



## Restoring the hearts of the fathers to the children

### If Jesus Is the Word of God, Who Are You?

And hence there seem to be seeds of truth among all men; but they are charged with not accurately understanding [the truth] when they assert contradictories. So that what we say about future events being foretold, we do not say it as if they came about by a fatal necessity; but God foreknowing all that shall be done by all men, and it being His decree that the future actions of men shall all be recompensed according to their several value, He foretells by the Spirit of prophecy that He will bestow meet rewards according to the merit of the actions done, always urging the human race to effort and recollection, showing that He cares and provides for men.

But by the agency of the devils death has been decreed against those who read the books of Hystaspes, or of the Sibyl, or of the prophets, that through fear they may prevent men who read them from receiving the knowledge of the good, and may retain them in slavery to themselves; which, however, they could not always effect. For not only do we fearlessly read them, but, as you see, bring them for your inspection, knowing that their contents will be pleasing to all. And if we persuade even a few, our gain will be very great; for, as good husbandmen, we shall receive the reward from the Master.

And that God the Father of all would bring Christ to heaven after He had raised Him from the dead, and would keep Him there until He has subdued His enemies the devils, and until the number of those who are foreknown by Him as good and virtuous is complete, on whose account He has still delayed the consummation—hear what was said by the prophet David. These are his words: “The Lord said unto My Lord, Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. The Lord shall send to Thee the rod of power out of Jerusalem; and rule Thou in the midst of Thine enemies. With Thee is the government in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of Thy saints: from the womb of morning have I begotten Thee.”

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Published quarterly by  
Voice of Elijah, Inc.

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Volume 31, Number 4  
October 2020

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

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

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

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Larry D. Harper  
(dba The Elijah Project).

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## *A Note From the Editor*

*The point of what Habakkuk says in that chapter (Habakkuk 1) resides in the fact that Satan, in the person of the Antichrist, is going to use the “winds” that he controls through their belief in his lies to take control of everyone here on the Earth who chooses to believe those lies at the End of the Age. In so doing, he will be just LIKE a fisherman casting his net into the sea and bringing up fish that he then kills and consumes. That future event is precisely what Peter had in mind when he warned his generation to be careful lest the “work” mentioned in Habakkuk 1:5 catches them unaware (Acts 13:38–41).*

*“The Word of God Is a Brilliant Light—and a Raging Inferno,” **The Voice of Elijah® Update**, December 2017, p. 16*

If the above excerpt from a few years ago doesn't give you cause for pause, I don't know what will. For decades now, Larry Harper has taught us that we are engaged in a fierce battle that requires us to “armor up” if we ever intend to be victorious in the End. If you haven't already started that process, the time to learn all that there is to learn is now. If that is your long-term objective, there is more “armor” at your disposal in the back issues of this newsletter (and *Updates*) and also through The Next Step program offered by The Elijah Project.

If you've been a subscriber to *The Voice of Elijah®* for very long at all, I'm sure you've noticed that there has been a lot of water flowing under the bridge since the first issue was published in October 1990. Larry has been submitting articles to *The Voice of Elijah®* for publication in the newsletter and *The Voice of Elijah® Update* every month since that time, building a strong foundation for True Believers to stand on; and this current issue is no exception.

Have you noticed how the things Larry taught decades ago agree completely with what he is teaching with each newly published issue? That's just how it is with the Truth. Take this issue, for example. In the main article, Larry teaches about the soul. Those in The Next Step program were taught about the soul way back in 1994, if memory serves. And do you know what? The content originally recorded on those decades-old audiocassettes is still true, up to this very minute; and it will continue to be true until the End (which isn't too far off, it would appear).

One thing that has changed, however, is the technology used to distribute that Truth. The Next Step is currently distributed on CD/DVDs. But Harper's Standardized Bible Study App is going to provide the vehicle for those recordings to be distributed digitally. Imagine that! We are a ways away from having that come to fruition, but progress is being made every day toward that end, I can assure you.

If you have a love of, and hunger for, the Truth, I invite you to look into participating in The Next Step. Pertinent details, as described by The Elijah Project are:

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The Next Step is an Elijah Project discipleship program provided to the Monthly Contributors of *The Voice of Elijah*® who meet the requirements for admission into the program. The Next Step materials are not available through *The Voice of Elijah*®.

You may have read in some of the back issues (many years ago) that the only requirement for participation in The Next Step program was a monthly contribution of \$200 to *The Voice of Elijah*®. That requirement was dropped in 2008 and replaced with an application process and approval by the Next Step Admissions Committee. The committee is comprised of several individuals who review the submitted applications and biographies. Larry has no say in the decisions of the Admissions Committee.

You must complete and return the application to begin the admissions process, but you do not have to complete any of the other admission requirements (2–5 below). However, you must have met the following five (5) requirements before you can begin receiving The Next Step materials:

1. Submit an Admission Application Form that has been approved by the Admissions Committee.
2. Be a Voice of Elijah, Inc. Monthly Contributor for at least six months
3. Acquire all back issues of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter and *The Voice of Elijah*® Update, and read all of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletters and every issue of *The Voice of Elijah*® Update through December 1994.
4. Acquire all of the materials published by The Elijah Project.
5. Communicate with the moderators and other Next Step participants by posting messages on The Elijah Project's private Facebook group site. (This requirement begins after your application has been received, reviewed, and accepted.)

Once the requirements have been fulfilled, everyone accepted into The Next Step program is asked to sign a nondisclosure agreement before receiving monthly audio teaching on CD/DVD. All of the information provided through The Next Step will eventually be made available to the public. However,

until the information is in final form and has secured copyright protection, The Elijah Project asks that participants in The Next Step only share the information with their immediate family members (spouses and dependent children living under their roof). The application form is available online at: [https://www.the-elijah-project.com/nextstep\\_application.pdf](https://www.the-elijah-project.com/nextstep_application.pdf).

Have you received “the love of the Truth”? How strong is your foundation? Ask yourself, “Am I prepared for what’s coming?”

*So then the one who is lawless will be revealed.*

- (ii) *The one whom His Majesty, Jesus,*  
     {(a)} *will put away by the spirit of His*  
     *mouth and*  
     {(b)} *abrogate by the appearance of His*  
     *coming;*  
     (iii) *the one whose arrival is in accordance*  
     *with Satan’s energy: with all*

- {(a)} *supernatural power and*
- {(b)} *signs and*
- {(c)} *wonders—lies—and with all*
- {(d)} *{the} deceitfulness of injustice*

- {(i)} *for those who are going to be done*  
*away with*
- {(ii)} *because they did not accept the*  
*love of the truth so that they could be*  
*saved.*

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

- (a) *so that they believe the lie,*
- (b) *so that all who did not believe the truth but were delighted with his injustice can be judged.*

(2 *Thessalonians 2:8–12*) —HSSB

To quote Larry’s parting words on The Next Step recordings, “Until next time, think about it!” As you will “see” in this issue, your “life” depends on it.

In Him,

*Marcia Harper*

# Consider This: What You Think You Think Is Not Always What *You* Think

**O**ver the past forty years, I have *talked about* a parable in the Bible that I call “The Passover Parable.” I have even explained it in bits and pieces, here and there, to ensure the entire parable would not be available until right before the End of the Age. I have also, over that same span of time, explained how the Scriptures speak in terms of the *parabolic imagery* and Hebrew idioms of that parable to explain what God has accomplished, and is going to accomplish, in history. Now that everyone but an absolute idiot—and there are plenty of those in our generation—should be able to see the End of the Age is rapidly closing in on us, I am going to explain that parable a bit more openly.

Listen up! If you ever intend to understand the Truth about our situation here on Earth—all the whys and wherefores regarding what this life is all about—you must first accept the fact that the Bible cryptically reveals things that God would have us understand about it. Unfortunately, the Bible is not all that easy to understand simply because God does not think “*The Way*” we think. I didn’t say that, the Prophet Isaiah did. Here is “*The Way*” he puts God’s invitation to anyone who is willing to give up his own thoughts and ideas and think “*The Way*” God thinks:

<sup>1</sup>“[Woe!] [Everyone] [who is thirsty],  
[come] [for {the} Water];  
[And whoever] [has] [no] [Silver],  
[come {for the water}].  
[Buy grain] [and eat], [and come {for the water}].  
[Buy grain] [with no] [Silver],  
[And [Wine] [and Milk] with nothing] [of Market Value].  
<sup>2</sup>[Why] [would you weigh out] [Silver]  
[for {what is} not] [Bread]—

[Your Production] [for {what has} no] [Satisfaction]?  
[Listen] [carefully] [to Me] [and eat] [a Good Thing],  
[So that your Soul] [may take delight] [in {the} Grease].  
<sup>3</sup>[Cup] [your Ear] [and come] [to Me];  
[Listen], [so that [your Soul] may live].  
[Then I will cut] [an [eternally burning]  
Legal Agreement] [for you]—  
[Those who believe] [{the} Loving-kindnesses of] [David].  
<sup>4</sup>[Guess what!] [Kinfolk have] [a Witness].  
[I will make Him] [a Leader]  
[and one who gives commands to] [Kinfolk].  
<sup>5</sup>[Guess what!] [You will call] [a Nation]  
[You do [not] know],  
[And a Nation]—[they will [not] know You]—  
[will run] [to You]  
[For the sake of] [His Majesty], [Your God],  
[And to [Israel’s] Holy One],  
[When] [He has made You beautiful].  
<sup>6</sup>[Diligently seek] [His Majesty] [while He can be found];  
[Call out to Him] [while He is] [near].  
<sup>7</sup>[Let [a guilty {man}] abandon] [his Way];  
[And a [contentious] Man], [his Thoughts],  
[So that he may return] [to] [His Majesty],  
[So that He may have compassion on him],  
[And to] [our God]:

(1) [Because] [He will [forgive] much].  
<sup>8</sup>“(2) [Because] [My Thoughts] {are} [not]  
[your Thoughts];  
[And your Ways] {are} [not] [My Ways],”  
[declares] [His Majesty].  
<sup>9</sup>“(3) [Because] [{the} Sea of Waters]  
[are higher] [than {the} Earth],  
[So also] [My Ways] [are higher] [than your Ways];  
[And My Thoughts], [than your Thoughts].



