



THE VOICE of ELIJAH

Restoring the hearts of the fathers to the children

A Fool Who Knew “*The Way*” and Distorted It

3. Now, in the same way in which we have understood that Wisdom was the beginning of the ways of God, and is said to be created, forming beforehand and containing within herself the species and beginnings of all creatures, must we understand her to be the Word of God, because of her disclosing to all other beings, i.e., to universal creation, the nature of the mysteries and secrets which are contained within the divine wisdom; and on this account she is called the Word, because she is, as it were, the interpreter of the secrets of the mind.

And therefore that language which is found in the *Acts of Paul*, where it is said that “here is the Word a living being,” appears to me to be rightly used. John, however, with more sublimity and propriety, says in the beginning of his Gospel, when defining God by a special definition to be the Word, “And God was the Word, and this was in the beginning with God.”

Let him, then, who assigns a beginning to the Word or Wisdom of God, take care that he be not guilty of impiety against the unbegotten Father Himself, seeing he denies that He had always been a Father, and had generated the Word, and had possessed wisdom in all preceding periods, whether they be called times or ages, or anything else that can be so entitled.

4. This Son, accordingly, is also the truth and life of all things which exist. And with reason. For how could those things which were created live, unless they derived their being from life? or how could those things which are, truly exist, unless they came down from the truth? or how could rational beings exist, unless the Word or reason had previously existed? or how could they be wise, unless there were wisdom?

But since it was to come to pass that some also should fall away from life, and bring death upon themselves by their declension—for death is

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A Note From the Editor

Saying Goodbye to a Dear Friend

Roger Bishop passed away due to complications of COPD in the early morning hours of March 16, 2018. Royce Gonzalez, Voice of Elijah, Inc.'s CEO, and I were by his side at some point of each day of his 6-day hospital stay. With his failing health over the years, he often said that he was "ready to go." Even with that knowledge, saying goodbye to a friend of twenty years isn't easy.

Roger was one of the early subscribers to *The Voice of Elijah*®—his subscription began with the April 1998 issue. Roger was a member of the Board of Directors of Voice of Elijah, Inc. from 2006 until his health prevented him from continuing to serve in 2016. Through the years, Roger had his fingers in a lot of pies... most recently, the upkeep of the Topical Index and Scripture Index for *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletters and The Elijah Project publications (made available to Monthly and/or Next Step Contributors to *The Voice of Elijah*®) and work on Larry's Lexicon for HSSB.

If you knew Roger and would like to send a note of condolence to his family, please address it to: The Bishop Family, c/o Voice of Elijah, Inc., P.O. Box 2257, Rockwall, TX 75087-2257. Royce will be happy to send them on to Roger's family.

To quote Larry's paraphrase of James 1 (see page 28 of this issue):

*"It doesn't matter whether you are rich or poor, because everyone dies at some point—just like the grass—but only those who prove themselves by continuing to believe the Truth when tested will gain the eternal life after death that God has **promised**."*

Without doubt!

Harper's Standardized Study Bible

I couldn't be more pleased to announce that Harper's Standardized Study Bible is now available online at: <https://www.voiceofelijah.org/app>. The current version of the HSSB Application includes Larry's translation of the New Testament. Future versions will also include the Old Testament, Lexicon, and many other add-ons. We've conducted an international test, and the download was successfully completed overseas. The HSSB Application is now available worldwide!

For Facebook users, you may not be aware that we have recently created a Facebook page for Harper's Standardized Study Bible: www.facebook.com/HarpersStandardizedStudyBible. With the recent release of the HSSB Application, we are posting verses from HSSB along with

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the same verses from NASB, in what we are calling our “Verse for Today.” Our hope is that the comparison of the two side-by-side will pique interest in the HSSB translation. Here are a few sample posts:

“But I have made my soul out to be no thing valuable to myself, so as to complete my race and the service that I received from His Majesty, Jesus—to provide convincing testimony about the good news of the fulfillment of the promise of the favor of the {living} God.”

(Acts 20:24) —HSSB

“But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.”

(Acts 20:24) —NASB

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

(Romans 8:1) —HSSB

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

(Romans 8:1) —NASB

If we are alive in Spirit, we should also fall in line with Spirit. We should not be vain—challenging one another, envying one another.

(Galatians 5:25–26) —HSSB

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

(Galatians 5:25–26) —NASB

We have an obligation to always give thanks to the {living} God for you, brothers, just as He is worthy, because your belief in God’s promise is growing greater, and the love of each one—of all—of you for one another is more than enough.

(2 Thessalonians 1:3) —HSSB

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater.

(2 Thessalonians 1:3) —NASB

Beloved brothers, if the {living} God showed His love for us in this way, we also have an obligation to love one another.

(1 John 4:11) —HSSB

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

(1 John 4:11) —NASB

It is so exciting to finally be able to share (and compare) Harper’s Standardized Study Bible translation on Facebook! By sharing these posts with your Facebook network of friends, you can help further our reach. There are those “out there” who will respond to the Truth once they’ve heard it; I have no doubt. Time is running short; please help us reach them.

Facebook Outreach

Since the January issue of *The Voice of Elijah*® was published, Royce and her team have been diligently working to increase Voice of Elijah’s visibility on social media. Those of you who use Facebook, Twitter, and/or Instagram have no doubt seen the fruit of their labor. On Facebook alone, the page likes for Voice of Elijah’s page have jumped from 56,000 at the end of January, to well over 200,000 as of this writing—and it is currently averaging nearly 4000 new page likes per day. The vast majority of the new likes are coming from foreign countries.

His Truth is marching on!

In Him,

Marcia Harper

A Little Sleight of Hand Can Make a Fool Believe Something Stupid

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.

In the April 2017 issue of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter, I first reviewed what I had told you in the January issue. Then I explained how the renewing of the mind that Paul mentions in Romans 12:2 fits together with the things I had already explained in those issues. But in both of those issues, I included the following statement:

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. 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. Paul states that emphatically in the first chapter of the Book of Galatians.

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. 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.

After stating that, 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* and in the October 2017 issue of this newsletter.

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*.

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*.

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*.

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*.

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*.

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.

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; 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.

I told you that, if you intend to triumph over the enemy of your soul, you need to believe the things I outlined in the eight paragraphs above; and you also need to know why you have chosen 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 you can use to defend against the lies that Satan propagates for the sole purpose of destroying the souls of men. I also told you that, for that reason, I planned to write a series of articles in which I provide a summary explanation of those eight parts of *The Teaching*.

I began by talking about the first item on the list above in the October 2017 issue and the second item on the list in the January 2018 issue. I am going to continue with the third item in this issue.

In the article I wrote for the October 2017 issue of this newsletter, I concluded with another list of things you need to know and believe if you intend to triumph

over the “winds” that are going to “blow” here at the End of the Age. I said this:

The Truth regarding the biblical account of God’s decision to create Jesus Christ—the Second Adam—in His Own image and likeness is this:

1. *Genesis 1 is a summary overview of everything God has done with regard to His decision to create Jesus Christ in His Own image and likeness.*
2. *Genesis 2–4 explains some of the events that led up to God’s decision to create Jesus Christ in His Own image and likeness.*
3. *The first two verses of Genesis 5 are an introduction to Moses’ account of why God decided to create Jesus Christ in His Own image and likeness.*
4. *Moses’ account of why God decided to create Jesus Christ in His Own image and likeness begins in Genesis 5:3 and goes through Genesis 8.*
5. *Genesis 9:1–7 is a summary of God’s announcement of His intention to begin the process of creating Jesus Christ in His Own image and likeness.*

I told you that you need to keep those things in mind if you want to know the Truth with regard to the message of the Scriptures, but you also need to know the creation of Jesus Christ in the image and likeness of God is the very focus of the Scriptures in which God has revealed His plan and purpose for the salvation of mankind. His *fulfillment* of that plan began with the Resurrection of “The Man,” Jesus Christ, in His Own image and likeness; and it will conclude with the Resurrection of all “male and female” Believers in that same image and likeness. That is the Truth regarding the *parabolic image* of the “new birth” by which one becomes a Child of God. But only those who believe the Truth here at the End of the Age will participate in that event. All others will be discarded.

In the article I wrote for the January 2018 issue of this newsletter, I went back to the beginning of the biblical account of God’s plan of salvation and recounted the things you need to know and believe if you intend to be one of those who participate in the Resurrection of the Righteous at the End of the Age. I told you the

story begins immediately after Adam and Eve admitted their sin to God. At that time, He gave them *the promise* that they could be created in His image and likeness if they would merely believe *the promise* and *hand it down* as an *inheritance* so that others would have opportunity to believe it as well. I also reviewed the things I explained in *The Inheritance of the Believer*, Volume 1. I told you the genealogies in Genesis 5–11 are an account of how Abraham came to be *the heir of the promise*, and the remainder of the Book of Genesis tells us how Abraham *handed down the promise* to his son Isaac, and Isaac *handed down the promise* to his son Jacob. I concluded the article in the January 2018 issue with the following bibliographic information:

In “Transliteration Is Not Translation,” *The Voice of Elijah*®, July 2008, p. 2, I give the following summary of *The Inheritance of the Believer*, Volume 1:

In The Inheritance of the Believer, Volume 1, I explained what you need to know about the promise, the inheritance of the promise, and the inheritance of what was promised. I explained that the promise is nothing more than The Teaching that explains how God fulfilled the promise He made to Adam and Eve. He promised them He would take a man and create the man in His Own image and likeness. I told you God did that with “The Man” Jesus Christ.

But I reminded you that God also promised He would create other descendants of Adam—both male and female—in His Own image and likeness. I explained that those are the True Believers who will be resurrected in the image and likeness of God because they believed the promise He made. Then I told you how you can become one of those who will be created in the image and likeness of God at the End of the Age. I said all you have to do is believe the promise when you have opportunity to hear it. When you believe the promise, you thereby inherit the promise as an heir of Jesus Christ and you become a member of the Body of Jesus Christ—the One Who is Corporate Israel.

In “The Living Word of God Will Never Change,” *The Voice of Elijah*® *Update*, December 2005, pp. 10–12, I point out how God made various *promises* to different individuals down through history and how those *promises* merely reflect some facet of *the original promise* that God made to Adam. I distinguish between the various facets of *the promise*: *the blessing* of Abraham,

the *promise* of the Spirit, and the *promise* of resurrection in the image and likeness of God.

In “If Time Were Not a Moving Thing ...,” *The Voice of Elijah*® *Update*, June 2006, pp. 14–16, I focus on the *promise* God made to Abraham about his seed being LIKE the stars.

In “A Simple Definition: *Inheritance* Means Somebody Died,” *The Voice of Elijah*®, July 2007, pp. 3–5, I explain that the *promise* began as prophecy in an oral tradition that was *handed down* from one generation to the next as an *inheritance*; and it gradually became a recounting of history as more and more facets of the *promise* were *fulfilled*. I also explain that the vehicle by which the *promise* was *handed down* was an oral *blessing* that was *received* by belief.

In the article “Irenæus Knew All About the *Inheritance of the Promise*,” *The Voice of Elijah*® *Update*, March 2008, pp. 6–7, I point out that Irenæus’ comment on how the *inheritance* was “thrown open” to both Jews and Gentiles after the death of Christ is actually focused on the fact that those who are resurrected in the image and likeness of God at the end of the sixth “day” of Creation will live on the Earth during the seventh “day” of rest.

In “Two Perspectives, One Truth,” *The Voice of Elijah*® *Update*, August 2010, pp. 6–9, I summarize the things I explained about Irenæus’ understanding of the *promise* in the May and June issues of that newsletter. My purpose was to show that both Paul and Irenæus understood the continuity that exists between the Old Testament and the New resides in the *promise* of God.

In *Not All Israel Is Israel*, I explain various other things one needs to know about the *promise*. I said God confirmed the *promise* to the Patriarchs in the same way each time because it was the same *promise*. I also told you the *promise* and the *blessing* can be used interchangeably because the *promise* was *handed down* as an oral *blessing*.

In “Questions & Answers,” *The Voice of Elijah*®, January 2002, pp. 22–28, I answer the following question:

In Galatians 3:14–29 there are nine specific references by the Apostle Paul to the promise and/or the promises of God. I want to ask you about those references in general and about the promise in particular. Ten years ago when I first read Not All Israel Is Israel, I was inclined to believe that any reference to the promise in the Scriptures was

always a reference to the promise that God made Abraham in Genesis 12:1–3. Since that time, however, I have come to understand that God made other promises to other individuals, such as the promise He made to King David in 2 Samuel 7, or the promise of the New Covenant and the promise of the indwelling Holy Spirit that He made known through the Prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 31:31–34). So here is my question: Should we view all of these promises as part of the promise? Also, you have stated on numerous occasions that The Teaching is both the promise and God’s Word. While I can see that God’s promise is His Word (and vice versa), it still seems that the complexities of The Teaching—God’s Word—entail more than just the promise. Would you clarify this issue a bit more?

That is what I have already explained; now I am going to tell you a few more things you need to know.

“All Israel” = Corporate Israel

One issue regarding the Old Testament that erudite “scholars” have long debated is the *significance* of the appellation “all Israel.” What does it *mean*? Why did the Prophets use it to refer to the Northern Kingdom after the division of the kingdom following the death of Solomon? Why do some translations infer the Apostle Paul uses it when he says this:

⁶[But] [it is [not] possible]: (1) [that] [The] [Word] [of The] [{Living} God] [has run aground], [for] [These Individuals]—[everyone] [who is] [from] [{the man} Israel]—{are} [not] [Israel]; ⁷(2) [nor] [that] [Abraham’s] “[Seed]” [are] [all] [{his} Children], [but]: “[A SEED] [WILL BE SUMMONED] [FOR YOU] [THROUGH] [ISAAC].” ⁸[That] [is], [These] [Children] [of The] [Flesh] {are} [not] [Children] [of The] [{Living} God]; [but only] [The] [Children] [of The] [Promise] [are reckoned] [as] [{His} Seed]. ⁹[For] [This] {is} [The] [Word] [of a Promise]: “[AT] [THIS] [TIME] [I WILL COME BACK], [AND] [SARAH] [WILL HAVE] [A SON].” ¹⁰[Now] [not] [only] {Sarah}, [but] [also] [Rebekah*], [who got pregnant] [by] [one {man}]—[our] [Father] [Isaac]. ¹¹[For] [not yet] [having been engendered] [or] [involved in] [anything] [good] [or] [bad]—[so that] [The] [Plan] [of The] [{Living} God] [with respect to] [His Choice] [would remain], ¹²[not] [on the basis] [of Works] [but only] [on the basis] [of the One Who] [was going to invite {him}]—[she] [was told] [that] “[THE] [MORE IMPORTANT] [WILL BE A

SLAVE] [TO THE] [LESS IMPORTANT].” ¹³[Just as] [it has been written], “[I LOVED] [JACOB], [BUT] [I HATED] [ESAU].”
(Romans 9:6–13) —HSSB

If you have read *Not All Israel Is Israel*, you should already know what Paul *means* by what he says in that passage. He knows *the promise* was *handed down* from one *heir of the promise* to the next until it came into the possession of Jacob. He also knows “all Israel” is how the Prophets referred to *Corporate Israel*—that is, to the sons of Israel as if they were one person. But a little later on in the Book of Romans, Paul makes it clear that he also knows the *significance* of the phrase “all Israel”; but what he knows in that regard does not jive at all with the lie that one finds when they search the phrase on the internet. Let me show you what Paul says:

¹[Therefore] [I say], “[Has [The] [{Living} God] [not] repudiated] [His] [People]?” [Certainly] [not]! [For] [I] [am] [also] [an Israelite], [one] [of] [Abraham’s] [Seed], [of] [Benjamin’s] [Tribe]. ²[The] [{Living} God] [has] [not] repudiated] [His] [People]—[Whom] [He knew before]. [Or] [are you] [not] aware of] [what] [The] [Scripture] [says] [about] [Elijah] [when] [he was filing a petition with] [The] [{Living} God] [against] [Israel]? ³[Your Majesty], [THEY KILLED] [YOUR] [PROPHETS]; [THEY DEMOLISHED] [YOUR] [SACRIFICIAL ALTARS], [AND I] [HAVE BEEN LEFT] [ALONE] AS A SMALL REMNANT*, [AND] [THEY ARE SEEKING] [MY] [SOUL].” ⁴[But] [what] [does] [The] [Divine Communication*] say] [to him]? “[I HAVE LEFT BEHIND] [for Myself] [SEVEN THOUSAND*] [MEN] [WHO] [HAVE] [NOT] BENT] [A KNEE] [TO BAAL*].” ⁵[So also], [therefore], [at] [The] [present] [Time] [there has] [also] come to be] [a Remnant*] [in accordance with] [{their} Choice] [of a Favor]. ⁶[But] [if] {salvation is} [by a Favor], {it is} [no longer] [on the basis] [of Works], [otherwise] [The] [Favor] [would] [no longer] be] [a Favor]. ⁷[What] [therefore]? [Israel] [has] [not] gained possession of] [This Thing] [that] [it is diligently seeking]! [The] [One Who Is His Choice] [has] [now] gained possession of {it}, [but] [The] [Rest of {the members of Israel}] [have been turned to stone]; ⁸[just as] [it has been written]:

“[THE] [{LIVING} GOD] [GAVE] [THEM]
[A SPIRIT] [OF DEEP SLEEP*],
[EYES] [THAT] [CAN] [NOT] SEE],
[AND] [EARS] [THAT] [CAN] [NOT] HEAR],
[UP TO] [THE] [DAY] [TODAY].”

