



# THE VOICE of ELIJAH

Restoring the hearts of the fathers to the children

## Liars Assume Nobody Knows the Truth

53. These things, then, shall be in the future, beloved; and when the three horns are cut off, he will begin to show himself as God, as Ezekiel has said aforetime: "Because thy heart has been lifted up, and thou hast said, I am God." [Ez. 28:2] And to the like effect Isaiah says: "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of heaven: I will be like the Most High. Yet now thou shall be brought down to hell (Hades), to the foundations of the earth." [Is.

14:13-15] In like manner also Ezekiel: "Wilt thou yet say to those who slay thee, I am God? But thou (shalt be) a man, and no God." [Ez. 28:9]

54. As his tribe, then, and his manifestation, and his destruction, have been set forth in these words, and as his name has also been indicated mystically, let us look also at his action. For he will call together all the people to himself, out of every country of the dispersion, making them his own, as though they were his own children, and promising to restore their country, and establish again their kingdom and nation, in order that he may be worshipped by them as God, as the prophet says: "He will collect his whole kingdom, from the rising of the sun even to its setting: they whom he summons and they whom he does not summon shall march with him." And Jeremiah speaks of him thus in a parable: "The partridge cried, (and) gathered what he did not hatch, making himself riches without judgment: in the midst of his days they shall leave him, and at his end he shall be a fool." [Jer. 17:11]

55. It will not be detrimental, therefore, to the course of our present argument, if we explain the art of that creature, and show that the prophet has not spoken without a purpose in using the parable (or similitude) of the creature. For as the partridge is a bainglorious creature, when it sees near at hand the nest of another partridge with young in it, and with the parent-bird away on the wing in quest of food, it imitates the cry of the other

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bird, and calls the young to itself; and they, taking it to be their own parent, run to it. And it delights itself proudly in the alien pullets as in its own. But when the real parent-bird returns, and calls them with its own familiar cry, the young recognise it, and forsake the deceiver, and betake themselves to the real parent. This thing, then, the prophet has adopted as a simile, applying it in a similar manner to Antichrist. For he will allure mankind to himself, wishing to gain possession of those who are not his own and promising deliverance to all, while he is unable to save himself.

56. He then, having gathered to himself the unbelieving everywhere throughout the world, comes at their call to persecute the saints, their enemies and antagonists, as the apostle and evangelist says: "There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: and there was a widow in that city, who came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her."

57. By the unrighteous judge, who fears not God, neither regards man, he means without doubt Antichrist, as he is a son of the devil and a vessel of Satan. For when he has the power, he will begin to exalt himself against God, neither in truth fearing God, nor regarding the Son of God, who is the Judge of all. And in saying that there was a widow in the city, he refers to Jerusalem itself, which is a widow indeed, forsaken of her perfect, heavenly spouse, God. She calls Him her adversary, and not her Saviour; for she does not understand that which was said by the prophet Jeremiah: "Because they obeyed not the truth, a spirit of error shall speak then to this people and to Jerusalem." [Jer. 4:11 LXX]

Hippolytus, "Treatise on Christ and Antichrist," in Roberts and Donaldson (Eds.), *The Ante-Nicene Fathers* (1886), Vol. 5, pp. 215–216.

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## *A Note From the Editor*

The following Mission Statement is posted on our website at  
[www.voiceofelijah.org](http://www.voiceofelijah.org):

*The Voice of Elijah*<sup>®</sup> exists for the specific purpose of warning born-again Christians that Satan has planted insidious lies in the Church—lies that will one day prompt the majority of Christians to worship the Antichrist as a “false Christ” (Matt. 24:23–24) because they have been deceived into believing he is Jesus Christ, the Messiah and King of Israel. Our mission is to acquire and distribute educational materials that will allow True Believers to understand the true message of the Scriptures—the same things the Apostles understood—and thereby avoid the “deluding influence” the Apostle Paul said would ensnare all “who do not believe the Truth” at the End of the Age:

*And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; {that is,} the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.*  
(2 Thessalonians 2:8–12)

*The Voice of Elijah*<sup>®</sup> is but one voice in an extremely noisy world, but your faithful support makes it possible for our voice to be heard. Thanks to you, the Monthly Contributors and Next Step participants who have made this mission your own, we are reaching True Believers, using the funds you generously contribute to reach those who are seeking the Truth in these Last Days. The majority of our funds come from contributors who demonstrate their “love of the truth” by contributing much more than just the minimum. Subscribers are appreciated, **but regular monthly contributions are what make our outreach ministry possible.** We could not possibly accomplish our task without your contributions. We are personally encouraged by your outpouring of support for this ministry—and we thank you so much. You are every bit as much a part of this ministry as we are, for we could not do this work without you!

**Subscribers**, if you haven’t already done so, would you prayerfully consider becoming a Monthly Contributor? And **Monthly Contributors**, would you prayerfully consider taking The Next Step? The details for becoming a Monthly Contributor can be found on the newsletter Order Form, and the Order Form printed in *The Update* explains how to participate in The Next Step. The increased contributions will enable us to

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accelerate VOE's outreach efforts (which we are anxious to do), and the additional information you receive will enable you to overcome the delusion that is all around us.

Over the past 18 years, we have seldom asked for contributions to the ministry of *The Voice of Elijah*®. That was the right thing to do at the time. However, with the current international landscape changing rapidly and knowledge of what lies ahead, the time is right to ask everyone to step up and be counted. Believers need to start preparing now for what is coming down the pike—and those who have yet to hear our message need to be reached as quickly as possible so they, too, can prepare. That can only be done through increased contributions.

Larry referenced the biblical passage we cite in our Mission Statement (2 Thess. 2:1–12) in his article, "Transformed Into the Image and Likeness of God," *The Voice of Elijah*®, April 2003. Here are a few of his comments immediately following that citation:

*If you did not know that God takes a dim view of folks who do not have enough "love of the truth" to continually examine what they believe to see whether or not it is true, perhaps you should reconsider your precarious position before it is too late. Unfortunately for the dolts that Paul describes in the passage above, God has already sent "a deluding influence" on this generation "so that they might believe what is false." A quick trip to the supermarket will disclose that Satan's biggest lie provides the basis for a runaway best seller. All available evidence indicates that Satan has the vast majority who claim to be "Christian" soundly asleep under the influence of that lie. Moreover, he obviously intends to make sure they remain completely "under the influence" until the bitter End. But how bitter their End will be!*

*The one question you must answer—and answer you will, one way or the other—is whether you have enough "love of the truth" to honestly question all of your beliefs about God, even the ones you hold most dearly. Should you decide to undertake that quest, I warn you beforehand that the spiritual battles which lie ahead of you are going to be more intense than you*

*could ever imagine. And you will only triumph over Satan's delusion if you keep firmly focused on the purpose for which you are fighting.*

*... if you don't know the truth about God in the first place, your battle with Satan has an already foregone conclusion. That is why God called me—to make sure you have a fighting chance. My specific task is to restore and explain the Truth of The Apostolic Teaching because The Teaching contains specific information that True Believers need to know so that they can see through Satan's lie and endure to the End. What you do with the things I teach is up to you. My only obligation is to make them available to those who have ears to hear.*

So there you have it. There is already more than enough information available for you to see through Satan's lie. But the choice as to whether or not you will help us reach others is up to you. **Our current contributors made it possible for us to reach you. We are counting on you to help us reach others.** By becoming a Monthly Contributor or Next Step participant, you will be helping yourself to the Truth—while at the same time helping others find the Truth. Your contributions will enable us to escalate our outreach and accomplish our mission more quickly.

The Truth is rapidly becoming available, and we are here to provide it to those who have the same "love of the Truth" that you have demonstrated. You have a tremendous opportunity to make your dollars count in our efforts to find those who are honestly seeking to understand the Truth of *The Apostolic Teaching*. Keep one thing in mind: Our ministry is at a tipping point. Your contributions will have a far greater impact NOW than they will after we have reached even more members of "The Many," whose additional contributions will enable us to reach ALL True Believers so that they are prepared for the appearance of the Antichrist!

If you have questions about either the Monthly Contributor or The Next Step program, feel free to send me an email: [marcia@voiceofelijah.org](mailto:marcia@voiceofelijah.org).

*Marcia Woody*

# Pigs Were Never Meant to Wear Three-Piece Suits

One of the most distinctive characteristics of the Liar and his children is an extremely strong compulsion to seek to control what others *say* and *do*. That is, instead of minding their own business and living their own lives in accordance with what they deem to be the “right” thing for them to *say* and *do*, they want to make sure that you *say* and *do* what *they think* is the “right” thing for you to *say* and *do*. If you don’t *say* and *do* what *they think* you should *say* and *do*, they will first try to make you feel guilty for not *saying* and *doing* what *they think* you should *say* and *do*. If that doesn’t work, they will really begin to tighten the screws. You know, pass a few laws, amend a constitution, maybe kill a few “heretics.” All because *they absolutely know* the “right” thing for you to *say* and *do*, and they want you to *say* and *do* the “right” thing.

The primary problem with morons is, and always has been, the fact that *they think they know* the absolute God’s-honest Truth, but they have never actually stopped to *think* about how they came by that information. The Truth is, they have just gotten into the habit of mindlessly following other morons around, parroting whatever dumbness comes out of the mouths of those who claim, or at some earlier time claimed, to have direct access to the Aether. They then take that dumbness to be the “politically correct,” or “right,” thing for everyone to *say* and *do*. That’s why the morons in this generation are still *saying* and *doing* the same dumb things that countless generations of morons have *said* and *done* before—that is, they are trying to legislate morality by insisting others must *say* and *do* exactly what *they think* is the “right” thing to *say* and *do*.

Moronic manipulation of the behavior of others is not confined to the Christian religion. You will find it ingrained in every culture, race, and religion. It is just

part and parcel of the ignorance into which we were all born. But the first resource the more self-righteous “Christian” morons rely on is the Good Book. Don’t you just know that God said, “An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth”? And that dimwittedness comes out of the mouths of folks who will swear up and down in the very next breath that “Christians” are no longer living “under law” but “under grace”—whatever they *think* that fatuousness *means*. The only thing it seems to *mean* is their goofy god of unconditional grace would never do anything that might be detrimental to their health and well-being. Yet those who espouse that mindless mendacity are among the first to step up and volunteer to do more than a few things detrimental to the health and well-being of their neighbor—should he fall prey to the long arm of their “law,” under which *they think* we should all live.

It should be patently obvious that society needs laws, so I am not trying to rain on anyone’s law-and-order parade. It’s just that the “laws” that the *Living Word of God* gave Moses are based on two extremely important principles: (1) love for the *Living Word of God*, and (2) love for one’s “neighbor.” (I didn’t say that; but you know Who did, provided you know your Bible.) Therefore, it should also be obvious to anyone with an IQ over 50 that human governments might have a wee bit of a problem implementing laws based on a love for God when most, if not all, of the governed today don’t give a whit one way or the other about God—or about their neighbor, either, for that matter. That is, after all, another distinct characteristic of the children of the Liar that God demonstrated rather soundly some thirty-five hundred years ago in the desert of Sinai. As I recall, only two out of about six hundred thousand men passed the test on that

occasion. My hope is that we might have a somewhat better success rate here at the End.

Now that I've gotten that out of my system, I'll get down off my soapbox and get to work on the topic I want to address in this article. For quite some time now I have felt the need to explain a few things that you True Believers should know about how the children of the Liar go about trying to make sure you remain under their control. Only then will you be able to avoid wallowing in the same mud hole they find so enticing. And it is a hole. Satan does not tempt anyone to do anything that does not cost them dearly in one way or another.

### *Everybody Cannot Be "Right"*

The first way the children of the Liar try to control what others *say* and *do* is so obvious that it hardly needs mentioning. But I will. Since Satan's offspring have never experienced the absolute freedom that a knowledge of the Truth brings to True Believers, they go on ignorantly insisting that one must *say* and *do* or *not say* and *not do* certain things to be saved. If you have been born again, you should already know that is not true. All that anyone has to *do* to be saved from eternal damnation is believe the Truth of the *Living Word* of God. But even if you know that fact to be true, you may not yet be aware of all the other ways the Liar and his children seek to control you and keep you locked into their bondage. So here goes.

Have you ever noticed how much essentially worthless information is being broadcast over the airwaves nowadays by those who claim to be *objective* "journalists"? Instead of focusing on giving you the verified *facts* in regard to things you have some need to know, they continually give you their honest-to-goodness verified *opinions*—opinions concerning things they deem to be of some overweening political, social, or cultural importance. By the time they mix in an "infomercial" or two, a bit of Hollywood gossip, and all those paid commercials, you are lucky to get even five minutes of hard news and a weather report for half an hour wasted. Then they marvel at the fact that DVRs are so popular. Believe me, it's not just the commercials that thinking people are skipping.

Don't be a fool. "Fair and balanced" is just one more *meaningless* business slogan dreamt up by some "suit" on Madison Avenue. All "journalists" have an

agenda, and their agenda is driven by an unseen personality who knows a thesis interacting with an antithesis will always produce the synthesis he desires. The thesis that most liberal "journalists" are propounding today is one in which anything that agrees with their liberal "anything goes" mentality is acceptable, everything else is "uneducated," "unsophisticated," or "parochial." Since every last hard-core member of their constituency is a victim, no one can actually be held responsible for his or her own unrestrained actions. The cold, hard Truth in that regard is, God does not save victims. He only saves those who are willing to admit they are guilty. That is not an admission the members of the liberal constituency are willing to make.

Unfortunately, the antithesis of the thesis held by liberal "journalists" is the one being advocated by those "journalists" allied with the conservative "Christian" viewpoint. That perspective hardly merits mentioning inasmuch as it is itself the synthesis of an earlier thesis vs. antithesis struggle in which the evangelical wing of the Church surrendered the Truth of the Gospel to make room for the unconditional love of the goofy god of grace that was propounded by nineteenth-century liberals. So now we have that previous goofy liberal perspective arguing with an even more radically goofy liberal viewpoint as Satan seeks to lead everybody as far away from the Truth as he possibly can. The Truth is, God does not have unconditional love for all. He fully intends to send the guilty to Hell—forever.

