



THE VOICE of ELIJAH

Restoring the hearts of the fathers to the children

"The Day of the Lord" Is the Seventh Day of Creation

The character of these times learn, along with the Thessalonians. For we read: "How ye turned from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus." And again: "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord God, Jesus Christ, at His coming?" Likewise: "Before God, even our Father, at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, with the whole company of His saints." He teaches them that they must "not sorrow concerning them that are asleep," and at the same time explains to them the times of the resurrection, saying, "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus shall God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of our Lord, shall not prevent them that are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we be ever with the Lord."

What archangel's voice, (I wonder), what trump of God is now heard, except it be, forsooth, in the entertainments of the heretics? For, allowing that the word of the gospel may be called "the trump of God," since it was still calling men, yet they must at that time either be dead as to the body, that they may be able to rise again; and then how are they alive? Or else caught up into the clouds; and how then are they here? "Most miserable," no doubt, as the apostle declared them, are they "who in this life only" shall be found to have hope: they will have to be excluded while they are with premature haste seizing that which is promised after this life; erring concerning the truth, no less than Hyggellus and Hermogenes. Hence it is that the Holy Ghost, in His greatness, foreseeing clearly all such interpretations as these, suggests (to the apostle), in this very epistle of his to the Thessalonians, as follows: "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, there is no necessity for my writing unto you. For ye yourselves know perfectly, that the day of the Lord cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, 'Peace,' and 'All things are safe,' then sudden destruction shall come upon them."

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A Note From the Editor

We have seen major progress in 2025—far beyond what we could have envisioned a year ago. The HSSB App is on the verge of being alpha tested in-house; blog posts for 18 articles from *The Voice of Elijah*® have been created and are scheduled for publication; *The Way, The Truth, The Life* video is soon to be released digitally; Raquel Reynolds was added to our team, and, as a result, major improvements have been made in our outreach/marketing efforts; and our AI audio voice for the October issue of *The Voice of Elijah*® is a near dead-ringer to Larry Harper's voice—something we have been working toward for quite some time and will use going forward.

To help you better appreciate what the Lord is doing in these Last Days, I invite you to take a look at how we got here. This upcoming August marks the 60th year since God called and Larry Harper answered. If you are new to *The Voice of Elijah*®, I recommend you read Larry's autobiography, *God Called; I Answered* (available at voiceofelijah.org). In it you will learn about Larry's walk with the Lord, beginning when he was 12 years old—long before he began writing articles for *The Voice of Elijah*®, publishing books, and translating the Scriptures. It details the progression from his new birth to his calling; from his education to gaining insight into the Scriptures; from his recognition of the need for a standardized translation to the inception of his ministry. You will also learn how personal computing changed everything regarding his ability to translate (and standardize) an English text of the Scriptures.

I will begin with a quote from the back cover of *God Called; I Answered*, and then show you various quotes from what Larry has written about his walk with the Lord:

This is the inspirational, often riveting, story of how a 12-year-old farm boy's vow to the Lord in a moment of pure joy turned into a life-long search for an accurate understanding of the meaning and significance of the Scriptures. Taking the reader from his childhood in the Oklahoma/Texas Panhandle, into the military, then on to college, seminary, doctoral studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and finally, to his ongoing research and writing, Harper reveals why he has never wavered from his belief that the Lord called him through a supernatural event that occurred on August 17, 1966.

What others saw as a vague relationship between the Old and New Testaments, I began to see in detail. But I could also see that mental images of physical objects, not theological concepts or biblical themes, informed the words I read. The text of the Scriptures seemed to be speaking in terms of those images; and I could see how all of the images fit together to form a beautiful tapestry that portrays the Person and work of Jesus Christ.
God Called; I Answered, Larry D. Harper, p. 192

I could see from the outset that my understanding of the Scriptures depended to a large extent on knowledge of the culture and beliefs of the people

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Let Me Tell You a Secret or Two ... Maybe Three

Over the past thirty-five years, I have gradually, in bits and pieces, revealed my understanding of my calling, the message of the Scriptures, and the white-hot hatred the *Living God* harbors for those who *choose* to reject, twist, and distort the Truth that Christ *handed down* to His disciples as *The Apostolic Teaching*. Over that span of time, I have not been shy about telling you not only *that* God called me to do what I am doing but also *why* He called me to do it. Along “*The Way*,” I have explained various parts of the Seven Sealed Messages the Prophets hid in the text of the Hebrew Scriptures; but I have done it in such a way as to make it difficult for anyone but the most dedicated to put even one of those Seven Messages together into a coherent whole. That was intentional on my part. But I told you the following in the October 2025 issue of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter:

Over the span of six months or so in the summer and fall of 2018, the topic of Communism never left my mind. It was like a constant drumbeat resonating in my head. Consequently, for the January 2019 issue of The Voice of Elijah® newsletter, I wrote an article titled “Wanna Hear ANOTHER Whopper the Liar Came Up With? (I’m Certain You Won’t Believe It!)” In that article, I gave you an account of the ideologies that stand behind Christianity, Capitalism, and Communism. At the time, I assumed I had laid the topic to rest; but I was wrong. It reared its ugly head again just a few months ago, so I decided to revisit the topic and give you a bit more insight into how the habitually lying Snake Satan has been working to erode the freedom of religion protection that was codified in the Constitution of the United States some 250 years ago. ...

Now that the current administration has declassified rock-solid evidence that former President Barack Obama, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former CIA Director John Brennan, former FBI Director James Comey, and former DNI Director James Clapper colluded in a plot that was essentially a “coup” against the incoming Trump administration in 2016, I am going to explain why you may want to take what I wrote in 2019 as a bit of insight into what God has planned for this country going forward. It doesn’t matter to me one way or another what you choose to believe. But it does matter to me whether I fulfill my calling by warning you about what is headed our way. So I am going to tell you what I believe and why I believe it.

In July 2018—which was a full two years after then CIA Director John Brennan briefed then President Barack Obama as to the fact that Hillary Clinton was going to use a fake dossier to smear Donald Trump in her campaign for President—I began to experience an incessant mental compulsion to research, and ultimately distribute, information regarding what Communists have been doing in the United States. The article I wrote for the January 2019 issue of The Voice of Elijah® newsletter was the result of what I came to understand.

What caught my attention in my quest for the Truth was the fact that two of the perpetrators—of what I could easily see at the time was a hoax—readily admitted they had at one time identified as Communists. But after hearing Hillary Clinton and various other people begin to advocate for “packing the court” and doing away with the Electoral College, I realized what Communists had stated in the past was actually true. They fully intended to take down the Constitutional form of government we have here in the United States and replace it with a one-party system in which our Constitutional freedoms would be taken away and replaced by a Supreme Court issuing decrees

created by fiat. In other words, they were working to bring about a time when the United States would be effectively governed by a nine-member panel of Communist Supreme Court justices who could not only override any legislation the President and members of Congress passed, they could also interpret the Constitution to mean anything they wanted it to mean.

When I was able to see what the Communists were trying to do, I assumed it was just a matter of time before they achieved their objectives and made every True Believer here in the United States a target to be eliminated, just as the Uyghurs are targeted in Communist China and the stateless Rohingya Muslims are targeted in Myanmar next door. But my beliefs in that regard changed dramatically when the intelligence community in the current administration exposed the Communist conspiracy of the movers and shakers in the Obama administration. While current leaders do not attribute that corruption to the fact that the perpetrators are Communists, I can clearly see that reality for what it really is; therefore, I am going to explain where all this is headed.

("Fear of the Lord Is Just the Beginning of Wisdom; Acting on It Is Proof," **The Voice of Elijah**®, October 2025, pp. 3, 7–8)

Then I went on to tell you:

The current circumstances in this country have been brought about by the "winds" doing their best to use ignorant Communist believers to bring down the "edifice" the Living God is currently in the process of "building." (Ibid, p. 8)

After that, I went on to explain the meaning and significance of Revelation 12 by pointing out the parabolic imagery found in that chapter. I told you that passage describes how God Himself has prepared the United States of America as the place where the freedom of religion enshrined in the Constitution will ensure His People are "fed" with the restored Teaching of Moses during the final three-and-a-half years at the End of the Age. Then I pointed out Matthew 24:35–51, where Jesus Himself said an individual would come along at that time and do that very thing. Finally, I told you the Truth regarding Revelation 18:1–10, where John the Revelator describes how the sixth "day" of Creation is going to end:

The Truth is, the biblical Book of Revelation is an account of what God is currently in the process of doing to usher in the seventh "day" of Creation by once and for all wiping out the nonsensical belief that He is Someone other than the angry, jealous God that Moses describes in the Pentateuch. The Jews have so completely bought into Satan's lie in that regard that they cannot see the Hebrew Scriptures plainly state their ancestors made the third Old Covenant totally null and void by "turning away from" the Truth every time a Prophet restored it. Therefore, God called John the Baptist to offer the first New Covenant to the individual members of Corporate Israel before "cutting off" everyone but Jesus Christ "from" that Corporate Body when Jesus accepted the terms of that Covenant.

Unfortunately, all too soon after the Apostles established the Church under the terms of the third New Covenant, the leaders of the Church did exactly the same thing the ancestors of the Jews had done so many times before: They "turned away from" the Truth. Should you doubt that, you may want to consider the fact that I am not the first to make the claim that leaders of the Early Church lost the Truth; the leaders of the Protestant Reformation did that for me more than five hundred years ago, as anyone with even a smattering of knowledge regarding their claims should know full well. I'm just repeating their accurate assertions.

The Final Days of the End of the Age are rapidly winding down, so God called me to explain things that only those who still have a wee bit of desire to know the Truth will ever accept as true. Everyone else will hide themselves in the extremely believable lie that Satan is preparing, just as Isaiah tells us in Isaiah 28 and the Apostle Paul confirms in 2 Thessalonians 2.

So let me lay it out for you: There is no greater lie than the monstrosity that all lamebrained Communist-indoctrinated members of The Harlot living on Planet Earth delusionally want to believe. That lie vehemently states, "there is no God." Yet no matter how many fools ignorantly want to believe that, the Truth regarding their current situation is just as John describes it in Revelation 18. (Ibid, pp. 10–11)

Most Folks Are Deaf and Dumb

If you have gotten thus far in reading, or listening to a recording of, this article, you may be one of those "lost sheep" the Lord is seeking to round up and gather in here at the End of the Age. On the other hand, you

are most likely just one of the “lookie-loos” who want to “know” the latest new thing so they can take what they “know” and “show what they know” by telling others. It doesn’t matter which one of those two you are; you will demonstrate who you are by how you react to what I am about to tell you.

You see, the Communists are just the most dim-witted of all us dimwits who inhabit this hard-rock prison on which we are serving a life sentence. The Truth is, even the most “intelligent” and “knowledgeable” among us are stupid to the core. I didn’t say that; the Prophet Jeremiah did—a couple of times. He says this:

¹⁴**[Every] [Descendant of Adam] [is stupid],**
[far from a Knowledge of the Truth];
 [Every] [Refiner] [will be put to shame]
 [because of a Graven Image],
 [Because] [His Cast Image] {is} [a Falsehood],
 [And [a Spirit Wind] {is} not] [in them].
¹⁵**[They are] [a Delusion]—**
[What [Mockers] Have Made];
 [They will go to Hell] [at {the} Time] [of their Levy].
 (Jeremiah 10:14–15) —my interim translation

¹⁷**[Every] [Descendant of Adam] [is stupid]—**
[far away from a Knowledge of the Truth].
 [Every] [Refiner] [will be put to shame]
 [because of a Graven Image],
 [Because] [His Cast Image] {is} [a Falsehood],
 [And {there is} no] [Spirit Wind] [in them].
¹⁸**[They {are}] [a Delusion]—**
[What [Mockers] Have Made].
 [They will go to Hell] [at {the} Time] [of their Levy].
 (Jeremiah 51:17–18) —my interim translation

By making *exactly* the same statement in *exactly* the same way, Jeremiah wants his reader to know he is *talking about exactly* the same thing in both passages. Therefore, we can with confidence put the contents of those two passages together as one coherent whole. But did you notice the context in which Jeremiah made those statements? No? How could you miss it?! Let me point it out for you. He is *talking about* folks who are stupidly worshiping gods they have made—that is, gods that don’t exist except in the miserable minds of mendacious morons. You didn’t catch that? Jeremiah puts it right out in front of his reader when he refers to religious leaders as “shepherds”:

[Because] [The Shepherds] [are stupid]
 [And do [not] diligently seek] [His Majesty];
 [Therefore] [they have [not] gained insight],
 [And all] [of their Pasture] [has been dispersed].
 (Jeremiah 10:21) —my interim translation

So now that you know Jeremiah is *talking about* theological beliefs that are nothing but a pack of lies, I am going to show you the larger context in which the two passages above occur. I’ll begin with Jeremiah 10, where Jeremiah immediately starts off *talking about* the stupidity inherent in folks making *physical* things in which they claim the “spirit wind” of a god resides. Make note of how he obliquely refers to *The Way of Moses* and then the theological beliefs of the Gentiles as “statutes” they “have to do”:

¹[Listen to] [The Word] [that] [His Majesty] [has spoken] [about you], [O House] [of Israel]! ²[This is what] [His Majesty] [has said]:

“[Do [not] learn] [{the} Way] [{of the} Gentile Peoples],
[And [do [not] be intimidated] because of {the} Signs of]
[The Sea of Waters]
[When] [The Gentile Peoples] [are intimidated]
[because of them],
³**[Because] [The Statutes of] [The Peoples]**
[are] [a Delusion],
 [Because] [they cut down] [a Tree] [from a Forest]—
 [What [{the} Hands of] [a Craftsman] Make]
 [with a Hatchet].

⁴[They make {them} attractive] [with Silver]
 [and with Gold];
 [They strengthen them] [with Nails] [and with Mallets]
 [So that it does [not] waver].