⁹[And] [David] [says]:

“[LET] [THEIR] [TABLE] BE TURNED] [INTO] [A SNARE]
[AND] [INTO] [A TRAP*],
[EVEN] [INTO] [A DEADFALL TRAP] [AND] [INTO]
[PAYBACK] [TO THEM].

¹⁰[LET] [THEIR] [EYES] BE DARKENED],
[SO THAT] [{they} CAN] [NOT] SEE],
[AND] [BEND] [THEIR] [BACK*] DOWN*] [AT] [ALL TIMES].”

¹¹[Therefore] [I say], [did they] [not] trip] [so that] [they fell]? [Certainly] [not]! [But] [The] [Salvation] [for The] [Gentiles] {is} [in their] [Transgression] [so] [that He] [could make] [them] jealous. ¹²[But] [if] [their] [Transgression] {is} [The World’s] [Wealth], [and] [their] [Failure], [{the} Gentiles’] [Wealth], [how much] [more] {will} [their] [Fullness] {be}?

¹³[But] [I am speaking] [to you], [The] [Gentiles]. [Therefore], [for] [as long as] [I] [am] [an Apostle] [of Gentiles], [I do, in fact], glorify] [my] [Service], ¹⁴[if] [somehow] [I could make] [my] [Flesh] jealous [and] [save] [some] [of] [them]. ¹⁵[For] [if] [His] [Scrapping] [of them] {is} [The World’s] [Reconciliation], [what is] [their] [Admission*] [if] [not] [Life] [from] [Those Who Are Dead]? ¹⁶[But] [if] [The] [First Fruit] {is} [holy], [The] [Lump] {is} [also]; [and] [if] [The] [Root] {is} [holy], [The] [Branches] {are} [also].

¹⁷[But] [if] [some] [of The] [Branches] [were broken off], [and then] [You], [who are] [a Wild Olive Tree], [were grafted in] [among] [them] [and] [became] [a Fellow Partaker] [of The] [Sap*] [of The] [Root] [of The] [Olive Tree], ¹⁸[do] [not] speak derisively about] [The] [Branches]. [But] [if] [You are speaking derisively about {them}], [You] [are] [not] carrying] [The] [Root], [but] [The] [Root] {is carrying} [You]. ¹⁹[Therefore], [You will say], “[Branches] [were broken off] [so that] [I] [could be grafted in].” ²⁰[Well Said!] [They were broken off] [because of their] [Lack of Belief in God’s **Promise**], [but] [You] [stand] [because of Your] [Belief in God’s **Promise**]. [You must] [not] have Your mind set on] [Thoughts That Are Impressive], [but] [be afraid]. ²¹[For] [if] [The] [{Living} God] [did] [not] spare] [The] [Branches] [{that are} in accordance with] [Nature], [neither] [will He spare] [You]. ²²[Therefore], [take a look] [at] [God’s] [Benevolence] [and] [Harshness]: [On the one hand], [Harshness] [for] [those who] [fell]; [but on the other hand], [God’s] [Benevolence] [for] [You]—[if] [You stay there] [in His] [Benevolence], [since] [You] [could] [also]

be cut off]. ²³[But] [even Those Individuals], [if] [they do [not] stay there] [in their] [Lack of Belief in God's **Promise**], [will be grafted in]; [for] [The] [{Living} God] [is] [able] [to graft [them] in] [again]. ²⁴[For] [if] [You]—[{those who are}], in accordance with] [Nature], [part] [of The] [Wild Olive Tree]—[were cut off] [and] [contrary to] [Nature], [grafted in] [to] [a Cultivated Olive Tree*], [how much] [more] [will [These Individuals] [who are] in accordance with] [Nature] be grafted in] [to their] [own] [Olive Tree]?

²⁵[For] [I do [not] want] [you], [Brothers], [to not understand] [This] [Mystery] [so that] [you are] [not] “[sensible]” [in yourselves]. [Because] [a Hardening] [of] [a Part] [in] [Israel] [has occurred] [until the time] [when] [The] [Fullness] [of The] [Gentiles] [has come in]. ²⁶[Then] [just as] [it has been written], [all] [Israel] [will be saved]—[in this way]:

“[THE ONE WHO] [DELIVERS] [WILL COME] [FROM] [ZION]; [HE WILL TURN [THOSE WHO ARE DEPRAVED] AWAY] [FROM] [JACOB].

²⁷[AND] [THIS] {is} [THE] [TESTAMENT] [FROM] [ME] [FOR THEM], [When] [I take away] [their] [Sins].”

²⁸[On the one hand], {they are} [Enemies] [with respect to] [The] [Good News of **the Fulfillment of the Promise**] [because of] [you]; [but on the other hand], {they are} [beloved] [because of] [their] [Fathers]—[in accordance with] [His] [Choice]: ²⁹(1) [For] [The] [Gifts] [and] [The] [Invitation] [of The] [{Living} God] {are} [unchanging]. ³⁰(2) [For] [indeed, just as] [you] [were] [at one time] not persuaded by God's **promise**] [about The] [{Living} God], [but] [you have [now] been shown mercy] [because of The] [Apathy] [of These Individuals], ³¹[so] [also] [now], [These Individuals] [were not persuaded by God's **promise**] [about] [your] [Mercy], [so that] [they] [could] [also] [now] be shown mercy]. ³²[For] [The] [{Living} God] [has confined] [Every Last One] [in] [Apathy], [so that] [He could have mercy on] [Every Last One]. (Romans 11:1–32) —HSSB

I am going to explain an essential part of “this mystery” that Paul mentions in verse 25 of that passage so that “those who have insight” (Dan. 12:3) are all on the same page going forward. Unfortunately, anyone with “eyes that cannot see and ears that cannot hear” won't have a clue as to what I have explained when I

am finished just because it will appear to be completely nonsensical to them. In many, if not most, cases, they will vehemently disagree with what I say here. That is because the Truth regarding their situation is exactly as Paul describes it in this passage:

²[But] [we [who are] [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] have renounced*] [their] [shameful] [Secrets]. 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 only] [His Majesty], [Jesus], [The Anointed One], [and 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 Truth] [regarding The] [Glory] [of The] [{Living} God] [on] [{the} Face] [of Jesus], [The Anointed One]. (2 Corinthians 4:2–6) —HSSB

Now that I have bluntly told you how I assess those who disagree with *The Teaching* God called me to teach, I am going to give you a paraphrase of what Paul says in the passage above; but I am going to include a bit of his mind-set right along with how he expresses it:

Based on what I explained in the previous chapter, you should already know that the Living God has not completely abandoned His People. Just as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were all individually **heirs of the promise**, so also at this time there is One Individual Who is **Heir of the promise**. Jesus Christ became **the Heir of the promise** when He became Corporate Israel, the Firstborn Son of God Who has been **the Heir of the promise** since the ratification of the Mosaic Covenant.

Just as the majority of the members of Corporate Israel in the time of Elijah were “cut off from” Corporate Israel, so also the individual members of Corporate Israel were “cut off from” that Corporate body in our day. But there are many of us who were members of Corporate Israel who are still members of Corporate Israel. We are members of that Corporate body because, after we were “cut off from” it, we were “grafted back in” to it in the same way that you were “grafted in.” But we were given the opportunity to be “grafted in” before you Gentiles because we were members of the Corporate body before we were “cut off from” it. So don’t lord it over the Jews who have rejected Christ, because you can easily be “cut off from” Christ—Corporate Israel—in the same way that they were; and they can be “grafted back in.”

Now that I have warned you not to think too highly of yourself as members of Corporate Israel, let me explain “The Mystery” of how God intends to salvage the remaining members of Corporate Israel. He is going to continue to allow Gentiles to be “grafted in” to Corporate Israel until “the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.” And the individual members of Corporate Israel who are “grafted in” will be “grafted in,” in the same way that we have been: by being forgiven freely under the terms of the oral will that Jesus made before He died. After Gentiles have been “grafted in” to Corporate Israel, the totality of that Corporate body will be saved.

“The Fullness of the Gentiles”

It is a tried and true verity that if you don’t know what people are *talking about*, you are certainly not going to understand what they say. That has never been more applicable than it is in the case of the things that Paul says in Romans 11. So let me give you a bit of insight into the context in which that chapter occurs.

In Romans 9, Paul begins by *talking about* the fact that the Jews have been “cut off from” Corporate Israel but that does not *mean* God has abandoned His intention to *fulfill the promise*. It just *means* the Jews who rejected the Truth are no longer members of *the Heir of the promise*. He points back to the fact that *the promise* was *handed down* by Abraham to Isaac, and Isaac to Jacob, in accordance with God’s choice. In both cases, God rejected a potential *heir* who did not *inherit the promise*. Such is the case in this instance also.

Paul has in mind the fact that Jesus Christ became *the Heir of the promise* when the Jews were “cut off

from” Corporate Israel; therefore, he turns his focus to refuting the argument of those who claim it is not fair to restrict access to *the promise* to just one man.

The essence of what Paul says is, God has the right to choose who does and does not have access to *the promise*. But he mentions what Hosea says about the Gentiles becoming the People of God because Hosea prophesied at the time when God “cut off” the ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom “from” Corporate Israel and never *restored* them. His point is, the same “cutting off” process resulted in Jesus remaining as “The Remnant” of Israel; and God is now “building a house” on the very “Stone” that the Jewish leaders ignorantly thought they were “cutting off from” Israel.

In Romans 10, Paul expresses his heart-felt desire that the Jews who have been “cut off from” Corporate Israel would believe that Jesus Christ is *the Heir of the promise* and accept God’s declaration of not guilty by believing God has *fulfilled the promise* by raising Christ from the dead. Unfortunately, the Jews have refused to do so; therefore, God has turned to the Gentiles and is now “taking” a People for Himself and “building a house” out of those who respond to the Truth.

That is the point at which Romans 11 begins. Paul is still focused on the fact that all the Jews have been “cut off from” Corporate Israel and Gentiles are being “grafted in” to Jesus Christ, the One Who became “The Remnant” of Corporate Israel when all the other Jews were “cut off from” Corporate Israel. You need to keep that in mind; it is important. And the reason it is important is because it is absolutely impossible to understand what Paul has in mind when he says “all Israel” and “the fullness of the Gentiles” if you don’t know the Truth in regard to God viewing Corporate Israel as His Firstborn Son and Ephraim as the one who was given the honor of “carrying *The Name*” of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I am going to discuss those things in the next few pages so that you have a succinct summary of things I have explained in various other places over the past three decades.

The biblical account begins at the point where it became obvious that Jacob, *the heir of the promise*, was on his death bed and had to *hand down the promise* to *the next heir of the promise*. Moses tells us that, instead of doing what his father and grandfather had done, Jacob divided up *the promise* and distributed it to several of his sons. But before that, he did something even more interesting; he passed over his eldest sons and

gave his grandson Ephraim the honor of “carrying *The Name*” of the three men who had most recently been *the heir of the promise*:

¹[And it happened] [after] [These] [Things], [it was said] [to Joseph], “[Guess what!] [Your Father] [is in torment].” [So he took] [two of] [his Sons] [with him]—[Manasseh] [and Ephraim]. ²[When it was told] [to Jacob], “[Guess what!] [Your Son] [Joseph] [has come] [to You],” [Israel] [gathered his strength] [and sat up] [on] [The Cot]. ³[Then [Jacob] said] [to] [Joseph]: “[**EI**] [**Shaddai**] [appeared] [to me] [in Luz], [in {the} Land] [of Canaan], [and **blessed**] [me]; ⁴[and He said] [to me], ‘[Guess what! I am] [going to make You bear fruit] [and become many], [and I will turn You] [into a Congregation] [of Peoples], [and I will give] [This] [Land] [to Your Seed] [after You] [as an {eternally burning} Property].’ ⁵[But now] [two of] [Your Sons]—[those who were engendered] [for You] [in {the} Land] [of Egypt] [until] [my coming] [to Egypt] [to You]—[they] {are} [mine]. [Ephraim] [and Manasseh] [will be] [mine], [like Reuben] [and Simeon]. ⁶[But Your Kinfolk]—[the ones that] [You engendered] [after them]—[will be] [Yours]; [they will be called] [along with] [The Name] [of their Brothers] [in their **Inheritance**]. ⁷[But I], [while I was coming] [from Paddan*], [Rachel] [died] [on me] [in {the} Land] [of Canaan] [on The Way] [while {there was} still] [a Good Stretch of] [Land] [to go] [to Ephrath]; [so I buried her] [there] [on The Way].” ([Ephrath] [is] [Bethlehem].)

⁸[Then [Israel] saw] [{the} Sons of] [Joseph] [and said], “[Who] {are} [these]?” ⁹[So [Joseph] said] [to] [his Father], “[They] {are} [my Sons], [the ones that] [God] [gave me] [in this {land}].” [So he said], “[Bring them] [to me], [please], [so that I may **bless** them].” ¹⁰[But [Israel’s] Eyes] [were heavy] [from Old Age*]; [he was] [not] [able] [to see]. [So he brought them close] [to him], [and he kissed] [them] [and hugged] [them]. ¹¹[Then [Israel] said] [to] [Joseph], “[I could [not] pray for] [seeing] [Your Face], [but guess what!] [God] [has] [also] [allowed] [me] [to see] [Your Seed].” ¹²[Then [Joseph] made] [them] [get] [away from] [his Knees], [and he fell prostrate] [with his Nose] [to {the} Earth]. ¹³[And [Joseph] took] [both of them] [and brought {them} close] [to him]—[Ephraim] [with his Right Hand] [at [Israel’s] Left Hand], [and Manasseh] [with his Left Hand] [at [Israel’s] Right Hand]. ¹⁴[Then [Israel] stretched out] [his Right Hand] [and put {it}] [on] [{the} Head] [of Ephraim],

[even though he] {was} [the younger], [and] [his Left Hand] [on] [{the} Head] [of Manasseh]—[crossing*] [his Hands], [because] [Manasseh] {was} [The Firstborn]. ¹⁵[Then he **blessed**] [Joseph] [and said]:

“[The God] [before] [Whom] [my Fathers] [Abraham] [and Isaac] [walked continually],
[The God] [Who has] [shepherded] [me]
[from my Inception] [up to] [This] [Day],
¹⁶[The Messenger] [who has] [redeemed] [me]
[from everything] [bad],
[Will **bless**] [The Boys];
[And my Name] [will be proclaimed] [by them],
[As well as {the} Name] [of my Fathers]
[Abraham] [and Isaac],
[So that they proliferate*] [into a Large Number]
[in the midst of] [The Earth].”

¹⁷[When [Joseph] saw] [that] [his Father] [put] [his right] [Hand] [on] [{the} Head] [of Ephraim], [it was bad] [in his Sight]; [so he held] [the Hand] [of his Father] [fast] [to move] [it] [from on] [{the} Head] [of Ephraim] [onto] [{the} Head] [of Manasseh]. ¹⁸[And [Joseph] said] [to] [his Father]: “[Not] [so], [my Father], [because] [this] {is} [The Firstborn]. [Place] [Your Right Hand] [on] [his Head].” ¹⁹[But [his Father] refused] [and said]: “[I know], [my Son], [I know]; [he] [also] [will become] [a People], [and [he] also] [will be great]. [**But**] [**his**] [**younger**] [**Brother**] [**will become greater**] [**than he**], [and his Seed] [will become] [The Fullness] [of The Gentiles].” ²⁰[So he **blessed** them] [on [That] Day], [saying]:

“[Israel] [will **bless**] [by You], [saying]:
‘[May [God] make You] [like Ephraim]
[and like Manasseh]!’”

[So he put] [Ephraim] [before] [Manasseh]. ²¹[Then [Israel] said] [to] [Joseph]: “[Guess what!] [I {am}] [going to die], [but [God] will be] [with You], [and He will bring] [You] [back] [to] [The Land] [of Your Fathers]. ²²[But I] [have made] [You] [one] [Shoulder] [above] [Your Brothers] [so that] [I may take {it}] [out of {the} Hand] [of The Amorite] [with my Sword] [and Bow].”
(Genesis 48:1–22) —my interim translation

That is not a feel-good story about how much Jacob loved his son Joseph. It is instead a pivotal point in the biblical history of *the promise*, and it provides

critical insight into why God granted Gentiles the opportunity to be “grafted in” to *Corporate* Israel. But to understand the biblical history pertaining to the salvation of the Gentiles, one needs to know a few crucial facts about the ancient Hebrew mind-set regarding “*The Names*” of the Patriarchs that Jacob gave Ephraim the honor of “carrying”:

1. “The Name” of a man was considered to be an integral part of the man, just as real a part as his body, soul, and spirit. It reflected the essence of who he was. That is why God changed “The Name” of Abram to Abraham and “The Name” of Jacob to Israel.

2. The ancients believed that, when a man died, he had no hope of resurrection if his name did not have a “house” (a son) in which it could continue living. That is the unstated point of the story about Tamar and Judah in Genesis 38 and the story about Ruth and Boaz in the Book of Ruth, as well as the law regarding levirate marriage in Deuteronomy 25:5–10.

3. The son who had the honor of “carrying The Name” of his forefathers was the “carrier.” Since the resurrection and eternal life of the forefathers depended on someone “carrying” their “Name,” having a son who could “carry” it after his death was essential.

