land: Summers are hot and dry; winters are wet and rainy. The Canaanites thought their god Baal came “riding on the clouds” (Ps. 77:17, 104:3) during the rainy season, bringing the “early” and the “latter” rains in off the Mediterranean Sea.

According to Canaanite myth, the Canaanite god “Death” killed Baal every spring when the “latter” rains ended, and Baal was resurrected and came “riding on the clouds” when the “early” rains began in the fall. Therefore, whenever there was a drought, Canaanite myth held it was only because Baal was still being held captive by the god “Sea” and would not be released until he met all the requirements necessary for resurrection. That is the point of the *parabolic imagery* related to the confrontation between Elijah and the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:1–46). Elijah brought the rain only after the prophets of Baal had failed to rouse Baal from what Elijah sarcastically called “sleep” (1 Kings 18:27).

The reason for Baal’s captivity by “Prince Sea” was always thought to be the same: It was because he had no “house” in which his “name” could dwell. That is, he did not have a human son to “carry his name” so that he could enter the resurrection and once again come “riding on the clouds” to bring the rain. Since drought was one of the things these ancient people feared most, they took some rather drastic measures to ensure that the god Baal would always have a “house”—that is, a human son—to “carry his name.” One of those drastic measures involved the ritual sacrifice of children. Another involved cultic prostitution. I will explain the latter here and leave the former for some later time.

In a popular form of the ancient sacred marriage ritual practiced in the land of Canaan, cultic prostitutes (“harlots”) called *zonah* offered themselves “under every green tree” (cf. Jer. 2:20; 3:6, 13) to every “stranger” who happened by. During summertime and times of drought, the *zonah* was earnestly hoping the next “stranger” would be the Canaanite god of wisdom—Kothar-wa-Hasis—who would “take” her and “build a house” for Baal so that “Prince Sea” would

release Baal and he could once again assume his rightful place as king of the blessed dead, bringing the rain on which their life depended. But at other times of the year, the cultic prostitutes had a slightly different purpose in mind—which I will also explain some other time.

The cultic ritual in which a “virgin” *zonah* sought to “build a house” for Baal began with the *zonah* and her “lover” eating a covenantal “banquet” or “marriage feast” and drinking a cup of “mixed wine”—that is, wine to which the narcotic mandragora had been added. (See “Is Iraq Mystery Babylon?” and “The Parabolic Pantomimes of Jesus Christ,” *The Voice of Elijah*, January 1991.) If you are not familiar with the characteristics of that particular toxin, just do a bit of research concerning Vincent van Gogh’s addiction to absinthe. Mandragora? Absinthe? Same thing. Moses and the other Prophets of Israel refer to it as “wormwood.” Some might even call it “love potion number nine” since it is made from the root of the mandrake plant, which is still considered by some to be a rather powerful aphrodisiac (cf. Gen. 30:14–16).

If you have read enough of what I have written over the years to understand how the Apostles continued to use the Hebrew idioms and *parabolic imagery* the Prophets used, you might also want to check out the verses in which the Prophets *parabolically* refer to “wormwood” and examine what the Apostle John says when he uses the term in the Book of Revelation. Then, it might help you to understand the message of the Book of Revelation if you think in terms of the “Harlot” Babylon deceiving her “lovers” through a sacred marriage ritual in which she gave them a “cup” of “mixed wine” to drink (Rev. 8:11; 14:10; 16:19; 17:4; 18:6). Those participating in The Next Step program might also want to revisit my explanation of that *parabolic imagery* there.

After a “virgin” *zonah* of Israel and her “lover” ate a meal and drank a cup of “mixed wine,” they then consummated their sacred union and began to sleep the “sleep of death,” which was brought on by the cup of “mixed wine” they had drunk. According to Canaanite belief, the *zonah* who had the good fortune to have been “taken” by the Canaanite god of wisdom could then use the knowledge, understanding, and wisdom that he possessed to descend into the realm of the dead and negotiate the release of Baal. The point being that if she were successful in her negotiations, she and the god of wisdom would conceive a “name” for Baal, and the

“rider on the clouds” would once again appear on the horizon, and rain would begin to fall.

In that brief explanation, you have the basic outlines of Israel’s great sin—the sin that stands behind a majority of the statements made by the Prophets and Apostles, not to mention the parables of Jesus. Knowing that, you now have sufficient insight on which to “build” even more insight from what the Prophet Isaiah says in Isaiah 28 and 29.

Isaiah 28

The mythology related to the sacred marriage (think “*zonah*”) ritual as it was practiced by the “virgin daughters” of Israel stands squarely behind what Isaiah says here:

Woe!

*The drunkards of Ephraim are a splendid crown!
But the beauty of his finery is a withering blossom
On the head of a valley of fat ones smitten by wine!
Look!*

My Master has a Strong and Bold one!

Like a Rainstorm of hail;

A Storm front of destruction!

Like a Rainstorm of abundant flood water

He has caused to settle to the Earth by hand!

A splendid crown—the drunkards of Ephraim!

They’ll be trampled under foot!

A withering blossom—the beauty of his finery,

On the head of a valley of fat ones!

They’ll be like a first-ripe fruit before summer harvest!

When the One Who sees sees it,

He’ll swallow it as soon as it’s in His palm.

(Isaiah 28:1–4) —my translation

To understand what Isaiah says, you first need to know that “Ephraim” is a *parabolic image* the Prophets use to refer to the northern kingdom. You also need to know that the entire northern kingdom was “cut off from” Israel in 722 B.C. (See *Not All Israel Is Israel*, pp. 137 ff.) That event occurred during Isaiah’s ministry, which is what he has in mind when he says what he says here.

In saying “the drunkards of Ephraim are a splendid crown,” Isaiah is using the word *crown* as a symbolic substitute for “king.” He is referring to the fact that the kings of the northern kingdom had been “walking in

‘the way’ of the kings of Israel” since the time of Jeroboam (1 Kings 13:33; 15:34; 16:2, 19, 26; 22:52; 2 Kings 8:18; 16:3; 2 Chron. 21:6, 13; 28:2). To understand what Isaiah has in mind, however, one needs to know what Jeroboam did immediately after he became king.

To legitimate his rebellion against Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, Jeroboam created a new syncretistic religion. That is, he took what *The Teaching of Moses* has to say about God “building a house” for David through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and he merged it with the sacred marriage rituals that were associated with the resurrection mythology related to both the Egyptian god Osiris and the Canaanite god Baal (1 Kings 14:15). In that, he was undoubtedly following the royal sacred marriage ritual as it was practiced by Shishak, the king of Egypt, with whom he had taken refuge (1 Kings 11:40; 12:2).

The point of all this is, Jeroboam and the kings of the northern kingdom who followed him all claimed to be “the Man” Who would *inherit what was promised* when God *fulfilled the promise*. But get this: They also insisted they were still serving the same God that Moses served. (Sound familiar?) That’s why Jehu not only killed Ahab and Jezebel; he also killed every male member of the “house” of Ahab (2 Kings 10:11). Ahab was practicing a royal sacred marriage ceremony based solely on the worship of Baal. Competing royal ideologies and dynasties wisely do not allow room for pretenders to the throne. (Pretenders might want to keep that in mind here at the End.)

The “drunkenness” Isaiah has in mind in Isaiah 28:1–4 is the inebriation experienced by the kings of Israel after they ate the meal and drank the cup of a “virgin” (not a *zonah*) during the royal sacred marriage ritual. His point is, the kings of the northern kingdom were falsely claiming: 1) they were “the Man” of *the promise*, and 2) when they died, they would—like Baal—come “riding on the clouds” in the resurrection—after a “virgin” of Israel had “built a house” for them.

The Prophet Isaiah is emphatically disputing those beliefs. He first tells them (and us) that God has other plans for Israel. When He finally *fulfills the promise*, He is going to send a “Storm front” and “Rainstorm” of an entirely different order of magnitude. That is, “in that day” *The Name* of God will come “riding on the clouds” as “the Man” Who *inherited what was promised*:

*In that day,
His Supreme Majesty will become an exquisite Crown—
A beautiful Diadem for the remnant of His People.
A Spirit of deciding {to believe the Truth} for the one
who sits on the decision {to believe the Truth};
And valor, for those who turn back the battle at the gate.
(Isaiah 28:5–6) —my translation*

Isaiah is *talking about* the coronation of Jesus Christ as *The Man Who inherited what was promised* after God Himself “took” a “harlot” and “built the house” of David in *fulfillment of the promise* that God made to David (2 Samuel 7). In using the words that I have translated “deciding” and “decision,” Isaiah is describing the salvation process that God instituted after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. So I should probably explain a few more things here so that you can see how that is.

One of the idiosyncrasies of the Prophet Isaiah is his somewhat unconventional use of the Hebrew verb and noun that most translators unthinkingly translate as “judge” and “judgment.” To understand how Isaiah viewed the activity of a “judge,” one first needs to know that he was first and foremost a Prophet to the southern kingdom—the “House” of Judah. The Levites were still accepted in the southern kingdom as the legitimate *priests* and *judges* of Israel. That is, according to the discipling method that Moses established for the sons of Israel to *hand down The Teaching*, the Levites were supposed to be *teaching* the people *The Teaching of Moses* and *parabolically* illustrating *The Teaching* by judging the people according to the Truth embodied in *The Teaching*. (See *The Mystery of Scripture, Volume 1*.)

When Jeroboam instituted his ridiculous syncretistic religion in the northern kingdom, he also established an entirely new priesthood (1 Kings 12:31). So his non-Levitical priests had little, if any, knowledge of the Truth of *The Teaching of Moses*. They were instead teaching a total fabrication, yet they were adamantly insisting they were still serving the angry God of Israel. Consequently, as Isaiah saw it, their first act in judging had to be a decision to reject Jeroboam’s nonsense and believe the Truth of *The Teaching of Moses*. But he knew their ignorant beliefs concerning how a “virgin” was supposed to go about obtaining the divine knowledge, understanding, and wisdom necessary for the resurrection of the king made that impossible. So he says this:

But even these had been intoxicated by the wine;
 They had staggered because of the liquor!
 Priest and prophet were intoxicated by the liquor.
 They were consumed by the wine.
 They staggered on account of the liquor.
 They were intoxicated by looking.
 They wavered in rendering a decision
 {concerning the Truth},
 Because all the tables were full of putrid vomit,
 without a maqom!
 (Isaiah 28:7–8) —my translation

Are you still with me? Good! This is where the prophecy of Isaiah gets really interesting. In that passage, Isaiah is *talking about* the fact that the people of the northern kingdom thought their, and their king's, goofy resurrection ritual of intoxication was providing them divine insight into the Truth. Yet the only thing it actually gained them was a really good case of the heaves. Since Isaiah knew God had already provided the Truth to the sons of Israel in *The Teaching of Moses*, he says this:

To whom would He teach knowledge?
 Whom would He cause to understand a proclamation?
 Those weaned from milk! {At least!}
 Those removed from the breasts! {At least!}
 Because:
 "A commandment {refers} to a commandment;
 A commandment {refers} to a commandment.
 An indicator {refers} to an indicator;
 An indicator {refers} to an indicator.
 A little bit is here;
 A little bit is there."
 Because with a mocking lip—in another tongue—
 He speaks to this people.
 Because He told them:
 "This is rest!
 Give it to the weary.
 This is tranquility!"
 But I couldn't gain their attention.
 So the Word of His Majesty to them will be:
 "A commandment {refers} to a commandment;
 A commandment {refers} to a commandment.
 An indicator {refers} to an indicator;
 An indicator {refers} to an indicator.
 A little bit is here;
 A little bit is there."