⁵[They are] [like a Palm-tree] [{in} a Cucumber Patch],
 [So they can [not] speak];
 [They [always] have to be carried],
 [Because] [they can [not] march].
 [Do [not] be afraid] [of them],
 [Because] [they can [not] do bad things],
 [And [Nothing] can [even] make [them] do good things!"]

⁶[Because there is no one] [like You], [Your Majesty];
 [You are] [great], [and [Your Name] {is} great],
 [with Powerful Energy].

⁷[Who] [would [not] fear You],
 [{The} King] [of The Gentile Peoples],

[When] [it is fitting] [for You];
 [Because] [among all] [{the} Wise Men of]
 [The Gentile Peoples],
 [And in all] [their Kingdoms],
 [There is no one] [like You]!
⁸**[They are [altogether] stupid] [and imbecilic].**
 [A Tree] [is] [an Admonishment] [of Delusions],
⁹[Silver] [that has been stamped out] [is brought]
 [from Tarshish],
 [And Gold] [from Uphaz]—
 [What [a Craftsman] [and {the} Hands of] [a Refiner]
 Have Made].
 [Their Garments] {are} [Blue] [and Purple]—
 [All of them] {are} [What [Wise Men] Have Made]!
¹⁰[But His Majesty] {is} [{the} [true] God];
 [He {is}] [a [Living] God] [and an [eternally burning]
 King].
 [The Earth] [will quake] [because of His Wrath],
 [And Gentile Peoples] [will [not] be able to endure] [His Fury].

¹¹[You will state {it}] [for them] [like this], “[Gods]
 [who] [did [not] make] [{the} Sea of Waters] [and {the}]
 Earth] [will go to Hell], [away from {the} Earth] [and
 out from] [under] [these], [The Sea of Waters].”

¹²[{The} One Who made] [{the} Earth]
 [by His Power],
 [{The} One Who prepared] [The World]
 [by His Wisdom],
 [And stretched out] [{the} Sea of Waters]
 [by His Understanding],
¹³[With {His} Voice], [He put]
 [A Large Amount] [of Water] [in The Sea of Waters].
 [He brings up] [Carriers] [from {the} End] [of The Earth].
 [He makes] [Flashes of Lightning] [for {the} Rain],
 [And He brings out] [a Spirit Wind] [from His Storehouses].
¹⁴**[Every] [Descendant of Adam] [is stupid],**
 [far from a Knowledge of the Truth];
[Every] [Refiner] [does something shameful]
 [because of a Graven Image],
[Because] [His Cast Image] {is} [a Falsehood],
[And [a Spirit Wind] {is} not] [in them].
¹⁵**[They are] [a Delusion]—**
 [What [Mockers] Have Made];
[At {the} Time] [of their Levy], [they will go to Hell].
¹⁶[Jacob’s] [Share] {is} [not] [like these],
 [Because] [He is] [the One Who formed] [The Entirety],
 [And Israel] {is} [The Branch] [of His **Inheritance**].

[His [Supreme] Majesty] {is} [His Name].
¹⁷[Round up] [Your Belongings] [out of {the} Earth],
 [{You} who are dwelling] [during {the} Siege]!
¹⁸[Because] [this is what] [His Majesty] [has said]:

“[Guess what! I am] [going to sling
 [{the} Inhabitants of] [The Earth] out]
 [At [this] Time].
 [Then I will bind them up]
 [So that] [they can be found].
¹⁹[I have] [Woe] [on account of] [My Brokenness]!
 [My Wound from an Attack] [is torment].
 [So I] [said], ‘[This] {is} [definitely] [Torment],
 [But I must bear it].’
²⁰[My Tent] [has been vanquished],
 [And all] [My Tent Ropes] [have been snapped];
 [My Sons] [have gone out of Me]
 [and there is not any of them].
 [There is not [any longer] any] [one stretching out]
 [My Tent]

[And raising up] [My Tent Curtains].
²¹**[Because] [The Shepherds] [are stupid]**
[And do [not] diligently seek] [His Majesty];
[Therefore], [they have [not] gained insight],
[And all] [of their Pasture] [has been dispersed].
²²[{The} Sound] [of a Message]:
 [Guess what!] [It is coming]—
 [A [great] Earthquake] [from {the} Land] [of **Zaphon**]—
 [To turn [{the} Cities of] [Judah] into]
 [A Desolate Area], [a Haven] [of Jackals].”

²³**[I know], [Your Majesty],**
[That] [His Way] [does [not]
 belong to {the} Descendants of Adam],
[Nor] [to {the} Man] [who walks]
 [and prepares] [his Pace].
²⁴[Admonish me], [Your Majesty],
 [But] [with a Decision Based on the Truth];
 [Never] [in Your Anger],
 [Lest] [You reduce me to nothing].
²⁵**[Pour out] [Your Rage]**
[On] [The Gentile Peoples] [who] [do [not] know You]
[And on] [Families] [who] [do [not] call out]
 [in Your Name];
[Because] [they consumed] [Jacob]
[So that they could consume Him] [and finish Him off].
[But] [they have devastated] [His Habitat].
 (Jeremiah 10:1–25) —my interim translation

Did you notice the Lord *talks about* the Tabernacle and laments the fact that He has no sons to set it up? He is mocking religious fools who have no idea the Hebrew Scriptures are an account of how God has gone about “building a house” for Himself. You know, “*The House*” that Jesus has in mind when He says what He says in John 2:13–22; “*The House*” that Peter has in mind when he says what he says in 1 Peter 2:1–10; “*The House*” that God has in mind when He says what He says in 2 Samuel 7:8–16; “*The House*” that Isaiah has in mind when he says the following in Isaiah 66:

¹[This is what] [His Majesty] [said]:

[“The Sea of Waters] {is} [My Throne],
[And The Earth] {is} [a Footstool] {for} [My Feet]!
[Where] {is} [this] [House] [that]
[you would build] [for Me]?
[And where] {is} [this] [Place] [of My Resting Place]?
²[But] [My Hand] [made] [all] [These Things],
[So [all] [These Things] will come into being!”
[declares] [His Majesty].
“[But [I will look] for] [this one]:
[For] [one who is humble] [and wounded]
[of Spirit Wind],
[And trembling] [because of] [My Word].”
(Isaiah 66:1–2) —my interim translation

The fools in charge of the Church today are “shepherding” morons who *think* they are the Children of God. Nary a one of them has any idea that it is impossible to be a Child of God if one does not bear His image and likeness, and none of them has a clue as to what the image and likeness of God actually is. So they certainly do not understand the *meaning*, or the *significance*, of the following two verses:

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

If you have been following what I have written and recorded over the past three decades, you should already know the image of God is the Truth of the Word that He is. You should also know you can only bear the image of God if you believe the Truth of the Word that He is. If you know those things, you should also know we are living at the end of the sixth “day” of Creation, with the dawn of the seventh “day” rapidly bearing down on us. If you know those things, you are also well aware of the fact that very little time remains for God’s Children to prepare for the awesome revelation of the Glory of God, which is precisely what Jeremiah has in mind when he mentions the stupidity of morons in the following passage. Just keep in mind he is *talking about* the “city” that John the Revelator refers to as “Mystery Babylon” in the Book of Revelation, where he quotes several things that Jeremiah says here:

¹[This is what] [His Majesty] [has said]:

“[Guess what! I] [am going to wake up] [{the} Spirit Wind] [of a Destroyer] [against] [Babylon]
[And against] [{the} things dwelling in]
[{the} Heart] [of those who rise up against Me].
²[And I will send] [Strangers] [into Babylon],
[So that they will winnow her] [and wither] [her Land]
[Because] [those [from {the} Area Around] will be]
[against her] [on a [bad] Day].
³[Do [not] let [the one who flexes] [his Bow] flex {it}],
[And do [not] let him get up] [in his Breastplate].
[And do [not] take pity] [on] [her Chosen Sons];
[You must put [her [entire] Army] under the ban]
⁴[So that [Those Who Have Been Polluted] fall]
[in {the} Land] [of {the} Chaldeans];
[And those who have been stabbed], [in her Streets],
⁵[Because] [Israel] [and Judah] {are} [not] [a Widower]
[Because of his God]—[because of]
His [Supreme] Majesty—
[Because] [their Land] [will become fully]
[a Guilt Offering]
[Because of {the} Holy One] [of Israel].
⁶[Flee] [out of The Midst of] [Babylon],
[And [Each One] help [his Soul] escape]!
[Do [not] be paralyzed] [by her Reprehensible Activity],
[Because] [it is] [His Majesty’s] [Time] [of Vengeance];
[He] [is going to settle up by giving [her] back]
[What She Deserves].”
⁷[Babylon] {is} [a [gold] Cup] [in [His Majesty’s] Hand],

[One that is getting [The [entire] Earth] drunk].
 [{The} Gentile Peoples] [have drunk] [some of her Wine];
 [Therefore], [{the} Gentile Peoples] [praise themselves].
⁸[Babylon] [will fall] [suddenly] [and be broken].
 [Wail] [over her]!
 [Take] [Balm] [for her Pain];
 [Perhaps] [she can be healed]!
⁹[We could try to heal] [Babylon],
 [but she will [not] be healed];
 [Abandon her], [and let [Each One] go]
 [to his own Land].
 [When] [her Judgment] [makes contact]
 [with] [The Sea of Waters]
 [And rises up] [as far as] [Dust Clouds],
¹⁰[His Majesty] [will issue]
 [our Declaration of Not Guilty]:

“[Come]! [So that we may recount] [in Zion]
 [The Things that [His Majesty], [our God], Has Done]!”

¹¹[Purify] [The Arrows]! [Fill] [The Small Shields]!
 [His Majesty] [will wake up]
 [The] [Spirit Wind] [of {the} Kings of] [Media],
 [Because] [His Intention] [for] [Babylon] {is}
 [to destroy her],
 [Because] [His Majesty's] [Vengeance] [is]
 [Vengeance] [{for} His Temple]:
¹²“[Raise up] [an Ensign] [on] [{the} Walls of] [Babylon]!
 [Strengthen] [The Guard]!
 [Get up] [those who stand guard]!
 [Prepare] [those who set ambush]!
 [Because] [His Majesty] [not only] [intends to],
 [But also] [is going to, do]
 [What] [He has spoken] [against]
 [{the} Inhabitants of] [Babylon]:
¹³[You reside] [on] [many] [Waters],
 [{With} more than enough] [Treasures].
 [Your End] [is going to come];
 [Your Ill-gotten Gain] {is} [{the} Unit of Measure].”
¹⁴[His [Supreme] Majesty] [has sworn an oath]
 [against His Soul]:
 “[If] [I fill You [Descendants of Adam] with {something}]
 [like a Nymph Locust],
 [Then] [they will sing antiphonally] [over You]
 [{with} a Cheer].”
¹⁵[{The} One Who made] [{the} Earth] [by His Power],
 [{The} One Who prepared] [The World]
 [by His Wisdom]

[And [stretched out] [The Sea of Waters]
 by His Understanding].
¹⁶[He put] [a Large Amount] [of Water]
 [in The Sea of Waters] [with His Voice];
 [Then [Fog] came up] [from {the} End] [of {the} Earth].
 [He made] [Flashes of Lightning] [for {the} Rain]
 [And made [a Spirit Wind] come out] [of His Storehouses].
¹⁷[Every] [Descendant of Adam] [is stupid]—
 [far away from a Knowledge of the Truth].
 [Every] [Refiner] [will be put to shame]
 [because of a Graven Image],
 [Because] [His Cast Image] {is} [a Falsehood],
 [And {there is} no] [Spirit Wind] [in them].
¹⁸[They {are}] [a Delusion]—
 [What [Mockers] Have Made].
 [They will go to Hell] [at {the} Time] [of their Levy].
¹⁹[Jacob's] [Share] {is} [not] [like these],
 [Because] [He is] [{the} One Who formed]
 [The Whole Thing];
 [So {the} Scepter] {is} [His Inheritance].
 [His [Supreme] Majesty] {is} [His Name].
²⁰“[You are] [My] [War Club]—[My Weapon of] [War],
 [So I will pulverize] [{the} Gentile Peoples] [with You],
 [So I will destroy] [Kingdoms] [with You],
²¹[So I will pulverize] [{the} Horse]
 [and {the} one who rides him] [with You],
 [So I will pulverize] [{the} Chariot]
 [and {the} one who rides it] [with You],
²²[So I will pulverize] [Man] [and Woman]
 [with You],
 [So I will pulverize] [Old Man] [and Young Person]
 [with You],
 [So I will pulverize] [Chosen Son] [and Virgin]
 [with You],
²³[So I will pulverize] [{the} Shepherd] [and his Herd]
 [with You],
 [So I will pulverize] [{the} Farmer] [and his Pair {of oxen}]
 [with You],
 [So I will pulverize] [Governors] [and Officials]
 [with You].
²⁴[So I will settle up by giving back] [to Babylon]
 [And to all] [{the} Inhabitants of] [Chaldea]
 [Every] [Bad Thing they Did]—
 [What] [they did] [to Zion] [in your Sight],”
 [Declares] [His Majesty].
²⁵“[Guess what! I am] [against You], [O Mountain]
 [of The Destroyer]—

[The Destroyer] [of The [entire] Earth],"
[Declares] [His Majesty].

"[So I will stretch out] [My Hand] [against You],
[And roll You away] [from] [The Crag],
[And turn You] [into a [burning] Mountain].
²⁶[And they will [not] take] [out of You]
[A Stone] [for a Corner] [or a Stone] [for Foundations],
[Because] [You will be] [an [eternally burning]
Desolate Area],"
[Declares] [His Majesty].

