



Restoring the hearts of the fathers to the children

The Weasels Working the Church Are Nothing New

II.

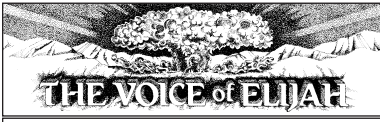
I shall, at any rate, remind many of the brethren of an affair that took place in our own time,—an affair which, had it taken place in Sodom, might, I think, have been a warning even to them. There was a certain confessor, Natalius, who lived not in distant times, but in our own day. He was deluded once by Asclepiodotus, and another Theodotus, a banker. And these were both disciples of Theodotus the tanner, the first who was cut off from communion on account of this sentiment, or rather senselessness, by Victor, as I said, the bishop of the time.

Now Natalius was persuaded by them to let himself be chosen bishop of this heresy, on the understanding that he should receive from them a salary of a hundred and fifty denarii a month. Connecting himself, therefore, with them, he was on many occasions admonished by the Lord in visions. For our merciful God and Lord Jesus Christ was not willing that a witness of His own sufferings should perish, being without the Church. But as he gave little heed to the visions, being ensnared by the dignity of presiding among them, and by that sordid lust of gain which ruins very many, he was at last scourged by holy angels, and severely beaten through a whole night, so that he rose early in the morning, and threw himself, clothed with sackcloth and covered with ashes, before Zephyrinus the bishop, with great haste and many tears, rolling beneath the feet not only of the clergy, but even of the laity, and moving the pity of the compassionate Church of the merciful Christ by his weeping. And after trying many a prayer, and showing the weals left by the blows which he had received, he was at length with difficulty admitted to communion.

III.

The sacred Scriptures they have boldly falsified, and the canons of the ancient faith they have rejected, and Christ they have ignored, not inquiring what the sacred Scriptures say, but laboriously seeking to discover what form of syllogism might be contrived to establish their impiety. And should any one lay before them a word of divine Scripture, they examine whether it will make a connected or disjointed form of syllogism; and leaving the Holy Scriptures of God, they study geometry, as men who are of the earth, and speak of the earth, and are ignorant of Him who cometh from

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A Note From the Editor

Since Larry Harper exposes some of Satan's lies in the main article of this newsletter, I'd like to remind you of what he already has told us about the facts, warnings, and armor we Believers have access to that enable us to triumph against the lies of Satan:

My goals are actually quite simple. I am going to (1) explain how the Church got where it is, (2) explain the message of the Scriptures and show you it is the same message the Early Church Fathers understood, and (3) warn you to beware of Satan's deception. In short, I have been called to provide you access to the Truth you need to know in order to avoid an incredible catastrophe when Satan appears as the Antichrist.

Wanna Hear a Whopper? *Larry Dee Harper, p. 45*

Satan is the master of deceit. But he does not want to merely influence what we think, he wants to control what we think. ... And he always works behind the scenes, seldom if ever allowing us to understand how he is dominating us. That's why the Truth about who he is and what he does is so important. It tells us where to watch for his advance and how to guard against him.

The Voice of Elijah®, October 1996, p. 31

The first thing that every True Believer needs to keep in mind in regard to the activities of Satan is something I can guarantee you that you will regret forever if you forget it. Satan is determined to see that you rot in Hell. So you had best keep that at the very forefront of your mind. No matter what you choose to believe, you would be well advised to make absolutely certain it is not just another one of Satan's lies.

The Voice of Elijah®, October 2011, p. 25

Satan is a liar. Get that firmly fixed in your mind. Without it, the battle will be lost before you even begin.

The Voice of Elijah®, January 2017, p. 14

The situation facing folks in the Church today is exactly the same situation that was facing True Believers in the Apostolic Church. That is, Satan is a liar who controls what people believe by telling them lies. Jesus said that, but people still have a hard time maintaining contact with that reality because Satan does not want them to believe even that small bit of Truth.

The Voice of Elijah®, July 2023, p. 7

As long as you continue to believe Satan's lies, you will remain in bondage to those lies. ... You are a slave to the lies you choose to believe.

The Voice of Elijah® Update, June 2025, p. 20

Let those sink in a minute. Larry has all along been exposing who Satan is and what his tactics are. Do you remember the following warnings?

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Sometimes, Things Aren't What They Have Been Made Out to Be

There are a lot of folks nowadays who bandy about the idea that the Second Coming of Christ is right around the corner. The question is, Do they really believe that; or is it just one more “Christian” cliché they use to show what devoted “Christians” they are? I only ask because I have seen more than my share of Pretenders over my many decades of life. So, for the benefit of those who have wondered the same thing about the “talk the talk” crowd who clearly don’t “walk the walk,” I merely point out what the Apostle Paul said to those who actually knew the Truth in his day:

¹(1) *But about the spans of time and the times, brothers, you do not have any need that {anything} be written to you. ²For you yourselves accurately know that His Majesty's day is going to come like this: like a thief in {the} night.*

³(a) *When they are saying, “PEACE AND CERTAINTY!”*
^(b) *then devastation is going to confront them unexpectedly, indeed, just as the birth pangs in the one who has a baby in her tummy;*
^(c) *and they will definitely not escape.*

⁴(2) *But you, brothers, are not in nether darkness, so that the day grasps you like a thief.*

⁵(a) *For you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of nether darkness. ⁶So then, therefore, we must not sleep like the rest of {mankind}; but we must stay awake and be sober.*
⁷(b) *For those who sleep, sleep at night; and those who become intoxicated are intoxicated at night.*

⁸(3) *But we who are of day must be sober, after slipping on a breastplate of belief in God's promise and love and a helmet—a hope of salvation—*

⁹(a) *because the {living} God has not put us down for anger, but for an acquisition of salvation via our Master, Jesus, the Anointed One, ¹⁰the One Who died for our sake, so that whether we stay awake or are sleeping, we may live together with Him at the same time.*

(1 Thessalonians 5:1-10) —HSSB

I have been consistently publishing my understanding of the biblical message over the past three and a half decades so that those who are interested can “see” the same things I “see” when I read the Scriptures. I have done that so that some may actually be able to “walk the walk” that Paul expected of those in his day. If you are one of those, you might be interested in knowing “the spans of time and the times” that Paul mentions in the passage above involve the seven “days” of Creation, with “His Majesty’s Day” as the seventh “day” of Creation—the “Day” when God will, at long last, have created all of His Children in His Own image and likeness and will finally begin to rest.

I mention Paul’s mind-set regarding the seventh “day” in hopes that a stray Believer may be reading this, one who is unaware of all the things I have explained over the past thirty-five years, one who does not know the prophecy of Zephaniah the Prophet is well on its way to becoming a reality. That is, God is going to *fulfill* this *promise*:

²*“[I will [most definitely] bring [everything] [Above] [{the} Surface of] [The Ground] to an end],”*

[Declares] [His Majesty].

³[I will bring [the] Descendants of Adam]

[and the] Beast] to an end];

[I will bring [the] Things That Fly]

[The Sea of Waters] to an end]

[As well as The Fish of] [The Sea],

[Even The Stumbling Blocks] [along with]

[Those Who Are Guilty];

[And I will cut off] [The Descendants of Adam]

[Above] [the] Surface of] [The Ground],”

[Declares] [His Majesty].

(Zephaniah 1:2–3) —my interim translation

Those who know those things are going to happen when the sixth “day” of Creation ends and the seventh “day” begins already know Malachi describes the same thing extremely well when he says this:

¹“[Because] [guess what!] [The Day] [is coming], [burning] [like an Oven]; [and all] [who are arrogant] [and all] [who are doing] [Something That Incurs Guilt] [will be] [Stubble]. [And [The Day] [that is coming] will set [them] afire,” [says] [His [Supreme] Majesty], “[so that] [it does [not] leave] [Root] [nor Limb] [for them]. ²[But [for you] [who fear] [My Name], [the] Sun] [of] a Declaration of Not Guilty] will rise] [with Healing] [in Her Wings]; [and you will go out] [and jump around] [like Calves] [from] a Stall]. ³[And you will tread on [Those Who Are Guilty] like grapes] [because] [they will be] [Ashes] [under] [the] Soles of] [your Feet] [on the] Day] [that] [I] [am making],” [says] [His [Supreme] Majesty].

⁴“[You must remember] [The Teaching of] [My Slave] [Moses]—[the] Statutes] [and Decisions Based on the Truth] [for] [all] [Israel] [that] [I] [commanded] [him] [in Horeb].

⁵[Guess what!] [I] [am going to send] [The Prophet] [Elijah] [to you] [before] [The [great] [and fearsome] Day] [of] His Majesty] [comes]. ⁶[And he will restore] [the] Heart] [of] Fathers] [to] [Sons] [and the] Heart] [of] Sons] [to] [their Fathers], [so that I do [not] come] [and viciously attack] [The Earth] [as] Someone Under the Ban.”

(Malachi 4:1–6) —my interim translation

To put the Truth as bluntly as I possibly can, the civilization of Planet Earth is on the cusp of being completely wiped out by the incredible inferno of a nuclear

war. Will anyone believe it? Very few, until it suddenly happens and takes the majority unawares. By then it will be too late. So if you are one of the True Believers that messengers have already been sent to “gather,” you had best get started preparing. As I have warned you time and time again, John the Revelator tells it exactly “The Way” it is:

⁷(4) [Then] [there was] [War] [in] [Heaven]—[Michael] [and] [his] [Messengers] [waging war] [with] [The] [Sea Serpent]. [And]

(a) [The] [Sea Serpent] [and] [his] [Messengers] [waged war], ⁸[and]

(i) [they did [not] have the ability {to win}];
(ii) [neither] [was [a Place] found] [for them] [in] [Heaven] [any longer].

⁹(b) [So] [The] [Sea Serpent]—

(i) [The] [Great One],
(ii) [The] [Snake],
(iii) [The] [Ancient One],
(iv) [the one that] [is called]

(a) “[False Accuser]” [and]
(b) “[Satan],”

(v) [the one who] [is going to lead [The] [entire] [Civilized World] astray]—[was thrown down].

(c) [He was thrown down] [to] [The] [Earth], [and]
(d) [his] [Messengers] [were thrown down] [with] [him].

(Revelation 12:7–9) —HSSB

Most professing “Christians” today will never believe Satan has finally been able to lead the Church that the Apostles founded into total apostasy. But that is only because they have never actually bothered to read the Scriptures. The Apostle Paul plainly warned the Thessalonians that the seventh “day” would not come until the Church has gone off into apostasy and Satan himself—in the person of the Antichrist—has made one final desperate attempt to stamp out the Truth by pretending to be Jesus Christ:

¹(1) [So], [Brothers], [we are asking [you] {to do the following}]

(a) [for the sake of]

- (i) [The] [Coming] [of] [our] [Master], [Jesus], [The Anointed One], [and]
- (ii) [our] [Assembling] [to] [Him],

²(b) [so] [that] [you]:

- (i) [would [not] be [quickly] shaken] [out] [of your] [Mind], [or]
- (ii) [be alarmed]—

- (a) [neither] [by] [a Spirit]
- (b) [nor] [by] [a Word]
- (c) [nor] [by] [a Letter]

- (i) [as if it were] {written} [by] [us]—
- (ii) [as] [though] [it is currently] [The] [Day] [of] [His Majesty].

³(2) [Do [not] let [anyone] dupe] [you] [in] [any [Way] at all], [that] [it may [not] be that]:

- (a) [The] [Apostasy] [must come] [first] [and]
- (b) [The] [Man] [of The] [Lawless One]—[The] [Son] [of] [Eternal Damnation]—[must be revealed],

⁴(i) [the one who] [is opposed to], [and] [exalts himself] [over], [everything] [that is called] “[God]” [or] [an Object of Worship], [with the result that] [he] [sits down] [in] [The] [Sanctuary] [of The] [{Living} God], [presenting] [himself] as convincing evidence] [that] [he is] [God].

(2 Thessalonians 2:1–4) —HSSB

Paul's point in that passage is fairly easy to grasp, provided you know “today” is the sixth “day” of Creation. He is saying, “Don't believe ‘The Lie’ that the seventh ‘day’ of Creation has already begun.” His understanding is, Satan will lead the Church the Apostles established off into apostasy, then he will appear as the Antichrist right before the sixth “day” of Creation ends and the seventh “day” of rest begins.

Well, folks, I'm here to tell you Satan has already achieved the first of those two objectives. Over the past sixty-five years, the Church the Apostles established has drifted off into an unredeemable apostasy; and just as John the Revelator said, Satan will soon be forced out of Heaven to become the Antichrist here on Earth.

As I explained early on, the leaders of the Church had already long since lost *The Teaching* by the time of the Reformation. The Protestant Reformers plainly declare that to be true, but all they were ever able to do was *restore* the Gospel. I personally know the Gospel was still alive and well sixty-five years ago because I responded to it at the age of twelve and had the absolutely amazing experience of the new birth. But over the years since, I have watched the leaders of the parts of the Church that still had the Gospel leave it behind and stray off into their stupid “church growth” nonsense. So now, here we are, standing on the precipice where “*The narrow Way*” of Moses breaks off sharply into “*The broad Way*” to Hell. For that reason I am going to explain a few of Satan's lies that have carried us down to the End of the Age.

Lie #1: It Doesn't Matter What You Believe

Let's begin with what the Apostle Paul says about belief in the “conventional wisdom” of his day:

¹(1) So I am saying {this}:

(a) For as long a span of time as the **heir** is a toddler,

- (i) he who is owner of everything does not matter {any} more than a slave, ²but
- (ii) he is under supervisors and managers up to the appointed time of the Father.

³(b) So also we, when we were toddlers, were **enslaved by the elementary beliefs of the world.**

⁴(c) But then, when the fulfillment of the span of time came, the {living} God sent out His Son—

- (i) Who came from a woman,
- (ii) Who came subject to Law—

- ⁵(a) so that He could buy back those who are subject to Law,
- (b) so that we could get back the adoption.