So that they will walk, stumble backwards,
 be broken, trapped, and captured.
 (Isaiah 28:9–13) —my translation

Let me simplify what Isaiah is saying: Moses *delivered* the Truth to the sons of Israel when he taught them *The Teaching of Moses* in the wilderness. That is the "rest" that Isaiah mentions the priests were supposed to "give" "to the weary." But the problem with the sons of Israel always boiled down to exactly the same thing. Like the Church, they never completely got it all together and did what God desired before some bone-head "turned aside from *The Way*." Therefore, in His anger God began speaking to the people through the Prophets, giving them *The Teaching* in a piecemeal fashion—a little bit here, and a little bit there. The result of that approach was, God effectively "sealed up" *The Teaching* in the Prophets so that nobody could understand what they had said unless the Prophets explained it to them. But listen to what God said He was going to do because the kings of both the northern and southern kingdoms had consistently chosen to believe a lie rather than the Truth of *The Teaching*:

Therefore, listen to the Word of His Majesty,
 you mocking men
 Who rule this people who are in Jerusalem:
 Since You've said:
 "We've cut a covenant with Death.
 We've made a deal with the Sea of El.
 When the overflowing Flood passes, He won't enter us,
 Because we've made a deception our place of shelter,
 And we've hidden ourselves in a lie!"
**Therefore, this is what My Master, His Majesty,
 has said:**
"Look!
I'm going to lay a stone in Zion—a proven stone!
A valuable corner of the foundation—well-founded!
**The one who believes {the Truth} won't hurry
 about."**
 (Isaiah 28:14–16) —my translation

Did you notice that Isaiah suddenly began addressing his remarks to the kings of the southern kingdom who ruled from Jerusalem? He did that because the southern kingdom is the only part of Israel that continued on after the people living in the northern kingdom were "cut off from" Israel in 722 B.C. Prior

to that time, the people living in the northern kingdom had been a major part of the problem God had with the sons of Israel. But the descendants of those poor dupes would no longer be a part of Israel when God Himself became the solution. So there was no need for him to direct his remarks at them.

Since the people living in the land of Canaan—including the sons of Israel—thought the gods named “Death” and “Sea” could be easily manipulated by their debaucheries, Isaiah told them exactly *The Way* it was going to be: God would show them just how wrong they were in their beliefs concerning resurrection when He finally “built a house” for His “Name.”

If you have not yet read what I have written about the Prophets’ and Apostles’ use of the Hebrew idiom “build a house,” you might want to start there. Isaiah is referring to the fact that God told David (through the Prophet Nathan in 2 Samuel 7) that if David ever needed a “redeemer,” God Himself would step in and “build a house” (engender a Son) for David. God did that—in *parabolic pantomime*—when He “took” a virgin named Mary and “made a name” for David. Unfortunately, when the “Seed” that God “raised up” for David died an agonizing death on the cross, David needed God to step in once again as his “Redeemer.”

The second time that David found himself in need of a “redeemer,” there was no longer anyone in his “house” qualified to *inherit the promise*. So God—again in *parabolic pantomime*—“took” a “harlot” (*zonah*) and “raised up a Seed” for David. Of course, as all those “good” folk in the time of Isaiah knew full well, the function of a “harlot” (*zonah*) was to “make a name” in which two “peoples” became “one” in “the name” that she produced. That is, the “Seed” of the “harlot” (*zonah*) that God “took” merged the “house” of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David with the “House” of God in the Person of Jesus Christ. Then, because Jesus Christ was *Corporate* Israel, He allowed the Gentiles to “walk” right in the front “door” of that “House.” So you might want to keep that *parabolic imagery* in mind as you read this:

Wherefore remember that you—formerly the Gentiles (in the flesh), {that is,} those who are called “uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision” (made in the flesh by hand)—that you were at that time outside of Christ, excluded from the citizenship of Israel and strangers to the covenants of the promise, not having a

hope and without God in the world. But now in Messiah Jesus, you—those who were once far off—have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah. For He is Himself our peace, the One Who made both One and, by tearing down the partition-wall of the “hedge,” the hostility, in His flesh—{that is,} by voiding the Law of the commandments {given} by decrees so that {1} in Himself He might create the two into one New Man, {thereby} making peace, and {2} He might reconcile them both to the {Living} God in one Body, by killing the hostility in Himself. SO COMING, HE PREACHED {THE GOSPEL}—PEACE TO YOU, TO THOSE FAR OFF, AND PEACE TO THOSE NEAR—so that through Him we both have access to the Father in one “Spirit.” Consequently, you are, therefore, no longer strangers and aliens; but you are fellow citizens of the Holy Ones and members of the “House” of the {Living} God—having been “built” on the “foundation” of the Apostles and Prophets—a Corner {Stone} being Messiah Jesus Himself, in Whom a whole “building” (being fitted carefully together) is growing into a “Holy Temple” in His Majesty, in Whom also we are being “built” together into a “dwelling-place” of the {Living} God in a “Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:11–22) —my translation

The “harlot” (*zonah*) that God *parabolically* chose to “take” and “build a house” for His “Name” is the same “harlot” (*zonah*) you find depicted in the Book of Revelation. I’ll let you figure out what the *parabolic image* of Babylon the “Harlot” (*zonah*) depicts while I get back to explaining what Isaiah is *talking about*. Be careful now, God has a “way” of always making a part “stand” for the whole:

*“I’ll establish a decision {to believe the Truth}
as a measure,*

And innocence as a level.

Then hail will sweep up a deceptive place of shelter,

And water will overflow a secret place.

Your covenant with Death will be nullified.

Your deal with the Sea of El won’t stand.

When the overflowing Flood passes,

You’ll become His trampling-place.

As often as He passes, He’ll take you.

Morning after morning He’ll pass.

During the day and during the night!

Understanding what’s heard will be nothing but terror!”

1) Because the bed will be too short to stretch out on,

And the coverlet will be too scant even curled up!
 2) Because, when His Majesty arises like Mt. Perazim,
 He'll be shaking like a valley in Gibeon!
 To work His work! (His work is strange!)
 To do His labor! (His labor is alien!)
 But now, don't scoff,
 Lest your shackles be strengthened;
 Because I've heard from My Master,
 His Supreme Majesty.
 He has completely decided concerning all the Earth.
 Give ear and listen to my voice!
 Pay attention and listen to my statements!
 (Isaiah 28:17–23) —my translation

Isaiah is *parabolically* describing the Second Coming of Jesus Christ in terms of the rain storms that the Canaanites associated with the resurrected Baal. His point is, the folks who think they are going to escape the clutches of the gods Death and Sea by “building a house” for their god had best make sure their god is the same God Whose “House” is actually going to be “built” by the resurrection of the “righteous” at the End of the Age. That is what Jesus had in mind when He told this parable:

“Therefore, the whole of whoever who hears these—My words—and ‘does’ them will be like a ‘sensible Man’ who ‘built his House’ upon ‘the Rock.’ And ‘the Rain’ came down, and ‘the rivers’ rose, and ‘the winds’ blew, and they beat upon that ‘House.’ And it did not ‘fall,’ for it had been ‘founded’ on ‘the Rock.’ And the whole of the one hearing these—My words—and not ‘doing’ them will be like a ‘foolish man’ who ‘built his house’ on ‘the sand.’ And ‘the Rain’ came down, and ‘the rivers’ rose, and ‘the winds’ blew, and they beat against that ‘house.’ And it ‘fell,’ and its ‘fall’ was great.”
 (Matthew 7:24–27) —my translation

You may not realize it, but Jesus took the *parabolic imagery* He used in that parable directly out of Isaiah 28. So if you don't understand that He is *talking about* the actions of the final generation at the End of the Age, what does that tell you about your own insight (or lack thereof) into the Truth?

It's like this: The dimwits back then thought they would be able to participate in the resurrection of the righteous if they just said and did what they felt like doing rather than rigorously trying to determine

whether they knew and understood the Truth. Now that I think about it, their thinking in that regard sounds a whole lot like what is going on in the Church today. Oh sure, hitting both the bottle and the sack with a sacred prostitute (“harlot”/*zonah*) as often as possible is somewhat different than warming a pew every Sunday morning. But *speaking parabolically*, the Apostle John has already told you God doesn't see any difference at all.

Isaiah 29

The next thing that Isaiah says about the “sealing” of the Hebrew Scriptures is a bit cryptic, and I don't plan to make it all that much easier for you to understand. He is using the same *parabolic imagery* he uses in Isaiah 47–54. So, if you can understand what he says in those eight chapters, you will also understand this:

Woe! Lion of God!
 Lion of God! (The city where David encamped.)
 Continue year after year!
 Let feasts go the round!
 Then I'll bring stress to the Lion of God!
 She'll be moaning and mourning!
 She'll belong to Me as the Lion of God!
 I'll encamp against You in a circle.
 I'll set entrenchment against You,
 And raise up siegeworks against You.
 You will come down!!
 You'll speak from the Earth;
 You'll cast down Your statements from the dust.
 Your voice will be like a ghost from the Earth,
 And Your statements will chirp from the dust.
 The crowd of Your strangers will be like fine dust,
 And the crowd of ruthless ones ... like passing chaff.
 It will happen suddenly, in an instant!!
 You will be inspected by His Supreme Majesty
 with thunder, an earthquake, a loud noise,
 A hurricane, a storm-front,
 and a flame of consuming fire!
 Then it will be like a dream—a vision of night
 {For} the crowd of all the Gentiles,
 Those who war against the Lion of God—
 All Her swelling, Her stronghold,
 and those who cause Her stress.
 It will be just like the hungry person dreaming:
 Look! He's eating!

Then he wakes up, and his soul is empty!
 Or just like the thirsty person dreaming:
 Look! He's drinking!
 Then he wakes up, and Look!
 He's faint, and his soul is yearning!
 So will be the crowd of all the Gentiles
 who war against Mt. Zion!
 (Isaiah 29:1–8) —my translation

Isaiah is *parabolically* describing the fate of the “harlot” (*zonah*) that the Apostle John describes in the Book of Revelation. He is also *parabolically* referring to the transformation of the earthly “Jerusalem” into the heavenly “Jerusalem” through the removal (“cutting off”) of all those who have no right to be there. Both of those *parabolic images* also describe the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in terms of *parabolic equivalencies* I have already explained. [See “He’s Coming in Clouds of Glory (Whatever That Means)” *The Voice of Elijah*, January 2001.] If you can’t see how Isaiah is doing that, it is only because you are still “blind.” In which case you should, perhaps, consider what he says next:

Take your time! Dawdle!
 Blind yourselves! Be blind!
 Be intoxicated, but not because of wine.
 Stagger about, but not because of liquor;
**But because His Majesty has poured out on you
 a spirit of deep sleep.**
He's tightly shut your eyes.
**He's concealed {the meaning of} the Prophets
 As well as your chief ones, the Seers.**
*The visions concerning everything have become like the
 words of the sealed scroll. Should they give it to one who
 knows {how to read} the scroll, saying, “Read this,
 please!” he’ll say, “I can’t, because it’s sealed.” Or should
 the scroll be given to someone who doesn’t know {how to
 read} any scroll, saying, “Read this, please!” he’ll say, “I
 don’t know {how to read} any scroll.”*
 (Isaiah 29:9–12) —my translation

Take note of this passage. Isaiah has just defined a *parabolic equivalency* that you need to know before you can understand some of the *parabolic* statements made by Jesus and the Apostles. That is, ignorance of the Truth is *parabolically* LIKE both the drunkenness and the deep sleep that are produced by drinking “mixed wine” from the “cup” of a “harlot.” If that doesn’t give

you reason to ponder the *parabolic imagery* the Apostle John uses in the Book of Revelation, it is only because you have already “drunk” the “cup” of the “harlot” Babylon—which is, incidentally, the same *parabolic* “cup” Jesus has in mind when He says this:

*And going on a little {ways}, He fell on His face praying
 and saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this ‘cup’ pass
 away from Me. However, not as I Myself will, but as You
 {will}.”*
 (Matthew 26:39) —my translation

The passage above from Isaiah 29 contains the verse that Hippolytus quoted when he told us the Scriptures had been sealed. Just keep in mind the fact that Isaiah has already said God “sprinkled” *The Teaching* around in various places throughout the Prophets. Now he tells us God has made the visions of the Prophets LIKE (another *parabolic equivalency*) the words written on a “sealed” scroll. So it doesn’t matter whether or not someone can read the original text. As long as that “scroll” remains “sealed,” the only way anyone is going to gain insight into its contents is if God Himself reveals it to him.