²⁷"[Raise up] [an Ensign] [in {the} Earth]!
[Blow] [a Trumpet] [among {the} Gentile Peoples]!
[Make [{the} Gentile Peoples] [against her] holy]!
[Make [{the} Kingdoms] [against her] listen]—
[Ararat], [Minni], [and Ashkenaz]!
[Appoint] [over her] [Someone Who Records Things]!
[Bring up] [a Horse] [like a [bristly] Nymph Locust].
²⁸[Make [{the} Gentile Peoples] [against her] holy]—
[{The} Kings of] [Media], [her Governors]
[and] [all] [her Officials],
[And] [{the} [entire] Land] [{under} his Control]."
²⁹[Then [The Earth] will quake] [and go through labor]
[When] [{the} Thoughts of] [His Majesty] [rise up]
[against] [Babylon]
[To turn] [{the} Earth]—[Babylon]—[into Something
Devastated], [without] [Inhabitant].
³⁰[{The} **Gibbors** of] [Babylon] [will stop] [fighting];
[They will stay] [in Fortresses];
[Their Valor] [will be extremely parched];
[They will become] [Women];
[They will have set] [her Residences] [on fire];
[Her Crossbars] [will have been broken].
³¹[A Runner] [will run] [to meet] [a Runner];
[And one who tells {something}], [to meet]
[one who tells {something}]
[To tell] [{the} King] [of Babylon] [that] [his City]
[has been captured] [at last].
³²[Even The Fords] [will have been taken hold of];
[They will have burned] [The Wetlands] [with Fire],
[And {the} Men of] [The War] [will be frightened].
³³[Because] [this is what] [His [Supreme] Majesty],
[God of] [Israel], [has said]:

"[{The} Daughter] [of Babylon] {is}
[like a Threshing Floor].
[{The} Time] [{when} He will tread on her] {is}

[still] [a little while],
[But [her] [Harvest] [Time] is going to come].
³⁴[Nebuchadnezzar] [king] [of Babylon] [will eat Me]—
[he will cause confusion in Me];
[He will set Me down] [an [empty] Container];
[He will swallow Me] [like {the} Sea Serpent];
[He will fill] [his Tummy] [with My Dainty Things];
[He will rinse out the blood {of My sacrifice}]."
³⁵[{The} One Who dwells in] [Zion] [will say],
"[My Malicious One] [and My Remnant] {are}
[against] [Babylon]."
[Jerusalem] [will say], "[My Blood] {is}
[on] [those who dwell in] [Chaldea]."

³⁶[Therefore], [this is what] [His Majesty] [has said]:

"[Guess what! I am] [going to argue] [Your Legal Case],
[And I will take] [Vengeance for You].
[Then I will dry up] [her Sea]
[and dry out] [her Wellspring].
³⁷[Then [Babylon] will become] [Piles of Water]—
[a Haven] [of Sea Serpents],
[Something Devastated] [and a Derision]
[without] [Inhabitant].
³⁸[They will roar] [together] [like Alpha Lions];
[They will yelp] [like {the} Cubs of] [Lionesses].
³⁹[During their Heat], [I will set up]
[their Celebratory Feasts]
[And get them drunk], [so that] [they are jubilant];
[Then they will sleep] [an [eternally burning] Sleep]
[and never] [wake up]."
[Declares] [His Majesty].

⁴⁰"[I will bring them down] [to be slaughtered]
[like Young Rams],
[Like Rams] [along with] [Billy Goats]."

⁴¹[How] [will [Sheshak] be captured],
[And [{the} Praise of] [The [entire] Earth] be taken hold of]?
[How] [will [Babylon] become] [Something Devastated]
[by Gentile Peoples]?

⁴²"[The Sea] [is going to come up] [over] [Babylon];
[She will be completely covered] [by {the} Large Amount]
[of its Waves].

⁴³[Her Cities] [will become] [Something Devastated],
[A [parched] Earth] [and a Desert Plain],
[A Land] [in which] [never] [any] [Man] [will dwell]

[And [through which] [a Son] [of Adam] will [never] pass].

⁴⁴[So I will levy] [against] [Bel] [in Babylon],

[And I will bring [What he Has Swallowed]
out] [of his Mouth],

[And [Gentile Peoples] will [never] stream
into him] [again].

[{The} Walls of] [Babylon] [are [also] going to fall].

⁴⁵[Come out] [of her Midst], [My People],

[So that [Each One] helps [his Soul] escape]

[From [His Majesty's] burning] [Anger].

⁴⁶[So lest] [you become fainthearted] [and are afraid]

[When [{the} Message] is heard]

[throughout {the} Earth],

[The Message] [will come] [in {one} Year];

[And after that], [The Message] [in {another} Year].

[Maliciousness] {will be} [throughout {the} Earth],

[And one who has authority] {will be}

[against] [one who has authority].

⁴⁷[Therefore], [guess what!] [{The} Days] [are coming]

[When I will levy] [against] [{the} Graven Images of]
[Babylon]

[And The Entirety] [of her Land] [will be ashamed].

[Then all] [of Those Who Have Been Polluted by her]
[will fall] [in her Midst].

⁴⁸[The Sea of Waters] [and {the} Earth]—

[even everything] [that is] [in them]—

[Will shout joyfully] [over] [Babylon],

[When] [those who vanquish] [come] [to her]

[from **Zaphon**],”

[Declares] [His Majesty].

⁴⁹[Not only] [is [Babylon] {going} to fall] [along with]

Those [in Israel] Who Have Been Polluted],

[But also] [Those Who Have Been Polluted] [throughout]

The [entire] Earth [will fall] [along with Babylon].

⁵⁰[You who escape] [from {the} Sword] [must go]!

[Do [not] stand still]!

[Remember] [His Majesty] [from a long way away],

[And bring [Jerusalem] up] [on] [your Heart].”

⁵¹[We are ashamed] [because] [we have heard about]
[a Disgrace];

[Humiliation] [has covered] [our Faces]

[Because] [Strangers] [have come in]

[To] [{the} Sanctuaries of] [{the} House] [of His Majesty].

⁵²[Therefore], [guess what!] [Days] [are coming],”

[Declares] [His Majesty],

“[When I will levy] [against] [her Graven Images],

[And [Those Who Have Been Polluted]

throughout her entire] [Land] [will groan].

⁵³[When] [Babylon] [has come up to] [The Sea of Waters],

[And when] [she has made [{the} Highest Point]

[of her Strength] inaccessible],

[Those who vanquish] [will come] [to her] [from Me],”

[Declares] [His Majesty].

⁵⁴[{The} Sound] [of an Outcry] {is going to come}

[out of Babylon];

[And [a large amount] of Brokenness],

[from {the} Land] [of {the} Chaldeans],

⁵⁵[Because] [His Majesty] [is going to vanquish]

[Babylon]

[And send [{the} [loud] Sound] {coming} [out of her]
to Hell].

[Their Waves] [will raise a ruckus] [like [many] Waters];

[It will cause] [{the} Sound] [of a Clamor].

⁵⁶[When] [One Who Vanquishes] [comes] [upon her]—

[upon] [Babylon]—

[Then [her **Gibbors**] will be captured];

[Their Bows] [will be intimidated]

[Because] [His Majesty] {is} [{the} God]

[of What Is Deserved];

[He will settle up] [completely].

⁵⁷“[So I will get [her Commanding Officers]

[and her Wise Men] drunk]—

[Her Governors] [and her Officials] [and Her **Gibbors**]—

[So that they sleep] [{the} Sleep of] [a Burning Eternity]

[and never] [wake up],”

[Declares] [The King]; [His [Supreme] Majesty]

{is} [His Name].

⁵⁸[This is what] [His [Supreme] Majesty] [has said]:

“[The [widespread] Walls of] [Babylon]

[will be [completely] stripped away],

[And her [high] Gates] [will be set] [on Fire],

[When [Peoples] have gotten tired of]

[more than enough] [Emptiness],

[And [Kinfolk] have grown weary of]

[more than enough] [Fire].”

⁵⁹[The Word] [that] [Jeremiah] [commanded]

[Seraiah] [Son] [of Neriah], [Son] [of Mahseiah], [when he

went] [to Babylon] [with] [Zedekiah] [King] [of Judah] [in

the fourth] [Year] [of his reign as king]—[when Seraiah] {was} [Commanding Officer] [of {the} Resting Place].
⁶⁰[Then [Jeremiah] wrote] [every] [Bad Thing] [that] [would come] [upon] [Babylon]—[all] [These] [Words] [that were written] [about] [Babylon]—[on] [one] [Scroll].
⁶¹[And [Jeremiah] said] [to] [Seraiah]: “[When You go into] [Babylon], [You must see {to it}] [that You read] [all] [These] [Words]; ⁶²[and You must say], ‘[You], [Your Majesty], [have spoken] [against] [This] [Place] [to completely cut it off], [so that [there will be] nothing]—[from a Descendant of Adam] [even up to] [a Beast]—[dwelling] [in it] [because] [it will be] [an [eternally burning] Desolate Area].’ ⁶³[Then it must be], [when You finish] [reading] [This] [Scroll], [You must bind] [a Stone] [on it] [and throw it] [into] [The Middle] [of The Euphrates River] ⁶⁴[and say], ‘[Babylon] [will sink] [like this] [and never] [rise up] [because of] [The Bad Thing] [that] [I] [am going to bring] [against her] [so that they grow weary].’” ([{The} Words of] [Jeremiah] {are} [up to] [here].)
 (Jeremiah 51:1–64)—my interim translation

Since I have already commented on that part of Jeremiah's prophecies in an article titled “‘The Lord's Day’? Really?—Part 2” in the October 2024 issue of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter, I see no reason to go over that ground again here; but I must point out the fact that, as Jeremiah knew full well, the mental conception of God that resides in the mind of most folks who wake up incarcerated in this dark, dank, dismal prison we call “Earth” falls incredibly far short of the Truth that actually is. That must be why it is called a “misconception.”

Nonetheless, most folks will insist that what they *think* about God is absolutely true—beyond any challenge that could ever be brought against it. For that reason I warn you at the outset that the things I am going to explain here may well set off a metaphorical “fire storm” in your brain and result in your very speedy evacuation from these premises. If that is the case, it is as it should be since you are clearly not one of the *parabolic* “stones” God is currently seeking to “build” into His *parabolic* “House” anyway. Having said that, I have now absolved myself of any and all guilt with regard to your rejection of the Truth and your willing acceptance of the interminable terror that will overwhelm you, just as Isaiah says it will, when God has finally finished “building” His “House” and you pass through the “veil” that the *Living Word* of God placed in your myopic mind (Is. 28:15–20).

Take a Step Back and Consider

The problem with “knowing” always has to do with one's definition of the verb *know*. Most people use that verb in the sense of *believe* and never question the inherent uncertainty associated with what we call “knowledge.” And therein lies the twisted nature of the reality in which we live, move, and have our miserable *physical* existence in this realm. The Truth regarding our *metaphysical* existence is even more uncertain, and what is known about it is so confusing that most will not even give it a go at trying to sort it all out. That is, they just accept the first thing they hear and let it go at that. Consequently, when it comes down to fundamentals like “what is the purpose of our existence,” or “why are we here,” some folks tend to get extremely hostile when I emphatically tell them that *what I believe* about that topic is undeniably true.

Did you notice I did not say “what I *know* about that topic”? I said it that way because that declaration would have automatically been taken as a challenge to the know-it-all folks who are convinced they already “know” how this current Age will end, even though what most people *think* they “know” in that regard is nothing more than a bill of goods they have been sold and have *chosen to believe*. So let me get right to the nitty gritty of the issue and tell it like it is rather than what most folks *believe* it is.

Let's first deal with the issue related to a Higher Being Who might be responsible for the current fiasco that exists in this penal colony—that is, in the reality in which an overwhelming majority of us are, in one way or another, more concerned about ourselves than we are about others, much less with any Higher Being Who is only sometimes called “God.” Truth be told, if such a Higher Being did not exist, it would be impossible to prove that to be true simply because one cannot prove nonexistence. That is especially true when it comes to the existence of a Higher Being that all but the more contentious of us are willing to accept. (I only used the word *contentious* to draw out the *contentiousness* in the folks I have in mind, hoping they might wake up and realize how stupid it is to keep reading and get all riled up about things they don't believe.) ;-)

Getting back to what I said about proving nonexistence: It should be obvious to all but the most obtuse that it is impossible to prove the nonexistence of the Higher Being we call “God” simply because proving

the absence of the presence of a *metaphysical* being is not the same as proving the absence of the presence of a *physical* being. And that fact is made even more certain by the fact that it is impossible to recognize such a *metaphysical* Being if one has not already seen Him. Duh! How would they know what He looks like? Furthermore, if they do know what He looks like, they would already know He does, in fact, exist. My point is, if one has never seen the invisible God that they say does not exist, how can they be so certain that *what they have chosen to believe* is true when they don't even know Who or what they are *talking about*?

The Truth is, it is fairly easy to “prove” the existence of the Higher Being we call “God,” but the hurdle one faces in that regard is the fact that “proof” is a subjective thing. It only exists in the mind of an individual who is willing to use logic and reason to examine the evidence presented to them. All others will hang on to some contradictory notion ‘til the day they die. For that reason I have no interest in wasting my time trying to “prove” anything to anyone. I will simply lay out the facts as cogently as I can and leave it up to the Truth of the Word of God to convince them; so here goes:

If there actually is a Higher Being and it is impossible for anyone to find Him if they do not know what they are looking for, it seems obvious to me that the onus is on that Being to reveal Himself verbally and somehow demonstrate the fact that He is Who He says He is. That is necessary because otherwise, nobody could have the evidence they need to use logic and reason to come to a rational *belief* that He is, and is—in fact—the Person He says He is.