<sup>10</sup>(4) [Because], [just as] [The Rainfall]  
[and The Snow]  
[Comes down] [from] [The Sea of Waters],  
[And [it does [not] return] there]  
[Unless]:

(a) [It satisfies the thirst of] [The] [Earth],  
(b) [And causes her to engender]  
(c) [And causes her to sprout],  
(d) [And gives] [Seed]  
[for {the} one who is sowing]  
[And Bread] [for {the} one who is eating].

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

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

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

That last verse is explaining the fact that the *Living Word of God*—*the promise* that left the Garden with Adam and Eve—came down to Earth LIKE the snow and the rain, and that *Living Word* is going to achieve the precise purpose for which God sent it. That *Living Word* was, and still is, *the promise* that whoever believes it can return to the Garden from which Adam and Eve were banned. Moses and the other Prophets of Israel inscribed that *Living Word* on the scrolls that ultimately became the Hebrew Scriptures, and it is still achieving the amazing results that God intended in the minds of those who believe it. You may or may not yet be one of those. If you aren't, you can be; just keep reading, listening, striving to learn more about what God has done, is doing, and plans to do to *fulfill the promise* He made so long ago.

Knowing that God does not think "*The Way*" we think, it should not surprise you that the Scriptures speak in terms of "*The Way*" He thinks rather than "*The Way*" we think. He is, after all, the ultimate author of the Scriptures; the Prophets and Apostles were merely His scribes. That being the case, it logically follows that, to understand what God has said in the Scriptures, you are going to have to learn to think "*The Way*" He thinks

and give up "*The Way*" you think. If you are not willing to do that, it is an absolute certainty, an inescapable fact, that you will never be able to understand the message of the Scriptures. You may think you do, but that will never be the case. The Apostle Paul puts your situation this "way":

<sup>1</sup>(1) [But] [know] [This], [that] [in] [the last] [Days]  
[there will be] [troubled] [Times]. <sup>2</sup>[For] [Men] [will be]:

(a) [narcissistic\*],  
(b) [greedy],  
(c) [arrogant] [Braggarts] [making false religious claims],  
(d) [disobedient] [to Parents],  
(e) [ungrateful],  
(f) [unholy],  
<sup>3</sup>(g) [without natural affection],  
(h) [implacable\*],  
(i) [False Accusers],  
(j) [lacking self-control\*],  
(k) [cruel\*],  
(l) [not loving what is good\*],  
<sup>4</sup>(m) [rash],  
(n) [Betrayers] [who are enshrouded in a fog],  
(o) [more] [pleasure-loving\*] [than] [God-loving\*],  
<sup>5</sup>(p) [those who have] [an Outward Form]  
[of Godliness], [but] [have denied] [its]  
[Supernatural Power].

(2) [Steer clear of\*] [These Individuals] [also], <sup>6</sup>[for]

(a) [some] [of These {men}] [are] [those who]  
[slip in\*] [to] [Houses] [and] [make [Silly Women\*]  
prisoners of war], {women who}:

(i) [are heaped up] [with Sins];  
(ii) [are being led away] [by various]  
[Selfish Desires];  
<sup>7</sup>(iii) [are [always] learning]; [and]  
(iv) [can] [never, not once\*], [come] [to]  
[Full Knowledge of the Truth]  
[concerning {the} Truth].

<sup>8</sup>(b) [But] [in the same way] [that] [Jannes\*] [and]  
[Jambres\*] [withstood] [Moses], [so] [also] [These  
Individuals] [withstand] [The] [Truth]—[Men]  
[who have been]:

- (i) *totally corrupted\** [in their] [Mind],  
 (ii) [rejected] [with regard to] [our] [Belief in God's **Promise**].

<sup>9</sup>(c) [But] [they will [not] make [any further] progress]; [for] [their] [Nonsense] [will be] [self-evident to\*] [everyone], [as] [that] [of Those {two} Individuals] [also] [came to be].  
 (2 Timothy 3:1–9) —HSSB

Don't be fooled by the blowhards in the pulpit who think they know the Truth and don't. Pulpit parrots have no interest in the Truth. The Truth is, God does not think "The Way" they think, and those who refuse to think "The Way" He thinks will never understand the Truth revealed in the Scriptures. So now that I have told you God does not think "The Way" we think, let me explain the Truth about "The Way" God thinks as succinctly as I can.

I have told you repeatedly that the Scriptures speak *parabolically*. That is, they speak *parabolically* in terms of comparisons. That is what a parable is: a comparison. It is a story that compares one thing to some other thing. The problem is, you can't understand the *meaning* of a parable if you don't know what two things are being compared. So let me explain what God is comparing, right here at the outset.

The Scriptures speak in terms of a comparison between the physical reality in which we dwell and the metaphysical/spiritual reality in which God dwells. That metaphysical/spiritual reality is not readily apparent to us just because we think myopically in terms of the physical reality we see all around us. So Moses and the other Prophets of Israel used events in our physical reality to speak *parabolically*, comparing those physical events to metaphysical events in the reality in which God dwells.

Most of us are not aware of the metaphysical reality in which God dwells because we cannot see it. The Truth is, we were born metaphysically blind—that is, spiritually blind. That is the blindness Jesus had in mind when He said this to the Pharisees after they refused to believe He had healed a blind man:

<sup>35</sup>[Jesus] [heard] [that] [they had thrown] [him] [out] [and], [after finding] [him], [said], "[Do [You] believe God's **promise**] [about] [The] [Son] [of The] [Man]?"

<sup>36</sup>[That Individual] [responded] [and] [said], "[And] [who] [is He], [Master], [so that] [I may believe God's **promise**] [about] [Him]?"

<sup>37</sup>[Jesus] [told] [him], "[You have [even] seen] [Him], [and] [the One Who] [is speaking] [with] [You] [is] [That Individual]."

<sup>38</sup>[So] [he] [declared], "[I believe God's **promise**, [Your Majesty]!" [And] [he paid homage] [to Him].

<sup>39</sup>[Then] [Jesus] [said], "[I] [came] [into] [This] [World] [for] [Judgment], [so that] [those who] [do [not] see] [would see], [and] [those who] [see] [would become] [blind]."

<sup>40</sup>[Some] [of The] [Pharisees] [who] [were] [with] [Him] [heard] [These Things] [and] [said] [to Him], "[We {are}] [not] [also] [blind], [are we]?"

<sup>41</sup>[Jesus] [told] [them]: "[If] [you were] [blind], [you [would] [not] have] [Sin]. [But] [now] [you are saying] [that] [we see]!" [your] [Sin] [remains]."  
 (John 9:35–41) —HSSB

There are several things you need to know about the spiritual blindness Jesus had in mind: The New Testament tells us we have a body, a soul, and a spirit. We all know what the body is; and the spirit is generally understood as the part that keeps our body alive, but there is an ongoing debate about the identification of the soul. It turns out to be a nebulous concept with no certain definition.

The Truth is, the soul is the part of the body that allows us to relate to the metaphysical/spiritual reality in which we live. The problem is, our soul is dead; it died when Adam and Eve decided to believe Satan's lie. And its sole source of life is knowledge of, and belief in, the Truth about our circumstances here on Earth. That is, it cannot come to life within us until we choose to believe the essential elements of the Truth that God has revealed in the Scriptures. So let me briefly describe the sad circumstance we mortals face.

We know we exist in this physical realm because we can see it, hear it, taste it, touch it, and smell it. Since we have a semblance of life in our physical body, we think we are alive. But the Truth is, the minute you took your first breath as a newborn baby, your physical body was already dying. We mistakenly call that process "growing up" and "aging," but that is not what it is. It is dying. Face the Truth: The cells of your body were dying the minute you were born, and even though you do have a semblance of physical life that

you will eventually lose, your soul was dead right from the start. The only thing that can reverse that miserable situation is the Truth that God has revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures. So let me explain a bit about that. This is John's account of what Jesus said about Himself the day after He fed the five thousand with just a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish:

<sup>35</sup>[Jesus] [told] [them]: "[I] [AM] [The] [Bread] [of] [Life]. [The one who] [comes] [to] [Me] [will] [definitely] [not] be hungry], [and] [the one who] [believes God's **promise**] [about] [Me] [will] [definitely] [not] [ever] be thirsty]. <sup>36</sup>[But] [I have {already} told] [you] [that] [you have] [both] seen] [Me] [and] [do] [not] believe God's **promise**]. <sup>37</sup>[Anyone] [that] [The] [Father] [gives] [Me] [will] come] [to] [Me], [and] [I will] [definitely] [not] throw] [out] [the one who] [comes] [to] [Me], <sup>38</sup>[because] [I have] [not] come down] [from] [Heaven] [so that] [I may act in accordance with] [My Own] [Will], [but only] [The] [Will] [of the One Who] [sent] [Me]. <sup>39</sup>[Yet] [This] [is] [The] [Will] [of the One Who] [sent] [Me]: [That] [all] [that] [He has given] [Me] [I] [not] lose] [any] [of it], [but] [raise] [it] up] [on] [The] [last] [Day]. <sup>40</sup>[For] [This] [is] [The] [Will] [of] [My] [Father]: [That] [anyone] [who] [observes] [The] [Son] [and] [believes God's **promise**] [about] [Him] [may have] [eternal] [Life], [and] [I] [will] raise [him] up] [on] [The] [last] [Day]."

<sup>41</sup>[Therefore], [The] [Jews] [were] grumbling] [about] [Him] [because] [He said], "[I] [AM] [The] [Bread] [that] [came down] [out] [of] [Heaven]."