In case you haven't yet noticed, "journalism" in this country has long since sold out to the interests of big business and the two political parties. We have no truly independent reporting anywhere in the world today because most people are no longer interested in anything that even resembles the Truth. Feel-good fantasy is the name of the game that the children of the Liar prefer to play, and the Truth doesn't make them feel all that good. So they just choose up "sides" and do what every child of the Liar does best—they argue over who is "right." And that is just the way Satan likes it. Their *contention* keeps them too occupied to notice how ridiculous their stupid little game is.

I mention the agenda of "journalists" only because most True Believers are not aware of how easy it is for the media to suck them into feeling *contentious* about issues that are completely irrelevant. The key word in that sentence is *contentious*. Why should you—

if your focus is on the next life—get all stirred up about all the “injustice” that exists—and will always exist—in this life. It doesn’t matter who is in charge, somebody is always going to draw the short straw. That’s just the way it is. So get over it. Focus on what is truly important, and don’t get drawn into the lie that God favors one political party over the other, or that He prefers the folks living in one country over those in another. He doesn’t. And the sooner you wise up to the fact that Satan is lying to you about that, the sooner you will be able to understand the Truth he is desperately hoping you won’t.

I mentioned the media’s *contentiousness* as the first way that Satan seeks to control you only because the nonsense that goes on in the media is nothing more than a microcosm of what is going on all around you. So maybe you should wake up and smell the ... roses? I don’t think so. If you are truly awake, you already know you are living in a sewer. The nonsense going on in this life stinks to high Heaven. Whether something is true is not even a consideration for the *contentious* person. The only thing that matters to such folk is that their “side” scores the most points and wins the debate. It’s definitely that way in politics, where both political parties are now trying to pack the courts with men who will favor their “side” when the next big election rolls around. But it’s also that way in business and religion.

Speaking of religion, God has absolutely no interest whatsoever in anyone’s “religion,” whatever flavor that might happen to be. He lost interest in such things 1800 years ago, when the Church “turned aside from *The Way*.” He is only interested in whether you—as one *individual*—know and believe the Truth of the *Living Word of God* that He is. So perhaps you should just focus on understanding the Truth and leave the *parabolically* deaf, dumb, and blind to their own devices. That *means* you had best forget about choosing up political, cultural, or religious “sides” and getting all worked up over whether your “side” is winning. To put that sort of nonsense in perspective, it’s a lot like the proverbial fellow who went walking around in a daze, “rearranging the deck chairs on the *Titanic*.” It’s not the kind of thing a perfectly sane person would do.

What I find most interesting about the conservative vs. liberal *contentiousness* that exists in the Church today is the fact that both “sides” are equally as ridiculous—and just as equally out in left field (that’s an idiom). All because Satan enjoys making people *say*

and *do* the most absolutely stupid things for the most absolutely absurd reasons. He undoubtedly thinks it’s funny that both “sides” believe his lies, yet both are just as convinced that what they believe is true. So aspiring liberal theologians go to liberal seminaries and learn all about the goofy JEDP theory that explains how the Pentateuch came into being as a gradual amalgamation of myth, saga, and legend. Conservative theologians go to conservative seminaries and learn all about how the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God which can only be interpreted *literally*. And neither “side” is smart enough, or humble enough, to recognize, much less admit, they are both wrong.

As theological marksmen go, neither the liberal nor the conservative “side” could hit the broad side of a barn with a bazooka—from any distance greater than two feet. But that is only because the Truth is not their concern. They have long since chosen up theological “sides,” and each is now engaged in “winning” the debate against the other “side.” That is, after all, what the anti-abortion, theory of evolution, and gay-marriage debates are all about. Winning. The Truth is not even a small blip on their radar.

## *Religion Is Just a Three-Piece Suit*

Now that I have sucker punched those dazed dimwits who thought sure I would be on their “side” in the current religious debate, I’ll just go ahead and put them away while they are still reeling. That way, maybe I won’t have to put up with their conservative “Christian” nonsense down the road. My position on religion in government can be summed up this way: Less is better, and a whole lot less is a whole lot better. By that I *mean*, the government should pass laws to protect the innocent from those who seek to use and abuse them, but not try to legislate what one “side” deems to be the “politically correct,” or “right,” thing for everyone to *do*, thereby allowing that “side” to dictate what the other “side” can or cannot *say* and *do*. That sort of moronic micromanagement of personal morality has never worked, and it never will. But I should also tell you that my view of how government *should* work will never work down here because there will always be those who seek to control what others *say* and *do*.

The Truth in regard to legislating morality can be summed up in this axiom: You can dress a pig in a three-piece suit and teach him to dance in a chorus line.

But the only thing you are going to have after you have accomplished that fine task is a dancing pig and an extremely high dry-cleaning bill. Since taxpayers pick up the tab for that last one, it should be obvious that less really is better. Those who engage in such nonsense really should get a life—and stop trying to live other people’s lives for them.

What I am saying is this: If some folks want to kill themselves slowly by smoking, drinking, or taking mind-altering drugs, why should you, or anyone else for that matter, insist that the government get into the business of teaching pigs to dance? The only people who would do that are dimwitted dancers who are also in the business of making three-piece suits for pigs. Perhaps those who engage in such nonsense should stop trying to control what others *say* and *do* long enough to consider the fact that their most ample back-sides indicate they, too, are killing themselves slowly. To those who insist there is a difference between eating and drinking, I merely point out the fact that the members of both camps are just doing what they find most pleasurable; and we all know what hogs love to do.

Now that I have raised the hackles (that’s an idiom) of the “wolves” reading along with us, let me show you what Jesus said about those who desperately desire to teach pigs to dance:

*And it happened that when Jesus finished giving orders to His twelve disciples, He left from there to teach and to preach in their cities. But John, hearing in prison the works of Christ, {and} sending through his disciples, said to Him, “Are You the One coming, or should we expect another?” And Jesus answered and said to them, “Go! Tell John what you hear and see: BLIND GAIN SIGHT and lame walk about; lepers are cleansed and deaf hear; and dead are raised and POOR ARE PREACHED THE GOSPEL; and blessed is the one in Me who is not caused to stumble.” But while these were going, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by wind? But what did you go out to observe? A man dressed in fine things? Look! Those who wear the fine things are in the houses of the kings. But what did you go out to observe? A Prophet? Yes, I say to you, and much more than a Prophet! This is the one concerning whom it is written,*

*‘LOOK! I AM SENDING MY MESSENGER BEFORE YOUR FACE, WHO WILL PREPARE “THE WAY” OF YOU BEFORE YOU.’*

*Without doubt! I say to you, no one greater than John the Baptist has arisen among those born of women. But the least in the kingdom of Heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of Heaven is treated violently, and those who are violent seize it. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept, he is Elijah, the one who is going to come. Let the one who has ears hear. **But to what should I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces who call out to the others, saying, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance! We sang a funeral song, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon!’ The Son of ‘the man’ came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look! A man {who is} a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-gatherers and sinners!’ Yet Wisdom is declared not guilty from her works.”***

*(Matthew 11:1–19) —my interim translation*

Much to the chagrin of those who favor the *literal* theory of interpretation, Luke appears to have taken Matthew’s account and made it his own by changing verbal tenses, indiscriminately adding words here and there, and generally changing the *verbally inspired* text of Matthew to suit himself. He says this:

*And his disciples told John about all these things. So, summoning two of his disciples, John sent to the Lord saying, “Are You the One coming, or should we expect another?” And when the men came to Him, they said, “John the Baptist sent us to You, saying, ‘Are You the One coming, or should we expect another?’” In that very hour, He healed many of illness, and wounds, and evil spirits; and He graciously allowed many blind to see. And responding, He said to them, “Go! Tell John what you have seen and heard: BLIND GAIN SIGHT, lame walk about, lepers are cleansed, deaf hear, dead are raised, POOR ARE PREACHED THE GOSPEL, and blessed is the one in Me who is not caused to stumble.” But when the messengers of John had left, He began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by wind? But what did you go out to observe? A man dressed in fine clothing? Look! Those living in splendid clothing and luxury are in royal palaces. But what did you go out to observe? A Prophet? Yes, I say to you, and much more than a Prophet! This is the one concerning whom it is written,*

*'LOOK! I AM SENDING MY MESSENGER BEFORE YOUR FACE, WHO WILL PREPARE "THE WAY" OF YOU BEFORE YOU.'*  
*I say to you, no one among those born of women is greater than John. But the least in the kingdom of the {Living} God is greater than he." (And when all the people heard, even the tax-gatherers—having been baptized with the baptism of John—acknowledged the {Living} God's declaration of not guilty. But the Pharisees and the lawyers—not having been baptized by him—declared the decision of the {Living} God invalid for themselves.)*  
*"Therefore, to what should I compare the men of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children—those who sit in the marketplaces and call out to one another—who say, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance! We sang a funeral song, and you did not weep.' For John the Baptist has come, neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon! The Son of 'the man' has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look! A man {who is} a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-gatherers and sinners!' Yet Wisdom is declared not guilty from all her children."*  
*(Luke 7:18–35) —my interim translation*

As you can see, Luke adds a couple of verses to Matthew's account just to make the point of Jesus' *parabolic statement* concerning the "children" who "play the flute" a bit clearer. He also tells us Jesus said "*the men of this generation*" to make sure we understand Jesus was *talking about* the asinine religious requirements the scribes and Pharisees were seeking to impose on everyone else. But if you think all the whiney, snot-nosed juveniles like that died out way back then, wake up and smell the ... roses? I don't think so. The rabidly religious pea-brained pole-cats in our own generation are already well on their way to bringing about "the burning" that Moses and the Prophets describe.

You don't believe it? Then consider this: The immovable object of Orthodox Jewish beliefs concerning their divine right to the Promised Land has now come into full contact with the irresistible force of fundamentalist Muslim beliefs concerning the sanctity of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. All you need to complete the KABOOM! equation is the delusion that Satan has finally managed to foist off on the Pretenders who have taken over the Church. But that's not what I want to *talk about* here.

In His parable concerning the snot-nosed "children" who were "playing the flute" in the "marketplace," Jesus was *parabolically* referring to the fact that overly zealous religious types always want everybody to respond appropriately when they play their ridiculous religious rhapsody. If they play a happy tune, we are all supposed to "dance" around like a bunch of religious freaks, keeping perfect time to *their* "music." If they suddenly start playing a sad song, we are supposed to change up quickly and cry like a baby. Jesus' point is, religious retards get their noses all bent out of shape when folks like Him and John the Baptist come along, because those who know the Truth will always refuse to play the stupid "dance to my music" game that Pretenders love to play.

If you think I am referring to just the moronic mental midgets in the Christian religion who want everyone to "dance" or "weep" to their "tune," think again. Al Qaeda and the Taliban are just a couple of the fanatical fundamentalist Muslim groups who are currently seeking to impose their will on everybody else. Orthodox Jews and conservative "Christians" round out the sorry lot of those who want others to *say* and *do* what they want them to *say* and *do*. The crux of that issue is, the whole worthless bunch of them is more than willing to use whatever force is necessary to ensure that everybody else in the world sees things their "way." You will discover just how neatly that piece of goofiness fits into the puzzle fairly soon after the Antichrist arrives on the scene.

## *He Is, After All, Still the Devil*

Let me show you a couple of passages in the New Testament where translators have concealed some rather important information that you need to know:

*Women {must} likewise {be} dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.*  
*(1 Timothy 3:11)*

*Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance. Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, {to be} sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own*

husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.  
(Titus 2:2–5)

The word that has been translated as “malicious gossips” in those two passages is a fairly common term in the New Testament. “Malicious gossip” is not an entirely inaccurate translation, but you won’t often find the term translated that way. It has been in these two instances simply because Satan prefers it not be translated that way in all the other instances where it occurs because, if it were to be translated the same way in those cases, it might give you insight into who he is. Here is what the biblical text actually says:

Women likewise, worthy of respect—**not devils**, not alcoholics—trustworthy in all things.  
(1 Timothy 3:11) —my interim translation

Old women likewise, reverent in behavior—**not devils**, not enslaved to much wine—teaching what is good.  
(Titus 2:3) —my interim translation

As you can see, those two verses say pretty much the same thing. But you can also see why translators might not consider it to be “politically correct” to translate them the way I did. A certain gender—whom I shall not name publicly—might take offense at what Paul said, since he does *specifically* infer some women might be prone to exhibit some, shall we say, “ungodly” characteristics. So, rather than offend anyone myself, I will just show you I was joshing when I transliterated the term *diabolos* rather than translating it. Satan has been hiding something you need to know, and I’ll explain what it is in a bit. But first, I need to show you that the Apostle Paul also uses the same term when he says this about the other gender:

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. **For men will be** lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, **malicious gossips**, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and **avoid such men as these**.  
(2 Timothy 3:1–5)

Rather than getting the *other* gender all stirred up as well, I’ll just show you “*The Way*” I would translate that passage—if it were up to me:

*But know this, that in the Last Days perilous times will come. For men will be self-loving, money-loving braggarts, arrogant blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, ungodly, unloving, unforgiving, false accusers, lacking moral restraint, savage, not loving what is good, betrayers, rash, vain, loving pleasure rather than loving God, having a form of godliness—but having denied its power. So avoid these {men}.*  
(2 Timothy 3:1–5) —my interim translation