Since the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures claim to be revelation from a Higher Being, I will start—and end—with them. Those who have eyes to “see” and ears to hear the logic in what I present will not need to go beyond the bounds of the compilation of works commonly known as the Bible. That is, the “proof” found in the Scriptures is all that is necessary to convince anyone who has sufficient logic and reason to examine the explanation of the Truth that I present and is willing to do so. The sad fact is, the overwhelming majority of people on this planet are desperately trying to hide from the Truth regarding the God Who is, so they will never *believe* Him—until He reveals Himself in the awesome pillar and cloud of nuclear fire. I didn't say that, the Apostle Paul did—when he explains what happened at the Tower of Babel:

¹³(2) But I do not want you to not understand, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you—and have hitherto been prevented—so that I might also have some fruit among you, just as {I} also {have} among the rest of the Gentiles. ¹⁴I am obligated to both Greeks and foreigners, to both those who are wise and those who are senseless. ¹⁵(3) So, as for me, I am also eager to proclaim the good news of **the fulfillment of the promise** to you who are in Rome:

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

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

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

¹⁸(b) for God's anger is going to be revealed from Heaven against all {the} depravity and injustice of men who hold the truth fast in injustice,

¹⁹because what is known about the {living} God is well-known within them, for the {living} God has made {it} well-known to them;

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

²¹because,

(i) when {they} knew the {living} God, they did not glorify {Him} as God or give thanks, but became futile in their speculations; and their heart, lacking insight, was darkened.

²²(ii) Alleging that {they} were wise, they became stupid ²³and exchanged the glory of the imperishable God for {the} likeness of an image of a perishable man and of winged creatures and of quadrupeds and of reptiles.

²⁴(1) Wherefore, the {living} God handed them over to uncleanness through the selfish desires of their hearts,

so that their bodies would be dishonored by them—
²⁵those who:

(a) exchanged the truth of the {living} God for the lie
 and were in awe of {it} and
 (b) served the creation as priest rather than the One
 Who created {it}, the One Who is going to be
blest for the ages to come. Without doubt!

²⁶(2) For this reason the {living} God handed them over
 to an urge for dishonor. For their females as well
 exchanged their natural use for the one that is contrary to
 nature; ²⁷and then the males, likewise, after letting go of
 the natural use of the female, were also set afire in their
 craving for one another—males in males bringing
 about their unseemly behavior and getting back within
 themselves the requital that has to do with their deception.
²⁸(3) And just as they did not approve of the {living}
 God—to hold onto {approval} through full knowledge of
 the truth—the {living} God handed them over to a
 rejected mind, to do the things that are not right.
 (Romans 1:13–28) —HSSB

In that passage, Paul is describing the events that
 occurred at the Tower of Babel, where God put in place
 the restraints that are going to eventuate in a nuclear
 holocaust that will once and for all wipe mankind off
 the face of this Earth, just as Moses and the Prophet
 Zephaniah tell us God has planned to do all along:

⁵[When [His Majesty] saw] [that] [{the} Bad
 Behavior of] [The Descendants of Adam] {was} [more than
 enough] [on {the} Earth] [and every] [Thing Formed in]
 [The Thoughts of] [his Heart] {was} [nothing but] [bad]
 [The entire] Day], ⁶[His Majesty] [was sorry] [that] [He
 had made] [The Adam] [on {the} Earth] [and was grieved]
 [to] [His Heart]. ⁷[Then [His Majesty] said], “[I will
 wipe [The Descendants of Adam] [that] [I created] off]
 [of] [{the} Surface of] [The Ground]—[from
 Descendant of Adam] [up to] [Beast], [up to] [Crawling
 Thing], [and up to] [Things That Fly] [The Sea of
 Waters]—[because] [I am sorry] [that] [I made them].”
⁸[But Noah] [found] [Favor] [in [His Majesty’s] Eyes].
 (Genesis 6:5–8) —my interim translation

Everybody assumes the final statement in that
 passage somehow let the rest of us stunes off the hook.
 Not so. It just gave God the time necessary to

accomplish what He planned to accomplish through
 His Incarnation in the *physical* body of Jesus Christ.
 Anyone with half a brain should be able to “see” that is
 the case from just a cursory reading of what Zephaniah
 says when he states essentially the same thing that
 Moses said in Genesis 6:

¹[{The} Word] [of His Majesty] [that] [came] [to]
 [Zephaniah] [Son] [of Cushi], [Son] [of Gedaliah], [Son]
 [of Amariah] [Son] [of Hezekiah], [in {the} Days of]
 [Josiah] [Son] [of Amon], [King] [of Judah]:

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

³“[I will bring [{the} Descendants of Adam]
 [and {the} Beast] to an end];
 [I will bring [{the} Things That Fly]
 [The Sea of Waters] to an end]
 [As well as The Fish of] [The Sea],
 [Even The Stumbling-Blocks] [along with]
 [Those Who Are Guilty];
 [And I will cut off] [The Descendants of Adam]
 [Above] [{the} Surface of] [The Ground],”
 [Declares] [His Majesty].

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

Zephaniah goes on to lay out the horrifying
 nature of the nuclear inferno that is going to engulf the
 Earth when the sixth “day” of Creation transitions into
 the seventh “day,” and the full power of the *Living*
 Word of God appears in the clouds of Glory that
 emanate from multiplied thousands of nuclear devices
 exploding in an extremely short span of time—right
 before that angry, jealous God sits down to rest on the
 seventh “day.” As the Prophet puts it a bit later on:

¹⁴[{The} [great] Day] [of His Majesty] {is} [near],
 [Near], [and moving [very] quickly];
 [The Sound] [of {the} Day] [of His Majesty]
 {is} [bitter]!
 [A Gibbor] [will sound a war-cry] [there].
¹⁵[That] [Day] {is} [A Day] [of Unbounded Rage],
 [A Day] [of Distress] [and a Reason for Anxiety],
 [A Day] [of a Devastating Storm]
 [and Total Devastation],

[A Day] [of Darkness] [and Nether Gloom],
 [A Day] [of Cloud] [and Dense Fog],
¹⁶[A Day] [of Trumpet] [and Teruah]
 [Against] [The [enclosed] Cities]
 [And against] [The [high] Corners].
¹⁷[Then I will be hostile] [to {the} Descendants of Adam];
 [And they will walk] [like those who are blind],
 [Because] [they sinned] [against His Majesty];
 [So their Blood] [will be poured out] [like Dust]
 [And their Bowels] [like Dung].
¹⁸[Neither] [their Silver] [nor] [their Gold]
 [Will be able] [to snatch them away]
[On {the} Day] [{of the} Unbounded Rage]
[of His Majesty],
[When [The [entire] Earth] [will be consumed]
by {the} Fire] [of His Jealousy];
 [Because] [He will make] [a Complete End]—
 [One that is [definitely] frightening]—
 [Of all] [the Inhabitants of] [The Earth].
 (Zephaniah 1:14–18) —my interim translation

In that horrifying context, Zephaniah parabolically describes the Earth as just one big “city” that has completely turned its back on God by denying that He even exists. Bad decision on their part; good decision for those who know the Truth at the End of the Age:

¹⁵[This] {is} [The [jubilant] City],
 [The one who is dwelling] [securely],
 [The one who is saying] [in her Heart],
 “I {am}, [and there is not] [anyone else].”
 [How] [did she become] [devastated]?
 [A Place for [an Animal] to Lie Down]?
 [Everyone] [who passes] [by her] [will whistle];
 [He will move [his Hand] to and fro].
¹[Woe to] [{the} one who is rebellious] [and defiled]—
 [The [cheating] City]!
²[She would [not] listen] [to a Voice];
 [She would [not] accept] [Admonishment].
 [She would [not] put her trust] [in His Majesty];
 [She would [not] come near] [to] [her God].
³[Her Officials] {are} [Lions] [roaring] [within her];
 [Her Judges] {are} [Evening] [Wolves];
 [They will [not] chew on {anything}] [until Morning].
⁴[Her Prophets] {are} [uncontrollable]—
 [Men of] [Treachery];
[Her Priests] [polluted] [a Holy Thing]—
[They mistreated] [{the} Teaching].

⁵[His Majesty] {is} [One Who Is Not Guilty]
 [within her];
 [He will [not] do] [Anything Deviant].
 [Each and every Morning]
 [He will turn] [His Decision Based on the Truth]
 [into Light].
 [It will [not] be missing],
 [But a Deviant] [does [not] know] [Shame].
 (Zephaniah 2:15–3:5) —my interim translation

In Revelation 18, John the Revelator uses Zephaniah’s quotation of Isaiah 47:8 to expand on the things the Prophet states in his prophecy and thereby stitches those three contexts together into one coherent whole:

¹(1) After these things, I saw another messenger—one who has tremendous authority—coming down out of Heaven; and the Earth was provided light by his glory.
²And he shouted in a mighty voice, saying:

(a) “She has fallen! Babylon the Great has fallen!
 (b) She has also become

(i) a home of demons and
 (ii) a guard house of every unclean spirit and
 (iii) a guard house of every unclean bird and
 (iv) a guard house of every unclean and hated beast; ³because

(a) all the Gentiles have drunk some of the wine of the rage of her sexual promiscuity, and
 (b) the kings of the Earth have been sexually promiscuous with her, and
 (c) the merchants of the Earth have become wealthy from the supernatural power of her sensuality.”

⁴(2) Then I heard another voice out of Heaven saying:
 “Come out of her, My people,

(a) so that you do not have commonality with her in her sins—and
 (b) so that you do not receive any of her lashes; ⁵because
 (i) her sins have joined {themselves} together as far as Heaven, and
 (ii) the {living} God has remembered her immoral acts.

- ⁶(a) Pay her back even as much as she paid {you}, and
 (b) double the {ingredients} twice as much in accordance with her works; in the cup that she mixed,
 (c) mix twice as much for her. ⁷As much as she glorified herself and lived sensually,
 (d) give her so much torment and mourning; because *she says in her heart that 'I AM SITTING AS A QUEEN!' AND 'I AM NOT A WIDOW!' and 'I WILL DEFINITELY NOT SEE MOURNING.'*
⁸For this reason

(iii) her lashes will come in one day—

- (a) death and
 (b) mourning and
 (c) famine—and

(iv) she will be burned up in a fire, because

- (a) His Majesty,
 (b) the {living} God—
 (c) the One Who has judged her—{is} mighty.

⁹(v) Then the kings of the Earth, those who

- (a) were sexually promiscuous and
 (b) lived sensually with her, will weep and cut themselves because of her, when they see the smoke of her burning,

- ¹⁰(i) standing at a distance away from {her} because of their fear of her torment,
 (ii) saying: 'Woe, woe to the city—the great one—Babylon, the city that is mighty—because your sentence has come in one hour!'"

(Revelation 18:1–10) —HSSB

That is a *parabolic* description of the eradication of the civilization mankind has built here on Earth, the civilization that began when the dimwits in charge at the Tower of Babel decided they could make it into Heaven on their own; or, as Jesus puts it in John 10, be the one who "comes up somehow other":

¹"Without doubt! Without doubt I tell you, the one who does not come in through the door into

the courtyard of the sheep, but comes up somehow other, that individual is a thief and a robber. ²But the one who comes in through the door is shepherd of the sheep. ³The doorkeeper opens for this individual, and the sheep heed his voice, and he calls out to his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he takes all his own {sheep} out, he goes ahead of them; and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will definitely not follow {a shepherd} to another {fold}, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of the other {shepherds}."

⁶Jesus told them this proverb, but those individuals did not know what it was that He was speaking to them. ⁷Therefore, Jesus said again: "Without doubt! Without doubt, I tell you that I AM the door of the sheep. ⁸All—as many as came before Me—are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not heed them.

⁹I AM the door! If anyone comes in through Me, he will be saved; and he will come in and go out and find a legacy. ¹⁰The thief is not going to come except so that he can steal and sacrifice and do away with {the sheep}; I came so that they may have life, and have more than {life}.

¹¹I AM the Shepherd Who is exceptionally good. The Shepherd Who is exceptionally good is going to put down His soul for the sake of His sheep. ¹²The hired hand—who is not even a shepherd, whose sheep is not his own—is going to observe the wolf coming and leave the sheep and flee. So the wolf is going to snatch them up and disperse them, ¹³because he is a hired hand; and he is not concerned about the sheep.

¹⁴I AM the Shepherd Who is exceptionally good, and I know those that I have, and those that I have know Me. ¹⁵Just as the Father knows Me, I also know the Father; and I am going to put down My soul for the sake of My sheep."
 (John 10:1–15) —HSSB

Jesus is giving a *parabolic* description of how some seek to achieve what the ancients tried to accomplish at the Tower of Babel. They thought they could get into Heaven by practicing a sacred sexual ritual that would *fulfill the promise of God*. What they got from their foolhardy faux pas was the wrath of the *Living Word of God* Who set the stage for an unrelenting, unending series of barbaric wars, as one idiotic dummkopf after another set out to prove his machismo. If you did not know that, shame on you; maybe you should listen to the text of the Bible a bit more *attentively* next time.

What Is the Purpose of Life?

The answer to the question as to why we are here is answered in the very first chapter of the Book of Genesis. But unfortunately, most people will never believe that. Consequently, they will not come to a knowledge of the Truth until it is too late for it to do them any good. The Truth lies in an accurate understanding of how the first two chapters of the Book of Genesis relate to one another:

¹[In {the} Beginning], [God] [created] [The Sea of Waters] [and] [The Earth]. ²[Now The Earth] [was] [a Wasteland], [and Emptiness] [and Darkness] {were} [over] [{the} Surface of] [The Deep]. [But {the} Spirit Wind] [of God] [was hovering] [over] [{the} Surface of] [The Waters].

³[Then [God] said], “[Let there be] [Light].” [And there was] [Light]. ⁴[Then [God] saw] [The Light]—[that] [it was good]—[and [God] made a distinction] [between] [The Light] [and] [The Darkness]. ⁵[Then [God] called] [The Light] [Day], [and [He called] {the} Darkness] [Night]. [And there was] [an Evening] [and there was] [a Morning]—[one] [Day].

⁶[Then [God] said], “[Let there be] [an Expanse] [in The Midst of] [The Waters], [so that it is] [making a distinction] [between] [Waters] [and Waters].” ⁷[So [God] made] [The Expanse] [so that it would make a distinction] [between] [The Waters] [that are] [beneath] [{the} Expanse] [and] [The Waters] [that are] [above] [{the} Expanse], [and it was] [so]. ⁸[Then [God] called] [{the} Expanse] [The Sea of Waters]. [And there was] [an Evening] [and there was] [a Morning]—[a [second] Day].