<sup>42</sup>[And] [they were saying]: "[Is] [This Individual] [not] [Jesus], [The] [Son] [of] [Joseph], [Whose] [Father] [and] [Mother] [we] [know]? [How] [can He] [now] say] [that] '[I have come down] [out] [of] [Heaven]'?"

<sup>43</sup>[Jesus] [responded] [and] [told] [them]: "[Do] [not] grumble] [with] [one another]! <sup>44</sup>[Nobody] [can] [come] [to] [Me] [if] [The] [Father] [Who] [sent] [Me] [does] [not] drag [him] in], [so I] [can] raise [him] up] [on] [The] [last] [Day]. <sup>45</sup>[It is] [written] [in] [The] [Prophets]: '[AND] [EVERYONE] [WILL BE] [TAUGHT] [OF] GOD].' [Anyone] [who] [has heard] [and] [learned] [from] [The] [Father] [is going to come] [to] [Me]. <sup>46</sup>[Not] [that] [anyone] [has seen] [The] [Father] [except] [the One Who] [is] [from] [The] [Living] God]. [This Individual] [has seen] [The] [Father].

<sup>47</sup>[Without doubt]! [Without doubt] [I tell] [you], [The one who] [believes God's **promise**] [has] [eternal] [Life]. <sup>48</sup>[I] [AM] [The] [Bread] [of] [Life]. <sup>49</sup>[Your]

[Fathers] [ate] [The] [Manna] [and] [died] [in] [The] [Desert]. <sup>50</sup>[This Individual] [is] [The] [Bread] [that] [is going to come down] [out] [of] [Heaven] [so that] [anyone] [may eat] [some] [of Him] [and] [not] [die]. <sup>51</sup>[I] [AM] [The] [Bread] [that] [is living], [the One that] [came down] [out] [of] [Heaven]. [If] [anyone] [eats] [some] [of] [This] [Bread], [he will come to life] [in] [The] [Age to Come]. [But] [My] [Flesh] [is] [also] [The] [Bread] [that] [I] [will give] [for] [The] [Life] [of The] [World]."

<sup>52</sup>[Therefore], [The] [Jews] [were quarreling] [with] [one another], [saying], "[How] [can] [This Individual] [give] [us] [His] [Flesh] [to eat]?"

<sup>53</sup>[Therefore], [Jesus] [told] [them]: "[Without doubt]! [Without doubt] [I tell] [you], [if] [you do] [not] eat] [The] [Flesh] [of The] [Son] [of The] [Man] [and] [drink] [His] [Blood], [you are] [not] going to have] [Life] [in] [yourselves]. <sup>54</sup>[The one who] [chows down on] [My] [Flesh] [and] [drinks] [My] [Blood] [has] [eternal] [Life], [and I] [will] raise [him] up] [on The] [last] [Day]. <sup>55</sup>[For] [My] [Flesh] [is] [a] [real] Meal], [and] [My] [Blood] [is] [a] [real] Drink]. <sup>56</sup>[The one who] [chows down on] [My] [Flesh] [and] [drinks] [My] [Blood] [remains] [in] [Me], [and I] [in] [him]. <sup>57</sup>[Just as] [The] [living] [Father] [sent] [Me], [and I] [am living] [because of] [The] [Father], [the one who] [chows down on] [Me]—[even] [That Individual]—[will] [also] live] [because of] [Me]. <sup>58</sup>[This Individual] [is] [The] [Bread] [that] [came down] [out] [of] [Heaven]; [not] [at all like] [The] [Fathers] [ate] [and] [died]. [The one who] [chows down on] [This] [Bread] [will live] [into] [The] [Age to Come]."

(John 6:35–58) —HSSB

In that passage, Jesus is saying much the same thing that Isaiah said when he invited us to think "The Way" God thinks. Isaiah was speaking *parabolically* in terms of the Truth of *The Teaching of Moses* as the food the soul needs to "eat" in order to come back to life. Jesus is saying the same thing, but He is *talking about* Himself as "The Word" of God. He is telling the crowd that the Truth He is teaching is the only thing that will give life to their soul. On another occasion, He said the same thing in a different way. He said this:

<sup>1</sup>"[Do] [not] let [Your] [Heart] be disturbed]; [you believe God's **promise**] [about] [The] [Living] God]; [you must] [also] believe God's **promise**] [about] [Me]. <sup>2</sup>[There are] [a lot of] [Dwelling Places] [in] [My] [Father's] [House]; [but] [if] [not], [I] [would] have told]



[you], [because] [I am going] [to prepare] [a Place] [for you]. <sup>3</sup>[So] [if] [I go] [and] [prepare] [a Place] [for you], [I am going to come] [again] [and] [take] [you] [to] [Myself], [so that] [you] [also] [are] [wherever] [I] [AM]. <sup>4</sup>[And] [you know] [The] [Way] [to where] [I] [am going]."

<sup>5</sup>[Thomas] [tells] [Him], "[Your Majesty], [we do] [not] know [where] [You are going]; [how] [could we] [know] [The] [Way]?"

<sup>6</sup>[Jesus] [tells] [him]: "[I] [AM] [The] [Way] [and] [The] [Truth] [and] [The] [Life]; [nobody] [is going to come] [to] [The] [Father] [except] [through] [Me]. <sup>7</sup>[If] [you have known] [Me], [you will] [also] know [My] [Father]; [and] [from [this point] on] [you are going to know] [Him]. [And] [You have {already} seen] [Him]."  
(John 14:1-7) —HSSB

In that passage, Jesus is *talking about Himself* as the *Living Word of God* that people must believe in order for their souls to come to life. But the key to understanding what He says lies in knowing one simple fact: The person we are is determined by what we believe, not by what we are physically. That is, we are the metaphysical person we *choose* to be by deciding what we believe. Unfortunately for those who reject the Truth that God has revealed in the Scriptures, that Truth is the only thing that can ever revive their soul. That is because the soul is nothing more than a metaphysical "container." That is, it is *parabolically* LIKE a physical container. It was made to contain the Truth that God is, but it can just as easily contain the lies that Satan would have us all believe. Your belief in those lies will ensure that your soul remains dead forever. That is what the Apostle Paul had in mind when he said the following about the Truth of *The Apostolic Teaching* that he understood and preached:

<sup>3</sup>(7) [So] [even] [if] [The] [Good News of **the Fulfillment of the Promise**] [we have] [is] [covered], [it is] [covered]

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

<sup>4</sup>(b) [those [in] whom] [The] [God] [of] [This] [Current Age] [has blinded] [The] [Thoughts] [of] [Those Who Do Not Believe God's **Promise**] [so] [that] [{they} can [not] distinctly see\*] [The] [Illumination] [of The] [Good News of **the Fulfillment of the Promise**] [of The] [Glory] [of The] [Anointed One], [Who] [is] [{the} Image] [of The] [{Living} God].

<sup>5</sup>(8) [For] [we do] [not] preach [ourselves]

(a) [but only] [His Majesty], [Jesus], [The Anointed One],

(b) [and then] [ourselves] [as [your] Slaves] [for] [Jesus].

<sup>6</sup>(c) [Because] [The] [{Living} God], [Who] [said], "[A Light] [will shine] [out] [of Nether Darkness]," [is] [the One Who] [has shone] [in] [our] [Hearts] [with] [an Illumination] [of The] [Knowledge of the Truth] [concerning The] [Glory] [of The] [{Living} God] [on] [{the} Face] [of Jesus], [The Anointed One].

<sup>7</sup>(1) [Now] [we have] [This] [Treasure] [in] [**Containers**] [made of clay],

(a) [so that] [The [incredible] Nature] [of its] [Supernatural Power] [would be]

(i) [from The] [{Living} God] [and]

(ii) [not] [from] [us].

(2 Corinthians 4:3-7) —HSSB

"The Light" that Paul mentions in that passage is a *parabolic image* of the Truth of *The Apostolic Teaching*. The Truth is, the Truth of *The Apostolic Teaching* illuminates. In that last verse, Paul calls it a "treasure," which is exactly what it is. The awesome power of the *Living God* resides in the Truth. The only limitation on that power is a lack of belief on the part of the person who hears it. Paul mentions the "container" of the soul on several other occasions as well. In each case, he appears to be referring to the physical body simply because the soul resides within the body. He says this about that in 1 Thessalonians 4:

<sup>1</sup>(1) [Finally], [therefore], [Brothers], [we ask]—[and] [appeal to] [you]—[in] [His Majesty], [Jesus], [that] [just as] [you **received**] [from] [us] [The] [Basis on Which] [you] [have to] [walk] [and] [please] [God]—[just as] [you are] [also] walking—[that] [you would produce] [even more] excess]:

<sup>2</sup>(a) [For] [you are aware of] [what] [Instructions] [we gave] [you] [through] [His Majesty], [Jesus].

<sup>3</sup>(b) [For] [This] [is] [{the} Will] [of The] [{Living} God] ([The] [Process of [you] Being Made Holy]):



(i) [That [you] stay far away] [from] [Sexual Promiscuity];

<sup>4</sup>(ii) [that [every one] [of you] know how] [to acquire] [your] [own] [Container]:

{(a)} [through] [The Process of Being Made Holy] [and] [with Honor].

(1 Thessalonians 4:1–4) —HSSB

Paul is *talking about* the salvation of the soul via the sanctification process. If you don't know what that process is, never fear; I am going to tell you. But first, I want to show you a couple of things Paul says about the soul as a "container." He says this in Romans 9:

<sup>19</sup>[Therefore], [You will say] [to me]: "[Why] [does He, [therefore], [still] find fault]? [For] [who] [has withstood] [His] [Resolve]?" <sup>20</sup>[On the contrary], [O] [Man], [who] [are] [You]—[the one who] [is giving a negative response] [to The] [{Living} God]? [THE] [MOLDED THING\*] [SHOULD [NOT] SAY] [TO THE ONE WHO] [MOLDED {IT}], "[WHY] [DID YOU MAKE] [ME] [LIKE THIS]?" <sup>21</sup>[Or] [does [The] [Potter] [not] have] [Authority] [over The] [Mud], [to make] [one] [a Container] [for] [Honor], [but] [another] {a container} [for] [Dishonor], [out] [of The] [same] [Lump]?