The Truth is, God did reveal the contents of the “scroll” to someone at least once—when John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the River Jordan. But when He did that, the “scroll” itself still remained “sealed;” and according to Daniel’s prophecy, would remain “sealed” “until an End Time.” However, the Apostle John tells us the “Lion of Judah” is going to remove those seals one by one at the End of the Age so that those who love the Truth will be able to gain insight into the *meaning* of the things the Prophets wrote just as Daniel said they would:

*After these things, look! I saw a door had been opened
 in Heaven, and the first voice that I heard—like a trum-
 pet speaking to me—said: “Come up here! I’ll show you
 what has to happen after these things!” I was immediately
 in the Spirit, and look! A throne was standing in Heaven,
 and One was seated on the throne. The One seated was in
 appearance like jasper and carnelian stone, and there was
 a halo around the throne similar in appearance to emer-
 ald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones.
 Twenty-four elders clothed in white clothes were sitting
 on the thrones, and gold crowns were on their heads.
 Lightning, voices, and thunder were coming out from the*

throne, and seven torches of fire were burning before the throne—which are the seven Spirits of God. There was {something} like a sea of glass similar to crystal in front of the throne, and in the midst of, and around, the throne were four living beings that had eyes in front and behind. The first living being was similar to a lion. The second living being was similar to a calf. The third living being had a face like a man. The fourth living being was similar to a flying eagle. The four living beings—each one had six wings—were full of eyes around and inside. Without stopping, day and night they say:

“HOLY! HOLY! HOLY! YOUR MAJESTY!
THE {LIVING} GOD! THE ALL-POWERFUL!
The One Who was! The One Who is!
The One Who is coming!”

Whenever the living beings give glory, honor, and thanksgiving to the One seated on the throne—to the One Who lives forever and ever—the twenty-four elders fall down before the One seated on the throne and worship the One Who lives forever and ever! They put their crowns in front of the throne, saying:

“You are worthy! Your Majesty, Our God,
To receive the glory, the honor, and the power; Because:
1) You created everything! And
2) they were—and were created—through Your desire!”

At the right hand of the One seated on the throne I saw a scroll that had been written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. I also saw a powerful angel proclaiming in a loud voice: “Who is worthy to open the scroll and do away with its seals?” But nobody—either in Heaven, on Earth, or under the Earth—was able to open the scroll or to see {inside} it. I started to cry uncontrollably, because nobody worthy was found to open the scroll or to see {inside} it. Then one of the elders says to me: “Don’t cry! **Look! The Lion Who is from the tribe of Judah—the Root of David—He has conquered so as to open the scroll and its seven seals!**” Then I saw a Lamb in the midst of the throne and the four living beings—even in the midst of the elders—standing like a slaughtered One, having seven horns and seven eyes. These are the seven Spirits of God who have been sent into all the Earth! He came and took {the scroll} from the right hand of the One seated on the throne. When He took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell

down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and a golden bowl filled with incense, which are the prayers of the Holy Ones. They were singing a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals
Because You were slaughtered
And with Your blood purchased for God
From every tribe, language, people, and nation!
And You made them a kingdom and priests for our God.
They will rule as kings on the Earth!”

I looked again, and I heard the sound of many messengers around the throne, as well as the living beings and the elders—their number was myriad myriads and thousands of thousands—saying with a loud voice: “The Slaughtered Lamb is worthy to take the power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory and blessing!” I heard all Creation—that which is in Heaven, on Earth, under the Earth, on the sea, and everything in them—saying: “The blessing, honor, glory, and dominion belong to the One seated on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever!” The four living beings said: “Without doubt!” Then, the elders fell down and worshiped.

Then I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living beings speaking like the sound of thunder: “Come!” And Look! I saw a white horse! The One sitting on it had a bow! A crown was given to Him, and He went out conquering in order to conquer!

When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living being saying: “Come!” And another horse—a red one—went out! The One sitting on it was allowed to take peace from the Earth, so they would slaughter one another! A large sword was given to Him!

When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living being saying: “Come!” And Look! I saw a black horse! The One sitting on it had a balance in His Hand, and I heard something like a voice—in the midst of the four living beings—saying:

“A measure of wheat for a price!
Three measures of barley for a price!
Don’t spoil the oil or the wine!”

When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the fourth living being saying: “Come!” And Look! I saw a pale green horse! The One sitting over it had a name: “Death!” The underworld accompanied him, and authority over a

fourth of the Earth was given to him to kill by sword, famine, and widespread epidemic, as well as by the wild beasts on the Earth!

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw beneath the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered on account of the Word of God and the profession they had made. They called out in a loud voice, saying: "Holy and True Master! How long will You not judge and gain vengeance for our blood from those who are living on the Earth?" Then each of them was given a white robe and they were told to take it easy for still a little while longer, until their fellow-servants—their brothers who remain to be killed as they were—were completed.

Then I saw when He opened the sixth seal! A great earthquake occurred, and the sun became black like a sack made of hair! The whole moon became blood! The stars of the heavens fell to the Earth like a fig tree shaken by a high wind, dropping its late summer figs. The heavens were separated like a scroll being rolled up! Every mountain and island were moved from their places! The kings of the Earth! The high officials! The military leaders! The wealthy! The powerful as well as the slaves and freemen concealed themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains! They said to the caves and the rocks: "Fall on us! Conceal us from the face of the One sitting on the throne and from the anger of the Lamb! Because the Great Day of His anger has come! Who is able to stand?" (Revelation 4:1–6:17) —my translation

That's about as far as I can go with that for the time being. The "scroll" that the Apostle John saw being "opened" in his vision is the same "scroll" the Prophet Isaiah described as being "sealed." In case you have already forgotten, Isaiah said this:

*Take your time! Dawdle!
Blind yourselves! Be blind!
Be intoxicated, but not because of wine.
Stagger about, but not because of liquor;
But because His Majesty has poured out on you
a spirit of deep sleep.
He's tightly shut your eyes.
He's concealed {the meaning of} the Prophets
As well as your chief ones, the Seers.
The visions concerning everything have become like
the words of the sealed scroll. Should they give it to
one who knows {how to read} the scroll, saying,
"Read this, please!" he'll say, "I can't, because it's*

sealed." Or should the scroll be given to someone who doesn't know {how to read} any scroll, saying, "Read this, please!" he'll say, "I don't know {how to read} any scroll."

(Isaiah 29:9–12) —my translation

I wouldn't follow Isaiah's sarcastic advice, if I were you, since the sixth seal is about ready to come off the Scriptures. But you can do whatever you think is best. It is, as they say, "a free country." However, you might be interested in knowing why God "sealed up" the Hebrew Scriptures in the first place. It seems our generation is not the first to prefer a "faith" based on clichés and trite phrases rather than one based on the same Truth the Prophets understood:

The Master has declared:

*"Because this people has approached Me with his mouth
And has glorified Me with his lips,
Yet his heart is far from Me,
And their fear of Me is*

the memorized commandment of men;

Therefore, I am going to again

cause this people total incomprehension.

The wisdom of his wise men will vanish.

The understanding of his intelligent ones

will be in hiding."

(Isaiah 29:13–14) —my translation

You might also want to check out those places in the New Testament where Jesus and the Apostles quote that passage. The point they make is exactly the same one that Isaiah made: Stupid is as stupid does. You may not like what God has done in "sealing" the meaning of the Prophets, but Jesus clearly revealed how He felt about it when He said this:

During that time, Jesus, responding, said, "I praise You Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth, because You hid these things from {those who are} wise and intelligent, and You revealed them to babes. Yes, Father, because this is what was pleasing before You. Everything has been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Neither does anyone know the Father except the Son—and the one to whom the Son wishes to reveal. Come to Me—everyone who is tired and loaded down—and I will give you 'rest.' Take My 'yoke' upon you and learn from Me, because I am meek and sub-

servient in the heart; and YOU WILL FIND 'REST' IN YOUR SOULS. For My 'yoke' is good and My load is light."
(Matthew 11:25–30) —my translation

The "rest" that Jesus mentions in that passage is exactly the same "rest" that Isaiah mentions in 28:12, where he indicts the sons of Israel for refusing to *hand down* the "rest" as God expected them to. That is, the "rest" that Jesus invited folks to "learn from Me" resides in a knowledge of *The Teaching of Moses*.

Since God has "sealed" the Hebrew Scriptures, those who have no love of the Truth at the End of the Age will not be able to understand *The Teaching* until the wrath of God is bearing down hard on them—when it is too late for them to do anything about it. But just like Daniel, Isaiah also knew those who have insight will be able to understand:

Woe {to} those who go deep from His Majesty
to hide counsel,
So that their works are in a dark place;
So they can say, "Who sees us?" or "Who knows us?"
You have it turned around!
If the Potter is thought to be the same as the clay,
Then a work could say concerning its maker,
"He didn't make Me!"
Or a piece of pottery could say concerning its Potter,
"He doesn't understand!"
Isn't it just a very short while until Lebanon
will be transformed into an orchard,
And the orchard will be thought of as a forest?
**In that day, the deaf will hear the words of a scroll,
And (out of gloom and darkness)
the eyes of the blind will see.**
The afflicted will increase joy in His Majesty.
The needy of mankind will rejoice
in the Holy One of Israel!
Because the ruthless will come to an end;
The mocker will be finished.
All who look for iniquity will be cut off!
{As for} those who entice a man with a word,
And make it difficult for the One who corrects at the gate,
They've turned an innocent one aside into the void!
Therefore, this is what His Majesty—Who ransomed
Abraham—has said to the house of Jacob:
"Now! Jacob won't be ashamed!
Now! His face won't turn pale!
When He sees His children—

the work of My hands—inside him,
They'll make My Name holy!
They'll make the Holy One of Jacob holy!
They'll regard the God of Israel as awesome!
**Then those who go astray in spirit
will come to know understanding!**
**Then those who murmur
will learn to take instruction!"**
(Isaiah 29:15–24) —my translation

If you don't understand the *meaning* and *significance* of the parenthetical phrase "Who ransomed Abraham" in verse 22, I suggest you do a bit of self-examination, maybe a little soul-searching as well. It is referring to the fact that God "built the house" of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the same time that He "took" the "harlot" (*zonah*) and "built" both His Own "house" and the "house" of David. He "built a house" for Adam at that time as well, which is how the Gentiles came to be included in *the inheritance of the promise*. But that's another story. If you're interested, you can read what Paul says about it in 1 Corinthians 15. I've been commenting on the things the Early Church Father Irenæus says about that "building" in *The Voice of Elijah Update*.

It's Happy Hour! (For Some)

Now that I have shown you what the Prophet Isaiah said about your current situation, I want to show you a couple of places where you can find the *parabolic equivalency* in which ignorance of the Truth is *parabolically* depicted as both "drunkenness" and "sleep." Fortunately, the Apostle Paul has both bases completely covered in what he says here:

But concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you don't need anything to be written to you. For you yourselves accurately know that the day of His Majesty will come like a thief in the night, while they are saying, "Peace and safety!" Then suddenly, destruction comes upon them just like the birth pang on the one who is pregnant; and they will not escape. But you, brothers, are not in darkness, so that the day would seize you like a thief. For you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night or of darkness, therefore then, let us not sleep like the rest. But let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep sleep at night, and those who

get drunk get drunk at night. But since we are of day, let us be sober, having donned a breastplate of belief and love, and a helmet—a hope of salvation that the {Living} God has not given us over to anger but to obtaining salvation through our Lord, Jesus Christ, the One Who died for us so that, whether we are awake or we are asleep we may live with Him at the same time. Wherefore, encourage one another and—as one— “build” the One, just as also you are doing.

(1 Thessalonians 5:1–11) —my translation

What Paul has in mind can't be completely understood on the basis of just a word-for-word translation of that passage, so let me lay it out for you. The phrase that I translated “times and seasons” is the way the Early Church referred to the three-and-a-half year persecution of the Antichrist. That should tell you Paul is saying exactly the same thing here that he said in 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12—which is exactly the same thing Daniel says in Daniel 12:1–10. That is, when the Antichrist appears, some folks—True Believers—are going to have insight into the Truth and all others are going to be left as stone-cold “blind” as a bat.