The fact that Jacob gave Ephraim the right to “carry *The Names*” of the Patriarchs became extremely significant in 722 B.C., when the ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom were “cut off from” *Corporate* Israel at the time of the Assyrian Captivity. The tribe of Ephraim was one of those ten tribes; and Hosea plainly tells us the “carrier” of “*The Names*” of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was scattered throughout the Gentiles when Ephraim got himself all mixed up with them:

[Ephraim]? [He] [will mix himself up]
[with {the} Peoples];
[Ephraim] [will become] [Flatbread]
[that has {not} been turned].
(Hosea 7:8) —my interim translation

If you want to understand how “*The Mystery*” of the Scriptures unravels, you need to know the things I have just told you about the fulfillment of Jacob’s prophecy regarding Ephraim becoming “the fullness of

the Gentiles.” When Paul uses the same phrase in Romans 11:25, he is pointing back to what Jacob said to Joseph; but he uses the phrase “all Israel” in the very next verse, and he does so because he knows it *means* “*Corporate* Israel.” So let me explain a bit about what you need to know about *Corporate* Israel.

“All Israel”

The plan of God with regard to *Corporate* Israel begins with *the blessing* of Jacob in Genesis 49:

¹[Then [Jacob] summoned] [his Sons] [and said]: “[Round up], [so that I may tell] [you] [what] [will befall] [you] [in The [last] Days].

²[Gather] [and listen], [Sons of] [Jacob];
[And listen] [to] [your Father] [Israel].
³[Reuben], [You] {are} [my Firstborn];
[My Power] [and {the} Beginning of] [my Virility],
[A Remnant]—[even a {strong} Remnant]—
[to carry {my name}].

⁴[Uncontrollable*], [like Water], [you will {not}]
[leave behind a remnant],
[Because] [You went up on] [Your Father’s] [Beds];
[At that time], [You polluted] [my {Bed} Spreads]
[{by} going up].

⁵[Simeon] [and Levi] {are} [Brothers];
[Their Contracts] {are} [Containers of] [Maliciousness].

⁶[Do {not}] let [my Soul] enter
[into an Intimate Relationship with them];
[Do {not}] let [my Glory] be united]
[with their Congregation],

[Because] [they killed] [a Man] [in their Anger];
[And in their Goodwill] [they hamstrung] [an Ox].

⁷[Their Anger] [is irrevocably cursed],
[because] [it is strong];
[And their Unbounded Rage], [because] [it is hard].

[I will allot them {as} a share] [in Jacob],
[And I will disperse them] [in Israel].

⁸[Judah], [Your Brothers] [will {definitely} thank] [You];
[Your Hand] {will be} [on {the} Neck] [of Your Enemies];
[{The} Sons of] [Your Father] [will prostrate themselves]
[to You].

⁹[Judah] {is} [{the} Cub] [of a Lioness];
[You will climb up] [from Something Consumable],
[my Son].
[He will kneel]; [He will lie {down}] [like a Lioness],

[But like a Lioness With Cubs],
 [Who] [would get Him up]?
¹⁰[A Branch] [will [not] turn aside] [from Judah];
 [And What Has Been Inscribed] [from between] [His Feet],
 [Until] [He [to Whom it belongs*] comes],
 [And [Subservience* of] [{all} Peoples] is His].
¹¹[One Who binds] [His Male Donkey] [to a Vine],
 [Even [{the} Son of] [His Female Donkey]
 to a Productive Vine],
 [Will wash] [His Garments] [with {the} Wine],
 [Even [His Apparel*] with {the} Blood] [of Grapes].
¹²[Both Eyes] [bloodshot*] [from Wine],
 [But [Teeth] white] [from Milk].
¹³[Zebulun] [will reside] [at a Harbor] [of {the} Seas],
 [And he] {will become} [a Harbor] [{for} Ships],
 [But his Foothills] {will be} [alongside] [Sidon].
¹⁴[Issachar] {is} [a [limber] Jackass]
 [That lies down] [between] [The Saddlebags]
¹⁵[When he sees] [that] [a Resting Place] [is good]
 [And] [that] [The Earth] [is pleasant].
 [Yet He will stretch out] [his Shoulder(s)]
 [to bear a burden],
 [But it will happen that] [he becomes a slave]
 [{at} Forced Labor].
¹⁶[Dan] [will adjudicate [His People's] case],
 [As one] [of {the} Branches of] [Israel].
¹⁷[Dan] [will be] [a Serpent] [alongside] [a Way],
 [A Horned Viper*] [alongside] [a Path],
 [The one that bites] [a [Horse's] Heels],
 [So that [the one riding him] falls] [backwards].
¹⁸[I will wait expectantly] [for Your Salvation],
 [Your Majesty].
¹⁹[Gad], [a Band of Raiders] [will raid him];
 [But he] [will raid] [{at their} Heel].
²⁰[About Asher], [His Bread] {will be} [robust];
 [And he] [will be given] [some of [a King's] Delicacies].
²¹[Naphtali] {is} [a Doe] [that has been let go],
 [One who makes] [clear] [Statements].
²²[Joseph] {is} [{the} Son] [{of a woman}
 who bore fruit],
 [{The} Son] [{of a woman} who bore fruit]
 [alongside] [a Spring];
 [Daughters] [{of a woman} who went marching]
 [alongside] [a Spring Wall].
²³[But [Owners of] [Arrows] were bitterly against him],
 [Then they increased] [and held a grudge against him];
²⁴[But [his Bow] stayed] [permanent],
 [So [my Seed] will leap] [{from} his Hands],

[From {the} Hands of] [The Mighty One] [of Jacob],
 [From {the} Name] [of a Shepherd]—
 [{The} Stone] [of Israel]—
²⁵[From {the} God] [of Your Father],
 [And He will help You] [and] [**Shaddai**].
 [And He will **ble**ss You] [{with the} **Blessings** of]
 [The Sea of Waters] [above],
 [{With the} **Blessings** of] [The Deep] [that lies] [below],
 [{With the} **Blessings** of] [Breasts] [and Womb],
²⁶[{With the} **Blessings** of] [Your Father].
 [They will surpass] [{the} **Blessings** of]
 [{the} one who got pregnant with me],
 [As much as] [{the} Intense Desires of]
 [{the} eternally burning] [Hills].
 [They will be] [for {the} Head] [of Joseph],
 [Even for {the} Crown of the Head]
 [of {the} Nazirite] [of his Brothers].
²⁷[Benjamin] {is} [a Wolf];
 [He will tear to pieces] [in {the} Morning];
 [He will [continue to] consume], [but toward Evening]
 [He will allot a share] [of {the} Plunder].”

²⁸[These] {are} [all of] [{the} twelve] [Branches of]
 [Israel], [and this] {is} [what] [their Father] [spoke] [to
 them] [when he **ble**ssed] [them]. [He **ble**ssed [each] [of
 them] with] [whatever] [corresponded to his **Blessing**].
²⁹[Then he gave [them] a commandment] [and said] [to
 them], “[I] [am going to be rounded up] [to] [My People];
 [you must bury] [me] [with] [my Fathers] [in] [The Cave]
 [that] {is} [in {the} Field] [of Ephron] [The Hittite], ³⁰[in
 {the} Cave] [that] {is} [in {the} Field] [of Machpelah],
 [the one that] {is} [in front of] [Mamre], [in {the} Land]
 [of Canaan], [which] [Abraham] [acquired] [along with]
 [The Field] [from] [Ephron] [The Hittite] [{as} Property]
 [{for} a Tomb]—³¹[where] [they buried] [Abraham] [and]
 [his Woman] [Sarah], [where] [they buried] [Isaac]
 [and] [his Woman] [Rebekah], [and where] [I buried]
 [Leah]—³²[{the} Tangible Assets] [of The Field] [and The
 Cave] [that] {is} [in it] [from] [{the} Sons of] [Heth].”
 (Genesis 49:1–32) —my interim translation

I leave it to you to compare *the blessing* of Jacob to *the blessing* that Abraham and Isaac spoke when they *handed down the promise* before they died. When you do, you will find that Jacob scattered *the blessing* around, giving the bulk of it to Judah and Joseph. Judah got kingship; Joseph got *the blessing* on the ground. Specifics as to who got what are not pertinent to what I

am explaining here; the point is, no one individual became *the heir of the promise*. And that makes it extremely important that you understand the significance of what God did by orchestrating the Exodus of the sons of Israel from Egypt. If you don't understand how He made Corporate Israel His Firstborn Son, *the Heir of the promise*, you will not have a clue as to what Paul had in mind when he wrote things like this:

¹⁵[Brothers], [I am speaking] [in [Human] terms]; [nevertheless], [nobody] [disregards] [a [validated] Testament] [of a Man] [or] [adds a codicil*]. ¹⁶[Now] [The] [Promises] [were spoken] [to] [Abraham] [and] [his] [Seed]. [He does [not] say], "[And] [to his] [Seeds]," [as] [to] [Many], [but] [as] [to] [One], "[AND] [TO] [YOUR] SEED]"—[THAT] [IS], [THE ANOINTED ONE]. ¹⁷[But] [this is what] [I am saying]: [The] [Law] [that came into being] [four hundred] [and] [thirty] [Years] [later] [does [not] invalidate] [a Testament] [that had been validated earlier*] [by] [The] [{Living} God] [so] [that it] [abrogates] [The] [Promise]. ¹⁸[For] [if] [The] [Inheritance] [is] [on the basis] [of Law], [it is] [no longer] [on the basis] [of a Promise]; [but] [The] [{Living} God] [had {already} granted {it} as a favor] [to] [Abraham] [via] [a Promise]. ¹⁹[Therefore], [why] [The] [Law]? [It was added]: (1) [by] [{the} Hand] [of a Mediator], (2) [after directions were given] [via] [Messengers], (3) [for the sake of] [The] [Violations] [up to the time] [when] [The] [Seed] [to Whom] [{the inheritance} had been promised] [could come].

²⁰[Now] [The] [Mediator] [is] [not] [for One], [but] [The] [{Living} God] [is] [One]. ²¹[Therefore], [is] [The] [Law] [against] [The] [Promises] [of The] [{Living} God]? [Certainly not!] [For] [if] [a Law] [that] [could] [give life] [had been given], [The] [Declaration of Not Guilty] [really] [would] [be] [on the basis] [of Law]. ²²[But] [The] [Scripture] [has confined] [Every Last One {of us}] [under] [Sin], [so that] [The] [Promise] [could be given] [to those who] [believe God's promise]—[on the basis] [of {their} Belief in God's Promise] [regarding Jesus], [The Anointed One].

²³[But] [before] [our] [Belief in God's Promise] [came], [we were being watched over] [by] [Law], [being confined] [for] [The] [Belief in God's Promise] [that was going] [to be revealed]. ²⁴[So then] [The] [Law] [has become] [our] [Childhood Guide] [to] [The Anointed One], [so that] [we could be acquitted] [on the basis] [of

{our} Belief in God's **Promise**]. ²⁵[But] [since [our] [Belief in God's **Promise**] has come], [we are] [no longer] [under] [a Childhood Guide]: ²⁶(1) [for] [you are] [all] [God's] [Sons] [via] [your] [Belief in God's **Promise**] [with regard to] [The Anointed One], [Jesus]; ²⁷(2) [for] [as many as] [have been baptized] [into] [The Anointed One] [have slipped on] [The Anointed One].

²⁸[There is] [not] [Jew] [nor] [Greek], [there is] [not] [Slave] [nor] [Free Man], [there is] [not] [Male] [and] [Nipple]; [for] [you] [are] [all] [One] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus]. ²⁹[So] [if] [you] {are} [part of The Anointed One], [then] [you are] [Abraham's] [Seed]—[Heirs] [in accordance with] [a **Promise**].

(Galatians 3:15–29) —HSSB

Paul concisely lays out the task of anyone called or ordained to be a Teacher when he says this:

[Make every effort] [to present] [Yourself] [to The] [{Living} God] [as an [approved] Worker] [without reason to be ashamed*], [cutting {a path} straight through*] [The] [Word] [of The] [Truth].

(2 Timothy 2:15) —HSSB

With that in mind, I am going to cut straight through the scriptural account of the Exodus and leave a path for you to follow, provided you are of a mind to "walk in *The Way*." The account of how God took the sons of Israel and made them Corporate Israel begins with His declaration that Israel is His Firstborn Son. So let's start there:

²¹[Then [His Majesty] said] [to] [Moses]: "[When You go] [to return] [to Egypt], [take a look at] [all] [The Harbingers] [that] [I have put] [in Your Hand] [and do them] [in the presence of] [Pharaoh]. [But I] [will make [his Heart] resolute], [and he will [not] let [The People] go]. ²²[But You must say] [to] [Pharaoh]: '[This is what] [His Majesty] [has said]: "**Israel** {is} **My Son**, **My Firstborn**]. ²³[Since I said] [to You], '[Let [My Son] go] [so that He may work for Me]' [and You refused] [to let Him go], [guess what!] [I] [am going to kill] [Your Son], [Your Firstborn].'"

(Exodus 4:21–23) —my interim translation

From there, we move to the Passover, which is what I call "parabolic pantomime." Its purpose is to depict the death and Resurrection of God's Firstborn Son,

Corporate Israel, via a series of events orchestrated by God Himself. Individual parts of that elaborate *parabolic pantomime* were, in and of themselves, also *parabolic pantomimes*—what one might call “*sacred rituals*.” Every last one of those *sacred rituals* had its own meaning and significance, which I will explain at some time in the future. For now, it is enough to know that the Exodus from Egypt was depicting the death of Corporate Israel, the Firstborn Son of God. But it did so at a time when the individual members of the sons of Israel had not yet become Corporate Israel. That is demonstrated by Moses’ account of the first Passover:

¹[Then [His Majesty] spoke] [to] [Moses] [and to] [Aaron] [in {the} Land] [of Egypt], [saying]: ²“[This] [New Moon] {is} [{the} Start] [of New Moons] [for **you**]; [it is] [{the} First] [of {the} New Moons of] [The Year] [for **you**]. ³[Speak] [to] [all] [{the} Assembly of] [Israel], [saying]: ‘[On {the} Tenth] [of [this] New Moon] [they must take] [for themselves]—[Each One]—[a Lamb] [for a House] [of Fathers], [a Lamb] [for a House]. ⁴[And if] [The House] [is fewer] [than being] [more than a Lamb], [then [he] [and [the nearest] Resident] [to] [his House] must take {a lamb}] [by a Calculation of] [Souls]; [**you** must compute*] [The Lamb] [in accordance with] [what [Each One] eats]. ⁵[**Your**] [Lamb] [must be] [a [Year]-old] [Male] [without defect]; [**you** may take {it}] [from] [The Sheep] [or from] [The Goats]. ⁶[Then it will become] [Guard Duty] [for **you**] [until] [{the} fourteenth] [Day] [of [this] New Moon]; [then [{the} whole] [Congregation] [of {the} Assembly of] [Israel] must slaughter] [it] [between] [The Two Evenings]. ⁷[Then they must take] [some of] [The Blood] [and put {it}] [on] [The [two] Doorposts] [and on] [The Lintel] [on] [The Houses] [in] [which] [they eat] [it]. ⁸[And they must eat] [The Flesh] [on [this] Night], [roasted] [{with} Fire]; [and [they must eat it] {with} Unleavened Bread] [along with] [Bitter Herbs]. ⁹[Do [not] eat] [any of it] [raw*] [or cooked*] [{by} cooking {it}] [in Water], [only] [roasted] [{with} Fire], [its Head] [along with] [its Legs] [and along with] [its Insides]. ¹⁰[And **you** must [not] leave a remnant] [of it] [until] [Morning], [so [**you** must burn up] [in a Fire] whatever [part of it] is left as a remnant] [until] [Morning]. ¹¹[And [**you** must eat] [it] like this]: [**your** Loins] [girded], [**your** Sandals] [on **your** Feet], [and **your** Club] [in **your** Hand]; [and **you** must eat] [it] [in a Hurry]. [It is] [a Passover] [for His Majesty], ¹²[so I will pass through] [{the} Land] [of Egypt] [on [this] Night]

[and viciously attack] [every] [Firstborn] [in {the} Land] [of Egypt], [from a Descendant of Adam] [even up to] [Beast]; [and [I] [will make] [Decisions Based on the Truth] against all] [{the} Gods of] [Egypt]—[I am] [His Majesty]. ¹³[But [The Blood] will be] [a Sign] [for **you**] [on] [The Houses] [where] [**you** are], [and I will see] [The Blood] [and skip] [over **you**] [so [{the} Destroyer] does [not] make] [a Savage Blow] [against **you**] [when I viciously attack] [{the} Land] [of Egypt]. ¹⁴[So [This] [Day] will be] [a Reminder] [for **you**], [and **you** must make [it] a pilgrimage to] [a Feast] [for His Majesty]; [throughout your Generations] [**you** must make it a pilgrimage] [as an [eternally burning] Statute].