The term that I translated “false accusers” is the plural form of the Greek term *diabolos*—“devil.” That’s basically what the term *means*. But Satan doesn’t want you to know *devil* is a transliteration rather than a translation because that might give you a bit of insight into who he is and how he works. You see, Satan and his children seek to gain—and maintain—control over you by *falsely accusing* you of all sorts of things, trying to make you feel guilty about doing things—or not doing things—for which they want you to feel guilty so that they can control you. The Apostle John left us a bit of insight into that particular characteristic of Satan by spelling it out fairly specifically. In this case, however, John used another Greek word that *means* somewhat the same thing as *diabolos*, so Satan hasn’t figured out how to get translators to conceal the Truth:

*And the great dragon—the old serpent, the one called “Devil” and “Satan,” who deceives the whole world—was thrown down to the Earth. And his messengers were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in Heaven, saying, “Now, the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our {Living} God, and the authority of His Christ have come, because **the accuser of our brothers—the one who accuses them before our {Living} God day and night—has been thrown down.**”*  
(Revelation 12:9–10) —my interim translation

Now, let me list just a few of the things that Satan has completely convinced his children are “sins” they must do their best to avoid. He has convinced them that if they don’t “keep” this “law,” they must feel guilty about it. And being the good Pharisees that they are, they must not associate with those who “transgress”:

Drinking alcohol  
 Smoking cigarettes  
 Chewing tobacco  
 Dancing  
 Gambling  
 Not going to church every Sunday

First of all, let me remind you that when the Apostles in Jerusalem detailed what we, the Gentiles, should *do*, they did not list even one of the things on that list. Furthermore, they did not say we *had to do anything* (like going to church) to be saved. They listed only four things that they *recommended* we should refrain from:

*But the whole crowd stopped talking, and they were listening to Barnabas and Paul explaining what signs and wonders the {Living} God had done among the Gentiles through them. But after they stopped talking, James responded, saying, "Men—brothers—listen to me: Simeon has explained how the {Living} God was first concerned about taking—from Gentiles—a 'people' for His 'Name.' And in this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written,*

*'AFTER THESE THINGS I will return,  
 AND I WILL {ONCE} AGAIN "BUILD" THE "TENT" OF DAVID  
 —THE ONE WHO HAS "FALLEN"—  
 AND HER DEMOLISHED ONES I WILL "BUILD" AGAIN,  
 AND I WILL RESTORE HER,  
 SO THAT THE REST OF THE MEN MAY SEEK HIS MAJESTY,  
 EVEN ALL OF THE GENTILES FROM THEM  
 WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED MY "NAME,"'  
 SAYS HIS MAJESTY, WHO MAKES THESE THINGS KNOWN  
 FROM FOREVER.*

*Therefore, I decide {that we} not make it difficult for those turning to the {Living} God from the Gentiles, but {that we} write to them to stay away from the ceremonial pollution {derived from} the idols, and the sexual immorality, and the strangling, and the blood. For Moses has those from older generations who preach him in every city—being read every Sabbath in the synagogues."*

*(Acts 15:12–21) —my interim translation*

Now that you know the basic limitations, here is what Paul said about the Gentiles observing them:

*For I don't want you to be ignorant, brothers, {of the fact} that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all went through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. And all ate the same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual Rock which followed. But the Rock was the Christ. However, the {Living} God was not "well-pleased" with most of them, for they were left strewn in the wilderness. But these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not be cravers of bad things in the same way that they craved. Neither be idolaters, in the same way as some of them, just as it is written: "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY." Neither let us be sexually promiscuous in the same way as some of them were sexually promiscuous, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. Neither let us sorely test Christ in the same way that some of them tested, and they were being destroyed by the serpents. Neither complain, just as some of them complained, and they were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things came upon those {people} as examples, but they were written as a warning for us, on whom the Ends of the Ages has come. Therefore, let the one who thinks he stands watch out so that he does not fall. No testing has come upon you except what is common to man. But the {Living} God is trustworthy. He will not allow you to be tested above what you are able, but with the testing will also make the way out so that you are able to bear up under it. For this reason, my beloved, flee from "the idolatry." I am speaking as to prudent ones. Judge what I say. The "cup" of the blessing which we bless? Is it not a sharing of the "blood" of the Christ? The "bread" which we "break"? Is it not a sharing of the "Body" of the Christ? Because we—the Many—are one "bread," one "Body." For we are all sharing from the One "Bread." Look at the "Israel" according to the flesh: Are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers of the altar? Therefore, what am I saying? What is something sacrificed to an idol? Or what is an idol? Rather, they sacrifice what they sacrifice to demons and not to God. And I do not want you to become sharers of demons. You cannot "drink" the "cup" of His Majesty and a "cup" of demons! You cannot share in the "table" of His Majesty and a "table" of demons! Or are we provoking the Lord to jealousy? We are not more powerful than He, are we? **All things are permissible, but not all are advantageous. All things are permissible, but not all "build."** Let no one seek his own {benefit}, but that of another. Eat*

whatever is sold in the meat market without questioning for the sake of the conscience, FOR THE EARTH AND ITS FULLNESS BELONG TO THE LORD. If one of the unbelievers invites you and you want to go, eat everything that is set before you without questioning for the sake of the conscience. But if one should say to you, "This is meat sacrificed to idols," do not eat—for the sake of the one who disclosed and for the sake of the conscience. **But I say "conscience"—not your own, but the other. For why should my freedom be judged by another man's conscience? If I share in favor, why should I be blasphemed for what I give thanks? Therefore, whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do, do everything to the glory of God. And be {a source of} "not stumbling" to Jews, to Gentiles, and to the assembly of the {Living} God, just as I also please everyone in everything, not seeking what is advantageous to me but to "the Many," so that they would be saved.**

(1 Corinthians 10:1–33)—my interim translation

In that passage, Paul gives True Believers a fairly basic principle to live by. The only limitation *outside of the Ten Commandments* that Gentiles actually need to be concerned about is "sexual immorality." (But you had better be careful how you handle that "snake." It will definitely bite you if you don't take into account how God defines adultery.) Other than that:

*All things are permissible, but not all are advantageous. All things are permissible, but not all "build." Let no one seek his own {benefit}, but that of another.*

(1 Corinthians 10:23–24)—my interim translation

I can almost hear the shrieks of outrage from those legalists who are—like the lamebrained Judaizers who were bothering the Galatians—still seeking to impose their "do this, don't do that" bondage on everyone else. And it is bondage. The Apostle Paul devoted the entire Book of Galatians to refuting the goofy notion that a person has to *do* anything at all to achieve salvation, yet we still have the children of Satan insisting we must try. Sad, isn't it? Those who understand the Truth realize it is just "The Way" Paul explained it to the Believers in the Roman church. The Ten Commandments do nothing more than define "sin" so as to make it easy for those of us who know the Truth to identify those who have slipped back into "the sin":

Therefore, what will we say? Should we remain in "the sin" so that "the favor" would increase? Certainly not! We who have died to "the sin"? How can we still live in it? Or do you not know that as many as have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him because of His baptism into "the death" so that just as Christ was raised from the dead because of the glory of the Father, so also we could "walk" in newness of life. For if we have been "planted" together with {Him} in the likeness of "the death" of Him, we shall certainly be in the resurrection, knowing this: that our "old man" was "crucified" with {Him} in order that the body of "the sin" would be abolished so that we would no longer be enslaved to "the sin." For the one who has died has been declared not guilty of "the sin." Yet if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him, knowing that Christ—having been raised from the dead—is no longer mortal. Death is no longer lord over Him. For that which He died, He died to "the sin" once for all {time}. But that which He lives, He lives to the {Living} God. Likewise also consider yourselves to be "dead" indeed to "the sin" but alive to the {Living} God in Christ Jesus. Therefore, do not let "the sin" reign in your mortal body so that you listen to its desires. And don't offer your members to "the sin" as tools for injustice. Instead, offer yourselves to the {Living} God like those {who are} alive from the dead and your members to the {Living} God as tools for what is required. For sin will not be lord over you, for you are not under law but under favor. What therefore? Should we sin because we are not under law but under favor? Certainly not! Do you not know that to whomever you offer yourselves to listen to as slaves, you are slaves to whomever you listen to, either {to listen} to sin into death or to listen to {The Teaching} into what is required? But thanks to the {Living} God that {although} you were slaves to "the sin," you have listened from {your} heart into what was delivered to you—a form of teaching. And having been freed from "the sin," you became slaves to "the requirement." I am speaking in terms of humanity because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you offered your members as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness for lawlessness, so now you have offered your members as slaves to "the requirement" for holiness. For when you were slaves to "the sin," you were free from "the requirement." Therefore, what "fruit" did you have then from the things you are now ashamed of? For the end of those things is death. But now, having been freed from "the sin" and having become slaves to the

{Living} God, you have your “fruit” in holiness, and the end is eternal life. For the wages of “the sin” is death. But the gift of the {Living} God is eternal life—in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 6:1–23) —my interim translation

My point is simply this, Satan and his children love to *falsely accuse* people. So they create all sorts of stupid “requirements” that one must adhere to if one wants to be saved. Then, when someone breaks one of their ridiculous rules, they accuse them of “sin.” The Truth is, the True Believer is free to do whatever the True Believer *wants* to do. The catch? There is none. Why would anyone who knows the Truth *want* to murder? Why would he *want* to steal? Why would he *want* to lie? Why would he *want* to worship an idol? If you can’t see the logic in that, it is fairly obvious that you have never experienced the greatest gift God has ever given.

## The Judger Will Soon Be the Judgee

Now that I have the hyperventilating attention of those mindlessly mendacious morons who are totally convinced God demands *doing* instead of *being*, let me add a bit more fuel to their “strange fire” in hopes of bringing about “the burning” just a bit more quickly. That is, I need to explain how religious zealots go about using their judgmental attitude to make sure others keep “dancing” in time to their frenetic “tune.” First, let me show you what the Apostle Paul said about not judging others:

*Therefore, O man—everyone who judges—you are without excuse. For in whatever you judge the other, you condemn yourself. For the one who judges does the same things. But we know that the judgment of the {Living} God is—in accordance with Truth—{already} on those who do such things. But do you think this, O man—you who judges those who do such things and do the same—that you will escape the judgment of the {Living} God? Or do you despise the wealth of His goodness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of the {Living} God is leading you to repentance? But in accordance with your stubborn and unrepentant heart, you are saving up anger for yourself in the day of anger and revelation of the just judgment of the {Living} God, Who WILL GIVE TO EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS WORKS: to those who—in accordance with*

*patience of good work—are seeking glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are contentious and are not persuaded by the Truth, but have been persuaded by “the injustice,” anger and wrath.*

(Romans 2:1–8) —my interim translation

It is nearly impossible not to take that passage out of context since it is part of a specific train of thought that Paul begins in the first chapter of the Book of Romans and transitions through several topics before he finally brings all of the parts together in the sixth chapter. But the only point I want to make here has to do with what Paul says about True Believers avoiding God’s judgment by not judging the actions of others. (Notice I said “not judging *the actions* of others.”) As you are probably already aware, Jesus said almost exactly the same thing that Paul said:

*“Do not judge, so that you are not judged. For by whatever judgment you judge, you will be judged; and by whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you.”*

(Matthew 7:1–2) —my interim translation

Both Jesus and Paul explain the reason why those who are True Believers must be careful to not judge *the actions* of others. It is because *our own actions* will be judged according to whatever “law” we use to judge *the actions* of others. Therefore, I cannot emphasize strongly enough what Jesus and Paul have said, but I must also tell you why it is extremely important that you not fall into this trap—and it is a trap. The reason for that is very easy to understand: If you use any standard other than belief in *The Apostolic Teaching* as a “judgment” or “measure” whereby you evaluate *the actions* of others, you are thereby denying the validity of the very basis on which the *Living Word* of God will declare the Redeemed “not guilty” on Judgment Day. I would not want to be in your shoes (that’s an idiom) on that Great Day should you *choose* to do that.

The Truth is, the *Living Word* of God has already judged us and pronounced a verdict of guilty against us all. That is why I translated one of the verses in the passage above this way:

*But we know that the judgment of the {Living} God is—in accordance with Truth—{already} on those who do such things.*

(Romans 2:2) —my interim translation

I realize my translation of that verse doesn't agree with the way translators normally translate it. That's because they don't understand what Paul said about mankind's callous handling of the Truth of *The Teaching* in the first chapter of the Book of Romans. That is, Paul has been *talking about* those who have given up a knowledge of *The Teaching* so that they can believe any lie that will allow them to do what they want to do:

*For the anger of God is being revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and injustice of men—those who are holding the Truth in injustice—because the knowledge of the {Living} God is visible in them, for the {Living} God made it visible to them. For His invisible things being recognized in His works—{that is,} from a creation of a world—both His everlasting power and His divine nature are clearly seen, so that they are without excuse. Therefore, having known the {Living} God, they did not glorify {Him} as God or give thanks, but they became illogical in their reasoning and their ignorant heart was darkened. Declaring themselves to be wise, they became morons, and they changed the glory of the immortal God into a likeness of an image of mortal man and of birds and of quadrupeds and of reptiles. Therefore, the {Living} God handed them over to the desires of their hearts for defilement so that their bodies might be degraded by them—whoever exchanged the Truth of the {Living} God for “the lie,” and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, Who is to be praised into the ages. Without doubt!*

*(Romans 1:18–25) —my interim translation*

After Paul explains what happens to those who have come to a knowledge of the Truth and then turned back, he lists some of the specific characteristics exhibited by those who deliberately *choose* to believe Satan's lies:

*For this reason, the {Living} God handed them over to degrading desires. For their females exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the males, having rejected the natural use of the female, were set afire in their craving for one another, males in males committing the shameless act and in return receiving the retribution which is bound to the deception within them. And just as they did not approve of the {Living} God—to have {Him} in {their} knowledge—the {Living} God handed them over to a rejected mind, to do things that are*

*not fitting, having been filled with every unjust thing—evil intention, greed, hateful feelings. {They are} full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, meanness. {They are} gossips, slanderers, God-haters, arrogant, proud, braggarts, contrivers of evil, disobedient to parents, ignorant, treacherous, unloving, without mercy; who, knowing the requirement of the {Living} God, that those who do such things are worthy of death, not only do they do these things, but they also approve of those who do them.*  
*(Romans 1:26–32) —my interim translation*

Finally, Paul begins Chapter 2 of the Book of Romans by warning those in the church at Rome who have already fallen into the trap of judging others:

*Therefore, O man—everyone who judges—you are without excuse. For in whatever you judge the other, you condemn yourself. For the one who judges does the same things. But we know that the judgment of the {Living} God is—in accordance with Truth—{already} on those who do such things.*  
*(Romans 2:1–2) —my interim translation*

Paul's point is, those who deliberately reject the Truth are always going to exhibit the vile characteristics he listed. But if you know the Truth, you had best back away from judging anyone based on *their actions* because, if you do that, you are in dire danger of being judged as well. After all, if you are fortunate enough to have been “born again,” you should know full well that a pig in a three-piece suit is always going to act like a pig. By that I *mean* this: Dressing up the outside of a person by demanding that ignorant people adhere to a long list of do's and don'ts does absolutely nothing for their inside.