⁹[Then [God] said], “[Let [The Waters] [beneath] [The Sea of Waters] be gathered] [to] [one] [Place] [and let [The Dry Ground] appear].” [And it was] [so]. ¹⁰[Then [God] called] [The Dry Ground] [Earth], [and [He called] {the} Accumulation] [of The Waters] [Seas]. [And [God] saw] [that] [it was good]. ¹¹[Then [God] said], “[Let [The Earth] sprout] [{the} Green Grass] [of Vegetation] [sowing] [Seed]; [fruit] [Trees] [making] [Fruit] [in accordance with its Kind], [in] [which is] [its Seed], [on] [The Earth].” [And it was] [so]. ¹²[Then [The Earth] sent out] [{the} Green Grass] [of Vegetation] [sowing] [Seed] [in accordance with its Kind], [and Trees] [making] [Fruit] [in] [which] {was} [its Seed] [in accordance with its Kind]. [And [God] saw] [that] [it was good]. ¹³[And there was] [an Evening] [and there was] [a Morning]—[a [third] Day].

¹⁴[Then [God] said], “[Let there be] [Luminaries] [in {the} Expanse] [of The Sea of Waters] [to make a distinction] [between] [The Day] [and] [The Night], [and let them be] [for Signs] [and for Appointed Times] [and for Days] [and Years], ¹⁵[and let them be] [for Luminaries] [in {the} Expanse] [of The Sea of Waters] [to shed light] [on] [The Earth].” [And it was] [so]. ¹⁶[Then [God] made] [The [two] [big] Luminaries]—[The [bigger] Luminary] [for Control over] [The Day] [and] [The [smaller] Luminary] [for Control over] [The Night]—[and] [The Stars]. ¹⁷[Then [God] put] [them] [in {the} Expanse] [of The Sea of Waters] [to shed light] [on] [The Earth], ¹⁸[and to have control] [over {the} Day] [and over {the} Night], [and to make a distinction] [between] [The Light] [and] [The Darkness]. [And [God] saw] [that] [it was good]. ¹⁹[And there was] [an Evening] [and there was] [a Morning]—[a [fourth] Day].

²⁰[Then [God] said], “[Let [The Waters] abundantly reproduce] [an Abundantly Reproducing Thing]—[a [living] Soul]—[and let [Things That Fly] fly] [over] [The Earth], [on] [{the} Surface of] [{the} Expanse] [of The Sea of Waters].” ²¹[So [God] created] [The [big] Sea Serpents] [and] [every] [living] [Soul] [that crawls]—[that] [The Waters] [reproduce] [in accordance with their Kind]—[and] [every] [winged] [Thing That Flies] [in accordance with his Kind]. [And [God] saw] [that] [it was good]. ²²[And [God] **blessed**] [them], [saying], “[Bear fruit] [and become many], [and fill] [The Waters] [in {the} Seas], [and let [The Things That Fly] become many] [on {the} Earth].” ²³[And there was] [an Evening] [and there was] [a Morning]—[a [fifth] Day].

²⁴[Then [God] said], “[Let [The Earth] send out] [a [living] Soul] [in accordance with its Kind]—[{the} Beasts] [and Crawling Things] [and Animals of] [{the} Earth] [in accordance with its Kind].” [And it was] [so]. ²⁵[So [God] made] [{the} Animals of] [The Earth] [in accordance with its Kind], [and] [The Beasts] [in accordance with its Kind], [and] [everything] [that crawls on] [The Ground] [in accordance with its Kind]. [And [God] saw] [that] [it was good].

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

God] [He will create] [Him]; [Male] [and Female] [He will create] [them]. ²⁸[Then [God] will **bless**] [them]; [and [God] will say] [to them], "[Bear fruit] [and become many], [and fill] [The Earth] [and subjugate her], [and exercise authority] [over The Fish of] [The Sea] [and over The Things That Fly] [{through} The Sea of Waters] [and over every] [living {soul}] [that crawls] [on] [The Earth]."

²⁹[Then [God] will say]: "[Guess what!] [I have given] [you] [all] [{the} Vegetation] [that is] [on] [{the} Surface of] [The [entire] Earth] [sowing] [Seed], [and] [all] [The Trees] [on] [which is] [{the} Fruit of] [a Tree] [sowing] [Seed]. [It will become] [Foodstuff] [for you], ³⁰[and for every] [Animal of] [The Earth] [and for every] [Thing That Flies] [{through} The Sea of Waters] [and for everything] [that crawls] [on] [The Earth] [in] [which] {there is} [a [living] Soul]. [All] [verdant] [Vegetation] {is} [for Foodstuff]."

[And it will be] [so]. ³¹[Then [God] will look at] [everything] [that] [He has made], [and guess what!] [It will be [very] good!] [And there will be] [an Evening] [and there will be] [a Morning]—[the sixth] [Day].

¹[Then [The Sea of Waters] [and The Earth] [and all] [their Army] will be finished]. ²[So [on [the seventh] Day] [God] will have finished] [His Work] [that] [He did], [and He will keep Sabbath] [on [the seventh] Day] [from all] [His Work] [that] [He did]. ³[Then [God] will **bless**] [the seventh] [Day] [and make [it] holy], [because] [on it] [He will keep Sabbath] [from all] [His Work]—[what] [God] [created] [by doing].

⁴[These are] [The Engenderings of] [The Sea of Waters] [and The Earth] [when they were created], [on The Day] [His Majesty], [God], [made] [{the} Earth] [and {the} Sea of Waters]. ⁵[Now [before] [there was] any] [Shrub] [of The Field] [in The Earth] [and [before] any] [Vegetation] [of The Field] [had sprouted], [because] [His Majesty], [God], [had [not] caused rain to fall] [on] [The Earth], [and there was not any] [Adam] [to work] [The Ground], ⁶[but Moisture] [went up] [out of] [The Earth] [and watered] [{the} [entire] Surface of] [The Ground]. ⁷[Then [His Majesty], [God], formed] [The Adam] [of Dust] [from] [The Ground] [and blew] [into his Nostrils] [{the} Breath of Life of] [Those Who Are Living]; [and [The Adam] became] [a [living] Soul].

⁸[Then [His Majesty], [God], planted] [a Garden] [in Eden]—[toward The East]—[and [there] he placed] [The Adam] [that] [He had formed]. ⁹[Then [His Majesty], [God], caused [every] [Tree] [that is desirable] [in Appearance] [and good] [for Food] to sprout] [from]

[The Ground]. [But {the} Tree] [of Those Who Are Living] [and {the} Tree] [of The Knowledge] [of good] [and bad] {were} [in The Midst of] [The Garden]. ¹⁰[And a River] [was going out] [of Eden] [to water] [The Garden], [and from there] [it was separated] [and became] [four] [Head {waters}]. ¹¹[{The} Name] [of the first {river}] [is] [Pishon], [the one going around] [{the} [entire] Land] [of Havilah], [where [The Gold] is]. ¹²[And {the} Gold] [of [That] Land] [is good]. [The Bdelium] [and [The Onyx] Stone] {are} [there]. ¹³[And {the} Name] [of The [second] River] [is] [Gihon], [the {river} going around] [{the} [entire] Land] [of Cush]. ¹⁴[And {the} Name] [of [the third] River] [is] [{the} Tigris], [the {river} going] [East of] [Assyria]. [And The [fourth] River] [is] [{the} Euphrates].

¹⁵[Then [His Majesty], [God], took] [The Adam] [and made him rest] [in {the} Garden] [of Eden] [to work it] [and to stand watch over it]. ¹⁶[Then [His Majesty], [God], gave a command] [to] [The Adam], [saying], "[You may [certainly] eat] [from every] [Tree] [of The Garden], ¹⁷[but You must [not] eat {anything}] [from the Tree] [of The Knowledge] [of good] [and bad] [because] [in {the} Day] [that You eat] [from him] [You will [definitely] die]."

¹⁸[Then [His Majesty], [God], said], "[It is [not] good] [for [The Adam] to be] [alone]; [I will make] [a Helper] [for him] [corresponding to him]."

¹⁹[Then [His Majesty], [God], formed] [out of] [The Ground] [all] [of {the} Animals of] [The Field] [and] [every] [Thing That Flies] [{through} The Sea of Waters], [and He brought {it}] [to] [The Adam] [to see] [what] [he would call] [it]; [and whatever] [The Adam] [called] [a [living] Soul], [that] {was} [its Name]. ²⁰[So [The Adam] called out] [Names] [for all] [The Beasts] [and for The Things That Fly] [{through} The Sea of Waters] [and for all] [{the} Animals of] [The Field]. [But [He did [not] find] [a Helper] for {the} Adam] [corresponding to him].

²¹[Then [His Majesty], [God], made [a Deep Sleep] fall] [on] [The Adam], [and he fell asleep]; [then He took] [one of] [his Ribs] [and shut up] [{the} Flesh] [in place of it]. ²²[Then [His Majesty], [God], built] [The Rib] [that] [He had taken] [from] [The Adam] [into a Woman] [and brought her] [to] [The Adam]. ²³[Then [The Adam] said]:

"[This Time], [this one is] [Bone] [from my Bone] [And Flesh] [from my Flesh].

[This one] [will be called] [Woman]

[Because] [this one] [was taken] [from a Man]."

²⁴[Therefore], [a Man] [will leave] [his Father] [and] [his Mother] [and cling to] [his Woman]; [and they will become] [one] [Flesh]. ²⁵[And [both of them]—[The Adam] [and his Woman]—were] [naked], [and they were [not] ashamed].

(Genesis 1:1–2:25) —my interim translation

I have long since explained—in a booklet titled *In the Image and Likeness of God*—why those two accounts of the creation of “Adam” are not referring to the same event. The gist of what I stated in that little booklet is this: The first chapter of Genesis is nothing more than an overview of everything God had done and planned to do up to the time when it was written. The account of how we all came to be begins with the creation of our forefather Adam on the third “day” of Creation—*before* the animals were created on the sixth “day” of Creation.

The account of how the *Second* “Adam,” Jesus Christ, came to be created in the very image and likeness of God on the sixth “day” of Creation—*after* the creation of the animals—takes up the remainder of the Scriptures, except for the final actions of the angry, jealous God of the Old Testament that are described in the Book of Revelation. So now I must let you in on a few secrets that the fellow commonly called “Satan” does not want you to know.

Secret #1: Satan Exists, and He Lies a Lot

Jesus lays out the essential Truth regarding the individual we call “Satan” when He says the following:

³⁰*While He was speaking these things, many believed God’s promise about Him.* ³¹Therefore, Jesus was saying to the Jews who believed Him, “If you continue on in the word that I have, you truly are My disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³They responded to Him, “We are Abraham’s seed and have not ever been slaves to {anybody}; how can You say that ‘you will become free’?”

³⁴Jesus responded to them: “Without doubt! Without doubt, I tell you that anyone who commits sin is a slave of his sin. ³⁵But the slave is not GOING TO CONTINUE ON in the house INTO THE AGE TO COME; the Son IS GOING TO CONTINUE ON {in the house} INTO THE AGE TO COME. ³⁶Therefore, if

the Son sets you free, you really will be free. ³⁷I am aware that you are Abraham’s seed; but you are seeking to kill Me, because the word that I have is not making room {for itself} in you. ³⁸I am talking about the things that I have seen with My Father, so therefore you are acting in accordance with the things that you have heard from your father.”

³⁹They responded and told Him, “Our father is Abraham!”

Jesus tells them: “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works of Abraham. ⁴⁰But you are now seeking to kill Me, a Man Who has told you the truth—what I heard from the {living} God. Abraham did not do this. ⁴¹You are doing the works of your father.”

Therefore, they told Him, “We were not engendered on the basis of sexual promiscuity; we have one Father—the {living} God!”

⁴²Jesus told them: “If the {living} God were your Father, you would love Me; for I came out of the {living} God, and I have come, for I did not even come of My Own accord, but That Individual sent Me. ⁴³Why do you not know what I said? Because you cannot hear the word that I have! ⁴⁴You are part of your father, the false accuser; and you want to act in accordance with the selfish desires of your father. That individual has been a killer since the beginning; and he does not stand in the truth, because truth is not in him. Whenever he speaks the lie, he is speaking on the basis of his own {thoughts}, because he is a liar and the father of it.

⁴⁵But because I am speaking the truth, you do not believe Me. ⁴⁶Which one of you is going to reprimand Me with regard to sin? If I am telling {you the} truth, why do you not believe Me? ⁴⁷The one who is part of the {living} God hears the statements made by the {living} God. For this reason you do not hear {them}, because you are not part of the {living} God!”

(John 8:30–47) —HSSB

In that passage, Jesus summarizes everything you need to know about the character of the Liar. But to understand how he operates, you need go no further into the Scriptures than the third chapter of the Book of Genesis, where Moses calls him “the Serpent” and tells us what he did to craft the chaos in which we live in bondage until we believe the Truth:

¹[Now The Serpent] [was] [more intelligent] [than every] [Animal of] [The Field] [that] [His Majesty],

[God], [had made]. [And he said] [to] [The Woman], "[Did [God] [actually] say], '[You can [not] eat] [from any] [Tree] [of The Garden]'"

²[So [The Woman] said] [to] [The Serpent], "[We may eat] [from {the} Fruit of] [{the} Trees] [of The Garden]; ³[but from {the} Fruit of] [The Tree] [that is] [in The Midst of] [The Garden] [God] [said], '[You can [not] eat] [from him], [and you can [not] make contact with him] [so that you do [not] die].'"

⁴[Then [The Serpent] said] [to] [The Woman]: "[You [certainly] will [not] die! ⁵[Because] [God] [knows] [that] [your Eyes] [will be opened] [on {the} Day] [you eat] [from him], [and you will become] [like God], [knowing] [good] [and bad]."