⁶(d) *And then, because you are sons, the {living} God sent the Spirit of His Son out into our hearts, shouting, "Abba! Father!"*

⁷(e) *So then you are no longer a slave, but a son; but if a son, also an **heir**—of God.*

⁸(i) *But on the one hand at that time, when {you} did not know God, you were slaves to the things that are by nature not gods;*

⁹(ii) *but on the other hand, now, after coming to know God—but rather, after being known by God—**how can you turn back again to the weak and poor elementary beliefs from up above, to which you want to be slaves again?***

(Galatians 4:1–9) —HSSB

Paul's point is precisely what he explains in Romans 6–7: We are slaves to whatever we have *chosen* to believe. But the few who have *chosen* to believe the Truth that Moses and the other Prophets of Israel hid in the Hebrew Scriptures have been emancipated from the "conventional wisdom"—that is, "elementary beliefs"—of the world so that they can be slaves of the *Living Word* of God. But even they can be enticed to go back to believing "conventional wisdom" if they are not constantly on guard against it:

¹(2) *For I want you to know how great a contest for the prize I have*

(a) *for your sake, and*

(b) *for {the sake of} those who are in Laodicea, and as many as have not seen my face in {the} flesh, ²so that their hearts—after being all put together*

(i) *by love, and*

(ii) *with all {the} wealth of the absolute certainty of their insight—would be encouraged, resulting in full knowledge of the truth concerning the mystery of the {living} God—the Anointed One, ³in which {mystery} all the treasures of*

(a) *his wisdom and*

(b) *a knowledge of the truth are tucked away.*

⁴(3) *I am saying this so that no one can dupe you with persuasive speech. ⁵For even if*

(a) *I am absent in the flesh (but together with you in the spirit)*

(b) *I am*

(i) *rejoicing and*

(ii) *seeing*

(a) *your order and*

(b) *the constancy of your **belief in God's promise** about the Anointed One.*

⁶(1) *Therefore, since you took the Anointed One, Jesus, His Majesty, to yourselves,*

(a) *walk in Him—*

⁷(i) *after having been rooted and*

(ii) *being built on in Him and*

(iii) *being confirmed in your **belief in God's promise**—*

(iv) *just as you were taught,*

(v) *while producing an excess in thanksgiving.*

⁸(b) *Watch out, so that no one becomes the one who captivates you via*

(i) *their philosophy and*

(ii) *empty deceit,*

(a) *in agreement with the oral tradition of men,*

(b) *in agreement with the elementary beliefs of the world—and*

(c) *not in agreement with the Anointed One.*

⁹(2) *The fact is that all the fullness of the deity dwells in Him, in a body;*

¹⁰(a) *so you are going to be completely filled*

(i) *by Him, the One Who is the Head of every ruler and authority;*

¹¹(ii) *by the One Whom you were also circumcised with a circumcision not made by human hands*

(iii) *by the divestment of the body of your flesh—*

(iv) *by the circumcision of the Anointed One—¹²after*

being buried together with Him in His baptizing
(v) by the One Whom you were also raised together with via your **belief in God's promise** concerning the energy of the {living} God—the One Who raised Him from those who are dead.

¹³(b) So He has made you—you who were dead in

(i) your transgressions and
(ii) the uncircumcision of your flesh—alive together with Him:

(a) after granting us all our transgressions as a favor;

¹⁴(b) after wiping out the handwritten document against us—which was opposed to us in its decrees (He has even taken it out of our midst by nailing it to the cross);

¹⁵(c) after completely stripping the covering off the rulers and the authorities (He made an example of {them} with candor, becoming victorious over them in Himself).

¹⁶(1) Therefore,

(a) do not let anyone judge you:

(i) about a meal and
(ii) about a drink or
(iii) about part of a feast or new moon or Sabbath—¹⁷which {things} is a shadow of the things that are going to come, but {the shadow is} the body of the Anointed One.

¹⁸(b) Do not let anyone who wants to, disqualify you by humility and {the} religion of the messengers:

(i) by taking a stand for no good reason on whatever someone has seen;
(ii) by being made condescending by the mind of his flesh; ¹⁹and
(iii) by not holding onto the head, from whom the whole body—being abundantly provided for and all put together with its ligaments and sinews—grows with the growth of the {living} God.

²⁰(2) If you have died together with the Anointed One—apart from the elementary beliefs of the world—why are you submitting to decrees like one who is living in {the} world, {saying}:

²¹(a) “Do not touch!”

(b) “Do not even taste!”

(c) “Do not even come in contact with {it}!”

²²(i) Which {submission} is all

(a) about a perishable body—

(b) about the misuse of {it}—in agreement with the religious precepts and teachings of men.

²³(ii) Which {submission} is, in fact, a response that has wisdom—in a legalistic religion—even humility and {the} harsh treatment of {the} body, {but} not with any value against {the} gratification of the flesh.

(Colossians 2:1–23) —HSSB

The point Paul is making in that chapter is somewhat the same as the point he makes in Galatians 3–4. Under the terms of the Old Covenant, a Believer had to demonstrate **belief in the promise** by adhering to *parabolic* rituals that depicted various things in *The Teaching of Moses*. For example, observance of every seventh day as a Sabbath day of rest was to remind the sons of Israel that the seventh “day” of rest was yet to come. If one did not observe those rituals, he would be “cut off from” Corporate Israel by God Himself and would lose his share of *what was promised* when Corporate Israel finally *inherited what was promised*.

Under the terms of the New Covenant, *inheritance of what was promised* no longer depends on adherence to a long list of *parabolic* rituals that must be observed; it is instead completely dependent on one's **belief in the promise**. And demonstration of that belief resides in acting in accordance with that belief, which *means* one must do what he *believes* is the right thing for him to do. Since God is fully aware of what one believes, His Judgment is always based on the dissonance between what one does and what one knows he should do:

¹⁸(b) For God's anger is going to be revealed from Heaven against all {the} depravity and injustice of

men who hold the truth fast in injustice,¹⁹ because what is known about the {living} God is well-known within them, for the {living} God has made {it} well-known to them;

²⁰(c) for since {the} creation of the world His invisible {characteristics}—both His everlasting supernatural power and divine nature, which are understood by the things {He} made—have been plainly seen so that they are without excuse.

(Romans 1:18–20) —HSSB

Fools will go on adamantly insisting there is no God; but the Truth is, they know better. They have merely *chosen* to believe a lie of Satan that allows them to hide from that Truth.

Lie #2: Everyone Bears God's Image

Now that I have told you God is going to judge *what you do* on the basis of *what you believe* rather than *what you say you believe*, I am going to tighten the screws on the fools who *choose* to keep on reading things they were never supposed to hear. That is, for the benefit of the few who honestly do believe, I am going to remind you how absolutely essential it is to hold on to the logic and reason that informs this passage:

²⁶[Then [God] said], “[Let Us make] [Descendants of Adam] [in Our Image], [in accordance with Our Likeness], [so that they may exercise authority] [over {the} Fish of] [The Sea] [and over Things That Fly] [{through} The Sea of Waters] [and over {the} Beasts] [and over all] [The Earth] [and over all] [The Crawling Things] [that crawl] [on] [The Earth].” ²⁷[And [God] will create] [The Adam] [in His Image]. [In {the} Image] [of God] [He will create] [Him]; [Male] [and Female] [He will create] [them].

(Genesis 1:26–27) —my interim translation

If you are not already aware of the fact that this passage is describing the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in the image and likeness of God—which happened two thousand years ago—and the resurrection of all True Believers—which will happen at the End of the Age—you have some catching up to do. I suggest you start with the logic and reason you can find in the booklet titled *In the Image and Likeness of God*. If that does not convince you, your best course of action would be to

write me off as the kook *you want to believe* I am. Should you *choose* that route, I wish you nothing but the best, because I know you are seriously going to need every last bit of well-wishing when the chips begin to fall where they may as we draw closer to the appearance of Christ at the Second Coming.

Lie #3: The 7th “Day” Has Already Begun

Once you are able to see through the lie that says Adam and Eve were created in the image and likeness of God, logic and reason alone will reveal the stupidity in believing “The Lie” that Paul refers to in the following passage:

¹(1) So, brothers, we are asking you {to do the following}

(a) for the sake of

(i) the coming of our Master, Jesus, the Anointed One, and

(ii) our assembling to Him,

²(b) so that you:

(i) would not be quickly shaken out of your mind, or

(ii) be alarmed—

(a) neither by a spirit

(b) nor by a word

(c) nor by a letter

(i) as if it were {written} by us—

(ii) **as though it is currently the day of His Majesty.**

³(2) Do not let anyone dupe you in any way at all, that it may not be that:

(a) **the apostasy must come first and**

(b) **the man of the lawless one—the son of eternal damnation—must be revealed,**

⁴(i) **the one who is opposed to, and exalts himself over, everything that is called “god” or an object of worship, with the result that he sits down in the sanctuary of the {living}**

God, presenting himself as convincing evidence that he is God. ⁵(Do you not remember that I was telling you these things while {I} was still with you? ⁶So you are aware of what is holding {them} fast now so that he can be revealed in his own time. ⁷For the mystery of the lawless one is already working in {them}—the one who is only holding {them} fast at this time until he comes out of {their} midst.) ⁸So then the one who is lawless will be revealed.

(ii) *The one whom His Majesty, Jesus,*

- (a) *will put away by the spirit of His mouth and*
- (b) *abrogate by the appearance of His coming;*

⁹(iii) *the one whose arrival is in accordance with Satan's energy: with all*

- (a) *supernatural power and*
- (b) *signs and*
- (c) *wonders—lies—¹⁰and with all*
- (d) *{the} deceitfulness of injustice*

- (i) *for those who are going to be done away with*
- (ii) *because they did not accept the love of the truth so that they could be saved.*

¹¹(1) *So for this reason the {living} God will send them a deceptive energy*

- (a) *so that they believe the lie,*
- ¹²(b) *so that all who did not believe the truth but were delighted with his injustice can be judged.*

(2 *Thessalonians 2:1–12*) —HSSB

If I were you—which I am not, but if I were—I would be seriously concerned about the “deceptive energy” that Paul mentions God sending on those who *choose* not to believe the Truth here at the End. Paul has in mind “The Lie” that the seventh “day” of Creation has already begun. It hasn't. Jesus Christ was created in the image and likeness of God on the sixth “day,” and those who believe the Truth at the End of this Age will be created in that same image and likeness at the very end of the sixth “day,” right before “the ‘Day’ of His

Majesty”—the seventh “day”—begins with a nuclear war that wipes mankind completely off the surface of the Earth. But those who *choose* to be energized by the “deceptive energy” of the God Who is will never believe that. So maybe I should remind those of you who do believe why those fools would so easily succumb to something so blatantly false.

Lie #4: God Isn't Who He Says He Is

As soon as Satan realized he had been completely bamboozled into believing his orchestration of the Crucifixion of Christ would defeat God's purpose in the Incarnation, he knew he had to convince everyone that the God of the Old Testament was a really vicious, bad dude Who had somehow been replaced by such a loving, caring wimp that a person could walk all over Him and still get off scot-free. That is why he pushed the idiot Marcion and the lamebrained Gnostics to avidly assert that stupid belief. So it should come as no great surprise that he has finally achieved his goal by promoting the same ridiculous beliefs in the apostate Church today.

I have spent the past twenty-three years showing how the Early Church Father Irenæus laid out a cogent argument as to why the angry, jealous God of the Old Testament is also the God of the New Testament, so I will not plow that ground again. But I will tell you the Truth is available to anyone who actually wants to know the Truth. It can be found in the pages of *The Voice of Elijah*® *Update*, beginning in 2003. However, just to assuage the goofiness of those who desperately want to cling to their illogical belief in a non-existent god who will put up with their infernal nonsense, I present the following—just to let you know the angry, jealous God of the Old Testament has merely been waiting for the perfect time to correct the mistaken assumptions of fools who do not believe the Bible is exactly what it claims to be—the revelation of what God has done and plans to do for His People. Part of those plans include taking vengeance on ignorant folks who *choose* to believe He is not Who He says He is. As the Apostle Paul puts it in Romans 1:

¹⁵(3) *So, as for me, I am also eager to proclaim the good news of the fulfillment of the promise to you who are in Rome:*

¹⁶(a) for I am not ashamed of the good news of the fulfillment of the promise;

(i) for it is God's supernatural power for salvation in anyone who believes God's promise—in both Jew, first, and Greek;

¹⁷(ii) for God's declaration of not guilty is being revealed by it—on the basis of {His} belief in God's promise resulting in {our} belief in God's promise—just as it has been written, "AND THEN THE ONE WHO IS BLAMELESS WILL LIVE ON THE BASIS OF BELIEF IN GOD'S PROMISE";

¹⁸ (b) for God's anger is going to be revealed from Heaven against all {the} depravity and injustice of men who hold the truth fast in injustice, ¹⁹because what is known about the {living} God is well-known within them, for the {living} God has made {it} well-known to them;

²⁰(c) for since {the} creation of the world His invisible {characteristics}—both His everlasting supernatural power and divine nature, which are understood by the things {He} made—have been plainly seen so that they are without excuse.

(Romans 1:15–20) —HSSB

Paul goes on to emphasize what he says about those who choose to believe God is not Who He says He is:

²(2) But we are aware that the judgment of the {living} God is against those who are involved in such things in accordance with truth. ³So

(a) do you reckon this, O man—the one who judges those who are involved in such things and does them {himself}—that you will escape the judgment of the {living} God? ⁴Or

(b) do you despise the wealth of His benevolence and forbearance and patience, not understanding that the beneficence of the {living} God leads you to an apology?

⁵(3) But—in accordance with your impenitence and unapologetic heart—you are storing up anger for yourself for a day of anger and {the} revelation of {the} impartial judgment of the {living} God, ⁶Who WILL PAY EACH ONE BACK IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS WORKS:

⁷(a) on the one hand, glory and honor and an imperishable body for those who are seeking eternal life by perseverance in good work; ⁸but

(b) on the other hand, anger and rage for those who, because of self-centeredness, and not being persuaded by the truth, and then allowing themselves to be persuaded by their injustice.

(Romans 2:2–8) —HSSB

In Romans 9, Paul responds to anyone who would question the terror that God is about to impose on this final generation. But understanding what he says depends on you knowing how God views us. We are nothing more than earthenware "containers" that have the unique ability to "contain"—that is, believe—the Truth God has provided in the Scriptures or "the elementary beliefs of the world" that Satan has inculcated in the minds of men over the centuries leading up to our own. It's your choice as to whether or not you believe that:

¹⁹(2) Therefore, you will say to me: "Why does He, therefore, still find fault? For who has withstood His resolve?" ²⁰On the contrary, O man,

(a) who are you—the one who is giving a negative response to the {living} God? THE MOLDED THING SHOULD NOT SAY TO THE ONE WHO MOLDED {it}, "WHY DID YOU MAKE ME LIKE THIS?" ²¹Or

(b) does the potter not have authority over the mud, to make one a container for honor, but another {a container} for dishonor, out of the same lump?

²²(c) Perhaps the {living} God, wanting to present evidence of His anger and make known His ability, with a lot of patience, bore containers of anger that had been made ready for eternal damnation, ²³so that He could also make known the wealth of His glory to containers of mercy that He prepared beforehand for glory.