Did you notice how Paul *parabolically* described the ignorance of those who have no insight into the Truth at the End? He says, “For those who *sleep* sleep at night, and those who *get drunk* get drunk at night.” That's a fairly good example of *The Way* the Apostles use the *parabolic imagery* of the Prophets. They attach no explanation to it; they just assume you already know what they are *talking about*—which you will, provided you are paying attention when attention is due.

Now, I want to show you another place where Jesus cleverly refers to the same *parabolic imagery* that Isaiah had in mind when he wrote Isaiah 28–29. He also uses exactly the same adjectives He used to refer to the “sensible man” and the “foolish man” who each “built a house” for themselves in Matthew 7:24–27:

“At that time, the kingdom of Heaven will be like ten virgins who, having taken their lamps, went out to meet the Bridegroom. But five of them were foolish and five sensible; because the foolish, having taken their lamps, didn't take olive oil with them. But the sensible took olive oil in containers along with their lamps. When the Bridegroom took a long time, everyone became drowsy and was sleeping. But at midnight there was a shout: ‘Look! The Bridegroom! Come out to meet Him!’ At that time, all

those virgins arose and put their lamps together. But the foolish said to the sensible, ‘Give us some of your olive oil, because our lamps are being extinguished!’ But the sensible responded, saying, ‘No! There won't be enough for us and you! Go to the dealers instead, and buy for yourselves!’ Yet when they went away to buy, the Bridegroom came; and those who were ready entered into the wedding feast with Him, and the door was shut. But later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord! Lord! Open for us!’ But He responded and said, ‘Without doubt, I tell you! I don't recognize you!’ Therefore, stay awake, because you don't know the day nor the hour!”

(Matthew 25:1–13) —my translation

That's a pretty nifty *parabolic* depiction of the way things are right now, huh? The *parabolic* “oil” in the *parabolic* “lamps” of the *parabolic* “virgins” depicts the Gospel message to which every born-again Believer has responded with sincere repentance. Their *parabolic* “lamps” are the insight into the Truth that they gained when they were born again. Some of those “virgins” made a fairly strong commitment to the Lord when they were born again, others not so much. Those who made a strong commitment to the Lord went searching the Scriptures, looking for even more Truth to store in their “container.” They most likely found what they were looking for in Paul's epistles. (I know I did.)

Because of their greater commitment to the Lord, the “sensible” stored a bit more *parabolic* “oil” in their *parabolic* “containers” before they *parabolically* “went to sleep” along with everybody else. So, when this odd fellow comes along *parabolically* “waking up” all the sleepy-heads, those folks who have enough *parabolic* “oil” in their *parabolic* “containers” will get up and walk right in to the *parabolic* “wedding banquet” (which is *The Apostolic Teaching*). Others will have to go check things out with their pastor, best friend, family dog, or maybe even the neighborhood psychic. Too bad. What use ta was, could ha' been. Not now. They will come back wanting to get in, but only after it is too late.

In the parable above, Jesus is concerned with the activities of just the final generation of Believers. On another occasion, He used exactly the same *parabolic imagery* to depict the entire span of Church history:

And responding, Jesus again spoke to them in parables, saying, “The kingdom of Heaven has become like a man—a king—who made a wedding feast for his son. And he

sent his slaves to summon those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they did not want to come. Again he sent other slaves saying, 'Say to those who have been invited, "Look! I have prepared my dinner! My oxen and the fattened cattle have been sacrificed and everything is ready! Come to the wedding feast!" And those who paid no attention went away, one to his own "field," another to his business. But the remainder were seizing, mistreating, and killing his slaves. And the king became angry and—sending his armies—destroyed those murderers and burned their city. At that time, he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those who have been invited were not worthy. Therefore, go to the intersections of the highways and invite as many as you find to the wedding feast.' And those slaves—going out into the highways—gathered all they found, both evil and good, and the wedding was filled with guests. But when the king came in to greet the guests, he saw there a man not dressed in wedding clothes. And he says to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' But he was silent. At that time, the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot and throw him into the outer darkness.' There will be wailing and grinding of teeth there. For many are called, but few chosen."

(Matthew 22:1–14) —my translation

In that parable, Jesus starts out by *parabolically* describing the Jews' rejection of the Gospel message—which is God's "invitation" to the "wedding feast" (which is in reality *The Apostolic Teaching*) that He has prepared. When the Jews not only refused to accept God's "invitation"—which is the Truth of the Gospel—but also began to kill those who believed it, God destroyed Jerusalem and sent His "slaves" (Evangelists) throughout the world to "invite" everyone to repent and learn the Truth of *The Teaching*. But, "when the wedding was filled with guests" at the End of the Age, "the king came in to greet the guests." That's when some folks were absolutely dumbfounded to discover they had been nothing but Pretenders all along. Jesus described their chagrin this way:

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Your Majesty! Your Majesty!' will enter into the kingdom of Heaven; only the one who does the will of My Father in Heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Your Majesty! Your Majesty! Didn't we prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name do many miracles?' And

then I will confess to them: 'I never knew you. GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU WHO WORK "THE LAWLESSNESS."'"
(Matthew 7:21–23) —my translation

I hope that covey of clueless clucks doesn't include you. But, as they say, time will tell. You might want to check out the context in which Jesus made that statement. He immediately goes on to tell the parable I quoted above about the "sensible man" and the "foolish man" who both "built a house" for themselves. The point He makes in that parable is exactly the same point Isaiah makes in Isaiah 28. That is, you had best make sure the "house" that you are "building" is the same "House" that is going to be "built" when True Believers arise in the resurrection of the righteous.

Harvest Time!

Let's see now, we have *talked about* the Prophet Daniel and the Apostle Paul agreeing that, when the Antichrist appears, those who have a love of the Truth will have insight into the same Truth the Prophets and Apostles understood. Then we *talked about* Daniel and Isaiah agreeing that God told the Prophets to "seal up" the Truth that they understood, so they doled it out in small bits and pieces here and there in their writings. Next, I showed you where the Apostle John indicates the *parabolic* "scroll" on which the Prophets wrote *The Teaching* would be "opened" right before the Second Coming so that everyone who has an interest in such things would finally be able to have "insight" into what the Prophets "sealed up." Finally, I explained how preaching the Gospel is *parabolically* LIKE issuing an "invitation" to a "wedding feast" in which *The Teaching* is the main course. So, I guess the next thing on the list is to show you how Jesus *parabolically* described the things that are going to happen here at the End of the Age—right before the appearance of the Antichrist:

He put another parable before them saying, "The kingdom of Heaven has become like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while the men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and left. But when the wheat grass sprouted and made grain, then the tares also became apparent. And the slaves of the master of the house said to him, 'Lord, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Therefore, from where does it have tares?' And he said to them, 'A hostile man has done this!' So his slaves say to

him, 'Do you want us therefore to go out and collect them?' But he says, 'No, lest collecting the tares you should uproot the wheat at the same time. Let them both grow together until the harvest; and in time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First collect the tares and tie them into bundles to burn them; but gather the wheat into my granary."'"

(Matthew 13:24–30) —my translation

I have talked about the meaning of this parable on a variety of other occasions. (See "Who's Gonna Tell The Fool He's Hell-Bent And Hidebound?" *The Voice of Elijah*, January 1996; "I've Got to Hand It to You; You Have No Idea How Much You Need It," *The Voice of Elijah*, April 2000; "Questions & Answers," *The Voice of Elijah*, April 2001; "Questions & Answers," *The Voice of Elijah*, April 2002; "Glory Be! What's That I See?" *The Voice of Elijah*, October 2003; "They Are Trying to Hide When They Should Be Seeking," *The Voice of Elijah*, April 2005.) It doesn't require all that much explaining on my part since Jesus explained what it meant to His disciples right after He told it:

Then, leaving the crowd, He went into the house. And His disciples came to Him saying, "Explain for us the parable of the tares of the field." So He, answering, said, "The One Who sows the good seed is the Son of 'the man,' and the 'field' is the world. The 'good seed'? These are the sons of the kingdom; but the 'tares' are the sons of the evil {one}. The 'enemy' who sowed them is the devil. The 'harvest' is the End of the Age, and the 'reapers' are angels. Therefore, just as the tares are collected and burned with fire, thus it shall be in the End of the Age. The Son of 'the man' will send His messengers, and they will collect out of His kingdom all 'stumbling blocks' and those who do 'the lawlessness,' and they will throw them into the furnace of the fire. There will be wailing and grinding of teeth there. At that time, THE INNOCENT WILL SHINE LIKE THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father. Let the one who has ears hear."

(Matthew 13:36–43) —my translation

My basic purpose in mentioning this parable at this time is to explain that most of the "tares" have already been "collected" and "tied into bundles." That is, the only thing that God has in store for the folks who have already believed "the lie" that Satan has "sowed" in God's "field" is "the burning." If you don't

know what I mean by "the burning," you are already a wee bit behind the learning curve. I have long since explained that one. (See "Questions & Answers," *The Voice of Elijah*, July 2000.) That being the case, it might behoove you to at least try to catch up with those who are already rapidly gaining the "insight" Daniel said they would have at the End, because the time has now arrived for the "messengers" to "gather the wheat."

Did you notice how Jesus concluded His explanation of the Parable of the Tares? He said this:

"At that time, THE INNOCENT WILL SHINE LIKE THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father. Let the one who has ears hear."

(Matthew 13:43) —my translation

Do you have ears to hear? We certainly will see, won't we? In case you *think* you do, I should tell you Jesus is quoting a part of what Daniel said about the "innocent" having "insight" into *The Teaching of Moses* at the time of the End and the "guilty" not being able to understand (Dan. 12:3, 10). Do you know why Jesus quoted Daniel? Because He was *talking about* the same thing. Daniel clearly described how the "gathering" of the "wheat" is going to be accomplished. So, if you *think* you are going to just sit on the fence and not make a "decision" concerning the Truth here at the End, I have news for you: You are definitely one foolish "virgin," and your "lamp" is already "being extinguished." Believe it if you care to; disbelieve it if you dare to. It makes me not one whit of difference one way or the other; I'm just doing what God called me to do.

For the benefit of those "virgins" who still have ears to hear, let me show you another parable where Jesus explained how the "gathering" of Believers is going to occur here at the End of the Age:

"Again, the kingdom of Heaven is like a dragnet which was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind. When it was filled, they pulled it onto the seashore and, sitting down, they collected the good ones into containers, but they threw the bad ones outside. Thus it shall be in the End of the Age: The messengers will come out and exclude the evil ones from the midst of the innocent."

(Matthew 13:47–49) —my translation

Did you notice that Jesus said almost exactly the same thing that He said in His explanation of the

Parable of the Tares? Take a look at the following two verses side by side:

“The Son of ‘the man’ will send His messengers, and they will collect out of His kingdom all ‘stumbling blocks’ and those who do ‘the lawlessness.’”

(Matthew 13:41) —my translation

“The messengers will come out and exclude the evil ones from the midst of the innocent.”

(Matthew 13:49b) —my translation

Let me explain how the “harvesting” process is going to work here at the End so that you have some idea as to where you stand. The “messengers” of the Lord have already completed the first part of their task. That is, the “delusional ‘working’” that the Apostle Paul mentions in 2 Thessalonians 2:11 is already securely in place. I have explained what that “working” is in the article “Wanna Hear the Whopper the Liar Came Up With (I Doubt You’ll Believe It!)” (*The Voice of Elijah*, October 1996). The “Christians” who believe “the lie” described in that article have already been “collected out of His kingdom” and excluded “from the midst of the innocent.” They have no hope of ever gaining “insight” into the Truth that the Prophets “sealed up” in their writings, because they do not have the “love of the Truth” that Paul mentions in 2 Thessalonians 2:10. That is why, instead of continuing to look for the Truth, they have settled for “the lie.” What about you? Do you really want to know the Truth, or are you just curious? I guess we will see, won’t we?