¹⁵[**You** must eat] [Unleavened Bread] [seven] [Days], [but] [on [the first] Day] [**you** must make [{the} Remnant of Leavened Dough] keep Sabbath] [away from **your** Houses]; [because] [anyone] [who eats] [What Is Leavened] [from [the first] Day] [until] [the seventh] [Day], [That] [Soul] [will be cut off] [from Israel]. ¹⁶[There will be] [a [holy] Convocation] [for **you**] [on [the first] Day], [and [a [holy] Convocation] on [the seventh] Day]; [there must [not] be [any] [Work] done] [on them], [nothing but] [what] [will be eaten] [by any] [Soul], [that] [alone] [may be done] [by **you**]. ¹⁷[And **you** must observe] [The Feast of Unleavened Bread], [because] [I brought [**your** Armies] out] [of {the} Land] [of Egypt] [on [This] very same] [Day]; [so **you** must observe] [This] [Day] [throughout **your** Generations] [as an [eternally burning] Statute]. ¹⁸[In {the} first {New Moon}], [on {the} fourteenth] [Day] [of {the} New Moon] [at Evening], [**you** must eat] [Unleavened Bread], [until] [the twenty]-[first] [Day] [of {the} New Moon] [at Evening]. ¹⁹[A Remnant of Leavened Dough] [must [not] be found] [in **your** Houses] [{for} seven] [Days]; [because] [anyone] [who eats] [What Is Leavened], [That] [Soul] [will be cut off] [from {the} Assembly of] [Israel], [whether Temporary Resident] [or Native] [of The Land]. ²⁰[**You** must [not] eat] [anything] [That Is Leavened]; [in all] [**your** Places of Habitation] [**you** must eat] [Unleavened Bread].”

²¹[So [Moses] called out] [to all] [{the} Elders of] [Israel] [and said] [to them]: “[Pull back] [and take {one}] [of a Flock] [for **yourselves**]—[for **your** Families]—[and slaughter] [The Passover Lamb]. ²²[Then **you** must take] [a Bunch of] [Hyssop] [and dip {it}] [in {the} Blood] [that] {is} [in {the} Basin] [and make [some of] [The Blood] [that] {is} [in {the} Basin] make contact] [with] [The Lintel] [and with] [The [two] Doorposts]. [And **you**

must [not] go out—[Anyone]—[of {the} Entrance] [of his House] [until] [Morning]. ²³[When [His Majesty] passes through] [to savagely strike] [{the} Egyptians], [He will see] [The Blood] [on] [The Lintel] [and on] [The [two] Doorposts]; [and [His Majesty] will skip] [over] [The Entrance] [and [not] let] [The Destroyer] [come in] [to] [your Houses] [to strike {anyone}]. ²⁴[So **you** must stand watch over] [This] [Word] [as an [eternally burning] Statute] [for **You**] [and for **Your Sons**] [as long as] [a Burning Eternity]. ²⁵[And it will happen], [when] [**you** go in] [to] [The Land] [that] [His Majesty] [will give] [**you**], [just as] [He spoke], [that **you** will stand watch over] [This] [Transportation Work]. ²⁶[And it will happen], [when] [**your Sons**] [say] [to **you**], ‘[What] {is} [This] [Transportation Work] [**you** have]?’ ²⁷[that **you** must say], ‘[It is] [{the} Communal Sacrifice] [of a Passover] [to His Majesty], [the one Who] [skipped] [over] [{the} Houses of] [{the} Sons of] [Israel] [in Egypt] [when He struck] [{the} Egyptians], [but] [snatched away] [our Houses].’” [Then [The People] knelt down] [and fell prostrate]. ²⁸[So [{the} Sons of] [Israel] went] [and did] [just as] [His Majesty] [commanded] [Moses] [and Aaron]. [They did {it}] [like that]. (Exodus 12:1–28) —my interim translation

To understand the significance of that passage, you need to know that every second person personal pronoun (lower case **you**) in that passage is plural except for two of the three in verse 24. Likewise, every second person verb is plural (lower case **you**). That is because God is communicating through Moses and Aaron to a disparate group of *individuals* prior to the Passover. Only when He addresses them as His Firstborn Son, *Corporate Israel*, does He use the second person singular form of the personal pronoun and verb (upper case **You**). And He begins speaking to them that way immediately after their Exodus from Egypt, when He explains why *Corporate Israel* had to die:

¹[Then [His Majesty] spoke] [to] [Moses], [saying], ²“[Treat [every] [Firstborn]—[{the} Firstling] [of every] [Womb] [among {the} Sons of] [Israel], [among {the} Adam], [and among {the} Beast]—as holy] [to Me].”

³[So [Moses] said] [to] [The People]: “[Remember] [This] [Day]—[that] [**you** came out] [of Egypt], [out of a House] [of Slaves]—[because] [His Majesty] [brought] [**you**] out] [of this {place}] [with a strong] [Hand]. [So [What Is Leavened] must [not] be eaten]. ⁴[**You**] [are going

out] [Today], [during {the} New Moon] [of The Green Ears of Barley]. ⁵[And it will be], [when] [His Majesty] [brings **You** in] [to] [{the} Land] [of The Canaanite], [The Hittite], [The Amorite], [The Hivite], [and The Jebusite], [which] [He swore an oath] [to **Your Fathers**] [to give] [to **You**], [a Land] [flowing] [{with} Milk] [and Honey], [that **You** must do] [this] [Transportation Work] [during [this] New Moon]. ⁶[Seven] [Days] [**You** must eat] [Unleavened Cakes], [but [a Feast] [for His Majesty] {is} on [the seventh] Day]. ⁷[Unleavened Cakes] [must be eaten] [{the} seven] [Days], [and [What Is Leavened] must [not] be seen] [by **You**], [and [a Remnant of Leavened Dough] must [not] be seen] [within all] [**Your Boundary**]. ⁸[So [on [that] Day], **You** must tell] [**Your Son**], [saying], ‘[On account of] [His Majesty] [doing] [this] [for me] [when He brought me out] [of Egypt].’ ⁹[And [**You**] must have {it}] [as a Sign] [on] [**Your Hand**] [and as a Reminder] [between] [**Your Eyes**] [so that] [{the} Teaching of] [His Majesty] [will be] [in **Your Mouth**], [because] [His Majesty] [brought **You** out] [of Egypt] [with a [strong] Hand]. ¹⁰[So **You** must observe] [this] [Statute] [Every Day] [at its Appointed Time].

¹¹[And it will be], [when] [His Majesty] [brings **You** in] [to] [{the} Land] [of The Canaanite] [just as] [He swore an oath] [to **You**] [and to **Your Fathers**] [and gives it] [to **You**], ¹²[that **You** must make [every] [Firstling] [of a Womb] [and every] [Firstling] [{of the} Offspring] [of a Beast] [that] [**You**] [have] pass through] [to His Majesty]. [The Males] [belong to His Majesty]. ¹³[But [**You** must ransom] every] [Firstling] [of a Jackass] [with a Lamb]; [and if] [**You** do [not] ransom {it}], [**You** must break its neck]. [And every] [Firstborn] [of Adam] [**You** must ransom] [with **Your Sons**]. ¹⁴[And it will be] [when] [**Your Son**] [asks **You**] [Tomorrow], [saying], ‘[Why is] [this]?’ [then **You** must say] [to him]: ‘[His Majesty] [brought us out] [of Egypt], [out of a House] [of Slaves]. ¹⁵[And it happened], [when] [Pharaoh] [found it hard] [to send us away], [that] [His Majesty] killed] [every] [Firstborn] [in {the} Land] [of Egypt], [from {the} Firstborn] [of Adam] [even up to] [{the} Firstborn] [of Beast]. [Therefore], [I] [sacrifice] [every] [Firstling] [of a Womb]—[The Males]—[but [I ransom] every] [Firstborn] [of my Sons].’ ¹⁶[So it will become] [a Sign] [on] [**Your Hand**] [and Symbolic Ornaments] [between] [**Your Eyes**], [because] [His Majesty] [brought us out] [of Egypt] [with a strong] [Hand].”

(Exodus 13:1–16) —my interim translation

There are other *parabolic pantomimes* described in the Pentateuch whose purpose is to explain the ins and outs of the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ after He became *Corporate Israel*, the Firstborn Son of God; but the most important thing for you to take away from the passage above at this time is the fact that in that passage every occurrence of a second person verb and personal pronoun is singular (upper case “**You**”). That is because Moses is addressing the sons of Israel as a *corporate body*, the *corporate body* of God’s Firstborn Son, *Corporate Israel*. He is explaining the fact that the Exodus from Egypt depicted the future death of just One Person, Jesus Christ, the One Who would eventually become *Corporate Israel*, God’s Firstborn Son, when every other member of *Corporate Israel* had been “cut off from” that *corporate body*.

Now that I have explained the significance of Moses addressing (through Aaron) a group of the sons of Israel with either the second person plural or the second person singular form of the personal pronoun or verb, let me show you where that little bit of information provides a whole lot of insight into the meaning and significance of the biblical text. Take a look at this:

¹[In [the third] New Moon] [after [{the} Sons of] [Israel] came out] [of {the} Land] [of Egypt]—[on [this very] Day]—[they came in to] [{the} Wilderness] [of Sinai]. ²[When they set out] [from Rephidim] [and came in to] [{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] [when I carried] [**you**] [on] [The Wings of] [Griffon-Vultures] [and brought] [**you**] [to Myself]. ⁵[So now], [if] [**you** [carefully] listen] [to My Voice], [**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].”

⁷[So [Moses] went in] [and called] [to The Elders of] [The People] [and set] [before them] [all] [These] [Words] [that] [His Majesty] [commanded him]. ⁸[And [all] [The People] responded] [together] [and said], “[We will do

[all] [that] [His Majesty] [has spoken].” [Then [Moses] took [The Words of] [The People] back] [to] [His Majesty]; ⁹[and [His Majesty] said] [to] [Moses], “[Look!] [I] [am going to come] [to **You**] [in {the} Thunderhead] [of The Cloud] [so that] [The People] [can hear] [when I speak] [with **You**] [and also] [believe] [in **You**] [for a Burning Eternity].” [So [Moses] told] [The Words of] [The People] [to] [His Majesty].

¹⁰[Then [His Majesty] said] [to] [Moses]: “[Go] [to] [The People] [and make them holy] [Today] [and Tomorrow]. [They must wash] [Their Cloaks] ¹¹[so that they are] [prepared] [for [the third] Day], [because] [His Majesty] [will come down] [on] [Mount] [Sinai] [before {the} Eyes of] [all] [The People] [on [the third] Day]. ¹²[So **You** must mark a boundary] [around] [The People] [saying]: [Be on guard] [against yourselves] [going up] [into {the} Mountain] [or {even} touching] [{the} Outskirts of it]. [Anyone] [who touches] [{the} Mountain] [must [definitely] be put to death]. ¹³[A Hand] [must [not] touch] [him], [because] [he must [definitely] be stoned] [or] [shot with arrows]. [Whether] [Beast] [or] [Man], [he can [not] live].’ [During {the} drawn out {sound}] [of The Ram’s Horn], [they] [can come up] [into {the} Mountain].” ¹⁴[So [Moses] went down] [from] [The Mountain] [to] [The People] [and made them holy], [and they washed] [their Cloaks]. ¹⁵[Then he said] [to] [The People], “[Be] [prepared] [for {the} third] [Day]; [do [not] come near] [to] [a Woman].”

¹⁶[Then it happened] [on [the third] Day], [when [The Morning] came], [there were] [Voices] [and Flashes of Lightning] [and a Cloud] [of Glory] [on] [The Mountain], [and {the} Sound] [of a [very] [loud] Trumpet]. [So [all] [of The People] [who] {were} [in {the} Camp] trembled]. ¹⁷[Then [Moses] brought] [The People] [out of] [The Camp] [to meet] [The {Living} God], [and they positioned themselves] [on {the} Lowest Parts of] [The Mountain]. ¹⁸[Now Mount] [Sinai]—[all of it]—[was smoldering] [because] [His Majesty] [had come down] [on it] [in {the} Fire], [and [its Smoke] went up] [like {the} Smoke] [of The Kiln]. [And [The [whole] Mountain] trembled] [exceedingly].

¹⁹[As [{the} Sound] [of The Trumpet] was] [going on] [and becoming [very] loud], [Moses] [spoke]; [and The {Living} God] [responded to him] [by Voice]. ²⁰[Then [His Majesty] came down] [on] [Mount] [Sinai]—[to] [{the} Top] [of The Mountain]—[and [His Majesty] summoned] [Moses] [to] [{the} Top] [of The Mountain], [and [Moses] went up]. ²¹[Then [His Majesty] said] [to]

[Moses]: “[Go down], [testify] [against {the} People], [so that they do [not] break through] [to] [His Majesty], [to see], [and [many] [of them] fall].”²²[And even] [The Priests] [who come close] [to] [His Majesty] [must make themselves holy] [so that [His Majesty] does [not] make a breach] [against them].”²³[So [Moses] said] [to] [His Majesty], “[The People] [are [not] able] [to come up] [to] [Mount] [Sinai] [because] [You] [testified] [against us], [saying], ‘[Mark the boundary] [of The Mountain] [and make it holy].’”²⁴[So [His Majesty] said] [to him]: “[Go]! [Go down]! [Then come up]—[**You**], [and Aaron] [with **You**]. [But The Priests] [and The People] [must [not] break through] [to come up] [to] [His Majesty] [so that He does [not] make a breach] [against them].”²⁵[Then [Moses] went down] [to] [The People] [and spoke] [to them]. (Exodus 19:1–25) —my interim translation

Every second person form in that passage, when it refers to the people as individuals, is plural. They are also referred to as “they” or “them.” That is because God viewed them as a disparate group of people who must prepare themselves for the ratification of the covenant that the corporate body was about to make with the Living God. He spelled out the terms of that covenant when He spoke to them from Mt. Sinai and gave them the terms of the covenant. But He does so using only the singular form:

¹[Then [God] spoke] [all] [these] [Words], [saying]: ²“[I {am}] [His Majesty], [**Your** God], [Who] [brought **You** out] [of The Land] [of Egypt]—[out of a House] [of Slaves].

³[**You**] [will [not] have {any}] [other] [Gods] [before Me].

⁴[**You** will [not] make] [for **Yourself**] [a Graven Image] [or any] [Shape]—[what] {is} [in The Sea of Waters] [above] [or what] {is} [in The Earth] [below] [or what] {is} [in The Water] [under] [The Earth]. ⁵[**You** will [not] prostrate **Yourself**] [to them], [and **You** will [not] be their slave]; [because] [I], [His Majesty], [**Your** God], {am} [a [jealous] God], [One Who levies] [{the} Reprehensible Activity] [of Fathers] [on] [Sons]—[on] [the third] [and on] [the fourth {generation}]—[of those who hate Me], ⁶[but One Who does] [an Act of Loving Kindness] [for Thousands], [for those who love Me] [and for those who stand watch over] [My Commandments].

⁷[**You** will [not] carry] [The Name] [of His Majesty], [**Your** God], [{as} a Deception], [because] [His Majesty] [will [not] acquit] [the] [one who] [carries] [His Name] [{as} a Deception].

⁸[Remember] [The] [Day] [of The Sabbath]—[to treat it as holy]. ⁹[**You** must work] [six] [Days] [and do] [all] [**Your** Work]; ¹⁰[but [the seventh] Day] {is} [a Sabbath] [for His Majesty], [**Your** God]; [**You** will [not] do] [any] [Work]—[**You**] [or **Your** Son] [or **Your** Daughter], [**Your** Male Slave] [or **Your** Female Slave] [or **Your** Beast] [or **Your** Temporary Resident] [who] {is} [within **Your** Gates]. ¹¹[Because] [His Majesty] [is going to make] [The Sea of Waters] [and The Earth], [The Sea] [and] [everything] [that] {is} [in them] [{in} six] [Days]. [Then He will rest] [on [the seventh] Day]; [therefore], [His Majesty] [will **bless**] [The Sabbath] [Day] [and make it holy].

¹²[Honor] [**Your** Father] [and] [**Your** Mother], [so that] [**Your** Days] [may be extended] [on] [The Ground] [that] [His Majesty], [**Your** God], [is going to give] [to **You**].

¹³[**You** will [not] murder].

¹⁴[**You** will [not] commit adultery].

¹⁵[**You** will [not] steal].

¹⁶[**You** will [not] respond] [against **Your** Neighbor] [{as} a [false] Witness].

¹⁷[**You** will [not] desire] [The House] [of **Your** Neighbor]; [**You** will [not] desire] [**Your** Neighbor’s] [Woman] [or his Male Slave] [or his Female Slave] [or his Ox] [or his Jackass] [or anything] [that] [belongs to **Your** Neighbor].”

(Exodus 20:1–17) —my interim translation

Those are the terms of the covenant that the sons of Israel accepted when God spoke to them from the Mountain, and the biblical text plainly states they accepted those terms. What the text doesn’t tell you in any straightforward way is all the details of the oral *Torah* that God called me to explain. One of those details is, the covenant ratified at Mount Sinai said the sons of Israel could only *inherit what was promised* as a corporate body. What that means is this: If even one individual sinned, the corporate body became guilty and was no longer qualified to *inherit what was promised*. So the people should have known they could never keep the terms of that covenant, and that is what the Prophet Ezekiel had in mind when he said this:

“[And [I] also] [gave] [them] [Statutes] {that were} [not] [good] [and judgments] [by which] [they could [not] live].”

(Ezekiel 20:25) —my interim translation ■



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

Editor: After reading an excerpt from your book *The Advent of Christ and AntiChrist*, which was posted on Facebook, a woman left this question:

"What about Deuteronomy 28? Would appreciate it explained as brief as possible as related to this specific post."