(Romans 9:19–23) —HSSB

In Paul's first letter to the local church at Thessalonica, he clearly indicates there will be some in the final generation who have chosen to believe the Truth. Therefore, God will not impose His anger on them—that is, those who "wait up for" His Second Coming:

⁸(1) For the word of His Majesty has been rung out because of you, not only in Macedonia and in Achaia; but your **belief in God's promise**—the one that pertains to the {living} God—has gone out into every place, with the result that we do not have any need to say anything.

⁹(2) For they are reporting about us

(a) what kind of entrance we had to you, and
(b) how you turned back from your idols to the {living} God,

(i) to be slaves to a God Who is living and real ¹⁰and
(ii) to wait up for

(a) His Son {coming back} from the heavens,
(b) the One that He raised from the dead—
(c) Jesus, the One Who is going to deliver us from the anger that is going to come.

(1 Thessalonians 1:8–10) —HSSB

In Ephesians 2, Paul tells us those who choose to continue “in agreement with the current age of this world” will remain subject to God's anger:

¹(1) Now you {are} those who were dead

(a) in your transgressions and
(b) in your sins—²in which you walked at one time:

(i) in agreement with the current age of this world,
(ii) in agreement with

(a) the ruler of the authority of the air,
(b) the spirit of the one who is now working in the sons of apathy.

³(2) Among whom we all at one time also:

(a) conducted ourselves:

(i) in the selfish desires of our flesh,
(ii) while acting in accordance with the will of our flesh and understanding; and

(b) were by nature also children of anger, like the rest of {the sons of apathy}.

(Ephesians 2:1–3) —HSSB

Then in Ephesians 5, Paul lists the reasons why God is going to impose His anger on the final generation of this Age:

¹(1) Therefore,

(a) be imitators of the {living} God—like beloved children—²and
(b) walk in love; just as the Anointed One also

(i) loved us and
(ii) handed Himself over to the {living} God

(a) as a cereal offering and
(b) as a sacrifice—
(c) as {the} aroma of {its} fragrance—for our sake. ³So

(c) do not even let

(i) sexual promiscuity and
(ii) any uncleanness or
(iii) selfishness be named among you—just as is fitting for holy ones—
⁴(iv) as well as anything shameful,
(v) as well as stupid talk
(vi) or vulgar speech, which is not appropriate, but thanksgiving instead. ⁵For you who know this, must be aware that

(a) every sexually promiscuous individual or
(b) unclean or selfish individual—who is an idolater—does not have an **inheritance** in the kingdom of the Anointed One and God.

⁶(d) Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the anger of the {living} God is going to come upon the sons of apathy.
(Ephesians 5:1–6) —HSSB

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul summarizes what he said in his letter to the Ephesians:

⁵(2) Therefore, deaden your members that are on the Earth to:

(a) sexual promiscuity,
(b) uncleanness—an urge, an awful selfish desire—and

(c) your selfishness, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of which {things} the anger of the {living} God is going to come upon the sons of apathy, ⁷among whom at one time you also walked—when you were living for these things.

(Colossians 3:5–7) —HSSB

In his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul alludes to the fact that the Resurrection of Christ was, in fact, an event in which the Living Word of God directed His anger at the leaders of the Jews who refused to believe the Truth that is stated *parabolically* in *The Teaching of Moses*:

¹⁴(5) For you, brothers, have become imitators of the summoned assemblies of the {living} God that are in Judea in the Anointed One, Jesus, because you also suffered the same things under your own countrymen just as they also {did} under the Jews:

¹⁵(a) those who killed both His Majesty, Jesus, and the Prophets; and

(b) those who chased us away; and

(c) those who are not pleasing to God and {are} in opposition to all men;

¹⁶(d) those who prevented us from speaking to the Gentiles—so that they could be saved—so as to always completely fill the full measure of their sins. So {here} at the consummation His anger has overtaken them.

(1 Thessalonians 2:14–16) —HSSB

Later on in that same letter to the Thessalonians, Paul reminds the Believers in the local church that they know the Truth Moses put down in writing regarding the seventh “day” of Creation; therefore, they will not be caught off guard when it arrives, so they will not bear the brunt of God’s anger:

⁴(2) But you, brothers, are not in nether darkness, so that the day grasps you like a thief.

⁵(a) For you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of nether darkness. ⁶So then, therefore, we must not sleep like the rest of {mankind}; but we must stay awake and be sober.

⁷(b) For those who sleep, sleep at night; and those who become intoxicated are intoxicated at night.

⁸(3) But we who are of day must be sober, after slipping on a breastplate of belief in God’s promise and love and a helmet—a hope of salvation—

⁹(a) because the {living} God has not put us down for anger, but for an acquisition of salvation via our Master, Jesus, the Anointed One, ¹⁰the One Who died for our sake, so that whether we stay awake or are sleeping, we may live together with Him at the same time.

(1 Thessalonians 5:4–10) —HSSB

In the Book of Hebrews—in total repudiation of Satan’s “once-saved-always-saved” lie—Paul warns True Believers they must continually be on guard against the lies of Satan contaminating the Truth they understand:

¹(c) Therefore, we should be afraid lest perhaps, while a promise is left behind that {we} may come into His rest, any of you might seem to come up short of {it}.

²(i) For we also are those who have had the good news of the fulfillment of the promise proclaimed {to us}, even as those individuals also {did}. But the word of the news did not benefit those individuals who, when they heard {it}, were not mixed together with {it} by their belief in God’s promise.

³(ii) For those who have believed God’s promise are going to come into His rest, just as He has said:

“AS I SWORE AN OATH IN MY ANGER:

“THEY WILL NEVER COME INTO MY REST.”

And yet His works have been done since the establishment of the world!

⁴(iii) For He has stated somewhere about the seventh {day} like this, “AND THE {living} GOD RESTED FROM ALL HIS WORKS ON THE DAY—{that is}, THE SEVENTH.” ⁵And again in this instance,

“THEY WILL NEVER COME INTO MY REST!”

⁶(d) Therefore, since it is left for some to come into it, and those who had the good news of the fulfillment of the promise proclaimed {to them} previously did

not come in because of apathy, ⁷He stipulates a specific day—today—saying again by David so long a span of time later just as had been stated before:

“TODAY, IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,
DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS.”

(Hebrews 4:1–7) —HSSB

Lie #5: There Never Was a Promise

The Apostle Peter makes it abundantly clear in the third chapter of 2 Peter that Church leaders at the End of the Age will not have any insight into the nature of *the promise* or how Moses and the other Prophets of Israel said God is going to *fulfill* it. Listen to what he says about fools who don't know that they don't know:

¹(1) Beloved brothers, I am already writing this second letter to you, by which I am {trying to} wake up your unalloyed understanding {of the truth} with a reminder ²so that {you} would recall:

(a) the statements that were made beforehand by the holy Prophets; and
(b) the commandment of your Master and Savior, {that was spoken} via your Apostles, ³knowing this, first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with mockery—those who are

(i) walking in accordance with their own selfish desires ⁴and

(ii) saying: “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell fast asleep—since the beginning of creation—everything continues to be the same.”

⁵(2) For wanting this to be {true}, it has escaped their notice that

(a) {the} heavens were from long ago and
(b) {the} Earth stood up together with {them}

(i) out of water and

(ii) through water

(iii) by the word of the {living} God, ⁶by which the world at that time, which was flooded by water, was done away with.

⁷(3) So now the heavens and the Earth, which have been stored up by the same word, are being kept for a fire on {the} day of {the} sentencing and eternal damnation of depraved men.

⁸(4) So do not let this one thing escape your notice, beloved brothers, that with His Majesty one day {is} like one thousand years; and one thousand years {are} like one day.

⁹(a) His Majesty is not delaying **the promise**—as some deem a delay—but

(b) He is being patient with you, determined

(i) that no one would be done away with, but

(ii) that everyone would make room for an apology.

¹⁰(5) So {the} day of His Majesty will come like a thief, on which {day}

(a) the heavens will pass away—whistling—and then

(b) elementary things, which are going to be incinerated, will be undone, and

(c) {the} Earth and the works {done} on her will be found to be {what they are}.

(2 Peter 3:1–10) —HSSB

When Peter says “day of His Majesty” in that last verse, he is referring to the seventh “day” of Creation—the “day” that begins right after He *fulfills the promise* by creating Children in His Own image and likeness at the End of this Age (think: “day”). I have already explained what you need to know about that in past issues of *The Voice of Elijah*[®] newsletter. That should be enough to convince any reasonable person that what I am telling you is true. Too bad for you if you do not choose to believe it. It is true, and what Peter has just told you is this: The seventh “day” of Creation will begin with a nuclear war that fools have intentionally ignited. That war will accomplish God's purpose by wiping this civilization completely off the face of the Earth. The Prophet Malachi describes it this “Way”:

¹“[Because] [guess what!] [The Day] [is coming], [burning] [like an Oven]; [and all] [who are arrogant] [and all] [who are doing] [Something That Incurs Guilt] [will be] [Stubble]. [And [The Day] [that is coming] will set [them] afire],” [says] [His [Supreme] Majesty], “[so

that] [it does [not] leave] [Root] [nor Limb] [for them].
²[But [for you] [who fear] [My Name], [the] Sun] [of] a
 Declaration of Not Guilty] will rise] [with Healing] [in
 Her Wings]; [and you will go out] [and jump around] [like
 Calves] [from] a Stall]. ³[And you will tread on [Those
 Who Are Guilty] like grapes] [because] [they will be]
 [Ashes] [under] [the] Soles of] [your Feet] [on the]
 Day] [that] [I] [am making],” [says] [His] [Supreme]
 Majesty].

(Malachi 4:1–3) —my interim translation

The mention of Believers “treading” on unbelievers “like grapes” in the last verse of that passage provides the *parabolic imagery* to which John the Revelator refers in Revelation 14, where he describes the brief span of time when ignorant, unregenerate men decide their only option is to unleash the totality of their arsenal of nuclear weaponry. At that very instant, the sixth “day” of Creation will transition into the seventh “day” and the awesome fire of God’s wrath will begin to consume the entirety of mankind:

¹³(4) Then I heard a voice out of Heaven, saying, “Write, ‘The dead—those in His Majesty who die from this point on—are fortunate!’” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “so that they may be refreshed from their trouble, for their works are going to follow after them.”

¹⁴(5) Then I also saw, guess what!

(a) There was a white cloud, and
 (b) sitting on the cloud {was} One just like a son of a man Who had

(i) a crown made of gold on His head and
 (ii) a keen sickle in His hand.

¹⁵(6) Then another messenger came out of the sanctuary, shouting in a loud voice to the One Who was sitting on the cloud, “Send Your sickle and reap, because the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the Earth has shriveled up.”

¹⁶(7) Then the One Who was sitting on the cloud cast His sickle onto the Earth, and the Earth was reaped.

¹⁷(8) Then another messenger came out of the sanctuary that is in Heaven, and he had a keen sickle.

¹⁸(9) Then another messenger—the one who has authority over the fire of the sacrificial altar—

(a) came out and

(b) called out in a loud voice to the one who has the sickle that is keen, saying, “Send your sickle—the keen one—and pick the clusters of grapes of the vine of the Earth, because her bunches of grapes are ripe.”

¹⁹(10) So the messenger

(a) cast his sickle onto the Earth and

(b) picked the vine of the Earth and

(c) threw {the grapes} into the wine press—the large one—of the rage of the {living} God. ²⁰And

(i) the wine press was trampled on the outside of the city, and

(ii) blood came out of the wine press up to the bits of {the} bridles of the horses for one thousand six hundred 200-meter units.

(Revelation 14:13–20) —HSSB

Let me break down what John the Revelator says in that passage. In verse 13, he is *talking about* the “harvesting” of Believers—that is, he only briefly mentions the blessedness of those who experience the Resurrection of the Righteous at the very End of this Age, at which time they are taken up into the fire of a nuclear cloud and transformed into the very same image and likeness of the Glory that consumed the dead body of Jesus Christ in the tomb. The remaining verses in the chapter are describing the “harvesting” of the Damned. Just so you know, Jesus *talks about* those same events in the Parable of the Tares, but pay close attention to how He describes the fate of the Righteous when He explains that parable:

³⁶At that time, after leaving the crowds, He came into the house. And His disciples approached Him, saying, “Explain the comparison of the tares of the field in detail for us.”

³⁷So, in response, He said: “The One Who sows the exceptionally good seed is the Son of The Man, ³⁸but the field is the world. And then the exceptionally good seed? These individuals are the sons of the kingdom. And then the tares? They are the sons of the one who is nasty. ³⁹And then the enemy, the one who sowed them? He is the false accuser. And then the harvest? It is {the} consummation of {the} current age. And then the reapers? They are messengers.

⁴⁰Therefore, indeed, just as the tares are culled out and burned up in a fire, it will be like this at the consummation of the current age. ⁴¹The Son of The Man will send His messengers, and they will cull all the deadfall traps and those who commit the lawless deed out of His kingdom, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of the fire. Weeping and gritting of teeth will be there. ⁴³At that time, THOSE WHO ARE BLAMELESS WILL SHINE FORTH LIKE THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father. Let the one who has ears hear." (Matthew 13:36–43) —HSSB

Let me put it to you this way: There are a whole lot of things that theoretical physicists do not yet understand about the nature of light, but given enough time—which they do not have—they would probably be able to figure it out. So I'll just summarize the *parabolic imagery* of the Passover Parable that Moses, the Prophets of Israel, and apparently even the Greek Stoics understood and leave the rest of that topic for those who dearly do love to speculate.