The problem is, those who engage in trying to teach pigs to dance are tacitly agreeing with the Pretenders in the Church who *think* it is possible to work for salvation by adhering to some “law.” It isn't. Never has been; and never will be. Either you believe the Truth of *The Teaching* and are declared not guilty of “the sin”—which was Adam and Eve's rejection of the Truth—or you disbelieve the Truth and agree that they were right in calling God a liar. Your *choice*. But we can *talk about* that some other time. For now, the most important thing you must understand is what Jesus told Nicodemus when He explained why a person has to be “born again”:

*“And just as Moses raised high the serpent in the wilderness, so also must the Son of ‘the man’ be raised high, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him. For the {Living} God loved the world so {much} that He gave His only engendered Son so that everyone who believes into Him might not perish, but might have eternal life. For the {Living} God did not send the Son into the world so that He might judge the world but so that the world might be saved through Him. The one who believes into Him is not judged; but the one who does not believe into Him has been judged already, because he has not believed into ‘The Name’ of the only-begotten Son of God. But this is the judgment: That ‘The Light’ has come into the world, and the men loved The Darkness rather than ‘The Light,’ for their works are evil. For all the one who is doing bad things hates ‘The Light,’ and he does not come to ‘The Light’ so that his works won’t be exposed. But the One who is doing the Truth comes to ‘The Light’ so that His works might be made known, because they have been worked in God.”*  
(John 3:14–21) —my interim translation

As you can see, Jesus plainly says the reason one must be “born again” is because God has already pronounced judgment against us. But take note of the fact that God’s guilty verdict is based on the fact that the guilty *do not know, and do not want to know*, the Truth. Therefore, God has decided to let those who hear and believe the Truth escape the judgment—the verdict of guilty—He has already pronounced against us all. But my point here is, the standard by which God will declare a person guilty or not guilty on Judgment Day is strictly based on whether the person *chooses* to believe the Truth. It is not based on *their actions*. That is because “the sin” of Adam and Eve was their rejection of the Truth God had told them concerning the Tree of “the Knowledge of Good and Evil.” Their “transgression” was the *action* which grew out of their belief in Satan’s lie. (See “Only a Fool Would Keep Working When There Is Nothing Left to Do,” *The Voice of Elijah*®, July 2004.) It is extremely important that you understand that distinction, because Paul also says this:

*But in accordance with your stubborn and unrepentant heart, you are saving up anger for yourself in the day of anger and revelation of the just judgment of the {Living} God, Who WILL GIVE TO EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS WORKS: to those who—in accordance with patience of*

*good work—are seeking glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are contentious and are not persuaded by the Truth, but have been persuaded by “the injustice,” anger and wrath.*  
(Romans 2:5–8) —my interim translation

Don’t let the details concerning your upcoming appearance before the Bench of the Almighty God confuse you. God has already determined that we are all guilty of “the sin.” That’s why we are currently “in prison,” awaiting the sentencing phase of our “trial.” But we will not be “sentenced” until we actually appear before God on Judgment Day. So there is still time to change the circumstances in which we find ourselves. On that Great Day, however, everyone who is found guilty of “the sin” of disbelief will be sentenced according to “the transgressions” he committed in the flesh. Why? Because we all act in accordance with what we believe. And just as a human judge determines the severity of the sentence based on the severity of the crime, so also God will “recompense” everyone in accordance with the nature of “the transgression.” Got it? “The sin” of disbelief is what makes one guilty; the depth of “the transgression” determines the severity of his sentence.

Only those who believe the Truth of *The Teaching* will be declared not guilty on Judgment Day. That is a succinct statement of the Protestant doctrine that is commonly called “salvation by faith”—except for the fact that the “faith” that the *Living Word* of God demands is not the nebulous nonsensical “faith” in the sense of *that you believe*, but “faith” in the sense of *what you believe*. After all, it is impossible to believe nothing at all about God. Therefore, everyone believes something in that regard. But only those who believe the Truth of the *Living Word* of God that God has revealed concerning Himself in the Scriptures will be declared “not guilty” on that Great Day. And His declaration of “not guilty” will not be based on *doing*; it will be based on *being*, because we *are* what we believe.

## ***Surprise! His Children Are Liars Too!***

Now that I have explained why it is absolutely essential that you stringently avoid judging *the actions* of others according to some ridiculous standard other than belief in *The Teaching*, let me show you what Jesus said to His disciples immediately after He *ordered* them

not to judge people by any “judgment” or “measure” other than *The Teaching*. As you read what He said to them, keep in mind the fact that we are *talking about* how *The Accuser* and his dimwitted children exhibit a compulsive desire to control what others *say* and *do*:

*“But why do you see the ‘splinter’ in your brother’s ‘eye,’ and do not perceive the ‘timber’ that is in your ‘eye’? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the “splinter” out of your “eye,” and look! The ‘timber’ is in your ‘eye’! Hypocrite! First take the ‘timber’ out of your ‘eye,’ and then you will see clearly to take the ‘splinter’ out of your brother’s ‘eye.’”*

(Matthew 7:3–5) —my interim translation

Can you “see” what Jesus is *talking about* in that passage? He has in mind an arrogant individual who *thinks* he has a better understanding of the Truth than someone else. So he *thinks* that other person might be better able to “see” the Truth if he just removed a rather minor lie from that person’s “eye.” Jesus’ blunt assessment of that dumbness should be a warning to anyone here at the End who feels compelled to explain to others what he *thinks* he understands about *The Teaching*: Don’t. The risks that activity poses to your eternal soul far outweigh any transient boost to your ego.

After Jesus issues that cryptic warning to those who ignorantly aspire to be *spiritual* ophthalmologists, He explains yet another danger faced by those who try to “show what they know” by explaining *The Teaching*, in this case by explaining it to those who have not been “born again”:

*“Don’t give ‘the Holy’ to ‘the dogs,’ nor cast your ‘pearls’ before ‘the swine,’ lest they trample them with their feet and, turning, tear you to pieces.”*

(Matthew 7:6) —my interim translation

I trust that Jesus’ reference to unbelievers—Pretender or otherwise—as “pigs” did not go entirely unnoticed. Now that you know the Truth in that regard, I should probably ease my conscience a bit and confess that the only original idea I contributed to the *parabolic imagery* was the three-piece suit. I borrowed both the *parabolic image* of unbelievers as “pigs” and the *parabolic image* of them “dancing” to some religious retard’s ridiculous rhapsody from the two parables of Jesus that I have already shown you. But to tell the

Truth, I don’t feel at all bad about that plagiarism since Jesus borrowed most of the *parabolic images* He used from what Moses and the other Prophets of Israel said. Don’t worry, I’ll be sure to return everything I borrow—right after I wear it out.

After warning His disciples to be careful not to explain to unbelievers—Pretender or otherwise—the Truth that He explained to them privately, Jesus then admonishes them to strive to master the things in *The Teaching of Moses* that He has been teaching them:

*“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For whoever asks receives, and whoever seeks finds, and to whomever knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there of you, when his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or should he also ask for a fish, will give him a snake? Therefore, if you, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father—the One in Heaven—give good things to those who ask Him. Therefore, all that you want men to do to you, likewise you also do to them. For this is the Law and the Prophets.”*

(Matthew 7:7–12) —my interim translation

After urging His disciples to get their priorities in order and put first things first, Jesus then explains why they should always “seek” so as to “find” a complete understanding of “*The Way*”:

*“Go in through ‘the narrow gate,’ because wide is ‘the gate’ and broad is ‘the way’—the one leading into ‘the destruction’—and many are those who go in through it. For narrow is ‘the gate,’ and constricted is ‘The Way’—the one leading into ‘the life’—and few are those who find it.”*

(Matthew 7:13–14) —my interim translation

In saying “few are those who find it,” Jesus is referring back to what He said about the importance of seeking to understand the Truth of *The Teaching*. God will always respond by showing “*The Way*” to those who have an honest “love of the Truth.” He will never respond to those who merely *think* they have an honest “love of the Truth.” That is because the rabidly religious always have a much higher opinion of themselves than God does, which explains why True Believers need to carefully scrutinize the “teaching” of anyone who *claims* to understand the Truth of the Scriptures. Not everyone who *thinks* he understands the Truth actually does:

“Be on guard against the false prophets—those who come to you in sheep’s clothing but are vicious ‘wolves’ inside. You will recognize them by their ‘fruits.’ Surely grapes cannot be gathered from thorns, nor figs from briars, can they? Likewise, every good ‘tree’ makes fine ‘fruit;’ but the worthless ‘tree’ makes evil ‘fruit.’ A good ‘tree’ is not able to make evil ‘fruit,’ nor a worthless ‘tree’ to make fine ‘fruit.’ Every ‘tree’ not making fine ‘fruit’ is cut down and thrown into a fire. Accordingly, you will definitely recognize them from their ‘fruits.’ Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Your Majesty! Your Majesty!’ will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven—only the one who does the will of My Father in Heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Your Majesty! Your Majesty! Didn’t we prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name do many miracles?’ And then I will confess to them: ‘I never knew you. GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU WHO WORK “THE LAWLESSNESS.”’”  
(Matthew 7:15–23) —my interim translation

My point in showing you what Jesus says about those who merely *think* they understand the Truth is this: The Liar and his children will do whatever it takes to gain control over what you *think*, because Satan knows that what you *think* determines what you *say* and *do*. Therefore, he and his children will attempt to control what you *say* and *do* by changing *The Teaching*. They will then try to get you to accept their lying version of it. That is what happened to the Early Church. (See *The Voice of Elijah® Update*.)

Pretenders were able to lead the Early Church away from *The Teaching* because True Believers waited too long to stand up and be counted. That same thing will happen to you here at the End, if you are not careful to do exactly what Jesus admonished His disciples to do. “*The only Way*” you can identify Pretenders is by evaluating what they *say* and *do* in “*The Light*” of *The Teaching*. That is, you must carefully inspect their “fruit.” Don’t judge them and condemn *their actions*. Just make sure you can tell the difference between those who actually serve God and those who are just pretending:

*Then those who feared His Majesty will speak—each to his neighbor—and His Majesty will pay attention and hear. And a scroll of remembrance will be written before Him for those who fear His Majesty and for those who think about His Name. “And they will be Mine,” says His Majesty of*

*Hosts, “on a day when I make a possession; and I will spare them just as a man spares his son who serves him.” And you will again see {the difference} between one who is not guilty and one who is guilty—between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.  
(Malachi 3:16–18) —my interim translation*

## ***Prosecutor, Judge, Jury, and Hangman***

Someone once said the best defense is a good offense. It wouldn’t surprise me to discover the first person to come up with that concept was Satan. He has been using that tactic against the man from the very beginning. So you not only need to be aware that he is constantly attacking you, you also need to be able to use that knowledge to get out from under the control that he and his children seek to hold over you.

Let me put what I am about to say into context: The reason why you will find yourself in God’s court on Judgment Day is because Satan has gone on the offense and has *falsely accused* you of committing a heinous crime against the *Living Word* of God Himself. That is, Satan has asserted that you have, in *choosing* to believe his lie, *falsely accused* God of being a liar—which is exactly what you will have done if you do not believe the Truth of the *Living Word* of God.

Now you know why Satan has constantly worked to establish the lie that one must *do* something other than just believe the Truth of *The Teaching of Moses*. It is because the person who believes that lie has definitely called God a liar. The Truth of the *Living Word* of God is, God has never required anything of anyone other than their belief in *the promise* that He will transform them into His Own image and likeness if they *honestly* believe the *Living Word* of God that He is. Satan not only wants everyone to believe the lie that we must *do* something to deserve *the promise*, he also wants us to go one step further and thereby lock ourselves securely into his lie. Therefore, I must also tell you what he wants you to *do*.

I have already told you that one of the more distinctive characteristics of the children of Satan is their tendency to *falsely accuse* people—that is, to viciously accuse people without concern for the Truth. Another is their predilection to judge people and label *their actions* as either “right” or “wrong.” But there is a third and final link in the chain that Satan uses to keep his children in bondage, and he will use it to bind you as

well—if you let him. So pay attention; I am only going to say this once: After Satan’s children have falsely accused and judged someone, they seek to impose on them what they consider to be an appropriate penalty. They do that by *gossiping* about the person—by telling others all the “bad” things the person has done. Therefore, I must warn you to avoid doing that at all costs. If you go down that “road,” you will not return.