(Romans 9:19–21) —HSSB

Paul's point is, we have the ability to believe the Truth or to believe a lie. So why would anyone challenge God for making an earthenware "container" that has the option—the *choice*—to believe one or the other? It's our *choice* as to which one we "contain." But the Truth is the only thing that will cleanse us of the lies we have previously believed. That's why Paul says this about the soul in a letter to Timothy:

<sup>19</sup>(1) [However], [The] [solid] [Foundation] [of The] [{Living} God] [stands], [which has] [This] [Seal]:

(a) "[His Majesty] [knows] [those who] [are] [His]," [and]

(b) "[Anyone] [who] [names] [The] [Name] [of His Majesty] [must withdraw] [from] [Injustice]."

<sup>20</sup>(2) [But] [in] [a [large] House] [there is] [not] [only] [Containers] [made of gold] [and] [{those} made of silver], [but] [also] [{those} made of wood] [and] [{those}

made of clay]; [and] [some] {are} [for] [Honor], [but] [others] [for] [Dishonor].

<sup>21</sup>(3) [Therefore], [if] [anyone] [cleanses] [himself] [of] [These Things], [he will be] [a Container] [for] [Honor]. (2 Timothy 2:19–21a) —HSSB

Now I want to show you a *parabolic pantomime* the Lord arranged in which He depicts the Apostle Paul coming to a knowledge of the Truth. Pay attention to what the Lord says. He refers to Paul as a "container" for His "Name." That won't make much sense to you if you don't know the *Living Word of God* is "The Name" of God. If you know that, then maybe you can see the Lord is referring to Paul "carrying" *The Apostolic Teaching* throughout the ancient Near East. This is what Luke tells us about Paul's conversion:

<sup>1</sup>[But then], [while [Saul] was [still] spouting\*] [Threats] [and] [Murder] [against] [The] [Disciples] [of] [His Majesty], [after approaching] [The] [High Priest], <sup>2</sup>[he requested] [Letters] [from] [him] [to] [The] [Synagogues] [in] [Damascus], [so that], [if] [he could find] [any] [who were] [{part} of The] [Way], [both] [Men] [and] [Women], [he could lead {them}] [bound] [to] [Jerusalem].

<sup>3</sup>[But then], [as] [he] [was going], [it happened] [that [he] was drawing near] [Damascus]; [and then] [all of a sudden], [a Light] [out] [of] [Heaven] [flashed around] [him]; <sup>4</sup>[and] [after falling down] [on] [The] [Ground], [he heard] [a Voice] [saying] [to him]: "[Saul! [Saul]! [Why] [are you persecuting] [Me]?"

<sup>5</sup>[So] [he said], "[Who] [are You], [Master]?"

[And then], [He], "[I] [AM] [Jesus], [the One that] [You] [are persecuting]; <sup>6</sup>[but] [get up] [and] [go in] [to] [The] [City], [and] [something] [that] [You] [have] [to do] [will be spoken] [to You]."

<sup>7</sup>[Now] [The] [Men] [who] [were traveling with\*] [him] [were standing] [dumbfounded\*]; [on the one hand], [hearing] [The] [Voice], [but on the other hand], [not [observing] anyone]. <sup>8</sup>[Then] [Saul] [got up] [from] [The] [Ground]; [but then], [after [his] [Eyes] were open], [he was [not] seeing {anything}]. [So] [those who were leading [him] by the hand] [brought {him} in] [to] [Damascus], <sup>9</sup>[and] [he was] [three] [Days] [not] [seeing {anything}], [and] [he [never] ate] [nor] [drank {anything}].

<sup>10</sup>[But then] [some] [Disciple], [Ananias] [by Name], [was] [in] [Damascus]; [and] [His Majesty] [said] [to] [him] [in] [a Vision], "[Ananias]?"

[So] [he] [said]: “[Guess what! It is] [I], [Your Majesty]!”

<sup>11</sup>[Then] [His Majesty], [to] [him]: “[Get up]! [Go on] [over to] [The] [Street] [that] [is called] ‘[a Straightaway],’ [and] [look for] [a Man from Tarsus] [in] [Judas’] [House], [Saul] [by Name]; [for] [guess what!] [He is praying]; <sup>12</sup>[and] [he has seen] [a Man] [in] [a Vision]—[Ananias] [by Name]—[who came in] [and] [placed [his] [Hands] on] [him], [so that] [he could gain the ability to see].”

<sup>13</sup>[So] [Ananias] [responded], “[Your Majesty], [I have heard] [from] [Many] [about] [This] [Man], [as many [Awful Things] as] [he did] [to] [Your] [Holy Ones] [in] [Jerusalem]; <sup>14</sup>[and] [he has] [Authority] [here] [from] [The] [High Priests] [to bind] [all] [who] [make an appeal to] [Your] [Name].”

<sup>15</sup>[So] [His Majesty] [said] [to] [him]: “[Go], [because] [This Individual] [is] [a **Container**] [of My Choice], [to carry] [My] [Name] [for Me] [before] [both] [Gentiles] [and] [Kings], [as well as] [Israel’s] [Sons]. <sup>16</sup>[For] [I] [will give [him] an indication of] [how much] [he] [has] [to suffer] [for the sake] [of] [My] [Name].”

<sup>17</sup>[So] [Ananias] [went away] [and] [came in] [to] [The] [House] [and], [after placing] [his] [Hands] [on] [him], [said], “[Saul], [Brother], [His Majesty], [Jesus], [Who] [was seen] [by You] [on] [The] [Way] [by which] [You came], [sent] [me], [so that] [you would gain the ability to see] [and] [be filled full] [of a [holy] Spirit].”

<sup>18</sup>[And] [something [like] [Scales\*] fell off\*] [of] [his] [Eyes] [straight off]; [and then] [he gained the ability to see] [and], [after getting up], [was baptized].  
(Acts 9:1–18) —HSSB

Luke’s point in that passage is, the *Living God* filled Paul’s “container”—his soul—with a complete knowledge of the Truth regarding the message of the Hebrew Scriptures so that he could fulfill his calling as an Apostle. Paul describes that incredible experience this “way”:

<sup>9</sup>(1) [As] [we have stated before], [I [also] say] [again] [at this time], [if] [anyone] [proclaims {anything} to [you] as the good news of **the fulfillment of the promise**] [contrary to] [what] [you have taken to yourselves], [let him be] [One Under the Ban]!

<sup>10</sup>(a) [For]

(i) [am I, [at this point in time], persuading] [Men], [or] [The] [{Living} God]? [Or]

(ii) [am I seeking] [to be pleasing] [to Men]? [If] [I were [still] pleasing] [to Men], [I [would] [not] be] [a Slave] [of The Anointed One].

<sup>11</sup>(b) [For] [I make known] [to you], [Brothers], [that] [The] [Good News of **the Fulfillment of the Promise**] [that] [was proclaimed [by] [me] as the good news of **the fulfillment of the promise**] [is] [not] [in agreement with] [Mankind].

<sup>12</sup>(i) [For]

{(a)} [I] [neither] [**received**] [it] [from] [a Man],

{(b)} [nor] [was I taught {it}], [but only] [via] [Revelation] [from Jesus], [The Anointed One].

(Galatians 1:9–12) —HSSB

Not only Paul, but also Jesus refers to the souls of people as “containers.” He does so in the following passage:

<sup>20</sup>[Then] [He comes] [into] [a House]; [and] [The] [Crowd] [comes together] [again], [with the result that] [they] [could] [not] [eat]—[not even] [a Loaf of Bread].

<sup>21</sup>[And] [when [those who were] [with] [Him] heard {what was happening}], [they came] [to grab hold of] [Him]; [for] [they were saying] [that] [He was beside Himself]. <sup>22</sup>[And] [The] [Scribes] [who] [came down] [from] [Jerusalem] [were saying] [that] “[He has] [Beelzebul],” [and] [that] “[He is casting out] [The] [Demons] [by] [The] [Ruler] [of The] [Demons].”

<sup>23</sup>[So], [after summoning] [them], [He was saying] [to them] [in] [Comparisons]: “[How] [can] [Satan] [cast out] [Satan]? <sup>24</sup>[And] [if] [a Kingdom] [has been divided] [against] [itself], [That] [Kingdom] [can] [not] [stand]. <sup>25</sup>[And] [if] [a House] [has been divided] [against] [itself], [That] [House] [can] [not] [stand]. <sup>26</sup>[So] [if] [Satan] [has risen up] [against] [himself] [and] [has been divided], [he can] [not] [stand]; [but] [he is going to have] [a Consummation]. <sup>27</sup>[But] [nobody], [after coming in] [to] [The] [House] [of the one who is] [mighty], [can] [ever] [carry off] [his] [**Containers**] as plunder [unless] [He has bound] [the one who is] [mighty] [first]. [And] [then] [He can carry off] [his] [House] as plunder.”

(Mark 3:20–27) —HSSB

Jesus is referring to the fact that Satan's purpose in lying to you about anything and everything is to steal the "container" your soul is, so that you never gain real life and live forever. Satan does that by convincing you a lie is the Truth. You may not know it, but your eternal life depends on whether or not you believe what I am telling you is true. I doubt that all that many will believe me, so let me explain how we all got into the miserable situation we are in today. That way, I will have fulfilled my obligation to you so that, if you do not believe me, you have no excuse.

