



# THE VOICE of ELIJAH

Restoring the hearts of the fathers to the children

## *A Whole Lot of Truth Mixed With a Little Bit of Bribel*

The struggle for freedom, then, is waged not alone by the athletes of battles in wars, but also in banquets, and in bed, and in the tribunals, by those who are anointed by the sword, who are ashamed to become the captives of pleasures.

"I would never part with virtue for unrighteous gain." But plainly, unrighteous gain is pleasure and pain, toil and fear; and, to speak comprehensively, the passions of the soul, the present of which is delightful, the future vexatious. "For what is the profit," it is said, "if you gain the world and lose the soul?" It is clear, then, that those who do not perform good actions, do not know what is for their own advantage. And if so, neither are they capable of praying aright, so as to receive from God good things; nor, should they receive them, will they be sensible of the boon; nor, should they enjoy them, will they enjoy worthily what they know not; both from their want of knowledge how to use the good things given them, and from their excessive stupidity, being ignorant of the way to avail themselves of the divine gifts.

Now stupidity is the cause of ignorance. And it appears to me that it is the haunt of a boastful soul, though of one with a good conscience, to exclaim against what happens through circumstances:—

"Therefore let them do what they may;  
For it shall be well with me; and Right  
Shall be my ally, and I shall not be caught doing evil."

But such a good conscience preserves sanctity towards God and justice towards men; keeping the soul pure with grave thoughts, and pure words, and just deeds. By thus receiving the Lord's power, the soul studies to be God; regarding nothing bad but ignorance, and action contrary to right

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## *A Note From the Editor*

Have you ever stopped to wonder why the ancient Egyptians built the pyramids at Giza—pyramids built so well that they are still standing yet today? What were they thinking? And why is the ancient Egyptian mind-set even something worth understanding?

Well, Voice of Elijah, Inc. and The Elijah Project are pleased to announce that you will have the opportunity next winter to hear these and other questions answered by an Egyptian Egyptologist—a man who has made the study of the ancient Egyptian mind-set his life's work. More about that later.

*The Voice of Elijah*® tagline is “restoring the hearts of the fathers to the children.” It is also the reason why Larry D. Harper has written quite a bit about the Egyptian mind-set and how it relates to *The Teaching* over the years since this newsletter's premier issue in 1990. Here are just a few of the things he has stated regarding Egyptian beliefs:

*It was not by accident that God called Moses to be Israel's teacher. His knowledge of the Egyptian way of life made him the perfect candidate to understand and explain the comparisons God was going to make between Egyptian culture (the known) and the Kingdom of God (the unknown).*

*But why would God use the Egyptian culture to make comparisons that would teach Israel about spiritual Truth? Basically, because it suited His purposes. You see, the one issue of paramount concern to every pious Egyptian was how to attain the resurrection from the dead. The Egyptians had elaborate beliefs pertaining to just this one issue. God used Egypt's own mythological beliefs about resurrection from the dead as a starting point from which He went on to teach Israel about true resurrection from the dead through Jesus Christ.*

*(“By Way of Summary, Let Me Begin by Saying ...,” The Voice of Elijah®, October 1995, p. 18)*

*The Pentateuch is replete with the idioms and images Moses used to teach Israel about Jesus Christ and true resurrection from the dead. Yet these idioms and images are all grounded in Egyptian and Canaanite mythology. Although the mythology itself was completely untrue, God could still use the terminology and images associated with mythology to make comparisons that taught Israel what spiritual reality was LIKE. ... But remember: If you don't adopt the mind-set of the ancient Israelites, you will never understand the parabolic statements made in the Old and New Testaments. So it's important to recognize that Israel's mind-set was primarily influenced by Egyptian culture at the time of Moses.*

*(“By Way of Summary, Let Me Begin by Saying ...,” The Voice of Elijah®, October 1995, pp. 18–19)*

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No generation before our own has ever had the information necessary to corroborate the Scriptures' testimony. By that I mean people living in earlier times could not document the beliefs of the ancient Canaanites and Egyptians. Those beliefs provide the information necessary for us to understand the things Moses and the Prophets wrote. So it is going to happen. The complete testimony of the Hebrew Scriptures is going to be heard in our day whether you like it or not. You can believe it if you care to...  
 ("Questions & Answers," **The Voice of Elijah®**, April 1997, p. 24)

Moses hid the Truth concerning the "evening" and "morning" of the Day of the Lord in the Passover Parable. He did that because the parabolic imagery of the Day of the Lord—that is, the seventh day of Creation—is inextricably linked to the Egyptian/Canaanite beliefs concerning death and resurrection. The parabolic imagery concerning the seventh day of Creation—the Passover Sabbath—is, after all, what the Mosaic Covenant is all about. Moses tells us that in various places, but he states the Truth plainly in this passage (Exodus 31:12–17). Those who lack insight into the Truth concerning the seventh day of Creation will certainly not grasp the meaning and significance of what Moses says in that passage.  
 ("Questions & Answers," **The Voice of Elijah®**, July 2001, pp. 16–17)

(1 Cor. 15:35–38) That parabolic imagery comes directly out of the resurrection symbolism of the Egyptian religion that Moses used to explain the Passover Parable to the sons of Israel.... It is essential to an understanding of the resurrection theology that stands behind Hebrew idioms like "build a house," "raise up a seed," and "make a name." Without insight into the ancient mind-set regarding "The House," "The Way," "The Light," "The Name," "The Woman," and "The Lamp," it is absolutely impossible for anyone to understand what Moses and the other Prophets of Israel said about Jesus Christ. That is so simply because they spoke in terms of these and other parabolic images when they described His

Resurrection from the dead in the image and likeness of God.  
 ("Questions & Answers," **The Voice of Elijah®**, January 2009, pp. 19–20)

You see, The Teaching of Moses parabolically explains how the King of Israel—"The One" Who was none other than Corporate Israel Himself—parabolically died and made His trek through the realm of the dead.... After His parabolic death, the parabolic "body" of the King of Israel was placed inside a portable coffin inside a portable mortuary, and He began His parabolic trek through the parabolic realm of the dead—just like the Pharaoh in ancient Egyptian mythology.  
 ("The Song of Moses' Has Eight-Part Harmony," **The Voice of Elijah®**, January 2013, p. 13)

**The Voice of Elijah®** and The Elijah Project are in the early stages of planning a seminar titled "The Mind-set of Moses" to be held in Dallas, Texas, in early 2020 (either late January or early February). The purpose of the seminar will be to provide insight into Egyptian beliefs regarding resurrection at the time of the Exodus. An Egyptian Egyptologist will provide insight into the beliefs that stand behind *The Pyramid Texts*, *The Coffin Texts*, *The Book of Two Ways*, *The Amduat*, *The Book of the Dead*, and *The Book of Gates*—all subjects that Moses would have been taught as he sat under the portico on the left side of the courtyard just outside the holy of holies in the temple at Luxor.

As I said, we are just beginning to arrange this seminar, so if you are at all interested in attending, I need to know. Send me an email expressing your interest to [mwharper@the-elijah-project.com](mailto:mwharper@the-elijah-project.com) before April 30, 2019. Please include your name and the names of others in your family who may be attending. This will give us an idea as to how large a venue we need to reserve. I will keep your email address on file and provide you additional details regarding the seminar, once they have been confirmed.

I hope to hear from you soon. Personally, I can hardly wait!

In Him,

*Marcia Harper*

# What's the One Thing Every *Heir of the Promise* Has in Common?

**I**n the January 2017 issue of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter, I told you 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 knows what Paul is *talking about*, it becomes a stark reminder of the pitched battle in which the Lord demands 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.

## April 2017

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*.

In the October 2017 issue, I began by talking about the first item on the list above; then I talked about the second item in the January 2018 issue; the third, in the April 2018 issue; and the fourth, in the July 2018 issue. I am going to continue by talking about the fifth item on the list a bit later in this issue.

## October 2017

In the article I wrote for the October 2017 issue of this newsletter, I gave yet 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.*

## January 2018

In the article I wrote for the January 2018 issue of this newsletter, 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 I said 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 at the End of the Age. 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. Everyone else will be discarded.

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.

## April 2018

In the April 2018 issue of this newsletter, I explained something that erudite “scholars” have long debated: What is the *significance* of the Old Testament appellation “all Israel”? That is, 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 in Romans 9:6?

I told you that 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, they refer to the sons of Israel as if they were all one person. A little later on in the Book of Romans, Paul makes it clear he knows the *significance* of the phrase “all Israel”; but I told you that those with “eyes that cannot see and ears that cannot hear” won't have a clue as to what he *meant* by what he said because the Truth regarding their situation is exactly as Paul describes it in 2 Corinthians 4:2–6.

I gave you the following paraphrase of what Paul says in Romans 11:1–32 to show you a bit of his mind-set regarding Jesus Christ as “*The Remnant*” of *Corporate*

Israel Who continued to hold title to *the promise* after all the other Jews were “cut off from” Corporate Israel:

*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 Voice of Elijah®, April 2018, pp. 6–7)*

I told you Paul begins talking about the fact that the Jews have been “cut off from” Corporate Israel, but he insists 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 Corporate Israel, *the Heir of the promise* Who has already *inherited what was promised*. 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*—Ishmael and Esau—who did not *inherit the promise*. His point is, the same thing has happened to the Jews.

I explained 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. Paul’s point is, that 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.

I told you that, in Romans 10, Paul expresses his 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 that; so God turned to the Gentiles and is now “taking” a People for Himself and “building a house” out of those who respond to the Truth.

I told you the biblical account regarding “the fullness of the Gentiles” begins in Genesis 48, where Jacob, *the heir of the promise*, was on his death bed, ready to *hand down the promise* to the next *heir of the promise*. Moses tells us that Jacob 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* (Gen. 48:1–22).

I explained that Genesis 48 is 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 I also said 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.” So I gave you this list:

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.

I told you 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 "The Names" of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were scattered throughout the Gentiles when Ephraim got himself all mixed up with them (Hos. 7:8).

I said that, when Paul used the phrase "the fullness of the Gentiles" in Romans 11:25, he is pointing back to what Jacob said to Joseph; but I also told you he uses the phrase "all Israel" in the very next verse because he knows it means "Corporate Israel." So I went on to explain how God used the covenant ratified at Mount Sinai to mold the sons of Israel into Corporate Israel, the Firstborn Son of God that Jesus Christ became when He was baptized by John.

## July 2018

In the article I wrote for the July 2018 issue of this newsletter, I told you the book *Not All Israel Is Israel* provides the rock-solid foundation on which I base nearly everything else I teach. It explains how Jesus Christ became Corporate Israel via a process in which the Living Word of God "cut off" everyone else "from" Corporate Israel. I explained the significance of the Hebrew idiom "cut off from" and gave you a list of activities (*Not All Israel Is Israel*, pp. 107–110) for which the individual members of Corporate Israel could lose their position in that corporate body.

I told you that one of the most important take-aways you can gain from *Not All Israel Is Israel* is an

accurate understanding of Romans 11, where the Apostle Paul is talking about the fact that Jesus Christ is now Corporate Israel. So everyone else, both Jew and Gentile, must be "grafted back in" to the same corporate body from which the Jews were all "cut off." He begins by insisting God has not abandoned His People because Jesus Christ still remains as a Remnant of that august body; but since the unrepentant Jews have lost their position in it, they must be "grafted in" again. What he says is impossible to understand if you don't know Jesus Christ became Corporate Israel when all the other Jews were "cut off from" Corporate Israel simply because he uses the name *Israel* to refer to both Jesus Christ as Corporate Israel and the Jews who were members of that corporate body before they were "cut off from" it.

I told you a second takeaway from *Not All Israel Is Israel* that is just as important as the first is an accurate understanding of how Romans 11 relates to the Assyrian Captivity of the ten tribes of the sons of Israel in the Northern Kingdom in 722 B.C. I said if one does not understand the significance of those ten tribes becoming Gentile, what Paul explains in Ephesians 2:1–22 will elude him.

Those are a few of the things I have already explained; now I am going to tell you even more things you need to know if you intend to avoid the delusion of the Antichrist.

## The ~~Two~~ Three Old Covenants

As I have stated repeatedly:

*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.*

Now I am going to show you some of the things that I explain in *The Inheritance of the Believer, Volume 1*:

*The purpose of the Mosaic Covenant was to unify title to the promise that Jacob distributed to his sons. It*



was to make Corporate Israel **the Heir of the promise**, and to establish the terms under which God would **fulfill the promise**.

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

Under this covenant, God made a covenant with all of the sons of Israel. And in that covenant there was a collective responsibility for individual sin: If one sins, all are guilty. To find proof of that, all you have to do is go to Joshua 7 and read that chapter. Now you may want to back up and start in the beginning of Joshua, but read through Chapter 7. And what you will find there is, one man—Achan—sinned. And the indications are from the text that nobody knew he had sinned. He hid something in his tent, which would tell you other people didn't know about it, and he kept it from them. But Joshua tells you specifically later on that Achan sinned and everybody else became guilty.

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

The reason? Very simply because under the covenant, {if} one man sins, all are guilty. And until that sin is remedied, "all Israel" is going to suffer. That characteristic of the Mosaic Covenant did not change, and it has not changed. The New Covenant is nothing more than a reformulation of the Old Covenant. So it has not changed. We'll talk about that in The Teaching. But here in the Gospel we'll talk about the fact that, under the covenant of Moses, you have collective responsibility for individual sin; and if one sins, all are guilty.

Now, Jesus Christ became Corporate Israel, and that characteristic of the Mosaic Covenant is why Jesus Christ bore your sins. If you are a member of Israel {and} you sin, Jesus Christ becomes guilty—Corporate Israel becomes guilty. The minute you sin, He's guilty. But He's already died. So He has already "carried" your sins. He died for the sins of Corporate Israel. That's how the sins of individual members of Israel are transferred to Christ.

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

**The inheritance of what was promised** is conditioned on the collective obedience—**the inheritance of what was promised**. Corporate Israel already has **the promise**—under the Mosaic Covenant. That's the purpose: Bring this **promise** back and unify it, and make Corporate Israel **the Heir of the promise**. So Corporate Israel, under the terms of the Mosaic Covenant, became **the Heir of the promise**. In the same

way that Abraham was **heir of the promise**. In the sense that Isaac was **heir of the promise**. In the sense that Jacob was **heir of the promise**. Now you have a group of people that God looks at {parabolically} as one Person:

"Israel is My firstborn Son."

(Exodus 4:22b)

God said that at the time of the Exodus.

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

But **the inheritance of what was promised** could not be fulfilled—Corporate Israel could not **inherit what was promised**—unless everybody obeyed. And there was no atonement for sin under the first Mosaic Covenant.

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

Under the first covenant, the people said: "Yes! We'll do it! We'll do it! We'll do it!" But they didn't know what they were getting into. God knew! God knew what He was doing. He understood what He planned, and He used their willingness to accept statutes and judgments "that were not good" because they could never live by those statutes and judgments, because there was no atonement for sin. If one sinned, all became guilty. And so you end up dying for someone else's sin, because "all Israel" became guilty under the Mosaic Covenant.

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

{In Ezekiel 20:1–11,} Ezekiel is pointing to what Moses said, and he is saying very simply, "I gave these statutes and judgments to Corporate Israel under the terms of the Mosaic Covenant, but the Person that I'm looking at is Jesus Christ—"The Man"—at the time when He becomes Corporate Israel. Because when He becomes Corporate Israel, 'The Man' will do and live by them." That statement is not referring to anyone other than Jesus Christ—"The Man." Moses knew all about "The Man" Jesus Christ, and that is "The Man" that Ezekiel is talking about in this passage.

