



THE VOICE of ELIJAH

Restoring the hearts of the fathers to the children

Hark! Two Uninformed People Fooling Their Ignorance

After these matters, Celsus brings the following charges against us from another quarter: "Certain most impious errors," he says, "are committed by them, due to their extreme ignorance, in which they have wandered away from the meaning of the divine enigmas, creating an adversary to God, the devil, and naming him in the Hebrew tongue, Satan.

Now, of a truth, such statements are altogether of mortal invention, and not even proper to be repeated, viz., that the mighty God, in His desire to confer good upon men, has yet one counterworking Him, and is helpless. The Son of God, it follows, is vanquished by the devil; and being punished by him, teaches us also to despise the punishments which he inflicts, telling us beforehand that Satan, after appearing to men as He Himself had done, will exhibit great and marvellous works, claiming for himself the glory of God, but that those who wish to keep him at a distance ought to pay no attention to these works of Satan, but to place their faith in Him alone.

Such statements are manifestly the words of a deluder, planning and manoeuvring against those who are opposed to his views, and who rank themselves against them." In the next place, desiring to point out the "enigmas," our mistakes regarding which lead to the introduction of our views concerning Satan, he continues: "The ancients allude obscurely to a certain war among the gods, Heraclitus speaking thus of it: 'If one must say that there is a general war and discord, and that all things are done and administered in strife.'

Pherecydes, again, who is much older than Heraclitus, relates a myth of one army drownd up in hostile array against another, and names Kronos as the leader of the one, and Ophioneus of the other, and recounts their challenges and struggles, and mentions that agreements were entered into between them, to the end that whichever party should fall into the Ocean

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Published quarterly by
Voice of Elijah, Inc.

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Volume 28, Number 2
April 2017

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should be addressed to:

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P.O. Box 2257
Rockwall, TX 75087-2257

Subscription rates:
(1 year, U.S. Funds)

U.S. \$24.00
Canada \$30.00
Abroad \$42.00

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Larry Dee Harper
(dba The Elijah Project).

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A Note From the Editor

An Invitation: Annual Board of Directors Meeting of Voice of Elijah, Inc.

The annual Board of Directors meeting for Voice of Elijah, Inc. will be held in Dallas, Texas, on Sunday, July 16 at 9:00 a.m. There will be a get-together on Saturday evening, July 15, followed by a presentation by Larry Harper of The Elijah Project. Larry will also make a presentation following the meeting on Sunday, as well. Space is limited, so contact Royce Gonzalez (972-635-2021 or Royce@voiceofelijah.org) by June 15, if you are interested in attending.

Another Invitation: The Elijah Project News

For those of you who want to be ahead of the curve as it relates to Harper's Standardized Study Bible, I invite you to sign up for the monthly emailed progress report, *The Elijah Project News*. Here's an excerpt from the April email:

*I had been assuming all along that I could retain words like belief and gospel, but I recently realized that even those words had a much more potent connotative meaning when the New Testament was written simply because the Apostles had an understanding of the Hebrew Scriptures that has also long since been lost. Consequently, I have decided to replace belief with the phrase "belief in God's **promise**" and gospel with "good news of the **fulfillment of the promise**." That decision will undoubtedly not be appreciated by those who do not know which of the various **promises** of God is in view in any given context; but for those who do, it will dramatically increase their understanding of the meaning and significance of the biblical text.*

(The Elijah Project News #16, Larry Dee Harper, April 8, 2017)

Larry followed this up with his translation of 2 Corinthians 4:1–6 and Colossians 1:9–23, where these words occur. The difference between the translations I've read before (NASB, KJV, etc.) and Harper's Standardized Study Bible is like comparing black/white/grey to a neon color. So I invite you to join the others of us who are enjoying this sneak peek into the progress Larry is making with Harper's Standardized Study Bible. The meaning of the Scriptures is there for the tasting! Sign up for *The Elijah Project News* using the "Add Me to Your Mailing List" form at: www.the-elijah-project.com. Interesting fact (to me, at least): There are folks as far away as Columbia, Albania, and Taiwan receiving these emails.

A Third Invitation: To New Subscribers

If this is your first issue of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter, I urge you to order the January 2017 issue (available at www.voiceofelijah.org). The main article in the January issue, "It Ain't No Fun Tryin' ta Stand

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Up in a Hurricane,” is not to be missed. The article in this issue picks up where the January issue left off. Both issues provide essential insight True Believers must have to be triumphant in the battle we face “each and every day” (thanks to Paul and Luke for that phrase; see pp. 13–14). Battling the “winds” is serious business and these articles provide what True Believers need to know to “withstand” them. (See *The Voice of Elijah*®, January 2017, p. 22.)

I trust that the Lord has heard more than a few of us (since January) repeatedly saying:

“Thank You, Lord, for reminding me to praise You!”

The Voice of Elijah®, January 2017, p. 28

The All-Important “Invitation”

The publications distributed by *The Voice of Elijah*® are intended for born-again individuals—to have their “hearts” restored to the fathers.

Wisdom’s meal is being served, folks. We’ve been sending out invitations for a couple of years now. If you’ve been invited, all you’ve got to do is come on into “The House” and “eat.” You no longer need to go scrounging around “outside” for food. There’s more than enough here to satisfy everyone.

The Voice of Elijah® Update, May 1993, p. 10

So I give you fair warning: If you are looking for religion, you won’t find it in the things I teach. If you are looking for a relationship to the Living Word of God that will ultimately cost you everything you hold dear, I invite you to keep reading.

The Voice of Elijah®, January 2013, p. 13

I have been called as a Teacher to make available the Truth of The Teaching to those born-again Believers who are still seeking Truth, and I make absolutely no apologies for my calling. However, God has called me to teach only those who “love the truth.” I have nothing to say to anyone who rejects any part of what I teach. To tell the Truth, I am supposed to, and will, encourage them along “their way.” I certainly

don’t have the time or any inclination to argue with them.

7 Simple Steps to Salvation, Larry Dee Harper, p. 22

God’s invitation to believe includes everyone.

The Voice of Elijah® Update, August 2014, p. 19

If you haven’t yet responded to God’s invitation, read on. All that you need to know to be born again is contained in *The Old Testament Gospel of Jesus Christ* and *7 Simple Steps to Salvation*:

Right now, all you need to know is that when Christ died, He made it possible for you and me to inherit the promise and, in so doing, experience the most amazing transformation one could ever imagine. So if you don’t know what I am talking about and someone tries to tell you that you have been born again, trust me: You haven’t. It is impossible for anyone to be born again and not know it. But you can be born again whenever you are ready to make the big commitment. All it takes is sincere repentance and a firm belief in the Gospel.

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

Nobody can force you to believe the Truth; and nobody can make the decision for you. You alone must make the decision as to whether or not you want to be born again. That is, only you can decide whether or not you want to be created in the image and likeness of God so that you can rest with Him forever on the seventh “day” of Creation.

The Old Testament Gospel of Jesus Christ, Larry Dee Harper, p. 39

If you are certain that you have not been born again and want to rectify that situation, or if you question your born-again experience, I strongly urge you to read *The Old Testament Gospel of Jesus Christ* and *7 Simple Steps to Salvation*. Only after being born again will the Truth presented in the pages of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter benefit you.

In Him,

Marcia Harper

Here Is One of the Keys to the Kingdom: “That’s Not Me!”

In the January 2017 issue of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter, I told you that the Apostle Paul makes a statement in the second chapter of 2 Corinthians that one can easily overlook if one doesn’t know what he has in mind. But I also said that if one does know what he is *talking about*, it becomes a stark reminder of the pitched battle in which the Lord demands that each and every one of His Children not only participate but also come out triumphant. Therefore, I showed you what Paul says; and then I explained what he knows that you need to know if you intend to overcome the wiles of Satan here at the End of the Age.

Let’s Review

This is what Paul says about Satan:

¹[For] [this is what] [I have decided] [for myself]—[to] [not] [come] [to] [you] [in] [Anguish] [again]. ²[For] [if] [I] [am] [also] [causing] [you] [to be in anguish], [who is] [the one who] [is going to cause] [me] [to celebrate] [except] [the one who] [is in anguish] [because] [of me]? ³[So] [I wrote] {you} [This] [very] Thing], [so that] [when] {I} came], [I would] [not] have] [Anguish] [from] [those who] [should] [make] [me] rejoice], [having confidence] [in] [you] [all] [that] [my] [Joy] [is going to be] {the joy} [of all] [of you]. ⁴[For] [I wrote] [to you] [with] [many] [Tears] [and] [Apprehension] [of Heart] [because of] [intense] [Turmoil], [not] [so that] [you would be in anguish], [but] [so that] [you would know] [The] [Love] [that] [I have], [especially] [for] [you]. ⁵[But] [if] [anyone] [has caused] {you} anguish], [he has] [not] caused [me] anguish] [but] [in] [Part], [so that] [I would] [not] impose a burden on] [you] [all]. ⁶[For] [Such a Person], [This] [Rebuke*]—

[which was {imposed}] [by] [The] [Majority]—{is} [a Considerable Amount], ⁷[so] [you] [should, [to the contrary], grant {him} a favor] [and] [encourage {him}] [instead], [for fear that] [somehow] [Such a Person] [would be swallowed up by] [all the more] [Anguish]. ⁸[Wherefore], [I implore] [you] [to validate] {your} [Love] [for] [him]. ⁹[For] [I] [also] wrote] [for] [This Reason], [so that] [I would find out about] [your] [Approval]—[whether] [you are] [willing to listen] [to] [everything] {I say}. ¹⁰[So], [to whomever] [you grant] [anything] as a favor], [I {do} also]; [for] [even] [what]—[if] [anything]—[I] [was granted as a favor], [I was granted] {it} [in] [The Anointed One’s] [Presence] as a favor] [for] [you], ¹¹[so that] [we would] [not] be taken advantage of] [by] [Satan], [for] [we are] [not] those who do not understand] [his] [Thoughts].

(2 Corinthians 2:1–11) —my interim translation

After I showed you my translation of that passage, I said that, like Paul, the Apostle John also makes a statement that one can easily pass over unless one knows exactly what he is *talking about*. Therefore, I showed you what John says; and then I explained what he knows that you need to know if you intend to overcome the wiles of Satan here at the End of the Age. This is what John says:

¹[After] [This], [I saw] [four] [Messengers] [standing] [at] [The] [four] [Corners] [of The] [Earth], [holding on to] [The] [four] [Winds] [of The] [Earth], [so that] [Wind] [could] [not] blow] [on] [The] [Earth] [nor] [on] [The] [Sea] [nor] [on] [any] [Tree]. ²[And] [I saw] [another] [Messenger], [one who was holding] [{the} Seal] [of {the} [living] God], [coming up] [from] [Sun’s] [Sunrise]. [And] [he shouted] [in a] [loud] Voice] [to The] [four]

[Messengers] [to [whom] {the right} had been given] [to harm] [The] [Earth] [and] [The] [Sea], ³[saying], "[Do [not] harm] [The] [Earth] [nor] [The] [Sea] [nor] [The] [Trees] [until] [we have set a seal on] [The] [Slaves] [of our] [God]—[on] [their] [Foreheads]." ⁴[And] [I heard] [The] [Number] [of those who] [had been sealed]: [One hundred] [forty]-[four] [Thousand] {were} [those who had been sealed] [from] [every] [Tribe] [of Israel's] [Sons]. (Revelation 7:1-4) —my interim translation

After showing you those things, I asked you what you thought the "blowing" of the four "winds" might have to do with the "sealing" of those who believe the Truth of the Gospel here at the End of the Age. Then I began to show you, not only what you need to know about the "winds" that "blow" here on Earth, but also what you need to know about the mind-set of the idiot that Paul was *talking about* when he wrote this:

¹⁰[So], [to whomever] [you grant [anything] as a favor], [I {do} also]; [for] [even] [what]—[if] [anything]—[I] [was granted as a favor], [I was granted {it} [in] [The Anointed One's] [Presence] as a favor] [for] [you], ¹¹[so that] [we would [not] be taken advantage of] [by] [Satan], [for] [we are [not] those who do not understand] [his] [Thoughts]. (2 Corinthians 2:10-11) —my interim translation

I first asked you how you thought Paul could assume we would be able to understand the thoughts of Satan. Then I told you I would explain what you need to know about that so that you have a *fighting* chance to be one of those whom the Lord is going to "seal" with His personal imprimatur now that the seventh "seal" has been removed from the Hebrew Scriptures.

I said I used the term *fighting* in connection with the "sealing" of the Lord's Own simply because that is what you are going to have to do if you intend to escape from this loony bin we call "Mother Earth" with your soul intact. I also said that if you don't know how to recognize the enemy you face or how to use the weapons the Lord has provided, I seriously doubt your soul is going to leave this world alive.

I said the fools who think they can waltz right into Heaven without a *fight* need to fill that vacant space between their ears with something other than the legalistic nonsense that Satan has long since passed

off as "Christianity." I told you the lies that those nitwits so avidly *want* to believe ain't true. Never have been; never will be.

Next, I pointed out that, in the Book of Ephesians, Paul explains the things you need to know about the military equipment the Lord has provided for those who intend to *fight* the good fight and return "home" alive. But I also told you: ***It is not my responsibility to ensure you use the weapons the Lord has provided; my only responsibility is to show you what they are and how to use them.*** The rest is up to you. Then I showed you what Paul says about the weapons you must use to *fight* the good fight:

¹⁰[From now on], [be empowered] [by] [His Majesty], [and] [by] [The] [Power] [of His] [Might]. ¹¹[Slip on] [All [of The] [{Living} God's] Armor], [so] [that] [you] [can] [stand] [against] [The] [Tactics] [of The] [False Accuser], ¹²[because] [The] [Struggle*] [we have] [is] [not] [against] [Flesh] [and] [Blood], [but] [against] [The] [Rulers], [against] [The] [Authorities], [against] [The] [World-Rulers*] [of This] [Nether Darkness], [against] [the] [spiritual {aspects}] [of The] [Evil Intention] [in] [the {beings}] [in Heaven]. ¹³[For] [This Reason] [take up] [All [of The] [{Living} God's] Armor], [so that] [you can]: (1) [withstand {them}] [on] [The] [Day] [that is] [nasty]; [and] (2) [stand], [after bringing [everything] about]. ¹⁴[Stand] [therefore]: (1) [AFTER GIRDING YOURSELF ABOUT] [YOUR] [LOINS] [WITH] [TRUTH], [and] (2) [AFTER SLIPPING ON] [THE] [BREASTPLATE] [OF THE] [DECLARATION OF NOT GUILTY], ¹⁵[and] (3) [after binding sandals on] [YOUR] [FEET] [BY] [A PREPARATION*] [OF THE] [WORD OF THE GOSPEL] [OF HIS] [PEACE]; ¹⁶(4) [at] [all times] [taking up] [The] [Full-body Shield*] [of The] [Belief] [with] [which] [you will be able] [to extinguish] [all] [The] [burning] [Arrows*] [of The] [One Who Is Nasty]. ¹⁷[Also], [accept] [THE] [HELMET] [OF YOUR] [SALVATION] [and] [The] [Sword] [of The] [Spirit], [which] [is] [{any} Comment Made] [by God]. (Ephesians 6:10-17) —my interim translation

I told you Paul identifies two distinct entities in that passage. He first lists the enemies that you are going to face as a True Believer; then he gives a list of the various articles of military equipment that you can use to defeat them. But I told you those two lists won't do you any good if you don't know what the items on the lists actually are. So I explained those things.

I said the first list gives the enemies we are going to encounter in our "walk" with the Lord:

1. *the False Accuser (Satan)*
2. *the rulers*
3. *the authorities*
4. *the world-rulers of this nether darkness*
5. *the evil intention in the beings in Heaven*

I told you just a wee bit of logic on your part should tell you Paul is referring to spiritual beings that reside in the dimension we call "Heaven" yet somehow manage to control what goes on here on Earth—what he calls "this nether darkness." I said I would explain the nature of those spiritual beings and how they operate so that you can understand how they are able to control folks like you and me. Then I told you Paul also gives us a list of the weapons we can use against the enemies we face:

1. *the girdle of the Truth*
2. *the breastplate of a declaration of not guilty*
3. *the sandals of the word of the Gospel*
4. *the full-body shield of belief*
5. *the helmet and sword of any comment made by God*

I told you that you really need to remember the following five things Paul mentions:

1. *the Truth*
2. *a declaration of not guilty*
3. *the word of the Gospel*
4. *belief*
5. *any comment made by God*

I arranged those five things into two statements to show you how all five are related:

1. *"The Truth" {is} "any comment made by God."*
2. *"Belief" {in} "the Truth"*
{of} "the word of the Gospel"
{results in} "a declaration of not guilty."

I said Paul is not *talking about* five totally unrelated things; he is *talking about* just one thing: *belief in the Truth that God has revealed in the Scriptures*. I told you that, if you have access to that Truth, all you have to do to defeat the enemy is to use it. But I also said that if

you don't know how to recognize the enemy when you encounter him, access to the Truth God has revealed is not going to do you much good at all. So I began to explain the Truth you need to know and believe.

I said most folks who call themselves "Christians" today don't believe there is only one Truth to be found in the Hebrew Scriptures. Instead, they believe there is some sort of smorgasbord of "truths" from which one just picks and chooses whatever "truth" they find most acceptable. I told you the Truth is, the Apostles fully understood the message of the Hebrew Scriptures and they made no bones about it. They also believed that anybody who believed something that contradicted the Truth they understood was not going to be saved. And I showed you Paul states that emphatically in the first chapter of the Book of Galatians.