⁶[When [The Woman] saw] [that] [The Tree] [was good] [for Food] [and that] [he] {was} [intensely desirable] [to The Eyes], [and The Tree] [was desirable] [for gaining insight], [then she took] [some of his Fruit] [and ate {it}] [and [also] gave {it}] [to her Man] [with her]; [and he ate {it}]. ⁷[Then [The Eyes of] [both of them] were opened], [and they knew] [that] [they were] [naked]. [So they sewed together] [{the} Foliage] [of a Fig Tree] [and made] [Loincloths] [for themselves].

(Genesis 3:1–7) —my interim translation

Anyone who thinks Satan has given up his stupidly nefarious practice of misrepresenting and lying about things God has said has obviously been enticed into following that damned fool down the same crooked trail that Eve trod. Paul describes the circumstances to which we find ourselves in bondage today, so we know they were still firmly in place in his day:

¹(6) For this reason, just as we have been shown mercy,

(a) we who have this service do not get discouraged. ²But
(b) we who are

(i) not walking in dishonesty
(ii) nor counterfeiting the word of the {living} God, but
(iii) commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of the {living} God by our disclosure of the truth have renounced their shameful secrets.

³(7) So even if the good news of **the fulfillment of the promise** we have is covered, it is covered

(a) *in those who are being done away with—*

⁴(b) *those in whom the god of this current age has blinded the thoughts of those who do not believe God's promise so that {they} cannot distinctly see the illumination of the good news of the fulfillment of the promise of the glory of the Anointed One, Who is {the} image of the {living} God.*

⁵(8) For we do not preach ourselves

(a) but only His Majesty, Jesus, the Anointed One,
(b) and then ourselves as your slaves for Jesus.

⁶(c) Because the {living} God, Who said, "A light will shine out of nether darkness," {is} the One Who has shone in our hearts with an illumination of the knowledge of the truth concerning the glory of the {living} God on {the} face of Jesus, the Anointed One.

⁷(1) Now we have this treasure in containers made of clay,

(a) so that the incredible nature of its supernatural power would be

(i) from the {living} God and
(ii) not from us:

⁸(a) *those who are constricted in every way, but not constrained;*

(b) *those who are perplexed, but not despairing;*

⁹(c) *those who are persecuted, but not abandoned;*

(d) *those who are put down, but not done away with;*

¹⁰(e) *those who are always carrying around the deadness of Jesus in our body,*

(b) so that the life of Jesus would also be made well-known in our body. ¹¹For we who are alive are continually being handed over to death with Jesus, (c) so that the life of Jesus may also be made well-known in our mortal flesh. ¹²So then His death is working in us, but His life in you. ¹³So,

(i) having the same spirit

(a) on the basis of our **belief in God's promise—**

(b) *in agreement with what has been written,*
"I BELIEVED GOD'S PROMISE; WHEREFORE, I
SPOKE"—

- (i) *we also believe God's promise;*
wherefore,
- (ii) *we also speak,*

¹⁴(ii) *being aware that the One Who raised up His Majesty, Jesus, will also*

- (a) *raise us up together with Jesus and*
 - (b) *present {us to Him} together with you.*
- (2 Corinthians 4:1–14) —HSSB

From what Paul says in that passage, it is clearly Satan's objective to prevent folks from learning the Truth with regard to *the promise* that God made to Adam and Eve in the Garden and the fact that Jesus Christ was resurrected in the image and likeness of God as *the fulfillment of the promise*. Therefore, you folks here at the End of the Age should probably pay close attention to what John the Revelator tells us about Satan's lies:

⁷(4) *Then there was war in Heaven—Michael and his messengers waging war with the sea serpent. And*

(a) *the sea serpent and his messengers waged war,*
⁸*and*

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

⁹(b) *So the sea serpent—*

- (i) *the great one,*
- (ii) *the snake,*
- (iii) *the ancient one,*
- (iv) *the one that is called*

- (a) *"False Accuser" and*
- (b) *"Satan,"*

(v) *the one who is going to lead the entire civilized world astray—was thrown down.*

(c) *He was thrown down to the Earth, and*
(d) *his messengers were thrown down with him.*
(Revelation 12:7–9) —HSSB

Did you hear what he said? Better yet, did you understand the *significance* of what he said? He said that, at the End of the Age, Satan will have succeeded in deceiving the entire world. Now, if you are one of the myopic morons who are absolutely certain that that group of dupes does not include them, you should probably examine the basis for your erroneous belief—*very carefully*. I say that only because everybody believes we are living in the seventh "day" of Creation, in spite of Paul's warning against "The Lie" that tells them that is true:

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

(a) *for the sake of*

- (i) *the coming of our Master, Jesus, the Anointed One, and*
- (ii) *our assembling to Him,*

²(b) *so that you:*

- (i) *would not be quickly shaken out of your mind, or*
- (ii) *be alarmed—*

- (a) *neither by a spirit*
- (b) *nor by a word*
- (c) *nor by a letter*

- (i) *as if it were {written} by us—*
- (ii) *as though it is currently the day of His Majesty.*

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

- (a) *the apostasy must come first and*
- (b) *the man of the lawless one—the son of eternal damnation—must be revealed,*

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

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

(ii) The one whom His Majesty, Jesus,

(a) will put away by the spirit of His mouth and

(b) abrogate by the appearance of His coming;

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

(a) supernatural power and

(b) signs and

(c) wonders—lies—¹⁰and with all

(d) {the} deceitfulness of injustice

(i) for those who are going to be done away with

(ii) because they did not accept the love of the truth so that they could be saved.

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

(a) so that they believe the lie,

¹²(b) so that all who did not believe the truth but were delighted with his injustice can be judged.

(2 Thessalonians 2:1–12) —HSSB

All I can do is warn you: Satan is a liar; nearly everything the Church teaches has been tainted by his lies. So if you get defensive and automatically assume that *what you currently believe* is true just because you somewhere, somehow *chose* to believe it, that merely proves you do not have enough love of the Truth to consider the *significance* of what Paul says here:

1. "The Lie" is, the seventh "day" of Creation ("the Day of His Majesty") has already begun.

2. The apostasy of the Church comes before the arrival of the Antichrist.

Secret #2: God Is Still Creating Children

Knowing the nature of the Liar Satan and the fact that he will have the final generation of this Age completely deluded at the End of the Age, there are just a couple of very *significant* conclusions one can draw from what I told you earlier regarding the first two chapters of the Book of Genesis. The first is, if it be true that Jesus Christ is the "Adam" Who was created in the image and likeness of God on the sixth "day" of Creation when He was resurrected in the image and likeness of God, that *means* the seventh "day" of Creation had not yet begun at that time. Simple logic demands that must be true, and simple logic also insists God has not yet created the "male and female" individuals in His image and likeness, as is stated in Genesis 1:27. Therefore, the *meaning* and *significance* of what Paul tells us in Romans 8:12–26 becomes *extremely significant*:

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

¹³(a) for

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

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

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

¹⁵(c) for

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

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

¹⁷(2) So then, if {we are} children, {we are} also heirs,

(a) on the one hand, heirs of God; but

(b) on the other hand, joint heirs with the Anointed One, if indeed we suffer with {Him} so that we may also be glorified together with {Him}:

¹⁸(i) for I reckon that our suffering during the present time {is} not worthy of the glory that is going to be revealed to us;

¹⁹(ii) for **the ardent longing of His creation is eagerly looking forward to the revelation of the sons of the {living} God;**

²⁰(a) for His creation was made to submit to futility—

- (i) not voluntarily,
- (ii) but only because of the One Who made {her} submit—
- (iii) with a hope ²¹that His creation would itself also be freed from the slavery of our perishable body into the freedom of the glory of the children of the {living} God;

²²(b) for we are aware that the whole creation is groaning together and is in labor together until now; ²³yet not only {this creation}, but also those who have the first fruits of His Spirit—even we ourselves—are groaning within ourselves, eagerly looking forward to adoption—the emancipation of our body;

²⁴(c) for we have been saved by our hope, but a hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

²⁵(d) So then, if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly look forward to {it} with perseverance. ²⁶And then, in the same way, His Spirit also takes up the effort with our infirmity; for

- (i) we do not know what we should pray for—what is in accordance with whatever one should {pray for}—but
- (ii) the Spirit Himself files urgent petitions with unutterable groanings.

(Romans 8:12–26) —HSSB

The mind-set of Paul regarding the resurrection of the Children of God at the End of the Age as reflected in that passage is based on his insight into the fact that the “Adam” in Genesis 1:26 is Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:45–49), and the “male and female” mentioned in Genesis 1:27 are the male and female Believers who have, since His Resurrection, heard the Gospel message regarding **the promise** and have *chosen* to become members of the Body

of Christ (Corporate Israel) via **belief in the promise**. That could only have happened after the unrepentant Jews who refused the offer of the New Covenant were “cut off from” Corporate Israel so that Christ could die under the curses of the Old Covenant (as Corporate Israel) so that both Jew and Gentile alike could accept His offer of salvation and be “grafted in” to Him, as Paul explains in Romans 11 and Galatians 2:11–3:11:

¹(1) Therefore I say, “Has the {living} God not repudiated His people?” Certainly not! For I am also an Israelite, one of Abraham’s seed, of Benjamin’s tribe.

²(2) The {living} God has not repudiated His people—whom He knew before. Or

(a) are you not aware of what the Scripture says about Elijah when he was filing a petition with the {living} God against Israel? ³“Your Majesty, THEY KILLED YOUR PROPHETS; THEY DEMOLISHED YOUR SACRIFICIAL ALTARS, AND I HAVE BEEN LEFT ALONE AS A SMALL REMNANT, AND THEY ARE SEEKING MY SOUL.”

⁴(b) But what does the divine communication say to him? “I HAVE LEFT BEHIND for Myself SEVEN THOUSAND MEN WHO HAVE NOT BENT A KNEE TO BAAL.”

⁵(c) So also, therefore, at the present time there has also come to be a remnant in accordance with {their} choice of a favor.

⁶(3) But if {salvation is} by a favor, {it is} no longer on the basis of works, otherwise the favor would no longer be a favor. ⁷What therefore?

(a) Israel has not gained possession of this thing that it is diligently seeking!

(b) The One Who is His choice has now gained possession of {it}, but

(c) the rest of {the members of Israel} have been turned to stone;

⁸(i) just as it has been written:

“THE {living} GOD GAVE THEM A SPIRIT
OF DEEP SLEEP;
EYES THAT CANNOT SEE,
AND EARS THAT CANNOT HEAR,
UP TO THE DAY TODAY.”

⁹(ii) And {just as} David says:

"LET THEIR TABLE BE TURNED INTO A SNARE
AND INTO A TRAP,
EVEN INTO A DEADFALL TRAP AND INTO PAYBACK
TO THEM.

¹⁰LET THEIR EYES BE DARKENED,
SO THAT {they} CANNOT SEE,
AND BEND THEIR BACK DOWN AT ALL TIMES."

¹¹(4) Therefore I say, did they not trip so that they fell?
Certainly not!

(a) But the salvation for the Gentiles {is}

(i) because of their transgression
(ii) so as to make them jealous.

¹²(b) But if their transgression {is} the world's
wealth; and their failure, {the} Gentiles' wealth; how
much more {will} their fullness {be}?

¹³(5) But I am speaking to you, the Gentiles. Therefore,
for as long as I am an Apostle of Gentiles, I do, in fact,
glorify my service, ¹⁴if somehow I could make my flesh
jealous and save some of them. ¹⁵For if His scrapping of
them {is} the world's reconciliation, what is their
admission if not life from those who are dead?

¹⁶(1) So then, if the first fruit {is} holy, the lump {is}
also; and if the root {is} holy, the branches {are} also.

¹⁷(a) And then, if some of the branches were broken off,
and then you, who are a wild olive tree, were grafted
in among them and became a fellow partaker of the
sap of the root of the olive tree, ¹⁸do not speak
derisively about the branches.

(b) And then, if you are speaking derisively about
{them}, you are not carrying the root, but the root {is
carrying} you.

¹⁹(2) Therefore, you will say, "Branches were broken off so
that I could be grafted in." ²⁰Well said!

(a) They were broken off because of their lack of **belief
in God's promise**, but

(b) you stand because of your **belief in God's promise**.

(c) You must not have your mind set on thoughts that
are impressive, but be afraid. ²¹For if the {living} God
did not spare the branches {that are} in accordance
with nature, neither will He spare you.

²²(3) Therefore, take a look at God's benevolence and
harshness:

(a) on the one hand, harshness for those who fell; but
(b) on the other hand, God's benevolence for you—if
you stay there in His benevolence, since you could
also be cut off.

²³(4) But even those individuals, if they do not stay there
in their lack of **belief in God's promise**, will be grafted
in; for the {living} God is able to graft them in again.

²⁴(a) For if you—{those who are}, in accordance with
nature, part of the wild olive tree—were cut off and, con-
trary to nature, grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how
much more will these individuals who are in accordance
with nature be grafted into their own olive tree?

²⁵(b) For I do not want you, brothers, to not
understand this **mystery** so that you are not
"sensible" in yourselves. Because

(i) a hardening of a part in Israel has occurred
until the time when THE FULLNESS OF THE
GENTILES has come in.

²⁶(ii) Then just as it has been written, all Israel
will be saved—in this way:

"THE ONE WHO **DELIVERS** WILL COME FROM
ZION;

HE WILL TURN THOSE WHO ARE DEPRAVED
AWAY FROM JACOB.

²⁷AND THIS {is} THE TESTAMENT FROM ME
FOR THEM,

When I take away their sins."

²⁸(5) On the one hand, {they are} enemies with respect to
the good news of **the fulfillment of the promise**
because of you; but

(6) on the other hand, {they are} beloved because of their
fathers—in accordance with His choice:

²⁹(a) For the gifts and the invitation of the {living}
God {are} unchanging.

³⁰(b) For indeed, just as you were at one time not per-
suaded by **God's promise** about the {living} God,
but you have now been shown mercy because of the
apathy of these individuals, ³¹so also now, these indi-
viduals were not persuaded by **God's promise**

regarding your mercy, so that they could also now be shown mercy.