Corporate Israel was "carrying The Name" of God. They had The Teaching, which is "The Name" of God.

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

The only reason that God did not destroy these people in the wilderness is because there was “The Name” of God involved. He was in the process of **handing** this **promise down**. That’s the function of the Mosaic Covenant. {It} was to make sure, as Paul says in Galatians, that He had a Mediator that could hand that **promise** off. God gave it to them, and it was transferred down to Him. And Paul talks about that.

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

Again, He did it to preserve **the promise**, because He had chosen to use Corporate Israel to protect and preserve that **promise**—to **hand it down** to Jesus Christ.

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

Now under the second Mosaic Covenant, Moses becomes Corporate Israel, {and} atonement for individual sin is added.

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

And God has a little bit of fun with Moses, if ... I guess He would have fun. He was a little bit angry at the time, but we’ll see that later that He has a little bit of fun with Moses, because He continually says that “these people are your people. They’re not My People now; they are your people.” And the reason He does that is because {Corporate} Israel—the sons of Israel—ceased to be God’s “People” when they broke the covenant.

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

Moses asked that God not destroy the people, and so they become Moses’ “people.” But they were {parabolically} “baptized into Moses” as far as Paul was concerned, because they ended up being the “people” of Moses instead of the “People” of Israel.

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

They’re not God’s “People” anymore; they are Moses’ “people.” Yes, Moses is related to them; but God’s had enough. He has already “cut” these people “off.” They’re done with.

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

So Moses is saying: “Wait! Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Let’s stop this right here! They’re Your People! {They’re} not my people! They’re Your People! They’re still Your People!” And God says, “No, I’ve already ‘cut’ them ‘off,’ and I’m going to make you

into a great nation.” And then Moses goes ahead and he argues his point.

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

You say, “Oh! He changed His mind about **the promise!**” No! He changed His mind concerning destroying the whole batch of them. He didn’t change what He had already done. He had already “cut” them “off.” They were no longer His “People.” He had already made Moses **the heir of the promise**. Now He said: “No, I won’t destroy them. We’ll do something else.”

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

{The} covenant—{the} first covenant, {the} covenant at Mount Sinai—is no longer in existence. God has no further obligation under the terms of that covenant. Why? Because the minute he {Moses} broke those tablets, that covenant was invalidated. It was done away. It was gone.

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

So then God says: “Okay! You have asked Me to make these people My People. You have insisted that they’re not going to be your people; they’re going to be My People. So let me tell you about this second Mosaic Covenant: You make these tablets, and you bring them up by yourself. Nobody else can come up with you.”

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

At that point God is saying: “Yes, I do atone for sins. I was just playing with a you a little bit because I had to establish parabolic imagery. And so I established the parabolic imagery; and because you interceded for your people, I’ll make those people My People.”

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

Moses is asking that this covenant include atonement. Moses asked for it. And he’s asking God at this point—because God said, “I’m not going to go up in your midst.”

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

So now we have another covenant—a second covenant—being “cut” with {Moses as Corporate} Israel, and He warns him concerning making a covenant with any of the other peoples of the land.

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

The significance of that lies in the fact that "The Name" of God is "carried" by those who are the "People" of God. And when they started making covenants with other peoples, they started "joining themselves" to those people. And God said: "No! That's not acceptable, because you are now bringing aliens into My 'Name,' and those aliens are 'carrying My Name.' And that's not acceptable." (The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

You need to understand that God said: "Israel is My People, and you cannot allow an outsider to come in and 'carry My Name.' You have to make a distinction between the person who is a part of the People of God and those who want to pretend to be a part of the People of God. Because only the People of God 'carry The Name' of God." (The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

The point of {Exodus 34:15–16} is, God has just told you, "His Majesty is jealous of His Name"; and He goes on into this **zonah** ritual. And the reason He does that is because the **zonah** ritual is the quickest way that {Corporate} Israel can be contaminated. And God says: "It's not going to happen! It is not going to happen! It did not happen prior to the Flood, when they did the stupidity they did then. It didn't happen at the Tower of Babel, and it's not going to happen now. If these people commit the **zonah** ritual, they're going to be 'cut off from' {Corporate} Israel. They are not going to be a part of My People! They are [sic: I am] not going to allow that ritual to function in 'the way' they think that ritual should function. It's not going to happen." (The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

Now, at that point, there's a covenant that's made—the second covenant that's made. Under exactly the same "Ten Words" that were spoken from Mount Sinai, the second covenant was enacted. But Moses is now **the heir of the promise**. Moses holds title to that **promise** because God "cut" all of the sons of Israel "off." Then He allowed them to come back in under the second covenant. But Moses holds title to that **promise**. (The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

So now the issue is, What happens to that **promise** when Moses dies? Where does **the promise** go from there? And that's the third Mosaic Covenant—the Book of Deuteronomy. And if you want to find out what happened to **the promise**, all you have to do is look in the

thirty-third chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy, which is called "**The Blessing of Moses**."

What did Abraham do? He **blessed** Isaac. What did Isaac do? He **blessed** Jacob. What did Jacob do? He **blessed** his twelve sons. What have I told you about **the promise**? It's always transferred as an **inheritance** by means of a spoken **blessing**. All I'm doing to you under these circumstances is, I'm **blessing** you. That's it. I am transferring **the blessing** of Abraham to you, the Gentiles, so that you may be **blessed**. That's it. You will then become an **heir of the promise** in "The same Way" that Abraham was an **heir of the promise**, Isaac was an **heir of the promise**, Jacob had **the promise**, Moses had **the promise**. You, too, can have that same **promise**; and all you have to do to have that **promise** is listen to **the blessing** and receive it. That's all it takes. If you believe it, you have it. If you don't believe it, and you are like Esau, you despise it—you don't see the value in it—then you don't have **the promise**.

Moses, right before his death, **blessed** the sons of Israel and transferred **the promise** that he had down to these twelve tribes.

(The Inheritance of the Believer, Session 3)

Here's *The Blessing* of Moses:

<sup>1</sup>[Now this] {is} [**The Blessing**] [{with} which] [Moses], [{the} Man] [of The {Living} God], [**blessed**] [{the} Sons of] [Israel] [before] [his Death]. <sup>2</sup>[And he said]:

"[His Majesty] [will come in] [out of Sinai], [And He will rise] [for them] [out of Seir]; [He will shine forth] [out of Mount] [Paran], [And a Holy One] [will come] [out of Ten Thousand]—[Out of His Right Hand], [{the} Fire] [of a Decree] [for them].

<sup>3</sup>[He will [definitely] cherish\*] [Peoples]; [All] [His Holy Ones] {will be} [in Your Hand], [And they] [will follow\*] [in Your Footsteps]. [He will carry] [some of Your Words].

<sup>4</sup>[Moses] [commanded] [a Teaching] [for us]

[As {the} Possession] [of {the} Congregation of] [Jacob],

<sup>5</sup>[So that there will be] [a King] [in Jeshurun]

[When he rounds up] [{the} Heads of] [{the} People]

[Together with] [{the} Branches of] [Israel].

<sup>6</sup>[**Reuben**] [will live] [and [not] die],

[But there will be] [a small number of] [his Adult Males]."

<sup>7</sup>[But [then he said] This] [concerning **Judah**]:



"[Your Majesty], [Listen to] [{the} Voice] [of Judah],  
[And [bring Him] to] [His People].  
[He will argue] [for Him] [{with} His Hands],  
[But You must be] [a Helper] [against His Adversaries]."

<sup>8</sup>[And concerning **Levi**] [he said]:

"[Your Thummim] [and Your Urim] [belong to a Man]

[{with} Your Virtue],

[The One that] [You tested] [at Massah],

[The One that] [You argued with]

[beside] [{the} Waters of] [Meribah],

<sup>9</sup>[The One Who will say] [to His Father]

[and to His Mother],

'[I have [never] seen him].'

[And] [He will [not] recognize] [His Brothers];

[And He will [not] acknowledge] [His Sons],

[Because] [they must stand watch over]

[Your Statements];

[And [they must safeguard] Your Legal Agreement].

<sup>10</sup>[They will teach] [Your Decisions Based on the Truth]

[to Jacob]

[And Your Teaching] [to Israel].

[They will assign] [Incense\*] [for Your Nose]—

[Even a Whole Burnt Offering] [on] [Your Altar].

<sup>11</sup>[Your Majesty], [**bless**] [His Entourage],

[And take great pleasure in]

[{the} Deed [His Hands] Have Done].

[Strike [{the} Loins] [of those who rise up against Him]

with a perfect blow],

[And of those who hate Him],

[so that] [they cannot rise up]."

<sup>12</sup>[Concerning **Benjamin**] [he said]:

"[{The} Beloved] [of His Majesty]

[will reside] [securely] [beside Him],

[Sheltered\*] [beside Him] [all] [Day],

[Even residing] [between] [His Shoulders]."

<sup>13</sup>[And concerning **Joseph**] [he said]:

"[His Land] {is} [part of {the} Blessings of]

[His Majesty]—

[Part of The Best Produce] [of The Sea of Waters]—

[Part of {the best produce of the} Dew],

[Even part of {the best produce} of The Deep]

[that lies] [below]—

<sup>14</sup>[Even part of The Best Produce] [of {the} Crop]

[of The Sun],

[Even part of The Best Produce] [of the Edible Fruit\*]

[of The Moons],

<sup>15</sup>[Even part of {the best produce of the} Top]

[of {the} Mountains of] [**Qedem**],

[Even part of The Best Produce of]

[The Hills of] [a Burning Eternity],

<sup>16</sup>[Even part of The Best Produce of] [{the} Earth]

[and her Fullness],

[Even {the} Goodwill] [of {the} One Who resided]

[{in the} Prickly Bush]

[Will come] [to {the} Head] [of Joseph],

[Even to {the} Crown of the Head]

[of {the} Nazirite] [of his Brothers].

<sup>17</sup>[Splendor] [belongs to him]—[{the} Firstborn]

[of his Spring Wall]—

[But [his Horns] {are} {the} Horns of] [a Wild Ox];

[He will butt] [Peoples] [together] [with them],

[{To the} Ends] [of {the} Earth].

[And they] {will be}

[{the} Ten Thousands of] [**Ephraim**],

[And they] {will be} [{the} Thousands of] [**Manasseh**]."

<sup>18</sup>[And to **Zebulun**] [he said]:

"[Rejoice], [Zebulun], [when You go out];

[And, **Issachar**], [in Your Tents].

<sup>19</sup>[They will summon [Peoples] to] [a Mountain];

[They will sacrifice] [Communal Sacrifices of]

[a Declaration of Not Guilty] [there],

[When] [a Tremendous Number\*] [nurse on]

[{the} Seas],

[Even {on} what is concealed in\*]

[what is hidden in] [{the} Sand]."

<sup>20</sup>[And concerning **Gad**] [he said]:

"[**Blessed**] {is} [{the} One Who enlarges] [Gad].

[He will reside] [like a Lioness With Cubs];

[Then He will tear [an Arm] to pieces],

[even] [{the} Crown of the Head].

<sup>21</sup>[But He will see {what}] [belonged to Him]

[{at the} Beginning],

[Because] [a Name]—[a Share of] [what was inscribed]

[has been concealed].

[So He will come] [{with the} Heads of] [a People].

[He will make] [His Majesty's]

[Declaration of Not Guilty]

[And His Decisions Based on the Truth] [for Israel]."

<sup>22</sup>[And concerning **Dan**] [he said]:

"[Dan] {is} [The Cub] [of a Lioness];

[He will leap out\*] [of The Snake]."

<sup>23</sup>[And concerning **Naphtali**] [he said]:

"[Naphtali] {will be} [satisfied with] [Goodwill]

[And filled with] [{the} **Blessing** of] [His Majesty];

[He will take possession of] [{the} Sea]

[and {the} South Wind]."

<sup>24</sup>[And concerning **Asher**] [he said]:  
 “[Asher] {is} [more **blessed**] than Sons];  
 [He will be] [favored] [by his Brothers],  
 [And he will dip] [his Foot] [in {the} Oil].  
<sup>25</sup>[Your Bolts] {will be} [Iron] [and Bronze],  
 [And [Your Endurance\*] {will be} equal to Your Days].  
<sup>26</sup>[There is nobody] [like {the} God] [of Jeshurun],  
 [{The} One Who rides] [The Sea of Waters]  
 [when He helps You],  
 [But [Dust Clouds] in His Pride].  
<sup>27</sup>[The {Living} God of] [**Qedem**] {is} [a Haven],  
 [With [{the} [eternally burning] Arms] below].  
 [So He will drive [an Enemy] away] [from before You];  
 [And He will say], “[Wipe {him} out]!”  
<sup>28</sup>[So that [Israel] may reside] [securely],  
 [Jacob’s] [Spring] [will be isolated]  
 [To] [a Land] [of Grain] [and New Wine].  
 [Even] [His Sea of Waters] [will mist] [a Dew].  
<sup>29</sup>[You, O Israel], {will be}  
 [Those Who Attain the Resurrection]!  
 [Who is] [like You]?  
 [A People] [saved] [by His Majesty]—  
 [{By the} Shield] [that helps You]?  
 [Even {the} One Who] {is} [{the} Sword] [of Your Pride].  
 [So [Your Enemies] will be denied the truth] [about You],  
 [And You] [will tread] [on] [their High Places].”  
 (Deuteronomy 33:1–29) —my interim translation

Now compare that **blessing**, *The Blessing* of Moses—who was *the heir of the promise* in his day—to *the blessing* that Jacob—who was *the heir of the promise* in his day—bestowed on his sons:

<sup>1</sup>[Then [Jacob] summoned] [his Sons] [and said]:  
 “[Round up], [so that I may tell] [you] [what] [will befall]  
 [you] [in The [last] Days].  
<sup>2</sup>[Gather] [and listen], [Sons of] [Jacob];  
 [And listen] [to] [your Father] [Israel].  
<sup>3</sup>[**Reuben**], [You] {are} [my Firstborn];  
 [My Power] [and {the} Beginning of] [my Virility],  
 [A Remnant]—[even a [strong] Remnant]—  
 [to carry {my name}].  
<sup>4</sup>[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].