The post she refers to is:

Complete enjoyment of the blessings of God are reserved for the next life. Yet there are television preachers today who will promise the moon and leave many of their followers with nothing more than empty pockets. The abundant life Jesus promised (John 10:10) has been twisted by Pretenders to mean "money, money, money." Don't be deceived. Freedom from Satan's lies provides the most abundant life you will ever experience down here. And Jesus pointed to the key: "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

"The Advent of Christ and AntiChrist," Larry Dee Harper, p. 93, fn. 192

Elijah: It is not possible to explain Deuteronomy 28 in any "brief" way, but I will do my best to be as concise as possible. The Truth is, context is to biblical interpretation as location is to real estate. As the saying goes, there are only three things that matter in real estate—

location, location, location. My point is, if you don't understand the context of a biblical passage, you are going to spout off about things that make you look really ignorant to those who know the Truth. A wiser approach would be to just keep your mouth shut and listen; you might actually learn something you need to know. Knowing full well that some fools have ears to hear but can't hear, I will, nonetheless, tell them what they can't understand, beginning with my interim translation of Deuteronomy 28:

¹"[So [if] [You [carefully] listen] [to {the} Voice] [of His Majesty], [Your God], [to stand watch]—[to act in accordance] [with] [all] [His Commandments] [that] [I] [am commanding You] [Today]—it will happen] [that [His Majesty], [Your God]—[Elyon]—will put You] [over] [all] [{the} Gentiles of] [The Earth]. ²[And [all] [these] [Blessings] will come] [upon You] [and overtake You] [because] [You listened] [to {the} Voice] [of His Majesty], [Your God]:

³[You] {will be} [blessed] [in {the} City],
[And [You] {will be} [blessed] [in {the} Field].
⁴[{The} Fruit of] [Your Belly] {will be} [blessed],
[Even {the} Fruit of] [Your Ground]
[and {the} Fruit of] [Your Beasts]—
[{The} Offspring] [of Your Draft Animals]
[and {the} Newborn of] [Your Flock].
⁵[Your Garden Basket] [and Your Kneading Bowl]
{will be} [blessed].
⁶[You] {will be} [blessed] [when You come in],
[And [You] {will be} [blessed] [when You go out].

⁷[His Majesty] [will cause] [Your Enemies]—[those who rise up] [against You]—[to be beaten] [before You];
[they will come out] [against You] [by [one] Way], [but [they will flee] [before You] by seven] [Ways]. ⁸[His Majesty] [will command that] [The Blessing] {be} [with You] [in Your Pantries] [and in each of] [Your Undertakings]; [and He will bless You] [in {the} Land] [that] [His Majesty], [Your God], [is going to give] [You].
⁹[His Majesty] [will raise You up] [for Himself] [as a {holy} People] [just as] [He swore an oath] [to You], [because] [You will stand watch over] [{the} Commandments of] [His Majesty], [Your God], [and walk] [in His Ways]. ¹⁰[Then [all] [The Peoples of] [The Earth] will see] [that] [{the} Name] [of His Majesty] [has been called] [over You], [and they will be afraid] [of You]. ¹¹[So [because of

Good Behavior] [His Majesty] will leave **You** a remnant] [in {the} Fruit of] [Your Belly] [and in {the} Fruit of] [**Your** Beast] [and in {the} Fruit of] [**Your** Ground]—[on] [The Ground] [that] [His Majesty] [swore an oath] [to **Your** Fathers] [to give] [to **You**]. ¹²[His Majesty] [will open up] [His [good] Storehouse] [for **You**]—[The Sea of Waters]—[by giving] [**Your** Land] [Rain] [in its Time] [and by **blessing**] [everything] [**Your** Hand] [Has Made]. [Then **You** will lend to] [many] [Gentiles], [but **You** will [not] borrow]. ¹³[Then [His Majesty] will make **You**] [{the} Head] [and not] [{the} Tail], [and **You** will [only] be] [at the top]; [and **You** will [not] be] [at the bottom], [because] [**You** will listen] [to] [{the} Commandments of] [His Majesty], [**Your** God], [that] [I] [am commanding **You**] [Today]—[to stand watch] [and to act in accordance with {them}]. ¹⁴[So **You** must [not] turn aside]—[Right] [or Left]—[from any of] [The Words] [that] [I] [am commanding] [you] [Today], [to walk] [behind] [other] [Gods] [to be their slave]. ¹⁵[But [if] [**You** do [not] listen] [to {the} Voice] [of His Majesty], [**Your** God], [to stand watch]—[to act in accordance] [with] [all] [His Commandments] [and Statutes] [that] [I] [am commanding **You**] [Today], it will happen] [that] [all] [These] [Curses] will come] [upon **You**] [and overtake **You**]:

¹⁶[**You**] {will be} [irrevocably cursed] [in {the} City], [And [**You**] {will be} [irrevocably cursed] [in {the} Field].

¹⁷[**Your** Garden Basket] [and **Your** Kneading Bowl] {will be} [irrevocably cursed].

¹⁸[{The Fruit} of] [**Your** Belly] {will be} [irrevocably cursed], [Even {the} Fruit of] [**Your** Ground]—[{The} Offspring] [of **Your** Draft Animals] [and {the} Newborn of] [**Your** Flock].

¹⁹[**You**] {will be} [irrevocably cursed] [when **You** come in], [And [**You**] {will be} [irrevocably cursed] [when **You** go out].

²⁰[His Majesty] [will send] [The Irrevocable Curse], [The Panic], [and] [The Rebuke] [on **You**]—[on each of] [**Your** Undertakings] [that] [**You** do]—[until] [**You** are wiped out] [and until] [**You** [quickly] go to Hell] [because of] [{the} Badness] [of **Your** Practices]—[because] [**You** abandoned Me]. ²¹[His Majesty] [will make] [The Epidemic Disease] cling] [to **You**] [until] [it finishes [**You**] off] [from on] [The Ground] [where] [**You**] [are going in] [to take

possession of it]. ²²[His Majesty] [will viciously attack] [with Emaciation] [and with Inflammation] [and with Fever*]—[even a Dangerously High Fever]—[and with a Sword] [and with Blight] [and with Mildew], [and they will pursue **You**] [until] [**You** go to Hell]. ²³[Then [**Your** Sea of Waters]—[the one that is] [over] [**Your** Head]—will be] [Bronze]; [and The Earth] [under **You**], [Iron]. ²⁴[His Majesty] [will make] [{the} Rain] [of **Your** Land] [Dusty Powder], [and Dust] [will come down] [on **You**] [out of] [The Sea of Waters] [until] [it wipes **You** out].

²⁵[His Majesty] [will give **You** up] [to be beaten] [before] [**Your** Enemies]; [**You** will go out] [against him] [one] [Way], [but [**You** will flee] seven] [Ways] [before him]. [Then **You** will become] [Sheer Terror] [to all] [{the} Kingdoms of] [The Earth]. ²⁶[But **Your** Corpse] [will become] [Food] [for every] [Flyer] [of The Sea of Waters] [and for {the} Beasts of] [The Earth], [and there will not be anyone] [who causes trembling].

²⁷[His Majesty] [will viciously attack] [with {the} Blisters] [of Egypt] [and with Tumors] [and with a Rash] [and with an Itch] [{from} which] [**You** will [not] be able] [to be healed]. ²⁸[His Majesty] [will viciously attack] [with Insanity] [and with Bewilderment] [of Heart]. ²⁹[Then **You** will be] [feeling around] [at Noon] [just like] [The One Who Is Blind] [feels around] [in Nether Gloom], [and **You** will [not] be successful] [by] [**Your** Ways], [but **You** will [definitely] [always] be] [short-changed] [and robbed], [and there will not be anyone] [who can save {You}].

³⁰[**You** will betroth] [a Woman], [but [another] Man] [will have sexual intercourse with her]; [**You** will build] [a House], [but **You** will [not] dwell] [in it]; [**You** will plant] [a Vineyard], [but **You** will [not] begin {to use} it].

³¹[**Your** Ox] [will be slaughtered] [before **Your** Eyes], [but **You** will [not] eat] [any of it]; [**Your** Jackass] [will be stolen] [in front of **You**], [and he will [not] be returned] [to **You**]; [**Your** Flock] [will be given] [to **Your** Enemies], [and [**You**] will not have anyone] [who can save {You}]. ³²[**Your** Sons] [and **Your** Daughters] [are going to be given] [to [another] People], [and **Your** Eyes] [are going to see {it}] [and long] [for them] [all] [Day Long], [but [**Your** Hand] will not] [have {any} God]. ³³[A People] [that] [**You** do [not] know] [will eat] [{the} Fruit of] [**Your** Ground] [and all] [That **You** Produce], [and **You** will be] [nothing but] [short-changed] [and squashed] [all] [Day Long]. ³⁴[Then **You** will be] [driven crazy] [by What [**Your** Eyes] See]—[{by} what] [**You** see]. ³⁵[His Majesty] [will viciously attack **You**] [on] [The Knees] [and on] [The Thighs] [with Blisters] [{so} bad] [that] [**You** will [not] be able] [to

heal]—[from {the} Sole] [of **Your** Foot] [even up to] [{the} Crown of **Your** Head]. ³⁶[His Majesty] [will make **You**] [and] [**Your** King]—[the one that] [**You** have raised up] [over **You**]—walk] [to] [a Nation] [that] [**You**] [and **Your** Fathers] [have [not] known], [and **You** will work for] [other] [Wood] [and Stone] [Gods] [there]. ³⁷[Then **You** will become] [Something Devastated]—[a Comparison] [and an Object of Ridicule]—[wherever] [His Majesty] [drives **You**].

³⁸[**You** will bring out] [more than enough] [Seed] [to The Field]; [but **You** will round up] just a little], [because] [The Swarming Locust] [will gobble it up*]. ³⁹[**You** will plant] [and work] [Vineyards]; [but **You** will [not] drink] {their} Wine] [or] [gather a crop], [because] [The Insects] [will consume it]. ⁴⁰[**You**] [will have] [Olive Trees] [within all] [**Your** Boundary]; [but **You** will [not] apply] [Oil], [because] [**Your** Olives] [will come clear off]. ⁴¹[**You** will engender] [Sons] [and Daughters]; [but they will [not] be] [**Yours**], [because] [they will go] [into Captivity]. ⁴²[The Cricket*] [will take possession of] [all] [**Your** Trees] [and {the} Fruit of] [**Your** Ground]. ⁴³[The Temporary Resident] [that is] [in **Your** midst] [will come up] [over **You**] [higher and higher], [but **You**] [will go down] [lower and lower]. ⁴⁴[He] [will lend to **You**], [but **You**] [will [not] lend to him]; [he] [will become] [{the} Head], [and **You** will become] [{the} Tail].

⁴⁵[So [all] [These] [Curses] will come] [on **You**] [and pursue **You**] [and overtake **You**] [until] [**You** are wiped out], [because] [**You** did [not] listen] [to {the} Voice] [of His Majesty], [**Your** God], [to stand watch over] [His Commandments] [and His Statutes]—[the ones that] [He commanded **You**]; ⁴⁶[and they will become] [a Sign] [and a Harbinger] [on **You**] [and on **Your** Seed] [as long as] [a Burning Eternity].

⁴⁷[Because] [**You** did [not] work for] [His Majesty], [**Your** God], [with Joy] [and a good] [Heart] [because of {the} Large Amount] [of everything], ⁴⁸[**You** will work for] [**Your** Enemies]—[the ones that] [His Majesty] [sends] [against **You**]—[with Hunger] [and with Thirst] [and with Nakedness] [and with a Lack] [of all things]; [and He will put] [an [iron] Yoke] [on] [The Back of **Your** Neck] [until] [He has wiped **You**] out].

⁴⁹[His Majesty] [will raise up] [over **You**] [a Nation] [from a long ways away]—[from {the} End] [of The Earth]—[just like] [The Griffon-Vulture] [soars], [a Nation] [whose] [Tongue] [**You** will [not] have heard], ⁵⁰[a Nation] [with a strong] [Countenance] [who] [will [not] lift up] [{the} Countenance] [of an Old Person]

[and will [not] show favor to] [a Youth]. ⁵¹[And he will consume] [{the} Fruit of] [**Your** Beasts] [and {the} Fruit of] [**Your** Ground] [until] [**You** are wiped out]—[one who] [will [not] leave **You**] a remnant] [of Grain], [New Wine] [or Fresh Olive Oil], [Offspring] [of **Your** Draft Animals] [or Newborn of] [**Your** Flock]—[until] [he sends **You**] to Hell]. ⁵²[And he will bind **You**] up] [in every one of] [**Your** Gates] [until] [**Your** Walls]—[the high] [and enclosed ones] [in] [which] [**You**] [trust]—[come down] [throughout all] [**Your** Land]; [and he will bind **You**] up] [in every one of] [**Your** Gates] [throughout all] [**Your** Land], [the {land} that] [His Majesty], [**Your** God], [gave] [**You**].

⁵³[Then **You** will consume] [{the} Fruit of] [**Your** Belly]—[{the} Flesh] [of **Your** Sons] [and **Your** Daughters], [the ones that] [His Majesty], [**Your** God], [has given] [**You**]—[during {the} Siege] [and during {the} Constraint] [with which] [**Your** Enemy] [constrains] [**You**]. ⁵⁴[{The} Eye of] [The Man] {who is} [delicate] [and {very} delightful] [within **You**] [will be bad] [toward his Brother] [and toward {the} Woman] [in {the} Fold of his Garment] [and toward What Is Left of] [his Sons] [that] [have been left behind as a remnant], ⁵⁵[not giving] [any [one] of them] [any of {the} Flesh] [of his Sons] [that] [he will consume], [because [he has] nothing] [left] [during {the} Siege] [and during {the} Constraint] [with which] [**Your** Enemy] [will constrain] [**You**] [in all] [**Your** Gates]. ⁵⁶[The Eye of] [the delicate] [and delightful {woman}] [within **You**] [who] [would [not] test] [{the} Sole] [of her Foot] [{by} placing {it}] [on] [The Earth] [because of delighting herself] [and because of {her} Delicateness] [will be bad] [toward {the} Man] [in {the} fold of her Garment] [and toward her Son] [and toward her Daughter] ⁵⁷[and toward {the} Afterbirth] [that comes out] [from between] [her Legs] [and toward the Sons] [that] [she engendered], [because] [she will consume them] [in secret] [for Lack] [of all things] [during {the} Siege] [and during {the} Constraint] [with which] [**Your** Enemy] [will constrain] [**You**] [in **Your** Gates].

⁵⁸[If] [**You** do [not] stand watch] [to act in accordance] [with] [all] [{the} Words of] [This] [Teaching] [that] [have been written] [in] [This] [Scroll] [by fearing] [This] [honored] [and fearsome] [Name]—[His Majesty], [**Your** God], ⁵⁹[then [His Majesty] will make] [{the} Attacks against **You**] [and] [{the} Attacks against] [**Your** Seed] [incomprehensible]—[intense] [Attacks], [but ones that should be believed], [as well as Torments], [but ones

that should be believed]. ⁶⁰[And He will bring back] [on **You**] [every] [Sexually Transmitted Disease of] [{the} Egyptians] [whose] [Presence] [**You** cringe at the thought of], [and they will cling] [to **You**]. ⁶¹[Even] [every] [Cause of Torment] [and every] [Attack] [that] [is [not] written] [in The Scroll] [of This] [Teaching] [His Majesty] [will bring up] [on **You**] [until] [**You** are wiped out]. ⁶²[Then **You** will be left a remnant of] [just a few] [Adult Males] [instead of] [what] [**You** had been]—[a Large Number] [like {the} Stars of] [The Sea of Waters]—[because] [**You** did [not] listen] [to {the} Voice] [of His Majesty], [**Your** God]. ⁶³[Then it will happen that] [just as] [His Majesty] [was elated] [over you] [to do good things] [for you] [and to increase] [you], [so also] [He will be elated] [over you] [to send [you] to Hell] [and to wipe [you] out]. [So you will be torn] [away from] [The Ground] [where] [**You**] [are going in] [to take possession of it]. ⁶⁴[Then [His Majesty] will disperse **You**] [among all] [The Peoples], [from {one} End] [of The Earth] [to] [{the other} End] [of The Earth]; [and [there] **You** will work for] [other] [Gods], [{gods} of wood] [and stone] [that] [**You**] [and **Your** Fathers] [have [not] known]. ⁶⁵[But **You** will [not] find peace] [in [Those] Nations], [and [there will be] no] [Resting Place] [for {the} Sole] [of **Your** Foot], [and [there] [His Majesty] will give] [**You**] [an [agitated] Heart] [and failing] [Eyes] [and Despair*] [of Soul]. ⁶⁶[And [**Your** Life] will be] [hung up] [right out in front of] [**You**]; [and **You** will feel dread] [Every Night] [and Every Day], [and no longer] [believe in] [**Your** Life]. ⁶⁷[In {the} Morning] [**You** will say], ‘[What] [will [Evening] bring?]' [and in {the} Evening] [**You** will say], ‘[What] [will [Morning] bring?]' [because of What [**Your** Heart] Dreads]—[what] [**You** dread]—[and because of What [**Your** Eyes] See]—[what] [**You** see]. ⁶⁸[Then [His Majesty] will bring **You** back to] [Egypt] [in Ships] [by {the} Way] [that] [I told] [**You**], ‘[**You** will [never] [again] [see it] again!’] [And [there] you will offer to sell yourselves] [to **Your** Enemies] [as Male Slaves] [and as Female Slaves], [but there will not be anybody] [to acquire {you}].”