When God created Adam, He gave him a living soul. Moses plainly states that in Genesis 2:7. But Adam died, just as God said he would, when he believed Satan's lie. That is, his metaphysical soul died and his physical body began to die—slowly. His soul died because the life of the soul is Truth. Our soul is *parabolically*—that is, comparatively—LIKE a container that resides within your physical body. It contains the things you have decided to believe, the beliefs that control the decisions you make, the person that you are. It not only decides *what you believe*, it also decides how firmly you believe it. And your soul can just as easily decide to believe the Truth that God has revealed in the Scriptures as it can decide to believe the lies of Satan.

The point of what I have just told you is this: The soul of a person is alive or dead depending on whether its contents are true. That is why the souls of Adam and Eve died when they decided to believe Satan's lie. But your soul can come back to life if you decide to believe the Truth of the Old Testament Gospel that God has revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures. And it will come to life, provided you *choose* to believe the simple Truth of the Gospel and honestly apologize to God. On the other hand, if your soul *chooses* not to believe the Truth of the Gospel, it will remain dead and be lost forever when your physical body dies. The Truth is, the sole (pun intended) purpose of *the promise* that accompanied Adam and Eve out of the Garden is to ensure your soul survives your trek through the realm of the dead. That is what Jesus was *talking about* when He said this:

<sup>34</sup>[Then], [after summoning] [The] [Crowd] [along with] [His] [Disciples], [He told] [them]: "[If] [anyone] [wants] [to follow] [after] [Me], [he must emphatically deny] [himself] [and] [pick up] [his] [Cross] [and] [follow] [Me]. <sup>35</sup>[For] [whoever] [it may be who] [wants] [to save]

[his] [Soul] [will do away with] [it], [but] [whoever] [it might be who] [will do away with] [his] [Soul] [on account] [of Me] [and] [The] [Good News of **the Fulfillment of the Promise**] [will save] [it]. <sup>36</sup>[For] [what] [benefit does it provide] [a Man] [to gain] [The] [entire] [World] [and] [suffer the loss of] [his] [own] [Soul]? <sup>37</sup>[For] [what] [Replacement] [could] [a Man] [give] [for his] [Soul]? <sup>38</sup>[For] [whoever] [it may be who] [is ashamed of] [Me] [and] [My] [Words] [in] [This] [Generation]—[which is] [adulterous] [and] [sinful]—[The] [Son] [of The] [Man] [will] [also] [be ashamed of] [him] [when] [He comes] [in] [The] [Glory] [of] [His] [Father] [with] [The] [Messengers] [that are] [holy]."  
(Mark 8:34–38) —HSSB

The living God holds each and every one of us responsible for *what we decide to believe*. So if you believe that to be true, the logical thing for you to do would be to make sure you know and believe the Truth God has revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures. Otherwise, your soul will remain dead; and after your body dies, it will not come back to life when your body is resurrected. That is what Jesus was *talking about* when He said He came to save what was lost. Listen to what He said to Zaccheus:

<sup>8</sup>[But] [after stopping], [Zaccheus] [said] [to] [His Majesty]: "[Guess what!] [Your Majesty], [I am going to give] [the] [half] [of] [my] [Possessions] [to those who are] [poor], [and] [if] [I extorted] [anything] [from] [anyone], [I am going to pay {it} back] [fourfold\*]."

<sup>9</sup>[So] [Jesus] [said] [to] [him] [that] "[Salvation] [has come] [to] [This] [House] [Today], [just because] [he] [also] [is] [a Son] [of Abraham]. <sup>10</sup>[For] [The] [Son] [of The] [Man] [has come] [to seek] [and] [save] [what] [had been done away with]."  
(Luke 19:8–10) —HSSB

Now I am going to explain "*The Way*" your soul interacts with your spirit. Your spirit is described in the Scriptures as a "wind." That is what the Hebrew term for "spirit" actually *means*. Bible translators even translate the Greek term for "spirit" as "wind" in some instances. They know the Greek and Hebrew terms for what we call "spirit" were also used to refer to the physical winds that blow here on Planet Earth. The Truth is, the ancients believed the spirits mentioned in the Scriptures were metaphysical/spiritual "winds" that our



spirit interacts with in the spiritual realm rather than the physical winds we interact with in the physical realm.

The problem you face in understanding the Truth is this: Your spirit perceives the spiritual realm as an ephemeral thing—as nothing more than a fleeting thought, image, or emotion—that passes through your mind. Therefore, you are not always aware of the profound influence the metaphysical “winds” can have on you. Since you can’t see those “winds,” you tend to ignore them. But those metaphysical “winds” have an impact on you each and every day. If you stop to think about it, your thoughts, feelings, and emotions are every bit as real as the winds that blow in the physical realm. So maybe you should think about it: If you can feel their effects, how can you say they are not every bit as real as the winds that blow in the physical realm?

The Hebrew-speaking Prophets who wrote the Old Testament, as well as the Greek-speaking Apostles who wrote the New Testament, believed their spirit was a wind that could interact with any metaphysical wind—that is, with any spirit—that came into the body through the five senses. But they also believed evil winds could enter their mind via the metaphysical realm in which our spirit exists. That is what Jesus is describing when He told this parable:

<sup>14</sup>[Then] [He was] [casting out] [a Demon], [and] [it] [was] [a deaf-mute {demon}]; [so] [it happened that], [after [The] [Demon] came out], [The] [Deaf-mute Man] [spoke]; [and] [The] [Crowds] [were amazed]. <sup>15</sup>[But then] [some] [of] [them] [said], “[He is casting out] [The] [Demons] [by] [Beelzebul], [The] [Ruler] [of The] [Demons].”

<sup>16</sup>[And then] [Others], [who were testing {Him}], [were seeking] [a Sign] [out] [of Heaven] [from] [Him]. <sup>17</sup>[But] [He], [aware of] [The] [Train of [their] Thoughts\*], [told] [them]: “[Any] [Kingdom] [that has been divided up] [against] [itself] [is going to be deserted], [and] [a House] {divided up} [against] [a House] [is going to fall]. <sup>18</sup>[So then], [if] [Satan] [has also] been divided up] [against] [himself], [how] [can] [his] [Kingdom] stand? [Because] [you say] [that] [I] am casting out] [The] [Demons] [by] [Beelzebul]. <sup>19</sup>[So then], [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>20</sup>[But] [if] [I] [am casting out] [The] [Demons] [by] [God’s]

[Finger], [then] [The] [Kingdom] [of The] [{Living} God] [has over] taken] [you].

<sup>21</sup>[When] [the one who is] [mighty]—[who has been fully armed\*]—[guards] [his] [own] [Courtyard], [his] [Possessions] [is] [at] [Peace]. <sup>22</sup>[But] [whenever] [one mightier than] [he], [after coming upon {him}], [triumphs over] [him], [he takes away] [All] [of his] [Armor] [in] [which] [he had confidence] [and] [hands out] [his] [Spoils\*]. <sup>23</sup>[The one who] [is] [not] [with] [Me] [is] [against] [Me], [and] [the one who] [is] [not] gathering] [with] [Me] [is dispersing].

<sup>24</sup>[When] [The] [unclean] [Spirit] [has come out] [of] [The] [Man], [it passes] [through] [Places] [without water] [seeking] [Refreshment]. [And], [not] [finding] {any}, [then] [it says], ‘[I will return] [to] [my] [House] [from which] [I came out].’ <sup>25</sup>[And] [after coming back], [it finds] [one who has been swept clean] [and] [put together]. <sup>26</sup>[Then] [it goes] [and] [takes with it] [seven] [other] [Spirits] [nastier than] [itself]. [And] [after coming in], [it dwells in] [there]; [and] [The] [Last Days] [of] [That] [Man] [becomes] [worse than] [The] [First].” (Luke 11:14–26) —HSSB

The Apostle Peter alludes to the fact that he knew Jesus was *talking about* the lies that people have *chosen* to believe when he says this about people who reject the Truth:

<sup>1</sup>(1) [But] [there were] [also] [False Prophets] [among] [The] [People], [as] [also] [there will be] [False Teachers\*] [among] [you], [who] [will]

(a) surreptitiously introduce\*] [Sects] [of Eternal Damnation] [and]

(b) [deny] [The] [Slave Owner] [Who bought] [them], [bringing upon] [themselves] [an [imminent] Eternal Damnation].

<sup>2</sup>(2) [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>(3) [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>(4) [For] [if]:

(a) [The] [{Living} God] [did [not] spare]  
[Messengers] [who sinned], [but] [after imprisoning  
{them} in Tartarus\*] [with Cords\*] [of Nether  
Gloom],  
(b) [He handed [those who are being kept] over] [for]  
[Sentencing]; <sup>5</sup>[and]  
(c) [He did [not] spare] [The [ancient] World]; [but]  
(d) [He 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]  
(e) [He condemned] [{the} Cities] [of Sodom] [and]  
[Gomorra] [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]  
(f) [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} [blame-  
less] Soul] [by {their} [lawless] Works]—<sup>9</sup>[His  
Majesty] [knows how] [to]

(i) deliver] [a godly {person}] [from] [Testing],  
[yet]  
(ii) [keep watch over] [Those Who Are Unjust]—  
[those who are being detained] [for] [{the} Day]  
[of Sentencing]; <sup>10</sup>[yet] [in particular],

{(a)} [those who] [go] [after] [Flesh] [with] [a  
Selfish Desire] [for Defiling {themselves}\*]  
[and]  
{(b)} [those who despise] [Lordship].

(5) [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 tremen-  
dous] [in Might] [and] [Supernatural Power], [do [not]  
bring] [a [False Religious Claims] Sentence] [against]  
[them] [before] [His Majesty].

<sup>12</sup>(6) [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].