Light is a dimension, the dimension of thought, which is the fifth dimension of God's Creation—the dimension in which the Glory of the *Living Word* (think: *Thought*) of God Himself resides in the burning, consistently streaming, massless photons emitted by the nuclear infernos of the sun and every other star. So when the fools who seek to govern the massive population of Planet Earth here at the End of the Age decide to unleash just a wee bit of the awesome power of "The Light" that holds the entire universe together, it is not too difficult to understand why the Second Coming of Jesus Christ—the One Who described His Own Resurrection as a return to the Glory He had before His Incarnation (John 17:5)—would be described this "Way":

"For the Son of The Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His messengers, and HE WILL PAY EACH ONE BACK IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS ACTIVITY at that time." (Matthew 16:27) —HSSB

³⁰And at that time, the sign of the Son of The Man will appear in Heaven, and then all the tribes of the Earth will cut themselves, and they will see THE SON OF THE MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN with supernatural power and a lot of glory. ³¹And He will send His messengers with A LOUD TRUMPET, and THEY WILL

GATHER TOGETHER His chosen ones out of the four winds—from {the} tips of {the} heavens up to their tips." (Matthew 24:30–31) —HSSB

³¹"But then, when the Son of The Man comes in His glory—and all the messengers with Him—He will sit down on {the} throne of His glory at that time. ³²And all the Gentiles will be gathered in front of Him; and He will set them apart from one another, indeed, just as the shepherd sets the sheep apart from the kid goats." (Matthew 25:31–32) —HSSB

"For whoever it may be who is ashamed of Me and My words in this generation—which is adulterous and sinful—the Son of The Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the messengers that are holy." (Mark 8:38) —HSSB

Lie #6: God Did Not Mean It

The difficulty most good folks face when they try to read the Scriptures with understanding lies in the fact that they don't know where to begin. Well, I've already shown you where to begin—at the beginning, in the first chapter of the Book of Genesis. When you do that, you come across *the promise* before you even get out of that chapter, in verse 27:

²⁶[Then [God] said], "[Let Us make] [Descendants of Adam] [in Our Image], [in accordance with Our Likeness], [so that they may exercise authority] [over {the} Fish of] [The Sea] [and over Things That Fly] [{through} The Sea of Waters] [and over {the} Beasts] [and over all] [The Earth] [and over all] [The Crawling Things] [that crawl] [on] [The Earth]." ²⁷[And [God] will create] [The Adam] [in His Image]. [In {the} Image] [of God] [He will create] [Him]; [Male] [and Female] [He will create] [them]. (Genesis 1:26–27) —my interim translation

I've already told you "the Adam" mentioned in that verse is Jesus Christ—the *Second "Adam,"* the One that Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 15. So now I will just remind you of why Paul talks about the Glory of God. The Glory of God is His image and likeness. It is the *visible* manifestation of His *invisible* thoughts. And that means "The only Way" you can be created in the

image and likeness of God is to think “The Way” He thinks. That is, you have to do what the Apostle Paul describes in the following passage: You have to *believe the promise of God* as described by Moses and the Prophets of Israel in as many different facets of it as you are able to comprehend:

¹(1) *Therefore, I implore you, brothers, via the compassion of the {living} God,*

(a) *to present your bodies as a living, holy sacrifice, well-pleasing to the {living} God—your logical priestly service;* ²*and*

(b) *to not be shaped by this current age, but*
(c) *to be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you approve of what the will of the {living} God {is}—which is*

- (i) *good and*
- (ii) *well-pleasing and*
- (iii) *complete.*

³(2) *For I tell everyone who is among you—via the favor that was given to me—*

- (a) *to not have a mind-set more high-minded than {the} mind-set that one should have, but*
- (b) *to have a mind-set so as to have good common sense—in each one as much as the {living} God has divided out a measure of belief in God’s promise.*

(Romans 12:1–3) —HSSB

Did you see “The Way” Paul says every True Believer must be transformed? He has in mind the same transformation that Matthew describes here:

¹Then, *six days later* Jesus takes Peter and James—and John, his brother—with Him; and He takes them up onto a lofty mountain by themselves. ²And He was transformed in front of them, and His face shone like the sun, and then His overgarments became as white as its light. ³Then guess what! Moses and Elijah was seen by them, conversing with Him. ⁴So, in response, Peter told Jesus: “Your Majesty, it is exceptionally good that we are here. If You want, I will make three tents here—one for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

⁵Guess what! While he was still speaking, an illuminated cloud overshadowed them, and guess what!

There was a voice out of the cloud saying, “This Individual is My Son—My beloved One, with Whom I am delighted; listen to Him!”

⁶And when the disciples heard {that}, they fell on their faces and were extremely afraid. ⁷So Jesus approached and, after touching them, said, “Get up and do not be afraid!”

⁸Then, after lifting up their eyes, they did not see {anybody} except Jesus Himself alone. ⁹And while they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus gave them a commandment, saying, “Do not tell {anyone} the vision until the Son of The Man has arisen from those who are dead.”

(Matthew 17:1–9) —HSSB

You can find that same account in Mark’s Gospel, which is a signal that tells you both Matthew and Mark saw some fairly important significance in what happened that day, not the least of which is the fact that both say the transformation happened “six days later” (Matt. 17:1, Mark 9:2). When you read that, you should be asking yourself this question, “What happened six days before?” The answer, according to Mark, is this:

¹Then He was telling them, “Without doubt, I tell you that there are some of those who are standing here who will definitely not taste death until the time comes when they see the kingdom of the {living} God after {He} has come with supernatural power.”

²Then, six days later, Jesus takes Peter and James and John with Him; and He takes them up onto a lofty mountain by themselves alone, and He was transformed in front of them. ³Even His overgarments were glistening very white, of such a sort as a launderer cannot make so white on the Earth. ⁴And Elijah was seen by them, together with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus.

⁵So, in response, Peter tells Jesus: “Rabbi, it is exceptionally good that we are here. So we should make three tents, one for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁶For he did not know how he should respond, for they were terrified.

⁷Then a cloud came overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud: “This Individual is My Son—My beloved One. Listen to Him.”

⁸Then instantly, after looking around, they did not see {anybody} with them any longer, but only Jesus alone. ⁹And while they were coming down from the mountain, He gave them a strict order that they should not describe in

detail what they had seen to {anyone}, except when the Son of The Man had risen from those who are dead. ¹⁰So they held onto His word, arguing with one another, "What is His rising from those who are dead going to be?" (Mark 9:1-10) —HSSB

According to Mark's understanding, the transformation of Christ happened six days after He said this:

Then He was telling them, "Without doubt, I tell you that there are some of those who are standing here who will definitely not taste death until the time comes when they see the kingdom of the {living} God after {He} has come with supernatural power." (Mark 9:1) —HSSB

In what He says there, Jesus is *parabolically* referring to Himself as the *living* Word of God, which is "the kingdom of the {Living} God." And Peter, James, and John are the three men who did not die before they saw Him transformed into that state of being, which is precisely the state He took on after His Resurrection. You need to know that, provided you are one of those who aspire to be a permanent member of "The House" of God. So let me explain how you can achieve what God intends: Paul is *talking about* God's requirement in the following passage:

¹(1) Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or not? Do we, like some, need letters of commendation

- (a) to you or
- (b) from you?

²(2) You are our letter {of commendation}:

- (a) one that has been inscribed in our hearts;
- (b) one that is known and read by all men;
- ³(c) one that is becoming well-known, because you are a letter from the Anointed One;
- (d) one that was served by us;
- (e) one that has been inscribed:
 - (i) not with black ink,
 - (ii) but only with a living God's Spirit;
 - (iii) not on tablets made of stone,
 - (iv) but only on tablets of hearts made of flesh.

⁴(3) So we have a confidence like this before the {living} God through the Anointed One, ⁵not because we are worthy of consideration of ourselves, to reckon anything as from ourselves; but our consideration {is} from the {living} God, ⁶the One Who also made us worthy of consideration as servants

- (a) of a new testament—
- (b) not of something that has been written,
- (c) but of {the} Spirit. For

- (i) the thing that has been written kills, but
- (ii) the Spirit gives life.

⁷(4) But if the serving of death in something that had been written—that had been engraved—on stones came with glory, so the sons of Israel could not stare at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, which {glory} is going to be abrogated, ⁸how could the serving of the Spirit not be with even more glory?

- ⁹(a) For if {there was} glory in the serving of the death sentence, the serving of the declaration of not guilty is going to exceed {that glory} with a lot more glory.
- ¹⁰(b) For even the {face} that had been glorified on this part {of Israel} had not {actually} been glorified on account of the incredible glory {of God}.
- ¹¹(c) For if the {face} that is going to be abrogated {was} with glory, the {face} that is going to remain {is} with a lot more glory.

¹²(5) Therefore, we who have a hope like this use a lot of candor, ¹³and {are} not at all like Moses. He used to put a covering down over his face so that

- (a) the sons of Israel could not stare at the consummation of the {face} that is going to be abrogated. ¹⁴But
- (b) their thoughts were turned to stone;

- (i) for up to the time of day today, at the reading of the old testament the same covering—which has not been uncovered—remains, because it is abrogated in the Anointed One.
- ¹⁵(ii) But up to today, whenever it might be that Moses is read, a covering lies over their hearts.

¹⁶(a) Yet whenever it may be that one turns back to His Majesty, the covering is removed.

¹⁷(b) *Yet His Majesty is the Spirit, so freedom {is} wherever the Spirit of His Majesty {is}.*

¹⁸(c) *Yet we who are looking at a reflection of the glory of His Majesty in a mirror with a face that has been uncovered are all being transformed into the same image from {one} glory into {another} glory, even as from His Majesty's Spirit.*

(2 Corinthians 3:1–18) —HSSB

To understand what Paul had in mind when he put those things down in writing, you first need to know he is alluding to the *parabolic imagery* of the Passover Parable. In that *parabolic pantomime*, which Moses conducted at God's specific behest, God was mocking Egyptian mythology related to the death of the Pharaoh, who was considered to be the son of the supreme god of the Egyptians. The Ark of the Covenant *parabolically* depicts the coffin of the dead King, Jesus Christ—the One Who actually is the Son of God—being transported through the Realm of the Dead by the members of “The House” of God. But the essence of the *parabolic imagery* is focused on the “body” that was placed in the coffin. There was no *visible* “body” in that coffin.

The only thing Moses placed in the Ark of the Covenant were the two stone tablets that—for reasons inherent in the Egyptian mythology—bore silent witness to the *contents* of the “heart” of the deceased King—the *invisible* King, Jesus Christ—the One Who is the Word of God He always has been and always will be. But here's the catch: At the time of Moses, the Word of God was *parabolically* depicted as the dead Word of God, with only the Ten Commandments bearing silent witness to the *contents* of His “heart.” But since the Day of Pentecost, the *Living Spirit* of that Word has been “written” on the “heart” (mind) of every True Believer who *honestly* apologizes for his or her sins and makes an *honest* commitment to be what God expects all of His Children to be. The question is, What does God expect all of His Children to be? Paul alludes to the correct answer when he says this:

Yet we who are looking at a reflection of the glory of His Majesty in a mirror with a face that has been uncovered are all being transformed into the same image from {one} glory into {another} glory, even as from His Majesty's Spirit.

(2 Corinthians 3:18) —HSSB

Did you understand the *significance* of what Paul said in that verse? Probably not, even though you may think you did; so let me show you how God Himself explained it:

⁹“[Only] [be on [Your] guard] [and [diligently] stand watch over] [Your Soul], [so that You do [not] forget] [The Things] [that] [Your Eyes] [have seen]; [and so that they do [not] go away] [from Your Heart] [all] [the] Days of] [Your Life]. [But You must make them known] [to Your Sons] [and to {the} Sons of] [Your Sons]—¹⁰{the} Day] [that] [You stood] [before] [His Majesty], [Your God], [at Horeb], [when [His Majesty] said] [to me], [‘Congregate] [The People] [for Me], [so that I may let them hear] [My Words], [so that] [they may learn] [to fear] [Me] [all] [The Days] [that they] [live] [on] [The Ground] [and make [their Sons] learn {to fear Me}.’¹¹[Then you came together] [and stood] [at the foot of] [The Mountain], [and The Mountain] [was burning] [with Fire]; {there was} [Darkness], [a Cloud], [and Dense Fog] [up to] [the] Heart] [of The Sea of Waters].¹²[And [His Majesty] spoke] [to you] [from The Middle of] [The Fire]; [You] [heard] [the] Sound] [of Words], [but [none of you] [saw] a Shape]—[anything] other than] [a Voice].

¹³[Then He told] [you] [His Legal Agreement]—[The [ten] Words] [with [which] [He commanded] [you] to act in accordance]—[and He wrote them] [on] [two] [stone] [Slabs].¹⁴[But [His Majesty] [commanded] me] [at [that] Time] [to make [you] learn] [Statutes] [and Decisions Based on the Truth] [for you to act in accordance] [with them] [in {the} Land] [where] [you] [are crossing over] [to take possession of it].

¹⁵[So you must stand watch over] [your Souls] [exceedingly] [because] [you did [not] see] [any] [Shape] [on {the} Day] [His Majesty] [spoke] [to you] [at Horeb] [from The Middle of] [The Fire]:

¹⁶(1) [So that you do [not] corrupt {the Truth}] [and make] [for yourselves] [a Graven Image] [in the] Shape of] [any] [Sculpture], [the] Pattern of] [Male] [or] [Female],¹⁷[the] Pattern of] [any] [Beast] [that is] [on {the} Earth], [the] Pattern of] [any] [winged] [Bird] [that] [flies] [in The Sea of Waters],¹⁸[the] Pattern of] [anything] [that crawls] [on {the} Ground], [the] Pattern of] [any] [Fish] [that is] [in {the} Water] [beneath] [the] Earth—¹⁹[and

(2) so that You do [not] lift up] [Your Eyes] [toward The Sea of Waters] [and see] [The Sun] [and] [The Moon] [and] [The Stars]—[the] entire] [Army]

[of The Sea of Waters]—[and are banished] [and fall prostrate] [to them] [and do physical labor for them], [which is} what] [His Majesty], [Your God], [has allotted {as} a share] [to all] [of The Peoples] [under] [The [entire] Sea of Waters]."

(Deuteronomy 4:9–19)—my interim translation

What's the point? Simply this: There was nothing in the coffin of the Lord but the two stone tablets that revealed the *contents* of His "heart." Why? Because God is *invisible*. The sons of Israel did not see God at Mount Sinai; they only heard Him speak. Why? Because God is *invisible*. So you and I cannot possibly bear the image of God from birth. Why? Because God is *invisible*. So if you intend to be one of the "male and female" Believers that God said He would create in His Own image and likeness after He created Jesus Christ in His Own image and likeness, you had best get busy. Why? Because God is *invisible*. But Paul has already told you how to take on the *invisible* image and likeness of the *Living God*. He said you must submit to the process:

¹(1) *Therefore, I implore you, brothers, via the compassion of the {living} God,*

(a) to present your bodies as a living, holy sacrifice, well-pleasing to the {living} God—your logical priestly service; ²and

(b) to not be shaped by this current age, but

(c) to be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you approve of what the will of the {living} God {is}—which is

(i) good and

(ii) well-pleasing and

(iii) complete.