Wherein Lies “the Lie”?

There are three essential components to “the lie” that Satan currently has “working.” They are:

Lie #1: The only specific content that one must believe to be saved is: “Jesus Christ died as a sacrifice for my sins.”

Salvation would be a rather cut-and-dried matter if that lie were true. But if it were true, one would then be left wondering what useful purpose the Old Testament is intended to serve. Moreover, the Protestant Reformers would never have rejected the lies they knew were being taught in the Roman

Catholic Church. After all, the Roman Catholic Church still teaches the doctrine. The Truth is, Satan has been trying to foist this first part of “the lie” off on the Church for the past nineteen hundred years. Only recently have most “Christians” been dumb enough to believe it. The “law vs. grace” debate has finally been settled in favor of the goofy god of unconditional grace as far as most in the Church are concerned.

You see, God’s purpose in the “sacrificial” death of Jesus Christ is fully explained only in the Old Testament. As I explain in *The Mystery of Scripture*, God handed down *The Teaching* to Moses, who handed it down to the sons of Israel and commanded them to hand it down to subsequent generations. When they failed to hand down *The Teaching of Moses* as God demanded, God sent the Prophets to restore *The Teaching*. (See *The Way, The Truth, The Life*.) When the sons of Israel would not listen to the Prophets, God told the Prophets to “seal up” the Truth of *The Teaching* in their writings so that it could be “opened” right before the “End Time” that is mentioned in Daniel 12.

When Jesus Christ was baptized by John at the River Jordan, God granted Him complete knowledge of *The Teaching* that Moses and the other Prophets of Israel had hidden in their writings. That is what the “Spirit” descending in the form of a dove *parabolically* depicts. (But before you can understand that *parabolic pantomime*, you first need to know what the Greeks thought a “spirit” was.)

Jesus taught His disciples *The Teaching* when He explained to them—in private—the *meaning* of the parables He told publicly. After His resurrection, Jesus revealed *The Teaching* to the Apostles and told them to hand it down to their own disciples. The leaders of the Church did that for only about 150 years, but their writings clearly reveal they understood their original mission was to teach, not to interpret, the *meaning* and *significance* of the Old Testament. (See “Did You Mean That Literally?” and “The Origen of Folly,” *The Voice of Elijah*, January 1993; and the ongoing discussion in *The Voice of Elijah Update*.)

Unfortunately, the Pretenders Clement of Alexandria and Origen were finally able to convince the leaders of the Church that their mission was to interpret the Scriptures for themselves rather than just hand down *The Apostolic Teaching* that Jesus had revealed to the Apostles. Consequently, the Church today is still trying to “do their exegesis” and recover what the Early

Church lost. They will never succeed at that task simply because they were not called to do it.

Ever since the Early Church gave up a knowledge of *The Apostolic Teaching*, born-again Believers have had very little content to believe other than the simple Gospel message they heard when they repented and believed. That message was confirmed for them by the incredible internal transformation they experienced when they were born again. Unfortunately, Satan has been able to persuade many born-again Believers to believe a lie that contradicts something they heard and believed when they were born again. Like Adam and Eve, they have rejected the Truth they once understood and have chosen to believe a lie instead.

Satan sometimes finds easy pickings in a person who lacks knowledge of the things that Moses and the other Prophets of Israel explain about *The Man Jesus Christ*. In case you missed it, I just used a *parabolic image* that I borrowed from Isaiah's sarcastic statement in Isaiah 28:4. That is, those who are ignorant of God's Truth are LIKE "a first-ripe fruit before summer harvest," and Satan does his best to gobble them up quick.

Over the centuries since the Church lost *The Apostolic Teaching*, only the most dedicated of Believers have ever gone on to try to ascertain whether the lies they heard taught in the Church were true. But God has been right there all along "testing their heart" to see whether or not they had the "love of the Truth" that would ensure they held on to the Truth they believed when they were born again. You see, God is not concerned with how much you know. His only interest lies in *what you do with what you know*. If you give up the Truth to believe a lie that makes you feel more comfortable, you have serious problems as far as God is concerned.

Lie #2: God loves "His children" so much that He would never send anyone to hell.

There are variant forms of this lie in play today. They all come back to a denial of the fundamental Truth that I explained in *Not All Israel Is Israel*. That is, from the very beginning God has been "cutting off from" the blessed and adding them to the members of the cursed. Unfortunately, those who have been "cut off from" the blessed have continued on desperately insisting they still have a legitimate right to share in *the inheritance of the promise*. It happened with Shem and

the daughters of Canaan at the Tower of Babel. It happened again at Shittim with Israel and the daughters of Moab. (See "Questions & Answers," *The Voice of Elijah*, January 1997; and "So Why Would a Nomad 'Build a House' and Settle Down?" *The Voice of Elijah*, October 1997.) Then, after Jesus Christ became *Corporate Israel*, the Jews who had been "cut off from" Israel went on falsely claiming they were the people of God. So, now that most "Christians" have chosen to believe "the lie," God is once again "cutting off from"—that is, "collecting out" those who have no part in—Israel.

The Truth is, Jesus is describing a majority of those who currently claim to be "Christian" in this final generation when He says this:

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Your Majesty! Your Majesty!' will enter into the kingdom of Heaven; only the one who does the will of My Father in Heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Your Majesty! Your Majesty! Didn't we prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name do many miracles?' And then I will confess to them: 'I never knew you. GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU WHO WORK "THE LAWLESSNESS."'"

(Matthew 7:21–23) —my translation

If you are not absolutely certain you know what Jesus had in mind when He said "the will of My Father in Heaven," I suggest you not make any hasty assumptions. As I have already explained, He was *talking about* the fact that God's will is that everyone believe the Truth of *The Teaching*. (See "Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done, On Earth," *The Voice of Elijah*, April 1997.) Believe it if you care to, disbelieve it if you dare to. I can already "see" the *Living Word of God* the Prophets hid in their writings. So I know it is your soul that hangs in the balance on this one, not mine.

The Apostle Paul clearly understood what Jesus was referring to when He said "the lawlessness." He reveals that when he says this:

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, because {that cannot be} unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of "the lawlessness" is revealed—the son of the annihilation—the one who opposes and elevates himself above everything called "god" or "object of worship," so that he seats himself in the temple of God, himself proclaiming that he is God. Don't you remember me telling you these

things while I was still with you? And you now know what is holding fast so that he will be revealed in his own time. **For the mystery of “the lawlessness” is already “working”**—{which is} only the one now holding fast until he comes out of the midst.

(2 Thessalonians 2:3–7) —my translation

If you don’t already know what Paul is *talking about* in those verses, I have no intention of telling you. I explained the *meaning* of that passage more than a decade ago in The Next Step program. But I will tell you Paul used the definite article with “lawlessness” (to say “the lawlessness”) because he knew Jesus had done that in Matthew 7:23. He is referring to the very same *specific* thing that Jesus had in mind when He said “the lawlessness.” As I have already shown you in another context, saying “death” is not the same as saying “the death,” and saying “sin” is certainly not the same as saying “the sin.” (See “We Know the Law Is Holy. But What About the Commandment?” *The Voice of Elijah*, July 1998.) You can add “the lawlessness” to the list.

Translators who pay no attention to the Prophets’ and Apostles’ use of the definite article overlook the fact that those men were *sometimes* referring to some very *specific* things when they used it. Perhaps the most decisive change in *meaning* that stems from their use of the definite article is where they say “the man” as opposed to just “man.” I have already shown you how Moses hid the Truth in that regard. (See “If He’s The Man, Who Are You?” *The Voice of Elijah*, July 2001; and “Moses and ‘the Man,’” *The Voice of Elijah*, July 2003.) In this case, the Apostle John has already explained what “the lawlessness” refers to:

Everyone who does “the sin,” also does “the lawlessness.”

(“The sin” is “the lawlessness.”)

(1 John 3:4) —my translation

Lie #3: The Prophets and Apostles are always referring to all of the literal descendants of the man Jacob when they say “Israel.”

This part of “the lie” is so completely ridiculous that it hardly merits a response. I have already shown you why it cannot be true in *Not All Israel Is Israel*. The only reason Satan is pushing this nonsense is because he needs it to lock “Christians” into believing the Antichrist is Jesus Christ. He will do that by convincing

them “all Israel” has finally been “saved” when the Jews accept the Antichrist as their messiah. Therefore, I am going to demonstrate just how absolutely stupid this part of “the lie” actually is.

Romans 11

The belief that all of the Jews will be saved at the Second Coming is based on something the Apostle Paul says in Romans 11. Therefore, we need to take a closer look at what Paul actually says in that chapter:

Therefore I say, the {Living} God has not gotten rid of His people has He? Of course not! For I am myself also an Israelite, from the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. The {Living} God has not gotten rid of His people whom He knew before!

(Romans 11:1–2a) —my translation

If one has no understanding of the *meaning* of the Hebrew idiom “cut off from,” it is impossible to understand what Paul says in Romans 11. I have long since explained that bit of Truth in *Not All Israel Is Israel*. The person who does not know the *meaning* and *significance* of that idiom will most likely *arbitrarily assume* Paul is referring to all of the Jews when he says “His people.” But if one makes that totally unwarranted assumption, what Paul says in the remainder of the chapter will make absolutely no sense at all. The Truth is, Paul is not referring to all of the Jews when he says “His people.” He is instead referring only to the “Remnant” of Israel. That is, Paul is referring to those Jews who had not yet been “cut off from” Israel when John the Baptist began offering Israel God’s “New Covenant.”

The Jews who were still “in Israel” when John the Baptist began preaching were immediately “cut off from” Israel when he baptized them. The reason for that is, it was impossible for them to adhere to the terms of the New Covenant they accepted when they were baptized. But prior to their baptism by John, God still considered them to be “His people,” and most, if not all, of them were “grafted back into” *Corporate Israel*—that is, into the Body of Jesus Christ—when they responded to the Gospel. Paul will explain that himself a bit later in this chapter, so I really don’t want to steal his thunder. The fact that Paul is *talking about* the “Remnant” of Israel explains why he says this:

Or do you not know what the Scripture says in {the account of} Elijah—how he appeals to God against Israel? “Your Majesty, THEY KILLED YOUR PROPHETS, THEY RAZED YOUR ALTARS, AND I ALONE AM LEFT REMAINING—AND THEY ARE SEEKING MY SOUL!” But what does the Divine Response say to him? “I HAVE LEFT REMAINING for Myself SEVEN THOUSAND MEN WHO HAVE NOT BENT THE KNEE TO BAAL.” Therefore, in this way also at the present time there has come into being a “remaining” according to a “selection” of favor. But if {it is} by favor, {it is} no longer from works, otherwise the favor would no longer be favor. What therefore? What Israel is seeking, this it has not attained. But the “selection” has attained, and the rest were hardened; just as it is written:

“THE {Living} GOD GAVE THEM A SPIRIT OF DEEP SLEEP, EYES NOT TO SEE AND EARS NOT TO HEAR, {Isaiah 29:10a} To this very day.”
(Romans 11:2b–8) —my translation

In case you don’t recognize the quote from Isaiah 29, let me remind you again what Isaiah said:

Take your time! Dawdle!
Blind yourselves! Be blind!
Be intoxicated, but not because of wine.
Stagger about, but not because of liquor;
**But because His Majesty has poured out on you
a spirit of deep sleep.**

He’s tightly shut your eyes.
He’s concealed {the meaning of} the Prophets
As well as your chief ones, the Seers.
The visions concerning everything have become like the words of the sealed scroll. Should they give it to one who knows {how to read} the scroll, saying, “Read this, please!” he’ll say, “I can’t, because it’s sealed.” Or should the scroll be given to someone who doesn’t know {how to read} any scroll, saying, “Read this, please!” he’ll say, “I don’t know {how to read} any scroll.”