(a) [They will [also] be beguiled] [by] [their] [own]  
[Perishable Body]:

<sup>13</sup>(i) [those who are going to be harmed] [as a  
Wage] [for Injustice];  
(ii) [those who deem] [Pleasure] [during] [{the}  
Daytime] [as their] [Luxury];  
(iii) [those who are [Stains] [and] [Blemishes\*]  
living luxuriously\*] [in] [their] [Deceit], [while  
feasting together with] [you];  
<sup>14</sup>(iv) [those who have] [restless\*] [Eyes] [full] [of  
an Adulteress] [and] [Sin];  
(v) [those who are enticing] [unsettled] [Souls];  
(vi) [those who, having] [a Heart] [that has been  
trained] [in Selfishness], {are} [Children] [of a  
Curse];  
<sup>15</sup>(vii) [those who [straightaway] leave [{the}  
Way] behind].

(b) [They have been led astray] [after taking off after  
{them}] [in The] [Way] [of Balaam], [the {son}] [of]  
[Beor\*], [who] [loved] [a Wage] [of Injustice]; <sup>16</sup>[but]  
[he had] [a Public Rebuke\*] [for his own] [Illegality\*].  
[A Pack Animal] [without a voice] [that spoke some-  
thing openly] [in] [a [Man's] Voice], [prevented] [The]  
[Insanity\*] [of The] [Prophet].

<sup>17</sup>(7) [These Individuals] [are]:

(a) [Springs] [without water] [and]  
(b) [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>(i) [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]

{(a)} [those who] [conduct themselves]  
[within] [a Deception]—

<sup>19</sup>{(b)} [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>(ii) [For] [if] [those who have escaped from]  
[The] [Defilements\*] [of The] [World] [by] [Full  
Knowledge of the Truth] [concerning] [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>(iii) [For] [it was] [better] [for them] [not] [to have realized that] [The] [Way] [of The] [Declaration of Not Guilty] is true], [rather than], [after realizing {it} is true], [to turn back] [from] [The] [holy] [Commandment] [that was handed over] [to them].

<sup>22</sup>(8) [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

The Prophets and Apostles knew the Truth with regard to the "winds." The "winds" that buffet us every day do their best to persuade us to believe a lie; and the Truth is, we can feel the effects of the metaphysical "winds" that "blow" through our mind. We cannot only feel the effects of the nasty, negative thoughts, feelings, and emotions they "blow," we can also "see" them with what the Apostle Paul calls "the eyes of the heart." Therefore, those who have been born again can easily learn to recognize, and reject, the evil "winds" that are trying to control them. So here is the connection between your soul and the metaphysical/spiritual realm where all of those "winds"—that is, all those spirits—interact with your spirit.

I have already told you the soul is where you decide to accept as valid, or reject as invalid, all of the information—that is, the thoughts, feelings, and emotions—that flood your spirit when those metaphysical "winds" "blow" through your mind. But here is something you may not know: The Apostle Paul and every other Greek-speaking person at that time believed the heart was the mind. What that *means* is, when Paul said the following about the "eyes of the heart," he knew True Believers can mentally "see" the thoughts, feelings, and emotions that pass through their mind if they just pay attention; and God expects them to do just that. Paul says this:

<sup>15</sup>(2) [For] [This Reason] [I also]—[after hearing about] [The] [Belief in God's **Promise**] [with regard to] [our] [Master], [Jesus], [{that is} in each and every one of] [you]; [and] [your] [Love] [for] [all] [The] [Holy Ones]—<sup>16</sup>[do [not] stop]:

(a) [giving thanks] [for] [you];

(b) [making] [Mention of {you}] [in] [my] [Prayers],

<sup>17</sup>[so that] [The] [{Living} God] [of] [our] [Master], [Jesus], [The Anointed One], [The] [Father] [of our] [Glory], [would give] [you] [a Spirit] [of Wisdom] [and] [Revelation] [with] [Full Knowledge of the Truth] [concerning Him], <sup>18</sup>[after [The] [Eyes] [of] [your] [Heart] have been provided light] [so] [that] [you] [are aware of]:

(i) [what] [The] [Hope] [of] [His] [Invitation] [is];

(ii) [what] [The] [Wealth] [of The] [Glory] [of] [His] [**Inheritance**] [in] [The] [Holy Ones] {is}; <sup>19</sup>[and]

(iii) [what] [The] [incredible] [Greatness\*] [of] [His] [Supernatural Power] {is} [in] [us], [those who] [believe God's **promise**], [in accordance with] [The] [Energy] [of The] [Power] [of] [His] [Might]—<sup>20</sup>[which {energy}] [worked] [in] [The] [Anointed One]:

{(a)} [when raising] [Him] [from] [Those Who Are Dead]; [and]

{(b)} [when seating {Him}] [at] [His] [Right Hand] [among] [the {beings}] [in Heaven].

(Ephesians 1:15–20) —HSSB

Paul's point is, if you are a True Believer, you were born again by believing the Truth of the Gospel and apologizing to God. That experience granted you the ability to understand the "Spirit" that resides in the message that Moses and the other Prophets of Israel hid in the Hebrew Scriptures. Those who have not been born again are not even able to see the fact that the Prophets hid the Truth, much less understand it. The Apostle Paul puts that Truth this way:

<sup>1</sup>(1) [When {I} came] [to] [you], [Brothers],

(a) [I also] [did [not] come] [proclaiming] [The] [Mystery] [of The] [{Living} God] [to you] [with] [Superiority] [of Word] [or] [Wisdom].



<sup>2</sup>[For] [I decided] [not] [to know] [anything] [among]  
[you] [except] [Jesus], [The Anointed One]—[and]  
[This Individual] [crucified].

<sup>3</sup>(b) [I also] [came] [to] [you]

(i) [with] [an Infirmary] [and]

(ii) [with] [Fear] [and]

(iii) [with] [a lot of] [Trembling].

<sup>4</sup>(2) [So] [my] [Word] [and] [my] [Preaching] {were}

(a) [not] [with] [persuasive\*] [Words] [of Wisdom],  
(b) [but] [with] [a Demonstration\*] [of {the} Spirit]  
[and] [Supernatural Power], <sup>5</sup>[so that] [your] [Belief  
in God's **Promise**] [would [not] be] [{based}]

(i) on [Men's] [Wisdom],

(ii) [but only] [on] [God's] [Supernatural Power].

<sup>6</sup>(3) [Now]

(a) [we do speak] [a Wisdom] [among] [those who  
are] [complete], [yet] [not] [{the} Wisdom] [of]  
[This] [Current Age] [nor] [of The] [Rulers]  
[of] [This] [Current Age], [who]  
[are going to be abrogated]; <sup>7</sup>[but]  
(b) [we speak] [God's] [Wisdom], [which] [had been  
tucked away] [in]

(i) [a Mystery] [that] [The] [{Living} God]  
[decided on beforehand]—[before] [The] [Past  
Ages]—[as] [our] [Glory];

<sup>8</sup>(ii) [{a mystery} that] [none] [of The] [Rulers]  
[of] [This] [Current Age] [has known]; [for] [they  
would] [not] have crucified [The] [Master] [of  
our] [Glory] [if] [they had known {it}]. <sup>9</sup>[But]  
(iii) {a mystery} [just as] [it has been written]:

"[WHAT] [EYE] [HAS [NEVER] SEEN]  
[AND] [EAR] [HAS [NEVER] HEARD]  
[AND] [WHAT HAS [NEVER] COME UP] [ON]  
[A MAN'S] [HEART]  
{IS} [WHAT] [THE] [{Living} GOD] [HAS PRE-  
PARED] [FOR THOSE WHO] [LOVE] [HIM]."

<sup>10</sup>(4) [Yet] [The] [{Living} God] [has revealed  
{those things}] [to us] [via] [The] [Spirit];

(a) [for] [The] [Spirit] [searches] [everything], [even]  
[The] [Depths] [of The] [{Living} God].

<sup>11</sup>(b) [For] [who] [among Men] [is aware of] [the  
{thoughts}] [of The] [Man] [except] [The] [Spirit] [of  
The] [Man] [that is] [in] [him]? [So] [also] [nobody]  
[knows] [the {thoughts}] [of The] [{Living} God]  
[except] [The] [Spirit] [of The] [{Living} God].

<sup>12</sup>(i) [So] [we] [did [not] receive] [The] [Spirit]  
[of The] [World], [but] [The] [Spirit] [that is]  
[from] [The] [{Living} God], [so that] [we  
would be aware of] [the things that] [have  
been granted to [us] as a favor] [by] [The]  
[{Living} God], <sup>13</sup>[which things] [we [also] talk  
about]—[not] [in] [Words] [taught] [by human]  
[Wisdom], [but only] [in {words}] [taught] [by  
{the} Spirit], [{words} that compare [Spiritual  
Things] to] [Spiritual Things].

<sup>14</sup>(ii) [But] [a [soulish] Man] [does [not] accept]  
[the things] [of The] [Spirit] [of The] [{Living}  
God], [for] [it is] [Stupidity] [to him], [so]  
[he is [not] able] [to know] [that] [he is being  
interrogated] [spiritually].

<sup>15</sup>(iii) [But] [the] [spiritual {Man}] [examines]  
[Every Last Thing], [yet] [He] [is [not] going to be  
interrogated] [by {anybody}].

<sup>16</sup>(c) [For] [WHO] [HAS KNOWN] [HIS MAJESTY'S]  
[MIND]? {WHO IS} [THE ONE WHO] [WILL PUT IT ALL  
TOGETHER FOR] [HIM]? [But then] [we] [have] [{the}  
Mind] [of The Anointed One].  
(1 Corinthians 2:1–16) —HSSB

Knowing that True Believers have been given an ability to “see”—that is, to understand—the Truth in the Scriptures that unbelievers cannot “see,” puts the following passage in an entirely different light. Luke tells us what happened after Jesus arose from the dead:

<sup>27</sup>[Then], [after beginning] [from] [Moses] [and]  
[from] [all] [The] [Prophets], [He interpreted] [for them]  
[the things] [about] [Himself] [in] [all] [The] [Scriptures].  
<sup>28</sup>[Then] [they drew near] [to] [The] [Village] [where]  
[they were going], [and] [He] [acted like\*] [{He} was  
going] [farther\*]; <sup>29</sup>[so] [they urged] [Him], [saying],  
“[Stay] [with] [us], [because] [it is] [on toward]  
[Evening]; [and] [The] [Day] [has [already] nodded off].”  
[So] [He came in] [to] [stay] [with] [them].