I told you that what Paul says in that passage should settle the issue for anyone with half a brain; but unfortunately, most "Christians" today are content to go on believing the mishmash of contradictory beliefs they have heard in the distorted remnants of the Church established by the Apostles. I said it has never occurred to them that the New Testament clearly reveals the leaders of the Apostolic Church believed but one Truth, and they also believed the Truth that they possessed can be found in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Then I gave you a summary of the message of the Old Testament:

1. *Two "Adams" are mentioned in the Creation Account.* The Apostle Paul *talks about* those two "Adams" in 1 Corinthians 15:45–49. Genesis 1 describes the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in the image and likeness of God on the sixth "day" of Creation; Genesis 2 describes the creation of our forefather on the third "day." I have already explained these things in the booklet titled *In the Image and Likeness of God*, so there is no need to explain them here.

2. *When God banned Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, He gave them the promise that they could be created in the image and likeness of God if they would only believe the promise.* He also expected them to *hand down the promise* from one generation to the next as an *inheritance* that each *heir of the promise* could bequeath to the next *heir of the promise* as an *oral blessing*. The Book of Genesis is an account of how the

Patriarchs did that very thing. I have already explained these things in *The Inheritance of the Believer, Volume 1*, so there is no need to explain them here.

3. *The central purpose of the covenant God made with the sons of Israel at Mount Sinai was to unify the promise after Jacob divided it up when he blessed his sons and grandsons.* Since there was no longer just one *heir of the promise* as there had been up to that time, God used the Mosaic Covenant to create *Corporate Israel*, a *corporate* body that He claimed as His Firstborn Son. That *Corporate* body functioned as a *mediator* to hold title to *the promise* until Jesus Christ became *Corporate Israel, the Heir of the promise*. I have also explained these things in *Not All Israel Is Israel* and *The Inheritance of the Believer, Volume 1*, so there is no need to explain them here.

4. *Under the terms of The Law of Moses, an individual member of Corporate Israel could be "cut off from" Corporate Israel.* Various parts of that law demanded that ultimate punishment. If the sons of Israel were aware that someone had violated one of those, they were expected to execute the individual and thereby erase his name from Israel. Even if they did not do that, God would "cut him off from" *Corporate Israel*. That is, He would erase the individual's name from the census book of Israel that He maintained. For that reason God alone knew who had been "cut off from" *Corporate Israel*, and no one else had the right to say anyone was still a member of *Corporate Israel*. I have already explained these things in *Not All Israel Is Israel*, so there is no need to explain them here.

5. *God made two covenants with the sons of Israel at Mount Sinai.* The first covenant required the perfect obedience of the *Corporate* body and did not provide a means of atonement. If one individual sinned, every member of the *Corporate* body became guilty. The second covenant provided a means of atonement *for the individual*. If an individual sinned, his sin could be atoned for through a sacrificial ritual, but the *Corporate* body still remained guilty. I have also explained these things in *The Inheritance of the Believer, Volume 1*, so there is no need to explain them here.

6. *Because the sons of Israel failed to adhere to the requirements of both the first and second Mosaic*

Covenants, the Prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel promised them God would offer a New Covenant to the individual members of Corporate Israel. He did that through the ministry of John the Baptist. But the New Covenant that the Jews accepted at that time was just like the first Old Covenant their ancestors had accepted at Mount Sinai—it provided no means of atonement. If a person sinned, he would immediately be "cut off from" *Corporate Israel*. So God "cut off from" *Corporate Israel* all the members of *Corporate Israel* other than Jesus Christ because they could not keep the terms of the New Covenant. I have also explained these things in *Not All Israel Is Israel*, so there is no need to explain them here.

7. *When Jesus Christ was baptized by John and accepted the terms of the New Covenant, He became Corporate Israel, the Heir of the promise.* Therefore, when He died, He atoned for the sins of *Corporate Israel* by suffering under the curses of the Mosaic Covenant. But because of His obedience to the terms of the New Covenant, God was obligated to *fulfill the promise* and resurrect Him so that He could *inherit what was promised* to Adam and Eve—creation in the image and likeness of God. I have also explained these things in *Not All Israel Is Israel* and in the pages of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter and *The Voice of Elijah*® *Update* over the past quarter of a century, so there is no need to explain them here.

8. *When Christ died, His death invoked the terms of the oral testament He had made prior to His death.* Under the terms of that *oral testament*, all anyone has to do to *inherit the promise* is believe it—and apologize to God for the sins they have committed. Those who do that will be declared not guilty by God; and those who don't, won't. I have also explained these things in the pages of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter and *The Voice of Elijah*® *Update* over the past quarter of a century, so there is no need to explain them here.

I told you that is a brief summary of the five things Paul mentions in the sixth chapter of Ephesians:

1. *the Truth*
2. *a declaration of not guilty*
3. *the word of the Gospel*
4. *belief*
5. *any comment made by God*

I told you that, if you intend to triumph over the enemy of your soul, you need to know the information I outlined in the eight paragraphs above; and you also need to know why you *chose* to believe them. That is because the Truth they provide is a refuge in which your soul can hide whenever you face a fierce onslaught of enemy forces. Without them, you will have nothing else you can use to defend against the lies that Satan propagates for the sole purpose of destroying the souls of men, which is, after all, his agenda—as Jesus plainly states in John 8:12–59.

I pointed out that Jesus has already triumphed over the lies that Satan is constantly and continually foisting off on us. And I warned you that it is now your turn to stand up and *fight* for the freedom that can only be found in the Truth of the *Living Word* of God. The Lord states your obligation plainly in this passage:

²⁰"[Guess what!] [I am standing] [at] [The] [Door] [and] [knocking]. [If] [anyone] [heeds] [My] [Voice] [and] [opens] [The] [Door], [I will come in] [to] [him] [also], [then] [I will have dinner] [with] [him], [and] [he] [with] [Me]. ²¹[The one who] [triumphs]? [I will grant {him} {the right}] [to sit down] [with] [Me] [on] [My] [Throne], [as] [I also] [triumphed] [and] [sat down] [with] [My] [Father] [on] [His] [Throne]! ²²[Let {the one who} {has} {an Ear} hear {what} {The} {Spirit} {is saying} {to The} {Summoned Assemblies}]." (Revelation 3:20–22) —my interim translation

I told you Jesus' encounter with the Liar would appear to have been face to face. That may or may not have been the case, but that bit of information is immaterial in your case. The Lord's turn to face the enemies of the Truth is over; it's your turn now. And the Truth regarding your battle against the lies of Satan is this: It is not going to take place in any face to face encounter with the Liar; *it is going to take place in your mind*. I told you that is why the Apostle Paul said this:

¹¹[Slip on] [All {of The} {Living} God's] [Armor], [so] [that] [you] [can] [stand] [against] [The] [Tactics] [of The] [False Accuser], ¹²[because] [The] [Struggle*] [we have] [is] [not] [against] [Flesh] [and] [Blood], [but] [against] [The] [Rulers], [against] [The] [Authorities], [against] [The] [World-Rulers*] [of This] [Nether Darkness], [against] [the] [spiritual {aspects}] [of The] [Evil Intention] [in] [the {beings}]

[in Heaven].

(Ephesians 6:11–12) —my interim translation

I pointed out that the things that Paul lists after that are not only concepts that reside in your mind, they are also the very same things that Jesus used to counter the temptation of Satan. They are, in fact, the things that you are expected to use to protect your mind against the lies that Satan has assiduously inculcated into the minds of unsuspecting men over the centuries since the Early Church surrendered *The Teaching* and started to dabble in the insanely stupid *speculative* theology with which "scholars" are currently concerned.

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

The Truth is, everyone who intends to *inherit what was promised*—that is, creation in the image and likeness of God—is going to be called upon to stand firm one final time in the face of a ferocious onslaught of the forces of darkness. Those few who triumph will gain everything the Lord *promised* so long ago; those who refuse to stand their ground and *fight* will receive exactly what they deserve. And I have absolved myself of all responsibility in that regard by telling it like it is. Believe it if you care to

I told you that you must get it firmly fixed in your mind that Satan is a liar. Without that, the battle will be lost before you even begin. But you also need to know that every liar is a coward; he is *afraid* to face the Truth. So you can expect Satan and his minions to turn tail and run whenever they are confronted by someone who knows, and firmly believes, the Truth. But he will stand and fight if he senses any uncertainty on your part. That is what James has in mind in James 1:2–8. I pointed out that, in that passage, James mentions a "sea billow" "driven by the wind"; and I told you he is referring to a statement Isaiah made:

²⁰"[But those who are guilty] [will be driven] [like {the} Sea], [Because] [he is {not} able] [to be calm]!"

[So his Waters] [drive] [Muck*] [and Mud]."

²¹[My God] [says]:

"[There is not any] [Peace] [for those who are guilty]!"

(Isaiah 57:20–21) —my interim translation

I told you that, in that verse, Isaiah is speaking in terms of the Canaanite religion in which the "Sea" he has in mind is the "Sea of El," which was the Canaanite god of the Underworld who held the dead captive. I also said, in the *parabolic imagery* of the Prophets, the "winds" that Isaiah mentions constantly drive the "waters" in the "Sea of El." And the "waters" that both the Prophets and James have in mind when they *talked about* such things are people, as John indicates in Revelation 17:15–16.

I explained there are two facets to the *parabolic imagery* of the Passover Parable in which this realm is depicted as the "Sea of El"—that is, the realm of the dead. The first has to do with our physical bodies, which are held captive in the "Sea of El." The second has to do with the god Baal, who rose up out of the Sea of El as a mist that formed the clouds that brought the early and latter rain to the Promised Land. I told you both Peter (2 Pet. 2:12–22) and Jude (Jude 1:8–13) mention that *parabolic imagery* when they *talk about* the imbecilic sluggards who have given up all hope of resurrection after beginning to "walk in *The Way*."

I said Peter uses the *parabolic imagery* to depict those who have begun to "walk in *The Way*" and have turned back to their former "ways" as being LIKE "mists" driven by a hurricane because he knows how the Prophets used the Canaanite mythology in which the resurrected god Baal rose up out of the "Sea" as a mist that formed the clouds on which he rode to bring the rain. I told you Peter's point is, the individuals he describes escaped from the "Sea" and were on "*The Way*" to the Resurrection of the Righteous; but they were driven back into the "Sea" by the "winds."

I explained that Jude uses that same *parabolic imagery*, but he stretches it a bit to indicate such people never had a solid grasp of *The Teaching* to begin with. I said Jude is well aware of the fact that clouds are formed by water; he is just making the point that the ignorant individuals he describes never really escaped from the "Sea" to begin with. They are instead completely unregenerate individuals who remain "wild waves" of that "Sea" while pretending to be "clouds" that have risen up out of it.

I told you that Peter and Jude are not alone in using *parabolic imagery* in which "winds" are not only driving totally unregenerate Pretenders but are also seeking to bring regenerate Believers back under their control. The Apostle Paul provides a bit more insight into what the *parabolic imagery* of the Passover Parable is actually describing when he *talks about* "billowing waves" and "wind" in this passage:

¹⁰[The One Who] [went down] [is] [Himself] [also] [the One Who] [went up]—[up above] [all] [The] [Heavens]—[so that] [He could completely fill] [Every Last Thing]. ¹¹[And] [He] [gave]: (1) [some] [{as} Apostles], (2) [others] [{as} Prophets], (3) [others] [{as} Evangelists], (4) [others] [{as} Shepherds] [and] [Teachers]: ¹²(a) [for] [The] [Equipping*] [of The] [Holy Ones], (b) [for] [a Work] [of Serving], (c) [for] [Edification] [of The] [Body] [of The] [Anointed One]: ¹³(1) [until] [we—[Every Last One]—come down]: (a) [to] [The] [Unity] [of our] [Belief in God's **Promise**] [and] [The] [Full Knowledge] [of The] [Son] [of The] [{Living} God], (b) [to] [a [complete] Man], (c) [to] [a Measure] [of a Stature] [of The] [Fullness] [of The] [Anointed One]; ¹⁴(2) [so that] [we would [no longer] be] [Toddlers] [who are being tossed about by billowing waves*] [and] [carried around]: (a) [by every] [Wind] [of their] [Teaching], (b) [by] [The] [Trickery*] [of Men], (c) [by] [Dishonesty] [because of] [The] [Tactic] [of their] [Deception]; ¹⁵(3) [but], [while speaking the truth] [in] [Love], [we would—[Every Last One]—grow] [into] [Him] [Who] [is] [our] [Head]—[The Anointed One]; ¹⁶[from] [Whom] [The] [whole] [Body]—[which is being precisely framed together] [and] [all put together] [via] [The] [Abundant Provision] [of every] [Ligament], [in accordance with] [{the} Energy] [in] [{the} Measure] [of each] [one's] [Part]—[produces], [through] [Love], [The] [Growth] [of The] [Body] [into] [His Own] [Building].

¹⁷[Therefore], [I am saying] [This], [and] [I am testifying] [in] [His Majesty], [so that [you] would [no longer] walk] [just as] [The] [Gentiles] [also] [walk]—[in] [{the} Futility] [of their] [Mind]—¹⁸(1) [those who are] [darkened] [in their] [Understanding], (2) [those who have been estranged from] [The] [Life] [of The] [{Living} God]: (a) [because of] [The] [Ignorance] [that] [is] [in] [them] (b) [because of] [The] [Hardness] [of their] [Heart], ¹⁹(3) [those who], [having become totally senseless*], [have handed [themselves] over] [to] [Licentiousness], [for] [a Business] [of

all] [Uncleaness] [in] [Selfishness].
(Ephesians 4:10–19) —my interim translation

I pointed out that, in "The Way" that Paul uses the *parabolic imagery*, "billowing waves" are false teachers and the lies that they teach is "wind." Remember that; it is *significant*. I said that is precisely the same "Way" that Peter, James, and Jude use the *parabolic imagery*. And *parabolic imagery* it is, although the "billowing waves" speaking from the pulpit today would never agree with that assessment, seeing as how they are "driven by the wind."

I told you the Truth is, the Greek-speaking people in the time of Christ knew of two kinds of "wind." They called the first kind "*anemos*." By their use of that word they *meant* the same movement of air molecules that we call "wind." But those folks also knew of another kind of "wind," and they called that "wind" "*pneuma*," which is the kind of "wind" that we call "spirit." Knowing that the Greeks considered *pneuma* a kind of "wind" is what has led translators to translate that term as "wind" in a couple of places where they have no idea what is actually being stated. I said Jesus is *talking about* the Holy Spirit in John 3:8, where He says this about "wind":

⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."
(John 3:5–8)

I said Jesus is *talking about* the conviction of the Holy Spirit in what He says to Nicodemus, but the translator totally mangles the *meaning* of what Jesus says. I told you Jesus is merely telling Nicodemus that everyone who has been born again has had an experience in which he or she heard the "wind" of the Holy Spirit as it "blew" through their mind in the form of an intense conviction that they were sinners and needed to repent (apologize to God). If you have been born again, you know exactly what Jesus is *talking about*; if you don't know what He is *talking about*, trust me, you

have not been born again. The Truth regarding the work of the Holy Spirit in the minds of men today is exactly what Jesus said it would be in John 14:25–26 and John 16:5–11, where Jesus explains the three things the "wind" of the Holy Spirit "blows" through the mind of the unregenerate person when it convicts them and tries to convince them to apologize:

1. the conviction that they have sinned
2. the opportunity to be declared not guilty
3. the certainty that they are headed for Hell

I told you that, if you have at any time heard the "wind" of the Holy Spirit inviting you to repent (apologize), you know precisely what mental experience Jesus is referring to in those few verses. If not, you have never *received* the Holy Spirit's invitation to repent. You might want to try to rectify that situation by reading a couple of booklets I have written. The first is titled *The Old Testament Gospel of Jesus Christ*, and the second is *7 Simple Steps to Salvation*. In those two booklets, I explain what God requires of the one who desires to be born again; but that is not what I am concerned about here. I am instead focused on the fact that the Greeks knew that *pneuma* ("spirit") was some sort of *wind*.

I next showed you Hebrews 1:7, the second passage in which translators translate *pneuma* as "wind." I told you the word in that verse that has been translated "winds" is *pneuma*. The verse actually says this:

[And] [on the one hand], [with regard to]
[The] [Messengers], [He says]:
"{'This is} [THE ONE WHO] [MAKES]
[HIS] [MESSENGERS] [SPIRITS],
[AND] [HIS] [PRIESTLY MINISTERS] [A FLAME] [OF FIRE]."
(Hebrews 1:7) —my interim translation

From the two texts I showed you, you should be able to see that translations today still reflect the fact that the Greeks thought of spirits (*pneuma*) as "winds." What I didn't tell you at that time is this: In the Hebrew Scriptures, the same Hebrew word (*ruach*) is used to refer to both the *physical* and the *spiritual* "winds" that "blow" here on Planet Earth. So the Hebrew mind-set found in the Old Testament is the same as the Greek mind-set found in the New Testament. I didn't tell you that at the time because the point I was making had to

do with the Greek-speaking people at the time of Christ and the fact that they considered every *pneuma* (spirit), whether good or bad, as some sort of "wind" that "blew" through the mind of men and could take up permanent residence in it. I told you Jesus is referring to that belief in Matthew 12:43–45, where He describes what can happen to a person who has been born again but turns away from the Truth of the Gospel to believe the lie of a "wind" that he believed before being born again. I said Peter makes that clear in 2 Peter 2:20–21, where he uses the same phrase Jesus used.

I told you that the reason I showed you what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit and unclean spirits was so that you would have insight into the Greek mind-set in which the *pneuma* of both the Holy Spirit and unclean spirits is a "wind." I said you need to be aware of that concept simply because the Holy Spirit is not the only "wind" (*pneuma*) that has the ability to "blow" through the minds of men. There are countless other evil "winds" that "blow" down here, and you hear their voice on a daily basis. I told you I know that, because I know they speak to you *in your mind*.