The Greek verb that denotes the activity I have in mind is one that used to be translated “blaspheme.” Nowadays, translators use other English words to translate it, but the Greek word still *means* the same thing it has always *meant*. It *means* “to disparage someone by telling others nasty things about them.” Some folks call that “slander”; others call it “gossip.” Whatever you call it, Jesus plainly warns you it is not the sort of thing you want to be caught doing:

*And the Pharisees and some of the scribes gathered around Him, having come from Jerusalem and having seen that some of His disciples were eating their bread with defiled—that is, unwashed—hands. (For the Pharisees and all the Jews, if they don’t carefully wash their hands, they don’t eat—holding on to the traditions of the elders. And {coming} from the marketplace, if they don’t baptize themselves, they don’t eat. But there are also many other things they have received to hold on to—baptizing cups and pitchers and copper {utensils}.) So the Pharisees and the scribes ask Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with defiled hands?” And He said to them, “Isaiah correctly prophesied concerning you hypocrites. As it is written:*

*‘THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS,  
BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR FROM ME.  
BUT THEY WORSHIP ME SENSELESSLY,  
TEACHING AS TEACHINGS COMMANDMENTS OF MEN.’*

*Rejecting the commandment of the {Living} God, you hold on to the tradition of men.” He was also saying to them, “{He did prophesy} correctly. You deny the commandment of the {Living} God so that you can confirm your tradition. For Moses said, ‘HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER’; and, ‘LET THE ONE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER BE PUT TO DEATH.’ But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or his mother, “Whatever you might have been helped by me is **corban** (that is, an offering).”’ You no longer allow him to do anything for his father or*

*his mother, invalidating the Word of the {Living} God by your tradition, which you have **handed down**. And you do many other such things.” And again summoning the crowd, He said to them, “All of you, listen to Me and understand: There is nothing outside of the man that is able to defile him by going into him. But the things that come out of the man are the things that defile the man. [If any man has ears to hear, let him hear.]” And when He went into a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him about the parable. And He says to them, “Are you also ignorant? Don’t you know that nothing that goes into the man from the outside can defile him, because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and it is eliminated in the toilet?” ({He was} declaring all foods clean.) And He was saying, “The thing that comes out of the man, that defiles the man. **For from within, from the heart of men, the evil thoughts come out—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, foolishness. All these evil things come out from within and defile the man.**”*

*(Mark 7:1–23) —my interim translation*

The point that Jesus was making on that occasion has to do with the fact that *what you believe* determines *who you are*. And *who you are* determines *what you do*. My point is, one of the “evil things” that Jesus mentioned in that list is *blasphemy*. That should tell you that disparaging someone in order to make sure they get what *you think* they have coming is not a very smart thing to do.

If you are practicing the pernicious praxis of peddling punishment, perhaps you should pause to ponder the presumption on which your precarious pursuit is predicated. You got into that nonsense by first calling God a liar. That is, you *chose* to believe the lie that God expects everybody to live according to some arbitrary “judgment” or “measure” other than belief in the Truth. You next *falsely accused* someone of “transgressing” the “law” that you ignorantly accepted as God’s “law.” Finally, you judged them, found them guilty, and sentenced them to being *blasphemed*—by you. Whereupon you immediately set out to impose their punishment on them. In short, you declared yourself to be God Himself—which is exactly what Satan will do when he appears in human form. Like father, like son; like mother, like daughter. Satan and his children all do the same despicably dumb deeds. ■



**T**he Voice of Elijah® includes this column to show you how some of the underlying parabolic images of the Gospel message of the Old Testament speak to the times in which we find ourselves. There are a variety of weather images to be found in the parables of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Most are associated in some way with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Recent events have finally revealed why the Antichrist would attack the cities of Tyre and Beirut (Berytus) immediately after the Jews accept him as their long-awaited messiah. In *The Advent of Christ and AntiChrist* (p. 178), Hippolytus says this:

*In those times, then, he shall arise and meet them. And when he has overmastered three horns out of the ten in the array of war, and has rooted these out, viz., Egypt, and Libya, and Ethiopia, and has got their spoils and trappings, and has brought the remaining horns which suffer into subjection, he will begin to be lifted up in heart, and to exalt himself against God as master of the whole world. And his first expedition will be against Tyre and Berytus, and the circumjacent territory. For by storming these cities first he will strike terror into the others, as Isaiah says, "Be thou ashamed, O Sidon; the sea hath spoken, even the strength of the sea hath spoken, saying, I travailed not, nor brought forth children; neither did I nurse up young men, nor bring up virgins. But when the report comes to Egypt, pain shall seize them for Tyre." [Isaiah 23:4-5]*

It is not completely clear from that text that Hippolytus is indicating the Antichrist will move first against "these cities" before he takes action against Egypt, Libya, and the Sudan. As I understand Isaiah 23:5, the Prophet is saying he will. All indications are, he will completely obliterate both Tyre and Beirut. I say that because of the indictment that God brings against him for doing what he is going to do:

*"Look! Presumption! His soul is not upright in him,  
But One not guilty will live in His belief!  
But surely, 'the wine' is going to betray an arrogant man,  
And he will not succeed,  
When he makes his soul wide like the Sea of El,  
And he is like Death. And he will not be satisfied,  
When he gathers to himself all the nations,  
And he collects to himself all the peoples.  
Will not these—all of them—pick up a parable against him?  
Even a mocking poem of riddles concerning him, and say,  
'Woe! How long until the one who increases by what is not his?  
One making himself rich with loans on himself?'  
Will not those who bite you rise up suddenly?  
And those who cause you to tremble awaken?  
So that you become spoils for them?  
When you yourself have plundered many nations,  
All the remnant of peoples will plunder you,  
Because of the blood of Adam and the violence of Earth—  
A 'village' and all who dwell in her.  
Woe! One who gains evil gain for his 'house,'  
To make his 'nest' on high,  
To deliver himself from the hand of evil!  
You devised a shameful plan for your 'house'—  
'Cutting off' many peoples!  
But your soul is sinning!  
Because a 'stone' will cry out from a 'wall,'  
And a 'beam' will respond from the 'woodwork.'  
Woe! One who 'builds' a 'city' with the blood {of many},  
And founds a 'town' in wickedness!  
Look! Is it not from His Majesty of Hosts,  
That peoples labor for nothing but fire,  
And nations grow weary for nothing but emptiness?  
Because the Earth will be filled  
With the knowledge of the glory of His Majesty,  
Like the waters cover the sea.  
Woe! One who makes his neighbor 'drink'—  
Who adds in your 'venom' and even 'intoxicates,'  
In order to gaze on their 'nakedness'!  
You have been satisfied with dishonor rather than glory.  
Drink! Even you, so that you expose your 'nakedness'!  
The 'cup' in the right hand of His Majesty  
will come around to you,  
And total dishonor will be above your 'glory'!  
**Because the violence of Lebanon will cover you,**  
And by the devastation of its 'beasts' you will terrify them,  
Because of the blood of Adam and the violence of Earth—  
A 'village' and all who dwell in her."  
(Habakkuk 2:4-17) —my interim translation ■*



**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:** In recent newsletters, you have been asked various questions about, and have discussed, the parabolic pantomimes of the Sabbath, tithing, and baptism. Since the Lord's Supper is one of two parabolic pantomimes that the Church is expected to conduct (along with baptism) and since you haven't yet discussed this symbolic ritual in detail, I would like to ask you about it now. Would you please explain the meaning and significance of the Lord's Supper and tell us what the True Believer is supposed to be reminded of when participating in this symbolic ritual?

**Elijah:** You have finally asked the one question that more than any other cuts to the heart of *The Apostolic Teaching*. That being the case, I assume we are getting rather close to the opening of the sixth seal and the tremendous "ingathering" of True Believers that will occur over the last few years of this Age. Let me put it this way: Just as baptism *parabolically* depicts the death and resurrection of the Believer "in Christ"; the Lord's Supper *parabolically* depicts the Believer's new life "in Christ." To understand how that is, however, one needs to know that, (1) we are what we believe, and (2) Jesus Christ is the *Living Word* of God Who can only be found in *The Teaching*.

Baptism *parabolically* represents the True Believer accepting *the promise* under the terms of the New

Covenant and dying to his old "way" of thinking so that he can now think "*The Way*" God thinks. The Lord's Supper depicts the True Believer coming to life in "*The Way*" God thinks after accepting the terms of the New Covenant and then continuing to participate in *the promise* of the New Covenant by believing the Truth rather than being "cut off from" *Corporate Israel*—the Body of Jesus Christ—by once again believing a lie.

The *parabolic imagery* on which the *parabolic pantomime* of the Lord's Supper is based is the Passover. The Passover lamb that was sacrificed under the Old Covenant *parabolically* depicted *Corporate Israel* dying as a communal sacrifice whose blood protected those in "*The House*" of Israel. According to the *parabolic imagery* of the Passover Parable, *Corporate Israel* *parabolically* died on that first Passover so that those "in Israel"—that is, those who had *parabolically* hidden themselves in "*The House*" of Israel by accepting the terms of the Old Covenant—might escape from Egypt and pass through death unscathed. But the *parabolic pantomime* of the Passover Parable is nothing more than a *parabolic* depiction of a *spiritual* reality True Believers are now able to experience because of the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ—*Corporate Israel*—the One Who is the Passover "Lamb" of God "in Whom" they are hidden.

Those *parabolic images* are essential to an accurate understanding of the *meaning* and *significance* of the Passover Parable. But before one can understand the Truth concerning the *meaning* and *significance* of the Lord's Supper, one must first jettison the most profound lie that Satan has ever been able to make "common knowledge." Once that lie is gone, the Truth will be able to stand alone—in all its radiant splendor. So let me briefly explain a very simple Truth that the children of the Liar will never be able to accept: You do not exist in your body or your "spirit," you exist in your soul. However, the characteristics of whatever "spirit" resides in you will determine whether the eternal existence of your soul is in life or in death.

Satan prefers that you believe you are nothing more than a *physical* being. That is the most ridiculous belief that anyone could ever latch onto. Especially so if they claim to be "Christian." The Truth is just as the Apostle Paul understood—the *physical* body is nothing more than a "house" or "tent" in which your soul—the person that you actually are—dwells. But if you are one of the fortunate few, God is going to transform your *physical* body into an eternal "house" made in His

Own image and likeness so that your *eternal* soul will not be “naked” and unprotected when you die:

*For we know that when our earthly “house” of the “tent” is torn down, we have a “building” from God—an eternal “building” not made with hands in the heavens. For in this one we do indeed groan, deeply desiring to “clothe” ourselves with our “housing”—the One from Heaven. So if we are “clothed,” we will not be found “naked.” For indeed we do groan—being burdened—while in this “tent,” because we do not want to be “stripped,” but to be “clothed,” so that “the death” might be swallowed up by “the Life.” But the One Who prepared us for this very thing is God—the One Who gave us the down payment of the Spirit. Therefore, always being confident and knowing that when {we are} at home in the body, we are away from the Lord. For we are “walking” through belief, not through what is seen. But we are confident, and we very much prefer to be away from the body and at home before the Lord. Therefore, we earnestly endeavor—whether at home or away—to be pleasing to Him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of the Christ so that each one may be paid back for the things he did through the body, whether good or bad.*

*(2 Corinthians 5:1–10) —my interim translation*

Now, I realize some lamebrained lunkhead is already screaming, “What you have said is not true! I’m a spirit!” Dumb response. Pseudo-intelligence based on “conventional wisdom” is a pathetically thin veneer when it comes to covering total ignorance. If one does not know what the ancient Greeks thought in regard to *pneuma*—that is, “spirit”—one cannot even begin to understand the message of the Scriptures. To understand “The Way” the Scriptures describe the relationship that exists between *pneuma* (“spirit”), soul, and body, you have to begin with the *parabolic image* in which the soul resides in the blood:

*“But as for any man from ‘The House’ of Israel or from the sojourners who sojourn among you who eats any blood, I will set My face against the soul of the one who eats the blood, and I will cut it {the soul} off from the midst of its people, because the soul of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it {the blood} for you on the altar to atone for your souls, because it is the blood with the soul that will atone. Therefore, I*

*said to the sons of Israel, ‘Every soul of you must not eat blood, and the sojourner who sojourns among you must not eat blood.’ But as for any man from ‘The House’ of Israel or from the sojourners who sojourn among you who hunts a beast or a bird that may be eaten, he must pour out its blood and cover it with dirt, because the soul of all flesh is its blood with its soul. So I said to the sons of Israel, ‘You must not eat the blood of any flesh, because the soul of every flesh is its blood. All who eat it will be cut off.’”*

*(Leviticus 17:10–14) —my interim translation*

The *parabolic pantomime* described in that passage has to do with God declaring that the “soul” of any person who eats blood becomes “one” with the “soul” that resides in the blood they have consumed. That’s why God said anyone who ate the blood of “a beast or a bird” would be “cut off from the midst of its people.” That person’s “soul” had been contaminated by being mixed with the “soul” of an inferior “flesh.” But that is all nothing more than *parabolic imagery* that God established through Moses to remind the sons of Israel concerning things in *The Teaching of Moses* that we cannot understand in any way other than *parabolically*. The purpose of the *parabolic imagery* is to describe how True Believers can become “one,” and remain “one,” with “The Man” Jesus Christ—which is what God explained to Noah when He *blessed* him in this passage:

*Then God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the Earth. Fear of you and terror of you shall be on every living thing of the Earth—on all the birds of the Sea of Waters, on all that crawls on the ground, and on all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they have been given. Every crawling thing that is alive shall become food for you. Just like the green plants, I have given everything to you. You most assuredly must not eat flesh with its soul—its blood. And, {just as} assuredly, I will require your blood for your souls. From every living thing I will require it. But from ‘The Man’—from each of His brothers—I will require the soul of ‘The Man.’”*

*The one who pours out the blood of ‘The Man,’ In ‘The Man’ his blood will be poured out.*

*Because in the image of God He will make ‘The Man.’*

*But as for you, be fruitful and multiply;*

*Swarm the Earth and multiply in it.”*

*(Genesis 9:1–7) —my interim translation*

The point of that passage is, God is going to require every man to cough up his soul—by “pouring out” his blood—at some point *in time*. Nobody is going to escape that inevitable demand. But there is one way to avoid the fate that awaits the “soul” of all the other members of the man Adam. The person who “pours out the blood of ‘The Man’”—parabolically “kills” “The Man” in order to offer Him as a sacrifice to God—will discover that “in ‘The Man’ his blood will be poured out.” That is, he will not have to “bear his own sin” and die as his own sacrifice.