<sup>30</sup>[And] [while] [He] [was reclining] [with] [them], [it happened that], [after taking] [The] [Loaf of Bread], [He blessed {it}] [and], [after breaking {it}], [handed {it}] [to them]. <sup>31</sup>[And then] [their] [Eyes] [were opened up], [and] [they recognized] [Him]; [yet] [He] [was] [obscured\*] [from] [their {view}]. <sup>32</sup>[And] [they said] [to] [one another], "[Were] [our] [Hearts] [not] [burning] [within] [us] [as] [He was speaking] [to us] [on] [The] [Way]—[as] [He was opening up] [The] [Scriptures] [for us]?"

<sup>33</sup>[So] [after getting up], [they returned] [to] [Jerusalem] [That] [very] [Hour]; [and] [they found] [The] [Eleven] [and] [those who] [had been assembled\*] [together with] [them], <sup>34</sup>[saying] [that] "[His Majesty] [really] [has arisen] [and] [has been seen] [by Simon]."

<sup>35</sup>[Then] [they] [described at length] [the things that] [had happened] [on] [The] [Way], [and] [how] [He was made known] [to them] [by] [The] [Breaking] [of The] [Loaf of Bread]. <sup>36</sup>[But then], [while] [they] [were talking about] [These Things], [He] [stood up] [in] [their] [Midst] [and] [tells] [them], "[Peace] {be} [to you]."

<sup>37</sup>[But] [becoming apprehensive]—[and] [becoming] [very fearful]—[they assumed] [that {they} were observing] [a Spirit]. <sup>38</sup>[So] [He said] [to them]: "[Why] [are you] [disturbed], [and] [why] [are] [Speculations] coming up] [in] [your] [Heart]? <sup>39</sup>[Take a look] [at] [My] [Hands] [and] [My] [Feet]! [Because] [I] [AM] [He]. [Feel] [Me] [and] [take a look]! [Because] [a Spirit] [does not] [have] [Flesh] [and] [Bones] [at all like] [you observe] [that] [I] have."

<sup>40</sup>[And] [after saying] [This], [He showed] [them] [His] [Hands] [and] [His] [Feet]. <sup>41</sup>[But] [when] [they] [still] refused to believe {He had been resurrected}] [because] [of their] [Joy] [and] [being amazed], [He said] [to them], "[Do you have] [anything] [edible\*] [in here]?"

<sup>42</sup>[So] [they] [handed] [Him] [Part] [of a] [roasted\*] [Fish]; <sup>43</sup>[and] [after taking {it}], [He ate {it}] [in] [their] presence]. <sup>44</sup>[Then] [He said] [to] [them], "[These] {are} [My] [Words], [the ones that] [I spoke] [to] [you] [while {I} was] [still] [with] [you], [that] 'all] [the things that] [have been written] [about] [Me] [in] [The] [Law] [of Moses] [and] [The] [Prophets] [and] [Psalms] [have] [to be fulfilled]."

<sup>45</sup>[Then] [He opened up] [their] [Mind] [to comprehend] [The] [Scriptures] <sup>46</sup>[and] [said] [to them] [that] "[so also] [it has been written] [that] [The] [Anointed One] would suffer] [and] [rise] [from] [Those Who Are Dead] [on The] [third] [Day], <sup>47</sup>[and] [an Apology] [for] [Forgiveness] [of Sins] [for] [all] [The]

[Gentiles] [would be preached] [in] [His] [Name]—[beginning] [from] [Jerusalem]."  
(Luke 24:27–47) —HSSB

If you are able to understand even the bare essence of the Truth, you can plainly see Luke is describing a supernatural experience that allows True Believers to understand the Scriptures while unbelievers are left out. He tells us in a sort of off-handed way that it is necessary to have our mind "opened" before we can understand the Truth. That agrees perfectly with what Paul told us.

Now that I have set the stage for what I am about to tell you, here it is: If you are a True Believer, you have already come to an incipient knowledge of the Truth. That happened when you believed the Gospel and were born again. You knew the Gospel was true when you believed it, and as a result of your belief, the *Living Word of God* resides within you. That *Living Word* is holy; therefore, God expects you to guard your mind so that Satan's lies do not triumph over the Truth of the Scriptures that you believed when you were born again. Jesus put it this "Way":

"[The one who] [triumphs]? [I will make] [him] [a Pillar] [in] [The] [Sanctuary] [of] [My] [God], [and] [he will] [definitely not] go] [outside] [anymore]. [And] [I will write] [The] [Name] [of] [My] [God] [on] [him], [as well as] [The] [Name] [of The] [City] [of] [My] [God]—[The] [new] [Jerusalem], [which] [is going to come down] [out] [of] [Heaven] [from] [My] [God], [even] [My] [Name], [My] [new {one}]."

(Revelation 3:12) —HSSB

Jesus makes seven such statements in the Book of Revelation. The Truth is, if you have been born again by believing the Gospel and apologizing, He expects you to keep the evil "winds"—that is, the lies of Satan—out of your mind. God called me to provide you the tools you need to make sure you do what God demands. It is your *choice* as to whether or not you want to do it. I have been doing what God called me to do for more than fifty years now—building a base of knowledge you can "stand" on—by just explaining what I understand regarding the message of the Hebrew Scriptures. Now I am going to explain how you can use the things I teach to keep the "winds" out of your mind. So buckle up and hang on! ■



**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:** After reading several of our Free Offer Booklets, a man sent in these comments and a two-part question:

I received your booklet, THE OLD TESTAMENT GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. As I read, I noticed that you referred to Corporate Israel. My question {part 1}: Is this reference the same as the Commonwealth of Israel, as noted in Ephesians 2:11–14? And {if so} then my question {part 2} would be: Why we don't recognize that, as followers of Jesus, we are truly Israelis as well as saints, that the church and Israel are the same, as you note in your booklet, WANNA HEAR A WHOPPER?

Since 1955, when I was saved, I have never known of the Commonwealth of Israel until recently—and in my studies of many different topics such as (1) when Jesus will return, (clearly stated in John 6 four times), (2) the subject of Hell, of which I have told my wife, that what we, as Christians, know about Hell, is strictly street knowledge, and (3) what we know about the Soul and the Spirit, of which we learn primarily at funerals, is confusing to most Christians and certainly not as taught in the Bible.

It is truly sinful the way the Protestant churches have become nothing more than entertainment centers, reveling in ear tickling messages to keep the paying customers happy. Why pastors are content to be churches of Laodicea rather than Philadelphia, which the Lord loveth, is a mystery to me—why not God's way—God's

Commandments, God's holy days, God's time for worship—except that we are under the influence of the Catholic Church. I think that the reason Luther didn't mention the Sabbath in his revolt is that he hated the Jew, and did not want any thought that salvation was related to works—such as the 4th Commandment. Although I have told my son that if a person willingly lives outside of God's Commandments and refuses to repent, that what Jesus did at Calvary did not apply to him, and he will perish, as in John 3:16—we often repeat this verse and completely overlook what the word “perish” means.

I have been concerned about false doctrines, such as the pre-tribulation rapture, and the Trinity doctrine—neither of which is supported by God's word—or for that matter even taught anymore, which is why I have loved your booklet, WANNA HEAR A WHOPPER? I love it, and the history you have included. I appreciated your comments regarding Dispensational Theology, which is included as one of my to-study topics. You are so clear and precise about being born again, which I appreciate.

I would appreciate your comment about CORPORATE and COMMONWEALTH, as I noted above, when you have time, and to know of any other booklets you have written that may clear up any errors I have expressed.

**Elijah:** It never ceases to amaze me how misleading the King James Version of the Scriptures can be. But the Truth is, it is not just the King James Version; in one way or another, every other translation is guilty of the same sort of malfeasance. Take a look at how the King James Version translates the Greek term this person is concerned about. He has already referred to the first verse in which it occurs, so let's start there. I have bolded the term in question so you can more easily see the problem:

<sup>11</sup>Wherefore remember, that ye {being} in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; <sup>12</sup>That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the **commonwealth** of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. (Ephesians 2:11–13) —KJV

Now that you have that verse in hand, take a look at how the translators who produced the King James



Version translated the only other verse in which the Greek term *politea* occurs. The context is one in which the Apostle Paul is about to be tortured for doing nothing more than speaking publicly about his conversion experience:

<sup>22</sup>And they gave him audience unto this word, and {then} lifted up their voices, and said, Away with such a {fellow} from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live. <sup>23</sup>And as they cried out, and cast off {their} clothes, and threw dust into the air, <sup>24</sup>The chief captain commanded him to be brought into the castle, and bade that he should be examined by scourging; that he might know wherefore they cried so against him. <sup>25</sup>And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned? <sup>26</sup>When the centurion heard {that}, he went and told the chief captain, saying, Take heed what thou doest: for this man is a Roman. <sup>27</sup>Then the chief captain came, and said unto him, Tell me, art thou a Roman? He said, Yea. <sup>28</sup>And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this **freedom**. And Paul said, But I was {free} born. <sup>29</sup>Then straightway they departed from him which should have examined him: and the chief captain also was afraid, after he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.  
(Acts 22:22–29) —KJV

Did you see what the translators that King Jimmy hired did? They had to deal with only two verses in which that one Greek term occurs, yet they translated it two entirely different ways! Does that make any sense to you? I hope not, because what they did is not only illogical, it is completely absurd. That example alone should tell you that, if you do not have a way to gain access to the *meaning* of the Greek words that stand behind every translation of the Scriptures, you are going to be left to make assumptions about the *meaning* of what you read.