(Romans 12:1–2)—HSSB

And not only that, but Paul also told the Corinthians what process the True Believer must submit to. He said, just keep looking in the "mirror":

Yet we who are looking at a reflection of the glory of His Majesty in a mirror with a face that has been uncovered are all being transformed into the same image from {one} glory into {another} glory, even as from His Majesty's Spirit.

(2 Corinthians 3:18)—HSSB

Paul is clearly *talking about* the fact that Believers are reading—with understanding—the things that Moses and the Prophets of Israel included in the Hebrew Scriptures (a "mirror"). He does that because those things reveal the mind-set (the "heart") of the *Living God*. Paul knows the unregenerate mind can generally understand the *meaning* of what is written, but the *significance* of it completely eludes them. That is, their lack of insight into *why* the Prophets said what they said ensures that Word remains a dead Word. So where could one expect to find the required insight today? Paul gives you a fairly good clue, and the source of that insight certainly does not reside in anyone who insists we are already living in the seventh "day" of Creation:

¹(2) *Brothers, the thing that is delightful to my heart and my petition to the {living} God for their sake {is}, in fact, for {their} salvation.*

²(a) *For I provide testimony about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with full knowledge of the truth.*

³(b) *For, not understanding the declaration of not guilty of the {living} God and seeking to make their own declaration of not guilty stand, they have not submitted to the {living} God's declaration of not guilty.*

⁴(3) *For the Anointed One {is}—in a declaration of not guilty—the consummation of Law for anyone who believes God's promise.*

⁵(a) *For Moses writes the declaration of not guilty that is on the basis of the law—that "THE MAN WHO HAS ACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEM WILL LIVE BY THEM." ⁶But the declaration of not guilty on the basis of belief in God's promise says {it} this way:*

(i) "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL GO UP INTO HEAVEN?'" That is, to bring the Anointed One down. ⁷Or

(ii) "WHO WILL GO DOWN INTO THE ABYSS?" That is, to bring the Anointed One up from those who are dead. ⁸But what does it say?

(iii) "THE STATEMENT {He} MADE IS NEAR YOU—IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART." That is, the statement {He} made concerning the belief in God's promise that we are preaching, ⁹that if:

- (a) you acknowledge Jesus as His Majesty with your mouth; and
 (b) you believe in your heart that the {living} God raised Him from those who are dead, you will be saved.

¹⁰(b) For one **believes God's promise** in {his} heart, resulting in a declaration of not guilty, but the truth {of **God's promise**} is acknowledged with {the} mouth, resulting in salvation.

¹¹(i) For the Scripture says: "ANYONE WHO **BELIEVES GOD'S PROMISE** REGARDING HIM WILL NOT BE EMBARRASSED."

¹²(ii) For there is no difference between both Jew and Greek.

(a) For the same {Person is} Master of everyone—One Who is wealthy for all who make an appeal to Him.

¹³(b) For "ANYONE WHO IT MIGHT BE WHO MAKES AN APPEAL TO THE NAME OF HIS MAJESTY WILL BE SAVED."

¹⁴(i) How, therefore, could they make an appeal to the One about Whom they have not **believed God's promise**? And then

(ii) how could they **believe God's promise** about the One Whom they have not heard? And then

(iii) how could they hear about {**God's promise**} without one who is preaching?

¹⁵And then

(iv) how could they preach {**God's promise**} if they have not been sent? Just as it has been written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL {are} THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PROCLAIM GOOD THINGS AS THE GOOD NEWS OF THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISE!"

(Romans 10:1–15) —HSSB

The fools who want to go on believing things for which they have no proof will continue to mock those of us who believe the Truth regarding *God's promise*, essentially saying "God didn't mean it." That is precisely what the Apostle Peter says in 2 Peter 3. Those fools don't know countless others have already said the same thing about what God said at the very beginning:

⁵[When [His Majesty] saw] [that] [{the} Bad Behavior of] [The Descendants of Adam] {was} [more than enough] [on {the} Earth] [and every] [Thing Formed in] [The Thoughts of] [his Heart] {was} [nothing but] [bad] [The [entire] Day], ⁶[His Majesty] [was sorry] [that] [He had made] [The Adam] [on {the} Earth] [and was grieved] [to] [His Heart]. ⁷[Then [His Majesty] said], "[I will wipe [The Descendants of Adam] [that] [I created] off] [of] [{the} Surface of] [The Ground]— [from Descendant of Adam] [up to] [Beast], [up to] [Crawling Thing], [and up to] [Things That Fly] [The Sea of Waters]—[because] [I am sorry] [that] [I made them]." (Genesis 6:5–7) —my interim translation

Unfortunately, when God said that, He meant it; and He has never changed His mind; He just granted a bit of a reprieve so that He could get a few other things done before He put down the hammer and did what Zephaniah knew full well He intended all along:

²"[I will [most definitely] bring [everything] [Above] [{the} Surface of] [The Ground] to an end]," [Declares] [His Majesty].

³"[I will bring [{the} Descendants of Adam] [and {the} Beast] to an end]; [I will bring [{the} Things That Fly] [The Sea of Waters] to an end]

[As well as The Fish of] [The Sea], [Even The Stumbling-Blocks] [along with] [Those Who Are Guilty];

[And I will cut off] [The Descendants of Adam] [Above] [{the} Surface of] [The Ground]," [Declares] [His Majesty].

(Zephaniah 1:2–3) —my interim translation

So there you have it. Take it or leave it. It makes no difference to me whether or not you believe God called me and sent me to do what I am doing. My only concern is that I fulfill my calling—the purpose for which God called me. That purpose may or may not include you. That's your choice. The only word of advice I would give you—if I were to give advice, which I don't—is, you had better make it quick. The powers that be here on Planet Earth are not going to relinquish control or give up their ridiculous goals and objectives. But when they finally realize God meant exactly what He said when He said it, it will be way too late for them to correct their mistaken assumptions. ■



The Voice of Elijah® publishes articles based on the findings of The Elijah Project, a private research group headed by Larry D. Harper. In this column we seek answers to general-interest questions concerning the findings, purpose, and philosophy of this project.

Editor: We received a question on VOE's Facebook page about one of our posts that displayed the HSSB translation of Romans 14:9. Here is your translation of that verse:

*For the Anointed One died and lived for this reason: so that He would be the Slave Master of both those who are dead and those who are living.
(Romans 14:9) —HSSB*

The viewer asked the following:

"Slave Master? You mean Lord? Why do you not say Jesus Christ or Lord just curious! Compared to the King James or the NASB Bible, this translation of this verse is very confusing."

Would you respond to the question this person asked?

Elijah: This is precisely the sort of question that demonstrates the need for the translation philosophy that stands behind Harper's Standardized Study Bible. To sum it up in a nutshell, that philosophy is based on my ironclad conviction that the authors of the Scriptures—both Prophets and Apostles—had specific *parabolic imagery* and Hebrew idioms in mind when they wrote the things they wrote, and it is impossible to understand what they wrote without insight into

that *parabolic imagery*. That explains why an unregenerate person will be confused when they encounter my translation. But let me give you a simple example of what I am *talking about*.

Over the past thirty-five years, I have repeatedly explained how the three Hebrew idioms "build a house," "raise up a seed," and "make a name" are all connected to the cultural practice of levirate marriage in which a near relative (called a "redeemer") was expected to "take" a widow and "build a house," "raise up a seed," and "make a name" for a man who had died without a living son so that man could have hope of living forever in the hereafter. In that case, the *parabolic imagery* resides in the cultural practice, but the three idioms allow the Prophets and Apostles to speak *idomatically* in terms of the *parabolic imagery* and thereby keep the uninformed from being able to understand what they have said.

Another example of what I am *talking about* can be found in what the Prophet Isaiah says about God Himself as the "Redeemer" Who plans to "take" an Adam—Corporate Israel—and "make" Him in His Own image and likeness, which He did via the Incarnation, life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. But what Isaiah says about those things cannot be understood without insight into the Canaanite mythology related to a *zonah* "building" Baal's "house" and how that *parabolic imagery* relates to Nathan's prophecy in 2 Samuel 7. I'm not going to get into all that here since I have explained it in bits and pieces—here and there—over the past three decades, but I will tell you this: If you take an understanding of the three Hebrew idioms I mentioned above and combine that information with an understanding of the *significance* of the Hebrew idiom "cut off from"—which I have long since explained in *Not All Israel Is Israel*—you are somewhere around half-way to an understanding of what the Apostle Peter is *talking about* in this passage:

¹(1) *Therefore, after setting aside:*

- (a) *all awfulness and*
- (b) *all chicanery and*
- (c) *hypocrisy and*
- (d) *envy and*
- (e) *all disparaging statements, ²yearn for the logical, unadulterated milk {of the truth}*

(i) like newborn babies,
 (ii) so that you may be made to grow into salvation
 by it—
³(iii) if you have tasted that His Majesty {is} really
 good.

⁴(2) To Whom, after approaching as to a Living Stone—{a
 Stone} Who,

(a) on the one hand, has been completely rejected by men,
 but
 (b) on the other hand, {is} a Chosen One held in honor
 by God—⁵you yourselves are also,

(i) like living stones,
 (ii) being built

(a) by Jesus, the Anointed One,
 (b) as a spiritual house,
 (c) into a holy cadre of priests,
 (d) to take up spiritual sacrifices very acceptable
 to the {living} God.

⁶Because He has encompassed {this truth} in a Scripture:

“GUESS WHAT! I AM GOING TO PUT A CHOSEN STONE
 DOWN IN ZION—
 A CORNERSTONE {that is} HELD IN HONOR—
 AND THE ONE WHO BELIEVES GOD’S PROMISE
 REGARDING HIM
 WILL DEFINITELY NOT BE EMBARRASSED.”

⁷(3) Therefore, the honor {is} for you who **believe God’s
 promise**; but for those who refuse to believe {it}:

“A STONE THAT THOSE WHO ARE BUILDING
 COMPLETELY REJECTED?
 THIS {stone} HAS BEEN TURNED INTO
 {the} HEAD OF A CORNER,”

⁸even,

“A STONE OF SOMETHING THAT CAUSES STUMBLING
 AND {the} ROCK OF A DEADFALL TRAP.”

(4) Those who stumble over the word {are} those who are
 not persuaded by **God’s promise**—for which they have
 also been put down. ⁹But you {are}:

(a) A CHOSEN KINDRED,
 (b) A royal CADRE OF PRIESTS,
 (c) A HOLY NATION,
 (d) A PEOPLE FOR ACQUISITION, so that you may
 forthrightly proclaim the virtuous characteristics
 of the One Who invited you out of nether darkness
 into His amazing light—
¹⁰(e) those who were at one time NOT A PEOPLE, but
 {are} now GOD’S PEOPLE;
 (f) those who HAD NOT BEEN SHOWN MERCY, but {are}
 now THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SHOWN MERCY.
 (1 Peter 2:1–10) —HSSB

In that passage, Peter is pointing to what Nathan
 said to David in 2 Samuel 7, but he is using things that
 Hosea wrote to explain the meaning and significance of the
 parabolic imagery related to “The House” that Jesus said He
 was going to “build” for God in this passage:

¹³Now the Passover of the Jews was near, so Jesus
 went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴And He found those who were
 selling cows and sheep and doves—even the coin chang-
 ers—sitting in the temple. ¹⁵So, after making a whip out
 of ropes, He threw everything out of the temple, both the
 sheep and the cows; and He poured out the coins of the
 moneychangers and overturned their tables; ¹⁶and He
 told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things
 away from here; do not make My Father’s house a market
 house!”

¹⁷His disciples recalled that it is written, “THE ZEAL
 FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL DEVOUR ME.”

¹⁸Therefore, the Jews responded and said to Him,
 “What sign are You going to show us {as the reason} that
 You are doing these things?”

¹⁹Jesus responded and told them, “Undo this
 sanctuary, and I will raise it up in three days.”

²⁰Therefore, the Jews said, “This sanctuary was
 being built {for} forty-six years, and You will raise it up in
 three days?” ²¹But That Individual was talking about the
 sanctuary of His body. ²²Therefore, when He arose from
 those who are dead, His disciples recalled that this is what
 He had been saying; and **they believed the Scripture and
 the word that Jesus had spoken.**
 (John 2:13–22) —HSSB

In anticipation of the dimwits who will challenge
 my assertion that the message of the Scriptures is
 couched in parabolic imagery and explained in terms of

Hebrew idioms, I am going to show you how Paul used those component parts to speak in terms of the Seven Sealed Messages that Moses and the other Prophets of Israel hid in the Hebrew Scriptures. I'll begin with a passage where he mixes several *parabolic images* he knew the Corinthians would understand, perhaps the most important being his pointed allusion to the "body" and "blood" of Christ in the first two verses:

¹(1) So, brothers,

(a) I cannot speak to you

(i) as to {those who are} spiritual,
(ii) but only

(a) as to {those who are} made of flesh—
(b) as to {those who are} toddlers in the Anointed One.

²(b) I have given you milk to drink, not food;

(i) for

(a) you were not yet able {to understand spiritual things}; but
(b) you still cannot {understand spiritual things}, even now,

³(ii) for you are still fleshly.
(iii) For where jealousy and contentiousness {are} among you, are you not fleshly and walking in agreement with mankind?

⁴(iv) For when someone actually says,

(a) "I am Paul's {disciple}," and then another {says},
(b) "I {am} Apollos' {disciple}," are you not {acting like other} men?

⁵(2) Therefore, {I ask you},

(a) "What is Apollos?" But then,
(b) "What is Paul?" {They are} servants via whom you **believed God's promise**, and as much {understanding of it} as His Majesty has given to each one {of His servants}.

⁶(i) I planted {the Seed};
(ii) Apollos gave {It} a drink, but
(iii) the {living} God was {the Seed} growing {in you}. ⁷So then neither is the one who plants {the Seed} anything nor the one who gives {It} a drink, but the {living} God Who is {the Seed} growing {in you is everything}.

⁸(1) Now the one who plants {the Seed} and the one who gives {It} a drink are one, but each one will receive his own wage in accordance with his own labor.
⁹For

(a) we are God's co-workers;
(b) you are God's cultivation, God's building.

¹⁰(2) In accordance with the favor of the {living} God that was given to me, I put a foundation down like a wise architect, but another is building on {it}. But each one must watch out for how he builds on {that foundation}. ¹¹For nobody can put down a foundation other than the One that is being laid, which is Jesus, the Anointed One. ¹²So

(a) if anyone builds on the foundation {with something of}

(i) gold,
(ii) silver,
(iii) valuable stones,
(iv) wood,
(v) grass, {or}
(vi) straw, ¹³the work of each one will become well-known; for

(a) the day {of the Lord} will make {it} obvious, because
(b) it is going to be revealed by a fire, and
(c) the fire itself will prove what kind of work each one's {work} is.