Once again, Moses has concealed the *meaning* of the biblical text behind an idiom. An understanding of what God said to Noah is based on the fact that the expression “to pour out blood,” has both a *literal meaning* and an *idiomatic meaning*. The Hebrew idiom “to pour out blood” means “to kill a person” (Gen. 37:22; Num. 35:33; Deut. 19:10; 21:7; 1 Sam. 25:31; Is. 59:7; Ez. 22:3–12; 23:45; 36:18). But that same verb and noun are also used with a *literal meaning* when they refer to the priests “pouring out the blood” of a sacrifice at the base of the altar (Ex. 29:12; Lev. 4:7, 18, 25, 30, 34).

The *literal* and *idiomatic meanings* of the expression “pour out blood” are brought together rather nicely in Leviticus 17:4, where God tells the sons of Israel they will be held guilty of “blood,” that is, murder, if they have “poured out blood” by offering sacrifices anywhere other than at the Tabernacle:

*Then His Majesty spoke to Moses saying, “Speak to Aaron, and to his sons, and to all the sons of Israel, and say to them, ‘This is the Word that His Majesty has commanded, saying, “As for any man from the sons of Israel who slaughters an ox, or a lamb, or a goat in the camp—or who slaughters outside the camp—and has not brought it to the entrance of the tent of meeting to offer an offering to His Majesty before the Tabernacle of His Majesty, blood will be reckoned to that man—he has poured out blood—and that man will be cut off from the midst of his people, so that the sons of Israel will bring in their communal sacrifices that they are sacrificing over the field and bring them to His Majesty—to the entrance of the tent of meeting, to the priest—and sacrifice them as communal peace offerings to His Majesty. Then the priest will sprinkle the blood on the altar of His Majesty at the entrance of the tent of meeting and will make the fat a smoke offering for a soothing aroma to His Majesty. But they must not continue*

*sacrificing their communal sacrifices to the he-goats after whom they are practicing the **zonah** ritual. This will be for them a statute of ‘**olam** throughout their generations.’” But you must say to them, ‘As for any man—from “The House” of Israel or from the sojourners who sojourn among you—who offers up a burnt offering or a communal sacrifice and does not bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting to make it to His Majesty, that man will be cut off from his people.’”*  
(Leviticus 17:1–9) —my interim translation

We can talk about the *meaning* and *significance* of the *parabolic imagery* in that passage some other time. We are currently *talking about the meaning and significance* of the Lord’s Supper. As I told you above, God used both the *idiomatic* and the *literal meaning* of “to pour out blood” while speaking *parabolically* to Noah. His purpose was to cryptically explain the “Christian” doctrine of substitutionary atonement.

I put the word *Christian* in quotes because the *parabolic imagery* related to substitutionary atonement is part and parcel of *The Teaching of Moses*. So there is nothing at all distinctively “Christian” about it. *Corporate* Israel has always “carried the sin” of all the *individual* members of *Corporate* Israel. It’s just that after Jesus Christ—*Corporate* Israel—died under the curse of the Mosaic Covenant, there has no longer been any need for anyone to “carry sins.” That is, Christ died to “the sin” of unbelief for us, “once for all” as the Apostle Paul says in Romans 6:10 (cf. also Heb. 7:27; 9:12; 10:10). So from that point on, it has not been a matter of anyone “carrying sins” (plural) as far as God is concerned. It is instead about unbelievers accepting the fact that the Passover “Lamb” of God died on the cross so that their soul might be “saved” just by believing the Truth of the *Living Word* of God that He is and avoiding “the sin” of unbelief—which is where the *parabolic imagery* that Jesus used in this passage comes in:

*The next day, the crowd that had been standing on the other side of the sea saw that no other small ship was there except one, and that Jesus had not gone with His disciples in the small ship, but His disciples had gone away alone. But small ships from Tiberias came near the place where they ate the bread after the Lord gave thanks. Therefore, when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor His disciples were there, they themselves got into the small ships and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. And finding*

Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?" Jesus responded to them and said, "Without doubt! Without doubt! I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate from the bread and were satisfied. Don't 'work' for the food that spoils but for the 'food' that remains into eternal life—which the Son of 'the man' will give you, for the Father, the {Living} God, has 'sealed' this {One}." Therefore, they said to Him, "What must we do that we may work the works of the {Living} God?" Jesus responded to them and said, "**This is the 'work' of the {Living} God: That you believe into the One Whom that One sent.**" Therefore, they said to Him, "Then, what sign do You do so that we may see and believe You? What work do You do? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written: 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD FROM HEAVEN TO EAT.'" Therefore, Jesus said to them, "Without doubt! Without doubt! I say to you, Moses did not give you the 'Bread from Heaven,' but My Father is giving you the true 'Bread from Heaven.' For the 'Bread' of the {Living} God is the One Who comes down from Heaven and gives life to the world." Therefore, they said to Him, "Lord, give us this 'Bread' all the time!" Jesus said to them, "I am the 'Bread of Life.' The one who comes to Me will {never} be hungry, and the one who believes into Me will never be thirsty. But I say to you that although you have seen Me, yet you do not believe. Everyone the Father gives Me will come to Me, and I will definitely not throw out anyone who comes to Me, because I have come down from Heaven, not to do My Own will but the will of the One Who sent Me. But this is the will of the One Who sent Me: That I not lose any from Him He has given Me but {that} I raise it up on the last 'day.' For this is the will of My Father: That everyone who 'sees' the Son and believes into Him has eternal life, and {that} I raise him up on the last 'day.'" Therefore, the Jews were complaining about Him because He said, "I am the 'Bread' that came down from Heaven," and were saying, "Isn't this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can He now say, 'I came down from Heaven'?" Jesus responded and said to them, "Don't complain to one another! Nobody is able to come to Me unless the Father Who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last 'day.' It is written in the Prophets, 'AND THEY WILL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard the Father—and has learned—comes to Me, because no one has seen the

Father except the One Who is from the {Living} God. He has seen the Father. Without doubt! Without doubt! I say to you: The one who believes has eternal life. I am the 'Bread of Life.' Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and died. This One is the 'Bread' Who comes down from Heaven so that whoever eats from Him will not die. I am the 'Living Bread' Who has come down from Heaven. If anyone eats from this 'Bread,' he will live in the Age. But the 'Bread' I will give for the life of the world is also My flesh." Therefore, the Jews were fighting among themselves, saying, "How is this One able to give us His flesh to eat?" Therefore, Jesus said to them, "Without doubt! Without doubt! I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of 'the man' and you drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves. The one who munches on My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last 'day.' For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. The one who munches on My flesh and drinks My blood remains 'in Me' and I in him. Just as the Living Father sent Me and I live through the Father, so also is the one who munches on Me. That one will live through Me. This is the 'Bread' Who came down from Heaven, not like the fathers ate and died. The one who munches on this 'Bread' will live into the Age." He said these things in a synagogue, while teaching in Capernaum. (John 6:22–59) —my interim translation

It may or may not be obvious to you that when Jesus said those things, He was defining the *parabolic imagery* that stands behind the Lord's Supper. But it should be obvious to anyone but an absolute moron that He was speaking *parabolically* concerning the fact that eternal life comes through a knowledge of, and belief in, the Truth. However, the key to understanding what Jesus said about "drinking" His "blood" and "eating" His "flesh" lies in a knowledge of three very specific *parabolic images*: (1) the soul of a person resides in his blood; (2) the "spirit" in a person imparts knowledge to his soul as the blood passes through the heart; and (3) the makeup of the *pneuma* ("spirit") within a person is determined by the various "spirits" that he perceives on a daily basis through his five senses.

So, if the "spirit" from which a person's soul gains information is a lying "spirit," that soul may very well be deceived into believing a lie. But if the "spirit" that his soul perceives (*mentally "sees"*) is the "Spirit" of the

*Living* God, the soul has opportunity to believe the Truth and be saved. Under those circumstances, True Believers need to be careful to heed the admonition of the Apostle John:

*Loved Ones, don't believe every spirit, but prove the spirits—whether it {what is heard} is from God—because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this we know the Spirit of the {Living} God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that doesn't acknowledge Jesus isn't from the {Living} God. And this is the one of the one opposing anointing (whom you've heard is coming, and is now already in the world). You are from the {Living} God, Little Ones, and have conquered them, because greater is the One in you than the one in the world. They are from the world. Because of this, they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from the {Living} God. The one who knows the {Living} God listens to us. Whoever isn't from the {Living} God doesn't listen to us. From this we know the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of delusion.*

*(1 John 4:1–6)—my interim translation*

Anyone who understands the ancient Greek mind-set in regard to *pneuma* (“spirit”) is already aware of the things I just explained to you. But he may not also know that the Hebrew/Canaanite beliefs in regard to the interaction of the “spirit” and the soul entered the Greek mentality via the Phoenician (Canaanite) philosophers known as the Stoics. Therefore, the Old Testament mentality in regard to those things is exactly the same as the New Testament mentality.

If one knows that the ancients thought: (1) the “spirit” shares information with the soul as the blood passes through the heart, and (2) the person who eats blood becomes “one” with the soul that resides in the blood that he has eaten, the *parabolic meaning* of what Jesus said about “drinking” His “blood” should be obvious. That is, if your soul does not share all things in common with the “Spirit”—the image and likeness of the *Living* Word of God—that had been stamped on the soul of Jesus Christ, then you have not actually “drunk” His “blood.”

So the question then becomes, How does one go about *parabolically* “drinking the blood” of Christ so that his “spirit” becomes “one” with the “Spirit” of Christ and his soul lives forever? The answer to that question

is, in the same way that one “eats” His “flesh.” That is, a person becomes “one” with Christ by believing the same “Spirit” of the *Living* Word of God that He believed and taught. But I didn’t say that, He did:

*“The Spirit is what gives life; the flesh is no help whatsoever. The statements that I have spoken to you is Spirit and is life.”*

*(John 6:63)—my interim translation*

You most likely did not know that Jesus used bad grammar when He said that. Unfortunately, translators sometimes keep you from having direct contact with the original text because they are more interested in readability than reality. Jesus was just emphasizing the fact that His “statements” are not many *disjointed* “statements”; they are One *coherent* “Spirit.”

Now that you know what Jesus *meant* when He talked about you *parabolically* “eating” His “flesh” and “drinking” His “blood” in John 6:22–59, you also need to know what He said concerning the Passover meal known as the Last Supper:

*But the day of Unleavened Bread—on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed—came, and He sent Peter and John, saying, “Go! Prepare for us the Passover lamb so that we may eat.” But they said to Him, “Where do You desire that we should prepare {it}?” But He said to them, “Look! When you enter into the city, you will encounter a man carrying a pot of water. Follow him into the house into which he enters, and say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, “Where is the dining room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?”’ And that one will show you a large, furnished room upstairs. Prepare there.” So having departed, they found {it} just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover. And when the hour had come, He—and the disciples with Him—sat down to eat. And He said to them, “I have had a strong desire to eat this—the Passover—with you before My suffering; for I say to you that I certainly will not eat this until it is completed in the kingdom of the {Living} God.” And taking a cup {and} giving thanks, He said, “Take this and share among yourselves; for I say to you that I certainly will not drink from the fruit of the vine from now until the kingdom of the {Living} God comes.” And taking bread {and} giving thanks, He broke {it} and gave to them, saying, “This is My Body which is being given for you. Do this in remembrance*

of Me.” And likewise, {He took} the cup after eating, saying, “This cup is the New Covenant in My blood, which is being poured out for you.”

(Luke 22:7–20) —my interim translation

Jesus was alluding to the *parabolic imagery* related to two completely different Hebrew idioms when He referred to His Body being “given” and His blood being “poured out.” One is obviously the idiom “to pour out blood,” which I have already explained. The other is the idiom “to give a seed,” which is based on *parabolic imagery* in which the ancient Canaanites/Hebrews were “giving a seed” to Molech (“the king”) by first “raising up a seed” for Molech (“the king”) and then “giving” the child to Molech (“the king”) by burning him as a sacrifice, that is, by making him “pass through the fire” to Molech (“the king”). The point is, Jesus was *parabolically* referring to the same *parabolic imagery* that Moses used when he taught the sons of Israel the *meaning* and *significance* of the death of the Man—Corporate Israel—as the Passover Lamb of God.

The primary key to understanding the *parabolic imagery* that stands behind the Lord’s Supper is knowing that it derives its *parabolic imagery* from the *parabolic imagery* of the Passover. If you lose sight of that—as the Early Church did—the Lord’s Supper becomes just one more *meaningless* ritual that folks living in fantasyland take to be a legalistic means of gaining salvation. Therefore, to understand the Truth, you first need to go back and make sure you understand the *parabolic imagery* that I explained in *The Passover Parable*.

But you also need to know something I explained in *The Mystery of Scripture, Volume 1*. That first Passover was a covenant meal that involved the sacrifice of a communal sacrifice, which is sometimes called a “peace offering.” The sons of Israel ratified the Mosaic Covenant with God when they ate the Passover *before* they left Egypt. They renewed that covenant at least once before they arrived at Mt. Sinai (Ex. 15:25–26), and they renewed it again right before Moses went up the Mountain to *receive* the tablets on which God Himself had written the Ten Commandments (Ex. 24:1–8). The point of the *parabolic pantomime* that Jesus conducted at the Last Supper was just to say, “This New Covenant is LIKE that Old Covenant.”