<sup>5</sup>[**Simeon**] [and **Levi**] {are} [Brothers];  
 [Their Contracts] {are} [Containers of] [Maliciousness].  
<sup>6</sup>[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].  
<sup>7</sup>[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].  
<sup>8</sup>[**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].  
<sup>9</sup>[**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]?  
<sup>10</sup>[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].  
<sup>11</sup>[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].  
<sup>12</sup>[Both Eyes] [bloodshot\*] [from Wine],  
 [But [Teeth] white] [from Milk].  
<sup>13</sup>[**Zebulun**] [will reside] [at a Harbor] [of {the} Seas],  
 [And he] {will become} [a Harbor] [{for} Ships],  
 [But his Foothills] {will be} [alongside] [Sidon].  
<sup>14</sup>[**Issachar**] {is} [a [limber] Jackass]  
 [That lies down] [between] [The Saddlebags]  
<sup>15</sup>[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].  
<sup>16</sup>[**Dan**] [will adjudicate] [His People’s] case],

[As one] [of {the} Branches of] [Israel].  
<sup>17</sup>[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].  
<sup>18</sup>[I will wait expectantly] [for Your Salvation],  
 [Your Majesty].  
<sup>19</sup>[Gad], [a Band of Raiders] [will raid him];  
 [But he] [will raid] [{at their} Heel].  
<sup>20</sup>[About Asher], [His Bread] {will be} [robust];  
 [And he] [will be given] [some of [a King's] Delicacies].  
<sup>21</sup>[Naphtali] {is} [a Doe] [that has been let go],  
 [One who makes] [clear] [Statements].  
<sup>22</sup>[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].  
<sup>23</sup>[But [Owners of] [Arrows] were bitterly against him],  
 [Then they increased] [and held a grudge against him];  
<sup>24</sup>[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]—  
<sup>25</sup>[From {the} God] [of Your Father],  
 [And He will help You] [and] [Shaddai].  
 [And He will bless 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],  
<sup>26</sup>[{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].  
<sup>27</sup>[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]."  
<sup>28</sup>[These] {are} [all of] [{the} twelve] [Branches of]  
 [Israel], [and this] {is} [what] [their Father] [spoke] [to  
 them] [when he blessed] [them]. [He blessed [each] [of

them] with] [whatever] [corresponded to his **Blessing**].  
<sup>29</sup>[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], <sup>30</sup>[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]—<sup>31</sup>[where] [they buried] [Abraham] [and]  
 [his Woman] [Sarah], [where] [they buried] [Isaac] [and]  
 [his Woman] [Rebekah], [and where] [I buried] [Leah]—  
<sup>32</sup>[{the} Tangible Assets] [of The Field] [and The Cave]  
 [that] {is} [in it] [from] [{the} Sons of] [Heth]." <sup>33</sup>[When  
 [Jacob] finished] [giving the commandment to] [his Sons],  
 [he rounded [his Legs] up] [into] [The Cot] [and took his  
 last breath]. [Then he was rounded up] [to] [his People].  
 (Genesis 49:1–33) —my interim translation

My point in showing you both *the blessing* of Moses and *the blessing* of Jacob is to make the point that both serve the same function. In both cases, *the heir of the promise* is *handing down the promise* to the next *heir(s) of the promise*. The difference is, Jacob divided up *the promise* and *handed down* various parts of *the promise* to his sons. Moses *handed down the promise* to the tribes of Corporate Israel, *the heir of the promise*. But he did so only after the people ratified yet a third covenant, one in which they became members of the Corporate entity rather than members of Moses:

<sup>14</sup>"[So [I] {am} [not] cutting] [This] [Legal Agreement] [and] [This] [Oath] [with you] [alone],  
<sup>15</sup>(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];  
<sup>16</sup>(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]; <sup>17</sup>[and  
 you saw] [their Disgusting Things] [and their Idols]—  
 [Wood] [and Stone] [and Silver] [and Gold] [that] {they  
 had} [with them]; <sup>18</sup>(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]."  
 (Deuteronomy 29:14–18) —my interim translation ■





**T**he 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:** A lady who received and read the six free booklets we offer sent in a question regarding the Rapture and 2 Thessalonians 2:7. She said this:

*"It was a bit of an effort at first to avoid stumbling over your sarcasm, but as you pointed out, Elijah mocked and ridiculed the prophets of Baal. When I got past the sarcasm, I found it rather enjoyable. The booklets are informative, especially The Passover Parable. I received Christ and followed Him in believer's baptism when I was 12. Have been baptized 3 times, as various churches would require a baptism into their church even if done prior. I have reached a point where I cannot find a church to attend that's not more like the Dr. Phil talk show than a congregation of believers. I am a born-again believer who has asked, in tears, before God 'Where are your people?'"*

*Anyhow, I do have a question to ask you. Though I don't identify as a dispensationalist, I had come to believe in a pre-trib rapture, having studied God's Word as best I can. You state the case for a post-trib rapture, and I don't dispute what you say, but must ask this question: Who do you say is the Restrainer in 2 Thessalonians 2:7? I had always thought it was the Body of Christ, the true believers, who would "come out of the midst" at the coming of our Savior in the clouds, and that the church age, begun at Pentecost, would then end to start the prophetic clock ticking for Daniel's 70th week. Didn't mean to be so wordy, but who is the Restrainer?"*

**Elijah:** The question the lady asked goes right to the heart of what the Apostle Paul wrote, so let me show you the New American Standard Bible translation of the passage, which appears to be the translation on which her question is based:

<sup>1</sup>Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him, <sup>2</sup>that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. <sup>3</sup>Let no one in any way deceive you, for {it will not come} unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, <sup>4</sup>who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. <sup>5</sup>Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? <sup>6</sup>And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he may be revealed. <sup>7</sup>For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains {will do so} until he is taken out of the way. <sup>8</sup>And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; <sup>9</sup>{that is,} the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, <sup>10</sup>and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. <sup>11</sup>And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, <sup>12</sup>in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

(2 Thessalonians 2:1–12)

Now let me show you my translation, which is the translation you will find in Harper's Standardized Study Bible. Pay close attention to how my translation of the verses in question differs from the New American Standard Bible:

<sup>1</sup>[So], [Brothers], [we are asking [you] {to do something}] [for the sake of] [The] [Coming] [of] [our] [Master], [Jesus], [The Anointed One], [and] [our] [Assembling] [to] [Him], <sup>2</sup>[so] [that] [you] [would [not] be [quickly] shaken] [out] [of your] [Mind], [or] [be alarmed]—[neither] [by] [a Spirit] [nor] [by] [a Word]

[nor] [by] [a Letter] [as if it were {written}] [by] [us]—[as] [though] [it is currently] [The] [Day] [of] [His Majesty]. <sup>3</sup>[Do [not] let [anyone] dupe] [you] [in] [any Way] at all, [that] [it may [not] be that] [The] [Apostasy] [must come] [first] [and] [The] [Man] [of The] [Lawless One]—[The] [Son] [of] [Eternal Damnation]—[must be revealed], <sup>4</sup>[the one who] [is opposed to], [and] [exalts himself] [over], [everything] [that is called] [a God] [or] [an Object of Worship], [with the result that] [he] [sits down] [in] [The] [Sanctuary] [of The] [{Living} God], [presenting [himself] as convincing evidence] [that] [he is] [God]. <sup>5</sup>[Do you [not] remember] [that] [I was telling] [you] [These Things] [while {I} was] [still] [with] [you]? <sup>6</sup>[So] [you are aware of] [what] [is holding {them} fast] [now] [so] [that] [he] [can be revealed] [in] [his] [own] [Time]. <sup>7</sup>[For] [The] [Mystery] [of The] [Lawless One] [is [already] working in {them}]—[the one who] [is [only] holding {them} fast] [at this time] [until] [he comes] [out] [of {their} Midst]. <sup>8</sup>[And] [then] [The] [One Who Is Lawless] [will be revealed]: (1) [the one whom] [His Majesty], [Jesus], [will put away] [by The] [Spirit] [of] [His] [Mouth] [and] [abrogate] [by The] [Appearance] [of] [His] [Coming]; <sup>9</sup>(2) [the one whose] [Arrival] [is] [in accordance with] [Satan's] [Energy], [with] [all] [Supernatural Power] [and] [Signs] [and] [Wonders]—[Lies]—<sup>10</sup>[and] [with] [all] [{the} Deceitfulness] [of Immorality] [for those who] [are going to be done away with] [because] [they did [not] accept] [The] [Love] [of The] [Truth] [so] [that] [they] [could be saved]. <sup>11</sup>[So] [for] [This Reason] [The] [{Living} God] [will send] [them] [a [deceptive] Energy] [so] [that] [they] [believe] [his] [Lie], <sup>12</sup>[so that] [all] [who] [did [not] believe] [The] [Truth] [but] [were delighted with] [his] [Immorality] [can be judged].  
(2 Thessalonians 2:1–12) —HSSB

As you can see, the lady who asked the question agrees with me that “the Restrainer” she mentions “comes out of the midst,” but she assumes the unstated object of the preposition is the general population of Planet Earth. That is not true; but before I explain why that is so, let me pick apart a few things in the New American Standard Bible translation of the passage.

First of all, the form of the Greek verb that is translated as the passive “is taken” in verse 7 does not have the passive sense anywhere else. It always has the active sense of something that “happens,” “becomes,” or “comes into being.” Furthermore, the translation “out

of the way” is something that someone pulled out of thin air. The prepositional phrase translated that way in the New American Standard Bible is *ek mesou*, but there is no reason to ever translate it in any other way than “out of/from the midst.” That can be seen from my translation of all the other verses in which it occurs:

<sup>49</sup>“[So also] [it will be] [at] [The] [Consummation] [of The] [Current Age]; [The] [Messengers] [will come out] [and] [set [those who are] [nasty] apart] [from] [The Midst] [of Those] [Who Are Blameless], <sup>50</sup>[and] [they will throw] [them] [into] [The] [Furnace] [of The] [Fire]. [Weeping] [and] [Gritting] [of] [Teeth] [will be] [there].”  
(Matthew 13:49–50) —HSSB

[So] [Paul] [went out] [of] [their] [Midst].  
(Acts 17:33) —HSSB

[So then], [since [a [huge] Dispute] was ensuing], [after [The] [Commander of a Thousand] became afraid], [for fear that] [Paul] [would be pulled apart] [by] [them], [he gave [The] [Troop] [that came down] an order] [to snatch] [him] [out] [of [their] Midst], [and then] [to lead {him}] [into] [The] [Fortification].  
(Acts 23:10) —HSSB

[So] [you] [are] [condescending], [and] [you have [not] [instead] mourned], [so that] [the one who] [was involved in] [This] [Work] [would be taken] [out] [of [your] Midst].  
(1 Corinthians 5:2) —HSSB

“[Wherefore],  
[COME OUT] [OF] [THEIR] [MIDST],  
[AND] [BE SET APART FROM {THEM}],”  
[SAYS] [HIS MAJESTY].  
“[AND] [DO [NOT] TOUCH] [AN UNCLEAN THING],  
[And I] [will welcome [you] in\*].”  
(2 Corinthians 6:17) —HSSB

I could show you the New American Standard Bible translation of those same verses, but I won't. Needless to say, there is no consistency in the way the translators have translated the prepositional phrase *ek mesou*; but that is not surprising. As is the case with most Greek terms in every other translation, there is no consistency in the way the New American Standard Bible translates the term *mesos* (“midst”). That can be

seen from the entry for that term in the New American Standard Bible lexicon:

G3319

μέσος

*mesos*; a *prim. word*; *middle, in the midst*:-

NASB usage: *among*(3), *among*\*(5), *before*\*(3), *between*(1), *between*\*(3), *center*(6), *forward*\*(3), *midday*\*(1), *middle*(6), *midnight*\*(2), *midst*(19), *two*(1), *way*(2), *within*\*(1).

Now that you know the New American Standard Bible has no *standardized* way of translating the term *mesos*, compare the lexicon entry above with the *standardized* way I have translated the term in Harper's Standardized Study Bible:

G3319

GREEK: μέσος

TRANSLITERATION: *mesos*

STANDARDIZED TRANSLATION:

Noun: [(The) Midst/Middle of (something)]

(*en mesoi* = [in] [The Midst of (something)])

(*ek mesou* = [out of/from] [The Midst of (something)])

Preposition: [in The Midst/Middle of (something)]

The Truth is, the prepositional phrase *ek mesou* never *means* anything other than "out of/from the midst." In the case of 2 Thessalonians 2:7, the question is, "out of/from the midst" of what?

If you look at the context of all the verses I quoted above, you will notice *ek mesou* always refers to "out of/from the midst of" a group of people. Since there is no reason to assume it would refer to anything different in this instance, we can reasonably conclude Paul must be referring to a group of people from which the Antichrist "comes out of their midst."

Knowing what we know about the things the Early Church Fathers Irenæus and Hippolytus wrote about the Antichrist, the group of people "out of/from the midst of" which the Antichrist comes must logically be the Jews who refused to accept Jesus Christ as the Messiah God *promised* to send. But the key to identifying the Jews as that group of people does not depend on the writings of the Early Church Fathers alone. Additional proof can be found in the verb translated "restrain" in the New American Standard Bible. Take another look at how I translated that verb:

<sup>5</sup>[Do you [not] remember] [that] [I was telling] [you] [These Things] [while {I} was] [still] [with] [you]? <sup>6</sup>[So] [you are aware of] [what] [**is holding {them} fast**] [now] [so] [that] [he] [can be revealed] [in] [his] [own] [Time]. <sup>7</sup>[For] [The] [Mystery] [of The] [Lawless One] [is] [already] working in {them}]—[the one who] [is] [only] **holding {them} fast**] [at this time] [until] [he comes] [out] [of {their} Midst].

(2 Thessalonians 2:5–7) —HSSB

The Greek verb translated "restrain" in the New American Standard Bible has been translated "hold fast" in my translation. That verb is the verb *katecho*. Here is the lexical entry for that verb in the New American Standard Bible lexicon:

G2722

κατέχω

*katecho*; from G2596 and G2192; to hold fast, hold back:-

NASB usage: *afflicted*(1), *bound*(1), *heading*(1), *hold...fast*(1), *hold fast*(5), *hold firmly*(1), *keep*(2), *occupy*(1), *possess*(1), *possessing*(1), *restrains*(2), *suppress*(1).

As you can see, the New American Standard Bible has no *standardized* way of translating the verb *katecho*. That is not the case in Harper's Standardized Study Bible:

G2722

GREEK: κατέχω

TRANSLITERATION: *katecho*

STANDARDIZED TRANSLATION:

active: [hold fast (to something), to]

passive: [be held fast, to]

So who or what was "holding" the Jews "fast" when Paul wrote his second epistle to the church at Thessalonica? It was nothing other than Satan himself, embodied in the lie that had convinced them that Jesus Christ was not the Messiah God had *promised* to send. And just as Paul said he would, Satan is still "holding fast" to the Jews—and most evangelical Christians—through their belief in that lie. But that sad circumstance is about to get worse—much worse. That's because Satan has already decided to grant the Jews what they have been requesting—a false messiah—just as Jesus said he would. In case you are not aware of the Scripture



to which I am referring, you need to know the Early Church believed He was referring to the Jews requesting another messiah when He told this parable:

<sup>1</sup>[And then] [He was telling] [them] [a Comparison], [so that] [they] [would] [always] [pray] [and] [not] [get discouraged], <sup>2</sup>[saying]: “[There was [some] [Judge] [in] [some] [City] [who was] [not] afraid of [The] [Living} God] [and] [did] [not] pay deference to [Man]. <sup>3</sup>[But] [there was] [a Widow] [in] [That] [City]; [and] [she was continually coming] [to] [him], [saying], ‘Take vengeance [on] [my] [Plaintiff] for [me].’ <sup>4</sup>[And] [for] [a Span of Time] [he was] [not] willing; [but] [after] [These Things], [he said] [to] [himself], ‘Even [if] [I do] [not] fear [The] [Living} God] [nor] [pay deference to] [any}] [Man], <sup>5</sup>[yet] [because of] [This] [Widow] [causing] [Trouble] [for me], [I will take vengeance for] [her], [so that] [she does] [not] give [me] a black eye [by coming] [at] [The Consummation].’” <sup>6</sup>[And then] [His Majesty] [said]: “[Listen to] [what] [The] [Judge] [says] [about his] [Immortality]. <sup>7</sup>[So] [will] [The] [Living} God] definitely [not] commit [His] [Act of Vengeance] [for] [His] [Chosen Ones]—[those who] [cry out] [to Him] [Day] [and] [Night]—[and] [be patient] [with] [them]? <sup>8</sup>[I tell] [you] [that] [He will commit] [His] [Act of Vengeance] [for them] [in] [a Hurry]; [but] [when] [The] [Son] [of The] [Man] comes back, [He will find] [Belief in God’s Promise] [on] [The] [Earth], [won’t He]?”