(Deuteronomy 28:1–68) —my interim translation

If you have any interest at all in the Truth, You are already wondering why I bolded and capitalized nearly every You and Your in that chapter. But if you assume I made a mistake in not capitalizing every you in verse 63, you are obviously running hot and cold in your relationship with the Truth. That is, you haven’t yet learned that Truth is based on facts, not assumptions.

As I have stated on various occasions, “assumptions will kill you.” So let me explain why I bolded and capitalized nearly every You and Your in that chapter, yet left out all but one of those two pronouns in verse 63. Those who actually want to know the Truth will take the time to verify that what I say is true; those who don’t, won’t. Sad to say, but true.

The first thing you need to know is something that even the most learned “scholars” in our day have not yet figured out. That is, the Mosaic Covenant was made with Corporate Israel; it was not made with the individual members of Corporate Israel. “Scholars” also don’t know the Old Testament uses the phrase “all Israel” to refer to the Corporate body with which God made the covenant at Mount Sinai. Lacking that, they are in exactly the same stew that Paul describes here:

¹⁴[I give thanks] [to The] [{Living} God] [that] [I did [not] baptize {any}] [of you] [except] [Crispus] [and] [Gaius], ¹⁵[so that] [no] [one] [could say] [that] [he was baptized] [into] [my] [Name]. ¹⁶[But then] [I did baptize] [The] [House] [of Stephanas] [also]. [{As for} The Rest], [if] [I baptized] [anyone] [else], [I am [not] aware of {it}]. ¹⁷[For] [The Anointed One] [did [not] send] [me] [to baptize], [but] [to proclaim the good news of **the fulfillment of the promise**]—[not] [through] [{the} Wisdom] [of a Word]—[so that] [The] [Cross] [of The] [Anointed One] [would [not] be empty]. ¹⁸[For] [The] [Word] [that is] [about The] [Cross] [is], [on the one hand], [Stupidity] [to those who] [are being done away with]; [but on the other hand], [it is] [God’s] [Supernatural Power] [to us]—[those who] [are being saved]. ¹⁹[For] [it has been written]:

“[I WILL DO AWAY WITH] [THE] [WISDOM]
[OF THOSE WHO ARE] [WISE],
[AND] [I WILL DISREGARD] [THE] [INSIGHT]
[OF THOSE WHO ARE] [INTELLIGENT].”

²⁰[Where] {is} [{the} One Who Is Wise]? [Where] {is} [{the} Scribe]? [Where] {is} [{the} Debater*] [of] [This] [Current Age]? [Has [The] [{Living} God] [not] shown [The] [Wisdom] [of The] [World] to be stupid]? ²¹[For] [in] [The] [Wisdom] [of The] [{Living} God], [since] [The] [World] [has [not] come to know] [The] [{Living} God] [through] [its] [Wisdom], [The] [{Living} God] [was delighted] [to save] [those who] [believe God’s **promise**] [through] [The] [Stupidity] [of our] [Preaching]. ²²[And] [since] [Jews] [request]

[Signs], [and] [Greeks] [seek] [Wisdom], ²³[then] [we] [preach] [The Anointed One] [crucified], [a Deadfall Trap] [to Jews] [on the one hand], [but [Stupidity] [to Gentiles] [on the other]. ²⁴[But] [to Those] [Who Have Been Invited], [both] [Jews] [and] [Greeks], [to them] [The Anointed One] {is} [God's] [Supernatural Power] [and] [God's] [Wisdom]. ²⁵[Because] [the] [stupidest {notion}] [The] [{Living} God has] [is] [wiser than] [that] [of Men], [and] [The] [weakest {member}] [The] [{Living} God has] {is} [mightier than] [that] [of Men].
(1 Corinthians 1:14–25) —HSSB

In that passage, Paul begins by *talking about* precisely the same thing that Moses *talks about* in Deuteronomy 28. That is, he has in mind the fact that Christ bore the full force of the curses of the Mosaic Covenant when He was crucified simply because He became *Corporate* Israel when all the other Jews were “cut off from” *Corporate* Israel and God called the note. If you know your Bible, you already know it says Christ “fulfilled” the Old Covenant when He died. If you didn’t know that, shame on you; you should take a bit of time to ponder what else you don’t know about the Scriptures. So let me tell you one thing about Deuteronomy 28 that you probably don’t know.

The *blessings* and the curses listed in Deuteronomy 28 were spoken to *Corporate* Israel; they were not spoken to the *individual* members of *Corporate* Israel. That is why I capitalized and bolded nearly every *You* and *Your* in my translation of that chapter. I did it to indicate those two pronouns are *singular*; and they are *singular* because Moses was speaking to the *Corporate* body—“all Israel”—to let the people know the Mosaic Covenant required every *individual* member of *Corporate* Israel to keep the terms of that covenant in order for *Corporate* Israel to avoid the curses. The flip side of that fact is this: If even one fool sinned, “all Israel” became guilty; so the curses were all that the *Corporate* body was ever going to experience. I’ll let you decide how that worked out for the *Corporate* body in the Old Testament. If you don’t already know, you obviously haven’t read your Bible.

I will conclude my response to the question you posed with this fair warning: Anyone who wants to claim the *blessings* listed in Deuteronomy 28 as their own might want to rethink that completely misguided attempt to climb up some other “Way.” As the Apostle Paul so succinctly states the case:

¹⁰[For] [as many as] [are {believers}] [on the basis] [of Works] [of Law] [are] [under] [a Curse]; [for] [it has been written] [that] “[ANYONE] [WHO] [DOES [NOT] CONTINUE ON] [IN ALL] [THE THINGS THAT] [HAVE BEEN WRITTEN] [IN] [THE] [SCROLL] [OF THE] [LAW]—[TO] [ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH] [THEM]—{is} [COMPLETELY CURSED].” ¹¹[But] [it is obvious] [that] [nobody] [is going to be acquitted] [by] [Law] [before] [The] [{Living} God], [because], “[THE] [ONE WHO IS BLAMELESS] [WILL LIVE] [ON THE BASIS] [OF BELIEF IN GOD’S PROMISE].” ¹²[But] [The] [Law] [is] [not] [on the basis] [of Belief in God’s Promise]; [on the contrary], “[THE ONE WHO] [HAS ACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH] [THEM] [WILL LIVE] [BY] [THEM].” ¹³[The Anointed One] [bought [us] back] [from] [The] [Curse] [of The] [Law], [after becoming] [a Curse] [for [our] sake]—[because] [it has been written], “[ANYONE] [WHO] [HANGS] [ON] [A TREE] {is} [COMPLETELY CURSED]”—¹⁴(1) [so that] [The] [Blessing] [of] [Abraham] [could come] [to] [The] [Gentiles] [through] [The Anointed One], [Jesus]; (2) [so that] [we could receive] [The] [Promise] [of The] [Spirit] [via] [our] [Belief in God’s Promise].
(Galatians 3:10–14) —HSSB

Paul’s point is, if a Believer wants to go back to seeking salvation on the basis of the Old Covenant, the consequences he faces are not the best, to say the least. My point is, the *blessings* and curses of the Old Covenant that are listed in Deuteronomy 28 were placed on one *individual*—*Corporate* Israel. So if you claim them as your own, you are doing exactly what the Pharisees did; but more than that, you have thereby placed yourself under the curse of that Old Covenant. The *significance* of your mistake is this: You are headed to Hell in a handbasket of your own making simply because it is impossible for anyone to fulfill the obligations that were placed on *Corporate* Israel.

Jesus Christ met the obligations of the Old Covenant by subjecting Himself to its curses when He died on the cross. His death “fulfilled” the terms that were stipulated in that Old Covenant. So if you don’t mind, I’ll just content myself with enjoying the *blessings* of the New Covenant that I gained by being “grafted in” to Jesus Christ—the One Who continued on as *Corporate* Israel after being resurrected from the dead. But just in case you don’t understand my reference to “being grafted in” I should probably also show you what Paul says about that:

¹[Therefore] [I say], “[Has [The] [{Living} God] [not] repudiated] [His] [People]?” [Certainly] [not]! [For] [I] [am] [also] [an Israelite], [one] [of] [Abraham’s] Seed], [of] [Benjamin’s] Tribe. ²[The] [{Living} God] [has [not] repudiated] [His] [People]—[Whom] [He knew before]. [Or] [are you [not] aware of] [what] [The] [Scripture] [says] [about] [Elijah] [when] [he was filing a petition with] [The] [{Living} God] [against] [Israel]? ³“[Your Majesty], [THEY KILLED] [YOUR] [PROPHETS]; [THEY DEMOLISHED] [YOUR] [SACRIFICIAL ALTARS], [AND I] [HAVE BEEN LEFT [ALONE] AS A SMALL REMNANT*], [AND] [THEY ARE SEEKING] [MY] [SOUL].” ⁴[But] [what] [does] [The] [Divine Communication*] say] [to him]? “[I HAVE LEFT BEHIND] [for Myself] [SEVEN THOUSAND*] [MEN] [WHO] [HAVE [NOT] BENT] [A KNEE] [TO BAAL*].” ⁵[So also], [therefore], [at] [The] [present] [Time] [there has [also] come to be] [a Remnant*] [in accordance with] [{their} Choice] [of a Favor]. ⁶[But] [if] {salvation is} [by a Favor], {it is} [no longer] [on the basis] [of Works], [otherwise] [The] [Favor] [would [no longer] be] [a Favor]. ⁷[What] [therefore]? [Israel] [has [not] gained possession of] [This Thing] [that] [it is diligently seeking]! [The] [One Who Is His Choice] [has [now] gained possession of {it}], [but] [The] [Rest of {the members of Israel}] [have been turned to stone]; ⁸[just as] [it has been written]:

“[THE] [{Living} GOD] [GAVE] [THEM]
[A SPIRIT] [OF DEEP SLEEP*],
[EYES] [THAT] [CAN [NOT] SEE],
[AND] [EARS] [THAT] [CAN [NOT] HEAR],
[UP TO] [THE] [DAY] [TODAY].”

⁹[And] [David] [says]:

“[LET [THEIR] [TABLE] BE TURNED]
[INTO] [A SNARE] [AND] [INTO] [A TRAP*],
[EVEN] [INTO] [A DEADFALL TRAP]
[AND] [INTO] [PAYBACK] [TO THEM].

¹⁰[LET [THEIR] [EYES] BE DARKENED],
[SO THAT] [{they} CAN [NOT] SEE],
[AND] [BEND [THEIR] [BACK*] DOWN*] [AT] [ALL TIMES].”

¹¹[Therefore] [I say], [did they [not] trip] [so that] [they fell]? [Certainly] [not]! [But] [The] [Salvation] [for The] [Gentiles] {is} [in their] [Transgression] [so] [that He] [could make [them] jealous]. ¹²[But] [if] [their] [Transgression] {is} [The World’s] [Wealth]; [and]

[their] [Failure], [{the} Gentiles’] [Wealth]; [how much] [more] {will} [their] [Fullness] {be}?

¹³[But] [I am speaking] [to you], [The] [Gentiles]. [Therefore], [for] [as long as] [I] [am] [an Apostle] [of Gentiles], [I do, [in fact], glorify] [my] [Service], ¹⁴[if] [somehow] [I could make [my] [Flesh] jealous] [and] [save] [some] [of] [them]. ¹⁵[For] [if] [His] [Scrapping] [of them] {is} [The World’s] [Reconciliation], [what is] [their] [Admission*] [if] [not] [Life] [from] [Those Who Are Dead]? ¹⁶[But] [if] [The] [First Fruit] {is} [holy], [The] [Lump] {is} [also]; [and] [if] [The] [Root] {is} [holy], [The] [Branches] {are} [also].

¹⁷[But] [if] [some] [of The] [Branches] [were broken off], [and then] [You], [who are] [a Wild Olive Tree], [were grafted in] [among] [them] [and] [became] [a Fellow Partaker] [of The] [Sap*] [of The] [Root] [of The] [Olive Tree], ¹⁸[do [not] speak derisively about] [The] [Branches]. [But] [if] [You are speaking derisively about {them}], [You] [are [not] carrying] [The] [Root], [but] [The] [Root] {is carrying} [You]. ¹⁹[Therefore], [You will say], “[Branches] [were broken off] [so that] [I] [could be grafted in].” ²⁰[Well Said!] [They were broken off] [because of their] [Lack of Belief in God’s **Promise**], [but] [You] [stand] [because of Your] [Belief in God’s **Promise**]. [You must [not] have Your mind set on] [Thoughts That Are Impressive], [but] [be afraid]. ²¹[For] [if] [The] [{Living} God] [did [not] spare] [The] [Branches] [{that are} in accordance with] [Nature], [neither] [will He spare] [You]. ²²[Therefore], [take a look] [at [God’s] Benevolence] [and] [Harshness]: [On the one hand], [Harshness] [for] [those who] [fell]; [but on the other hand], [God’s] [Benevolence] [for] [You]—[if] [You stay there] [in His] [Benevolence], [since] [You] [could [also] be cut off]. ²³[But] [even Those Individuals], [if] [they do [not] stay there] [in their] [Lack of Belief in God’s **Promise**], [will be grafted in]; [for] [The] [{Living} God] [is] [able] [to graft [them] in] [again]. ²⁴[For] [if] [You]—[{those who are}, in accordance with] [Nature], [part] [of The] [Wild Olive Tree]—[were cut off] [and] [contrary to] [Nature], [grafted in] [to] [a Cultivated Olive Tree*], [how much] [more] [will [These Individuals] [who are] [in accordance with] [Nature] be grafted in] [to their] [own] [Olive Tree]? (Romans 11:1–24) —HSSB

Paul’s point is, the Jews had all been “cut off from” Corporate Israel by the time Jesus was baptized by John. That’s why Paul mentions the fact that only seven thousand members were left in Corporate Israel at the time of Elijah; everyone else had been “cut off

from" Corporate Israel. (See *Not All Israel Is Israel*.) That is also why Paul says the Jews have to be "grafted in" to Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, those who believe Satan's lie regarding Romans 11 will never be able to "see" the Truth I just told you in that regard. What Paul says about the circumstances in which those who are cursed reside remains just as true today as it always has been:

¹²[Therefore], [we [who have] [a Hope] [like this] use] [a lot of] [Candor], ¹³[and] {are} [not] [at all like] [Moses]; [he used to put [a Covering] down] [over] [his] [Face] [so that] [The] [Sons] [of Israel] [could [not] stare] [at] [The] [Consummation] [of the {face} that] [is going to be abrogated]. ¹⁴[But] [their] [Thoughts] [were turned to stone]; [for] [up to the time] [of] [Day] [Today], [at] [The] [Reading] [of The] [old] [Testament] [The] [same] [Covering]—[which has [not] been uncovered]—[remains], [because] [it is abrogated] [in] [The Anointed One]. ¹⁵[But] [up to] [Today], [whenever] [it might be that] [Moses] [is read], [a Covering] [lies] [over] [their] [Hearts]; ¹⁶[but then] [whenever] [it may be that] [one turns back] [to] [His Majesty], [The] [Covering] [is removed]. ¹⁷[Now] [His Majesty] [is] [The] [Spirit], [so] [Freedom] {is} [wherever] [The] [Spirit] [of His Majesty] {is}. ¹⁸[But] [we] [who are looking at a reflection of] [The] [Glory] [of His Majesty] [in a mirror*] [with a Face] [that has been uncovered] [are [all] being transformed into] [The] [same] [Image] [from] [{one} Glory] [into] [{another} Glory], [even as] [from] [His Majesty's] [Spirit]. (2 Corinthians 3:12–18) —HSSB

The point of that passage is, everyone who understands and believes the Truth that lies hidden in the Scriptures has at their disposal everything that is needed to transform them into the very image and likeness of the Truth they have *chosen* to believe. Those who don't believe that Truth can't believe it because they have *chosen* not to believe it and apologize to God for what they have been so that they may move on to gain even more knowledge of the Truth.

Now I am going to show you what Moses said to the *individual* members of the sons of Israel after he explained the obligation of the *Corporate* body under the terms of the covenant that he set out for them at that time. He says the following in Deuteronomy 29, where I have again used bolding and capitalization to show you where the singular and plural forms of the pronoun *you* occur:

¹[These are] [{the} Words of] [The Legal Agreement] [that] [His Majesty] [commanded] [Moses] [to cut] [with] [{the} Sons of] [Israel] [in {the} Land] [of Moab] [besides] [The Legal Agreement] [that] [He cut] [with them] [at Horeb].

²[So [Moses] summoned] [all] [Israel] [and said] [to them]: "[**You**] [saw] [everything] [that] [His Majesty] [did] [before **your** Eyes] [in {the} Land] [of Egypt] [to Pharaoh] [and to all] [his Slaves] [and to all] [his Land]—³[The [great] Tests] [that] [**Your** Eyes] [saw], [Those] [great] [Signs] [and Harbingers]. ⁴[Yet [His Majesty] has [not] given] [**you**] [a Heart] [to know] [or Eyes] [to see] [or Ears] [to hear], [up to] [This] [Day]. ⁵[So I made [**you**] walk] [through {the} Wilderness] [forty] [Years]; [**your** Cloaks] [did [not] wear out] [on **you**]; [**Your** Sandal] [did [not] wear out] [on] [**Your** Foot]. ⁶[**You** have [not] eaten] [Bread]; [and [**you** have [not] drunk] Wine] [or Liquor], [so that] [**you** would know] [that] [I] {am} [His Majesty], [**your** God]. ⁷[Then **you** came] [to] [This] [Place]; [and [Sihon], [{the} King] [of Heshbon], [and Og], [{the} King] [of Bashan], came out] [to meet us] [for Battle]; [but we viciously attacked them] ⁸[and took] [their Land] [and gave it] [as an **Inheritance**] [to {the} Reubenites] [and to {the} Gadites] [and to half] [{the} Branch] [of {the} Manassites]. ⁹[So **you** must stand watch over] [{the} Words of] [This] [Legal Agreement] [and act in accordance with] [them], [in order to] [gain insight into] [everything] [that] [**you** do].