¹⁴(b) If anyone's work—what he has built on {the foundation}—remains, he will receive a wage.

¹⁵(c) If anyone's work is burned up,

(i) he will suffer the loss of {his wage}; but
(ii) he will be saved, yet in the same way—as if it were through fire.

¹⁶(1) Are you not aware that

- (a) you are God's sanctuary, and
 (b) the Spirit of the {living} God is residing among you?

¹⁷(2) If anyone beguiles the sanctuary of the {living} God, the {living} God will beguile this individual; for the sanctuary of the {living} God, which you are, is holy.

¹⁸(a) Let no one dupe himself. If anyone among you assumes that {he} is wise in this current age, let him become stupid, so that he may become wise.

¹⁹(i) For the wisdom of this world is stupidity to the {living} God.

(ii) For it has been written:

- (a) "{He is} THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE WITH THEIR DISHONESTY." ²⁰And again:
 (b) "HIS MAJESTY KNOWS THE SPECULATIONS OF those who are wise—THAT THEY ARE FUTILE."

²¹(b) So then, let no one boast about {their relationship to} men; for

(i) everything is yours,

- ²²(a) whether Paul
 (b) or Apollos
 (c) or Cephas
 (d) or the world
 (e) or life
 (f) or death
 (g) or what currently is
 (h) or what is going to come.

(ii) Everything {is} yours, ²³but

- (a) you belong to the Anointed One, and then
 (b) the Anointed One belongs to God.

(1 Corinthians 3:1–23)—HSSB

Only a brain-dead fool would contentiously contend Paul is not speaking *parabolically* in that passage. But any such mendacious moron who does so would only be revealing he has absolutely no insight at all into the tremendous amount of Truth that resides in the Gospel message alone—the *parabolic* "milk" to which Paul refers. So let's take a look at yet another

place where Paul reveals he understands "The House" message. In this case, he mixes in the *parabolic image* of "The Woman"—the "prostitute" who is *parabolically* depicted in the Book of Hosea—whose function is to give "birth" to the Children of God in God's very Own image and likeness at the End of this Age, immediately before the seventh "day" of Creation begins:

¹(1) Now you {are} those who were dead

- (a) in your transgressions and
 (b) in your sins—²in which you walked at one time:

(i) in agreement with the current age of this world,
 (ii) in agreement with

- (a) the ruler of the authority of the air,
 (b) the spirit of the one who is now working in the sons of apathy.

³(2) Among whom we all at one time also:

(a) conducted ourselves:

(i) in the selfish desires of our flesh,
 (ii) while acting in accordance with the will of our flesh and understanding; and

(b) were by nature also children of anger, like the rest of {the sons of apathy}.

⁴(3) Then the {living} God—Who is wealthy in mercy—because of His copious love with which He loved us, ⁵also:

(a) made us—those who were dead in our transgressions—alive together in the Anointed One (you are those who have been saved as a favor); ⁶and
 (b) raised {us} up together; and
 (c) seated {us} together with those who are in Heaven—in the Anointed One, Jesus—⁷so that, in the ages that are going to come, He might present {us} as evidence of the incredible wealth of His favor in {His} benevolence for us in the Anointed One, Jesus.

⁸(i) For because of His favor you are those who have been saved via **belief in God's promise**,

and this offering of God {is} not because of you—
⁹not because of works—so that no one could boast.
¹⁰(ii) For we are what He made—those who have
 been created in the Anointed One, Jesus, for good
 works, the {good works} that the {living} God
 prepared beforehand, so that we could walk in them.

¹¹(4) Wherefore, remember that

(a) you {were} at one time

(i) the Gentiles in flesh,
 (ii) those who are called “uncircumcised” by what
 is called “the circumcision” made in flesh by
 human hands. ¹²Because

(b) you were at that time:

(i) separate from the Anointed One,
 (ii) estranged from the citizenship of Israel, and
 (iii) strangers to the testaments of **the promise**—
 (iv) those who did not have a hope and {were}
 without God in the world.

¹³(c) But now—in the Anointed One, Jesus—you
 who were at one time far away have come to be near
 because of the blood of the Anointed One. ¹⁴For He is

(i) our peace,
 (ii) the One Who made both of us one and undid
 the partition-wall of the hedge—the hostility—
 in His flesh, ¹⁵after abrogating the Law of the
 commandments in decrees, so that in Himself:

(a) He could create the two into one new man
 who makes peace, ¹⁶and
 (b) He could completely reconcile both of them
 to the {living} God

(i) in one body,
 (ii) via the cross,
 (iii) after killing the hostility in Himself.

¹⁷(5) SO, AFTER COMING, HE PROCLAIMED THE GOOD NEWS
 OF **THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISE** AS PEACE TO YOU
 WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE
 NEAR; ¹⁸because—via Him— both of us have access to the
 Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹(a) So then—therefore—you are no longer:

(i) strangers and
 (ii) temporary residents;

(b) but you are:

(i) fellow citizens with the holy ones, and
 (ii) members of **The House of the {living} God**, ²⁰after being built on the foundation of
 the Apostles and Prophets, its cornerstone
 being the Anointed One, Jesus:

²¹(a) in Whom a whole building—which is
 being precisely framed together—is being
 made to grow into a holy sanctuary for His
 Majesty;

²²(b) in Whom you also are being built
 together:

(i) by a Spirit,
 (ii) into {the} home of the {living} God.

(Ephesians 2:1–22) —HSSB

You are most likely not equipped to understand
 everything Paul explains in terms of the *parabolic image*
 of “The Woman,” but you should be able to “see” he
 “saw” things in the Hebrew Scriptures that you do not
 yet understand. If you think not, you serve as a perfect
 doltish exemplar of the “wisdom of this world” that
 God considers “stupidity.” Taking your “great wisdom”
 as a given, you should be able to think the Truth into
 existence, so just keep thinking those happy thoughts,
 maybe you can force your nonsense to be true if you
 just keep thinking the way you think. In the meantime,
 the rest of us will have a look at what Paul says about
 “The House” in his letter to the Colossians:

¹(2) For I want you to know how great a contest for the
 prize I have

(a) for your sake, and
 (b) for {the sake of} those who are in Laodicea, and as
 many as have not seen my face in {the} flesh, ²so that
 their hearts—after being all put together

(i) by love, and
 (ii) with all {the} wealth of the absolute certainty

of their insight—would be encouraged, resulting in full knowledge of the truth concerning the mystery of the {living} God—the Anointed One, ³in which {mystery} all the treasures of

- (a) his wisdom and
- (b) a knowledge of the truth are tucked away.

⁴(3) I am saying this so that no one can dupe you with persuasive speech. ⁵For even if

- (a) I am absent in the flesh (but together with you in the spirit)
- (b) I am

- (i) rejoicing and
- (ii) seeing

- (a) your order and
- (b) the constancy of your **belief in God's promise** about the Anointed One.

⁶(1) Therefore, since you took the Anointed One, Jesus, His Majesty, to yourselves,

(a) walk in Him—

- ⁷(i) after having been rooted and
- (ii) being built on in Him and
- (iii) being confirmed in your **belief in God's promise**—
- (iv) just as you were taught,
- (v) while producing an excess in thanksgiving.

⁸(b) Watch out, so that no one becomes the one who captivates you via

- (i) their philosophy and
- (ii) empty deceit,

- (a) in agreement with the oral tradition of men,
- (b) in agreement with the elementary beliefs of the world—and
- (c) not in agreement with the Anointed One.

⁹(2) The fact is that all the fullness of the deity dwells in Him, in a body;

¹⁰(a) so you are going to be completely filled

- (i) by Him, the One Who is the Head of every ruler and authority;
- ¹¹(ii) by the One Whom you were also circumcised with a circumcision not made by human hands
- (iii) by the divestment of the body of your flesh—
- (iv) by the circumcision of the Anointed One—¹²after being buried together with Him in his baptizing
- (v) by the One Whom you were also raised together with via your **belief in God's promise** concerning the energy of the {living} God—the One Who raised Him from those who are dead.

¹³(b) So He has made you—you who were dead in

- (i) your transgressions and
- (ii) the uncircumcision of your flesh—alive together with Him:

(a) after granting us all our transgressions as a favor;

¹⁴(b) after wiping out the handwritten document against us—which was opposed to us in its decrees (He has even taken it out of our midst by nailing it to the cross);

¹⁵(c) after completely stripping the covering off the rulers and the authorities (He made an example of {them} with candor, becoming victorious over them in Himself).

¹⁶(1) Therefore,

(a) do not let anyone judge you:

- (i) about a meal and
- (ii) about a drink or
- (iii) about part of a feast or new moon or Sabbath—¹⁷which {things} is a shadow of the things that are going to come, but {the shadow is} the body of the Anointed One.

¹⁸(b) Do not let anyone who wants to, disqualify you by humility and {the} religion of the messengers:

- (i) by taking a stand for no good reason on whatever someone has seen;

- (ii) by being made condescending by the mind of his flesh;¹⁹ and
- (iii) by not holding onto the head, from whom the whole body—being abundantly provided for and all put together with its ligaments and sinews—grows with the growth of the {living} God.

²⁰(2) If you have died together with the Anointed One—apart from the elementary beliefs of the world—why are you submitting to decrees like one who is living in {the} world, {saying}:

- ²¹(a) “Do not touch!”
- (b) “Do not even taste!”
- (c) “Do not even come in contact with {it}!”

²²(i) Which {submission} is all

- (a) about a perishable body—
- (b) about the misuse of {it}—in agreement with the religious precepts and teachings of men.

²³(ii) Which {submission} is, in fact, a response that has wisdom—in a legalistic religion—even humility and {the} harsh treatment of {the} body, {but} not with any value against {the} gratification of the flesh.

(Colossians 2:1–23) —HSSB

Paul only briefly mentions the *parabolic imagery* related to “building *The House*” of God in verse 7. But that is because he is more concerned with the Old Testament message regarding “*The Way*” in which God expects His Children to *think*—that is, “walk” mentally. He states that overtly in verse 6, but the Truth is, the entirety of that chapter is focused on Believers making sure they are “walking in *The Way*,” and not being deceived into believing something other than the very specific *content* found in the Seven Messages the Prophets sealed up in the Hebrew Scriptures.

You will only be able to “see” the *significance* of the *parabolic image* of “*The Way*,” however, if you have already “seen” the *parabolic imagery* in the Passover Parable that depicts how Christ emptied Himself and came down into this realm to “ransom” and “redeem” us. And with that, I come back to the question the good fellow asked about my most decidedly unconventional “Way” of translating Romans 14:9:

For the Anointed One died and lived for this reason: so that He would be the Slave Master of both those who are dead and those who are living.

(Romans 14:9) —HSSB

Upon reading that, the unregenerate soul of our good fellow immediately cried out, “What have you done to disturb the status quo in which I have securely hidden myself?” Take another look at what he says:

“Slave Master? You mean Lord? Why do you not say Jesus Christ or Lord just curious! Compared to the King James or the NASB Bible, this translation of this verse is very confusing.”

Since the person pointedly asked me why I chose to standardize the Greek verb *kurieuo* “*The Way*” I do, I will give both a short answer and a much longer one. The short answer is, because that is what the verb means. And having said that, I will now give you my much longer answer. It goes like this:

The Greek verb *kurieuo* occurs just seven times in the New Testament. I will show you where five of them are, and I’ll also include the square brackets that show you where my translation of each morphological unit begins and ends. Here’s the first occurrence:

¹[Now] [The] [Feast] [of] [Unleavened Bread], [which] [is called] [Passover], [was drawing near]; ²[and] [The] [High Priests] [and] [The] [Scribes] [were seeking] [The] [Basis On Which] [they could put [Him] away]— [for] [they were afraid of] [The] [People]. ³[So] [Satan] [came in] [to] [Judas], [the one] [called] [Iscariot], [who was] [one] [of The] [Number] [of The] [Twelve]. ⁴[And] [after going away], [he conversed with] [The] [High Priests] [and] [Military Commanders] about] [The] [Basis On Which] [they] [could hand [Him] over]; ⁵[and] [they rejoiced] [and] [agreed] [to give] [him] [Silver]. ⁶[So] [he made a commitment] [and] [was seeking] [an Opportune Time] [to] [hand [Him] over] [to them] [absent] [a Crowd].

⁷[And then] [The] [Day] [of The] [Feast of Unleavened Bread] [came], [on] [which] [The] [Passover Lamb] [had] [to be sacrificed]; ⁸[so] [He sent] [Peter] [and] [John], [saying]: “[Go]! [Prepare] [The] [Passover Lamb] [for us], [so that] [we may eat].”

⁹[So] [they] [said] [to Him], “[Where] [do You want] [us to prepare {it}]?”

¹⁰[So] [He] [told] [them]: “[Guess what!] [When [you] come in] [to] [The] [City], [a Man] [carrying] [an Earthenware Container] [of Water] [will meet] [you]. [Follow] [him] [into] [The] [House] [in] [to] [which] he goes], ¹¹[and] [say] [to The] [Owner] [of The] [House], ‘[The] [Teacher] [says] [to You], “[Where] [is] [The] [Guest Room] [where] [I may eat] [The] [Passover Lamb] [with] [My] [Disciples]?’” ¹²[And That Individual] [will show] [you] [a [large] Upstairs Room] [that has been spread out]. [Prepare {it}] [there].”

¹³[So] [after going away], [they found {it}] [just as] [He had told] [them]; [and] [they prepared] [The] [Passover Lamb]. ¹⁴[Then], [when] [The] [Hour] [came], [He—[and] [The] [Apostles] [along with] [Him]—leaned back and relaxed]; ¹⁵[and] [He said] [to] [them], “[I have had] [a Selfish Desire] [to eat] [This] [Passover Lamb] [with] [you] [before] [I] [suffer]; ¹⁶[for] [I tell] [you] [that] [I can [definitely not] eat] [it] [until] [it is fully complete] [in] [The] [Kingdom] [of The] [Living} God].”

¹⁷[Then] [having accepted] [a Cup], [after giving thanks], [He said], “[Take] [This] [and] [divide {it} up] [for] [yourselves]; ¹⁸[for] [I tell] [you] [that] [from [now] on], [I will [definitely not] drink] [from] [The] [Produce] [of The] [Vine] [until] [The] [Kingdom] [of The] [Living} God] [comes].”