I’ll let you guess what sort of *parabolic* “tablet” God wrote “the Law” on the second time around. In case you need a clue, check out this passage:

“Look! Days are coming,” declares His Majesty, “when I will cut a new covenant with ‘The House’ of Israel and ‘The House’ of Judah, not like the covenant that I cut with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out from the land of Egypt—My covenant, which they broke even though I was master over them,” declares His Majesty. “Because this is the covenant that I will cut with ‘The House’ of Israel after those days,” declares His Majesty, “I will put My Teaching within them, and I will write it on their heart. Then, I will be their God and they shall be My people. And they will not again teach—a man his friend and a man his brother—saying, ‘Know His Majesty,’ because all of them will know Me—from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares His Majesty, “because I will forgive their iniquity and I will not remember their sin again.” (Jeremiah 31:31–34) —my interim translation

As I explained in *The Mystery of Scripture, Vol. 1*, a distinctive characteristic of the Ten Commandments is the fact that they contain *The Teaching* of God. So if you put what Jeremiah said together with what Paul says in the following passage, it should be perfectly obvious that God’s purpose under the New Covenant is to “write” *The Teaching* on your “heart”—via the “Spirit” of the *Living Word* of God—so that the “Spirit” of the *Living Word* of God is constantly available to provide the Truth that your soul needs to be “saved”:

*Are we starting to commend ourselves again? Or do we not need, like some, letters of commendation for you or from you? You are our letter {of commendation}—inscribed in our hearts, known and read by all men—it being made apparent that you are a letter of Christ, having been served by us, having been inscribed not in ink, but in a “Spirit” of a Living God, nor in stone tablets, but in tablets of hearts of flesh. So we have such a confidence through Christ before the {Living} God. Not because we are adequate of ourselves to consider anything as from ourselves, but our adequacy is from the {Living} God, Who also made us adequate servants of a New Covenant—not of what is written but of a “Spirit.” For what is written kills, but the “Spirit” makes life. But if the serving of “the death” in what is written—engraved on stones—happened in glory, so that the sons of Israel were not able to look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face—“the useless”—how could the serving of the “Spirit” not be even more in glory? For if the serving*

of the condemnation was in glory, the serving of the declaration of not guilty abounds much more in glory. For what had been glorified in this case had not {actually} been glorified because of the glory beyond all comprehension. For if “the useless” is because of glory, what remains is much more in glory. Therefore, having such a hope, we employ much plain-spokenness, and are not like Moses. He used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the End of “the useless.” But their minds were hardened. For until this very day, the same veil remains on the reading of the Old Covenant—having not been unveiled, because in Christ it is made “useless.” But till today, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies on their hearts. But whenever he turns to His Majesty, the veil is taken away. But His Majesty is the “Spirit;” and freedom is wherever the “Spirit” of His Majesty is. **But we all—face unveiled, looking at the glory of His Majesty as a reflection in a mirror—are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just like a “Spirit” from His Majesty.**

(2 Corinthians 3:1–18) —my interim translation

When Paul says “the useless,” he is referring to the flesh of the *physical* body—which bears the image and likeness of Adam. “The End of ‘the useless’” that he has in mind is “the burning” that is going to occur at the End of this Age. That is, the man Adam is going to die at “the End” of the sixth “day” of Creation just as God said he would if he ate from the tree in the Garden (Gen. 2:17). But that is not essential to a general understanding of what Paul says.

Paul’s point in the passage above is concerned with how one gets from abject ignorance of the Truth to COMPLETE insight into *The Apostolic Teaching*, which is the “Spirit” of the *Living* Word of God that God is. The True Believer does that by having the outlines of that “Spirit” inscribed on his heart when he repents and believes the Gospel, which is the introduction to *The Apostolic Teaching*.

Once the Believer has been “born again,” he must then “look intently at” the reflection of that “Spirit” that he is now able to “see” in the *parabolic imagery* of *The Apostolic Teaching* that he hears taught. If he does that, he will be “transformed from glory to glory, just like a ‘Spirit’ from His Majesty.” That is, he will lose the “glory” of the *physical* body in which his soul now dwells and take on the “glory” of the *spiritual* body into which his *physical* body will be transformed at the

Resurrection of the Righteous. That change from the “glory” of the *physical* body to the “glory” of the *spiritual* body is what Paul is talking about in this passage:

But someone will say, “How are the dead raised? And in what kind of body do they come?” Fool! What you sow is not made to live unless it dies. And what you sow, you do not sow as the body it will become, but a naked kernel of perhaps wheat or some of the rest. But the {Living} God gives it a body just as He desired, and to each of the seeds its own body. **All flesh is not the same flesh; but one is of men, and another a flesh of beasts, and another a flesh of birds, and another a flesh of fish. Also, {there are} heavenly bodies and earthly bodies: but the glory of the heavenly {bodies} is different than that of the earthly {bodies}. {There is} one glory of sun, and another glory of moon, and another glory of star, for star differs from star in glory. Just as also the resurrection of the dead: It {the body} is sown in decomposition; it is raised incapable of decomposition. It is sown in disgrace; it is raised in glory.** It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a soul-body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a soul-body, there is also a spiritual {body}. Just as also it is written: “The first MAN—Adam—BECAME A LIVING SOUL.” The last Adam {was transformed} into a life-giving Spirit. However, the spiritual {body} is not first, but that of the soul; then the spiritual {body}. The first “man” is from the Earth; the second “Man” is from Heaven. As the {body} of dirt, so also are the {bodies} of dirt; and as the heavenly {body}, so also are the heavenly {bodies}. And just as we have borne the image of the {body} of dirt, we will also bear the image of the heavenly {body}. But I say this, brothers, because flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, neither {can} the decomposition inherit what is incapable of decomposition. Look! I am telling you a mystery: We will not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in a blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For it will sound, and the dead will be raised incapable of decomposition, and we will be changed. For this—the decomposing—must clothe itself with what is incapable of decomposition, and this—the mortal—must clothe itself with immortality. But when this—the decomposing—has clothed itself with what is incapable of decomposition, and this—the mortal—has clothed itself with immortality, then the written Word will occur:

“THE DEATH’ HAS BEEN SWALLOWED in victory.  
WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY, DEATH?

WHERE IS YOUR STING, DEATH?"

But the sting of "the death" is "the sin." And the power of "the sin" is "the Law." But thanks to the {Living} God, Who is giving us the victory through our Lord—Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of His Majesty, knowing that your labor is not {in} vain in His Majesty. (1 Corinthians 15:35–58) —my interim translation

You need to get the *parabolic imagery* firmly fixed in your mind: When Jesus ate the Last Supper with His twelve disciples, He was ratifying the *second* New Covenant with them. That was *parabolically* LIKE God ratifying the *first* Old Covenant with the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel on that first Passover. The only difference between those two covenants lay in the fact that what the sons of Israel did in *parabolic pantomime* to escape "the death," the disciples of Jesus Christ had to do in reality. That is, they *literally* had to become "one" with *Corporate* Israel by "eating" His *parabolic* "flesh" and "drinking" His *parabolic* "blood." If one cannot "see" that the *parabolic* "flesh" and *parabolic* "blood" of the resurrected Christ are nothing other than the *Living* Word of God that He is, that person has quite obviously never "eaten" His *parabolic* "flesh" nor "drunk" His *parabolic* "blood." That is, they have not yet *chosen* to believe the "Spirit" of Truth that Jesus Christ is:

*But there was a man, one of the Pharisees, whose name was Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This one came to Him at night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a Teacher, for nobody would be able to do these signs that You do if the {Living} God were not with Him." Jesus responded and said to him, "Without doubt! Without doubt! I say to you: If one has not been engendered from above, he is not able to see the Kingdom of the {Living} God." Nicodemus says to Him, "How is a man who is old able to be engendered? He is not able to enter into his mother's womb a second time and be engendered!" Jesus responded, "Without doubt! Without doubt! I say to you: If someone has not been engendered from water and Spirit, he is not able to enter into the Kingdom of the {Living} God. Whatever has been engendered from the flesh is flesh, and whatever has been engendered from the Spirit is Spirit. Don't be amazed because I said to you, 'You have to be engendered from above.' The Spirit 'blows' where He wants to, and you hear His voice; but you don't know where He comes from*

*and where He goes. Thus is everyone who is engendered of the Spirit." Nicodemus responded and said to Him, "How are these able to be engendered?" Jesus responded and said to him, "You are a teacher of Israel and you don't know these things? Without doubt! Without doubt! I say to you that We speak what We know, and We testify to what We have seen, and you do not receive Our testimony. If I said earthly things to you and you do not believe, how will you believe if I say heavenly things to you? And nobody has ascended into Heaven except the One Who descended from Heaven—the Son of 'the man.' And just as Moses raised high the serpent in the wilderness, so also must the Son of 'the man' be raised high, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life." (John 3:1–15) —my interim translation*

In that encounter, Jesus was mocking Nicodemus' ignorance in regard to *The Teaching of Moses* by telling him *precisely* how one goes about being "engendered from above." That is, a person merely has to listen to and "receive Our testimony" when the "Spirit" of the *Living* Word of God "blows" and "testifies" concerning the evidence God is going to bring against him on Judgment Day. It is just as simple as that. But the *instantaneous* result of that simple act of repentance and belief is an absolutely phenomenal *experience*.

It's like this: When a soul believes the Gospel—the introduction to the *Living* Word of God—the basic outlines of the image and likeness of that "Spirit" are impressed on his soul and he is "engendered from above" in the image and likeness of the *Living* Word of God he has *chosen* to believe. His soul is then able to share in the life of the "Spirit" of God because a soul has constant contact with whatever "spirit" it has *chosen* to believe. But immediately after the "new birth," the "Spirit" of the *Living* Word of God begins working within the person to transform him into the COMPLETE image and likeness of the *Living* Word of God that God is. That is what Paul is *talking about* in this passage:

*Therefore, I implore you brothers, through the mercies of the {Living} God, to present your bodies as a living, holy sacrifice, well-pleasing to the {Living} God—your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this Age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you prove that which is the good, and well-pleasing, and complete will of the {Living} God. (Romans 12:1–2) —my interim translation*

I'll let you figure out how the renewing of *your* mind is supposed to occur. But I will tell you it is not going to happen to you if you keep speculating concerning the Truth and continue listening to whatever "spirit" makes you feel most comfortable. That is, if you do not have the absolute "love of the Truth" that Paul talks about in the following passage, you have about as much chance of making it into Heaven as a snowball has of making it into Hell:

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

*(2 Thessalonians 2:1–12) —my interim translation*

Now that I have shown you the basic texts that lie behind an understanding of the *parabolic imagery* of the Lord's Supper, let me show you what Paul said in that regard:

*But if anyone has a tendency to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the congregations of the {Living} God. But by giving this instruction, I do not praise,*

*because you do not gather for the better but for the worse. For, indeed, first of all, when you gather in a congregation, I hear divisions exist among you, and I believe part {of what I hear}. For there must be heresies among you so that those who are approved are apparent among you. Therefore, when you gather together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, for each one takes his own supper first during the eating, so one is hungry and another is intoxicated. For do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you look down on the congregation of the {Living} God and humiliate those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I praise you? In this, I do not praise. For I received from His Majesty what I also handed over to you—that His Majesty, Jesus, in the night in which He was handed over, took bread, and having given thanks, He broke {it} and said, "This is, of Me, the Body which is for you. Do this in My memory." Likewise also the cup, after eating, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink, in My memory." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you are proclaiming "the death" of His Majesty until He comes. Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of His Majesty unworthily, will be liable for the Body and the blood of His Majesty. But a man must prove himself and so eat from the bread and drink from the cup. For the one who eats and drinks judgment to himself, eats and drinks not carefully evaluating the Body. Because of this, many among you are weak, and feeble, and a considerable number sleep. But if we carefully evaluated ourselves, we would not be judged. But being judged by His Majesty, we are being disciplined so that we may not be condemned with the world. For this reason, my brothers, when you come together, during the eating wait for each other. If anyone is hungry, he must eat at home, so that you do not gather in judgment. But I will make arrangements for the remaining things when I come.*

*(1 Corinthians 11:16–34) —my interim translation*

I'll let you try to figure out what Paul is *talking about* in that passage. It has to do with the fact that the bread and the congregation (*Ekklesia*) of Believers are both *parabolic* depictions of the Body of Jesus Christ—the Passover sacrifice of God. Judgment slips into the mix when someone in "the Body of Christ" *parabolically* "eats" the "bread" with "leaven." It's like Paul says, there will always be those in the Body of Christ who believe "heresies," but, unfortunately, some things in

The Teaching are not for the consumption of anyone who “has a tendency to be contentious.” Earlier, Paul explained those things *parabolically*:

The “cup” of the blessing which we bless? Is it not a sharing of the “blood” of Christ? The “bread” which we “break”? Is it not a sharing of the “Body” of Christ? Because we—the Many—are One “Bread,” One “Body.” For we are all sharing from the One “Bread.” Look at the “Israel” according to the flesh: Are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers of the altar? Therefore, what am I saying? What is something sacrificed to an idol? Or what is an idol? Rather, they sacrifice what they sacrifice to demons and not to God. And I do not want you to become sharers of demons. You cannot “drink” the “cup” of His Majesty and a “cup” of demons! You cannot share in the “table” of His Majesty and a “table” of demons!  
(1 Corinthians 10:16–21) —my interim translation

**Editor:** In the January 2006 issue of the newsletter (“Questions & Answers,” pp. 21–22) you pointed out that there were only three things the Apostles instructed Gentile Believers in the Early Church to avoid doing (as opposed to things they should do) and those things are mentioned in Acts 15:20, 29. Why did the Apostles consider these specific things to be so important for gentile Believers to abstain from?