(Luke 18:1–8) —HSSB

The “Act of Vengeance” that Jesus mentioned on that occasion is defined more fully by the author of the Book of Hebrews in this passage:

<sup>26</sup>[For] [when] [we] [willingly] sin [after] **[receiving]** [The] [Full Knowledge] [of The] [Truth], [there is] [no longer] [a Sacrifice] left [for] [Sins], <sup>27</sup>[but] [some] [terrifying] [Anticipation\*] [of Sentencing] [and] [THE} JEALOUSY] [OF A FIRE] [THAT IS GOING] [TO EAT] [THOSE WHO ARE] [OPPOSED]. <sup>28</sup>[Anyone] [who disregards] [Moses’] [Law] [dies] [without] [Compassion] [on the basis of] [two] [or] [three] [Witnesses]. <sup>29</sup>[How much] [worse] [a Punishment\*] [do you assume] [the one who]: (1) [has trampled on] [The] [Son] [of The] [Living} God], [and] (2) [has deemed] [The] [Blood] [of The] [Testament] [by] [which] [he was made holy] to be] [common], [and] (3) [has blatantly insulted\*] [The] [Spirit] [of His] [Favor] [will be

deemed worthy]? <sup>30</sup>[For] [we know] [the One Who] [said], “[I HAVE] [AN ACT OF VENGEANCE]; [I] [WILL PAY] {THEM} BACK.” [And] [again], “[His MAJESTY] [WILL JUDGE] [His] [PEOPLE].” <sup>31</sup>[To] [fall] [into] [{the} Hands] [of {the} [living] God] {is} [terrifying].

(Hebrews 10:26–31) —HSSB

The Apostle Paul identifies the timing of God’s “Act of Vengeance” a bit more precisely in the following passage:

<sup>6</sup>[If indeed], {it is} [right] [for] [God] [to pay] [Turmoil] back [to those who] [are constricting] [you] <sup>7</sup>[and] [Relief] [to you] [who] [are being constricted] [along with] [us], [at] [The] [Revelation] [of] [His Majesty], [Jesus], [from] [Heaven] [with] [Messengers] [of] [His] [Supernatural Power] <sup>8</sup>[in] [{the} Fire] [of a Flame], [while granting] [an Act of Vengeance]: (1) [to those who] [do] [not] know [God]; [and] (2) [to those who] [do] [not] attentively listen to [The] [Good News of the Fulfillment of the Promise] [of] [our] [Master], [Jesus], and comply with its demands—<sup>9</sup>[those who] [will pay\*] [a Penalty], [an [eternal] Devastation], [away from] [{the} Presence] [of] [His Majesty], [and] [away from] [The] [Glory] [of] [His] [Might], <sup>10</sup>[when] [He comes] [on] [That] [Day] [to be glorified] [by] [His] [Holy Ones] [and] [be amazed] [by] [all] [who] [have believed God’s promise]—[because] [our] [Testimony] [to] [you] [has been believed]. <sup>11</sup>[For] [which {reason}] [we] [also] [always] pray [for] [you], [that] [The] [Living} God] [would deem] [you] worthy [of The] [Invitation] [we have] [and] [completely fill] {you} with: (1) [every] [Thing] [of Goodness] That Is Delightful to {Him}]; [and] (2) [a Work] [with] [{the} Supernatural Power] [resulting from] {your} Belief in God’s **Promise**, <sup>12</sup>[so that] [The] [Name] [of Jesus], [our] [Master], [would be glorified] [by] [you], [and] [you] [by] [Him], [in accordance with] [The] [Favor] [of] [our] [God] [and] [His Majesty], [Jesus], [The Anointed One].

(2 Thessalonians 1:6–12) —HSSB

If you have any interest in knowing more about the “Act of Vengeance” God has planned for those who reject the Truth regarding Jesus Christ as the Messiah He **promised** He would send, John indicates they are going to end up believing the lie that Satan prepares for them when he is booted out of Heaven and shows up here on Earth:

<sup>7</sup>[Then] [there was] [War] [in] [Heaven]—[Michael] [and] [his] [Messengers] [waging war] [with] [The] [Sea Serpent]. [So] [The] [Sea Serpent] [and] [his] [Messengers] [waged war], <sup>8</sup>[and] [they did not] have the ability {to win}; [neither] [was] [a Place] [still] found] [for them] [in] [Heaven]. <sup>9</sup>[So] [The] [Sea Serpent]—[The] [Great One], [The] [Snake], [The] [Ancient One], [the one that] [is called] “[False Accuser]” [and] “[Satan],” [the one who] [is going to lead] [The] [entire] [Civilized World] astray—[was thrown down]. [He was thrown down] [to] [The] [Earth], [and] [his] [Messengers] [were thrown down] [with] [him]. <sup>10</sup>[Then] [I heard] [a [loud] Voice] [in] [Heaven], [saying]: “[At this time], [The] [Salvation] [and] [Supernatural Power] [and] [Kingdom] [of] [our] [God]—[and] [The] [Authority] [of] [His] [Anointed One]—[have come], [because] [The] [Accuser\*] [of] [our] [Brothers]—[the one who] [makes accusations against] [them] [Day] [and] [Night] [before] [our] [God]—[has been thrown down]. <sup>11</sup>[And] [they] [have triumphed over] [him] [because of] [The] [Blood] [of] [The] [Little Lamb] [and] [because of] [The] [Word] [of] [their] [Testimony], [and] {because} [they did not] love [their] [Soul] [up to the time] [of] [Death]. <sup>12</sup>[For] [This Reason] [The] [Heavens] [and] [you] [who] [are camping out] [in] [them] must celebrate]. [Woe to] [The] [Earth] [and] [The] [Sea] [because] [The] [False Accuser]—[who has] [tremendous] [Rage], [aware] [that] [he has] [just a little] [Time]—[has come down] [to] [you].”  
(Revelation 12:7–12) —HSSB

Satan's anger over being ejected from his natural habitat is not going to bode well for our generation. You can believe that if you care to; disbelieve it if you dare to. It makes no difference to me one way or the other. Eight billion inhabitants of Planet Earth are soon going to go up in the flames of a nuclear holocaust, so one more ignorant individual makes little to no difference in the grand scheme of things. And if you think Satan's anger is what you have to fear, think again; you have another think coming. His puny efforts are going to pale in comparison to the wrath of the Living God. You can believe that if you care to; disbelieve it if you dare to. It makes no difference to me one way or the other. Just wait for it; it's already on its way:

<sup>1</sup>[Then] [I heard] [a [loud] Voice] [out] [of] [The] [Sanctuary], [telling] [The] [seven] [Messengers], “[Go on] [and] [pour out] [The] [seven] [Bowls] [of

**The] [Rage] [of] [The] [{Living} God] [onto] [The] [Earth].”**

<sup>2</sup>[So] [The] [First {Messenger}] [went] [and] [poured out] [his] [Bowl] [onto] [The] [Earth], [and] [it became] [an [awful] [and] [nasty] Sore] [on] [The] [Men] [who] [have] [The] [Mark] [of] [The] [Beast] [and] [those who] [pay homage] [to] [his] [Image].

<sup>3</sup>[Then] [The] [Second {Messenger}] [poured out] [his] [Bowl] [onto] [The] [Sea], [and] [it became {something}] [like] [{the} Blood] [of] [a Dead Man], [and] [every] [Soul] [with Life] [that is] [in] [The] [Sea] [died].

<sup>4</sup>[Then] [The] [Third {Messenger}] [poured out] [his] [Bowl] [onto] [The] [Rivers] [and] [The] [Springs] [of] [Waters], [and] [it became] [Blood]. <sup>5</sup>[Then] [I heard] [The] [Messenger] [of] [The] [Waters] [saying]: “[You—the One Who] [is] [and] [the One Who] [was], [The] [Devout One]—are] [right], [because] [You decided] [These Things]; <sup>6</sup>[because] [they poured out] [{the} Blood] [of] [Holy Ones] [and] [Prophets]; [so] [You have given] [them] [Blood] [to drink]. [They are] [worthy of] [it}].” <sup>7</sup>[Then] [I heard] {the messenger}} [of] [The] [Sacrificial Altar] [saying], “[Yes], [Your Majesty]—[The] [{Living} God], [The] [Almighty]—[Your] [Sentences] {are} [true] [and] [right].”

<sup>8</sup>[Then] [The] [Fourth {Messenger}] [poured out] [his] [Bowl] [onto] [The] [Sun], [and] [he] [was given] {the ability}} [to scorch] [Mankind] [with] [Fire]. <sup>9</sup>[And] [Men] [were scorched] [with an [intense] Scorching Heat]; [and] [they made false religious claims about] [The] [Name] [of] [The] [{Living} God], [Who] [has] [The] [Authority] [over] [These] [Lashes]; [and] [they did not] apologize [to give] [Him] [Glory].

<sup>10</sup>[Then] [The] [Fifth {Messenger}] [poured out] [his] [Bowl] [onto] [The] [Throne] [of] [The] [Beast], [and] [his] [Kingdom] [was] [darkened], [and] [they chewed on\*] [their] [Tongues] [because] [of] [The] [Pain]. <sup>11</sup>[Yet] [they made false religious claims about] [The] [{Living} God] [of] [Heaven] [because] [of] [their] [Pain] [and] [because] [of] [their] [Sores], [and] [they did not] apologize [for] [their] [Works].

<sup>12</sup>[Then] [The] [Sixth {Messenger}] [poured out] [his] [Bowl] [onto] [The] [River]—[the one that is] [tremendous], [The] [Euphrates]—[and] [its] [Water] [dried up], [so that] [The] [Way] [of] [The] [Kings] [who are] [from] [{the} Sun's] [Sunrise] [could be prepared].

<sup>13</sup>[Then] [I saw] [three] [unclean] [Spirits] [like] [Frogs\*] {coming} [out] [of] [The] [Mouth] [of] [The] [Sea Serpent] [and] [out] [of] [The] [Mouth] [of] [The] [Beast] [and] [out]

[of The] [Mouth] [of The] [False Prophet]; <sup>14</sup>[for] [they are] [{the} Spirits] [of Demons] [that are doing] [{the} Signs] [that] [is going to go out] [over] [The] [Kings] [of The] [entire] [Civilized World], [to gather [them] up] [for] [The] [War] [of The] [Day]—[The] [Most Important Day]—[of The] [{Living} God], [The] [Almighty]. <sup>15</sup>“[Guess what!] [I am going to come] [like] [a Thief!] [The one who] [stays awake] [and] [keeps watch over] [his] [Overgarments]—[so that] [he does [not] walk around] [naked] [and] [they see] [his] [Unseemly Behavior]—[is fortunate].” <sup>16</sup>[So] [they gathered] [them] [to] [The] [Place] [that] [is called] “[Mountain of Megiddo\*]” [in Hebrew].

<sup>17</sup>[Then] [The] [Seventh {Messenger}] [poured [his] [Bowl] out] [onto] [The] [Air]; [and] [a [loud] Voice] [came out] [of] [The] [Sanctuary]—[from] [The] [Throne]—[saying], “[It has come]!” <sup>18</sup>[Then] [there were] [Flashes of Lightning] [and] [Voices] [and] [Rolling Thunder]; [and] [a [tremendous] Earthquake] [occurred], [of such a sort as] [had [not] occurred] [ever since] [a Man] [came to be] [on] [The] [Earth]—[so tremendous] [an Earthquake], [so] [tremendous]! <sup>19</sup>[Then] [The] [City]—[The] [Great One]—[came to be] [in] [three] [Parts], [and] [The] [Cities] [of The] [Gentiles] [fell]. [And] [Babylon] [The] [Great] [was recalled] [before] [The] [{Living} God]—[to give] [her] [The] [Cup] [of The] [Wine] [of The] [Rage] [of] [His] [Anger]. <sup>20</sup>[Then] [every] [Island] [fled], [and] [no] [Mountain] [was found], <sup>21</sup>[and] [tremendous] [Hail]—[about] [seventy-five pounds\*]—[came down] [out] [of] [Heaven] [onto] [Men]; [so] [Men] [made false religious claims about] [The] [{Living} God] [because] [of] [The] [Lash] [of The] [Hail], [because] [its] [Lash] [was] [extremely] [tremendous].

(Revelation 16:1–21) —HSSB

**Editor:** A man who requested and has read the booklet “The AntiChrist” has also been on our website and read many of the things available there. He has a concern about our website, however. He wrote us saying the following:

“I am a Christian and have been in a Christian environment all my life. Although I am not a seminary graduate, I am a pastor and have been one for about 18 years now. ... My wife and I have been serving God together all our married life (since 1970), primarily working with at-risk kids. I have had a drive to learn about the Jewish ‘background’ of Christianity since the 70’s and have learned many things from many teachers. ... I didn’t know what ‘dispensationalism’ was, although I had heard the

term. After reading and studying and praying, I wasn’t particularly convinced that the trumpet calling was going to pull the ‘church’ out from the earth before the tribulation began. I have been long convinced that the thousand year period was going to be the seventh millennium of the existence of the earth and that things would be close to the characteristics that God intended and started with in the Garden of Eden. I am not sure whether the curse will be totally lifted, whether we will have very long lives ending in death, or even whether we will wear clothes or not. We will just have to wait and see. God will have it the way He wants because He will ‘rule with a rod of iron.’

I believe the Torah was given to teach us how to successfully live in this world. God made the conditions and knows what is best for us. The law of gravity is His creation just as much as the law of working six days and resting on the seventh. (BTW, I do try to observe the Sabbath as God leads.) I have taught and tried to live under the concept of relationship with God rather than under the concept of religion, although I realize that different people define “religion” in different ways. I define it as man’s attempt to reach out to God, for his (not His) benefit. I believe that Enoch, Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, and Peter and Paul, as well as I, all have the same kind of relationship with God, although characteristics of that relationship differ from one person to another because the knitter (Psalm 139) made each one of us differently. We will eventually spend eternity (outside of time) with “I AM.” I believe that stories in the Scripture—except those deliberately given as “stories” such as the wheat bundles bowing down to Joseph’s bundle in Joseph’s dream—are historically accurate, although they also might be figuratively applicable at God’s discretion. Within this context of where I am and where I have come, I’m not sure I understand the meaning, purpose, and focus of your website. Do you have a condensed version of what you are saying about the rapture, the Antichrist, the millennium, etc? I find myself spending lots of time just trying to figure out what you are saying. I know what an idiom is, and I understand about parabolic teaching and what it means, but I’m not sure what you are trying to say. Could you help me get it in focus, please?”

**Elijah:** I am sure many of your subscribers will have exactly the same reaction that I had when reading that fellow’s “question.” He spends more time explaining what he already believes than stating a question regarding what he has read. He is typical of those who have been completely deluded into believing



Christianity is all about attending church and fellowshiping with folks who are just as equally deluded.