Then I stated the obvious: Most people aren't even aware that evil "winds" are talking to them. I said that is because those "winds" are abject cowards. *They masquerade as your own thoughts* so that you will not recognize them for what they are. But the Truth is, the "winds" that "blow" through our minds have no power at all other than the *power of suggestion*. And that is precisely what they do:

suggest that we believe or doubt this or that
suggest that we feel or want this or that
suggest that we do this or that

I told you it is not surprising that the "winds" that "blow" across the "waters" of this "Sea of El" in which we live would disguise themselves in some way so as not to be recognized. That approach is much more effective than coming right out and identifying themselves. If they did that, it would scare the pants off most of us. And most people are sane enough not to act on the more obscene *suggestions* made by the "winds." Yet we have all had that stray "thought" that came from somewhere way out in left field and made no sense at all in the context of everything else we were thinking.

I told you *I am not saying every thought we have is a "wind" speaking to us*. That sad circumstance will not happen unless a person is completely dominated by them. But the "winds" will pester every True Believer a bit when they see an opportunity to bring him back under their control, so I went on to explain how the "winds" operate so that you would be able to recognize them and thwart what they are trying to accomplish. I told you I did that because, if you can't recognize them, you certainly aren't going to be able to triumph over them. So I gave you a few pointers as to how to recognize and thwart their attempts to control you.

Movin' On

Now, I am going to explain the mind-set you need to take on if you intend to *become* what the Lord wants you to *become*—that is, if you intend to *become* a "new man" created in the image and likeness of the *Living Word of God*. In Romans 12:1–3, the Apostle Paul lays out the challenge that every True Believer must accept—if they intend to be transformed into the image and likeness of the *Living Word of God*. It is a challenge Pretenders will whole-heartedly reject—and will deny it even exists:

¹[Therefore], [I implore] [you], [Brothers], [via] [The] [Compassion] [of The] [{Living} God], [to present] [your] [Bodies] [as a [living], [holy] Sacrifice], [well-pleasing] [to The] [{Living} God]—[your] [logical] [Priestly Service]. ²[And] [do [not] be shaped] [by] [This] [Current Age], [but] [be transformed] [by The] [Renewing] [of your] [Mind], [so] [that] [you] [approve of] [what] [The] [Will] [of The] [{Living} God] {is}—[which is] [good] [and] [well-pleasing] [and] [complete].

³[For] [I tell] [everyone] [who] [is] [among] [you]—[via] [The] [Favor] [that] [was given] [to me]—[to [not] have a more high-minded mind-set*] [than] [{the} mind-set [that] [one should] have], [but] [to have a mind-set] [so as] [to have good common sense]—[to each one] [as much as] [The] [{Living} God] [has divided out] [a Measure] [of Belief in God's Promise]. ⁴[For] [even as] [we have] [many] [Members] [in] [one] [Body], [but] [The] [Members] [do [not] [all] have] [The] [same] [Activity], ⁵[so also] [we, [The] [Many], are] [one] [Body] [in] [The Anointed One], [but] [each and every] [one] [Members] [of one another], ⁶[but] [those who have] [different] [Gifts] [in accordance with] [The] [Favor] [that]

[was given] [to us].

(Romans 12:1–6a) —my interim translation

In that passage, the Apostle Paul lays out but two options for the Believer:

1. *be shaped by this current age*
2. *be transformed by the renewing of your mind*

Which of those two options are you, as a Believer, going to choose? I say "Believer" because *the Believer has a choice*; the unregenerate person has no choice simply because he has never believed the Gospel message, apologized to God for his sin, and been born again. Every Believer has been born again, but not every Believer is a True Believer—a Believer who becomes what the Lord wants them to be. Those Believers who have already *chosen* to *believe* otherwise have merely *chosen* to believe one of Satan's most pernicious lies. 'Tain't so.

I must warn you that you can easily deceive yourself into believing one thing when you actually believe the other; but I can also promise you this: Your eternal existence is going to be determined by what you *choose to believe* in this case. So, for the benefit of those True Believers who honestly want to know the Truth, I am going to explain the things you need to know about your role in the transformational process the Lord has established.

Better to Deny Yourself Than the Truth

The first thing you need to know is something I have stated again and again over the past two decades: *You are what you believe*. The second thing you need to know is a continuation of the first: *You always act in accordance with what you believe*. Anyone who denies those two axioms is totally deluded, acting in accordance with a delusional belief that it does not matter what one believes. Such a person will most certainly not benefit from anything I am going to explain here. Best for him to stop reading right now. For the benefit of the rest of you, I continue.

Jesus made a very intriguing statement on at least two occasions, if not more. But if you do not know what the Greeks believed about the soul, you will undoubtedly not understand what He was *talking about*, much less what He *meant* by what He said.

Matthew tells us Jesus said the following in the context of talking about the End of the Age and the circumstances that True Believers will be forced to face:

²¹"[Then] [a Brother] [will hand [a Brother] over] [to] [Death]; [and] [a Father], [a Child]; [and] [Children] [will stand up] [against] [Parents] [and] [put [them] to death]. ²²[And] [you will be] [hated] [by] [everyone] [because of] [My] [Name]; [but] [the one who] [has continued on [to] [The Consummation] under harsh circumstances], [This Individual] [will be saved].

²³[So] [when] [they persecute] [you] [in] [This] [City], [flee] [to] [The] [Other]. [For] [without doubt] [I tell] [you], [you will [definitely not] complete] [The] [Cities] [of] [Israel] [until] [the time comes when] [The] [Son] [of The] [Man] [comes]. ²⁴[A Disciple] [is] [not] [greater than] [his] [Teacher], [neither] {is} [a Slave] [greater than] [his] [Owner]. ²⁵{It is} [enough] [for The] [Disciple] [that] [he has become] [like] [his] [Teacher]; [and] [The] [Slave], [like] [his] [Owner]. [If] [they call] [The] [Owner of the House] [Beelzebul], [how much] [more] [The] [Members of [His] House]?

²⁶[Therefore], [do [not] be afraid of] [them], [for] [there is] [nothing] [that has been covered] [that] [will [not] be revealed], [and] [hidden] [that] [will [not] be made known]. ²⁷[Whatever] [I tell] [you] [in] [The] [Darkness], [speak] [in] [The] [Light]; [and] [whatever] [you hear] [in] [your] [Ear], [preach] [on top] [of their] [Domiciles]. ²⁸[And] [do [not] be afraid] [of] [the things that] [kill] [The] [Body] [but] [can] [not] [kill] [The] [Soul]; [but] [instead], [be afraid of] [the One Who] [can] [do away with] [both] [Body] [and] [Soul] [in] [The Trash Pit]. ²⁹[Are [two] [Sparrows] [not] sold for] [a 4-cent piece]? [And] [not] [one] [of] [them] [will fall] [onto] [The] [Earth] [without] [your] [Father] {knowing}. ³⁰[But] [even] [all] [The] [Hairs] [of] [your] [Head] [are] [numbered]. ³¹[Therefore], [do [not] be afraid]; [you] [matter more than] [many] [Sparrows].

³²[Therefore], [everyone] [who] [acknowledges the truth] [about] [Me] [in front] [of] [Men], [I also] [will acknowledge the truth] [about] [him] [in front] [of] [My] [Father], [Who is] [in] [The] [Heavens]. ³³[But] [whoever] [it might be who] [denies] [Me] [in front] [of] [Men], [I also] [will deny] [him] [in front] [of] [My] [Father], [Who is] [in] [The] [Heavens].

³⁴[You should [not] presume] [that] [I came] [to cast] [Peace] [onto] [The] [Earth]. [I did [not] come] [to cast] [Peace] [but] [a Sword]. ³⁵[For] [I came] [to

MAKE [A MAN] DISAGREE*] [WITH] [HIS] [FATHER], [AND] [A DAUGHTER] [WITH] [HER] [MOTHER] [AND] [A BRIDE] [WITH] [HER] [MOTHER-IN-LAW]. ³⁶[Even] [THE] [MEMBERS OF [HIS] HOUSE] {will be} [THE] [MAN'S] [ENEMIES]. ³⁷[The one who] [is more fond of] [Father] [or] [Mother] [than] [Me] [is] [not] [worthy] [of Me], [and] [the one who] [is more fond of] [Son] [or] [Daughter] [than] [Me] [is] [not] [worthy] [of Me]. ³⁸[And] [whoever] [does [not] take up] [his] [Cross] [and] [follow] [after] [Me] [is] [not] [worthy] [of Me]. ³⁹[The one who] [has found] [his] [Soul] [will do away with] [it], [and] [the one who] [has done away with] [his] [Soul] [on account] [of Me] [will find] [it]."

(Matthew 10:21–39) —my interim translation

I am not going to get into an in-depth discussion regarding Greek beliefs in regard to the soul; the only thing you really need to know in that regard is this: *The soul is where you evaluate the truthfulness of things you hear and decide what you believe.* That's why Jesus said what He said about the Truth He taught dividing the various members of a family. Belief in the Truth sometimes does that—with a vengeance. Even to the point where some family members would go so far as to cause the death of other members. So before you evaluate the Truth God called me to explain and choose to believe, you might want to count the cost. It can sometimes be extremely expensive—as far as family relationships go. But that's for you to decide, so you can get on with that while I show you the next thing that Jesus said about the soul:

²¹[At] [That Time], [Jesus] [began] [to show] [His] [Disciples] [that] [He] [had] [to go] [to] [Jerusalem], [and] [suffer] [Many Things] [because of] [The] [Elders] [and] [High Priests] [and] [Scribes], [and] [be killed], [and] [arise] [on The] [third] [Day]. ²²[So], [after taking] [Him] [aside], [Peter] [began] [to rebuke] [Him], [saying], "[Gracious] [You], [Your Majesty]! [This] [will] [definitely not] happen [to You]!" ²³[But] [after] [He] [turned around], [He told] [Peter]: "[Get] [behind] [Me], [Satan]! [You are] [a Deadfall Trap] to [Me], [because] [You do] [not] have your mind set on [The Things] [of The] [{Living} God], [but] [The Things] [of] [Men]." ²⁴[Then] [Jesus] [told] [His] [Disciples]: "[If] [anyone] [wants] [to come] [after] [Me], [he must emphatically deny] [himself] [and] [pick up] [his] [Cross] [and] [follow] [Me]. ²⁵[For] [whoever] [it may be who]

[wants] [to save] [his] [Soul] [will do away with] [it], [but] [whoever] [it might be who] [does away with] [his] [Soul] [will find] [it] [on account] [of Me]. ²⁶[For] [what] [Man] [would gain a benefit] [if] [he gained] [The] [entire] [World], [but] [lost] [his] [Soul]? [Or] [what] [Replacement] [will] [a Man] [give] [for his] [Soul]? ²⁷[For] [The] [Son] [of The] [Man] [is going] [to come] [in] [The] [Glory] [of] [His] [Father], [with] [His] [Messengers], [and] [then] [HE WILL PAY] [EACH ONE] BACK [IN ACCORDANCE WITH] [HIS] [ACTIVITY]. ²⁸[Without doubt], [I tell] [you] [that] [there are] [some] [of those who] [are standing] [here] [who] [will] [definitely not] taste [Death] [until] [the time comes when] [they see] [The] [Son] [of The] [Man], [coming] [in] [His] [Kingdom]."

(Matthew 16:21–28) —my interim translation

Mark gives a similar account of the things that Jesus said on that occasion, but his account is not the same as Matthew's in all respects, so I will include it here:

²⁷[Then] [Jesus] [and] [His] [Disciples] [left] [for] [The] [Villages] [of Caesarea] [Philippi]. [And] [on] [The] [Way], [He was asking] [His] [Disciples] a question, [saying] [to them], "[Who] [do] [Men] say [that] [I] am?" ²⁸[So] [they] [told] [Him], [saying] [that] "{some say} [John] [The] [Baptist]; [and] [Others], [Elijah]; [but] [Others] [that] {You are} [one] [of The] [Prophets]."²⁹[So] [He] [was asking] [them] a question: "[But] [you]? [Who] [do you say] [that] [I] am?" [In response], [Peter] [tells] [Him], "[You] [are] [The] [Anointed One]!" ³⁰[Then] [He rebuked] [them], [so that] [they would] [not] tell {anyone} [about] [Him].

³¹[And] [He began] [to teach] [them] [that] [The] [Son] [of The] [Man] [has] [to suffer] [Many Things], [and] [be completely rejected] [by] [The] [Elders] [and] [The] [High Priests] [and] [The] [Scribes], [and] [be killed], [and] [rise] [after] [three] [Days]. ³²[So] [He was speaking] [The] [Word] [candidly]; [yet] [after taking] [Him] [aside], [Peter] [began] [to rebuke] [Him]. ³³[But then] [He], [after turning around] [and] [seeing] [His] [Disciples], [rebuked] [Peter] [and] [says], "[Get] [behind] [Me], [Satan], [because] [You do] [not] have Your mind set on [The Things] [of The] [{Living} God] [but] [The Things] [of] [Men]!"

³⁴[Then] [after summoning] [The] [Crowd] [along with] [His] [Disciples], [He told] [them]: "[If] [anyone]

[wants] [to follow] [after] [Me], [he must emphatically deny] [himself] [and] [pick up] [his] [Cross] [and] [follow] [Me]. ³⁵[For] [whoever] [it might be who] [wants] [to save] [his] [Soul] [will do away with] [it]; [but] [whoever] [it might be who] [will do away with] [his] [Soul] [on account] [of Me] [and] [The] [Good News of the Fulfillment of the Promise] [will save] [it]. ³⁶[For] [what] [benefit does it provide] [a Man] [to gain] [The] [entire] [World] [and] [lose] [his] [own] [Soul]? ³⁷[For] [what] [Replacement] [could] [a Man] [give] [for his] [Soul]? ³⁸[For] [whoever] [it might be who] [is ashamed of] [Me] [and] [My] [Words] [in] [This] [Generation]—[which is] [adulterous] [and] [sinful]—[The] [Son] [of The] [Man] [will also be ashamed of] [him] [when] [He comes] [in] [The] [Glory] [of] [His] [Father] [with] [The] [Messengers] [that are] [holy].”
(Mark 8:27–38) —my interim translation

Luke also gives an account of the things that Jesus said on the same occasion that both Matthew and Mark describe:

¹⁸[Then] [it happened that] [The] [Disciples] [were] [completely] [alone] [with] [Him] [while] [He] [was] [praying]; [so] [He asked] [them] a question, [saying], “[Who] [do] [The] [Crowds] say [that] [I] am?” ¹⁹[So then] [they], [in response], [said], “[Some say} [John] [The] [Baptist]; [but] [Others], [Elijah]; [but] [Others], [that] [a Prophet]—[one] [of The] [Ancients]—[has risen].” ²⁰[So] [He said] [to them], “[But] [Who] [do] [you] say [that] [I] am?” [So] [Peter], [in response], [said], “[The] [Anointed One] [of The] [Living} God!” ²¹[And then], [after] [He] rebuked [them], [He instructed] {them} [not] [to tell] [This] to anyone, ²²[telling] {them} [that] “[The] [Son] [of The] [Man] [has] [to suffer] [Many Things], [and] [be completely rejected] [by] [The] [Elders] [and] [High Priests] [and] [Scribes], [and] [be killed], [and] [arise] [on The] [third] [Day].”

²³[And then] [He was saying] [to] [everyone]: “[If] [anyone] [wants] [to come] [after] [Me], [he must deny] [himself] [and] [pick up] [his] [Cross] [each and every] [Day] [and] [follow] [Me]. ²⁴[For] [whoever] [it might be who] [wants] [to save] [his] [Soul] [will do away with] [it]; [but] [whoever] [it might be who] [does away with] [his] [Soul] [on account] [of Me], [This Individual] [will save] [it]. ²⁵[For] [what] [benefit does] [a Man] [who has gained] [The] [entire] [World] [but] [has done away with] [himself] [or]

[been lost] gain]? ²⁶[For] [whoever] [it might be who] [is ashamed of] [Me] [and] [My] [Words], [The] [Son] [of The] [Man] [will be ashamed of] [This Individual] [when] [He comes back] [in] [The] [Glory] [He—[and] [The] [Father] [and] [The] [holy] [Messengers]—has]. ²⁷[But] [I tell] [you] [truly], [there are] [some] [of those] [standing] [here] [who] [will] [definitely not] taste [Death] [until] [the time comes when] [they see] [The] [Kingdom] [of The] [Living} God].”
(Luke 9:18–27) —my interim translation

The point of what Jesus said about an individual losing, saving, or doing away with his soul can easily be missed if one does not know that, according to beliefs current at that time, the soul is where we all decide what we believe is true. But the point of what He meant by what He said will be overlooked completely if one does not pay close attention to the context in which Jesus made the following statement:

[Then] [Jesus] [told] [His] [Disciples], “[If] [anyone] [wants] [to come] [after] [Me], [he must emphatically deny] [himself] [and] [pick up] [his] [Cross] [and] [follow] [Me].”
(Matthew 16:24) —my interim translation

[Then] [after summoning] [The] [Crowd] [along with] [His] [Disciples], [He told] [them], “[If] [anyone] [wants] [to follow] [after] [Me], [he must emphatically deny] [himself] [and] [pick up] [his] [Cross] [and] [follow] [Me].”
(Mark 8:34) —my interim translation

[And then] [He was saying] [to] [everyone], “[If] [anyone] [wants] [to come] [after] [Me], [he must deny] [himself] [and] [pick up] [his] [Cross] [each and every] [Day] [and] [follow] [Me].”
(Luke 9:23) —my interim translation

As you can see, there is very little variation in the three accounts. All mention denying one's self and picking up one's cross. But here's the thing you need to keep in mind: Jesus made that statement immediately after telling His disciples that He had to go up to Jerusalem and be killed so that He could arise on the third day. However, the verb translated “killed” only serves to obfuscate what He actually told His disciples.