¹⁰[**You**] [are stationed] [Today]—[all of **you**]—[before] [His Majesty], [**your** God], [**your** Heads], [**your** Branches], [**your** Elders], [and **your** Overseers]—[every] [Man] [of Israel]—¹¹[**your** Little Ones], [**your** Women], [**Your** Temporary Residents] [who are] [in the midst of] [**Your** Camps], [from {the} one who cuts] [**Your** Wood] [to] [{the} one who draws and carries] [**Your** Water], ¹²[so that **You** may cross over] [by {the} Legal Agreement] [of His Majesty], [**Your** God], [and by {the} Oath] [that] [His Majesty], [**Your** God], [is cutting] [with **You**] [Today], ¹³[in order to] [raise [**You**] up] [as a People] [for Himself] [Today]. [Then He] [will become] [**Your**] [God], [just as] [He stated] [to **You**] [and just as] [He swore an oath] [to **Your** Fathers]—[to Abraham], [to Isaac], [and to Jacob].

¹⁴[So [I] {am} [not] cutting] [This] [Legal Agreement] [and] [This] [Oath] [with **you**] [alone], ¹⁵(1) [because] {it is} [with] [him [who] is] [standing] [here] [with us] [Today] [before] [His Majesty], [our God], [and with] [him [who] is not] [here] [with us] [Today]; ¹⁶(2) [because] [**you**] [know] [that] [we dwelled] [in {the} Land] [of Egypt]

[and] [that] [we passed through] [in the midst of] [The Gentiles] [that] [you passed through]; ¹⁷[and you saw] [their Disgusting Things] [and their Idols]—[Wood] [and Stone] [and Silver] [and Gold] [that] {they had} [with them]; ¹⁸(3) [so that [there is] no] [Man] [or] [Woman] [or] [Family] [or] [Branch] [whose] [Heart] [does an about face] [Today] [to walk] [away from] [His Majesty], [our God], [to work for] [{the} Gods of] [Those] [Gentiles]; (4) [so that [there is] no] [Root] [among you] [bearing] [Poison] [and Wormwood] as fruit]. ¹⁹[Then it will happen that], [when he hears] [The] [Words of] [This] [Oath], [he will bless himself] [in his Heart], [saying], '[Peace] [will be] [mine] [although] [I walk] [in {the} Stubbornness] [of my Heart] [in order to] [sweep up] [the watered] [along with] [the thirsty].' ²⁰[His Majesty] [will [not] be willing to] [forgive] [him] [because] [{the} Anger] [of His Majesty] [and His Jealousy] [will smolder] [against [That] Man], [and all of] [The Oath] [that is written] [in [This] Scroll] [will lie down] [on him], [and [His Majesty] will wipe [his Name] out] [from under] [The Sea of Waters]. ²¹[And [His Majesty] will separate him out] [of all] [{the} Branches of] [Israel] [for What Is Bad] [in accordance with all] [{the} Oaths of] [The Legal Agreement] [that is written] [in [This] Scroll] [of The Teaching].

²²[Then [The [final] Generation]—[your Sons] [who] [rise up] [after you] [and The Foreigner] [who] [comes in] [from a [distant] Land] [and sees] [The] [Wounds From the Attacks] [on [That] Land] [and The] [Torments] [with which] [His Majesty] [has tormented] [her]—will say], ²³[All] [her Land] {is} [burning] [Molten Rock] [and Salt]; [it will [never] be sowed], [so it will [never] sprout], [and no] [Vegetation] [will come up] [in it]—[like {the} Overthrowing of] [Sodom] [and Gomorrah], [Admah] [and Zeboiim], [which] [His Majesty] [overthrew] [in His Anger] [and in His Rage].' ²⁴[Then [all] [The Gentiles] will say]: '[Why] [has [His Majesty] acted] [like this] [to [This] Land]? [Why is] [This] [great] [Anger] [white-hot]?' ²⁵[Then they will say]: '[Because] [they abandoned] [The] [Legal Agreement] [of His Majesty], [{the} God of] [their Fathers], [the one that] [He cut] [with them] [when He brought] [them] [out of {the} Land] [of Egypt]. ²⁶[Then they went] [and worked for] [other] [Gods] [and fell prostrate] [to them], [Gods] [whom] [they had [not] known], [so He did [not] allot a share] [to them]. ²⁷[So [{the} Anger] [of His Majesty] was inflamed] [against [That] Land], [to bring] [against it] [all] [The Curse] [that is written] [in [This] Scroll]; ²⁸[and [His Majesty] uprooted

them] [from] [their Ground] [with Anger] [and with Rage] [and with [great] Wrath]; [and He threw them out] [into] [another] [Land], [as {it is to}] [This] Day].' ²⁹[The things that have been hidden] [belong to His Majesty], [our God], [but the things that have been revealed] [belong to us] [and to our Sons] [as long as] [a Burning Eternity] [to act in accordance] [with] [all] [{the} Words of] [This] [Teaching]."

(Deuteronomy 29:1–29) —my interim translation

The point of that passage is to make a distinction between the expectation of the Corporate body and that of the individual member of the Corporate body. Moses tells us the individual who thinks he is so smart that he does not need to listen to The Teaching will discover to his great disappointment that he has been "cut off from" the Corporate body. But then Moses goes on to tell us Corporate Israel will one day get it right. Listen to what he says about Jesus Christ in Deuteronomy 30:

¹"[And it will happen] [when] [all] [These] [Words] [have come] [upon You]—[The Blessing] [and The Curse] [that] [I have put] [before You]—[and You have been restored] [to] [Your Heart] [among all] [The Gentiles] [where] [His Majesty], [Your God], [has banished You], ²[and You return] [to] [His Majesty], [Your God], [and listen to] [His Voice] [in accordance with everything] [that] [I] [am commanding You] [Today]—[You] [and Your Sons]—[with all] [Your Heart] [and with all] [Your Soul], ³[then [His Majesty], [Your God], will bring {You} back from] [Your Captivity]; [and He will have compassion on You] [and return] [and gather You] [out of all] [The Peoples] [where] [His Majesty], [Your God], [has dispersed You]. ⁴[If] [Your Banished One] [is] [at {the} End of] [The Sea of Waters], [His Majesty], [Your God], [will gather You] [from there]; [and from there] [He will take You]. ⁵[And [His Majesty], [Your God], will bring You] [into] [The Land] [that] [Your Fathers] [have taken possession of]; [and You will take possession of it], [and He will do good things for You] [and increase You] [more than Your Fathers].

⁶[And [His Majesty], [Your God], will circumcise] [Your Heart] [and The] [Heart] [of Your Seed], [to love] [His Majesty], [Your God], [with all] [Your Heart] [and with all] [Your Soul]—[so that] [You live]. ⁷[And [His Majesty], [Your God], will put] [all] [These] [Oaths] [on] [Your Enemies] [and on] [those who hate You], [who] [pursued You]. ⁸[So You] [will come back] [and listen] [to {the} Voice] [of His Majesty], [and You will act in accordance]

[with] [all of] [His Commandments]—[the ones that] [I] [am commanding **You**] [Today]. ⁹[Then [His Majesty], [**Your** God], will leave **You** a remnant] [through all] [That **Your** Hand Has Done]—[in {the} Fruit of] [**Your** Belly] [and in {the} Fruit of] [**Your** Beasts] [and in {the} Fruit of] [**Your** Ground]—[for What Is Good]. [Because] [His Majesty] [will return] [to be elated] [over **You**] [for What Is Good], [just as] [He was elated] [over] [**Your** Fathers]: ¹⁰(1) [because] [**You** will listen] [to {the} Voice] [of His Majesty], [**Your** God], [to stand watch over] [His Commandments] [and His Statutes]—[the thing that is written] [in [This] Scroll] [of The Teaching]; (2) [because] [**You** will come back] [to] [His Majesty], [**Your** God], [with all] [**Your** Heart] [and with all] [**Your** Soul]; ¹¹(3) [because] [This] [Commandment] [that] [I] [am commanding **You**] [Today] [is] [not] [too [incomprehensible] for **You**] [and [is] not] [far away]. ¹²[It is] [not] [in The Sea of Waters], [saying], [‘Who] [will ascend] [for us] [to The Sea of Waters] [and take it] [for us] [so that we may hear it] [and act in accordance with] [it]?’ ¹³[And [it is] not] [from {the} Area Beyond] [{the} Sea], [saying], [‘Who] [will cross over] [for us] [to] [The Area Beyond] [The Sea] [and take it] [for us] [so that we may hear] [it] [and act in accordance with it]?’ ¹⁴(4) [because] [The Word] {is} [very] [near] [to **You**]—[in **Your** Mouth] [and in **Your** Heart]—[so that {You} may act in accordance with it].

¹⁵[Look!] [I have set] [before **You**] [Today] [The Life] [and] [The Good Thing] [as well as] [The Death] [and] [The Bad Thing]; ¹⁶[because] [I] [am commanding **You**] [Today]: (1) [to love] [His Majesty], [**Your** God]; (2) [to walk] [in His Ways]; [and (3) to stand watch over] [His Commandments] [and His Statutes] [and His Judgments], [so that **You** may live] [and become many], [so that [His Majesty], [**Your** God], may **bless You**] [in {the} Land] [where] [**You**] [are going in] [to take possession of it]. ¹⁷[But if] [**Your** Heart] [does an about face] [and **You** do [not] listen] [and are banished] [and fall prostrate] [to [other] Gods] [and work for them], ¹⁸[I tell] [**you**] [Today] [that] [**You** will [definitely] go to Hell]. [**You** will [not] have extended] [Days] [on] [The Ground] [where] [**You**] [are going to cross over] [The Jordan] [to take possession of it]. ¹⁹[I have called] [The Sea of Waters] [and] [The Earth] to testify [against **you**] [Today]. [I have set] [before **You**] [The Life] [and The Death]—[**The Blessing**] [and The Curse]. [So choose] [{the} Life] [so that] [**You**] [and **Your** Seed] [may live]: ²⁰(1) [by loving] [His Majesty], [**Your** God]; (2) [by listening] [to His Voice];

[and (3) by clinging] [to Him]; [because] [He is] [**Your** Life] [and {the} Length] [of **Your** Days] [for dwelling] [on] [The Ground] [that] [His Majesty] [swore an oath] [to **Your** Fathers]—[to Abraham], [to Isaac], [and to Jacob]—[to give] [to them].”

(Deuteronomy 30:1–20) —my interim translation

Once again, the majority of the second person personal pronouns in that chapter are *singular*. That is because in this chapter Moses is once again speaking to Corporate Israel, just as he was in Deuteronomy 28. But this chapter is a prophecy concerning what God intends to accomplish through Jesus Christ—after He becomes the sole remaining Member of Corporate Israel. But it also speaks concerning the male and female Believers who will be “grafted in” to Christ after His Resurrection. That is why Paul refers to verses 10–14 in the following passage:

¹[Brothers], [The] [Thing That Is Pleasing to] [my] [Heart] [and] [my] [Petition] [to] [The] [{Living} God] [for [their] sake] {is}, [in fact], [for] [{their} Salvation]. ²[For] [I provide testimony about] [them] [that] [they have] [a Zeal] [for God], [but] [not] [in accordance with] [Full Knowledge of the Truth]. ³[For], [not understanding] [The] [Declaration of Not Guilty] [of The] [{Living} God] [and] [seeking] [to make [their] own] [Declaration of Not Guilty] stand], [they have [not] submitted] [to The] [Declaration of Not Guilty] [of The] [{Living} God]. ⁴[For] [The Anointed One] {is}—[in] [a Declaration of Not Guilty]—[The Consummation] [of Law] [for anyone] [who] [believes God’s **promise**]. ⁵[For] [Moses] [writes] [The] [Declaration of Not Guilty] [that is] [on the basis] [of The] [Law]—[that] “[THE] [MAN] [WHO HAS ACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH] [THEM] [WILL LIVE] [BY] [THEM].” ⁶[But] [The] [Declaration of Not Guilty] [on the basis] [of Belief in God’s **Promise**] [says {it}] [this way]: “[DO [NOT] SAY] [IN] [YOUR] [HEART], [‘WHO] [WILL GO UP] [INTO] [HEAVEN]?’” [That] [is], [to bring [The Anointed One] down]. ⁷[Or] “[WHO] [WILL GO DOWN] [INTO] [THE] [ABYSS]?” [That] [is], [to bring [The Anointed One] up] [from] [Those Who Are Dead]. ⁸[But] [what] [does it say]? “[THE] [COMMENT {He} MADE] [IS] [NEAR] [YOU]—[IN] [YOUR] [MOUTH] [AND] [IN] [YOUR] [HEART].” [That] [is], [The] [Comment {He} Made] [regarding The] [Belief in God’s **Promise**] [that] [we are preaching], ⁹[that] [if]: (1) [You acknowledge [Jesus] as] [His Majesty] [with] [Your] [Mouth], [and] (2) [You

believe] [in] [Your] [Heart] [that] [The] [{Living} God] [raised] [Him] [from] [Those Who Are Dead], [You will be saved]; ¹⁰[for] [one believes God's **promise**] [in {his} Heart], [resulting in] [a Declaration of Not Guilty], [but] [the truth {of God's **promise**} is acknowledged] [with {the} Mouth], [resulting in] [Salvation]. ¹¹[For] [The] [Scripture] [says]:

"[ANYONE] [WHO] [BELIEVES GOD'S **PROMISE**] [REGARDING] [HIM] [WILL] [NOT] BE EMBARRASSED."

¹²[For] [there is] [no] [Difference Between] [both] [Jew] [and] [Greek]; [for] [the] [same {Person}] {is} [Master] [of everyone]—[One Who is wealthy] [for] [all] [who] [make an appeal to] [Him]; ¹³[for] "[ANYONE] [WHO] [IT MIGHT BE WHO] [MAKES AN APPEAL TO] [THE] [NAME] [OF HIS MAJESTY] [WILL BE SAVED]."

¹⁴[How], [therefore], [could they make an appeal to] [the One [about] Whom] [they have [not] believed God's **promise**]? [And then] [how] [could they believe God's **promise**] [about the One Whom] [they have [not] heard]? [And then] [how] [could they hear about {God's **promise**}] [without] [one who is preaching]? ¹⁵[But] [how] [could they preach {God's **promise**}] [if] [they have [not] been sent]? [Just as] [it has been written], "[HOW] [BEAUTIFUL] {are} [THE] [FEET] [OF THOSE WHO] [PROCLAIM [GOOD THINGS] AS THE GOOD NEWS OF **THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISE**]!" ¹⁶[But] [they did [not] [all] attentively listen to] [The] [Good News of **the Fulfillment of the Promise**] and comply with its demands]. [For] [Isaiah] [says]:

"[YOUR MAJESTY]! [WHO] [HAS BELIEVED] [THE] [NEWS] [WE HAVE]?"

¹⁷[So then] [your] [Belief in God's **Promise**] {is} [on the basis] [of Hearing], [but] [your] [Hearing] {is} [via] [a Comment Made] [regarding The Anointed One]. (Romans 10:1–17) —HSSB

If you read Deuteronomy 30 very carefully, you should be able to see Moses was telling the individual members of Corporate Israel that their adherence to the stipulations of the Mosaic Covenant was not too difficult for them. All it took was their belief in *The Teaching of Moses*. That fact hasn't changed; if you believe the Truth, you will do what God demands of you.

Editor: We received a question concerning Colossians 1:24 where Paul states, "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body (which is the church) in filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions." The question is:

"Is that any suffering we do down here? Or just the suffering caused because of our belief in the Truth? Just curious, and then along those same lines, what about our sin and mistakes that lead us into suffering?"

Elijah: First of all, we need to take a look at the larger context in which that one verse occurs:

²¹[Even] [you] [who were] [at one time] [estranged]—[by] [The] [Works] [that are] [nasty]—[and] [Enemies] [in your] [Understanding], ²²[but] [He has [now] completely reconciled {you}] [through] [The] [Body] [of] [His] [Flesh]—[via] [His] [Death]—[to present] [you] [holy] [and] [unblemished] [and] [above reproach] [in] [His] very presence]; ²³[if] [indeed] [you stay here], [founded] [on your] [Belief in God's **Promise**], [and] {are} [steadfast] [and] [not] [moved away*] [from] [The] [Hope] [of The] [Good News of **the Fulfillment of the Promise**] [that] [you have heard]: (1) [the {good news of **the fulfillment of the promise**} that] [has been preached] [throughout] [all] [Creation] [that is] [under] [Heaven]; (2) [the {good news of **the fulfillment of the promise**} of which] [I], [Paul], [was made] [a Server].