Since his only question appears to be, "Will you give me some putrid pabulum I can understand, so that I can tell you why I disagree with you," I will give the short answer first: No, I won't. But for those who are interested, I am giving a summary of *The Teaching* in the series of articles I am writing for this newsletter. The reason I won't respond to him directly is because I am well aware of what Jesus *meant* when He said this:

<sup>1</sup>"[Do [not] judge {anyone}] [so that] [you are [not] judged]. <sup>2</sup>[For] [by] [whatever] [Judgment] [you judge], [you will be judged]; [and] [in] [whatever] [Measure] [you measure {something} out], [it will be measured out] [for you]. <sup>3</sup>[So then], [why] [are You looking] [at The] [Splinter] [that is] [in] [Your] [Brother's] [Eye], [but] [not] [taking a close look] [at The] [Timber] [in] [Your] [own] [Eye]? <sup>4</sup>[Or] [how] [could You tell] [Your] [Brother], '[Let] [me take [The] [Splinter] out] [of] [Your] [Eye],' [and] [guess what!] [The] [Timber] {is} [in] [Your] [own] [Eye]! <sup>5</sup>[Hypocrite!] [Take [The] [Timber] out] [of] [Your] [own] [Eye] [first], [and] [then] [You will see clearly] [to take [The] [Splinter] out] [of] [Your] [Brother's] [Eye].

<sup>6</sup>[Do [not] give] [what is] [holy] [to The] [Dogs] [or] [throw] [your] [Pearls] [in front] [of The] [Pigs], [lest perhaps] [they might trample on] [them] [with] [their] [Feet] [and]—[after turning around]—[rip [you] apart]. <sup>7</sup>[Request {what is holy}], [and] [it will be given] [to you]; [seek {it}], [and] [you will find {it}]; [knock on {the door to it}], [and] [it will be opened] [for you]. <sup>8</sup>[For] [anyone] [who] [requests {it}] [is going to receive {it}], [and] [the one who] [seeks {it}] [is going to find {it}], [and] [it will be opened] [for the one who] [knocks on {it}]. <sup>9</sup>[Or] [what] [Man] [of] [you] [is there] [who], [should] [his] [Son] request [a Loaf of Bread], [he will] [not] hand [him] [a Stone]? <sup>10</sup>[Or] [should he] [also] request [a Fish], [he will] [not] hand [him] [a Snake]? <sup>11</sup>[Therefore], [if] [you] [who are] [nasty] [know how] [to give] [good] [Presents] [to] [your] [Children], [how much] [more] [will] [your] [Father], [Who is] [in] [The] [Heavens], give [Good Things] [to those who] request {them} of [Him]?" (Matthew 7:1–11) —HSSB

It is not obvious from that passage that Jesus is talking about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that

results from the new birth as "*The only Way*" that anyone will ever be able to understand and accept *The Teaching*, but that is precisely the case. Luke makes that a bit more evident when He says the following about "the parabolic bread" that God gives His Children through their ability to understand the Truth:

<sup>1</sup>[Then] [it happened that], [while] [He] [was] [in] [some] [Place] [praying], [as soon as] [He stopped], [one] [of] [His] [Disciples] [said] [to] [Him], "[Your Majesty], [teach] [us] [to pray] [just as] [John] [also] [taught] [his] [Disciples]." <sup>2</sup>[So then] [He told] [them]: "[When] [you are praying], [say]:

'[Father], [let [Your] [Name] be made holy].  
[Let [Your] [Kingdom] come].

<sup>3</sup>[Give] [us] [our] [Bread] [for the coming day]—  
[each and every] [Day].

<sup>4</sup>[And] [forgive] [us] [our] [Sins],  
[For] [we] [ourselves] [also] forgive  
[anyone] [who owes] [us].

[And] [do] [not] bring [us] in [to] [Testing]."

<sup>5</sup>[Then] [He said] [to] [them]: "[Which one] [of] [you] [would have] [a Friend], [and] [go] [to] [him] [at Midnight] [and] [tell] [him], '[Friend], [give [me] what I need\*]—[three] [Loaves of Bread]—<sup>6</sup>[since] [my] [Friend] [has come] [out] [of] {his} Way] [to] [me], [and] [I have] [nothing] [that] [I can set before] [him]?' <sup>7</sup>[And That Individual] [on the inside] [would say] [in response]: '[Do [not] cause] [Trouble] [for me]! [The] [Door] [has] [already] been locked, [and] [my] [Little Kids] [are] [in] [The] [Bed] [with] [me]. [I can] [not]—[after getting up]—[give [You] {the bread}].' <sup>8</sup>[I tell] [you], [even] [if], [after getting up], [He will] [not] give [him] {the bread} [because of] [{him} being] [His] [Friend], [he will] [indeed], [after rising], give [him] [as much {bread} as] [he needs] [because of] [his] [Audacity\*].

<sup>9</sup>[I also] [tell] [you], [request {the bread}], [and] [it will be given] [to you]; [seek {it}], [and] [you will find {it}]; [knock on {the door to it}], [and] [it will be opened] [for you]. <sup>10</sup>[For] [anyone] [who] [requests {it}] [is going to receive {it}], [and] [the one who] [seeks {it}] [is going to find {it}], [and] [{the door to it} will be opened] [for the one who] [knocks on {it}]. <sup>11</sup>[So then], [which one] [of] [you] {is} [The] [Father] [from {whom}] [his] [Son] requests [a Fish], [and] [instead of] [a Fish] [he hands] [him] [a Snake]?"

<sup>12</sup>[Or] {if} [he [also] requests] [an Egg\*], [he hands] [him] [a Scorpion]? <sup>13</sup>[Therefore], [if] [you] [who are] [nasty] [know how] [to give [good] [Presents] to] [to] [your] [Children], [how much] [more] [will [The] [Father] [Who is] [from] [Heaven] give] [a [holy] Spirit] [to those who] [request {it} of] [Him]?" (Luke 11:1–13) —HSSB

In that account, as well as the one in Matthew 7, Jesus is talking about the insight into the Truth that God grants True Believers through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. That is why He goes on in Matthew 7 to explain why those who have heard the Truth of "The Way" that Moses taught the sons of Israel in the wilderness must beware of anyone who comes along teaching anything that disagrees with it (see *The Way, The Truth, The Life and The Mystery of Scripture, Volume 1*):

<sup>12</sup>"[Therefore], [everything], [as much as] [it may be that] [you want] [Men] [to] [do] [for you], [so] [also] [you] [must do] [for them]. [For] [This] [is] [The] [Law] [and] [The] [Prophets]. <sup>13</sup>[Come in] [through] [The] [narrow] [Gate], [because] [The] [Gate] [that] [leads {them} away] [to] [Eternal Damnation] {is} [a Thoroughfare], [and] [The] [Way] {is} [spacious\*], [and] [those who] [come in] [through] [it] [are] [many]. <sup>14</sup>[How] [narrow] {is} [The] [Gate] [and] [constricted] [The] [Way] [that] [leads {them} away] [into] [His] [Life]? [And] [those who] [find] [it] [are] [just a few]. <sup>15</sup>[Beware] [of] [The] [False Prophets], [who] [come] [to] [you] [in] [Sheep's] [Clothing], [but] [are] [avaricious] [Wolves] [on the inside]. <sup>16</sup>[You can recognize] [them] [by] [their] [Fruits]. [They do] [not by any means] cull] [Bunches of Grapes] [from] [Thorns] [or] [Figs] [from] [Thistles! <sup>17</sup>[So also], [every] [good] [Tree] [produces] [exceptionally good] [Fruit], [but] [The] [rotten] [Tree] [produces] [nasty] [Fruit]. <sup>18</sup>[A [good] Tree] [can] [not] [produce] [nasty] [Fruit]; [neither] [does] [a [rotten] Tree] [produce] [exceptionally good] [Fruit]. <sup>19</sup>[Every] [Tree] [that is] [not] [producing] [exceptionally good] [Fruit] [is going to be cut off] [and] [thrown] [into] [a Fire]. <sup>20</sup>[So then] [you can], [indeed], recognize] [them] [by] [their] [Fruits].

<sup>21</sup>[Not] [everyone] [who] [says], '[Your Majesty]! [Your Majesty]!' [to Me] [will come in] [to] [The] [Kingdom] [of The] [Heavens], [but only] [the one who] [acts in accordance with] [The] [Will] [of] [My] [Father], [Who is] [in] [The] [Heavens]. <sup>22</sup>[Many] [will say] [to Me] [on] [That] [Day], '[Your Majesty]! [Your Majesty]! [Did

we [not] prophesy] [in] [Your] [Name] [and] [cast out] [Demons] [in] [Your] [Name] [and] [do] [a lot of] [Supernaturally Powerful Things] [in] [Your] [Name]?' <sup>23</sup>[And] [then] [I will acknowledge the truth about] [them], [that] 'I [never] knew] [you]. [YOU [WHO] [ARE COMMITTING] [THE] [LAWLESS DEED], DEPART] [FROM] [ME]. <sup>24</sup>[Therefore], [anyone] [who] [hears] [These], [My] [Words] [and] [acts in accordance with] [them] [will be like] [a [sensible] Man] [who] [built] [his] [House] [on] [The] [Rock]. <sup>25</sup>[And] [The] [Rain] [came down], [and] [The] [Rivers] [came up], [and] [The] [Winds] [blew], [and] [they prostrated themselves] [in] [That] [House]. [And] [it did] [not] fall], [for] [it had been founded] [on] [The] [Rock]. <sup>26</sup>[And] [anyone] [who] [hears] [These], [My] [Words] [and] [does] [not] act in accordance with] [them], [will be like] [a [stupid] Man] [who] [built] [his] [House] [on] [The] [Sand]. <sup>27</sup>[And] [The] [Rain] [came down], [and] [The] [Rivers] [came up], [and] [The] [Winds] [blew], [and] [they stumbled] [in] [That] [House]. [And] [it fell], [and] [its] [Fall] [was] [tremendous]."

(Matthew 7:12–27) —HSSB

The Truth is, Jesus Christ is *The Way*, the Truth, and the Life. That is, He is the complete embodiment of the totality of *The Apostolic Teaching*, which is everything God ever revealed to us. That being the case, anyone who honestly desires to be saved will spend whatever time it takes to understand that Truth. Those who don't, won't. That is the sad fact of the matter. This is "The Way" the Book of Proverbs describes any individual who asks for a summary of the intricately detailed Truth of *The Teaching* rather than spending the time necessary to understand it for himself:

{The} Lazy Person] [hid] [his Hand] [in {the} Dish]; [He will] [not] [even] bring it back] [to] [his Mouth]. (Proverbs 19:24) —my interim translation

The Truth regarding those in our day who refuse to humble themselves and admit they know next to nothing at all is exactly as Jesus stated it in the following passage. And I am sure His ridicule of them today is far greater than it was of the dimwitted dullards He ridiculed in His Own day:

<sup>20</sup>[At that time], [He began] [to ridicule] [The] [Cities] [in] [which] [most] [of] [His] [Supernaturally Powerful Things] [occurred], [because] [they did] [not]

*apologize*. <sup>21</sup>“[Woe] [to You], [Chorazin]! [Woe] [to You], [Bethsaida]! [Because] [if] [The] [Supernaturally Powerful Things] [that] [occurred] [in] [you] [had occurred] [in] [Tyre] [and] [Sidon], [they] [would] have [long since] apologized [in] [Sackcloth] [and] [Ashes]. <sup>22</sup>[Yet] [I tell] [you], [it will be] [more endurable] [for Tyre] [and] [Sidon] [at] [the] Day [of Sentencing] [than] [for you]. <sup>23</sup>[And] [You], [Capernaum], [will] [not] be elevated [up to] [Heaven]; [You will go down], [down to] [The] [Abode of the Dead], [because] [if] [The] [Supernaturally Powerful Things] [that] [occurred] [in] [You] [had occurred] [in] [Sodom], [it] [would] have continued on [until] [Today]. <sup>24</sup>[Yet] [I tell] [you] [that] [it will be] [more endurable] [for the] Land [of Sodom] [than] [for You] [on] [the] Day [of Sentencing].” <sup>25</sup>[At] [That] [Time], [in response], [Jesus] [said]: “I am admitting the truth concerning [You], [Father], [Owner] [of] [Heaven] [and] [Earth], [because] [You hid] [These Things] [from] [Those Who Are Wise] [and] [Those Who Are Intelligent]; [and] [You revealed] [them] [to Toddlers]. <sup>26</sup>[Yes], [Father], [because] [What Is Delightful] [before] [You] [has occurred] [this way]. <sup>27</sup>[Everything] [has been handed over] [to Me] [by] [My] [Father], [and] [nobody] [recognizes] [The] [Son] [except] [The] [Father]. [Neither] [does anyone] recognize [The] [Father] [except] [The] [Son]—[and] [the one to whom] [it may be that] [The] [Son] [decides] [to reveal {Him}].”

(Matthew 11:20–27) —HSSB

The fellow who asked you for a “condensed version” of the things I teach has obviously never been born again. He reveals that when he says, “I am a Christian and have been in a Christian environment all my life” and then says, “I believe the Torah was given to teach us how to successfully live in this world.” Good luck making it into the next life on the basis of that lie. The Truth is, the *Torah* gives us a historical account of how *the promise* came down to the sons of Israel; and Christianity is not a religion, it is an intimate relationship with the Living Word of God Who is revealed in the *Torah*. Christianity is, in fact, exactly what the Prophet Jeremiah described more than 2500 years ago, and the author of the Book of Hebrews knew full well:

<sup>7</sup>[For] [if] [That] [First {Testament}] [had been] [faultless], [a Place] [would] [not] [have been sought] [for a Second {Testament}]. <sup>8</sup>[For] [finding fault with] [them], [He says]:

“[GUESS WHAT!] [DAYS] [ARE GOING TO COME],”  
[SAYS] [HIS MAJESTY],  
“[WHEN] [I WILL COMPLETE] [A [NEW] TESTAMENT]  
[WITH] [THE] [HOUSE] [OF ISRAEL]  
[AND] [FOR] [THE] [HOUSE] [OF JUDAH];  
<sup>9</sup>[NOT] [IN ACCORDANCE WITH] [THE] [TESTAMENT] [THAT]  
[I MADE] [FOR] [THEIR] [FATHERS]  
[ON] [the] Day [THAT] [I] TOOK HOLD [OF]  
[THEIR] [HAND]  
[TO LEAD] [THEM] OUT [OF] [the] LAND [OF EGYPT];  
[BECAUSE] [THEY] [DID] [NOT] CONTINUE ON  
[IN] [MY] [TESTAMENT],  
[I ALSO] [NEGLECTED] [THEM],” [SAYS] [HIS MAJESTY].  
<sup>10</sup>“[BECAUSE] [THIS] {IS} [THE] [TESTAMENT] [THAT]  
[I WILL MAKE AS A BEQUEST] [TO THE] [HOUSE]  
[OF ISRAEL] BY A TESTAMENT]  
[AFTER] [THOSE] [DAYS],” [SAYS] [HIS MAJESTY]:  
“[WHILE PUTTING] [MY] [LAWS]  
[INTO] [THEIR] [UNDERSTANDING],  
[I WILL] [ALSO] INSCRIBE [THEM] [ON] [THEIR] [HEARTS].  
[AND] [I WILL BECOME] [THEIR] [GOD],  
[AND] [THEY] [WILL BECOME] [MY] [PEOPLE].  
<sup>11</sup>[AND] [EACH ONE] [WILL] [DEFINITELY NOT] TEACH  
[HIS] [FELLOW CITIZEN];  
[AND] [EACH ONE], [HIS] [BROTHER], [SAYING],  
‘[KNOW] [HIS MAJESTY],’  
[BECAUSE] [ALL] [OF THEM], [FROM] [SMALLEST]  
[UP TO] [LARGEST], [WILL KNOW] [ME].  
<sup>12</sup>[BECAUSE] [I WILL BE] [GRACIOUS]  
[ABOUT] [THEIR] [IMMORALITY],  
[AND] [I WILL] [DEFINITELY] [STILL] NOT] RECALL  
[THEIR] [SINS].”