Since capital punishment at that time was meted out by crucifixion, you can bet your knickers—and your bippy—that the “cross” that Jesus had in mind was one on which He expected His followers would be “crucified” and die. I put *crucified* in quotes because Jesus is speaking *parabolically* in terms of a person hearing the Truth of the *Living Word* of God and denying the person he has been, thereby losing, saving, or doing away with his soul. You know, the part of the person that *decides what one believes*.

Okay, I get it; you have never looked at those passages that “Way” before. No problem. I’ll wait right here while you go back and read the three passages from that perspective. You might also want to read the first passage (Matt. 10:21–39) again. Just keep in mind the fact that Jesus Christ is the Truth of the *Living Word* that He believed. Deny that Truth, you have denied Him. Take it or leave it. You can deny the things God called me to explain if you care to or dare to. Not my concern; the Lord will evaluate your *decision* for you when He returns. He’ll be along shortly. In the meantime, I’m just doing what God called me to do to prepare those who still have an ear to hear.

“I Die Daily”

Now that I have shown you what Jesus said about you “dying,” let me show you something the Apostle Paul said in terms of the *parabolic imagery* that Jesus had in mind:

¹[But] [I am going to make known] [to you], [Brothers], [The] [Good News of **the Fulfillment of the Promise**] [that] [I proclaimed [to you] as the good news of **the fulfillment of the promise**]: (1) [which] [you also] took to yourselves, (2) [in] [which] [you are also] standing, ²(3) [via] [which] [you will also] be saved, [if] [you hold fast] [to each] [Word] [I proclaimed [to you] as the good news of **the fulfillment of the promise**], [outside of]—[unless]—[you believed God’s **promise**] [for no good reason].

³[For] [among] [{the} First Things] [I handed over] [to you], [which] [I also] took to myself {was}: (1) [That] [The Anointed One] [died] [for] [our] [Sins] [in accordance with] [The] [Writings]; ⁴[and] (2) [that] [He was buried]; [and] (3) [that] [He arose] [on The] [Day]—[the] [third {day}]—[in accordance with] [The] [Writings]; ⁵[and] (4) [that] [He was seen] [by Cephas], [then] [by

The] [Twelve]. ⁶[Then] [He was seen] [by over] [five hundred] [Brothers] [only one time], [of] [whom] [The] [Majority] [remain] [up to] [this point], [but] [some] [have fallen fast asleep]. ⁷[He was [then] seen] [by James], [then] [by all] [The] [Apostles]; ⁸[and then] [Last] [of all] [He was seen] [by even me], [just as if*] [by The] [Untimely Born Child*]. ⁹[For] [I] [am] [The] [Least] [of The] [Apostles]—[the one who] [is] [not] [worthy of consideration] [to be called] [an Apostle] [because] [I persecuted] [The] [Summoned Assembly] [of The] [{Living} God]. ¹⁰[But] [by God’s] [Favor], [I am] [what] [I am], [and] [The] [Favor] [that] [He has] [for] [me] [has not] been [in vain]. [But] [I labored] [a lot more than] [them] [all]—[yet] [not] [I], [but] [The] [Favor] [of The] [{Living} God] [that is] [with] [me]. ¹¹[Therefore], [whether] [I] [or] [Those Individuals], [we preached] [the same thing], [and] [you believed] [the same thing].

¹²[So] [if] [The Anointed One] [is preached]—[that] [He has arisen] [from] [Those Who Are Dead]—[on what basis] [do some] [among] [you] say [that] [there is] [no] [Resurrection] [of Those Who Are Dead]? ¹³[But then], [if] [there is] [not] [a Resurrection] [of Those Who Are Dead], [neither] [has] [The Anointed One] arisen. ¹⁴[But then], [if] [The Anointed One] [has not] arisen, [then] [our] [Preaching] {is} [also] [in vain], [and] [your] [Belief in God’s **Promise**] {is} [in vain]. ¹⁵[But then] [we are also] found to be [False Witnesses] [of The] [{Living} God], [because] [we have provided testimony] [about] [The] [{Living} God], [that] [He raised] [The] [Anointed One]—[Whom], [if indeed] [He did not] raise, [then] [Those Who Are Dead] [are not] going to arise. ¹⁶[For] [if] [Those Who Are Dead] [are not] going to arise, [neither] [has] [The Anointed One] arisen. ¹⁷[But then], [if] [The Anointed One] [has not] arisen, [your] [Belief in God’s **Promise**] {is} [futile]; [you are] [still] [in] [your] [Sins]. ¹⁸[So then] [those who] [have fallen fast asleep] [in] [The Anointed One] [have also] been done away with. ¹⁹[If] [we are] [those who have hope] [in] [The Anointed One] [only] [in] [This] [Life], [we are] [{the} most wretched] [of all] [Men]. ²⁰[But] [right now], [The Anointed One] [has arisen] [from] [Those Who Are Dead]—[a First Fruit] [of those who] [have fallen fast asleep]. ²¹[For], [since] [Death] {was} [via] [a Man], [Resurrection] [of Those Who Are Dead] [also] {will be} [via] [a Man]. ²²[For], [indeed, just as] [all] [die] [in] [The] [Adam], [so] [also] [all] [will be given life] [in] [The] [Anointed One]. ²³[But] [each one] [in] [his] [own] [Place in Line*]: (1) [The Anointed One] {is} [a First

Fruit]; (2) [then] [those who] [belong to The] [Anointed One] [at] [His] [Coming]; ²⁴(3) [then] [The] [Consummation], [when] [He hands over] [The] [Kingdom] [to The] [{Living} God] [and] [Father], [when] [He has abrogated] [every] [Ruler] [and] [every] [Authority] [and] [Supernatural Power]. ²⁵[For] [He] [has] [to be king] [up to the time] [when] [He has put [all] [His] [Enemies] down] [under] [His] [Feet]. ²⁶[The last] [Enemy] [to be abrogated] {is going to be} [Death]. ²⁷[For] [HE HAS MADE EVERYTHING] SUBMIT [UNDER] [HIS] [FEET]. [But] [when] [He said] [that] "[everything] [has been made to submit]," [it is obvious] [that] {"everything" is} [outside] [of the One Who] [made [Every Last Thing] submit] [to Him]. ²⁸[But] [when] [Every Last Thing] [has been made to submit] [to Him], [then] [The] [Son] [Himself] [will [also] be submitted] [to the One Who] [made [Every Last Thing] submit] [to Him], [so that] [The] [{Living} God] [is] [Every Last Thing] [in] [everything].

²⁹[Otherwise], [what] [will [those who] [are baptized] [for the sake] [of The] [Dead] do] [if] [Those Who Are Dead] [are [not] going to arise] [at all]? [Why] [are they [even] baptized] [for [their] sake]? ³⁰[And] [why] [are [we] in danger] [every] [Hour]? ³¹[Your own] [Boasting], [Brothers], {is} [most definitely*] [the one that] [I {also} have] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus], [our] [Master]: "[I die] [each and every] [Day]." ³²[If], [with respect to] [Man], [I fought with wild beasts*] [in] [Ephesus], [what is] [The] [Benefit] [for me]? [If] [Those Who Are Dead] [are [not] going to arise], "[LET'S EAT] [AND] [DRINK], [FOR] [TOMORROW] [WE DIE]." ³³[Do [not] be led astray]: "[Awful] [Associates*] [are going to beguile] [really good] [Character*]." ³⁴[Become sober*], [as one should], [and] [do [not] sin]; [for] [some] [have] [an Ignorance] [of God]. [I am speaking] [to you] [with regard to] [a Disgrace].

(1 Corinthians 15:1–34) —my interim translation

Paul goes on to give the best explanation you will find in the Scriptures—outside of Isaiah 40–66—of God's plan to "engender" Children in His Own image and likeness. In spite of that, the dimwitted "scholars" in the Church today have no idea Paul's mind-set regarding the first and Second Adam he mentions comes directly out of the two Adams described in the first and second chapters of the Book of Genesis. Since I have already explained those things in the booklet titled *In the Image and Likeness of God*, I will tuck away my soapbox and get back to the topic at hand.

Take another look at what Paul says about his own view of the death and resurrection of True Believers:

[Your own] [Boasting], [Brothers], {is} [most definitely*] [the one that] [I {also} have] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus], [our] [Master]: "[I die] [each and every] [Day]."

(1 Corinthians 15:31) —my interim translation

This is where you need a bit of information from the Book of Acts, so I am going to tell you what you need to know. I assume you already know that a man we know as Luke wrote both the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. If you didn't know that, now you do. I also assume you know—from Luke's use of the first person "we" in Acts 16:10–16; 20:5–15; 21:1–18; and 27:1–28:16—that Luke joined up with Paul, Silas, and Timothy in Troas and traveled with Paul from there on out. If you didn't know that, now you do. I also assume you know Luke joined up with Paul *after* he wrote the Gospel of Luke. If you didn't know that, now you do.

Since every writer keeps a copy of what he has written lying around somewhere close to him (author's pride of accomplishment, I suppose), you can safely assume that Paul had opportunity to read what Luke wrote in the Gospel of Luke; and if he read it, you can safely assume he was influenced by it. But there is no need for you to assume anything. He did, and he was. If you didn't know that, take another look:

[Your own] [Boasting], [Brothers], {is} [most definitely*] [the one that] [I {also} have] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus], [our] [Master]: "[I die] [each and every] [Day]."

(1 Corinthians 15:31) —my interim translation

Paul is referring to the requirement that Jesus laid down for True Believers who intend to follow Him. They must deny themselves, pick up their cross, and follow Him. But Paul is also pointing to Luke's account of what Jesus said. See for yourself:

[Then] [Jesus] [told] [His] [Disciples], "[If] [anyone] [wants] [to come] [after] [Me], [he must emphatically deny] [himself] [and] [pick up] [his] [Cross] [and] [follow] [Me]."

(Matthew 16:24) —my interim translation

[Then] [after summoning] [The] [Crowd] [along with] [His] [Disciples], [He told] [them], "[If] [anyone] [wants] [to follow] [after] [Me], **he must emphatically deny** [himself] **[and] [pick up] [his] [Cross] [and] [follow] [Me].**"

(Mark 8:34) —my interim translation

[And then] [He was saying] [to] [everyone], "[If] [anyone] [wants] [to come] [after] [Me], **he must deny** [himself] **[and] [pick up] [his] [Cross] [each and every] [Day] [and] [follow] [Me].**"

(Luke 9:23) —my interim translation

Did you see it? If not, go back and look for the phrase "each and every day." You will find that both Paul and Luke use the phrase, but not Matthew or Mark. That phrase is *significant* because your battle against the "winds" that "blow" through your mind is going to be an "each and every day" thing.

Casualties of War Are a Given

If you are not up to the task of staying focused on battling the "winds," take it from someone who has seen the carnage of military operations up close and personal: You are not going to go "home" alive. The "winds" are going to take you out; no doubt about it. Perseverance is the key, as Luke indicates in his account of the Parable of the Sower:

¹¹"[So] [This] [is] [The] [Comparison]: [The] [Seed-grain] [is] [The] [Word] [of The] [Living} God]. ¹²[And then] [those] [by] [The] [Way] [are] [those who] [heard {the good news of **the fulfillment of the promise**}. [Then] [The] [False Accuser] [comes] [and] [takes away] [The] [Word] [from] [their] [Heart] [so that], [after believing God's **promise**], [they may [not] be saved]. ¹³[And then] [those] [on] [The] [Rock] {are} [those who], [when] [they heard {the good news of **the fulfillment of the promise**}], [accepted] [The] [Word] [with] [Joy]. [And] [These Individuals]—[who] [believe God's **promise**] [for] [a Time]—[do [not] have] [a Root], [so] [they withdraw] [during] [a Time] [of Testing]. ¹⁴[And then] [the one that] [fell] [into] [The] [Thorns], [These Individuals] [are] [those who] [heard {the good news of **the fulfillment of the promise**}] [and], [while walking {in the way}], [are crowded out] [by] [Concerns] [and] [Wealth] [and] [Pleasures] [of their] [Livelihood]; [so] [they do [not]

carry on to completion*]. ¹⁵[And then] [the one] [in] [The] [exceptionally good] [Soil], [These Individuals] [are] [those who], [after hearing] [The] [Word], [hold {it} fast] [in] [an [exceptional] [and] [good] Heart] [and] [bear fruit] [by] [Perseverance]."

(Luke 8:11–15) —my interim translation

That is by no means the only time the need for perseverance is mentioned as an imperative. Paul says this in regard to the Believer battling the "winds":

¹[Therefore], [we [who have been acquitted] [on the basis] [of Belief in God's Promise] have] [Peace] [with] [The] [Living} God] [via] [our] [Master], [Jesus], [The Anointed One], ²[via] [Whom] [we [also]—[by our] [Belief in God's **Promise**]—have] [Access] [to] [This] [Favor] [in] [which] [we stand]; [and] [we boast] [about] [a Hope] [of The] [Glory] [of The] [Living} God]. ³[So] [not] [only {this}], [but] [we [also] boast] [about] [The] [Things That Cause Turmoil], [aware] [that] [The] [Turmoil] [is going to bring about] [Perseverance]; ⁴[then] [The] [Perseverance], [Approval]; [then] [The] [Approval], [Hope]. ⁵[So] [our] [Hope] [does [not] embarrass {us}], [because] [The] [Love] [of The] [Living} God] [has been poured out] [in] [our] [Hearts] [via] [a [holy] Spirit]—[the One that] [was given] [to us]. (Romans 5:1–5) —my interim translation

The term I translated "turmoil" in that passage is normally translated "tribulation," which makes no sense at all in that context. "Turmoil" does make sense, because that is exactly what the "winds" produce in everyone who believes them; and the "turmoil" that the "winds" seek to introduce in the minds of True Believers is precisely the opposite of the "peace" that Paul mentions in the first verse. Paul's point is, even when the "winds" are able to get through to the True Believer and disturb the peace by causing "turmoil," the True Believer will still benefit. That's because the "winds" success will only increase the True Believer's hatred for them and strengthen his resolve to triumph over them the next time.

Now that you know the "tribulation" at the End of the Age is actually a time of "turmoil" brought about by "winds" that the Lord will allow to "blow" at hurricane force in the very near future, take a look at Matthew's account of how Jesus described that time of "turmoil":

³[But] [while [He] was sitting] [on] [The] [Mount] [of] [Olives], [His] [Disciples] [approached], [by] [themselves], [saying]: "[Tell] [us]! [When] [will] [These Things] be? [And] [what is] [The] [Sign] [of] [Your] [Coming], [and] [the] Consummation] [of The] [Current Age]?"

⁴[So] [in response] [Jesus] [told] [them]: "[Look out, so that] [someone] [does] [not] lead [you] astray. ⁵[For] [Many] [will come] [on the basis of] [My] [Name], [saying], '[I] [am] [The] [Anointed One],' [and] [they will lead] [Many] astray. ⁶[And then] [you are going] [to hear about] [Wars] [and] [News Reports] [about Wars]. [See to it that] [you are] [not] alarmed, [for] [it has] [to occur]. [But] [The] [Consummation] [is] [not yet]. ⁷[For] [Nation] [will rise up] [against] [Nation], [and] [Kingdom] [against] [Kingdom]; [and] [there will be] [Famines] [and] [Earthquakes] [in various] [Places]. ⁸[But] [all] [These Things] [are] [The Beginning] [of Birth Pangs].

⁹[Then] [they will hand] [you] over [in] [Turmoil] [and] [kill] [you], [and] [you will be] [hated] [by] [all] [The] [Gentiles] [because of] [My] [Name]. ¹⁰[And] [then] [Many] [will be offended], [and] [they will hand] [one another] over, [and] [they will hate] [one another]. ¹¹[And] [many] [False Prophets] [will arise] [and] [lead] [Many] astray. ¹²[And] [because] [The] [Lawless Deed] [has been increased], [The] [Love] [of The] [Many] [will grow cold*]. ¹³[But] [the one who] [has continued on] [to] [Consummation] under harsh circumstances? [This Individual] [will be saved]. ¹⁴[And] [This] [Good News of the Fulfillment of the Promise] [of The] [Kingdom] [will be preached] [in] [The] [entire] [Civilized World] [as] [a Testimony] [to all] [The] [Gentiles]. [And] [then] [The] [Consummation] [will come].

¹⁵[Therefore], [when] [you see] [THE] [ABOMINATION] [OF] [DESOLATION], ([the] [statement that was made] [via] [The] [Prophet] [Daniel*]) [standing] [in] [a] [holy] Place—[let] [the one who] [is reading] understand—¹⁶[then] [those who are] [in] [Judea] [must flee] [into] [The] [Mountains]. ¹⁷[The one who is] [on top] [of The] [Domicile] [must] [not] go down [to take] [The Things] [out] [of] [his] [House], ¹⁸[and] [the one who is] [in] [The] [Field] [must] [not] turn [back] [to pick up] [his] [Overgarment]. ¹⁹[But] [Woe] [to those who] [have] {one} [in] [Tummy] [and] [those who] [are nursing] [in] [Those] [Days]! ²⁰[But] [pray] [that] [your] [Flight*] [does] [not] occur [during Bad Weather] [nor] [on a Sabbath], ²¹[for] [then], [there will be] [intense] [Turmoil], [of such a sort as] [has] [not] occurred [from] [The Beginning] [of The World] [until] [now], [and never ever] [should

occur]. ²²[And] [if] [Those] [Days] [had] [not] been shortened, [there] [would] [not] be [any] [Flesh] saved. [But] [because of] [The] [Chosen Ones], [Those] [Days] [will be shortened].