**Elijah:** You caught me—again. When I reread that passage, I realized James doesn’t list just three things to avoid; he mentions four. Here is Luke’s account:

But the whole crowd stopped talking, and they were listening to Barnabas and Paul explaining what signs and wonders the {Living} God had done among the Gentiles through them. But after they stopped talking, James responded, saying, “Men—brothers—listen to me: Simeon has explained how the {Living} God was first concerned about taking—from Gentiles—a ‘people’ for His ‘Name.’ And in this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written,  
‘AFTER THESE THINGS I will return,  
AND I WILL {ONCE} AGAIN “BUILD” THE “TENT” OF DAVID  
—THE ONE WHO HAS “FALLEN”—  
AND HER DEMOLISHED ONES I WILL “BUILD” AGAIN,  
AND I WILL RESTORE HER,  
SO THAT THE REST OF THE MEN MAY SEEK HIS MAJESTY,  
EVEN ALL OF THE GENTILES FROM THEM

WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED BY MY “NAME,”  
SAYS HIS MAJESTY,  
WHO MAKES THESE THINGS KNOWN FROM FOREVER.  
**Therefore, I decide {that we} not make it difficult for those turning to the {Living} God from the Gentiles, but {that we} write to them to stay away from the ceremonial pollution {derived from} the idols, and the sexual immorality, and the strangled, and the blood. For Moses has those from older generations who preach him in every city—being read every Sabbath in the synagogues.”**  
(Acts 15:12–21) —my interim translation

First of all, I should tell you that James’ primary concern is not what gentile Christians *must not do* to be saved. He is merely making the suggestion that gentile Christians would cause less trouble for themselves by going out of their way to avoid offending the older generation of Jews who have not become Christians. That’s *why* he makes that last statement. But the thing that most translations gloss over completely is the fact that the four things James mentions are all subparts of just one thing. That is, they are examples of things that would make a Jew ceremonially “unclean.” So James is suggesting that gentile Christians *voluntarily* refrain from doing things for which a Jew would have to be ritually cleansed. The fundamental issues in that regard are brought out more fully in this passage:

And after these days, we made preparations. We went up to Jerusalem, and the disciples from Caesarea also came along with us, bringing the one with whom we had been lodging—Mnason of Cyprus, an older disciple. And when we came to Jerusalem, the brothers welcomed us gladly. And the next day, Paul went in with us to James—but all the elders were present. And after embracing them, he was explaining in detail what the {Living} God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. And those who heard were glorifying the {Living} God, but they said to him, “You see, brother, how many thousands of those who believe are among the Jews, and all {the unconverted Jews} are zealots of the Law? But they have been informed concerning you that you are teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles an apostasy from Moses—telling them not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs. Therefore, what is? They will undoubtedly hear that you have come. **Therefore, do this—what we tell you: We have four men who have a vow on them;**

*take these, purify yourself along with them, and pay the expenses for them so that they may shave their heads. And everyone will know that what they have been informed concerning you is nothing, but you yourself also live in conformity—guarding the Law. But we wrote concerning the Gentiles who have believed, having decided that they guard themselves against what has been sacrificed to idols, and blood, and what has been strangled, and sexual immorality.”* Then Paul took the men the next day, purified himself with them, went into the Temple, publicly announcing the completion of the days of purification until the offering had been offered for each one of them.

(Acts 21:15–26) —my interim translation

As you can see, the Apostles made a distinction between Jewish Believers and gentile Believers. Many Jewish Believers continued to observe Jewish customs; but they did not require Gentiles to do so. As a matter of fact, in his letter to the Galatians, Paul warns gentile Christians that they face some rather dire consequences if they become a Jew by being circumcised. But I’ll explain those things some other time.

Now that you brought the issue up, let me point out the obvious. We already know *why* James mentions the Jews being offended by anyone contaminated by “blood.” It was because Moses taught that the soul was in the blood (Lev. 17:11). The meat of anything strangled was taboo for exactly the same reason—the throat of the animal had not been cut so that the blood could be drained from the flesh. So those prohibitions were clearly nothing more than *parabolic pantomimes* that were abolished when the New Covenant replaced the Old.

In the following passage, Paul plainly agrees with the concern that James expresses, but he also teaches that a True Believer has no need to worry about being contaminated by eating anything offered to idols:

*Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without questioning for the sake of the conscience, FOR THE EARTH AND ITS FULLNESS BELONG TO THE LORD. If one of the unbelievers invites you and you want to go, eat everything that is set before you without questioning for the sake of the conscience. But if one should say to you, “This is meat sacrificed to idols,” do not eat—for the sake of the one who disclosed and for the sake of the conscience. But I say “conscience”—not your own, but the other. For why should*

*my freedom be judged by another man’s conscience? If I share in favor, why should I be blasphemed for what I give thanks? Therefore, whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do, do everything to the glory of God. And be {a source of} “not stumbling” to Jews, to Gentiles, and to the assembly of the {Living} God, just as I also please everyone in everything, not seeking what is advantageous to me but to “the Many,” so that they would be saved.* (1 Corinthians 10:25–33) —my interim translation

Now that I have explained why three of the four things that James mentions are no longer valid concerns for gentile Christians, I am absolutely convinced some myopic moron is already salivating like a rabid dog, just waiting for the opportunity to insist that Christians have to abstain from “sexual immorality” to be saved. To that dimwit I say, “Just keep thinking those happy thoughts.” You can abstain from sexual immorality until Hell freezes over and that will not do you one whit of good on Judgment Day—if you do not know, and believe, the Truth. Belief *in the Truth* is what saves; unbelief is “the sin” that kills.

So, do True Believers have to abstain from sexual immorality to be saved? Of course not! True Believers are completely free from all constraints. They can do whatever they *want* to do. But the True Believer who “steps over” the line into sexual immorality will quickly find that he is no longer free. That is, he will discover he is once again locked in bondage to the flesh, because he will have confessed by his actions that he does not really believe:

*Finally then, brothers, we ask and implore you in His Majesty Jesus, so that just as you received from us how you are to “walk” and to please God, so also you are “walking” so that you may abound even more. For you know what charges we gave you through His Majesty Jesus. For this is the will of the {Living} God—Your sanctification: (1) that you hold back from sexual immorality; (2) that each of you know how to maintain possession of his own “container” in sanctification and honor; not in lustful desire—just like the Gentiles who do not know the {Living} God; (3) that he not step over {the line} and, by the deed, take advantage of his brother, because His Majesty is an avenger concerning all these things, just as we also told you before and strongly warned. For the {Living} God did not call us for the purpose of uncleanness but in*

sanctification. For that reason, the one who rejects is not rejecting a man but the {Living} God—the One Who is giving His Holy Spirit to you.

(1 Thessalonians 4:1–8) —my interim translation

**Editor:** A lot of “Christians” like to quote Psalm 23 (no doubt because they find it comforting) yet most probably have no idea what the psalm means. Would you please explain what Psalm 23 is talking about and also explain what is significant about “the valley of the shadow of death,” if anything?

**Elijah:** The Prophet who wrote the Twenty-Third Psalm wrote it as a tribute to “The Man” he knew God was one day going to create in His Own image and likeness and then crown as King over all Creation. I tend to think the Prophet Ezekiel wrote it immediately after his confrontation with the elders in Ezekiel 20. I say that because both passages speak in terms of the same *parabolic imagery*, and both authors use similar phraseology. But the Prophet Isaiah could have just as easily written the psalm right after he wrote Isaiah 66.

No matter who wrote Psalm 23, he divided it into two parts. In the first half of his psalm, he uses *parabolic imagery* based on the ancient concept of the king as “the shepherd” of his “people”:

*A Psalm to {Messianic} David:*

*His Majesty is My Shepherd;*

*I will not lack.*

*He will make me lie down in lush meadows;*

*He will lead me beside tranquil waters.*

*He will restore my soul;*

*He will guide me in paths of what is right*

*For the sake of His “Name.”*

(Psalm 23:1–3) —my interim translation

In the last three lines of this first half of his psalm, the Prophet is *talking about* how the Lord will restore his soul by guiding him in “The Way” of the Lord—The Teaching of Moses. Having said that, he then turns his attention to the *parabolic imagery* of the Passover Parable and begins to speak in terms of his soul “walking in The Way” that the soul must follow to make it through the realm of the dead and enter the Resurrection of the Righteous:

*Even when I walk in the valley of the Shadow of Death,  
I will not fear evil,*

*Because You are with me.*

*Your scepter and Your staff, they will calm me.*

*You will prepare before me a table*

*in the presence of my enemies;*

*You will anoint my head with oil;*

*My cup is overflowing.*

*Surely goodness and lovingkindness*

*will pursue me all the days of my life;*

*And I will dwell in “The House” of His Majesty forever.*

(Psalm 23:4–6) —my interim translation

The *parabolic imagery* in this second half of the psalm is concerned with the Lord keeping the soul of the deceased alive by providing the food and water it needs to survive as it follows “The Way” through the realm of the dead. The Prophet says “all the days of my life” just to let you know that he knows those things are nothing more than *parabolic imagery* that depicts his current situation. The point of the psalm is, the Prophet is firmly committed to remaining a member of “The House” of God no matter what comes his way.

Just as an aside, Jesus had this psalm in mind when He said the following about Himself as “the Good Shepherd” Who not only shows His “sheep” “The Way” back to Heaven but also “lays down” His soul for them so that their souls might be restored:

*“Without doubt! Without doubt, I say to you, the one who does not come in through the ‘Door’ into the ‘fold’ of the ‘sheep,’ but comes up another ‘way,’ that one is a thief and a robber. But the One who comes in through the ‘Door’ is the ‘Shepherd’ of the ‘sheep.’ The ‘Doorkeeper’ opens to this One, and the ‘sheep’ listen to His voice. He calls His own ‘sheep’ by name and leads them out. When He drives out all His own, He goes before them; and the ‘sheep’ follow Him because they know His voice. And they will not follow a stranger, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus spoke this proverb to them, but they did not know what it was that He was saying to them. Therefore, Jesus again said to them, “Without doubt! Without doubt, I say to you, I am the ‘Door’ of the ‘sheep.’ All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the ‘sheep’ did not listen to them. I am the ‘Door’! If anyone goes in through Me, he will be saved; and he will go in, and go out, and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to sacrifice,*

*and to destroy. I came so that they might have life, and they might have an abundance. I am the 'Good Shepherd.' The 'Good Shepherd' lays down His soul for the 'sheep.' And the 'hired hand,' who is not a 'shepherd,' whose 'sheep' are not his own, sees the 'wolf' coming and leaves the 'sheep' and flees, and the 'wolf' snatches and scatters them, because he is a 'hired hand,' he is also not concerned about the 'sheep.' I am the 'Good Shepherd.' And I know My Own; and My Own know Me. Just as the Father knows Me, I also know the Father. And I lay down My soul for the 'sheep.' I also have other 'sheep' who are not from this 'fold.' I must also guide them, and they will listen to My voice, and they will become one flock—One Shepherd. Because of this, the Father loves Me—because I lay down My soul, so that I may receive it again. Nobody takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to receive it again. This is the commandment I received from My Father.”*  
(John 10:1–18)—my interim translation

In talking about how He is going to “lay down” His soul for His “sheep,” Jesus has explained what the Prophet meant when he said this in Psalm 23:

*He will restore my soul;  
He will guide me in paths of what is right  
For the sake of His “Name.”*  
(Psalm 23:3)—my translation

For the benefit—or detriment—of those who still don’t understand, let me explain what Jesus was *talking about*. There is only one “way” your soul is going to be restored; and that is if you hear the voice of the Good Shepherd and let Him guide you in “*The Way*.” If you have not yet heard that “voice,” you might want to consider the distinct possibility that you are not one of His “sheep.”

**Editor:** *Do you think there is much hope of many folks being born again between now and the End? Since most Evangelists today aren’t preaching the true Gospel, should True Believers be praying for God to raise up legitimate Evangelists before the End, or will this most likely occur as a result of God “pouring out His Spirit” in the Last Days? Do you think it is likely that one of the two witnesses—the one (parabolically) called “Enoch”—will be an Evangelist?*

**Elijah:** In light of the fact that—as I understand my responsibility as a Teacher—I am supposed to focus solely on teaching True Believers, and I am not to engage in evangelizing the lost, I would encourage every True Believer to pray that God would call not just one Evangelist, but a thousand. The current crop of God’s Evangelists are a sorry lot. Most have already succumbed to Satan’s lies and are either off “pastoring” a church somewhere—teaching Believers *inside* the Church rather than preaching the Gospel to unbelievers *outside* the Church—or else they are preaching such a watered-down version of the Gospel that even a genius would have a hard time gaining enough Truth from them to be saved. The sad fact is, more truth concerning the “new birth” can be found in a good book on systematic theology than in the preaching of most “evangelists” today.

As far as whether there will be many saved before the End is concerned, I am absolutely convinced that we are on the verge of a revival the likes of which the Church has never experienced before. When God begins to work, Paul says that anyone who calls on “*The Name*” of the Lord will be saved (Rom. 10:13). But I doubt that there will be very many in the Church other than those who are already “saved” who will even be aware of what God is about or what He is doing here at the End.

My personal view of the current situation is, Michael has not yet stood up to rescue God’s People (Dan. 12:1). But when that mighty messenger of God finally does arise, I am just as absolutely convinced that it will be obvious to True Believers. The guilty will remain in a total daze, wandering around, telling everybody what *they think*, while those who have been declared not guilty—those who have insight into the Truth—will be galvanized into action. I have seen signs over the past six months that tell me something big is in the offing (that’s an idiom), but I have no way of knowing what it is. But I am just as sure some goofy goose or gander is certain she or he can tell me.

As far as “Enoch” is concerned, I learned a long time ago not to speculate concerning the Scriptures. Either a text is clear because you understand the author’s mind-set and train of thought, or it is confusing because you lack insight into something he understood. So I can only tell you that those who *think* they know such things will undoubtedly discover way too late that they knew nothing at all. ■