³²(c) For the {living} God has confined every last one in apathy, so that He could have mercy on every last one.

(Romans 11:1–32) —HSSB

In the second chapter of Galatians, Paul begins an explanation of how the Gentiles have come to be *heirs of the promise* under the terms of the oral testament that Jesus made in Matthew 12:46–50. Paul's point is based on not only the things he explains in Romans 11 but also his knowledge of the fact that the Jews were all individually "cut off from" Corporate Israel at the Baptism of Christ just as John the Baptist warned them they would be in Matthew 3:7–10. He begins his explanation in Galatians 2 and goes on to insist that Corporate Israel—that is, Jesus Christ—was held in bondage to the terms of the Old Covenant up to the time of His Crucifixion, but when that Person died under the curses of the Old Covenant, both Jews and Gentiles were offered an opportunity to become *heirs of the promise* under the same terms that existed prior to the ratification of the first Old Covenant at Mount Sinai:

¹¹(2) But then, when Cephas came to Antioch, I withstood him—face to face—because he was found at fault. ¹²For before some came from James, he had been eating with the Gentiles; but when they came, he drew back and was setting himself apart from {them}—being afraid of those who are part of the circumcised. ¹³And the rest of the Jews also joined in hypocrisy with him, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away with them in their hypocrisy.

¹⁴(3) But when I saw that they were not walking straight with regard to the truth of the good news of **the fulfillment of the promise**, I told Cephas in front of everyone:

(a) "If you, being a Jew, are living like a Gentile and not like a Jew, on what basis do you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews? ¹⁵We {are} by nature Jews, and not sinners from among {the} Gentiles; ¹⁶but being aware that a man is not acquitted on the basis of works of Law—if not via **belief in God's promise** concerning Jesus, the Anointed One—even we **believed God's promise** about the Anointed One, Jesus, so that we could be acquitted on the basis of **belief in God's promise** concerning the Anointed One and not on the

basis of works of Law, because there will not be any flesh acquitted on the basis of works of Law.

¹⁷(b) But if, while seeking to be acquitted by the Anointed One, even we ourselves are found to be sinners, is the Anointed One a servant of sin? Certainly not!

¹⁸(i) For if I build again these things that I broke up, I am commending myself as a violator.

¹⁹(ii) For I died to Law via Law, so that I could live with God. I have been crucified together with the Anointed One,

²⁰(a) so I am no longer living, but the Anointed One is living in me.

(b) So what I am now living in flesh I am living in my **belief in God's promise** concerning the Son of the {living} God, Who loved me and handed Himself over for my sake.

²¹(c) I am not going to disregard the favor of the {living} God; for if a declaration of not guilty {is} via Law, then the Anointed One died for no reason."

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

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

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

(i) on the basis of works of Law, or

(ii) on the basis of hearing with **belief in God's promise**?

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

⁴(c) Did you suffer so much for no good reason—if indeed even for no good reason? ⁵Therefore,

(d) {does} the One Who

(i) abundantly provides the Spirit for you and

(ii) works supernaturally powerful things among you {do it}

(a) on the basis of works of Law or

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

⁶(1) {It is} just like Abraham: "HE BELIEVED THE {living} GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS A DECLARATION OF NOT GUILTY."

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

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

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

¹⁰(ii) For as many as are {believers} on the basis of works of Law are under a curse;

(iii) for it has been written that "ANYONE WHO DOES NOT CONTINUE ON IN ALL THE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN WRITTEN IN THE SCROLL OF THE LAW—TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEM—{is} COMPLETELY CURSED."

¹¹(b) So it is obvious

(i) that nobody is going to be acquitted by Law before the {living} God,

(ii) that "THE ONE WHO IS BLAMELESS WILL LIVE ON THE BASIS OF **BELIEF IN GOD'S PROMISE**."

(Galatians 2:11–3:11) —HSSB

If the things the Apostle Paul says in that passage do not make a whole lot of sense to you, it is undoubtedly because you have not yet taken on the mind-set that God requires for an accurate understanding of the biblical message. So let me bring you up to speed in that regard. You see, what God requires of everyone who desires what He has to offer is a willingness to think "The Way" He thinks. That *means* you have to give up the "Way" you think—all your preconceived ideas, notions, assumptions, and beliefs—and accept the Truth that the Prophets recorded in the Hebrew Scriptures. The Prophet Isaiah puts God's offer this "Way":

¹"[Woe!] [Everyone] [who is thirsty], [come] [for {the} Water];

[And whoever] [has] [no] [Silver], [come {for the water}].

[Buy grain] [and eat], [and come {for the water}].

[Buy grain] [with no] [Silver],

[And [Wine] [and Milk] with nothing] [of Market Value].

²[Why] [would you weigh out] [Silver]

[for {what is} not] [Bread]—

[Your Production] [for {what has} no] [Satisfaction?]

[Listen] [carefully] [to Me] [and eat] [a Good Thing],

[So that your Soul] [may take delight] [in {the} Grease].

³[Cup] [your Ear] [and come] [to Me];

[Listen], [so that {your Soul} may live].

[Then I will cut] [an [eternally burning]

Legal Agreement] [for you]—

[Those who believe] [{the} Loving-kindnesses of] [David].

⁴[Guess what!] [Kinfolk have] [a Witness].

[I will make Him] [a Leader] [and one who gives commands to] [Kinfolk].

⁵[Guess what!] [You will call] [a Nation]

[You do [not] know],

[And a Nation]—[they will [not] know You]—

[will run] [to You]

[For the sake of] [His Majesty], [Your God],

[And to [Israel's] Holy One],

[When] [He has made You beautiful]."

⁶[Diligently seek] [His Majesty] [while He can be found];

[Call out to Him] [while He is] [near].

⁷[Let [a guilty {man}] abandon] [his Way];

[And a [contentious] Man], [his Thoughts],

[So that he may return] [to] [His Majesty],

[So that He may have compassion on him],

[And to] [our God]:

(1) [Because] [He will [forgive] much].

⁸(2) "[Because] [My Thoughts] {are} [not]

[your Thoughts],

[And your Ways] {are} [not] [My Ways],"

[declares] [His Majesty].

⁹(3) "[Because] [{the} Sea of Waters] [are higher]

[than {the} Earth],

[So also] [My Ways] [are higher]

[than your Ways];

[And My Thoughts], [than your Thoughts].

¹⁰(4) [Because],

(a) [just as] [The Rainfall] [and The Snow]

[Comes down] [from] [The Sea of Waters],

[And [he does [not] return] there]
[Unless]:

- (i) [He satisfies the thirst of] [The] [Earth],
- (ii) [And causes her to engender]
- (iii) [And causes her to sprout],
- (iv) [And gives] [Seed] [for {the} one who is sowing]
[And Bread] [for {the} one who is eating].

¹¹(b) [So also] [My Word] [will be]
[One Who] [goes out] [of My Mouth];
[He will [not] return] [to Me]
[without {doing} anything]
[Unless]:

- (i) [He does] [what] [I want],
- (ii) [And makes [what] [I sent Him {for}]]
successful]."

(Isaiah 55:1–11) —my interim translation

Secret #3: Saving Faith, Definite Content

It will not be obvious to anyone who is not aware of how, over and over again, the Prophets make sly, cryptic, tongue-in-cheek references to the Word the Prophet Nathan encapsulated in his "build-a-house" prophecy regarding Jesus Christ—the one that Jeremiah recorded in 2 Samuel 7—but the last few lines of poetry in Isaiah 55 is certainly one of them. It is also one that Jesus had in mind when He says this:

¹"Do not let your heart be disturbed; you **believe God's promise** about the {living} God; you must also **believe God's promise** about Me. ²There are a lot of dwelling places in My Father's house; but if not, I would have told you, because I am going to prepare a place for you. ³So if I go and prepare a place for you, I am going to come again and take you to Myself, so that you also are wherever I AM. ⁴And you know The Way to where I am going."

⁵Thomas tells Him, "Your Majesty, we do not know where You are going; how could we know The Way?"

⁶Jesus tells him: "I AM **The Way and the truth and the life; nobody is going to come to the Father except through Me.** ⁷If you have known Me, you will also know My Father; and from this point on you are going to know Him. And You have {already} seen Him." (John 14:1–7) —HSSB

A summary of what Isaiah says in Isaiah 55 can be found in John's introduction to his Gospel:

¹*In the beginning, there was the Word; and the Word was with the {living} God, and the Word was God.* ²*This Individual was with the {living} God in the beginning.* ³*Everything has come into being via Him, and not even one thing that has come into being has come into being apart from Him.* ⁴*Life was in Him, and His life was The Light of men.* ⁵*So The Light appears in the darkness, yet the darkness has never grasped it.*

⁶*A man who had been sent from God came; his name {was} John.* ⁷*This individual came for a testimony,*

- (1) so that he could provide testimony about The Light,
- (2) so that everyone could **believe God's promise** via him.

⁸*That individual was not The Light, but {he came} so that he could provide testimony about The Light.*

⁹*The Light was the real {Light}, the One Who provides light for every man who comes into the world.* ¹⁰*He was in the world, and the world came into being via Him, yet the world did not know Him.* ¹¹*He came to His Own, and His Own did not take Him to themselves.* ¹²*So then, to as many as accepted Him, to them—to those who believe God's promise about His name—He gave authority to become God's children:* ¹³*those who were not engendered*

- (1) by blood or
- (2) by {the} will of flesh or
- (3) by {the} will of man,

but {were} only {engendered} by {the will} of God.
(John 1:1–13) —HSSB

So now that you know Satan has managed to steer the Church away from the Truth and into total apostasy, let me explain your options. There are only two: Either you choose to "accept" the Truth of the Word found in the Hebrew Scriptures—the Word that I have spent the last thirty-five years tap-dancing around and am now preparing to explain more cogently—or you choose to continue on your merry "Way," thinking some goofy god of unconditional grace will approve of the nonsense you have chosen to believe just because you think he will. Your choice, not mine. ■



The 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.

Let me begin by explaining a bit about the fundamentals of *parabolic imagery* and how the Prophets and Apostles used them to explain things cryptically so as to prevent anyone but those who are the Chosen from “seeing” and understanding the Truth they conceal. The first thing one must understand is this: Parables explain how one thing is LIKE another. That is because a parable is nothing more than a comparison; that is actually the *meaning* of the term in both Hebrew and Greek. So a parable tells us how one thing is LIKE another. And therein lies the ability of the Prophets and Apostles to hide the Truth by speaking in terms of parables that are not even recognized as parables today. That is the case because one must understand what two things are being compared before one can decipher the parable and gain insight into the *meaning* and *significance* of what is being stated *parabolically*. Let me give you an example:

²³Then, when He came into the temple, the high priests and the elders of the people approached Him while {He} was teaching, saying, “By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?”

²⁴So, in response, Jesus said to them: “I also will ask you one question, which, if you tell Me, I also will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁵The baptism that was John’s, where was it from? From Heaven or from men?”

So they were speculating among themselves, saying: “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will tell us, ‘Therefore, why

did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘From men,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for they all regard John as a Prophet.”

²⁷So, in response to Jesus, they said, “We do not know.” He also declared to them: “Neither am I going to tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸But how does it seem to you? A man had two children; and after approaching the first, he said: ‘Go on, child! Work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹But in response, he said, ‘I do not want to.’ But later, regretting what he had done, he went. ³⁰And then, after approaching the other, he said the same thing. But in response, he said ‘I {will}, master’; and he did not go. ³¹Which one of the two acted in accordance with the will of his father?”

They say, “The first.”

Jesus says to them: “Without doubt, I tell you that the tax collectors and the prostitutes will go into the kingdom of the {living} God before you. ³²For John came to you in {the} way of a declaration of not guilty and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did believe him; and then, after you saw {that}, you did not even regret what you had done later, so as to believe him.

³³**Listen to another comparison: There was a man—an owner of a house—who**

PLANTED A VINEYARD

AND PUT A HEDGE AROUND IT

AND DUG OUT A WINE PRESS IN IT

AND BUILT A TOWER

and rented it out to cultivators and went abroad.

³⁴But when the time for the fruits drew near, he sent his slaves to the cultivators to receive its fruits. ³⁵And after the cultivators took his slaves, they punched one, killed another, threw stones at another. ³⁶He again sent other slaves—more than the first—and they did the same thing to them. ³⁷But later, he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will pay deference to my son.’ ³⁸**But when the cultivators saw the son, they said among themselves: ‘This individual is the heir! Come on! We can kill him and have his inheritance.’** ³⁹And after taking him, they threw {him} out of the vineyard and killed {him}. ⁴⁰Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those cultivators?”

⁴¹They tell Him, “He will do away with those awfully awful persons and rent out the vineyard to other cultivators who will pay him for the fruits at their times.”

⁴²Jesus says to them: “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

A STONE THAT THOSE WHO ARE BUILDING
COMPLETELY REJECTED?
THIS {stone} HAS BEEN TURNED INTO
{the} HEAD OF A CORNER.
THIS CAME ABOUT FROM HIS MAJESTY,
AND IT IS AMAZING IN OUR EYES!

⁴³For this reason I tell you that *the kingdom of the living* God will be taken away from you and given to a nation who produces its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who has fallen on this stone will be shattered; but on whomever it might be that it falls, it will winnow him out."

⁴⁵And when the high priests and *the Pharisees* heard His comparisons, they knew that He was talking about them.