²³[Then], [if] [anyone] [tells] [you], '[Guess what!] [The] [Anointed One] {is} [here]!' [or] '[Here] {He is}!' [do] [not] believe {it}]. ²⁴[For] [False Anointed Ones] [and] [False Prophets] [will arise] [and] [give] {you} [tremendous] [Signs] [and] [Wonders], [so as] [to, [if] [possible], lead astray] [even] [The] [Chosen Ones]. ²⁵[Guess what!] [I have told] [you] beforehand! ²⁶[Therefore], [if] [they tell] [you], '[Guess what!] [He is] [in] [The] [Desert],' [do] [not] go out {there}]. '[Guess what! He is] [in] [The] [Storerooms],' [do] [not] believe {it}]. ²⁷[For] [indeed, just as] [The] [Flash of Light] [comes out] [at] [Sunrise] [and] [is seen] [until] [Sunset], [The] [Coming] [of The] [Son] [of The] [Man] [will be] [like this]. ²⁸[Wherever] [it may be that] [The] [Corpse] [is], [The] [Vultures] [will be gathered] [there].

²⁹[But] [straight off], [after] [The] [Turmoil] [of Those] [Days], [THE] [SUN] [WILL BE DARKENED], [AND] [THE] [MOON] [WILL NOT] GIVE {you} [HER] [GLEAM], [AND] [THE] [STARS] [WILL FALL] [from] [The] [Heavens], [and] [The] [Supernatural Powers] [of The] [Heavens] [will be shaken]. ³⁰[And] [then] [The] [Sign] [of The] [Son] [of The] [Man] [will be seen] [in] [Heaven]; [and] [then] [all] [The] [Tribes] [of The] [Earth] [will cut themselves], [and] [they will see] [THE] [SON] [OF THE] [MAN], [COMING] [ON] [THE] [CLOUDS] [OF] [HEAVEN], [with] [Supernatural Power] [and] [a Lot] [of Glory]. ³¹[And] [He will send] [His] [Messengers] [with] [A LOUD TRUMPET], [and] [THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER] [His] [Chosen Ones] [out of] [The] [four] [Winds]—[from] [the] Tips] [of] {the} Heavens [up to] [their] [Tips]." (Matthew 24:3–31) —my interim translation

Mark gives us a similar account; and he, too, mentions the "turmoil" the world will experience at the End of the Age:

³[Then] [while [He] was sitting] [on] [The] [Mount] [of] [Olives] [right in front] [of The] [Temple], [Peter] [and] [James] [and] [John] [and] [Andrew] [were asking] [Him] a question] [privately]: ⁴"[Tell] [us]! [When] [will] [These Things] be? [And] [what is] [The] [Sign] [when] [all] [These Things] [are going] [to be completed]?" ⁵[So] [Jesus] [began] [to tell] [them]: "[Look out, so that] [no] [one] [leads] [you] astray! ⁶[Many] [will

come] [in] [My] [Name], [saying] [that] 'I [AM]!' [And] [they will lead [Many] astray]. ⁷[So then, [when] [you hear about] [Wars] [and] [News Reports] [about Wars], [do [not] be alarmed]. [It has] [to occur], [but] [The] [Consummation] {is} [not yet]. ⁸[For] [Nation] [will rise up] [against] [Nation], [and] [Kingdom] [against] [Kingdom]. [There will be] [Earthquakes] [in various] [Places]; [there will be] [Famines]. [These Things] {are} [The Beginning] [of Birth Pangs].

⁹[So then] [you] [must look out for] [yourselves]! [They will hand [you] over] [to] [a Council], [and] [you will be punched] [in] [Synagogues], [and] [you will be made to stand] [before] [Esteemed Leaders] [and] [Kings] [on account] [of Me], [as] [a Testimony] [to them]. ¹⁰[Yet] [The] [Good News of **the Fulfillment of the Promise**] [has] [to be preached] [to] [all] [The] [Gentiles] [first]. ¹¹[Then] [when] [those who hand {you} over] [lead [you] away], [do [not] be concerned beforehand about*] [what] [you should speak]. [But] [whatever] [it may be that] [is given] [to you] [at] [That] [Hour], [speak] [this]. [For] [you] [are] [not] [the ones who] [are speaking], [but] [The] [Spirit] [that is] [holy]. ¹²[Then] [a Brother] [will hand [a Brother] over] [to] [Death]; [and] [a Father], [a Child]; [and] [Children] [will stand up] [against] [Parents] [and] [put [them] to death]. ¹³[So] [you will be] [hated] [by] [everyone] [because of] [My] [Name]; [but] [the one who] [has continued on] [to] [Consummation] under harsh circumstances], [This Individual] [will be saved].

¹⁴[But then], [when] [you see] [THE] [ABOMINATION] [OF] [DESOLATION] [standing] [where] [it should [not] be] ([let [the one who] [is reading] understand]), [then] [those who are] [in] [Judea] [must flee] [into] [The] [Mountains]. ¹⁵[But] [the one who is] [on top] [of his] [Domicile] [must [not] come down], [nor] [come in], [to take] [anything] [out] [of] [his] [House]; ¹⁶[and] [the one who is] [in] [The] [Field] [must [not] turn] [back] [to pick up] [his] [Overgarment]. ¹⁷[But] [Woe] [to those who] [have {one}] [in] [Tummy] [and] [those who] [are nursing] [in] [Those] [Days]! ¹⁸[So] [pray] [that] [it does [not] occur] [during Bad Weather], ¹⁹[for] [Those] [Days] [will be] [Turmoil] [of such a sort that] [nothing] [like this] [has occurred] [from] [The Beginning] [of {the} Creation] [that] [The] [{Living} God] [created] [until] [now]; [and] [it should [definitely not] occur]. ²⁰[Then] [if] [His Majesty] [did [not] shorten] [The] [Days], [there] [would] [not] be [any] [Flesh] saved]. [But] [because of] [The] [Chosen Ones]—[the ones that] [He chose]—[He will shorten] [The] [Days]. ²¹[So] [then], [if] [anyone]

[tells] [you]: 'Take a look! [The] [Anointed One] {is} [here]! [Take a look], {He is} [there]!' [Do [not] believe {it}]. ²²[For] [False Anointed Ones] [and] [False Prophets] [will rise up] [and] [give {you}] [Signs] [and] [Wonders] [in order] [to, [if] [possible], lead [The] [Chosen Ones] completely astray]. ²³[So then] [you] [must look out]! [I have told [you] [everything] beforehand]. ²⁴[But] [in] [Those] [Days], [after] [That] [Turmoil], [THE] [SUN] [WILL BE DARKENED], [AND] [THE] [MOON] [WILL NOT] GIVE {you}] [HER] [GLEAM], ²⁵[AND] [THE] [STARS] [WILL BE] [FALLING] [out] [of] [Heaven], [and] [The] [Supernatural Powers] [that are] [in] [The] [Heavens] [will be shaken]. ²⁶[And] [then] [they will see] [THE] [SON] [OF THE] [MAN], [COMING BACK] [IN] [CLOUDS] [with] [a Lot] [of Supernatural Power] [and] [Glory]. ²⁷[And] [then] [He will send] [His] [Messengers], [and] [THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER] [His] [Chosen Ones] [out of] [The] [four] [Winds]—[from] [Earth's] [Tip] [up to] [Heaven's] [Tip]."

(Mark 13:3–27) —my interim translation

Don't fall for the usual translation of "from the four winds" as though the Greek preposition indicates direction. It doesn't. It indicates separation—"out of." You must remember what I have told you repeatedly: You are what you believe. The "four winds" mentioned in that verse are the same "four winds" that are mentioned in the following passage, which I explained earlier:

¹[After] [This], [I saw] [four] [Messengers] [standing] [at] [The] [four] [Corners] [of The] [Earth], [holding on to] [The] [four] [Winds] [of The] [Earth], [so that] [Wind] [could [not] blow] [on] [The] [Earth] [nor] [on] [The] [Sea] [nor] [on] [any] [Tree]. ²[And] [I saw] [another] [Messenger], [one who was holding] [{the} Seal] [of {the} [living] God], [coming up] [from] [Sun's] [Sunrise]. [And] [he shouted] [in a [loud] Voice] [to The] [four] [Messengers] [to [whom] {the right} had been given] [to harm] [The] [Earth] [and] [The] [Sea], ³[saying], "[Do [not] harm] [The] [Earth] [nor] [The] [Sea] [nor] [The] [Trees] [until] [we have set a seal on] [The] [Slaves] [of our] [God]—[on] [their] [Foreheads]."⁴[And] [I heard] [The] [Number] [of those who] [had been sealed]: [One hundred] [forty]-[four] [Thousand] {were} [those who had been sealed] [from] [every] [Tribe] [of Israel's] [Sons].

(Revelation 7:1–4) —my interim translation

This is "The Way" Jesus *parabolically* described the gathering of True Believers "*out of the four winds*":

²⁴[He set [another] [Comparison] before] [them], [saying]: "[The] [Kingdom] [of The] [Heavens] [is like] [a Man] [who sowed] [exceptionally good] [Seed] [in] [his] [Field]. ²⁵[But] [while] [His] [Men] [were sleeping], [his] [Enemy] [came] [and] [oversowed*] [Tares] [in] [The Midst] [of The] [Wheat] [and] [went away]. ²⁶[So] [then], [when] [The] [Grass] [sprouted] [and] [produced] [Fruit], [The] [Tares] [also] [appeared]. ²⁷[So] [when] [The] [Slaves] [of The] [Owner of the House] approached, [they said] [to him]: '[Master], [did You [not] sow] [exceptionally good] [Seed] [in] [Your] [Field]? [Therefore], [where did [the] Tares] [it has] come from?]' ²⁸[So] [he] [declared] [to them], '[An Enemy]—[a Man]—[has done] [This]!' [So] [his] [Slaves] [say] [to him], '[Therefore], [do You want] [us to [go] cull [them] out]?' ²⁹[But] [He] [declares]: '[No], [so that not once], [while culling [The] [Tares] out], [would you], [at the same time], uproot] [The] [Wheat] [with them]. ³⁰[Let] [both of them] [grow together*] [until] [The] [Harvest]; [and] [at] [Harvest] [Time] [I will tell] [The] [Reapers], "[First], [cull out] [The] [Tares] [and] [bind] [them] [into] [Bundles*] [in order] [to burn [them] up]; [but] [gather] [The] [Wheat] [into] [My] [Storehouse].'"

(Matthew 13:24–30) —my interim translation

Jesus explained the meaning of the parable to His disciples a bit later this "Way":

³⁶[Then], [after leaving] [The] [Crowds], [He came] [into] [The] [House]. [And] [His] [Disciples] [approached] [Him], [saying], "[Explain [The] [Comparison] [of The] [Tares] [of The] [Field] in detail] [for us]." ³⁷[So] [in response] [He] [said], "[The One Who] [sows] [The] [exceptionally good] [Seed] [is] [The] [Son] [of The] [Man], ³⁸[but] [The] [Field] [is] [The] [World]. [Then] [The] [exceptionally good] [Seed]? [These Individuals] [are] [The] [Sons] [of The] [Kingdom], [but] [The] [Tares] [are] [The] [Sons] [of The] [One Who Is Nasty]. ³⁹[Then] [The] [Enemy], [the one who] [sowed] [them]? [He is] [The] [False Accuser]. [Then] [The] [Harvest]? [It is] [the] [Consummation] [of the] [Current Age]. [Then] [The] [Reapers]? [They are] [Messengers]. ⁴⁰[Therefore], [indeed, just as] [The] [Tares] [are culled out] [and] [burned up] [in a Fire], [it will be] [like this] [at] [The] [Consummation] [of The] [Current Age]. ⁴¹[The]

[Son] [of The] [Man] [will send] [His] [Messengers], [and] [they will cull] [out] [of] [His] [Kingdom] [all] [The] [Deadfall Traps] [and] [those who] [commit] [The] [Lawless Deed], ⁴²[and] [they will throw] [them] [into] [The] [Furnace] [of The] [Fire]. [Weeping] [and] [Gritting] [of] [Teeth] [will be] [there]. ⁴³[Then], [THE] [ONES WHO ARE BLAMELESS] [WILL SHINE FORTH*] [LIKE] [THE] [SUN], [in] [The] [Kingdom] [of] [their] [Father]. [Let [the one who] [has] [Ears] hear]."

(Matthew 13:36–43) —my interim translation

Finally, John described the same thing in the Book of Revelation:

¹[After] [This], [I saw] [four] [Messengers] [standing] [at] [The] [four] [Corners] [of The] [Earth], [holding on to] [The] [four] [Winds] [of The] [Earth], [so that] [Wind] [could [not] blow] [on] [The] [Earth] [nor] [on] [The] [Sea] [nor] [on] [any] [Tree]. ²[And] [I saw] [another] [Messenger], [one who was holding] [the] Seal [of] [the] [living] God, [coming up] [from] [the] Sun's [Sunrise]. [And] [he shouted] [in a [loud] Voice] [to The] [four] [Messengers] [to [whom] [the right] was given] [to harm] [The] [Earth] [and] [The] [Sea], ³[saying], "[Do [not] harm] [The] [Earth] [nor] [The] [Sea] [nor] [The] [Trees] [until] [we have set a seal on] [The] [Slaves] [of] [our] [God]—[on] [their] [Foreheads]." ⁴[And] [I heard] [The] [Number] [of those who] [had been sealed]: [One hundred] [forty]-[four] [Thousand] [were] [those who had been sealed] [from] [every] [Tribe] [of Israel's] [Sons]. ⁵[Those who were sealed] [from] [Judah's] [Tribe], [twelve] [Thousand]; [From] [Reuben's*] [Tribe], [twelve] [Thousand]; [From] [Gad's*] [Tribe], [twelve] [Thousand]; ⁶[From] [Asher's] [Tribe], [twelve] [Thousand]; [From] [Naphtali's] [Tribe], [twelve] [Thousand]; [From] [Manasseh's] [Tribe], [twelve] [Thousand]; ⁷[From] [Simeon's] [Tribe], [twelve] [Thousand]; [From] [Levi's] [Tribe], [twelve] [Thousand]; [From] [Issachar's*] [Tribe], [twelve] [Thousand]; ⁸[From] [Zebulun's] [Tribe], [twelve] [Thousand]; [From] [Joseph's] [Tribe], [twelve] [Thousand]; [From] [Benjamin's] [Tribe], [twelve] [Thousand] [who had been sealed].

⁹[After] [These Things] [I [also] saw], [guess what! There was] [a [huge] Crowd]—[from] [all] [Nations] [and] [Tribes] [and] [Peoples] [and] [Tongues]—[that] [nobody] [could] [number], [standing] [before] [The] [Throne] [and] [before] [The] [Little Lamb], [wrapped in] [Long [white] Robes]; [and] [Date]

Palm Branches] {were} [in] [their] [Hands]. ¹⁰[And] [they are shouting] [in a [loud] Voice], [saying], "[Our] [Salvation] {is} [in The] [{Living} God]—[the One Who] [is sitting] [on] [The] [Throne]—[and] [in The] [Little Lamb]!" ¹¹[Then] [all] [The] [Messengers]—[and] [The] [Elders] [and] [The] [four] [Living Creatures]—[were standing] [in a circle around] [The] [Throne]; [and] [they fell down] [before] [The] [Throne] [on] [their] [Faces] [and] [bowed down] [to The] [{Living} God], ¹²[saying], "[Without doubt], [The] [Blessing] [and] [The] [Glory] [and] [The] [Wisdom] [and] [The] [Thanksgiving] [and] [The] [Honor] [and] [The] [Supernatural Power] [and] [The] [Might] [belong to our] [God] [into] [The] [Ages] [of The] [Ages to Come]. [Without doubt]!"

¹³[Then] [one] [of] [The] [Elders] [responded], [saying] [to me]: "[Who] [are] [These Individuals] [who] [are wrapped in] [The] [Long Robes] [that are] [white]? [And] [where] [have they come] from?" ¹⁴[So] [I said] [to him], "[My] [Master], [You] [know]!" [Then] [He told] [me]: "[These Individuals] [are] [those who] [are going to come] [out] [of The] [Turmoil] [that is] [intense], [and] [they have washed] [their] [Long Robes] [and] [made [them] white] [in] [The] [Blood] [of The] [Little Lamb]!" ¹⁵[For] [This Reason] [they are going to be] [before] [The] [Throne] [of The] [{Living} God], [and] [they are going to serve [Him] as priest] [Day] [and] [Night] [in] [His] [Sanctuary], [and] [the One Who] [is sitting] [on] [The] [Throne] [will camp out] [over] [them]. ¹⁶[They will] [not] be hungry] [any longer], [neither] [will they be thirsty] [any longer]; [not] [even] [The] [Sun] [will fall] [on] [them], [nor] [any] [Scorching Heat], ¹⁷[because] [The] [Little Lamb] [that is] [in] [The Middle] [of The] [Throne] [will shepherd] [them] [and] [guide] [them] [over to] [{the} Springs] [of {the} Water] [of Life]; [and] [The] [{Living} God] [will wipe] [every] [Tear] out] [of] [their] [Eyes]."

(Revelation 7:1–17) —my interim translation

That passage is a bit difficult to understand just because it describes how events that occur in time relate to an eternal God Who exists in a timeless reality. That relationship is impossible to understand without the use of *parabolic imagery*, so to understand it, you need to think *parabolically* in terms of the Passover Parable and the trek of the *Living Word* through the realm of the dead. I'll point out a few things you need to keep in mind and leave it at that. The first group that John mentions can be numbered; he says so himself:

[And] [I heard] [The] [Number] [of those who] [had been sealed]: [One hundred] [forty]-[four] [Thousand] {were} [those who had been sealed] [from] [every] [Tribe] [of Israel's] [Sons].

(Revelation 7:4) —my interim translation

In contrast to that group—which can be numbered—the text tells us it is impossible for anyone to number the second group:

[After] [These Things] [I [also] saw], [guess what! There was] [a [huge] Crowd]—[from] [all] [Nations] [and] [Tribes] [and] [Peoples] [and] [Tongues]—[that] [nobody] [could] [number], [standing] [before] [The] [Throne] [and] [before] [The] [Little Lamb], [wrapped in] [Long [white] Robes]; [and] [Date Palm Branches] {were} [in] [their] [Hands].