(Hebrews 8:7–12) —HSSB

The net effect of the divine bequest described in that passage is the ability to understand the Truth when he hears (or reads) it. That is, it is the witness of the Holy Spirit within providing testimony that what is heard (or read) is true, just as John said:

<sup>1</sup>[Anyone] [who] [believes] [that] [Jesus] [is] [The] [Anointed One] [has been engendered] [as part] [of The] [Living} God], [and] [anyone] [who] [loves] [the One Who] [engendered {Him}] [also] [loves] [the one who] [has been engendered] [as part] [of Him]. <sup>2</sup>[By] [This] [we know] [that] [we love] [The] [Children] [of The] [Living} God]: [when] [we love] [The] [Living} God] [and] [act in accordance with] [His] [Commandments]. <sup>3</sup>[For] [This]



[is] [The] [Love] [of The] [{Living} God]: [that] [we keep watch over] [His] [Commandments]; [and] [His] [Commandments] [are] [not] [oppressive], <sup>4</sup>[because] [any-thing] [that] [has been engendered] [by] [The] [{Living} God] [is going to triumph over] [The] [World].

[And] [This] [is] [The] [Triumph\*] [that] [has triumphed over] [The] [World]: [Our] [Belief in God's Promise]. <sup>5</sup>[So then] [Who] [is] [the one who] [is going to triumph over] [The] [World]? [Only] [the one who] [believes] [that] [Jesus] [is] [The] [Son] [of The] [{Living} God]. <sup>6</sup>[This] [is] [the One Who] [came] [via] [Water] [and] [Blood], [Jesus], [The Anointed One]; [not] [only] [through] [The] [Water], [but] [through] [The] [Water] [and] [through] [The] [Blood]. [And] [The] [Spirit] [is] [the One Who] [provides testimony], [because] [The] [Spirit] [is] [The] [Truth]. <sup>7</sup>[Because] [there are] [Three] [that] [provide testimony]: <sup>8</sup>[The] [Spirit] [and] [The] [Water] [and] [The] [Blood], [and] [The] [Three] [are] [in] [The] [One].

<sup>9</sup>[If] [we accept] [The] [Testimony] [of] [Men], [The] [Testimony] [of The] [{Living} God] [is] [more important], [because] [This] [is] [The] [Testimony] [of The] [{Living} God]: [That] [He has provided testimony] [about] [His] [Son]. <sup>10</sup>[The one who] [believes God's promise] [about] [The] [Son] [of The] [{Living} God] [has] [The] [Testimony] [in] [himself]; [the one who] [does] [not] believe [The] [{Living} God] [has made] [Him] out to be] [a Liar], [because] [He has] [not] believed God's promise [in] [The] [Testimony] [that] [The] [{Living} God] [has provided] [with regard to] [His] [Son]. <sup>11</sup>[And] [This] [is] [The] [Testimony]: [that] [The] [{Living} God] [has given] [us] [eternal] [Life], [and] [This] [Life] [is] [in] [His] [Son]. <sup>12</sup>[The one who] [has] [The] [Son] [has] [His] [Life]; [the one who] [does] [not] have [The] [Son] [of The] [{Living} God] [does] [not] have [His] [Life].

(1 John 5:1–12) —HSSB

My point is, God merely provides the mechanism whereby we *may* be saved; He does not force us to take advantage of it. If a born-again Believer does not allow the testimony of the Holy Spirit within him to override his fixated belief in Satan's lies, he will not be saved; and I have absolved myself of all responsibility with regard to him by repeatedly warning him and everyone else who rejects the testimony of the Holy Spirit: Salvation is by faith (belief) alone; but that is not faith (belief) in the sense of *that you believe*, it is faith (belief)

in the sense of *what you believe*. So go ahead, be my guest: Hold tenaciously to a lie that requires you to deny the Truth that God called me to teach, see if you don't end up in Hell for all eternity.

**Editor:** *In the Free Offer booklet, The Old Testament Gospel of Jesus Christ, a CD was at one time included. A woman wants to know if the other booklets that you offer are available with a CD also. She is particularly interested in 7 Simple Steps to Salvation. Do you now offer that booklet with a CD, or if not, do you have plans to do so? She looks forward to hearing from you concerning this.*

**Elijah:** We have audio recordings of all Free Offer booklets, but due to an oversight on my part, they have never been made available on CD. That is now being corrected; and the CDs should soon be available in *The Voice of Elijah*® Online Catalogue, if they are not already. We are also working to make digital downloads available in the HSSB App and on YouTube. They should be available there before long, first in the HSSB App and then on YouTube. YouTube will take some time, as it will take a while to create the videos.

**Editor:** *We have received a question from a Monthly Contributor concerning the October 1995 newsletter issue in which you wrote:*

*"I realize Pretenders make no such fine distinction between repentance and confession of sin. I don't intend to explain the distinction I have made here."*

*This person has asked if you have already explained the distinction or, if not, will you do so now?*

**Elijah:** Before I explain where the distinction I mentioned can be found in the Scriptures, let me show you the context in which I made the statement to which your reader is referring. I was *talking about* the difference between a born-again Believer *acknowledging* his sin by *confessing* it to the Lord, and an unbeliever *admitting* he is a sinner by *apologizing* and *submitting* to the Lord. The former is nothing more than a *confession* that one has sinned, either inadvertently or because of the weakness of the flesh; the latter is a total surrender of the will that results in the new birth. Here is what I wrote:

Now the third thing you are going to have to do before you can regain the “joy of the Lord” is this: Go back over your life to the time when you met the Lord and mentally relive all the experiences that are the most vivid to you. As you do that, evaluate your actions in connection with all those events. Did you do what you knew to be pleasing to the Lord? If you didn’t, you must realize God has been disciplining you for your sin. He has been trying to convince you that what you did was wrong. If you have been ignoring His conviction, your life is undoubtedly in turmoil. So, if you want back the peace that only God can give, you must begin to confess where, when, and how you have sinned. Some of you may even have to go back and mend a few fences by apologizing to others. I’ll let you determine where that is. I don’t have to tell you what is right and wrong for you. You already know that, provided you are willing to be completely honest with yourself and with God. If, in any instance, you did not do what you believed to be the right thing for you to do, you sinned. Admit it. Honest confession is all that God requires of His Kids.

After you have made a first pass over the things you have done since beginning your walk with the Lord, go back over your life a second, third, and fourth time, looking for things you missed the times before. While you’re doing that, start looking at your current circumstances. Are you in a situation that is distressing to you? Take a closer look. How did you get there? If the peace of God is no longer a part of your life, there has to be a clearly identifiable reason. What decision or decisions did you make that you shouldn’t have made? Above all, be honest. Don’t rationalize just because you don’t want to face up to the cold, hard facts you are going to have to accept to get back to the Lord.

I have been called to teach you the things hidden in the Scriptures that you need to know to be able to “walk” right smack dab in the center of God’s perfect will for your life. But you are going to have to get back there on your own. I don’t expect “The Way” back to be easy for you. Satan deceived you in a variety of ways, using various people, to get you into the predicament you are in today. He intentionally tried to make your circumstances difficult for you to escape. So he is definitely going to try to keep you there and, failing that, he will continue to try to deceive you as you make your way back to God. That’s why distinguishing between Pretenders and True Believers is so important. You must recognize the liars around you for what they are and beware of listening to what they insist you must believe.

Pretenders are going to tell you some nonsense or the other related to the fact that all you need to do to get back in right standing with the Lord is repent. Don’t believe them. Repentance has to do with the state of unbelief you were in before you met the Lord. If you have been born again, you have already repented and believed the Gospel. The thing you must do as a Believer is confess the fact that you know where you have sinned against God and accept His forgiveness. That is all that God requires. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ has already done the rest.

I realize Pretenders make no such fine distinction between repentance and confession of sin. I don’t intend to explain the distinction I have made here. I am merely telling you that your situation is not something the repentance of an unbeliever will solve. God wants you to see the Truth concerning how Satan has deceived you. That can only be accomplished if you are willing to see it for yourself. Therefore, I can tell you “The Way” back to the “joy of the Lord” is probably going to be long and treacherous, not short and sweet. Nonetheless, if you want it, the joy of the Lord can be yours once again. If you don’t believe that, it’s only because you don’t understand I am telling you what I know for a fact from personal experience.

(“I’s Just Wonderin’, Is Anybody Headin’ That Way Yet?” **The Voice of Elijah**®, October 1995, p. 9)

If you believe that you, as a born-again Believer, need to go back to the beginning of your relationship to the Lord and start over, it is only because you have not yet understood what the writer of the Book of Hebrews explains in the following passage:

<sup>1</sup>[Wherefore], [after leaving] [The] [Word] [regarding The] [Rule] [of The] [Anointed One], [we should be brought] [on to] [Perfect Unity], [not] [again] [putting down] [a Foundation]: (1) [of an Apology] [because] [of [dead] Works], [and] (2) [on the basis of Belief in God’s **Promise**] [regarding] [God], <sup>2</sup>(3) [of a Doctrinal Teaching] [regarding: (a) Baptizings], [and then] (b) [Laying On] [of Hands], [and then] (c) [Resurrection] [of Those Who Are Dead], [and] (d) [eternal] [Judgment]. <sup>3</sup>[And] [we will do] [this] [only if] [The] [Living} God] [permits]. <sup>4</sup>[For] [it is} [impossible for] [those who]: (1) [have been provided light] [one time], (2) [have [both] tasted] [The] [Bequest] [of the One Who is] [in Heaven], [and] (3) [have become] [Partners] [with a [holy] Spirit], <sup>5</sup>[and] (4) [have tasted] [an [exceptionally good] Statement Made] [by God] [and then] [the} Supernatural Powers] [of {the} Age] [that is going

to come], <sup>6</sup>[and] (5) [have fallen aside\*], [to restore\* {them}] [again] [to] [an Apology]—[those who are crucifying [The] [Son] [of The] [{Living} God] again\*] [for themselves] [and] [disgracing {Him} publicly\*]! <sup>7</sup>[For] [{the} Ground] [that] [has drunk] [The] [Rainstorm] [that [often] comes] [upon] [it] [and] [gives birth to] [Vegetation\*] [fit] [for Those Individuals] [for] [whom] [it is [also] being cultivated\*] **[receives]** [a **Blessing**] [from] [The] [{Living} God]. <sup>8</sup>[But] [{the ground} that brings out] [Thorns] [and] [Thistles] {is} [rejected] [and] [near] [to a Curse], [whose] [Consummation] {will be} [in] [Incineration\*].  
(Hebrews 6:1–8) —HSSB

The point of that passage is this: If a person has repented, been born-again, gained an in-depth knowledge of the Truth of *The Teaching*, and then turned back to seek the things of this world, that person will never be forgiven. That is not because the Lord refuses to accept his apology, *it is because he has no desire to come back*. He has denied the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ, the One Who is the totality of the Truth he once knew and then rejected. That is what Jesus was *talking about* when He said this:

<sup>22</sup>[At that time], [a Blind [and] [deaf-mute] Man] [who was demon-possessed] [was brought and presented] [to Him]; [so] [He cured] [him], [with the result that] [The] [Deaf-mute Man] [could speak] [and] [see]. <sup>23</sup>[And] [all] [The] [Crowds] [were beside themselves] [and] [were saying], “[This Individual] [is [not by any means] [The] [Son] [of David], is He]?” <sup>24</sup>[But] [when [The] [Pharisees] heard {what they were saying}], [they said], “[This Individual] [does [not] cast out] [The] [Demons] [except] [by] [Beelzebul], [The] [Ruler] [of The] [Demons].”

<sup>25</sup>[So then], [aware of] [their] [Contemplations], [He told] [them]: “[Any] [Kingdom] [that has been divided] [against] [itself] [is going to be deserted], [and] [any] [City] [or] [House] [that has been divided] [against] [itself] [will [not] stand]. <sup>26</sup>[So] [if] [Satan] [is casting out] [Satan], [he has been divided] [against] [himself]; [therefore], [how] [can] [his] [Kingdom] stand? <sup>27</sup>[So], [if] [I] [am casting out] [The] [Demons] [by] [Beelzebul], [by] [whom] [are] [your] [Sons] casting {them} out? [For] [This Reason] [they] [will be] [your] [Judges]. <sup>28</sup>[But] [if] [I] [am casting out] [The] [Demons] [by] [God’s] [Spirit], [then] [The] [Kingdom] [of The] [{Living} God] [has] [over] taken] [you]. <sup>29</sup>[Or] [how] [can] [anyone] [come in]

[to] [The] [House] [of the one who is] [mighty] [and] [snatch up] [his] [Containers] [if] [he does [not] bind] [the one who is] [mighty] [first]? [And] [then] [he can carry off] [his] [House] as plunder]. <sup>30</sup>[The one who] [is] [not] [with] [Me] [is] [against] [Me], [and] [the one who] [is] [not] gathering] [with] [Me] [is dispersing].

<sup>31</sup>[For] [This Reason] [I tell] [you], [every] [Sin] [and] [False Religious Claim] [will be forgiven] [Men], [but] [The] [False Religious Claim] [about The] [Spirit] [will [not] be forgiven]. <sup>32</sup>[And] [whoever] [it may be who] [has spoken] [a Word] [against] [The] [Son] [of The] [Man], [it will be forgiven] [him]; [but] [whoever] [it might be who] [has spoken] [against] [The] [Spirit] [that is] [holy], [it will [not] be forgiven] [him], [neither] [in] [This] [Current Age] [nor] [in] [the one that] [is going to come]. <sup>33</sup>[Either] [make] [The] [Tree] [exceptionally good] [and] [its] [Fruit] [exceptionally good], [or] [make] [The] [Tree] [rotten] [and] [its] [Fruit] [rotten], [for] [The] [Tree] [is known] [by] [its] [Fruit]. <sup>34</sup>[{You} Descendants] [of Vipers], [how] [can you] [who are] [nasty] [speak] [Good Things]? [For] [The] [Mouth] [speaks] [out] [of The] [Excess] [of The] [Heart]. <sup>35</sup>[The] [good] [Man] [takes] [Good Things] out] [of] [his] [good] [Treasure], [and] [The] [nasty] [Man] [takes] [Nasty Things] out] [of] [his] [nasty] [Treasure]. <sup>36</sup>[But] [I tell] [you] [that], [on] [{the} Day] [of Sentencing], [Men] [will pay for] [every] [idle] [Statement] [that] [they make] [about] [His] [Word]. <sup>37</sup>[For] [You will be acquitted] [on the basis] [of] [Your] [Words], [and] [You will be declared guilty] [on the basis] [of] [Your] [Words].”  
(Matthew 12:22–37) —HSSB

The Apostle Peter also mentions those who have been born-again, yet go on to reject the Truth of *The Teaching* after they have had an opportunity to hear and understand it. He says it would be better that they had never known it in the first place:

<sup>1</sup>[But] [there were] [also] [False Prophets] [among] [The] [People], [as] [also] [there will be] [False Teachers\*] [among] [you], [who] [will surreptitiously introduce\*] [Sects] [of Eternal Damnation] [and] [deny] [The] [Slave Owner] [Who bought] [them], [bringing upon] [themselves] [an [imminent] Eternal Damnation]. <sup>2</sup>[And] [Many] [will take off after {them}] [in] [their] [Licentiousness], [because of] [whom] [The] [Way] [of The] [Truth] [will have false religious claims made about



it]; <sup>3</sup>[and] [in] [Selfishness] [they will trade on] [you] [with fabricated\*] [Words], [for whom] [The] [Judgment] [from long ago] [is [not] idle\*], [and] [their] [Eternal Damnation] [is [not] nodding off].