The Master has declared:
“Because this people has approached Me with his mouth
And has glorified Me with his lips,
Yet his heart is far from Me,
And their fear of Me is

the memorized commandment of men;

**Therefore, I am going to again cause this people
total incomprehension.**

The wisdom of his wise men will vanish.

**The understanding of his intelligent ones
will be in hiding.”**

(Isaiah 29:9–14) —my translation

In quoting just a part of the passage in which Isaiah said the Hebrew Scriptures were being *parabolically* “sealed” LIKE a sealed scroll, Paul is referring to the fact that the “hardening” of the Jews who rejected their Messiah came about because they didn’t know the meaning and significance of the Hebrew Scriptures had been “sealed up.” So they mistakenly thought they accurately understood what those Scriptures are saying. Unfortunately, they didn’t. Just as unfortunately today, the majority of “Christians” are going to make exactly the same mistake—the same HUGE mistake.

After Paul alludes to the ignorance of the scribes and Pharisees, he then quotes something the Psalmist said in which the Pharisees’ distortion of *The Teaching of Moses* is *parabolically* viewed as a “wedding feast”:

And David says,

“LET THEIR TABLE BECOME A SNARE AND A TRAP,
AND A STUMBLING BLOCK AND PAYBACK TO THEM.
LET THEIR EYES BECOME DARK TO SEE NOT,
AND BEND THEIR BACK THROUGH ALL {time}.”
{Psalm 69:22–23}

Therefore I say, they did not trip so that they fell, did they? Of course not! But in their transgression the salvation belongs to the Gentiles—to make them jealous. But if their transgression is the wealth of the world and their defeat is the wealth of the Gentiles, how much more is their “fullness”? But I say to you—the Gentiles—therefore, in so far as I am myself an apostle of Gentiles, I glorify my ministry, if somehow I might make my “flesh” jealous and save some of them. For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what is their acceptance if not life from those who are dead?

(Romans 11:9–15) —my transgression

Again, if one takes the statement “they did not trip so that they fell” out of context, the remainder of this chapter makes no sense—which is exactly what Satan wants. Paul is using the word “fell” to refer to the impossibility of salvation. He is rejecting the ridiculous notion that the Jews who have rejected Jesus Christ cannot be saved. His point is exactly the opposite: After

God “cut off” the Jews “from” Israel, He offered all of the Jews exactly the same *individual* hope of salvation that He offered the Gentiles. Paul will say that himself a bit later. Right now, he wants to explain that everyone—both Jew and Gentile—have to be “grafted into” Jesus Christ—the One Who is *Corporate* Israel:

But if the “Firstfruit” is holy, also the “lump;” and if the “Root” is holy, also the “branches.” But if some of the “branches” were “broken off,” and you—being a “wild olive tree”—were “grafted in” among them and became a partaker of the rich “Root” of the “Cultivated Olive Tree,” don’t boast against the “branches.” But if you are boasting against {them}, you do not “bear” the “Root,” but the “Root” you. Therefore you will say, “‘Branches’ were ‘broken off’ so that I might be ‘grafted in!’” That’s right. They were “broken off” because of their unbelief. But you stand because of your belief. So, don’t be high-minded, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural “branches,” neither will He spare you. Therefore, consider the benevolence and severity of God: On those who fell, severity, but on you, the benevolence of God—if you remain in the benevolence; otherwise, you will also be “cut off.” But they themselves, if they do not remain in their unbelief, will be “grafted in;” for the {Living} God is able to “graft them in” again. For if you were “cut off from” that which is, by nature, a “wild olive tree” and were, against nature, “grafted into” a “Cultivated Olive Tree,” how much more will those, who are by nature, be “grafted into” their own “Cultivated Olive Tree”?

(Romans 11:16–24) —my translation

Do you understand what Paul said? Good! Now you know that all of the Jews were “cut off from” Israel when Jesus Christ became *Corporate* Israel and only some of the Jews were “grafted back in” after He became *The Man Who inherited what was promised*. The rest were “hardened” because God had another *specific* purpose He intended their descendants to accomplish. But the essential point you would do well to keep in mind is this: Jesus Christ is *Corporate* Israel.

Contrary to “the lie” that Satan would have you believe, there is not now some other “literal” Israel, or “natural” Israel, or any other kind of Israel. When Jesus Christ died, “all Israel” ceased to exist. Then, God Himself took the *physical* body of Jesus Christ and “raised up a Seed” for Jacob just as He had *promised* He would. Since then, there has been only one “way” (*The*

Way) for anyone to become a member of Israel. That is through belief in the Gospel, which is why he says:

But it is not as if the Word of the {Living} God has failed. For Israel is not all from {the man} Israel. Neither are the seed of Abraham all children. Rather, “IN ISAAC YOUR SEED WILL BE NAMED.” That is, the children of the flesh are not the children of the {Living} God, but the children of the promise are reckoned as seed.
(Romans 9:6–8) —my translation

Paul gets rather verbose in the remainder of that chapter, but he makes three important points fairly concisely in those three verses:

- 1) Israel now includes more than just the physical descendants of the man Jacob.
- 2) Israel does not include everyone who has descended from the man Abraham.
- 3) To be a member of Israel, one has to become *an heir of the promise* in the same way that Isaac became *an heir of the promise*.

If you don’t know what *the promise* is and how one comes into possession of *the promise*, that should probably be your first clue that you may not understand everything you will need to know to escape “the burning” here at the End of the Age. But that is not my primary concern at this time. I have recently explained those things in some detail. (See “A Promise Is Good, But a Promise Kept Is Better,” *The Voice of Elijah*, October 2005; “The Problem With Liars? They Always Try to Rewrite History,” *The Voice of Elijah*, January 2006; “A ‘New’ Covenant Is Only New Once,” and “Questions & Answers,” *The Voice of Elijah*, April 2006.)

I just want to make sure you understand that Paul has clearly stated one cannot equate “all Israel” with the *physical* descendants of Abraham (and Jacob). That is because: 1) the Jews were “cut off from” Israel when Jesus Christ became *Corporate* Israel, and 2) Gentiles have been “grafted into” Israel. (See *Not All Israel Is Israel*.) You need to know that because Satan has made the next few verses of Romans 11 an integral part of “the lie” that Paul mentions in 2 Thessalonians 2:11:

For I do not want you, brothers, to be ignorant of this mystery—so that you are not “sensible” in yourselves—that a hardening {which derives} from {some} members

of Israel has come into being until the “fullness” of the Gentiles comes in. **And in this way “all Israel” will be saved, just as it is written:**

“THE DELIVERER WILL COME OUT OF ZION,
HE WILL TURN AWAY THOSE WHO ARE UNGODLY
FROM JACOB.
AND THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM,
When I take away their sins.” {Isaiah 59:20–21a}
(Romans 11:25–27) —my translation

Satan’s lie is based on the erroneous belief that *all of the Jews* are still “all Israel.” Those who believe that lie think Paul’s statement that “all Israel will be saved” is referring to the Jews. Satan really likes that lie. It is going to ensure that a multitude of “Christians” believe the appearance of the Antichrist is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The Truth is, Paul has something very *specific* in mind when he refers to “this way,” and he calls that *specific* thing “the mystery.” But the only way to understand what Paul had in mind is to go back and determine what Isaiah had in mind when he made the statement that Paul quoted. We will do that right after we look at what else Paul has to say in Romans 11:

Indeed, {they are} enemies according to the Gospel because of you, but—in regard to the “selection”—beloved because of the fathers; for the gifts and the calling of the {Living} God are unchangeable. For just as once you did not believe in the {Living} God but now you have been shown mercy because of their unbelief, in this way also now these did not believe because of the mercy you were shown, so that they also might be shown mercy. For the {Living} God has imprisoned everyone in unbelief so that He might have mercy on all. Oh, the depth of the wealth—both the wisdom and the knowledge—of God! How inscrutable are His judgments and incomprehensible His “ways”! For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF HIS MAJESTY? OR WHO HAS BECOME HIS ADVISOR? OR WHO FIRST GAVE TO HIM THAT IT SHOULD BE REPAYED TO HIM? Because all things are from Him, and through Him, and to Him. To Him is the glory into the ages. Without doubt!
(Romans 11:28–36) —my translation

I trust you can understand what Paul says here. His point is, after the Jews were “cut off from” *Corporate* Israel, they became just like all other unbelievers—Gentiles—outside of *Corporate* Israel. By “cutting” the

Jews “off from” Israel, “God has imprisoned everyone in unbelief so that He might have mercy on all.” So the only way the Jews can now “be shown mercy”—that is, again become a part of *Corporate* Israel—is through each one *individually* believing the Gospel.

Knowing those things, it should be obvious to all but the most deluded that “the mystery” Paul had in mind must be related to “all Israel”—the Body of Jesus Christ—being saved by belief in the Gospel. It is concerned with that, but “all Israel” being saved has nothing to do with *all of the Jews* accepting Jesus Christ as their Messiah, which is what Satan wants you to believe. “The mystery” is how the Church could lose *The Teaching* and God still fulfill the prophecy in Isaiah 59:20–21. If you don’t understand what I am *talking about*, never fear. I am about to tell you.

Isaiah 59

Let’s review what Paul said when he quoted Isaiah 59:

For I do not want you, brothers, to be ignorant of this mystery—so that you are not “sensible” in yourselves—that a hardening {which derives} from {some} members of Israel has come into being until the “fullness” of the Gentiles comes in. And in this way “all Israel” will be saved, just as it is written:

“THE DELIVERER WILL COME OUT OF ZION,
HE WILL TURN AWAY THOSE WHO ARE UNGODLY
FROM JACOB.
AND THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM,
When I take away their sins.” {Isaiah 59:20–21a}
(Romans 11:25–27) —my translation

Just as an aside, I should tell you that the phrase “in this way” refers to “the fullness of the Gentiles” coming into *Corporate* Israel. But that’s not the point I want to make. You need to get Paul’s introduction to Isaiah 59:20–21a firmly fixed in your mind:

*And in this way “all Israel” will be saved, just as it is written.
(Romans 11:26a) —my translation*

My point is, the Apostle Paul obviously believed Isaiah has somehow described how “all Israel will be

saved." Consequently, if one does not know what Isaiah is *talking about*, one cannot possibly understand how that will happen. But there will always be those who would rather *assume* they already know how it will happen. For the benefit of those who actually want to know the Truth, I am about to tell you.