(Revelation 7:9) —my interim translation

Were it not for one tell-tale clue, one would be left to wonder how this group—which is clearly composed of Gentiles "from all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues"—relates to the first group, which is comprised of the twelve tribes of Israel. That tell-tale clue can be found in this passage:

¹³[Then] [one] [of] [The] [Elders] [responded], [saying] [to me]: "[Who] [are] [These Individuals] [who] [are wrapped in] [The] [Long Robes] [that are] [white]? [And] [where] [have they come] from?" ¹⁴[So] [I said] [to him], "[My] [Master], [You] [know]!" [Then] [He told] [me]: "[These Individuals] [are] [those who] [are going to come] [out] [of The] [Turmoil] [that is] [intense], [and] [they have washed] [their] [Long Robes] [and] [made [them] white] [in] [The] [Blood] [of The] [Little Lamb]!" ¹⁵[For] [This Reason] [they are going to be] [before] [The] [Throne] [of The] [{Living} God], [and] [they are going to serve [Him] as priest] [Day] [and] [Night] [in] [His] [Sanctuary], [and] [the One Who] [is sitting] [on] [The] [Throne] [will camp out] [over] [them]."

(Revelation 7:13–15) —my interim translation

That passage tells us the second group are the *priests* who are going to minister to the twelve tribes of Israel in the Coming Age. And if you know your Bible very well, you know the priests were the sons of Aaron during the wilderness wandering; but they were the

entire tribe of Levites after the sons of Israel entered the Promised Land. *Parabolic imagery*. That's all it is. It's the same *parabolic imagery* you find in this passage from the Book of Malachi:

¹"[Guess what! I] [am going to send] [My Messenger], [and he will put a surface on] [the] Way [in front of Me]. [And [The Master], [Whom] [you] [are] seeking], [will come] [to] [His Temple] suddenly]. [But [the] Messenger] [of] The Legal Agreement] [with [which] [you] are pleased], [guess what!] [He will come]," [says] [His [Supreme] Majesty]. ²"[But who] [is going to endure] [The Day] [when he comes]? [And who] [is going to stand] [when he is seen]? [Because] [he] [is] [like [a Refiner's] Fire] [and like [Launderers'] Lye]. ³[When he sits] [refining] [and cleansing] [Silver], [then he will cleanse] [the] Sons [of] Levi]. [And he will part] [them] [like Gold] [and like Silver], [so that they can be] [those who bring a Cereal Offering] to] [His Majesty] [by a Declaration of Not Guilty]. ⁴[Then [The Cereal Offering of] [Judah] [and Jerusalem] will be pleasing] [to His Majesty]—[like [the] Days of] [a Burning Eternity] [and like [the] Qadmonite] Years]." (Malachi 3:1–4) —my interim translation

The Levites Are God's Mercenaries

The *parabolic imagery* in which the Gentiles are depicted as Levites is a bit complex. It is based on the fact that, under the Old Covenant, the Levites guarded the Tabernacle—God's residence—during the wilderness wandering and became the priests when the sons of Israel entered the Promised Land. But under the terms of the New Covenant, the individual Believer is the residence of the Holy Spirit, and every Believer is a Gentile simply because the Jews were all "cut off from" Corporate Israel at the time of Christ.

Now that you know "the priests, the sons of Levi" is a *parabolic image* that applies to Gentiles who become members of Corporate Israel, you need to take a closer look at the "priestly service" that Paul says the Gentiles are expected to render to the residence they provide for the *Living Word* of God:

¹[Therefore], [I implore] [you], [Brothers], [via] [The] [Compassion] [of The] [Living] God], [to present] [your] [Bodies] [as a [living], [holy] Sacrifice], [well-pleasing] [to The] [Living] God]—[your] [logical]

[Priestly Service]. ²[And] [do [not] be shaped] [by] [This] [Current Age], [but] [be transformed] [by The] [Renewing] [of your] [Mind], [so] [that] [you] [approve of] [what] [The] [Will] [of The] [Living] God] {is}—[which is] [good] [and] [well-pleasing] [and] [complete]. (Romans 12:1–2) —my interim translation

Peter talks about the same thing in the context of explaining how Hosea's prophecy concerning the ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom—who became Gentiles—is being fulfilled by Jews who were likewise "cut off from" Corporate Israel, thereby becoming Gentiles:

²²[After purifying] [your] [Souls] [by] [your] [Willingness to Attentively Listen and Comply] [with The] [Truth] [about] [Brotherly Love] [without hypocrisy], [love] [one another] [fervently] [with] [a clean] Heart], ²³[not] [engendered again] [from] [a [perishable], [but] [an imperishable], Seed-grain*]—[via] [God's] [Word], [which is living] [and] [going to continue on]. ²⁴[Because]:

"[ALL] [FLESH] {is} [LIKE] [GRASS],
[AND] [ALL] [ITS] [GLORY] {is}
[LIKE] [A FLOWER] [OF GRASS].
[THE] [GRASS] [HAS SHRIVELED UP],
[AND] [THE] [FLOWER] [HAS FALLEN AWAY FROM {it}],
²⁵[BUT] [THE] [COMMENT MADE] [BY HIS MAJESTY]
[IS GOING TO CONTINUE ON]
[INTO] [THE] [AGE TO COME]."

[But] [This] [is] [The] [Comment] [that] [was proclaimed] [to] [you] as the good news of **the fulfillment of the promise**]. ¹[Therefore], [after setting aside] [all] [Awfulness] [and] [all] [Chicanery] [and] [Hypocrisy] [and] [Envy] [and] [all] [Disparaging Statements], ²[yearn for] [The] [logical], [unadulterated*] [Milk] [like] [newborn*] [Babies], [so that] [you may be made to grow] [into] [Salvation] [by] [it]—³[if] [you have tasted] [that] [His Majesty] {is} [really good].

⁴[To] [Which] [living] [Stone]—[Who has, [on the one hand], been completely rejected] [by] [Men]; [but on the other], {is} [a Chosen One] [held in honor] [by] [God]—[approaching], ⁵[you [yourselves] [also], [like] [living] [Stones], are being built] [by] [Jesus], [The Anointed One], [as a [spiritual] House], [into] [a [holy] Cadre of Priests], [to take up] [to The]

[{Living} God] [spiritual] [Sacrifices] [very acceptable to {Him}].

⁶[Because] [He has encompassed {it}]

[in] [a Writing]:

"[GUESS WHAT!]

[I AM PUTTING DOWN] [A STONE] [IN] [ZION]—

[A [CHOSEN], [HELD IN HONOR] CORNERSTONE]—

[AND] [THE ONE WHO] [BELIEVES GOD'S PROMISE]

[REGARDING] [HIM]

[WILL [DEFINITELY NOT] BE EMBARRASSED]."

⁷[Therefore], [The] [Honor] {is} [for you] [who] [believe God's **promise**]; [but] [for those who refuse to believe {it}]:

"[A STONE] [THAT] [THOSE WHO] [ARE BUILDING]

[COMPLETELY REJECTED]?

[THIS {Stone}] [CAME INTO BEING]

[AS] [{the} HEAD] [OF A CORNER]"

⁸[even]

"[A STONE] [OF SOMETHING THAT CAUSES STUMBLING]

[AND] [A ROCK] [OF A DEADFALL TRAP]."

[Those who] [stumble over] [The] [Word] {are} [those who are not persuaded by God's **promise**]—[for] [which] [they have [also] been put down]. ⁹[But] [you] {are} [A [CHOSEN] KINDRED], [a [royal*] CADRE OF PRIESTS], [A [HOLY] NATION], [A PEOPLE] [FOR] [ACQUISITION], [so that] [you may forthrightly proclaim*] [The] [Virtuous Characteristics] [of the One Who] [invited] [you] [out] [of Nether Darkness] [into] [His] [amazing] [Light]—¹⁰[those who were] [at one time] [NOT] [A PEOPLE], [but] {are} [now] [GOD'S] [PEOPLE]; [those who] [HAD [NOT] BEEN SHOWN MERCY], [but] [now], [THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SHOWN MERCY].

(1 Peter 1:22–2:10) —my interim translation

Peter is quoting what Hosea said to the ten tribes of Israel dispersed by the Assyrians in 722 B.C.; so he can only be referring to the *parabolic imagery* related to Ephraim "carrying *The Name*" of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But he just as clearly has in mind the "logical priestly service" that Paul tells us the True Believer is expected to render to the Lord when he quotes the things found in the last two verses of this passage:

¹[In [the third] New Moon] [after [{the} Sons of] [Israel] went out] [from {the} Land] [of Egypt]—[on [this very] Day]—[they entered] [{the} Wilderness] [of Sinai]. ²[When they set out] [from Rephidim] [and entered] [{the} Wilderness] [of Sinai] [and set up camp] [in {the} Wilderness], [Israel] [set up camp] [there] [in front of] [The Mountain]. ³[Then Moses] [went up] [to] [The {Living} God], [and [His Majesty] called] [to him] [from] [The Mountain], [saying], "[This is what] [You must say] [to The House of] [Jacob] [and tell] [The Sons of] [Israel]: ⁴'[You] [saw] [what] [I did] [to The Egyptians]. [Then I carried] [you] [on] [The Wings of] [Griffon-Vultures] [and brought] [you] [to Myself]. ⁵[But now], [if] [you [truly] listen] [to My Voice], [then you will stand watch over] [My Legal Agreement], [and you will] [belong to Me] [{as} a *Treasured Possession*] [out of all] [The Peoples], [because] [all] [The Earth] [belongs to Me]. ⁶[But you] [will] [belong to Me] [{as} a *Kingdom of*] [Priests] [and a [holy] Nation].' [These] {are} [The Words] [that] [You must speak] [to] [The Sons] {of} [Israel]."

(Exodus 19:1–6) —my interim translation

To understand what Peter and Paul had in mind when they refer to the "priestly service" of the True Believer, one has to keep in mind the *parabolic imagery* of the Passover Parable in which the sons of Israel depicted the trek of the *Living Word of God* through the realm of the dead. But one also needs to know the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ initiated an entirely new *parabolic image* in which each and every True Believer is a "tabernacle" in which the Spirit of the Lord resides as it continues its trek through the realm of the dead.

Just as the Levites and the sons of Aaron guarded the Tabernacle in the wilderness, so also the True Believer must guard his own "tabernacle." He does that by not allowing anything to contaminate the holiness of the Holy Spirit that resides within. How does he do that? By not allowing the "winds" access to his mind. If you doubt that what you *think* contaminates, you obviously have never read what Jesus said about the relationship between what one *believes* and what he does, so here is Matthew's account:

¹[Then] [Pharisees] [and] [Scribes] [from] [Jerusalem] [approached] [Jesus], [saying]: ²"[Why] [do] [Your] [Disciples] deviate from] [The] [Oral Tradition]

[of The] [Elders]? [For] [they do [not] wash] [their] [Hands] [when] [they eat] [Bread]." ³[So] [in response] [He] [said] [to them]: "[And] [why] [do [you] deviate from] [The] [Commandment] [of The] [{Living} God] [because of] [your] [Oral Tradition]? ⁴[For] [The] [{Living} God] [said]: '[HONOR] [YOUR] [FATHER], [AND] [YOUR] [MOTHER]' [and] '[LET [THE ONE WHO] [SAYS AWFUL THINGS ABOUT] [FATHER] [OR] [MOTHER] COME TO AN END] [AT DEATH].'⁵[But] [you] [say], '[Whoever] [it might be who] [says] [to his] [Father] [or] [his] [Mother], "[Whatever] [benefit [it may be that] you have gained] [from] [me] {is} [an Offering]," ⁶[will [definitely not] honor] [his] [Father].'⁷[So] [you invalidate] [The] [Word] [of The] [{Living} God] [because of] [your] [Oral Tradition]. ⁷[Hypocrites]! [Isaiah] [prophesied] [exceptionally well] [about] [you], [saying]:

⁸[THIS] [PEOPLE] [HONORS] [ME] [WITH THEIR] [LIPS]; [BUT] [THEIR] [HEART] [IS FAR], [FAR AWAY] [FROM] [ME].
⁹[SO] [THEY ARE WORSHIPING] [ME] [FUTILELY], [TEACHING] [TEACHINGS]—[RELIGIOUS PRECEPTS]— [OF MEN]."

¹⁰[And] [after summoning] [The] [Crowd], [He told] [them], "[Listen], [and] [comprehend]: ¹¹[The thing that] [comes in] [to] [his] [Mouth] [does [not] contaminate] [The] [Man], [but] [the thing that] [comes out] [of] [his] [Mouth]—[this is what] [contaminates] [The] [Man]."

¹²[Then], [after [His] [Disciples] approached], [they say] [to Him], "[Are You aware] [that] [The] [Pharisees] [were offended] [when they heard] [The] [Word]?" ¹³[So] [in response] [He] [said]: "[Every] [Plant*] [that] [My] [heavenly] [Father] [did [not] plant] [will be uprooted]. ¹⁴[Leave [them] alone]! [They are] [blind] [Guides] [of Those Who Are Blind]. [So] [if] [a Blind Man] [guides] [a Blind Man], [both of them] [will fall] [into] [a Pit]."¹⁵[Then] [in response] [Peter] [told] [Him], "[Expound on*] [This] [Comparison] [for us]."¹⁶[So] [He] [said]: "[Are] [you] [even now*] [also] [lacking insight]? ¹⁷[Do you [not] understand] [that] [everything] [that] [goes in] [to] [The] [Mouth] [makes room] [in] [The] [Belly] [and] [is cast out] [into] [a Toilet]? ¹⁸[But] [the things that] [come out] [of] [The] [Mouth] [come out] [of] [The] [Heart], [and Those Things] [contaminate] [The] [Man]! ¹⁹[For] [nasty] [Speculations] [come out] [of] [The] [Heart]: [Murders], [Adulteries], [Sexual Promiscuities], [Stealing], [False Testimony], [False

Religious Claims]. ²⁰[These Things] [is] [the things that] [contaminate] [The] [Man], [but] [to] [eat] [with unwashed] [Hands] [does [not] contaminate] [The] [Man]."

(Matthew 15:1–20) —my interim translation

Mark has a parallel account of the same event:

¹[Then] [after [The] [Pharisees] [and] [some] [of The] [Scribes] came] [from] [Jerusalem], [they gathered] [before] [Him]. ²[And] [after seeing] [that] [some] [of] [His] [Disciples] [were eating] [Bread] [with common], [that] [is], [unwashed], [Hands]—³[For] [The] [Pharisees] [and] [all] [The] [Jews], [if] [they do [not] wash] [their] [Hands] [up to the elbow*], [do [not] eat], [holding on to] [The] [Oral Tradition] [of The] [Elders]; ⁴[and] {coming} [from] [a Public Square], [if] [they do [not] baptize themselves], [they do [not] eat]; [and] [there is] [a lot of] [Other Things] [that] [they have taken to themselves] [to hold on to], [a Baptizing] [of Cups] [and] [Pitchers*] [and] [Copper Pots*] [and] [Sick-beds]—⁵[The] [Pharisees] [and] [The] [Scribes] [also] [ask [Him] a question], "[Why] [do [Your] [Disciples] [not] walk] [in accordance with] [The] [Oral Tradition] [of The] [Elders], [but] [eat] [Bread] [with common] [Hands]?" ⁶[So] [He] [told] [them]: "[Isaiah] [prophesied] [exceptionally well] [about] [you] [Hypocrites], [as] [it has been written] [that]:

'[THIS] [PEOPLE] [HONORS] [ME] [WITH THEIR] [LIPS]; [BUT] [THEIR] [HEART] [IS FAR], [FAR AWAY] [FROM] [ME].
⁷[SO] [THEY ARE WORSHIPING] [ME] [FUTILELY], [TEACHING] [TEACHINGS]—[RELIGIOUS PRECEPTS]— [OF MEN].'

⁸[After letting go of] [The] [Commandment] [of The] [{Living} God], [you are holding on to] [The] [Oral Tradition] [of] [Men]."

⁹[He was [also] telling] [them]: "[You disregard] [The] [Commandment] [of The] [{Living} God] [exceptionally well], [so that] [you can make [your] [Oral Tradition] stand]. ¹⁰[For] [Moses] [said], '[HONOR] [YOUR] [FATHER] [AND] [YOUR] [MOTHER]' [and] '[LET [THE ONE WHO] [SAYS AWFUL THINGS ABOUT] [FATHER] [OR] [MOTHER] COME TO AN END] [AT DEATH].'¹¹[But] [you] [say], '[If] [a Man] [tells] [his] [Father] [or] [his] [Mother], "[Whatever] [benefit [it may be that] you have gained] [from] [me] {is} [a Donation to the Temple

Treasury*], " [that] [is] [an Offering]. ' 12[You do [not] let [him] [do {anything}] [for his] [Father] [or] [his] [Mother] [any longer]—13[invalidating] [The] [Word] [of The] [{Living} God] [by] [your] [Oral Tradition], [which] [you have handed over {to them}]. [And] [you do] [Many [very similar*] Things] [like these]." 14[Then] [after summoning] [The] [Crowd] [again], [He was telling] [them], "[Listen to] [Me] [everyone], [and] [comprehend]: 15[There is] [nothing] [on the outside] [of The] [Man] [that goes in] [to] [him] [that] [can] [contaminate] [him]. [But] [the things that] [come out] [of] [The] [Man] [is] [the things that] [contaminate] [The] [Man]."