<sup>4</sup>[For] [if] [The] [{Living} God]: (1) [did [not] spare] [Messengers] [who sinned], [but] [after imprisoning {them} in Tartarus\*] [with Cords\*] [of Nether Gloom], [He handed [those who are being kept] over] [for] [Sentencing]; <sup>5</sup>[and] (2) [He did [not] spare] [The [ancient] World] [but] [kept] [an Eighth], [Noah], [a Preacher] [of a Declaration of Not Guilty], [after bringing [a Flood] upon] [The World] [of {the} depraved]; <sup>6</sup>[and] (3) [He condemned] [{the} Cities] [of Sodom] [and] [Gomorrah] [when {he} burned {them} to ashes\*] [in an Overthrowing] [that was put down as] [a Perfect Example] [of those who are going to be] [depraved]; <sup>7</sup>[and] (4) [He delivered] [blameless] [Lot], [who was being harassed] [by] [The] [Behavior] [of those who were] [morally corrupted] [by] [Licentiousness]—<sup>8</sup>[for] [The] [One Who Was Blameless], [by Seeing\*] [and] [Hearing {them}] [while dwelling\*] [among] [them] [Day] [after] [Day], [was tormenting] [{his} blameless] Soul [by {their} lawless] Works—<sup>9</sup>[His Majesty] [knows how] [to deliver] [a godly {person}] [from] [Testing], [yet] [keep watch over] [Those Who Are Guilty]—[those who are being detained] [for] [{the} Day] [of Sentencing]; <sup>10</sup>[but] [in particular] {He knows how to keep watch over} [those who] [go] [after] [Flesh] [with] [a Selfish Desire] [for Defiling {themselves}\*], [and] [those who despise] [Lordship]. [As pig-headed] [Risk Takers\*], [they do [not] tremble] [when making false religious claims about] [{His} Glory], <sup>11</sup>[where] [Messengers], [who are] [more tremendous] [in Might] [and] [Supernatural Power], [do [not] bring] [a [False Religious Claims] Sentence] [against] [them] [before] [His Majesty].

<sup>12</sup>[But] [These Individuals] {are} [like] [irrational] [natural] [Living Creatures] [that have been engendered] [for] [Capture\*] [and] [a Perishable Body]; [about] [which {things}] [those who are making false religious claims] [do not understand]. [They will [also] be beguiled] [by] [their] [own] [Perishable Body]: <sup>13</sup>(1) [those who are going to be harmed] [as a Wage] [for Immorality]; (2) [those who deem] [Pleasure] [during] [{the} Daytime] [as their] [Luxury]; (3) [those who are] [Stains] [and] [Blemishes\*] [living luxuriously\*] [in] [their] [Deceit], [while feasting together with] [you]; <sup>14</sup>(4) [those who have] [restless\*] [Eyes] [full] [of an Adulteress] [and] [Sin]; (5) [those who are enticing] [unsettled] [Souls]; (6) [those who, having]

[a Heart] [that has been trained] [in Selfishness], {are} [Children] [of a Curse]; <sup>15</sup>(7) [those who [straightaway] leave {the} Way] behind]. [They have been led astray] [after taking off after {them}] [in The] [Way] [of Balaam], [the {son}] [of] [Beor\*], [who] [loved] [a Wage] [of Immorality]; <sup>16</sup>[but] [he had] [a Public Rebuke\*] [for his own] [Illegality\*]. [A Pack Animal] [without a voice] [that spoke something openly] [in] [a [Man's] Voice], [prevented] [The] [Insanity\*] [of The] [Prophet].

<sup>17</sup>[These Individuals] {are} [Springs] [without water] [and] [Mists\*] [that are being propelled] [by] [a Gale Force Wind], [for whom] [The] [Nether Gloom] [of The] [Nether Darkness] [has been kept]. <sup>18</sup>[For] [those who openly speak] [Pompous Things] [about Futility] [are—] [through] [{the} Selfish Desires] [of {the} Flesh] [for Licentiousness]—enticing [those who] [briefly\*] [escape from] [those who] [conduct themselves] [within] [a Deception], <sup>19</sup>[those who are promising] [them] [Freedom] [while being] [Slaves] [of their] [Perishable Body] [themselves]; [for] [by whatever] [someone] [is overcome], [to [This] he has been made a slave]. <sup>20</sup>[For] [if] [those who have escaped from] [The] [Defilements\*] [of The] [World] [by] [Full Knowledge of the Truth] [regarding] [our] [Master] [and] [Savior], [Jesus], [The Anointed One], [are [then] overcome] [by being entangled] [again] [in These Things], [for them] [The] [Last] [has become] [worse than] [The] [First]. <sup>21</sup>[For] [it was] [better] [for them] [not] [to have realized that] [The] [Way] [of The] [Declaration of Not Guilty] is], [rather than], [after realizing {it} is true], [to turn back] [from] [The] [holy] [Commandment] [that was handed over] [to them]: <sup>22</sup>[The {reality}] [of The] [true] [Proverb] [has happened] [to them]:

“[A DOG] [THAT HAS RETURNED] [TO] [HIS] [OWN] [VOMIT\*],”

[and]

“[A Sow\*], [after bathing], [to] [a Wallow\*] [of Slime\*].”  
(2 Peter 2:1–22) —HSSB

Those fools who have been deluded by the pernicious lie that salvation is a “once saved, always saved” experience will never understand what Peter has explained in that passage. That is because they have at some point *chosen* to believe a lie that prevents them from “seeing” the Truth. The Church is filled with false teachers, men and women who will not hesitate to say

whatever sounds good to them. So just as Peter stated, every born-again Believer should more than ever before be leery of believing the things taught by those who claim to have been “called of God.” The same approach applies to me as well; you should be checking out the things I have explained over the past three decades to make sure they not only make sense to you but also agree with what you find stated in the Scriptures. Unfortunately, most people will not do that; they will instead check to make sure the things I teach agree with the lies they have already chosen to believe.

In many cases, those who read the things I have written will run off to their pastor to see what he thinks about them. Does that make any sense at all? They don’t want to be responsible for what they believe, so they ask their pastor! Really? They are placing their eternal destiny in the hands of someone who may well be just another false teacher! But I digress. Jesus also talked about those who have been freed from the lies that Satan has disseminated, only to let them come back in later:

<sup>31</sup>“[For] [This Reason] [I tell] [you], [every] [Sin] [and] [False Religious Claim] [will be forgiven] [Men], [but] [The] [False Religious Claim] [about The] [Spirit] [will [not] be forgiven]. <sup>32</sup>[And] [whoever] [it may be who] [has spoken] [a Word] [against] [The] [Son] [of The] [Man], [it will be forgiven] [him]; [but] [whoever] [it might be who] [has spoken] [against] [The] [Spirit] [that is] [holy], [it will [not] be forgiven] [him], [neither] [in] [This] [Current Age] [nor] [in] [the one that] [is going to come]. <sup>33</sup>[Either] [make] [The] [Tree] [exceptionally good] [and] [its] [Fruit] [exceptionally good], [or] [make] [The] [Tree] [rotten] [and] [its] [Fruit] [rotten], [for] [The] [Tree] [is known] [by] [its] [Fruit]. <sup>34</sup>[{You} Descendants] [of Vipers], [how] [can you] [who are] [nasty] [speak] [Good Things]? [For] [The] [Mouth] [speaks] [out] [of The] [Excess] [of The] [Heart]. <sup>35</sup>[The] [good] [Man] [takes] [Good Things] [out] [of] [his] [good] [Treasure], [and] [The] [nasty] [Man] [takes] [Nasty Things] [out] [of] [his] [nasty] [Treasure]. <sup>36</sup>[But] [I tell] [you] [that], [on] [{the} Day] [of Sentencing], [Men] [will pay for] [every] [idle] [Statement] [that] [they make] [about] [His] [Word]. <sup>37</sup>[For] [You will be acquitted] [on the basis] [of] [Your] [Words], [and] [You will be declared guilty] [on the basis] [of] [Your] [Words].”

<sup>38</sup>[At that time], [some] [of The] [Scribes] [and] [Pharisees] [responded] [to Him], [saying], “[Teacher], [we

want] [to see] [a Sign] [from] [You].” <sup>39</sup>[But] [in response], [He] [told] [them]: “[A nasty] [and] [adulterous] Generation] [diligently seeks] [a Sign], [and] [no] [Sign] [will be given] [to her] [except] [The] [Sign] [of Jonah] [The] [Prophet]. <sup>40</sup>[For] [indeed, just as] [JONAH] [WAS] [IN] [THE] [BELLY] [OF THE] [SEA MONSTER\*] [THREE] [DAYS] [AND] [THREE] [NIGHTS], [so also] [The] [Son] [of The] [Man] [will be] [in] [The] [Heart] [of The] [Earth] [three] [Days] [and] [three] [Nights]. <sup>41</sup>[Ninevite] [Men] [will rise up] [with] [This] [Generation] [at] [The] [Sentencing] [and] [condemn] [it], [because] [they apologized] [at] [The] [Preaching] [of Jonah], [and] [guess what!] [Something Greater Than] [Jonah] {is} [here]. <sup>42</sup>[{The} Queen] [of The South] [will arise] [with] [This] [Generation] [at] [The] [Sentencing] [and] [condemn] [it], [because] [she came] [from] [The] [Ends] [of The] [Earth] [to hear] [The] [Wisdom] [of Solomon], [and] [guess what!] [Something Greater Than] [Solomon] {is} [here].

<sup>43</sup>[But] [when] [The] [unclean] [Spirit] [has come out] [of] [The] [Man], [it passes] [through] [Places] [without water], [seeking] [Refreshment]; [and] [it does [not] find {any}]. <sup>44</sup>[Then] [it says], “[I will return] [to] [my] [House] [from which] [I came out].” [And] [after coming back], [it finds] [one who has leisure time], [one who has been swept clean] [and] [put together]. <sup>45</sup>[Then] [it goes] [and] [takes] [seven] [other] [Spirits] [nastier than] [itself] [with] [it]. [And] [after coming in], [it dwells in] [there]; [and] [The] [Last Days] [of] [That] [Man] [becomes] [worse than] [The] [First]. [It will [also] be] [like this] [for] [This] [Generation], [which is] [nasty].” (Matthew 12:31–45) —HSSB

In that passage, Jesus is talking about those who have heard and believed the Truth of *The Teaching* and then turned back and denied it. But I need to show you the difference that exists between those who sin because of weakness and those who commit the unpardonable sin by deliberately rejecting “*The Light*” of the Truth because they want to go back to living in “*The Darkness*” of their former way of life. I can do that easily by showing you what the Apostle John says about those who sin but have no intention of turning their back on the Truth:

<sup>1</sup>(1) [What] [was] [from] [The Beginning], (2) [what] [we have heard], (3) [what] [we have seen] [with] [our] [Eyes], (4) [what] [we got a good look] [at] [and] [our]

[Hands] [felt], [with regard to] [The] [Word] [of] [Life]:  
<sup>2</sup>[So] (a) [His] [Life] [became visible]; [and] (b) [we have seen {it}]; [and] (c) [we are providing testimony about {it}]; [and] (d) [we are reporting [to you] {what we know} about] [The] [Life] [that is] [eternal], [the {life} that] [was] [with] [The] [Father] [and] [was made visible] [to us].  
<sup>3</sup>[So] [we are reporting] [to you] [what] [we have seen] [and] [heard], [so that] [you] [may] [also] [have] [Commonality] [with] [us]. [But then] [even] [The] [Commonality] [that is] [our own] {is} [with] [The] [Father] [and] [with] [His] [Son], [Jesus], [The Anointed One].  
<sup>4</sup>[So] [we] [are writing] [These Things] [so that] [The] [Joy] [we have] [may be] [fully complete].  
<sup>5</sup>[And] [This] [is] [The] [Message] [that] [we have heard] [from] [Him] [and] [are divulging] [to you]: [that] "[The] [{Living} God] [is] [Light], [and] [there is] [not] [any] [Darkness] at all [in] [Him]!"  
<sup>6</sup>[If] [we say] [that] [we have] [Commonality] [with] [Him] [yet] [walk] [in] [The] [Nether Darkness], [we are lying] [and] [are] [not] [acting in accordance with] [The] [Truth].  
<sup>7</sup>[But] [if] [we are walking] [in] [The] [Light] [as] [He] [is] [in] [The] [Light], [we have] [Commonality] [with] [one another]; [and] [The] [Blood] [of Jesus]—[His] [Son]—[cleanses] [us] [of] [every] [Sin].  
<sup>8</sup>[If] [we say] [that] [we do] [not] [have] {any} [Sin], [we are leading ourselves] astray; [and] [The] [Truth] [is] [not] [in] [us].  
<sup>9</sup>[If] [we acknowledge] [our] [Sins], [it is] [believable] [and] [right] [that] [He would forgive] [us] [our] [Sins] [and] [cleanse] [us] [of] [all] [Immorality].  
<sup>10</sup>[If] [we say] [that] [we have] [not] [sinned], [we make] [Him] out to be [a Liar]; [and] [His] [Word] [is] [not] [in] [us]!

(1 John 1:1–10) —HSSB

In Romans 6, the Apostle Paul explains how sin can ultimately be eliminated entirely. But he tells us it can only be accomplished by replacing Satan's lies with a knowledge of the Truth:

<sup>1</sup>[Therefore], [what] [can we say]? [Should we stay there] [in our] [Sin] [so that] [His] [Favor] [may become more than enough]?  
<sup>2</sup>[Certainly] [not]! [On what basis] [could we] [who] [have died] [to our] [Sin] [still] [live] [in] [it]?  
<sup>3</sup>[Or] [do you not understand] [that] [as many as] [have been baptized] [into] [The Anointed One], [Jesus], [have been baptized] [into] [His] [Death]?  
<sup>4</sup>[Therefore], [we have been buried together with] [Him] [via] [our] [Baptism] [into] [His] [Death], [so that]—indeed, just as

[The Anointed One] [arose] [from] [Those Who Are Dead] [via] [The] [Glory] [of The] [Father], [so] [also]—[we] [may walk around] [in] [Newness] [of Life].  
<sup>5</sup>[For] [if] [we have been] [planted together with] {Him}\* [in The] [Likeness] [of] [His] [Death], [we will] [also] be {planted together with Him}, [but] {in the likeness} [of His] [Resurrection],  
<sup>6</sup>[knowing] [This], [That] [our] [old] [Man] [was crucified together with] {Him}: (1) [so that] [The] [Body] [of our] [Sin] [would be abrogated], (2) [so that] [we] [would] [no longer] be slaves [to our] [Sin];  
<sup>7</sup>[for] [the One Who] [died] [has been acquitted] [of] [our] [Sin].