Again, one has to look at the context in which Isaiah made the statement that Paul quotes. Isaiah has been following a fairly continuous train of thought since he began *parabolically* describing events leading up to the End of the Age in Isaiah 40, but I will pick up what he says at the beginning of Chapter 59. In Chapter 58, he has been *talking about* the need for Israel to return to an accurate understanding of *The Teaching* concerning the *parabolic pantomime* in which one day out of seven is observed as a day of "rest" to depict the final "day" of Creation. Then he says this:

*Look! His Majesty's hand wasn't too short to save!
And His ear wasn't too heavy to hear!
However, your iniquities were separating
you and your God;
And your sins had hidden His face,
rather than {His} hearing, from you!
Because your palms have been defiled with blood,
And your fingers, with iniquity,
Your lips have spoken deception;
Your tongue has been muttering injustice.
There isn't anyone who proclaims in innocence!
There isn't anyone who makes a decision
{to believe} the Truth!
Relying on a void, they speak a lie!
Conceiving turmoil, they give birth to iniquity.
(Isaiah 59:1-4) —my translation*

Isaiah's point is, nobody in Israel is teaching the Truth concerning the *meaning* of the *parabolic pantomime* of observing the Sabbath because they have completely abandoned the *Living Word* of God that God is. But notice that I once again translated the Hebrew word for "judgment" as "decision." As I mentioned earlier, Isaiah's mind-set concerning the Levitical priesthood judging Israel revolved around his belief that the first legal "decision" a "judge" needed to make was the one in which he "decided" to believe the Truth of *The Teaching of Moses*. Only then could he "decide" to believe the Truth in regard to the cases brought before him. Lacking a knowledge of the Truth of *The Teaching*,

the Levitical priests could never be anything more than purveyors of "the injustice." That is why Isaiah continues by referring to "the lie" the leaders of Israel would one day choose to believe:

*They have hatched the eggs of a viper;
But they will weave a spider's web!
The one who eats some of their eggs will die;
And the crushed {egg} will be hatched a snake!
Their webs won't become clothing!
They won't be covered by their works!
Their works are works of iniquity,
And a violent deed is in their palms.
THEIR FEET RUN TO EVIL,
AND THEY HURRY TO SHED INNOCENT BLOOD.
Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity.
Devastation and destruction are in their highways!
They don't know "The Way" of peace!
There is no decision {to believe the Truth}
in their trails!
Their paths have become crooked to them!
Anyone who treads on it hasn't known peace!
(Isaiah 59:5-8) —my translation*

Isaiah quotes Proverbs 1:16 because he is *talking about* the need for Believers to "walk in *The Way*" at the End of the Age. He wants his reader to recall what Solomon said about that in the first nine chapters of the Book of Proverbs. I have already explained those things in The Next Step program, so I see no need to get into them here. But I will tell you Isaiah's reference to Proverbs 1:16 is an allusion to "the lie" that will delude those who are not "walking in *The Way*" when the Antichrist appears:

*Therefore, a decision {to believe the Truth}
has been far from us,
And innocence hasn't reached us!
We have been waiting for light, but Look! Darkness!
For illumination, but we have been "walking in" darkness!
We have been groping a wall like those who are blind!
Like we have no eyes, we have been groping!
We have stumbled at midday like at twilight,
Among those who are well-fed, like those who are dead.
All of us have been growling like bears;
We have been muttering constantly like doves;
Waiting for a decision {to believe the Truth},
but there hasn't been any!*

For salvation, but He has been far from us!
 Because our transgressions have been abundant
 in front of You!
 Our sins have responded against us!
 Because our transgressions are with us,
 And we know our iniquities:
 1) Transgressing and denying His Majesty,
 2) And turning aside from following our God,
 3) Speaking oppression and rebellion,
 4) Conceiving and muttering deceptive words
 from the heart.
 (Isaiah 59:9–13) —my translation

If one does not understand that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are all the same Living Word of God that one encounters in *The Teaching*, the four “iniquities” that Isaiah mentions would seem to have no coherence whatsoever. The Truth is, all four “iniquities” are different facets of “the sin” of the people of God, which has always been a rejection of the Truth of the Living Word of God that God is:

**So a decision {to believe the Truth}
 has been turned aside,
 And innocence has been standing at a distance.**
 Because Truth has stumbled in the street,
 Uprightness hasn't been able to enter.
 The Truth has been lacking,
 And one who turns away from evil is plundered!
 But His Majesty has seen!
 And it has been evil in His eyes,
 Because there was no decision {to believe the Truth}.

(Isaiah 59:14–15) —my translation

Isaiah's point is, ignorance of *The Teaching* breeds even more ignorance of *The Teaching*. Before long, it becomes impossible for even the most circumspect person to decide what is true and what is not true. (Sound familiar?) But then Isaiah explains what God will do because of what the sons of Israel have done in rejecting *The Teaching*. He will one day decide the time has come for Him to intervene once and for all:

He saw there wasn't anyone
 {deciding to believe the Truth}!
 And He was astounded
 that there wasn't anyone entreating!
 So His arm has brought Him salvation!

And His innocence is His support!
 He has clothed Himself with innocence as a breastplate,
 And a helmet of salvation on His head;
 He has clothed Himself with garments of vengeance
 as clothing!
 He has wrapped Himself with passion as a cloak!
 He will make appropriate compensation:
 Anger toward His adversaries—
 the compensation of His enemies!
 He will make compensation to the coastal lands,
 So that they fear the Name of His Majesty
 from the setting—
 And His glory from the rising—sun,
 Because He will come like a narrow wadi,
 The Spirit of His Majesty rushing in Him.
**“A Redeemer will come to Zion,
 And to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,”**
 declares His Majesty!
 (Isaiah 59:16–20) —my translation

That last verse is the one that Paul quotes in Romans 11:26–27. Isaiah is obviously *talking about* the Second Coming—the time when God takes vengeance on His adversaries. That agrees with Paul's use of the quote, since he too is referring to the End Time as the time when “all Israel will be saved.” But Paul provides a rather tantalizing clue to the nature of “the mystery” he had in mind by the way he summarizes this verse:

“But as for Me, this is My covenant with them,” says His Majesty: “My Spirit which is upon You, and My Words which I have placed in Your mouth, will not be removed from Your mouth, or from the mouth of Your seed, or from the mouth of the seed of Your seed,” says His Majesty, “from now until **'olam.**”
 (Isaiah 59:21) —my translation

How does Paul succinctly capture the essence of the *meaning* of that verse? He says the verse *means* this:

**“AND THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM,
 When I take away their sins.”**
 (Romans 11:27) —my translation

Isaiah's prophecy is a promise to Jesus Christ that the Gospel—not *The Teaching*, just the Gospel—would never be lost. And it has not been lost. I responded to it in a little country church when I was just a boy. My

aunt and uncle took me to church that Sunday morning, and I still remember the dramatic change that I felt when I repented and believed the simple Gospel message I heard. I also remember getting out of their car after church, intending to do exactly what God wanted me to do. Easier said than done. Nobody could explain *The Teaching* to me back then. That has all changed now.

Think about it: Belief in the Truth is precisely what Isaiah has been *talking about* in Isaiah 59. So when does God “take away their sins”? *When they believe the Truth of the Gospel and the “Spirit” of God takes up residence in them!* That is precisely what Isaiah is referring to—the “Spirit” of the *Living Word* of God dwelling within Believers until the End of the Age. But Paul does not want to get into the details of *the promise* that God made because that is part of “the mystery” he had in mind. So he just summarizes what Isaiah said by just saying “when I take away their sins.”

Let me spell it out for you in more detail. Paul understood exactly the same things that Irenæus and Hippolytus understood about the Antichrist. (See *The Advent of Christ and AntiChrist*.) For example, he knew Jewish expectations concerning the messiah would result in the Antichrist coming to power. He reveals that in the deliberately cryptic statements he makes in 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12. He also knew there would be some in the final generation of the Church who would have “insight” into *The Teaching* when the Antichrist appeared, and others who would be totally ignorant of that Truth. He reveals that in 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11. But he could not imagine how Isaiah’s prophecy fits together with those two things. So he just summarized Isaiah’s prophecy as “when I take away their sins.”

“The mystery of ‘the lawlessness’” that Paul mentions in 2 Thessalonians 2:7 is directly related to “the mystery” he mentions in Romans 11:25. It is a reference to Jewish expectations concerning a messiah other than Jesus Christ. “The mystery” in Romans 11:25 concerns the Church’s retention of the Gospel while some in the Church remain completely ignorant of the Truth regarding the Antichrist. Paul could not fathom the Church even continuing to exist without knowledge of the Truth of *The Teaching* he understood.

Looking back, it is easy to see why Paul could not understand: When the Church gave up the Hebrew idioms and *parabolic imagery* of *The Teaching*, they simultaneously wrapped up the Truth of the Gospel in the philosophical trappings of Greek philosophy—much to

the consternation of Satan, I’m sure! That is why the basics of that Truth have managed to remain in the Church up until now. But the Gospel that is preached today is nothing more than a shadow of its former self. So let me tell you about that.

Repent and Believe the Gospel!

Nowadays, the mindless morons among us who cling to their beloved civil religion believe that everyone is a child of God just because Adam and Eve—as they ignorantly choose to believe—were created in the *visible physical* image and likeness of an *invisible spiritual* God. I sincerely hope I have laid that lie to rest by showing you why the following passage can in no way be referring to the creation of Adam and Eve. (See “Transformed Into the Image and Likeness of God,” *The Voice of Elijah*, April 2003):

*Then God said, “Let Us make a man in Our image, according to Our likeness, so that they may have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the Sea of Waters and over the domesticated animals and over all the Earth and over all the crawling things that crawl on the Earth.” Then God created the man in His image. In the image of God He created Him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the Earth and subdue her and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the Sea of Waters and over every living thing that crawls on the Earth.” Then God said, “Look! I have given you {all} every green plant seeding seed which is on the surface of all the Earth and all the trees in which is fruit of a tree seeding seeds. It will be food for you and for all wildlife of the Earth and for all the birds of the Sea of Waters and for everything crawling on the Earth in which is a living soul. All green plants are for food.” And it was so.
(Genesis 1:26–30) —my translation*

The Truth is, only a part of that passage is history; the rest is prophecy. When Moses wrote it however, it was entirely prophecy. That is because the passage is an account of *the promise* God made that He would one day take a “Man” who had been born in the *visible physical* image and likeness of Adam and create that “Man” in His Own *invisible spiritual* image and likeness. God did that with “the Man” Jesus Christ. Just as the prophecy indicates, He is prepared to do exactly the

same thing with you, provided you have any interest in “bearing” His *invisible spiritual* image and likeness. Don’t worry, you will reveal your precise intentions in that regard by *The Way* you react upon hearing *The Teaching*—which is the *invisible spiritual* image and likeness of God.

The Truth I have explained concerning Genesis 1:26–30 is the foundation on which the Evangelists in the Apostolic Church based their preaching of the Gospel message. I am not *talking about* the bare outlines of the *New Testament* Gospel message that one can still find preached here and there in the Church today. I am instead *talking about* the detailed *Old Testament* Gospel message that one finds hidden in the writings of Moses and the other Prophets of Israel. That message begins with *the promise* that God will one day take the *visible physical* bodies of those who believe *the promise* and re-create them in His Own *invisible spiritual* image and likeness. If you don’t believe that seemingly impossible transformation is possible, you are obviously serving a severely handicapped “god.”

I have already shown you how Believers come into possession of *the promise*. It must be *handed down* to them *orally* by someone who has the authority to *hand it down* to them. (See “What’s Left of the Right That Stayed Down When He Went Up?” *The Voice of Elijah Update*, September 1995.) I have also shown you how Moses tells us *the promise* was *handed down* from generation to generation from the time of Adam and Eve until it finally came into the possession of Moses himself as “the man” who was—in his own person—*Corporate Israel*.

[See “The Sad, Sordid History of the People of God,” *The Voice of Elijah*, July 1996; “So Why Would a Nomad ‘Build a House’ and Settle Down?” *The Voice of Elijah*, October 1997; “Jesus Is the Carpenter Who ‘Built the House’ of God,” *The Voice of Elijah*, October 2002; “A Promise Is Good, But a Promise Kept Is Better,” *The Voice of Elijah*, October 2005; “The Problem With Liars? They Always Try to Rewrite History,” *The Voice of Elijah*, January 2006; “A ‘New’ Covenant Is Only New Once,” and “Questions & Answers,” *The Voice of Elijah*, April 2006.]