(Matthew 21:23–45) —HSSB

There are two easily identifiable *parabolic images* in those parables. The first is the "vineyard"; the second is the "cultivators." But we must identify what is being compared before we can understand the point Jesus is making. I will begin with the "vineyard," which is much easier to define because Jesus paraphrases what Isaiah said about the sons of Israel:

"Listen to another comparison: *There was a man—an owner of a house—who*

PLANTED A VINEYARD
AND PUT A HEDGE AROUND IT
AND DUG OUT A WINE PRESS IN IT
AND BUILT A TOWER

and rented it out to cultivators and went abroad."
(Matthew 21:33) —HSSB

Jesus is mocking the Jewish leaders' ignorance of what the Prophets said about Him as *the Heir of the promise* when He says, "There was a man—an owner of a house." He is referring to Himself as "The House" of God that the Prophet Nathan describes in 2 Samuel 7 and making that *parabolic image* the point of his two parables, so pay attention to what Isaiah says:

¹[Please] [let Me sing] [about My Beloved]
[My Loved One's] [Song] [about His Vineyard].
[My Beloved]—[a Son] [of Oil]—[had] [a Vineyard]
[on a Mountain Peak],

²[And He tilled Him] [and threw out His Stones].
[Then He planted Him] [{with} a Productive Vine],
[And He built] [a Tower] [in His Midst].
[And He [even] hewed out] [a Wine Vat] [in Him].
[Then He waited expectantly {for Him}]

[to make] [Grapes],

[But He made] [Stinking Gourds].

³[So now], [Inhabitants of] [Jerusalem]

[and Man] [of Judah],

[Please] [judge] [between Me] [and] [My Vineyard].

⁴[What is there] [yet] [to do] [to My Vineyard]

[That I have [not] done] [in Him]?

[Why] [did I wait eagerly {for Him}] [to make] [Grapes],

[And He made] [Stinking Gourds]?

⁵[So now], [please] [let Me make known to] [you]

[What] [I] [am going to do] [to My Vineyard]:

[I am going to remove] [His Hedgerow],

[And it will become] [something to be burned];

[{I am} going to make a breach in] [His Wall],

[And He will become] [What Is Trampled].

⁶[Then I will designate Him for] [Ruination].

[He will [not] be pruned],

[And He will [not] be hoed].

[So [Briars] [and Thorns] will come up],

[And [I will give a command] to] [The Thunderheads]

[Not to cause [Rain] to fall] [on Him]."

⁷[Because] [The Vineyard] [of His [Supreme] Majesty]

{is} [{the} House] [of Israel],

[And {the} Man] [of Judah] {is} [{the} Plant]

[of those who enjoy Him].

(Isaiah 5:1–7a) —my interim translation

From verse 7, we now know the "vineyard" Jesus had in mind in the two parables is "The House" of Israel—that is, Corporate Israel—which logically means the "cultivators" are those who were the leaders of Corporate Israel up to the time of His Baptism, at which time everyone except Jesus Christ was "cut off from" Corporate Israel, leaving Him as the sole surviving Member of Corporate Israel—"The Remnant" of Israel and *the Heir of the promise*. That is why Matthew says "they knew that He was talking about them."

So now that we have the *parabolic images* of the "vineyard" and the "cultivators" defined, we have come to the point where we can start integrating the things I have explained to you over the past thirty-five years. Without that information, there is no "Way" to tie things up all neat and tidy. So here goes:

When Jesus tells the first parable, he does not refer to two “sons.” Instead, He uses a term that can be used to refer to a male “child” or a female “child.” That is because He is referring to the fact that both men and women responded to the preaching of John the Baptist. But to understand what He had in mind, you need to know the terms of the first New Covenant were not offered to the Jews as a collective, they were offered to each individual Jew. Before John baptized Jesus, every individual Jew had been offered the opportunity to become, in and of themselves, a “vineyard” of God. Some initially refused, but then accepted, fully intending to adhere to their commitment; others made nothing more than a pretense of accepting.

Unfortunately, it was impossible to gain salvation under the terms of the first New Covenant because the terms demanded that the person could not sin; if he sinned, the covenant relationship would immediately be broken. Therefore, the composition of “*The House*” of God changed completely when Jesus was baptized. The Jews who rejected God’s offer and those who accepted it ended up being “cut off from” Corporate Israel. So at the time of His Baptism, Jesus became Corporate Israel—the Firstborn Son of God and *Heir of the promise*—obligated under the terms of both the Old and the New Covenants.

The main point that Jesus is making comes in the second parable; but it builds on the *parabolic imagery* of the first parable, whereby He became *the Heir of the promise*. His point is, He came to God’s “vineyard” for the specific purpose of “building *The House*” of God:

Jesus says to them: “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

*‘A STONE THAT THOSE WHO ARE BUILDING
COMPLETELY REJECTED?’*

*THIS {stone} HAS BEEN TURNED INTO
{the} HEAD OF A CORNER.*

*THIS CAME ABOUT FROM HIS MAJESTY,
AND IT IS AMAZING IN OUR EYES!”*

(Matthew 21:42) —HSSB

If you have read what I have written over the years when I quoted 1 Peter 2:7, you already know Jesus is using that quote from Psalm 118 to refer to Himself as “*The House*” of David as well as “*The House*” of God that Nathan said He would “build”:

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

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

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

(John 2:18–22) —HSSB

You should also know, from what I have explained about 1 Peter 2:1–10, that Peter is referring to the Gentiles being “built” into “*The House*” of God in that passage. Jesus is merely stating the same thing when He says this:

⁴³*“For this reason I tell you that the kingdom of the {living} God will be taken away from you and given to a nation who produces its fruits.* ⁴⁴*And the one who has fallen on this stone will be shattered; but on whomever it might be that it falls, it will winnow him out.”*

(Matthew 21:43–44) —HSSB

Now that I have told you what Jesus had in mind when He told those two parables, I need to remind you they have two primary *parabolic images*: the “vineyard” and the “cultivators.” Jesus mentions both in verse 43 and solidifies our insight into His *meaning*; “the kingdom” of God is “the vineyard,” and “the cultivators” are the Gentiles—that is, “a nation who produces its fruits.” But the *significance* of those two pieces of information lies elsewhere. You know, what Isaiah said:

⁹*[To {whom} would He teach] [Knowledge]?*

*[And to {whom} would He provide an understanding of]
[a Message]?*

[Those who have been weaned] [from Milk]!

[{Those} too mature] [for Breasts]!

¹⁰*[Because]:*

“[A Command] {refers} [to a Command];

[A Command] {refers} [to a Command].

[A Line] {refers} [to a Line];

[A Line] {refers} [to a Line].

[A Little Bit] {is} [here];
[A Little Bit] {is} [there]."

¹¹[Because]:
[He will speak] [to] [This] [People]
[With a [sneering] Lip] [and in [another] Tongue],
¹²[What] [He said] [to them]:

"[This] {is} [The Resting Place]!
[You must give rest] [to {the} weary].
[And this] {is} [The Tranquility]!"

[But he was [not] willing] [to listen].
¹³[So [The Word] [of His Majesty] [to them] will be]:

"[A Command] {refers} [to a Command];
[A Command] {refers} [to a Command].
[A Line] {refers} [to a Line];
[A Line] {refers} [to a Line].
[A Little Bit] {is} [here];
[A Little Bit] {is} [there]."

[In order that] [they walk] [and stumble] [backwards]
[And are broken] [and trapped] [and captured].
(Isaiah 28:9–13) —my interim translation

Now that the Church—God's "vineyard"—has fallen into complete apostasy, the time has finally come for the "reaping" of that "vineyard"; but very few usable "grapes" remain on the "vine":

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁹(10) So the messenger

(a) cast his sickle onto the Earth and
(b) picked the vine of the Earth and
(c) threw {the grapes} into the wine press—the large one—of the rage of the {living} God. ²⁰And

(i) the wine press was trampled on the outside of the city, and
(ii) blood came out of the wine press up to the bits of {the} bridles of the horses for one thousand six hundred 200-meter units.

(Revelation 14:15–20) —HSSB

That is a *parabolic* description of what is soon to come on this generation, immediately before God completes His final act of Creation and the sixth "day" of Creation transitions into the seventh "day" of rest. But you need to keep in mind the three compulsory festivals that accompany each of God's "harvests":

¹⁵"[You must make a pilgrimage] [for His Majesty], [Your God], [{for} seven] [Days] [in {the} Place] [that] [His Majesty] [chooses], [because] [His Majesty], [Your God], [will **bless** You] [with all] [Your Crop] [and with all] [That [Your Hands] Have Done]; [so You will [definitely] be] [rejoicing]. ¹⁶[Three] [Times] [during {the} Year] [every] [Male of Yours] [must appear] [before] [His Majesty], [Your God], [in {the} Place] [that] [He chooses] [during {the} Feast] [of Unleavened Bread] [and during {the} Feast] [of The Sevens] [and during {the} Feast] [of The Temporary Shelters]; [and he must [not] appear] [before] [His Majesty] [without anything]. ¹⁷[Each One] [in accordance with {the} Gift of] [his Hand], [in accordance with {the} **Blessing** of] [His Majesty], [Your God]—[whatever] [He has given] [You]."
(Deuteronomy 16:15–17) —my interim translation

Passover was the beginning of the "barley harvest," the "reaping" of believing Jews; Pentecost was the beginning of the "wheat harvest," the "reaping" of believing Gentiles; and now, the "reaping" of the final generation of Believers, the Feast of Temporary Shelters:

Then I heard a voice out of Heaven, saying, "Write, 'The dead—those in His Majesty who die from this point on—are fortunate!'"
(Revelation 14:13a) —HSSB ■

Continued from inside front cover

who lived at the time the Scriptures were written.

Ibid., p. 195

Once I sorted out the evidence, it was fairly obvious that God had spoken through the Prophets of Israel long before Christ was born, outlining the exact circumstances of His birth as the Son of a virgin. He had even done that explicitly in 2 Samuel 7 using the three Hebrew idioms I had researched, speaking in terms of the parabolic image of levirate marriage.

Ibid., p. 208

And I firmly believe God did not call me to convince anyone they might want to reconsider what they believe based on anything I say. He called me to do exactly what I have a tendency to do—say things one time and let it go at that. That is why, in June of 1990, I began to write about the parabolic imagery I see in the Scriptures. As a writer, I can say things one time, and the reader can do with it as he will.

Ibid., p. 218

In the spring of 1974, when I started doing research for my Master's thesis at Trinity, I realized several different translators had produced the English translation I was using. It was obvious. As I went back and forth in the Scriptures, I could see the quality of the translation varied from book to book. In some cases, it even varied within the same book. In those instances where both Ezekiel and Jeremiah had quoted the same phrase from a passage in the Pentateuch, the phrase had been translated one way in the Pentateuch, another way in Ezekiel, and yet a third and fourth way in Jeremiah.

Ibid., p. 224

The most disconcerting thing to me, when I saw what translators were doing, was the fact that they were not only using several different English words to translate the same Hebrew term, they were using the same English word to translate several different Hebrew terms.

Ibid., p. 224

That's when it began to dawn on me that, before I could teach others what I saw in the Scriptures, I would have to produce a "standardized" translation of the

Bible that would allow the English reader to see the original text. That is, I needed a translation in which each and every Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek word was translated consistently. Lacking that, I could never accomplish what God had called me to do. So that is precisely what I set out to do, way back in 1979.

Ibid., p. 225

Over the more than twenty-four years since I began writing articles for **The Voice of Elijah®** newsletter, I have had several "enlightening" experiences, experiences in which I suddenly realized there was a whole lot more to my calling than anything I had assumed previously, but experiences that also convinced me I was doing precisely what the Lord called me to do.

Ibid., p. 245

That's when I realized Satan had already managed to "deceive the whole world," just as John said he would at the End of the Age (Revelation 12:9, 13:14, 19:20, 20:3, and 20:10). At the same time, I also realized **God had called me to use the knowledge I was gaining to prepare born-again Believers for the appearance of the Antichrist**. The result is, I wrote the footnotes for, and published, *The Advent of Christ and AntiChrist*.

Ibid., p. 246

If you are one of the very few in our generation who have had the incredibly humbling spiritual experience (what is commonly called the "new birth") of an encounter with the living Word of God (what is commonly called "the Gospel"), I must tell you **the Lord called me to show you the rest of "The Way"...**

Ibid., p. 248

So when those white-hot clouds of the nuclear holocaust reveal Jesus Christ in the full fury of His awesome power, you will have no excuse for not preparing in advance. You should have known, and would have known, if you had wanted to know the Truth.

Larry Dee Harper, "If What You Say Were Visible, What Would It Look Like?" **The Voice of Elijah® Update**, December 2018, p. 14

In Him,

Marcia Harper

Continued from front cover

Again, in the second epistle he addresses them with even greater earnestness: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, nor be troubled, either by spirit, or by word," that is, the word of false prophets, "or by letter," that is, the letter of false apostles, "as if from us, as that the day of the Lord is at hand. Yet no man deceive you by any means. For that day shall not come, unless indeed there first come a falling away," he means indeed of this present empire, "and that man of sin be revealed," that is to say, Antichrist, "the son of perdition, who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God or religion; so that he sitteth in the temple of God, affirming that he is God. Remember ye not, that when I was with you, I used to tell you these things? And now ye know what detaineth, that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only he who now hinders must hinder, until he be taken out of the way." What obstacle is there but the Roman state, the falling away of which, by being scattered into ten kingdoms, shall introduce Antichrist upon (its own ruins)? "And then shall be revealed the wicked one, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: even him whose coming is after the working of Satan, with all power, and signs, and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish."

In the Revelation of John, again, the order of these times is spread out to view, which "the souls of the martyrs" are taught to wait for beneath the altar, whilst they earnestly pray to be avenged and judged: (taught, I say, to wait), in order that the world may first drink to the dregs the plagues that await it out of the vials of the angels, and that the city of fornication may receive from the ten kings its deserved doom, and that the beast Antichrist with his false prophet may wage war on the Church of God; and that, after the casting of the devil into the bottomless pit for a while, the blessed prerogative of the first resurrection may be ordained from the thrones; and then again, after the consignment of him to the fire, that the judgment of the final and universal resurrection may be determined out of the books.

Tertullian, "On the Resurrection of the Flesh," Chaps. xxix-xxxi, in Roberts and Donaldson (Eds.), *The Ante-Nicene Fathers* (1885), Vol. 3, pp. 562-563.

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