<sup>8</sup>[So], [if] [we have died] [together with] [The Anointed One], [we believe] [that] [we will] [also] live together with [Him],  
<sup>9</sup>[aware] [that] [The Anointed One]—[after arising] [from] [Those Who Are Dead]—[is] [no longer] dying; [Death] [is] [no longer] [His] slave master.  
<sup>10</sup>[For] [{the death} that] [He died], [He died] [to our] [Sin] [once and for all]; [but] [{the life} that] [He is living], [He is living] [in The] [{Living} God].  
<sup>11</sup>[So], [on the one hand], [you] [must] [also] reckon [yourselves] [to be] [dead] [to your] [Sin]; [but on the other hand], [living] [in The] [{Living} God]—[in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus].

<sup>12</sup>[Therefore], [you must] [not] let [Sin] be king [over] [your] [mortal] [Body], [so] [that] [{you} attentively listen to] [its] [Selfish Desires] and comply with its demands.  
<sup>13</sup>[Do] [not] present [your] [Members] [to] [Sin] [as Weapons] [of Immorality], [but] [present] [yourselves] [to The] [{Living} God]—[as though you were] [alive] [from] [Those Who Are Dead]—[and] [your] [Members] [to The] [{Living} God] [as Weapons] [of a Declaration of Not Guilty].  
<sup>14</sup>[For] [Sin] [can] [not] be [your] slave master; [for] [you are] [not] [subject to] [Law], [but] [subject to] [{His} Favor].

<sup>15</sup>[What] [therefore]? [Should we sin] [because] [we are] [not] [subject to] [Law], [but] [subject to] [{His} Favor]? [Certainly] [not]!  
<sup>16</sup>[Are you] [not] [aware] [that] [to whatever] [you present] [yourselves] [as Slaves] [with] [a Willingness to Attentively Listen to and Comply with], [you are] [Slaves] [to whatever] [you attentively listen to and comply with]; [either\*]: (1) [to Sin], [resulting in] [Death]; [or] (2) [with a Willingness to Listen Attentively {to the Truth} and Comply {with its demands}], [resulting in] [a Declaration of Not Guilty]?  
<sup>17</sup>[But] [Thanks] [to The] [{Living} God], [because] [you were] [Slaves] [of your] [Sin], [but] [you have, from] [{your} Heart], attentively listened to [what] [you were handed over to]—[a Pattern] [of Doctrinal



Teaching]—and you have complied [with] its demands]. <sup>18</sup>[And then], [after being freed] [from] [your] [Sin], [you were made slaves] [to His] [Declaration of Not Guilty]. <sup>19</sup>[I am speaking] [in human terms] [because of] [The] [Infirmary] [of] [your] [Flesh]. [For] [indeed, just as] [you presented] [your] [Members] [as Slaves] [to] [Uncleanness] [and] [The] [Lawless One] [for] [The] [Lawless Deed], [in the same way] [you must now] present [your] [Members] [as Slaves] [to your] [Declaration of Not Guilty] [for] [The Process of Being Made Holy]. <sup>20</sup>[For] [when] [you were] [Slaves] [of your] [Sin], [you were] [free] [from The] [Declaration of Not Guilty].

<sup>21</sup>[Therefore], [what] [Fruit] [did you have] [at that time]—[in] [the things that] [you are now] ashamed of? [For] [The] [Consummation] [of Those Things] {is} [Death]. <sup>22</sup>[But] [now], [after being freed] [from] [your] [Sin] [and then] [being made slaves] [to The] [{Living} God], [you have] [your] [Fruit] [in] [The Process of Being Made Holy]; [but] [The] [Consummation] {is} [eternal] [Life]. <sup>23</sup>[For] [The] [Provisions] [of your] [Sin] {is} [Death]; [but] [The] [Gift] [of The] [{Living} God] {is} [eternal] [Life]—[in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus], [our] [Master].  
(Romans 6:1–23) —HSSB

Paul freely admits the fact that the True Believer's freedom from sin is something that one must strive for; but he is completely unwilling to admit freedom from sin is not attainable. Listen carefully to what he says next:

<sup>1</sup>[Or] [do you not understand], [Brothers]—[for] [I am speaking] [to those who know] [Law]—[that] [The] [Law] [is the slave master] [of The] [Man] [for] [as long [a Span of Time] as] [he is alive]? <sup>2</sup>[For] [The] [Woman] [subject to a male\*] [has been bound] [by Law] [to her] [living] [Man]; [but] [if] [her] [Man] [dies], [she has been discharged] [from] [The] [Law] [regarding her] [Man]. <sup>3</sup>[So then], [therefore], [while her] [Man] is alive [she will be labeled] [an Adulteress] [if] [another] [Man] [has {her}]; [but] [if] [her] [Man] [dies], [she is] [free] [from] [The] [Law], [so that] [she] [is] [not] [an Adulteress] [when [another] [Man] has {her}]. <sup>4</sup>[So then], [my] [Brothers], [you] [were also] put to death [by The] [Law] [via] [The] [Body] [of The] [Anointed One]: (1) [so] [that] [Another]—[the One Who] [arose] [from] [Those Who Are Dead]—[could have] [you], (2) [so that] [we could bear fruit] [for The] [{Living} God]. <sup>5</sup>[For] [when] [we were]

[in] [The] [Flesh], [The] [Impulse] [of The] [Sins] [that were] [via] [The] [Law] [was working] [in] [our] [Members], [so] [that] [{we} would bear fruit] [for] [Death]. <sup>6</sup>[But] [now], [after dying] [in] [the thing by which] [we were being held fast], [we have been discharged] [from] [The] [Law], [with the result that] [we] [can serve as slaves] [in] [{the} Newness] [of Spirit] [and] [not] [in {the} Oldness\*] [of Something That Has Been Written].

<sup>7</sup>[Therefore], [what] [can we say]? “{Is} [The] [Law] [sinful]?” [Certainly] [not]! [On the contrary], [I would] [not] have known about [my] [Sin] [if] [not] [via] [Law]. [For] [I would] [not] [even] have been aware of [my] [Selfish Desire] [if] [The] [Law] [had] [not] been saying, “[DO [NOT] DESIRE].” <sup>8</sup>[But then], [after [The] [Sin] received] [an Opportunity] [via] [The] [Commandment], [it brought about] [every] [Selfish Desire] [in] [me]; [for] [apart from] [a Law], [Sin] {is} [dead]. <sup>9</sup>[So] [I] [was] [at one time] alive—[apart from] [Law]—[but] [Sin] [came to life again] [when [The] [Commandment] came], <sup>10</sup>[and then] [I] [died]; [and] [This] [Commandment], [which was] [about] [Life] [for me], [was found to be] [about] [Death]; <sup>11</sup>[for] [after [The] [Sin] received] [an Opportunity] [via] [The] [Commandment], [it duped] [and] [killed] [me] [via] [it]. <sup>12</sup>[So then] [The] [Law] {is}, [in fact], [holy]; [and] [The] [Commandment] {is} [holy] [and] [right] [and] [good].

<sup>13</sup>[Therefore], [did] [what is] [good] become [Death] [for me]? [Certainly] [not]! [But] [The] [Sin] {did}: (1) [so that] [Sin], [by bringing about] [Death], [could be seen] [by me] [via] [what is] [good]; (2) [so that] [my] [Sin] [would, [via] [The] [Commandment], become] [far more] [incredibly] [sinful]: <sup>14</sup>(a) [for] [we are aware] [that] [The] [Law] [is] [spiritual], [but] [I] [am] [made of flesh]—[one who has been sold] [subject to] [my] [Sin]; <sup>15</sup>(b) [for] [I do] [not] know [what] [I am going to bring about]; (c) [for] [I do] [not] continue to do [This Thing] [that] [I want to do], [but] [I do] [This Thing] [that] [I hate]. <sup>16</sup>[But] [if] [I do] [This Thing] [that] [I do] [not] want to do, [I concur with\*] [The] [Law], [that] {it is} [exceptionally good]. <sup>17</sup>[But] [now] [I] [am] [no longer] bringing [it] about, [but] [The] [Sin] [that is residing] [in] [me]. <sup>18</sup>[For] [I am aware] [that] [no] [Good Thing] [resides] [in] [me]—[that] [is], [in] [my] [Flesh]. [For] [the] [wanting to do] [what is] [exceptionally good] [is lying within] [me], [but] [not] [the {ability}] [to bring {it} about]. <sup>19</sup>[For] [I am] [not] doing [the] Good Thing [that] [I want to do], [but] [I am continuing to do] [This] [Awful Thing] [that] [I do] [not] want to do]. <sup>20</sup>[But]

[if] [I] [am doing] [This Thing] [that] [I do [not] want to do], [I] {am} [no longer] [what is bringing [it] about]; [but] [The] [Sin] [that is residing] [in] [me] {is}.

<sup>21</sup>[So then] [I find] [The] [Law] {is} [in me]—[in the one who] [wants] [to do] [what is] [exceptionally good]—[because] [what is] [awful] [is lying within] [me]. <sup>22</sup>[For] [I take pleasure in\*] [The] [Law] [of The] [{Living} God] [in agreement with] [The] [Man] [inside {me}]; <sup>23</sup>[but] [I see] [another] [Law] [in] [my] [Members], [serving as a soldier against\*] [The] [Law] [of] [my] [Mind] [and] [making me] a prisoner of war [by] [The] [Law] [of The] [Sin] [that] [is] [in] [my] [Members]. <sup>24</sup>[I] {am} [a [miserable] Man]! [Who] [will deliver] [me] [from] [The] [Body] [of] [This] [Death]? <sup>25</sup>[But] [Thanks] [to The] [{Living} God] [through] [our] [Master], [Jesus], [The Anointed One]! [So then], [therefore], [on the one hand], [I] [myself] [am a slave] [to [God's] Law] [in my] [Mind]; [but on the other hand], {a slave} [to a Law] [of Sin] [in my] [Flesh].

(Romans 7:1–25) —HSSB

That is an incredibly perplexing series of statements—in the mind of those without even a smidge of an inkling as to what Paul is talking about. The Truth is, he is saying the same thing he says in this passage:

<sup>12</sup>[So] [I really wish that] [those who] [are causing [you] problems] [would cut themselves away from {you}]! <sup>13</sup>[For] [you] [were invited] [into] [Freedom], [Brothers]; [only] [not] [The] [Freedom] [for] [an Opportunity] [for The] [Flesh]; [but] [you must be slaves] [to one another] [through] [His] [Love]. <sup>14</sup>[For] [The] [whole] [Law] [is fully complete] [in] [one] [Word], [in] [the {commandment}], “[YOU WILL LOVE] [YOUR] [NEIGHBOR] [AS MUCH AS] [YOURSELF].” <sup>15</sup>[But] [if] [you bite\*] [and] [devour] [one another], [watch out, so that] [you are [not] consumed] [by] [one another].

<sup>16</sup>[But] [I say], “[Walk] [in {the} Spirit], [and] [you will [definitely not] complete] [a Selfish Desire] [of {the} Flesh].” <sup>17</sup>[For] [The] [Flesh] [desires {things that are}] [against] [The] [Spirit], [but then] [The] [Spirit] {desires things that are} [against] [The] [Flesh]; [for] [These {two}] [are opposed] [to one another], [so that] [whatever] [it may be that] [you want to do], [These Things] [you do [not] do]. <sup>18</sup>[But] [if] [you are being led] [by {the} Spirit], [you are] [not] [subject to] [Law].

<sup>19</sup>[Now] [The] [Works] [of The] [Flesh] [is] [well-known], [which] [is]: [Sexual Promiscuity], [Uncleaness], [Licentiousness], <sup>20</sup>[Idolatry], [Drug Dealing], [Hostilities], [Contentiousness], [Jealousy], [Rages], [Self-centeredness], [Disagreements], [Sects], <sup>21</sup>[Envy], [Drunkeness], [Festivities], [and] [the things that are] [just like] [These Things], [which] [I tell [you] in advance]—[just as] [I told {you} before]—[that] [those who] [are involved in] [Such Things] [will [not] inherit] [God's] [Kingdom]. <sup>22</sup>[But] [The] [Fruit] [of His] [Spirit] [is] [Love], [Joy], [Peace], [Patience], [Benevolence], [Goodness], [Belief in God's Promise], <sup>23</sup>[Gentleness], [Self-control].

[There is] [no] [Law] [against] [Such Things]; <sup>24</sup>[so] [those who are] [part of The] [Anointed One], [Jesus], [have crucified] [The] [Flesh] [along with] [its] [Impulse] [and] [Selfish Desires].

<sup>25</sup>[If] [we are alive] [in Spirit], [we should [also] fall in line with] [Spirit]. <sup>26</sup>[We should [not] be] [vain\*]—[challenging\*] [one another], [envying\*] [one another]. (Galatians 5:12–26) —HSSB

The “Spirit” that Paul has in mind is the same “Spirit” that Jesus explained this way:

“[The] [Spirit] [is] [What] [is going to give life]; [The] [Flesh] [is [not] going to provide {any} benefit] [at all]. [The] [Statements] [that] [I] [have made] [to you] [is] [Spirit] [and] [is] [Life].” (John 6:63) —HSSB

Let me explain something that an unbeliever will find absolutely impossible to believe: To put the Truth as straightforwardly as possible, *we all act in accordance with what we believe*. That being the case, if one believes the Truth (the “Spirit”) that God has revealed in the Scriptures, he has joined himself to that “Spirit” and will act in accordance with the “Spirit” that he believes:

<sup>1</sup>[Therefore], [I implore] [you], [Brothers], [via] [The] [Compassion] [of The] [{Living} God], [to present] [your] [Bodies] [as a [living], [holy] Sacrifice], [well-pleasing] [to The] [{Living} God]—[your] [logical] [Priestly Service]. <sup>2</sup>[And] [do [not] be shaped] [by] [This] [Current Age], [but] [be transformed] [by The] [Renewing] [of your] [Mind], [so] [that] [you] [approve of] [what] [The] [Will] [of The] [{Living} God] {is}—[which is] [good] [and] [well-pleasing] [and] [complete]. (Romans 12:1–2) —HSSB ■

Continued from front cover

reason. And giving thanks always for all things to God, by righteous hearing and divine reading, by true investigation, by holy oblation, by blessed prayer; lauding, hymning, blessing, praising, such a soul is never at any time separated from God. Rightly then is it said, "And they who trust in Him shall understand the truth, and those faithful in love shall abide by Him." You see what statements Wisdom makes about the Gnostics.

Conformably, therefore, there are various abodes, according to the worth of those who have believed. To the point Solomon says, "For there shall be given to him the choice grace of faith, and a more pleasant lot in the temple of the Lord." For the comparative shows that there are lower parts in the temple of God, which is the whole Church. And the superlative remains to be conceived, where the Lord is.

These chosen abodes, which are three, are indicated by the numbers in the Gospel—the thirty, the sixty, the hundred. And the perfect inheritance belongs to those who attain to "a perfect man," according to the image of the Lord. And the likeness is not, as some imagine, that of the human form; for this consideration is impious. Nor is the likeness to the first cause that which consists in virtue. For this utterance is also impious, being that of those who have imagined that virtue in man and in the sovereign God is the same.

"Thou hast supposed iniquity," He says, "[in imagining] that I will be like to thee." But "it is enough for the disciple to become as the Master," saith the Master. To the likeness of God, then, he that is introduced into adoption and the friendship of God, to the just inheritance of the lords and gods is brought; if he be perfected, according to the Gospel, as the Lord Himself taught.

Clement of Alexandria, "The Stromata," Book vi, Chaps. xiv, in Roberts and Donaldson (Eds.), *The Ante-Nicene Fathers* (1885), Vol. 2, p. 506.

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