17[And] [when] [He came in] [to] [a House] [away from] [The] [Crowd], [His] [Disciples] [asked] [Him] a question about [The] [Comparison]. 18[And] [He says] [to them]: "[Are] [you] [also] [in the same way] [lacking insight]? [Do you [not] understand] [that] [everything] [that is] [on the outside] [that goes in] [to] [The] [Man] [can] [not] [contaminate] [him], 19[because] [it does [not] go in] [to] [his] [Heart], [but] [into] [The] [Belly], [and] [it goes out] [into] [The] [Toilet]?" ([He was cleansing] [all] [Foods].) 20[And then] [He was saying] [that] "[The thing that] [comes out] [of] [The] [Man], [That] [contaminates] [The] [Man]. 21[For] [out] [of The] [Heart]—[on the inside] [of] [Men]—[come] [The] [Speculations] [that are] [awful]: [Sexual Promiscuity], [Stealing], [Murder], 22[Adultery], [Selfishness], [Evil Intentions], [Chicanery], [Licentiousness], [a [nasty] Eye], [False Religious Claim], [Arrogance*], [Foolishness]. 23[All] [These Things] [on the inside] [that are] [nasty] [come out] [and] [contaminate] [The] [Man]."

(Mark 7:1–23) —my interim translation

The point of the things Jesus said on that occasion has to do with this simple verity: *You always act in accordance with what you believe.* Take it or leave it, it's the Truth. Look at the context in which He made those statements; He was *talking about* the ridiculous things the Pharisees were *teaching* regarding food and making contributions to the Temple. But the focal point of His statements is this:

7"[Hypocrites]! [Isaiah] [prophesied] [exceptionally well] [about] [you], [saying]:

8"[THIS] [PEOPLE] [HONORS] [ME] [WITH THEIR] [LIPS]; [BUT] [THEIR] [HEART] [IS FAR], [FAR AWAY] [FROM] [ME].

9[SO] [THEY ARE WORSHIPING] [ME] [FUTILELY], [TEACHING] [TEACHINGS]—[RELIGIOUS PRECEPTS]— [OF MEN]."

(Matthew 15:7–9) —my interim translation

Mark tells us Jesus made an additional statement that precisely sums up the point that He was making:

"[After letting go of] [The] [Commandment] [of The] [{Living} God], [you are holding on to] [The] [Oral Tradition] [of] [Men]."

(Mark 7:9) —my interim translation

In the Greek mind-set, the things that we believe reside in our "heart"—that is, in our mind. So don't fall for the *stupid* notion—as some do—that Jesus was *talking about* the proper attitude one should have regarding food and money when He assailed the *oral tradition* of the Pharisees. He wasn't. He was *talking about* BELIEFS—and the fact that *stupid* beliefs result in *stupid* folks saying and doing *stupid* things. Jesus' point is, the Pharisees were *stupidly* focused on *stupid* things related to food and contributions to the Temple because they believed things that are not true.

Bear "Fruit"; You Won't Be "Cut Off"

The Truth is exactly what Jesus said: The things that people believe are revealed by what they say and do. That is, a person is going to express their beliefs both verbally (by what comes out of their mouth) and non-verbally (by what they do). I have been telling you that all along: *People always act in accordance with what they believe.*

If someone has beliefs that contradict the Truth of *The Teaching of Moses*, that person is going to say and do things that reveal they don't believe the Truth. That is, the lies that a person has *chosen* to believe are going to manifest themselves in that person saying or doing things that God finds offensive. That is precisely why the "winds" "blow" through the minds of men: To control what people say and do through the lies that they believe; so if you pay attention, you can easily tell whether a person has actually been born again and believes the Truth that the Lord has revealed in the Scriptures. That is what Jesus was *talking about* when He said the following about the Truth of *The Teaching of Moses* as "*The Way*" into eternal life:

¹³"[Come in] [through] [The] [narrow] [Gate], [because] [The] [Gate] [that] [leads {them} away] [to] [Destruction] {is} [a Thoroughfare]; [and] [The] [Way] {is} [spacious*], [and] [those who] [come in] [through] [it] [are] [many]. ¹⁴[How] [narrow] {is} [The] [Gate], [and] [constricted] [The] [Way] [that] [leads {them} away] [into] [The] [Life]? [And] [those who] [find] [it] [are] [just a few]. ¹⁵[Beware] [of] [The] [False Prophets]—[those who] [are going to come] [to] [you] [in] [Sheep's] [Clothing], [but] [are] [vicious] [Wolves] [on the inside]. ¹⁶[You will recognize] [them] [by] [their] [Fruits]. [They do [not by any means] cull] [Bunches of Grapes] [from] [Thorns], [or] [Figs] [from] [Thistles]! ¹⁷[So also], [every] [good] [Tree] [produces] [exceptionally good] [Fruit]; [but] [The] [rotten] [Tree] [produces] [nasty] [Fruit]. ¹⁸[A good Tree] [can] [not] [produce] [nasty] [Fruit], [nor] [a rotten Tree] [produce] [exceptionally good] [Fruit]. ¹⁹[Every] [Tree] [that is [not] producing] [exceptionally good] [Fruit] [is going to be cut off] [and] [thrown] [into] [a Fire]. ²⁰[So then] [you will [indeed] recognize] [them] [by] [their] [Fruits].

²¹[Not] [everyone] [who] [says] 'Your Majesty! [Your Majesty]!' [to Me] [will come in] [to] [The] [Kingdom] [of The] [Heavens], [but] [the one who] [acts in accordance with] [The] [Will] [of] [My] [Father]—[the One Who is] [in] [The] [Heavens]. ²²[Many] [will say] [to Me] [on] [That] [Day], 'Your Majesty! [Your Majesty]! [Did we [not] prophesy] [in] [Your] [Name] [and] [cast out] [Demons] [in] [Your] [Name] [and] [do] [a lot of] [Supernaturally Powerful Things] [in] [Your] [Name]?' ²³[And] [then] [I will acknowledge the truth about] [them], [that] 'I [never] knew [you]. [YOU WHO] [ARE DOING] [THE] [LAWLESS DEED], [DEPART] [FROM] [ME].'" (Matthew 7:13–23) —my interim translation

If you did not know that Moses and the other Prophets of Israel *parabolically* depict *created beings* like you and me as "trees," now you do. Jesus was merely carrying on the tradition that began with Moses and his depiction of the Garden of Eden. So now that you know that, let me tell you something you need to know about the *parabolic* "fruit" that such "trees" "bear": It consists in words and deeds—which are the manifestation of the things that such creatures believe. That's what John the Baptist had in mind when he said the following to those fools who firmly *believed* the *oral tradition* of the Pharisees:

⁵[Then] [Jerusalem]—[and] [all] [Judea] [and] [The] [whole] [Area Around] [The] [Jordan]—[began going out] [to] [him], ⁶[and] [those who were admitting the truth concerning] [their] [Sins] [were being baptized] [in] [The] [Jordan] [River] [by] [him]. ⁷[But] [after seeing] [Many] [of The] [Pharisees] [and] [Sadducees] [coming] [for] [his] [Baptism], [he said] [to them]: "[Descendants] [of Vipers], [who] [gave] [you] an indication [that {you} should flee] [from] [The] [Anger] [that is going to come]? ⁸[Therefore], [produce] [Fruit] [worthy] [of your] [Apology]; ⁹[and] [not] [assume] [that {you} can say] [to] [one another], 'We have] [a Father]—[Abraham]'; [for] [I tell] [you] [that] [The] [{Living} God] [can] [raise up] [Children] [for Abraham] [out] [of] [These] [Stones]. ¹⁰[But] [The] [Axe] [is] [already] [laid] [at] [The] [Root] [of The] [Trees]; [therefore], [every] [Tree] [that is [not] producing] [exceptionally good] [Fruit] [will be cut off] [and] [thrown] [into] [a Fire].'" (Matthew 3:5–10) —my interim translation

To understand the things the Prophets and Apostles state in terms of the *parabolic image* in which *created beings* like you and me are depicted as "trees," you need to keep in mind something I have told you repeatedly: You are *what* you believe. And when the things you believe manifest themselves in your words and deeds, those words and deeds are *parabolically* LIKE the "fruit" that Paul mentions in this passage:

¹⁶[But] [I say], "[Walk] [in Spirit], [and] [you will] [definitely not] complete] [a Selfish Desire] [of Flesh]."
¹⁷[For] [The] [Flesh] [desires {things}] [against] [The] [Spirit]; [then] [The] [Spirit], [against] [The] [Flesh]; [for] [These {two}] [are opposed] [to one another], [so that] [whatever] [it may be that] [you want to do], [you do [not] do] [These Things]. ¹⁸[So], [if] [you are being led] [by Spirit], [you are] [not] [subject to] [Law]. ¹⁹[Now], [The] [Works] [of The] [Flesh] [is] [well-known], [which] [is]: [Sexual Promiscuity], [Uncleanness], [Licentiousness], ²⁰[Idolatry], [Drug Dealing], [Hostilities], [Conflict], [Jealousy], [Rages], [Self-centeredness], [Disagreements], [Sects], ²¹[Envy], [Drunkenness], [Festivities], [and] [the things that are] [just like] [These Things], [which] [I tell] [you] [in advance]—[just as] [I told {you} before]—[that] [those who] [are involved in] [Such Things] [will [not] inherit] [God's] [Kingdom]. ²²[But] [The] [Fruit] [of His] [Spirit] [is] [Love], [Joy], [Peace], [Patience], [Benevolence], [Goodness], [Belief in God's Promise],

²³[Gentleness], [Self-control]. [There is] [no] [Law] [against] [Such Things], ²⁴[so] [those who are] [part of The] [Anointed One], [Jesus], [have crucified] [The] [Flesh] [along with] [its] [Impulse] [and] [Selfish Desires].

(Galatians 5:16–24) —my interim translation

Did you see the “word” crucified in that passage? Now you know every True Believer must “pick up” a “cross” on which his physical body—the flesh—can be “crucified” so that it “dies.”

“Old Man” or “New Man”? You Choose.

The Apostle Paul is speaking in terms of the parabolic imagery related to the “crucifixion” of the flesh when he says the following:

¹[Therefore], [what] [can we say]? [Should we stay there] [in our] [Sin] [so that] [His] [Favor] [might become more than enough]? ²[Certainly] [not]! [On what basis] [could we] [who] [have died] [to our] [Sin] [still] [live] [in] [it]? ³[Or] [do you not understand] [that] [as many as] [have been baptized] [into] [The Anointed One], [Jesus], [have been baptized] [into] [His] [Death]? ⁴[Therefore], [we have been buried together with] [Him] [via] [our] [Baptism] [into] [His] [Death], [so that]—[indeed, just as] [The Anointed One] [arose] [from] [Those Who Are Dead] [via] [The] [Glory] [of The] [Father], [so] [also]—[we] [might walk around] [in] [Newness] [of Life]. ⁵[For] [if] [we have been] [planted together with] {Him}* [in The] [Likeness] [of] [His] [Death], [we will] [also] be {planted together with Him}, [but] {in the likeness} [of His] [Resurrection], ⁶[knowing] [This]: [That] [our] [old] [Man] [was crucified together with] {Him}: (1) [so that] [The] [Body] [of our] [Sin] [would be abrogated], (2) [so that] [we] [would] [no longer] be slaves [to our] [Sin]; ⁷[for] [the One Who] [died] [has been acquitted] [of] [our] [Sin].

(Romans 6:1–7) —my interim translation

In his letters to the churches, Paul mentions the parabolic image in which the “old man” has been “crucified” three times. You need to know what he says in that regard if you ever intend to overcome the training the “winds” instilled in you before you were born again. In what he wrote to the church at Ephesus, Paul makes it clear the “old man” has a mind-set in which

his focus is on fulfilling the demands of the physical body rather than gaining a knowledge of the Truth:

¹⁰[The One Who] [went down] [is] [Himself] [also] [the One Who] [went up]—[up above] [all] [The] [Heavens]—[so that] [He could completely fill] [Every Last Thing]. ¹¹[And] [He] [gave]: (1) [some] [as Apostles], (2) [others] [as Prophets], (3) [others] [as Evangelists], (4) [others] [as Shepherds] [and] [as Teachers]: ¹²(a) [for] [The] [Equipping*] [of The] [Holy Ones], (b) [for] [a Work] [of Serving], (c) [for] [Edification] [of The] [Body] [of The] [Anointed One]: ¹³(1) [until] [we—[Every Last One]—come down]: (a) [to] [The] [Unity] [of our] [Belief in God's Promise] [and] [our] [Full Knowledge] [of The] [Son] [of The] [{Living} God], (b) [to] [a [complete] Man], (c) [to] [a Measure] [of a Stature] [of The] [Fullness] [of The] [Anointed One]; ¹⁴(2) [so that] [we would] [no longer] be [Toddlers] [who are being tossed about by billowing waves*] [and] [carried around]: (a) [by every] [Wind] [of their] [Teaching], (b) [by] [The] [Trickery*] [of] [Men], (c) [by] [Dishonesty] [because of] [The] [Tactic] [of their] [Deception]; ¹⁵(3) [but], [while speaking the truth] [in] [Love], [we would—[Every Last One]—grow] [into] [Him] [Who] [is] [our] [Head]—[The Anointed One]; ¹⁶[from] [Whom] [The] [whole] [Body]—[which is being precisely framed together] [and] [all put together] [via] [The] [Abundant Provision] [of every] [Ligament], [in accordance with] [{the} Energy] [in] [{the} Measure] [of each] [one's] [Part]—[produces], [through] [Love], [The] [Growth] [of The] [Body] [into] [His Own] [Building].

¹⁷[Therefore], [I am saying] [This], [and] [I am testifying] [in] [His Majesty], [so that] [you] would [no longer] walk [just as] [The] [Gentiles] [also] [walk]—[in] [{the} Futility] [of] [their] [Mind]—¹⁸(1) [those who are] [darkened] [in their] [Understanding], (2) [those who have been estranged from] [The] [Life] [of The] [{Living} God]: (a) [because of] [The] [Ignorance] [that] [is] [in] [them] (b) [because of] [The] [Hardness] [of] [their] [Heart], ¹⁹(3) [those who], [having become totally senseless*], [have handed [themselves] over] [to] [Licentiousness], [for] [a Business] [of] [all] [Uncleanliness] [in] [Selfishness].

²⁰[But] [you] [did] [not] learn [The] [Anointed One] [in this way], ²¹[if] [indeed] [you have heard] [Him] [and] [have been taught] [by] [Him], [just as] [Truth] [is] [in] [Jesus]: ²²(1) [so that] [you] set aside

[The] [old] [Man], [the one that] [was being beguiled]: (a) [by] [your] [previous*] [Behavior], (b) [by] [your] [Selfish Desires] [with their] [Deceit]; ²³[then], (2) [so that {you} are restored to youth*] [in The] [Spirit] [of] [your] [Mind], ²⁴[and] (3) [so that {you} slip on] [The] [new] [Man], [the One Who] [has been created] [corresponding to] [God] [by] [a Declaration of Not Guilty] [and] [{your} Devotion] [to The] [Truth]. (Ephesians 4:10–24) —my interim translation

Paul's point is, the new birth provides the True Believer the opportunity to gain an entirely new mind-set through the Truth of *The Teaching*, a mind-set that has the power to transform him from within, provided he is willing to put aside the lies that he previously believed and keep the demands of his physical body at bay. The Believer who is willing to do that will soon realize he is looking down on the circumstances of this life rather than just looking up with a hope for the next:

¹[Therefore], [if] [you have been raised up together with] [The] [Anointed One], [seek] [the things that are] [above], [where] [The] [Anointed One] [is] [sitting] [at] [The] [{Living} God's] [Right Hand]. ²[Have your mind set on] [the things that are] [above], [not] [on the things that are] [on] [The] [Earth]. ³[For] [you have died], [and] [The] [Life] [you have] [has been hidden] [in] [The] [{Living} God], [along with] [The] [Anointed One].

⁴[When] [The] [Anointed One]—[The] [Life] [you have]—[is made visible], [then] [you] [will also] be made visible [in] [Glory]—[together with] [Him]. ⁵[Therefore], [deaden] [your] [Members] [that are] [on] [The] [Earth]: [Sexual Promiscuity], [Uncleanness]—[an Urge], [an awful] Selfish Desire—[even] [your] [Selfishness], [which] [is] [Idolatry]. ⁶[Because of] [which {things}] [The] [Anger] [of The] [{Living} God] [is going to come] [on] [The] [Sons] [of] [Apathy], ⁷[among] [whom] [at one time] [you] [also] [walked]—[when] [you were living] [for] [These Things].

⁸[But] [right now], [Every Last One of] [you] [must also] set aside [from] [your] [Mouth]: [Anger], [Rage], [Awfulness], [False Religious Claim], [Shameful Speech*]. ⁹[Do not] lie [to] [one another], [after completely stripping off] [The] [old] [Man] [along with] [his] [Activities] ¹⁰[and] [slipping on] [the young] {man}, [the one Who] [is being renewed]

[to] [a Full Knowledge] [corresponding to] [{the} Image] [of the One Who] [created] [Him]—¹¹[where] [there is] [no] [Greek] [and] [Jew], [Circumcision] [and] [Uncircumcision], [Foreigner], [Scythian*], [Slave], [Free Man]; [but] [The Anointed One] {is} [Every Last Thing], [and] [in] [everything]. ¹²[Therefore], [as] [The] [{Living} God's] [holy] [and] [loved] [Chosen Ones], [slip on] [Affectionate Feelings] [of Compassion], [Benevolence], [Humility], [Gentleness], [Patience]—¹³[putting up with] [one another] [and], [if] [anyone] [has] [a Cause for Complaint*] [against] [anyone], [granting yourselves] a favor; [so], [just as] [His Majesty] [granted you] a favor, [so] [also] {should} [you].