As I have explained in some of the articles I have written over the years, Jacob divided up *the promise* and *handed down* parts of it to his sons and grandsons. One of those parts had to do with *the promise* that “the Man” God created in His Own image and likeness

would have dominion over all the Earth. Jacob *handed down* that part of *the promise* to his son Judah. That’s the reason why the Prophet Jeremiah included this rather humorous account in his history of *the promise*:

When the king had settled into his house and His Majesty had given him rest from all his enemies round about, then the king said to Nathan the prophet: “Look! I am sitting in a house of cedar while the Ark of God sits inside the curtains!” Nathan said to the king: “All that is in your heart, go do it! Because His Majesty is with you!” But during that night the Word of His Majesty was to Nathan saying: “Go! Say to My servant, to David, ‘This is what His Majesty has said: “Would you build a house for Me to dwell in, when I have not dwelled in a house from the day I brought the sons of Israel up from Egypt even to this day? But I’ve been moving about in a tent and in a tabernacle. During all My moving around among all the sons of Israel, have I ever spoken a word with one of the tribes of Israel that I ordered to shepherd My people, Israel, saying, ‘Why haven’t you built a house of cedar for Me?’” Now, this is what you must say to My servant, to David: ‘This is what His Majesty of Hosts has said: “I’ve taken you from the pasture, from following the flock, to be a leader over My People, over Israel. I’ve been with you everywhere you’ve gone, and I’ve cut off all your enemies from before you. I will make a great name for you, like the name of the great ones who are on the Earth. I’ve designated a maqom for My People, for Israel, and I’ll plant Him; and He will dwell in His place and not be disturbed again, nor will the sons of injustice continue to afflict Him as previously, from the day that I ordered judges over my people Israel. I’ll give you rest from all your enemies. But His Majesty must reveal to you that His Majesty will make a house for you. When your days are completed and you sleep with your fathers, then I will raise up your seed after you, who will come out from your loins, and I will establish His kingdom. He will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of His kingdom forever. I will be His Father, and He will be my Son. When He becomes guilty, I’ll correct Him with the rod of men and the punishment of the sons of Adam. But My lovingkindness will not be removed from Him like I removed {it} from Saul, whom I removed from before you. But your house and your kingdom will be made sure forever before you. Your throne will be established forever.”” According to all these words and all this

vision thus Nathan spoke to David.
(2 Samuel 7:1–17) —my translation

The humor in that passage is, if one does not know that “build a house,” “raise up a seed,” and “make a name” are all Hebrew idioms that *mean* “engender a son,” one has absolutely no idea that Nathan is telling David God is going to do exactly what He did when He “built a House,” “raised up a Seed,” and “made a Name” for David through the virgin Mary. That is, God *promised* David He would “give a Seed” to David by engendering a Son for David. Then He promised David that the Son He “gave” David would “build a house,” “raise up a seed,” and “make a name” for God, that is, do for God what God had done for David.

“The lie” that Satan currently has “working” in the Church prevents Pretenders from “seeing” the Truth concerning *the promise* God gave David in 2 Samuel 7. Satan likes it that way. You see, the person who is ignorant of the Truth I have just explained will go on thinking Nathan must be *talking about* David’s son Solomon building the Temple. Therefore, they will focus on the *physical* “House” of God that Solomon built in Jerusalem, and when the Antichrist begins to rebuild that “House” of God, they will be right there rooting him on. But the person who understands the Truth will focus on this passage from Isaiah instead:

*This is what His Majesty has said:
“The Sea of Waters is My throne,
And the Earth is My footstool!
Where is this ‘house’ you will build for Me?
Where is this ‘maqom’ of My rest?
But My hand made all these things,
And all these things came to be!” declares His Majesty.
“So to this One I will look:
To one afflicted and smitten of spirit,
And one who trembles at My Word.”
(Isaiah 66:1–2) —my translation*

Isaiah is *talking about* the *parabolic* “House of God”—the family of God—which will in the final generation consist only of those “afflicted and smitten of spirit” who will tremble in fear because they know how angry God is. But if one does not understand what Nathan said to David, one cannot possibly understand, much less accept, what Isaiah is *talking about*. Isaiah’s

point is, the Antichrist and his ilk can build their stupid stone Temple until hell freezes over and the only “House” that God will ever desire is the “House” that Jesus Christ “built” for Him when He arose from the dead as the “House” of David and the “House” of God in the *invisible spiritual* image and likeness of the *Living Word* of God. That is the same “House” that Peter describes in this passage:

Having purified your souls by listening to the Truth, in brotherly love—without hypocrisy—love one another fervently from the heart, having been engendered again—not from perishable “seed,” but imperishable—through the Living (and remaining) Word of God. For:

*“ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS,
AND ALL ITS GLORY IS LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS,
THE GRASS HAS WITHERED,
AND THE FLOWER HAS FALLEN OFF,
BUT THE PROCLAMATION OF HIS MAJESTY
REMAINS INTO THE AGE.”*

And this is the proclamation of the Gospel that was preached to you. Therefore, getting rid of all ill-will, all deceit, hypocrisy and jealousy, and all speaking badly of others, as newborn babies, desire the unadulterated rational milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation, if you have tasted that His Majesty is good. To Whom coming—a Living Stone declared useless by men, but Chosen and Valued by God—you also as “living stones” are being “built” a spiritual “house” into a holy “priesthood,” to offer spiritual “sacrifices” acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture:

*“LOOK!
I AM LAYING IN ZION A CHOSEN VALUED CORNER STONE;
AND THE ONE WHO BELIEVES ON HIM
WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.”*

Therefore, the value is to you—to those who believe—but to those who do not believe:

*“THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS DECLARED USELESS?
THIS ONE BECAME A CORNERSTONE,” and
“A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSIVENESS.”*

Those who stumble at the Word do not believe—to which also they were “laid.” But you are A CHOSEN RACE, a

Royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR ACQUISITION, in order that you may proclaim the virtues of the One Who called you out of darkness into His astonishing Light—those once NOT A PEOPLE, but now A PEOPLE OF GOD; those who had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but have now RECEIVED MERCY.

(1 Peter 1:22–2:10) —my translation

The Apostle Peter has some very specific *parabolic imagery* in mind when he talks about Believers being “built” into the “House” of God. That *parabolic imagery* comes directly out of Nathan’s prophecy to David. As Peter said, those Believers who are being “built” into the “House” of God must first have a sincere thirst to know the Truth so that they “may grow into salvation.” Logic alone should tell you that those who reject the *Living Word of God* that Jesus Christ is will not be a part of that “House.” If you cannot “see” that Peter is talking about belief in *The Apostolic Teaching*, I pity you. There is only one “way” anyone is going to survive “the lie” that Satan now has “working.” That is by “walking in *The Way*” (see *The Way, The Truth, The Life*) that Isaiah mentions in this passage:

A voice is calling in the wilderness:
 “Turn to ‘The Way’ of His Majesty!
 Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!
 Every valley will be lifted up,
 And every mountain and hill will be made lower!
 The steep incline will become level,
 And the rough terrain a broad valley!
 Then, the glory of His Majesty will be revealed,
 And all flesh together will see,
 Because the mouth of His Majesty has spoken.”
 (Isaiah 40:3–5) —my translation

If you cannot understand or accept the *parabolic imagery* I have just explained, I have bad news for you: “The burning” is all that lies in store for you, and it has your “name” written all over it. But that is not the case for those who can understand and accept the Truth. They will be securely hidden in *The Name of God* when that cataclysmic Storm suddenly descends upon the “house” of those who are preaching “Peace and safety!” That “house” will fall just as Jesus said it would. A word to the “sensible” is sufficient.

The Promise Is Unconditional

Now that I have shown you *the promise* that God made to David, let me explain how *the promise* to David fits in with the covenant the sons of Israel accepted at Mt. Sinai. The first thing you need to get firmly fixed in your mind is the fact that God *promised* He would first create “the Man” in His Own *invisible spiritual* image and likeness and then go on to create other male and female Believers in that same *invisible spiritual* image and likeness. But God did not attach conditions to *the fulfillment of the promise*. That is God did not say, “If you do this, I will do that.” He simply said, “I am going to do this.”

The difficulty folks have in understanding the unconditional nature of *the promise* always comes down to the fact that they can’t believe God has been constantly “cutting off” unbelievers “from” the people of God. The problem, as always, lies in the fact that intellectually lazy folks like to think in generalities rather than specifics. So they keep trying to attach conditions to something that is completely unconditional. That is, they cannot accept the fact that God is going to *fulfill the promise* just as He said He would.

God *fulfilled* the first part of *the promise* when He came in the flesh, died on the cross, and rose again on the third day. That is, when God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, He took the *visible physical* body of *The Man* Jesus Christ and re-created it in His Own *invisible spiritual* image and likeness. At the present time, He is getting ready to *fulfill* the second part of *the promise*—which is re-creating the *visible physical* bodies of other male and female Believers in His Own *invisible spiritual* image and likeness. That part of *the promise* is also without any sort of conditions. God is going to do it; the only issue that remains unresolved is whether you, as one individual, will be a part of that “new creation.”

The Truth is, *you may or may not be* one of those who *inherit what was promised* when God finally *fulfills the promise*. Your participation in *the inheritance of what was promised* depends entirely on whether or not you meet the sole condition God has set for *your participation*. His requirement is not at all difficult to meet because He does not demand that you *do* anything. He merely insists that you *believe the promise*. That is an extremely easy thing to *do*, provided you love the Truth. But belief in *the promise* is not something you can fake because God will not accept *outward* actions as

evidence of *inward* belief. Your outward actions can only show what you *do not* believe. Therefore, God will only accept the inward condition of your “heart”—which He examines constantly—as evidence that you believe. Incidentally, *The Apostolic Teaching* explains both *the promise* and how God *fulfilled the promise*.

Conclusion

You probably noticed that I left out part of Isaiah 28 above. If you didn’t, shame on you! If you love the Truth, you should be constantly checking to see whether what I say is true. How can you be sure of that if you are not even comparing my translation to other translations? If you are doing that, how could you not have seen that I skipped over six verses? Here is what Isaiah said:

*Give ear and listen to my voice!
Pay attention and listen to my statements!
“Does the plowman plow all day to plant seed?
He has to open and harrow his ground!
He doesn’t scatter dill or sprinkle cummin
Until he levels its surface, does he?
Then he puts wheat, barley, or emmer in the right place.
Then his God has to admonish him
concerning the decision {to believe the Truth};
He has to teach him,
1) Because dill can’t be threshed with a threshing-sledge,
And a cartwheel can’t be rolled over cummin;
2) Because dill has to be beaten out with a stick;
But cummin ... with a pole!
3) Flour has to be milled,
Because he can’t continue to thresh it forever!
The wheel of his cart would confuse,
And his horses wouldn’t mill it!”
This also has gone out from His Supreme Majesty:
“He has made counsel incomprehensible;
He has magnified productive wisdom.”
(Isaiah 28:23–29) —my translation*

Do you have any idea what Isaiah is *talking about*? Let me give you a hint: He is *parabolically* explaining why God has to teach the person He sends out to “harvest” the “Seed” that has been “planted” in “the field.” Jesus uses a slightly different *parabolic image* to describe exactly the same thing when He says this:

“Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom the Lord put in charge of His house slaves, to give them the food at the right time? That slave is blessed if his Lord comes and finds him doing so. Without doubt, I tell you that He will put him in charge of all His possessions. But if that evil slave should say in his heart, ‘My Lord is taking a long time!’ and should begin to beat his fellow slaves, yet eat and drink with those who get drunk, the Lord of that slave will come on a day he doesn’t look for and at an hour he doesn’t know, and He will dismember him and give him a place with the hypocrites. There will be wailing and grinding of teeth there.”

(Matthew 24:45–51) —my translation

Let me put this another way. *The Apostolic Teaching* is once again available if you have any interest in it. But this is the only “invitation” you are going to receive. I have not been called to coax, cajole, coerce, or in any way compel anyone to believe the things God called me to teach. Time is much too valuable to waste on those who obviously have “better” things to do:

*After these things, I heard like a loud voice of a huge crowd in Heaven, saying, “Praise His Majesty! The salvation, glory and power are our God’s, BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS! Because He has judged the great ‘harlot’ who was corrupting the Earth by her ‘harlotry’! HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS SLAVES FROM HER HAND!” And a second time they said, “Praise His Majesty! HER SMOKE IS GOING TO RISE INTO THE AGES OF AGES!” And the twenty-four elders and the four living beings fell down and worshiped the {Living} God Who sits on the throne saying, “Without doubt, Your Majesty!” And a voice came out of the throne saying, “Praise our God, all His slaves—those who fear Him—the small as well as the great!” Then I heard like the voice of a huge crowd, like a voice of many waters, like a voice of booming thunder, saying, “Praise His Majesty, because His Majesty, the Almighty God, reigns! Let’s rejoice, exult, and give Him the glory, because the marriage of the Lamb came and ‘His Woman’ prepared herself!” It was given to her so that she would clothe herself in “fine linen”—brilliant and clean! (Because the “fine linen” is what is required of the Holy Ones!) And he says to me, “Write! Blessed are those who have been invited to the banquet of the Lamb’s marriage!” And he says to me, “These are the true words of God!”
(Revelation 19:1–9) —my translation ■*