¹⁹[Then], [after taking] [a Loaf of Bread] {and} [giving thanks], [He broke {it}] [and] [gave {it}] [to them], [saying]: “[This] [is] [My] [Body], [which] [is going to be given] [for [your] sake]. [Do] [This] [as] [your] [Remembrance] [of Me].”

²⁰[And] [in the same way], {He gave them} [The] [Cup], [after] [they] had dinner], [saying]: “[This] [Cup] {is} [The] [new] [Testament] [in] [My] [Blood], [which] [is going to be poured out] [for [your] sake]. ²¹[But] [guess what!] [The] [Hand] [of the one who] [is going to hand [Me] over] {is} [on] [The] [Table] [with] [Mine]. ²²[Because] [The] [Son] [of The] [Man] [is, [in fact], going to go] [in accordance with] [what] [has been stipulated]; [but] [Woe] [to] [That] [Man] [through] [whom] [He is going to be handed over].”

²³[So] [they] [began] [to argue [with] [one another] about] [which one] [of] [them] [then] [might be] [the one who] [was going] [to be involved in] [This]. ²⁴[And then] [an Argument] [also] [ensued] [among] [them]: [The {argument over}] [which one] [of them] [seemed] [to be] [most important]. ²⁵[So] [He] [told] [them]: “[The] [Kings] [of The] [Gentiles] [are [their] slave masters], [yet] [those who] [have authority over] [them] [are

called] ‘[Benefactors].’ ²⁶[So] [you] {are} [not] [like this], [but] [the] [most important] [among] [you] [must be] [like] [the] [youngest], [and] [the] [one who is esteemed] [like] [the] [one who is serving]. ²⁷[For] [which one is] [more important]? [The one who] [lies back and relaxes] [or] [the one who] [is serving]? [Is it] [not] [the one who] [lies back and relaxes]? [But] [I] [am] [in] [your] [Midst] [like] [the one who] [is serving].” (Luke 22:1–27) —HSSB

In what He says about leaders in this civilization being “slave masters” of those who are governed, Jesus is pointing out the fact that the Apostles—the leaders of the Church—were not appointed to tell Believers “you must do this, and not do that.” Paul likely had that in mind when he uses the verb *kurieuo* to say this:

²³(ii) [But] [I] [call] [The] [Living} God] [as] a Witness [for] [my] [Soul], [that], [sparing] [you], [I [no longer] came] [to] [Corinth], ²⁴[because]

(a) [we are [not] [your] slave masters] [on the basis of your] [Belief in God’s Promise], [but
(b) [we are] [only] [Co-workers] [for] [your] [Joy]; [for] [you stand] [because of your] [Belief in God’s Promise].

(2 Corinthians 1:23–24) —HSSB

In another passage, Paul lets us know exactly what he understands the verb *kurieuo* to mean:

¹³(4) [I instruct] [You] [in the presence of]

(a) [The] [Living} God], [Who] [keeps] [Every Last Thing] [alive], [and]
(b) [The Anointed One], [Jesus], [Who] [provided testimony]—[The] [exceptionally good] [Confession]—[before] [Pontius] [Pilate], ¹⁴[that [You] keep] [The] [unstained] [Commandment] [above criticism] [up to the time] [of The] [Appearance] [of]

(i) [our] [Master], [Jesus], [The Anointed One]—¹⁵[which] [The] [providential] [and] [only] [Powerbroker] [will show {us}] [in His Own] [Times]—

(ii) [The] [King] [of those who] [are kings] [and]

(iii) [Master] [of those who] [are slave masters].

(1 Timothy 6:13–15) —HSSB

You be the judge; do you think the verb *kurieuo* means “be a slave master,” or does it mean “Lord”? The Truth is, the noun I translated “Master” in the last line of that passage actually means “slave master”; but I settled for “master.” (Wouldn’t want to scare folks too much, you know.) I can explain why on another occasion. For now, all you need to know is the context in which you can find the remaining four occurrences of the Greek verb *kurieuo*:

¹(1) [Therefore], [what] [can we say]?

(a) [Should we stay there] [in our] [Sin] [so that] [His] [Favor] [may become more than enough]?

²[Certainly] [not]!

(b) [On what basis] [could we [who] [have died] [to our] [Sin] [still] live] [in] [it]? ³[Or] [do you not understand] [that] [as many as]

(i) [have been baptized] [into] [The Anointed One], [Jesus],

(ii) [have been baptized] [into] [His] [Death]?

⁴(2) [Therefore], [we have been buried together with] [Him] [via] [our] [Baptism] [into] [His] [Death], [so that] [indeed, just as] [The Anointed One] [arose] [from] [Those Who Are Dead] [via] [The] [Glory] [of The] [Father], [so] [also]—[we] [may walk around] [in] [Newness] [of Life].

⁵(a) [For] [if] [we have been] [planted together with] {Him} [in The] [Likeness] [of] [His] [Death], [we will] [also] be {planted together with Him}, [but] {in the likeness} [of His] [Resurrection], ⁶[knowing] [This], [That] [our] [old] [Man] [was crucified together with] {Him}]:

(i) [so that] [The] [Body] [of our] [Sin] [would be abrogated],

(ii) [so that] [we] [would [no longer] be slaves] [to our] [Sin].

⁷(b) [For] [the one who] [has died] [has been acquitted] [of] [his] [Sin]. ⁸[So], [if]

(i) [we have died] [together with] [The Anointed One],

(ii) [we believe] [that] [we will [also] live together with] [Him], ⁹[aware] [that]

(a) [The Anointed One]—[after arising] [from] [Those Who Are Dead]—[is [no longer] dying];

(b) [Death] [is [no longer] [His] slave master].

¹⁰(c) [For] [{the death} that] [He died], [He died] [to our] [Sin] [once and for all]; [but] [{the life} that] [He is living], [He is living] [in The] [{Living} God].

¹¹[So]:

(i) [on the one hand], [you] [must [also] reckon] [yourselves] [to be] [dead] [to your] [Sin]; [but

(ii) on the other hand], [living] [in The] [{Living} God]—[in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus].

¹²(3) [Therefore],

(a) [you must [not] let [Sin] be king] [over] [your] [mortal] [Body], [so] [that] [{you} attentively listen to [its] [Selfish Desires] and comply with its demands].

¹³(b) [You must [not] present] [your] [Members] [to] [Sin] [as Weapons] [of Injustice], [but]

(c) [you must present] [yourselves] [to The] [{Living} God]—[as though you were] [alive] [from] [Those Who Are Dead]—[and]

(d) {you must present} [your] [Members] [to The] [{Living} God] [as Weapons] [of a Declaration of Not Guilty].

¹⁴(i) [For] [Sin] [can [not] be [your] slave master];

(ii) [for] [you are] [not] [subject to] [Law], [but] [subject to] [{His} Favor].

¹⁵(4) [What] [therefore]?

(a) [Should we sin] [because] [we are] [not] [subject to] [Law], [but] [subject to] [{His} Favor]? [Certainly] [not]!

¹⁶(b) [Are you [not] aware] [that] {you are} [Slaves] [to whatever] [you present] [yourselves] [with] [a Willingness to Attentively Listen to and Comply with {its demands}]?

(i) [You are] [Slaves] [to whatever] [you attentively listen to and comply with]; [either]:

(a) [to Sin], [resulting in] [Death]; [or]
 (b) [{to the Truth}, with a Willingness to Listen Attentively and Comply with {its demands}], [resulting in] [a Declaration of Not Guilty].

¹⁷(ii) [But] [Thanks] [to The] [{Living} God], [because] [you were] [Slaves] [of your] [Sin], [but]

(a) [you have, [from] [{your} Heart], attentively listened to [what] [you were handed over to]—[a Pattern] [of Doctrinal Teaching]—and complied [with] its demands. ¹⁸[And then], [after being freed] [from] [your] [Sin],
 (b) [you were made slaves] [to His] [Declaration of Not Guilty].

¹⁹(5) [I am speaking] [in human terms] [because of] [The] [Infirmity] [of] [your] [Flesh].

(a) [For]

(i) [indeed, just as] [you presented] [your] [Members] [as Slaves] [to] [Uncleanness] [and] [The] [Lawless One] [for] [The] [Lawless Deed],
 (ii) [in the same way] [you must [now] present] [your] [Members] [as Slaves] [to The] [Declaration of Not Guilty] [for] [The Process of Being Made Holy].

²⁰(b) [For] [when] [you were] [Slaves] [of your] [Sin], [you were] [free] [from The] [Declaration of Not Guilty].

²¹(6) [Therefore], [what] [Fruit] [did you have] [at that time]—[in] [the things that] [you are [now] ashamed of]?

(a) [For]

(i) [The] [Consummation] [of Those Things] {is} [Death]; ²²[but] [now], [after

(a) being freed] [from] [your] [Sin] [and
 (b) then] [being made slaves] [to The] [{Living} God], [you have] [your] [Fruit] [in] [The Process of Being Made Holy]; [but]

(ii) [The] [Consummation {of that process}] {is} [eternal] [Life].

²³(b) [For]

(i) [The] [Provisions] [of your] [Sin] {is} [Death]; [but]
 (ii) [The] [Gift] [of The] [{Living} God] {is} [eternal] [Life]—[in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus], [our] [Master].

(Romans 6:1–23) —HSSB

Anyone who can read that chapter and then brainlessly go on to insist the Greek verb *kurieuo* does not mean “be a slave master” must have an ego and a pea-sized brain residing in the huge granite boulder between their ears. The word occurs twice in the same chapter where Paul uses three different words that indicate he is *talking about* slavery:

douleuo — “be a slave” (v. 6)

douloo — “be made a slave” (vv. 18, 22)

doulos — “a slave” (vv. 16, 17, 19, 20)

And wouldn’t you know it? Right smack dab in the middle of those seven references to “slavery,” Paul uses the Greek verb *kurieuo* in the following two statements:

⁷(b) [For] [the one who] [has died] [has been acquitted] [of] [his] [Sin]. ⁸[So], [if]

(i) [we have died] [together with] [The Anointed One],

(ii) [we believe] [that] [we will [also] live together with] [Him], ⁹[aware] [that]

(a) [The Anointed One]—[after arising] [from] [Those Who Are Dead]—[is [no longer] dying];

(b) [Death] [is [no longer] [His] slave master].

(Romans 6:7–9) —HSSB

[For] [Sin] [can [not] be [your] slave master]; [for] [you are] [not] [subject to] [Law], [but] [subject to] [{His} Favor].

(Romans 6:14) —HSSB

Did he, or did he not, say True Believers have been freed from their “slavery” to sin and death and “made slaves to the *Living God*” (v. 22)? My! My! My! The things that one can sometimes find when they actually bother to read the Bible with some purpose other than to “show what they know” are amazing. Unfortunately, the majority of the simpletons among whom we live will prefer to remain “enslaved” to the stupid “wisdom of the world” that allows them to do whatever feels good *physically*. But there will be a few here at the End of the Age who *choose* to “see” the *parabolic imagery* that Moses and the other Prophets of Israel used to describe how God planned to “redeem” and “ransom” a *remnant* from the servitude of our sad, sick situation via nothing more than our *belief in the promise* He made to Adam and Eve when He booted them out of the Garden.

It isn’t obvious from what Paul said about the slavery of True Believers in Romans 6, but he has in mind the *parabolic image* of “*The Woman*.” That is why he uses four different words in that passage to depict the “slavery” into which every last one of us were born. Paul’s focus on the *parabolic imagery* related to “*The Woman*” is why he immediately switches over at the beginning of Romans 7 and uses the Greek verb *kurieuo* to state one essential part of that *parabolic imagery* plainly:

¹(7) [Or] [do you not understand], [Brothers]—[for] [I am speaking] [to those who know] [Law]—[that] [The] [Law] [is the slave master] [of The] [Man] [for] [as long [a Span of Time] as] [he is alive]?

²(a) [For] [The] [Woman] [subject to a male] [has been bound] [by Law] [to her] [living] [Man]; [but] [if] [her] [Man] [dies], [she has been discharged] [from] [The] [Law] [concerning her] [Man].

³(i) [So then], [therefore], [while [her] [Man] is alive] [she will be labeled] [an Adulteress] [if] [another] [Man] [has {her}]; [but] [if] [her] [Man] [dies], [she is] [free] [from] [The] [Law], [so that] [she] [is] [not] [an Adulteress] [when] [another] [Man] [has {her}].

⁴(ii) [So then], [my] [Brothers], [you] [were [also] put to death] [by The] [Law] [via] [The] [Body] [of The] [Anointed One]:

(a) [so] [that] [you] [could belong] [to another]—[to the One Who] [arose] [from] [Those Who Are Dead]—
(b) [so that] [we could bear fruit] [for The] [Living} God].

⁵(b) [For]

(i) [when] [we were] [in] [The] [Flesh], [The] [Impulse] [of The] [Sins] [that were] {defined} [by] [The] [Law] [was working] [in] [our] [Members], [so as] [to] [bear fruit] [for] [Death].
⁶[But] [now],
(ii) [after dying] [in] [the thing by which] [we were being held fast], [we have been discharged] [from] [The] [Law], [with the result that] [we] [can serve as slaves]

(a) [in] [{the} Newness] [of Spirit] [and]
(b) [not] [in {the} Oldness] [of Something That Has Been Written].

(Romans 7:1–6) —HSSB

In that passage, Paul is speaking *parabolically* in terms of what Moses and the other Prophets of Israel say about “*The Woman*,” but he is *talking about* the supernatural experience of the soul of the True Believer when it responds to the Gospel. He is also *talking about* the same thing he puts quite a bit more *literally* in this passage:

¹(1) Who has cast a spell on you, O senseless Galatians, for whose eyes Jesus, the Anointed One, was written earlier as having been crucified?

²(2) I want to learn only this from you:

(a) Did you **receive** the Spirit

(i) on the basis of works of Law, or
(ii) on the basis of hearing with **belief in God’s promise**?

³(b) Are you so senseless? After starting in Spirit, are you now going to finish in {the} flesh?

⁴(c) Did you suffer so much for no good reason—if indeed even for no good reason? ⁵Therefore,
(d) {does} the One Who

(i) abundantly provides the Spirit for you and
(ii) works supernaturally powerful things among you {do it}

(a) on the basis of works of Law or
(b) on the basis of hearing with **belief in God's promise?**

⁶(1) {It is} just like Abraham:

"HE BELIEVED THE {living} GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS A DECLARATION OF NOT GUILTY."

⁷(2) So then you know that those who are {children} on the basis of **belief in God's promise**, these individuals are Abraham's sons.

⁸(a) So when the Scripture saw beforehand that the {living} God was going to acquit the Gentiles on the basis of **belief in God's promise**, it proclaimed the good news of **the fulfillment of the promise** earlier to Abraham, that "ALL THE GENTILES WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU."