¹⁴[But] [above] [all] [These Things] {is} [our] [Love], [which] [is] [a Sinew] [of our] [Perfect Unity]; ¹⁵[so] [let] [The] [Peace] [of The] [Anointed One] pre-side* [in] [your] [Hearts]—[into] [which {peace}] [you also] were invited [in] [one] [Body]—[and] [be] [thankful*]. ¹⁶[Let] [The] [Word] [of The] [Anointed One] reside [among] [you] [as wealth], [teaching] [and] [warning] [yourselves] [with] [all] [Wisdom], [singing] [Psalms], [Hymns], [spiritual] [Songs]: (1) [in] [your] [Hearts], (2) [to The] [{Living} God], (3) [about] [The] [Favor]. ¹⁷[And] [you should do] [everything]—[anything], [whatever] [it may be], [in] [Word] [or] [in] [Work], [everything]—[in] [{the} Name] [of His Majesty], [Jesus], [while giving thanks] [to The] [Father] [God] [through] [Him].

(Colossians 3:1–17) —my interim translation

To anyone who sincerely wants to know the Truth, it should be obvious that, when Paul talks about "the old man" and "the new man," he is using *parabolic imagery* to depict an entirely different set of circumstances. Nevertheless, you must understand what that *parabolic imagery* is based on before you can understand what Jesus requires of every True Believer. So here it is.

The four "winds" that "blow" here on the Earth come at us from every possible direction, depending on which combination of "winds" "blow" at any given time. They begin "blowing" their nonsense at every one of us the moment we are born, and their goal is to shape us in their own image and likeness. So by the time a person is old enough to apologize to the Lord and be born again, the "winds" have already done a fairly good job of shaping that person into whatever despicable character they want him to be. But in every

case it is one who is completely focused on himself and his physical existence in this world.

The Lord expects every True Believer to master the Truth regarding *the promise* that he *received* when he was born again. Only then will he be able to overcome the training the "winds" instilled in him before he was born again. Mastering that Truth is a herculean task, and one that can only be accomplished through diligence and total submission to the Holy Spirit that resides within. But along "The Way," the True Believer must not only learn to monitor the suggestions the "winds" "blow" at him on a regular basis, but he must also allow the Holy Spirit to thwart the training the "winds" have instilled in him since birth. He can only do that by taking on a completely different mind-set:

¹[Therefore], [I implore] [you], [Brothers], [via] [The] [Compassion] [of The] [{Living} God], [to present] [your] [Bodies] [as a [living], [holy] Sacrifice], [well-pleasing] [to The] [{Living} God]—[your] [logical] [Priestly Service]. ²[And] [do [not] be shaped] [by] [This] [Current Age], [but] [be transformed] [by The] [Renewing] [of your] [Mind], [so] [that] [you] [approve of] [what] [The] [Will] [of The] [{Living} God] {is}—[which is] [good] [and] [well-pleasing] [and] [complete].

³[For] [I tell] [everyone] [who] [is] [among] [you]—[via] [The] [Favor] [that] [was given] [to me]—[to [not] have a more high-minded mind-set*] [than] [{the} mind-set [that] [one should] have], [but] [to have a mind-set] [so as] [to have good common sense]—[to each one] [as much as] [The] [{Living} God] [has divided out] [a Measure] [of Belief in God's **Promise**]. ⁴[For] [even as] [we have] [many] [Members] [in] [one] [Body], [but] [The] [Members] [do [not] all] have] [The] [same] [Activity], ⁵[so also] [we, [The] [Many], are] [one] [Body] [in] [The Anointed One], [but] [each and every] [one] [Members] [of one another], ⁶[but] [those who have] [different] [Gifts] [in accordance with] [The] [Favor] [that] [was given] [to us].

(Romans 12:1–6a) —my interim translation

In the January 2017 issue of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter, I explained how the True Believer can overcome the suggestions that the "winds" "blow" on a daily basis; now I am going to explain a bit about how to overcome the training they instilled in the "old man." I will begin with the following passage, in which

the Apostle Paul speaks in terms of the *parabolic image* in which the physical body is the "old man" and describes the mind-set the True Believer must have in order to overcome the training of the "winds":

¹[Therefore], [what] [can we say]? [Should we stay there] [in our] [Sin] [so that] [His] [Favor] [might become more than enough]? ²[Certainly] [not]! [On what basis] [could we [who] [have died] [to our] [Sin] [still] live] [in] [it]? ³[Or] [do you not understand] [that] [as many as] [have been baptized] [into] [The Anointed One], [Jesus], [have been baptized] [into] [His] [Death]? ⁴[Therefore], [we have been buried together with] [Him] [via] [our] [Baptism] [into] [His] [Death], [so that]—[indeed, just as] [The Anointed One] [arose] [from] [Those Who Are Dead] [via] [The] [Glory] [of The] [Father], [so] [also]—[we] [might walk around] [in] [Newness] [of Life]. ⁵[For] [if] [we have been] [planted together with {Him}*] [in The] [Likeness] [of] [His] [Death], [we will [also] be {planted together with Him}], [but] {in the likeness} [of His] [Resurrection], ⁶[knowing] [This]: [That] [our] [old] [Man] [was crucified together with {Him}]: (1) [so that] [The] [Body] [of our] [Sin] [would be abrogated], (2) [so that] [we] [would [no longer] be slaves] [to our] [Sin]; ⁷[for] [the One Who] [died] [has been acquitted] [of] [our] [Sin].

⁸[So] [if] [we have died] [together with] [The Anointed One], [we believe] [that] [we will [also] live together with] [Him], ⁹[aware] [that] [The Anointed One]—[after arising] [from] [Those Who Are Dead]—[is [no longer] dying]; [Death] [is [no longer] [His] master]. ¹⁰[For] [what] [He died], [He died] [to The] [Sin] [only one time]; [but] [what] [He lives], [He lives] [in The] [{Living} God]. ¹¹[So] [you] [also], [reckon] [yourselves] [to be] [dead] [to The] [Sin] [on the one hand]; [but on the other], [alive] [to The] [{Living} God]—[in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus].

¹²[Therefore], [do [not] let] [The] [Sin] be king] [over] [your] [mortal] [Body] [so] [that] [{you} listen attentively to, and comply with, the demands] [of] [its] [Selfish Desires]; ¹³[do [not] present] [your] [Members] [to] [The] [Sin] [as Weapons] [of Immorality] {either}; [but] [present] [yourselves] [to The] [{Living} God]—[as though you were] [those who are alive] [from] [Those Who Are Dead]—[and] [your] [Members] [to The] [{Living} God] [as Weapons] [of a Declaration of Not Guilty]. ¹⁴[For] [Sin] [will [not] be] [your] master], [for]

[you are] [not] [subject to] [Law], [but] [subject to] [a Favor].

¹⁵[What] [therefore]? [Should we sin] [because] [we are] [not] [subject to] [Law] [but] [subject to] [a Favor]? [Certainly] [not]! ¹⁶[Are you] [not] [aware] [that] [to whatever] [you present] [yourselves] [as Slaves] [for] [a Willingness to Attentively Listen to and Comply with {it}], [you are] [Slaves] [to the demands [of whatever] you listen attentively to and comply with; [either*]: (1) [with Sin], [for] [Death]; [or] (2) [with a Willingness to Listen Attentively and Comply], [for] [a Declaration of Not Guilty]? ¹⁷[But] [Thanks] [to The] [Living} God], [because] [you were] [Slaves] [of The] [Sin], [but] [you have, [with] [{your} Heart], listened attentively [to], and complied with, the demands of] [what] [you were handed over to]—[a Pattern] [of Doctrinal Teaching]. ¹⁸[But] [after being freed] [from] [your] [Sin], [you were made slaves] [to His] [Declaration of Not Guilty]. ¹⁹[I am speaking] [in human terms] [because of] [The] [Infirmary] [of] [your] [Flesh]. [For] [indeed, just as] [you presented] [your] [Members] [as Slaves] [to The] [Uncleanness] [and] [to The] [Lawless Deed] [for] [The] [Lawless Deed], [in the same way] [now], [present] [your] [Members] [as Slaves] [to The] [Declaration of Not Guilty] [for] [The Process of Being Made Holy].

²⁰[For] [when] [you were] [Slaves] [of The] [Sin], [you were] [free] [from The] [Declaration of Not Guilty]. ²¹[Therefore], [what] [Fruit] [did you have] [then]—[in] [the things that] [you are [now] ashamed of]? [For] [The] [Consummation] [of Those Things] {is} [Death]. ²²[But] [right now], [after being freed] [from] [The] [Sin], [and then] [being made slaves] [to The] [Living} God], [you have] [your] [Fruit] [in] [The Process of Being Made Holy], [and then] [The] [Consummation]—[eternal] [Life]. ²³[For] [The] [Provisions] [of The] [Sin] {is} [Death]; [but] [The] [Gift] [of The] [Living} God] {is} [eternal] [Life]—[in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus], [our] [Master].

¹[Or] [do you not understand], [Brothers]—[for] [I am speaking] [to those who know] [Law]—[that] [The] [Law] [is master] [of The] [Man] [for] [as long [a Span of Time] as] [he is alive]? ²[For] [The] [Woman] [subject to a male*] [has been bound] [by Law] [to her] [living] [Man]. [But] [if] [her] [Man] [dies], [she has been discharged] [from] [The] [Law] [regarding her] [Man]. ³[So then], [therefore], [while] [her] [Man] [is alive] [she will be labeled] [an Adulteress] [if] [another] [Man] [has {her}]; [but] [if] [her] [Man] [dies], [she is] [free] [from] [his]

[Law], [so that] [she] [is] [not] [an Adulteress] [when [another] [Man] has {her}].

⁴[So then], [my] [Brothers], [you] [also] [were put to death] [by The] [Law] [via] [The] [Body] [of The] [Anointed One]: (1) [so] [that] [Another] [could have] [you]—[the One Who] [arose] [from] [Those Who Are Dead]—(2) [so that] [we could bear fruit] [for The] [Living} God]. ⁵[For] [when] [we were] [in] [The] [Flesh], [The] [Impulse] [of The] [Sins] [that were] [via] [The] [Law] [was working] [in] [our] [Members] [so] [that] [{we} would bear fruit] [for The] [Death]. ⁶[But] [right now], [we have been discharged] [from] [The] [Law], [after dying] [in] [the One by Whom] [we were being held fast]; [with the result that] [we] [are slaves] [in] [Newness] [of Spirit] [and] [not] [in an Oldness*] [of Something That Has Been Written]. (Romans 6:1–7:6) —my interim translation

Did you notice Paul is once again talking about the "fruit" that God expects the True Believer to "produce"? Don't be deceived. If you don't deny the flesh and "produce" the "fruit" that God expects of His Children, you will wind up in exactly the same situation in which the Jews reside to this day:

⁷[But] [after seeing] [Many] [of The] [Pharisees] [and] [Sadducees] [coming] [for] [his] [Baptism], [he said] [to them]: "[Descendants] [of Vipers], [who] [gave] [you] an indication [that {you} should flee] [from] [The] [Anger] [that is going to come]? ⁸[Therefore], [produce] [Fruit] [worthy] [of your] [Apology]; ⁹[and] [not] [assume] [that {you} can say] [to] [one another], '[We have] [a Father]—[Abraham]'; [for] [I tell] [you] [that] [The] [Living} God] [can] [raise up] [Children] [for Abraham] [out] [of] [These] [Stones]. ¹⁰[But] [The] [Axe] [is] [already] [laid] [at] [The] [Root] [of The] [Trees]; [therefore], [every] [Tree] [that is] [not] [producing] [exceptionally good] [Fruit] [will be cut off] [and] [thrown] [into] [a Fire].'" (Matthew 3:7–10) —my interim translation

John was talking about the fact that God was in the process of "cutting off" the Jews "from" Corporate Israel so that Jesus would become the sole surviving Member of Corporate Israel, thus becoming *the Heir of the promise*. But Jesus warned His disciples that same thing could happen to anyone who becomes a member of Corporate Israel—the Body of Christ—and does not "produce" the "fruit" that God expects:

¹[I] [AM] [The] [Vine] [that is] [real], [and] [My] [Father] [is] [The] [Cultivator]. ²[Every] [Cutting] [in] [Me] [that is] [not] bearing] [Fruit], [He takes [it] away]; [and] [everything] [that] [is bearing] [Fruit], [He cleans [it] up*] [so that] [it may bear] [much more] [Fruit]. ³[You] [are] [already] [clean] [because of] [The] [Word] [that] [I have spoken] [to you]. ⁴[Remain] [in] [Me], [and I] [in] [you]. [Just as] [The] [Cutting] [can] [not] [bear] [Fruit] [of] [itself] [if] [it does] [not] remain] [on] [The] [Vine], [so also] [you] [neither], [if] [you do] [not] remain] [in] [Me]. ⁵[I] [AM] [The] [Vine]; [you] {are} [The] [Cuttings]. [The one who] [remains] [in] [Me], [and I] [in] [him], [This Individual] [is going to bear] [a lot of] [Fruit]. [Because] [apart from] [Me], [you can] [not] [do] [anything at all]. ⁶[If] [anyone] [does] [not] remain] [in] [Me], [he is going to be thrown] [out] [and] [shrivel up] [like] [The] [Cutting]; [and] [they are going to gather [them] up] [and] [throw {them}] [into] [The] [Fire], [and] [they are going to be burned]. ⁷[If] [you remain] [in] [Me], [and] [The] [Comments I] [Make] [remain] [in] [you], [request] [whatever] [it may be that] [you want], [and] [it will be done] [for you]. ⁸[My] [Father] [has been glorified] [in] [This Individual], [so that] [you bear] [a lot of] [Fruit] [and] [become] [My] [Disciples]."

(John 15:1–8) —my interim translation

To understand what Jesus said to His disciples about remaining in Him, you need to keep in mind the fact that He is *talking about Himself* as the *Living Word* of God:

¹[In] [The Beginning], [there was] [The] [Word]; [and] [The] [Word] [was] [with] [The] [{Living} God], [and] [God] [was] [The] [Word]. ²[This Individual] [was] [in] [The Beginning] [with] [The] [{Living} God]. 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] [The] [Life] [was] [The] [Light] [of] [Men]. ⁵[And] [The] [Light] [appears] [in] [The] [Darkness], [yet] [The] [Darkness] [has] [never] grasped] [it].

(John 1:1–5) —my interim translation

When Jesus told His disciples that they must remain in Him in order to "bear" "fruit," He was referring to Himself as the Truth—"The Light"—of The

Teaching that He believed. That is the same "Light" that Paul mentions in this passage:

¹[For] [This Reason], [just as] [we were shown mercy], [we] [who have] [This] [Service] do [not] get discouraged]. ²[But] [we have renounced*] [The] [Secrets] [of our] [Shame]—[not] [walking] [in] [Dishonesty] [nor] [counterfeiting*] [The] [Word] [of The] [{Living} God], [but] [commending] [ourselves] [to] [every] [Man's] [Conscience] [in the sight of] [The] [{Living} God] [by our] [Disclosure] [of The] [Truth]. ³[So] [even] [if] [The] [Good News of **the Fulfillment of the Promise**] [we have] [is] [covered], [it is] [covered] [in] [those who] [are being done away with]—⁴[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} can] [not] 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[For] [we do] [not] preach] [ourselves] [but] [His Majesty], [Jesus], [The Anointed One], [then] [ourselves] [as] [your] Slaves] [for] [Jesus]. ⁶[Because] [The] [{Living} God], [Who] [said], "[A Light] [will shine] [out] [of Darkness]," {is} [the One Who] [has shone] [in] [our] [Hearts] [with] [an Illumination] [of The] [Knowledge] [of The] [Glory] [of The] [{Living} God] [in] [{the} Face] [of Jesus], [The Anointed One]. ⁷[But] [we have] [This] [Treasure] [in] [Containers] [made of clay] [so that] [The extraordinary] Thing] [about The] [Supernatural Power] [is] [The] [{Living} God's] [and] [not] [from] [us].

(2 Corinthians 4:1–7) —my interim translation

Just Say, "That's Not Me!"

I have explained these things because God requires every True Believer to triumph over the "winds" that "blow" through the minds of men. In the January 2017 issue of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter, I briefly explained how to defeat the "winds" that "blow" at you as they seek to shape you in their image and likeness. Now I am going to tell you how to overcome the training they have instilled in the "old man" so that the Lord can shape you into His image and likeness in the "new man": Just say the same thing I told you to say in the January issue: "That's not me!" You can legitimately say that because you can *freely choose* to be *The One* rather than the other. It's your choice. ■

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should be held as vanquished, while those who had expelled and conquered them should have possession of heaven.

The mysteries relating to the Titans and Giants also had some such (symbolical) meaning, as well as the Egyptian mysteries of Typhon, and Horus, and Osiris." After having made such statements, and not having got over the difficulty as to the way in which these accounts contain a higher view of things, while our accounts are erroneous copies of them, he continues his abuse of us, remarking that "these are not like the stories which are related of a devil, or demon, or, as he remarks with more truth, of a man who is an impostor, who wishes to establish an opposite doctrine."

And in the same way he understands Homer, as if he referred obscurely to matters similar to those mentioned by Heraclitus, and Pherecydes, and the originators of the mysteries about the Titans and Giants, in those words which Hephaestus addresses to Hera as follows:—

"Once in your cause I felt his matchless might,
Hurled headlong downward from the ethereal height."

And in those of Zeus to Hera:—

"Hast thou forgot, when, bound and fix'd on high,
From the vast concave of the spangled sky,
I hung thee trembling in a golden chain,
And all the raging gods opposed in vain?
Headlong I hurled them from the Olympian hall,
Stunn'd in the whirl, and breathless with the fall."

Origen, "Origen Against Celsus," Book vi, Chap. xlii, in Roberts and Donaldson (Eds.), *The Ante-Nicene Fathers* (1885), Vol. 4, pp. 591–592.

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