²⁴[Now] [I rejoice] [in] [my] [Suffering] [for [your] sake]; [and] [in] [my] [Flesh] [I am completely filling up the full measure of*] [What is Lacking in] [The] [Things That Caused [The] [Anointed One] Turmoil] [for the sake] [of] [His] [Body], [which] [is] [The] [Summoned Assembly], ²⁵[of which] [I] [was made] [a Server] [in accordance with] [The] [Responsibility for the Management [of The] [{Living} God's] Business], [which] [was given] [to me] [to fully complete] [The] [Word] [of The] [{Living} God] [for] [you]—²⁶[The] [Mystery] [that]: (1) [had been tucked away] [from] [The] [Past Ages] [and] [from] [The] [Generations]; [but] (2) [has [now] become well-known] [to] [His] [Holy Ones]—²⁷[those to whom] [The] [{Living} God] [wanted] [to make known] [what is] [The] [Wealth] [of The] [Glory] [of] [This] [Mystery] [among] [The] [Gentiles], [which] [is]: [The Anointed One] [in] [you] {is} [The] [Hope] [of His] [Glory]; ²⁸[which {mystery}] [we] [are] [proclaiming], [warning] [every] [Man] [and] [teaching]

[every] [Man] [with] [all] [Wisdom], [so that] [we may present] [every] [Man] [complete] [in] [The Anointed One].²⁹[For] [which {mystery}] [I [also] labor], [fighting] [in accordance with] [The] [Energy] [He has], [the {energy} that is] [working] [in] [me] [with] [Supernatural Power].
(Colossians 1:21–29) —HSSB

It is not obvious from what Paul says in that passage, but he has in mind a *parabolic image* in which he had been called to suffer for the sake of a body of Believers who would be growing into the image and likeness of the *Living Word of God Himself* via their knowledge of the Truth of that *Living Word*. The suffering to which he refers pertains specifically to his own calling to serve as a “builder” of “*The House*” of God, so the next logical question would be: Is there anything to indicate all Believers are called to suffer for Christ? And the answer is, Yes; here it is:

³[Blessed be] [The] [{Living} God] [and] [Father] [of] [our] [Master], [Jesus], [The Anointed One], [The] [Father] [of] [Compassion] [and] [God] [of all] [Encouragement]—⁴[the One Who] [encourages] [us] [in] [all] [our] [Turmoil] [so] [that] [we] [can] [encourage] [those who are] [in] [any] [Turmoil] [with] [The] [Encouragement] [with which] [we [ourselves] are being encouraged] [by] [The] [{Living} God]. ⁵[Because] [just as] [The] [Suffering] [of The] [Anointed One] [produces an excess] [for] [us], [so] [also] [our] [Encouragement] [has an excess] [through] [The] [Anointed One]. ⁶[So then] [whether] [we are constricted] [for the sake of] [your] [Encouragement] [and] [Salvation], [or] [we are encouraged] [for the sake of] [your] [Encouragement]—[which] [is working in {you}] [through] [{your} Perseverance] [in The] [same] [Suffering] [that] [we] [are [also] suffering]—⁷[our] [Hope] [for] [you] {is} [also] [confirmed], [knowing] [that] [as much as] [you are] [Partakers] [of our] [Suffering], [so] [also] {you are Partakers} [of our] [Encouragement].
(2 Corinthians 1:3–7) —HSSB

What Paul says there links the suffering of the layperson with the suffering of the leaders. Therefore, we know that all True Believers should expect to endure suffering as a result of their belief in the Truth. In the following passage, Peter goes a bit further in the comments he makes regarding the suffering of

Believers. He indicates the suffering we can expect to endure is part of the testing that God is using to prove whether our belief in the Truth is genuine:

³[Blessed be] [The] [{Living} God] [and] [Father] [of] [our] [Master], [Jesus], [The Anointed One], [Who] [engendered [us] again] [in accordance with] [His] [copious] [Mercy]: (1) [into] [a [living] Hope] [via] [{the} Resurrection] [of Jesus], [The Anointed One], [from] [Those Who Are Dead]; ⁴(2) [into] [an [imperishable] [and] [undefiled] [and] [unfading*] **Inheritance**] [that has been kept] [in] [{the} Heavens] [for] [you]—⁵[those who] [are being watched over] [by] [God’s] [Supernatural Power] [via] [{their} Belief in God’s **Promise**] [for] [a Salvation] [ready] [to be revealed] [in] [the last] [Time]. ⁶[About] [which] [you are extremely joyful] [just a little while] [at this time], [even] if [it is] [while having to be] [in anguish] [during] [various] [Tests], ⁷[so that] [The] [Proving] [of] [your] [Belief in God’s Promise]—[which is] [more highly valued than] [Gold] ([which is] [going to be done away with]), [but] [is being proved] [by] [Fire]—[may be found to be {something}] [for] [Commendation] [and] [Glory] [and] [Honor] [at] [{the} Revelation] [of Jesus], [The Anointed One]: ⁸(1) [Whom] [having [not] seen] [you love], (2) [about] [Whom] {you} [believe God’s **promise**] [at this time]—[while [not] seeing]. [But] [you are going to be extremely joyful] [with an [unspeakable*] [and] [glorified] Joy], ⁹[when {you} get back for yourselves] [The] [Consummation] [of] [your] [Belief in God’s **Promise**]—[{the} Salvation] [of {your} Souls].

¹⁰[About] [which] [Salvation], [Prophets]—[who] [prophesied] [about] [His] [Favor] [for] [you]—[sought] [and] [searched out* {the Truth}], ¹¹[searching] [into] [Whom]—[or] [what] [Time]—[The] [Spirit] [of The Anointed One] [in] [them] [was making obvious]—[testifying beforehand about*] [our] [Suffering] [for] [The Anointed One] [and] [The] [Glories] [after] [These Things].

(1 Peter 1:3–11) —HSSB

Later on, the Apostle once again indicates True Believers should be joyful when they are tested and called upon to suffer for Christ because they have an opportunity to prove their belief in the Truth:

¹²[Beloved Brothers], [do [not] be surprised] [by The] [Burning] [among] [you]—[which is occurring]

[among you] [for] [a Test]—[as if it were] [a strange {thing}] [that is happening] [to you]. ¹³[But] [rejoice] [in accordance with whatever] [commonality you have] [in The] [Suffering] [of The] [Anointed One], [so that] [you [who are extremely joyful] may [also] rejoice] [at] [The] [Revelation] [of] [His] [Glory]. ¹⁴[If] [you are being ridiculed] [for] [the] Name [of The Anointed One], [you] are fortunate, [because] [The] [Spirit] [of His] [Glory], [even] [the {Spirit}] [of The] [Living] God, [rests] [on] [you]. ¹⁵[For] [none] [of you] [must suffer] [as] [a Murderer] [or] [a Thief] [or] [One Who Does Awful Things] [or] [as] [a Meddler*]. ¹⁶[And then], [if] [anyone suffers] [as] [a Follower of the Anointed One], [he must not] be ashamed; [but] [he must glorify] [The] [Living] God [Who is] [in] [This] [Name], ¹⁷[because] {it is} [The] [Time] [for] [The] [Judgment] [to begin] [with] [The] [House] [of The] [Living] God. [So then], [if] {it begins} [first] [with] [us], [what is] [The] [Consummation] [of those who] [are not being persuaded] [by The] [Good News of the Fulfillment of the Promise] [of The] [Living] God? (1 Peter 4:12–17) —HSSB

That text succinctly answers the question as to whether suffering for sin counts as suffering for Christ. It doesn't, but suffering for sin should serve to chasten the True Believer and hopefully—if they have any common sense at all—teach them not to do the same sort of thing again.

Now that I've responded to the question that was asked about suffering, I want to talk about testing. The majority of born-again Believers in the Church today are not aware they are being tested. Consequently, they are failing to prove themselves worthy of the Kingdom. They could easily reverse that circumstance by believing the Truth and using it to stand against the "winds" that God uses to oppose every True Believer. The question is, Will they?

The most effective way for True Believers to triumph over the "winds" when they are tested is to ditch the ridiculous negativity inherent in the "victim" mentality and look at every test as an opportunity to prove your belief in the Truth. Get over it; God does not save victims! All of us have sinned and fallen short of the standard that God expects, so none of us are victims. The seriously sad side of that sick situation is, the "victim" mentality results in nothing but a long line of pity parties the likes of which undoubtedly amazes even

the most hardened demon with how easy it is to get Believers to back away from the Truth and look for an easier "Way" into Heaven. Little do they know, the easiest "Way" to Heaven is just to believe the Truth. That's why God called me to explain it for you.

The mentality in which born-again Believers know they are going to be tested makes it much more difficult for Satan's henchmen to accomplish their assigned task. So let me show you a couple of things you need to keep in mind about that:

²[Deem {it}] [all] [Joy], [my] [Brothers], [when] [you encounter] [various] [Tests], ³[knowing] [that] [The] [Proving] [of] [your] [Belief in God's Promise] [brings about] [Perseverance]. ⁴[So] [let] [your] [Perseverance] [have] [a] [complete] [Work], [so that] [you are] [complete] [and] [perfectly healthy]—[not] [lacking] [in] any way. ⁵[But] [if] [any] [of you] [lacks] [Wisdom], [he must request {it}] [from] [The] [Living] God—[Who gives] [to everyone] [generously*] [and] [does not] ridicule—[and] [it will be given] [to him]. ⁶[But] [he must request {it}] [with] [Belief in God's Promise], [not] [doubting] at all; [for] [the one who] [doubts] [is analogous] [to a] [Sea] [Billow] [that is being driven by the wind*] [and] [tossed about*]. ⁷[For] [That] [Man] [must not] suppose [that] [he will receive] [anything] [from] [His Majesty]. ⁸[A] [double-minded] [Man] {is} [fickle] [in] [all] [his] [Ways].

⁹[But] [let] [The] [Brother] [who is] [humble] [boast] [about] [what] [he has] [on high]; ¹⁰[and then] [the one who is] [wealthy], [about] [his] [Humble State], [because] [he will pass away] [like] [a Flower] [of Grass]. ¹¹[For] [The] [Sun] [has risen] [along with] [The] [Oppressive Heat] [and] [has shriveled up] [The] [Grass], [and] [its] [Flower] [has fallen away from {it}], [and] [The] [Beauty*] [of] [its] [Presence] [has been done away with]. [So] [also] [the one who is] [wealthy] [will fade away*] [while] [on] [his] [Journeys]. ¹²[A Man] [who] [continues on under harsh] [Testing] [is fortunate], [because] [anyone who has come to be] [approved] [will receive] [The] [Crown] [of The] [Life] [that] [was promised] [to those who] [love] [Him]. ¹³[Let] [no one] [who is being tested] say [that] "[I am being tested] [by] [God]." [For] [The] [Living] God [is] [not tested*] [by Awful Things], [so] [He] [does not] test {anybody}. ¹⁴[But] [anyone] [who is being drawn out*] [and] [enticed] [is being tested] [by] [his] [own] [Selfish Desire]. ¹⁵[Then], [after] [The] [Selfish Desire] takes hold of {him}, [it gives birth to] [Sin]; [then], [when] [The] [Sin] has been accomplished, [it

brings forth] [Death]. ¹⁶[Do [not] be led astray], [my] [beloved] [Brothers]. ¹⁷[Every] [good] [Thing Given] [and] [every] [complete] [Thing Offered] [is] [from up above], [coming down] [from] [The] [Father] [of] [Lights], [with] [Whom] [there is] [no] [Variation*] [or] [Casting of a Shadow*] [by Turning*]. ¹⁸[Having decided {what He was going to do}], [He brought [us] forth] [by a Word] [of Truth], [so] [that] [we] [would be] [one of] [{the} First Fruits] [of] [His] [Creatures].

¹⁹[You are aware of {this}], [my] [beloved] [Brothers]. [But] [every] [Man] [must be] [quick] [to] [hear], [slow] [to] [speak], [slow] [to] [Anger]; ²⁰[for] [a Man's] [Anger] [does [not] work for] [God's] [Declaration of Not Guilty]. ²¹[Wherefore], [after setting aside] [all] [Filthiness*] [and] [an Abundance] [of Awfulness], [accept] [The] [implanted*] [Word]—[which] [is able] [to save] [your] [Souls]—[with] [Gentleness]. ²²[And then] [be] [Doers] [of {the} Word], [and] [not] [only] [Hearers] [who are duping] [themselves]. ²³[Because], [if] [anyone] [is] [a Hearer] [of {the} Word], [and] [not] [a Doer], [This Individual] [is analogous] [to a Man] [who takes a close look] [at The] [Face] [of] [his] [Origin] [in] [a Mirror]; ²⁴[for] [he has taken a close look] [at himself] [and] [gone away] [and] [straight off] [forgotten] [what kind of {person}] [he was]. ²⁵[But] [the one who] [has peered] [into] [The] [complete] [Law] [of] [Freedom] [and] [continued on with {the memory of what he saw}], [having become] [not] [a Hearer] [with Forgetfulness*] [but] [a Doer] [of Work], [This Individual] [will become] [fortunate] [through] [What [he] Does*]. ²⁶[If] [anyone] [who is [not] reining in] [his] [Tongue], [but] [is deceiving] [his] [Heart], [assumes] [that {he} is] [religious*], [The] [Religion] [of This Individual] [is] [futile].

(James 1:2–26) —HSSB

Let me show you James' train of thought in that passage and boil it down to the basics:

Be joyful when you are tested, knowing that tests are intended to produce within you the person God wants you to be. All you really need to be able to triumph when you are tested is wisdom—the ability to make the right decision. So if you don't have that ability, ask God to grant it to you. Just remember that God will grant your request for wisdom only if you believe the Truth He has revealed in the Scriptures without doubting. Doubting the Truth will get you nothing at all from God, because you don't actually believe what He has said.

*It doesn't matter whether you are rich or poor because everyone dies at some point—just like the grass—but only those who prove themselves by continuing to believe the Truth when tested will gain the eternal life after death that God has **promised**. So don't fall into the trap of believing the lie that God is testing you; He isn't. He is allowing you to encounter circumstances where you may be tested. But a test is only a test if you are enticed to fall into sin because of your own selfish desires. Otherwise, it is just one more opportunity for you to prove you believe the Truth.*

*The Truth is, God gives only good things—the Truth regarding the message of the Scriptures being the most important—to those who have been born again through their belief in the Truth of His **promise**; and He never changes. Likewise, if you are committed to the process of being crafted into the image and likeness of God through your belief in that Living Word, you will never waver in your desire to do the right thing in every circumstance. If you do otherwise, you have forgotten what you experienced when—if—you were born again.*

I will leave you to ponder the things I have told you by reminding you that the Apostle Paul said the following about the tests that every Believer will face:

¹²[So then] [let [the one who] [assumes] [that {he} stands] watch out, so that] [he does [not] fall]. ¹³[No] [Test] [has overtaken] [you] [except] [a human {one}]. [Yet] [The] [{Living} God]—[Who] [will [not] allow] [you] [to be tested] [more than] [what] [you can {stand}]—[is] [trustworthy]. [On the contrary], [along with] [The] [Test] [He will [also] act in accordance with] [The] [{desired} Result], [so that] [{you} can] [bear up under {the test}].

¹⁴[For this very reason], [my] [Beloved Brothers], [flee] [from] [Idolatry]. ¹⁵[I am speaking] [as if it were] [to {those who are} sensible]; [you] [judge] [what] [I declare]: ¹⁶[Is] [The] [Cup] [of **The** **Blessing**] [that] [we bless] [not] [Commonality] [with The] [Blood] [of The] [Anointed One]? [Is] [The] [Loaf of Bread] [that] [we break] [not] [Commonality] [with The] [Body] [of The] [Anointed One]? ¹⁷[Because] [we—[The] [Many]—are] [one] [Loaf of Bread], [one] [Body]. [For] [we are—[Every Last One]—sharing] [part] [of The] [one] [Loaf of Bread].

(1 Corinthians 10:12–17) —HSSB

Just remember this: You are worshiping whatever god you believe God to be. If He isn't *what you believe Him to be*, you are into idolatry. ■

Continued from front cover

nothing else than a departure from life—and as it was not to follow that those beings which had once been created by God for the enjoyment of life should utterly perish, it was necessary that, before death, there should be in existence such a power as would destroy the coming death, and that there should be a resurrection, the type of which was in our Lord and Saviour, and that this resurrection should have its ground in the wisdom and word and life of God.

And then, in the next place, since some of those who were created were not to be always willing to remain unchangeable and unalterable in the calm and moderate enjoyment of the blessings which they possessed, but, in consequence of the good which was in them being theirs not by nature or essence, but by accident, were to be perverted and changed, and to fall away from their position, therefore was the Word and Wisdom of God made the Way. And it was so termed because it leads to the Father those who walk along it.

Whatever, therefore, we have predicated of the wisdom of God, will be appropriately applied and understood of the Son of God, in virtue of His being the Life, and the Word, and the Truth and the Resurrection: for all these titles are derived from His power and operations, and in none of them is there the slightest ground for understanding anything of a corporeal nature which might seem to denote either size, or form, or colour; for those children of men which appear among us, or those descendants of other living beings, correspond to the seed of those by whom they were begotten, or derive from those mothers, in whose wombs they are formed and nourished, whatever that is, which they bring into this life, and carry with them when they are born.

Origin, "De Principiis," Book i, Chap. ii, in Roberts and Donaldson (Eds.), *The Ante-Nicene Fathers* (1885), Vol. 4, pp. 246–247.

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