⁹(i) So then, those who are {believers} on the basis of **belief in God's promise** are going to be **blessed** along with Abraham, the one who **believed God's promise**.

¹⁰(ii) For as many as are {believers} on the basis of works of Law are under a curse;
(iii) for it has been written that "ANYONE WHO DOES NOT CONTINUE ON IN ALL THE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN WRITTEN IN THE SCROLL OF THE LAW—TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEM—{is} COMPLETELY CURSED."

¹¹(b) So it is obvious

(i) that nobody is going to be acquitted by Law before the {living} God,
(ii) that "THE ONE WHO IS BLAMELESS WILL LIVE ON THE BASIS OF **BELIEF IN GOD'S PROMISE**."

¹²(3) Yet

(a) the Law is not on the basis of **belief in God's promise**; on the contrary, "THE ONE WHO HAS ACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEM WILL LIVE BY THEM."

¹³(b) The Anointed One bought us back from the curse of the Law, after becoming a curse for our sake—because it has been written, "ANYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE {is} COMPLETELY CURSED"—

¹⁴(i) so that **the blessing** of Abraham could come to the Gentiles through the Anointed One, Jesus;
(ii) so that we could **receive the promise** of the Spirit via our **belief in God's promise**.

(Galatians 3:1–14) —HSSB

In that passage, Paul not only has in mind the previously sealed message regarding "The Woman," he is also speaking in terms of the *content* found in the four messages regarding "The House," "The Way," "The Light," and "The Name." Insight into each and every one of those messages is needed for a comprehensive understanding of the mechanics of how the Word of God went about dealing with the descendants of Adam, but the upshot of what he explains in Chapters 3 and 4 of the Book of Galatians and in Romans 6–7 is this:

After accepting the terms of the New Covenant and becoming "The Remnant" of Corporate Israel and Sole *Heir of the Promise* at His Baptism, Jesus Christ made an *oral testament* (Matt. 12:46–50) that would allow anyone—both Jew and Gentile—to become an *heir of the promise* by just believing the Truth that Moses and the other Prophets of Israel hid in their writings. That *oral testament* was invoked when the leaders of the Jews saw to it that their Roman rulers crucified Jesus. But there is a rather amazing twist to that story that caught Satan completely off guard. Right before He died, Jesus ratified a "covenant" with His disciples at the Last Supper. Remember that one? Well, the following text explains the *significance* of what He did at that time. In what He says while His disciples were listening, Jesus explains His purpose in making that "New Covenant":

¹Jesus spoke these things and, after lifting His eyes up toward Heaven, said: "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, so that the Son may glorify You, ²so that He may give them—everyone that You have given Him—eternal life, just as You have given Him authority over all flesh. ³But this is eternal life: that they know You, the only real God, and Jesus, the Anointed One Whom You sent. ⁴I glorified You on the Earth by completing the work that You gave Me, so that I would do {it}.

⁵And now, Father, You must glorify Me with Yourself—with the glory that I had with You before the world was. ⁶I have made Your name well-known to the men that You gave Me out of the world. They were Yours, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept watch over Your word. ⁷Now they know that all things—as much as You have given Me—are from You, ⁸because I gave them the statements that You gave Me. And they accepted {them} and truly know that I came out from You, and they believed that You sent Me. ⁹I am asking for them; I am not asking for the world, but only for those whom You have given Me, because they are Yours. ¹⁰And everything that is Mine is Yours, and the things that are Yours {are} Mine, and I have been glorified by them.

¹¹Now I am no longer going to be in the world, yet they are going to be in the world; and I am going to come to You, Holy Father. Keep watch over them in Your name, which You have given to Me, so that they are one just as We {are One}. ¹²When I was with them, I was keeping watch over them in Your name, the one that You have given to Me. And I guarded {them}, and none of them did away with himself except the son of eternal damnation, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³But I am now going to come to You, and I am speaking these things in the world so that they may have, in themselves, the fully complete joy that I have. ¹⁴I have given them Your word; so the world has hated them, because they are not part of the world, just as I AM not part of the world. ¹⁵I am not asking that You take them out of the world, but only that You keep watch over them because of the one who is nasty.

¹⁶They are not part of the world, just as I AM not part of the world. ¹⁷Make them holy by the truth; the word that is Yours is truth. ¹⁸Just as You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And I make Myself holy for their sake, so that they are those who have also been made holy by truth.

²⁰But I am not asking for these only, but also for those who believe God's promise about Me through their word, ²¹so that they may all be one just as You, Father, {are} in Me and I {am} in You, so that they may also be in Us, so that the world would believe that You sent Me. ²²So I have given them the glory that You have given Me, so that they may be one, just as We {are} One—²³I in them and You in Me—so that they are completed in one, so that the world knows that You sent Me; and You loved them, just as You loved Me.

²⁴Father, I want those individuals that You have given Me to also be with Me, wherever I AM, so that they may observe the glory that I have, the {glory} that You have given Me, because You loved Me before the establishment of the world. ²⁵Father, {You were} right! The world has never even known You, yet I have known You, and these individuals knew that You sent Me. ²⁶So I made Your name known to them—and I will make {it} known—so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

(John 17:1–26) —HSSB

Can you “see” why Paul says “we have died together with” Christ in Romans 6:8? If not, look at it this “Way”: When you accept the terms of the New Covenant He made with His disciples at the Last Supper, you become “One” with Him—that is, you become a member of *Corporate* Israel. But that happens right before He dies; you just showed up late to the party. Therefore, when He died, you met the demands of the curses of the Old Covenant and are now free to meet the demands of both His *oral testament* and the New Covenant He made with His disciples right before He died, provided you understand what those two New Covenants demand. If you don't, you have about the same odds as that proverbial “snowball in Hell.” So maybe you should set about finding out what they require.

If you still can't “see” what I am *talking about*, maybe what Paul says about the “slavery” of the True Believer in Romans 8 will help:

¹(1) So then, {there is} not any verdict of guilty now on those who are in the Anointed One, Jesus:

²(a) for the law of the Spirit of the life in the Anointed One, Jesus, has freed you from the law of the sin and the death;

³(b) for the *inability of the Law* {was} because it was weakened by the flesh. The {living} God, after sending His Own Son in a likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, condemned the sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the legal requirement of the Law could be fulfilled by us—those who are not walking in agreement with flesh, but in agreement with Spirit;

⁵(i) for those who are in agreement with flesh have their mind set on the things of the flesh, but those

who are in agreement with Spirit, the things of the Spirit;

⁶(ii) for the mind-set of the flesh {is} death, but the mind-set of the Spirit {is} life and peace, ⁷because the mind-set of the flesh {is} hostility toward God; for it is not submitted to the law of the {living} God, for it cannot even be {submitted}.

⁸(2) So then, those who are in flesh cannot please God.

⁹(a) But you are not in flesh but in Spirit—if indeed God’s Spirit is residing in you;

(b) but if anyone does not have the Anointed One’s Spirit, this individual is not His;

¹⁰(c) but if the Anointed One {is} in you,

(i) on the one hand, the body {is} a dead man because of sin; but

(ii) on the other hand, the spirit {is} life because of a declaration of not guilty.

¹¹(d) So if the Spirit of the One Who raised Jesus from those who are dead is residing in you, the One Who raised the Anointed One from those who are dead will also give life to your mortal bodies via His Spirit residing in you.

¹²(1) So then, therefore, brothers, we are not obligated to the flesh—to live in agreement with flesh:

¹³(a) for

(i) if you live in agreement with flesh, you are going to die; but

(ii) if you are putting the activities of your body to death by {the} Spirit, you will live;

¹⁴(b) for as many as are being led by God’s Spirit, these individuals are God’s sons;

¹⁵(c) for

(i) **you have not received a spirit of slavery again, resulting in fear;** but

(ii) you have **received** a spirit of adoption, by which we shout, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit Himself is testifying with our spirit that we are God’s children.

(Romans 8:1–16) —HSSB

If the things I have explained to this point make any sense to you, you should probably consider something else: The leaders of the Apostolic Church did not try to keep people locked in some restrictive “do this, and don’t do that” Christian cult; they did their best to keep out dullards who did not understand what God demands. So if you are following some goofy god-talking, pontificating penguin parrot who tells you that you must “do this, but can’t do that,” you might want to consider where you stand with the Lord.

Editor: *One of our followers submitted the following question:*

Do you think, in the near future, you would be able to provide an index of the Bible’s Hebrew idioms along with their meaning, significance, along with an index to the content of scriptures? Possibly a list containing the people and who wrote what. I’m even curious as to literary styles I need to become familiar with—for each section it applies to in scripture. I’d like to know what the ingredients are, where to find them, how to identify them, how to incorporate them in the dish I feed my mind.

Elijah: The participants in The Next Step program have access to a couple of databases—a Topical Index and a Scripture Index—that can be used in *theWord*® Bible software to find things I have written regarding a specific topic or Bible verse. A couple of volunteers named Carlos and Roger spent hours tabulating the topic and verse entries in the first twenty years or so of publications, and a team of several women contributed even more over the past ten years. There is a long list of Hebrew idioms I have mentioned in the Topical Index database, along with a list of links to all the places where I have discussed the topic. Those databases have now been imported into the HSSB Bible Study App that is currently in Alpha testing. The App is built around Harper’s Standardized Study Bible and everything that I have published over the past thirty-five years.

It is my understanding that the members of The Next Step program will have an opportunity to sign up as Beta testers for the HSSB App and all of them will get a copy as soon as it is released, so your reader might want to apply for admission to that program if they haven’t already. They would have access to both the Topical Index and Scripture Index before the App is available to the general public. ■

Continued from inside front cover

When the Antichrist appears, those born-again Believers who have prepared themselves by attaining a knowledge of the Truth will step forward to face down the Liar. Everyone else will fall for his delusion.

The Voice of Elijah®, October 2001, p. 14

The Church followed in the footsteps of the ancients and foolishly exchanged the Truth of The Apostolic Teaching for a lie. And those who cling to that lie here at the End will have no excuse: (Romans 1:18–23).

The Voice of Elijah® Update, May 2002, p. 8

One must stop lying to himself and make a genuine commitment to be totally honest with himself in every circumstance. Lacking that, he will continue to be a child of the devil, the one who is the Liar and the father of all who lie—to themselves and everyone else.

The Voice of Elijah® Update, September 2009, p. 9

I suggest that you be extremely careful what you choose to believe lest you lose the opportunity you now have.

The Voice of Elijah® Update, November 2018, p. 11

If you think you could never be one of those deceived by Satan, you already are—without a doubt. The “war” that John mentions in that passage is the mental battle that has raged for centuries in the minds of True Believers. It is, in fact, an intense ideological campaign that Satan has waged in his ongoing effort to defeat the Truth of the Living Word of God. He will soon fail in his attempt to stamp out the Truth; but when he does, the full force of his ideological campaign is going to hit this entire generation like a tornado in a hurricane.

The Voice of Elijah®, January 2019, p. 7

If a born-again Believer does not allow the testimony of the Holy Spirit within him to override his fixated belief in Satan’s lies, he will not be saved.

The Voice of Elijah®, April 2019, p. 21

Now let this really sink in:

A violent, vengeful God of Truth is coming to destroy those who love the lies of the Liar and so hate the Truth.

The Voice of Elijah®, July 1994, p. 11

Satan would rather you not understand this about him. He has power, but his only real power is the ability to have you believe something other than the Truth. Do you really believe the Apostle John when he says:

Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

(1 John 4:4) —NASB

The Advent of Christ and AntiChrist, Larry Dee Harper, p. 43, fn. 43

The good news is, armor is available:

God not only called me to provide what you need to triumph over the enemy, He also called me to show you how to use it. *If you are too lazy to learn the things I have been called to explain, that is your concern, not mine. By the time I am done here on Planet Earth, I will have done precisely what God called me to do; and the rest will be up to you.*

The Voice of Elijah®, January 2017, p. 11

You can’t withstand the “winds” on your own, but the Truth can. That means you have to do it “The Way” Paul explains in Ephesians 6:10–20; you have to use the Truth you are absolutely convinced is true. It doesn’t matter what Truth you use, the “winds” are cowards; they are afraid of anything that is true.

The Voice of Elijah®, July 2021, p. 5

And Larry has provided all the tools Believers need to triumph over the enemy in the YouTube series: *Spiritual Warfare: The Art of Wielding the Full Armor of God*. Those of you who are reading back issues of **The Voice of Elijah®** will find these articles in print from January 2017 through January 2020. Read them, view them, believe them.

In Him,

Marcia Harper

Continued from front cover

above. Euclid, indeed, is laboriously measured by some of them, and Aristotle and Theophrastus are admired; and Galen, forsooth, is perhaps even worshipped by some of them.

But as to those men who abuse the arts of the unbeliebers to establish their own heretical doctrine, and by the craft of the impious adulterate the simple faith of the divine Scriptures, what need is there to say that these are not near the faith? For this reason is it they have boldly laid their hands upon the divine Scriptures, alleging that they have corrected them. And that I do not state this against them falsely, any one who pleases may ascertain. For if any one should choose to collect and compare all their copies together, he would find many discrepancies among them. The copies of Asclepiades, at any rate, will be found at variance with those of Theodotus. And many such copies are to be had, because their disciples were very zealous in inserting the corrections, as they call them, i.e., the corruptions made by each of them.

And again, the copies of Hermophilus do not agree with these; and as for those of Apollonius, they are not consistent even with themselves. For one may compare those which were formerly prepared by them with those which have been afterwards corrupted with a special object, and many discrepancies will be found. And as to the great audacity implied in this offence, it is not likely that even they themselves can be ignorant of that. For either they do not believe that the divine Scriptures were dictated by the Holy Spirit, and are thus infidels; or they think themselves wiser than the Holy Spirit, and what are they then but demoniacs?

Nor can they deny that the crime is theirs, when the copies have been written with their own hand; nor did they receive such copies of the Scriptures from those by whom they were first instructed in the faith, and they cannot produce copies from which these were transcribed. And some of them did not even think it worth while to corrupt them; but simply denying the law and the prophets for the sake of their lawless and impious doctrine, under pretexts of grace, they sunk down to the lowest abyss of perdition.

Caius, "Fragments of Caius, Against the Heresy of Artemon," Chaps. ii–iii, in Roberts and Donaldson (Eds.), *The Ante-Nicene Fathers* (1885), Vol. 5, pp. 601–602.

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Visit our website to learn more about our Monthly Contributor program.

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