As I have stated repeatedly over the past thirty years, “Assumptions will kill you.” So I seriously suggest you might want to consider “The Way” I have translated the Scriptures in Harper’s Standardized Study Bible. I did my best to ascertain the specific *meaning* of the original Greek terms and then translate them consistently throughout. In this case, the result could not be more convincing. Here is my translation of the passage from Acts 22 that I just showed you:

<sup>22</sup>[Now] [they were listening to] [him] [up to the time] [of] [This] [Word], [then] [they lifted up] [their] [Voices], [saying], “[Take [Such a Person] away] [from] [The] [Earth], [for] [it is [not] right for] [him] [to live]!”

<sup>23</sup>[And then], [while [they] were yelling] [and] [tossing] [their] [Overgarments] [and] [throwing] [Dust] [into] [The] [Air], <sup>24</sup>[The] [Commander of a Thousand] [gave an order] [that [he] be brought in] [to] [The] [Fortification], [after telling {them}] [that [he] should be thoroughly interrogated] [by Scourging], [so that] [he could ascertain] [for] [what] [Reason] [they were continuing to call out] [to him] [like this]. <sup>25</sup>[But] [as soon as] [they stretched [him] out with\*] [The] [Straps], [Paul] [said] [to] [The] [Captain of a Hundred] [who was standing by], “[Is it [even] permissible] [for you] [to have [a Roman] Man] scourged\*] [without trial]?”

<sup>26</sup>[So], [when [The] [Captain of a Hundred] heard {what he said}], [after approaching] [The] [Commander of a Thousand], [he reported], [saying]: “[What] [are You going] [to do]? [For] [This] [Man] [is] [a Roman]!”

<sup>27</sup>[So], [after approaching {Paul}], [The] [Commander of a Thousand] [told] [him]: “[Tell] [me]! [Are] [You] [a Roman]?”

[So] [he] [declared], “[Yes].”

<sup>28</sup>[Then] [The] [Commander of a Thousand] [responded], “[I] [acquired] [This] [**Citizenship**] [with a [huge] Sum].”

[But] [Paul] [declared], “[But] [I] [was [also] engendered {a Roman citizen}].”  
(Acts 22:22–28) —HSSB

Anyone with half a brain and one eye open should be able to see the Greek term *politea* actually means “citizenship.” It certainly does not mean “freedom.” Even the translators who updated the King James Version to produce the New American Standard Bible could see that:

<sup>22</sup>They listened to him up to this statement, and then they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he should not be allowed to live!”

<sup>23</sup>And as they were crying out and throwing off their cloaks and tossing dust into the air, <sup>24</sup>the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, stating that he should be examined by scourging so that he might find out the reason why they were shouting against him that way. <sup>25</sup>But when they stretched him out with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, “Is it

lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman and uncondemned?" <sup>26</sup>When the centurion heard {this}, he went to the commander and told him, saying, "What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman." <sup>27</sup>The commander came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman?" And he said, "Yes." <sup>28</sup>The commander answered, "I acquired this **citizenship** with a large sum of money." And Paul said, "But I was actually born a citizen." <sup>29</sup>Therefore those who were about to examine him immediately let go of him; and the commander also was afraid when he found out that he was a Roman, and because he had put him in chains.

(Acts 22:22–29) —NASB

Here is the irony in the New American Standard Bible's correction of the King James Version's distorted translation of the Greek term *politea* in that passage: The translators corrected the flaw in Acts 22 but did absolutely nothing to correct the King James Version's translation of the term in Ephesians 2:

<sup>11</sup>Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," {which is} performed in the flesh by human hands—<sup>12</sup>{remember} that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the **commonwealth** of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For He Himself is our peace, who made both {groups} {into} one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, <sup>15</sup>by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, {which is} the Law of commandments {contained} in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, {thus} establishing peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. <sup>17</sup>AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; <sup>18</sup>for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are **fellow citizens** with the saints, and are of God's household, <sup>20</sup>having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner {stone}, <sup>21</sup>in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup>in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

(Ephesians 2:11–22) —NASB

Isn't that interesting? The Bible translators who produced the New American Standard Bible translated the term *politea* as "citizenship" in Acts 22:28, but then they turn right around and blindly follow the King James Version in Ephesians 2:12. The ironic thing in that regard is, Paul tells us precisely what he is *talking about* in verse 19:

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are **fellow citizens** with the saints, and are of God's household.

(Ephesians 2:19) —NASB

Now that you know how misleading it can be to depend on translators to do the heavy lifting for you, do you have any idea why the New American Standard Bible would translate Acts 22:28 correctly and then follow the King James Version in Ephesians 2:12? No? Well, let me be the first to tell you: It's because those translators didn't—and still don't—have a single, solitary clue as to what Paul is *talking about* in Ephesians 2, much less what he *means* by what he says. So I am going to spell it out for you in one single succinct sentence: They didn't—and still don't—know that Jesus Christ became *Corporate Israel* at His Baptism, after God "cut off" all the other Jews "from Israel." The ignorance of theological "scholars" in that regard is even more obvious when you read what they write about what Paul says in Romans 11 about the need for the Jews to be "grafted back in" to Jesus Christ, the One Who now is *Corporate Israel*. But I digress, so let me take this occasion to explain what Paul is *talking about* in Ephesians 2. Here is my translation:

<sup>1</sup>(1) [Now] [you] {are} [those who were] [dead]

(a) [in your] [Transgressions] [and]

(b) [in your] [Sins]—<sup>2</sup>[in] [which] [you walked] [at one time]:

(i) [in agreement with] [The] [Current Age] [of] [This] [World],

(ii) [in agreement with]

{(a)} [The] [Ruler] [of The] [Authority] [of The] [Air],

{(b)} [The] [Spirit] [of the one who] [is [now] working] [in] [The] [Sons] [of] [Apathy].

<sup>3</sup>(2) [Among] [whom] [we] [all] [at one time] [also]:

(a) [conducted ourselves]:

- (i) [in] [The] [Selfish Desires] [of] [our] [Flesh],
- (ii) [while acting in accordance with] [The] [Will] [of our] [Flesh] [and] [Understanding]; [and]

(b) [were] [by Nature] [also] [Children] [of Anger], [like] [The] [Rest of {the sons of apathy}].

<sup>4</sup>(3) [Then] [The] [{Living} God]—[Who is] [wealthy] [in] [Mercy]—[because of] [His] [copious] [Love] [with which] [He loved] [us], <sup>5</sup>[also]:

- (a) [made {us}]—[those who were] [dead] [in our] [Transgressions]—[alive together] [in The] [Anointed One] ([you are] [those who have been saved] [as a Favor]); <sup>6</sup>[and]
- (b) [raised {us} up together]; [and]
- (c) [seated {us} together] [with] [those who are] [in Heaven]—[in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus]—<sup>7</sup>[so that], [in] [The] [Ages] [that are] [going to come], [He might present {us} as evidence of] [The] [incredible] [Wealth] [of] [His] [Favor] [in] [{His} Benevolence] [for] [us] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus].

<sup>8</sup>(i) [For] [because of His] [Favor] [you are] [those who have been saved] [via] [Belief in God's **Promise**], [and] [This] [Offering] [of God] {is} [not] [because of] [you]—<sup>9</sup>[not] [because of] [Works]—[so that] [no] [one] [could boast].

<sup>10</sup>(ii) [For] [we are] [What He Made]—[those who have been created] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus], [for] [good] [Works], [the {good works} that] [The] [{Living} God] [prepared beforehand], [so that] [we could walk] [in] [them].

<sup>11</sup>(4) [Wherefore], [remember] [that]

(a) [you] {were} [at one time]

- (i) [The] [Gentiles] [in] [Flesh],
- (ii) [those who] [are called] "[uncircumcised]" [by] [what] [is called] "[The Circumcision]" [made in] [Flesh] by human hands]. <sup>12</sup>[Because]

(b) [you were] [at That] [Time]:

- (i) [separate from] [The Anointed One],
- (ii) [estranged from] [The] [**Citizenship**] [of] [Israel], [and]
- (iii) [Strangers] [to The] [Testaments] [of **The Promise**]
- (iv) [those who did not have] [a Hope] [and] {were} [without God\*] [in] [The] [World].

<sup>13</sup>(c) [But] [now]—[in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus]—[you] [who] [were] [at one time] [far away] [have come to be] [near] [because of] [The] [Blood] [of The] [Anointed One]. <sup>14</sup>[For] [He] [is]

- (i) [our] [Peace],
- (ii) [the One Who] [made] [both of us] [One] [and] [undid] [The] [Partition-wall\*] [of The] [Hedge]—[The] [Hostility]—[in] [His] [Flesh], <sup>15</sup>[after abrogating] [The] [Law] [of The] [Commandments] [in] [Decrees], [so that] [in] [Himself]:

{(a)} [He could create] [The] [Two] [into] [one] [New] [Man] [Who makes] [Peace], <sup>16</sup>[and]

{(b)} [He could completely reconcile] [both of them] [to The] [{Living} God]

{(i)} [in] [one] [Body],

{(ii)} [via] [The] [Cross],

{(iii)} [after killing] [The] [Hostility] [in] [Himself].

<sup>17</sup>(5) [So], [AFTER COMING], [HE PROCLAIMED THE GOOD NEWS OF **THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISE**] [AS PEACE] [TO YOU] [WHO WERE] [FAR AWAY], [AND] [PEACE] [TO THOSE WHO WERE] [NEAR]; <sup>18</sup>[because]—[via] [Him]—[both of us] [have] [Access] [to] [The] [Father] [by] [one] [Spirit].

<sup>19</sup>(a) [So then]—[therefore]—[you are] [no longer]:

- (i) [Strangers] [and]
- (ii) [Temporary Residents];

(b) [but] [you are]:

- (i) [Fellow **Citizens**\*] [with The] [Holy Ones], [and]
- (ii) [Members of the House] [of The] [{Living}]



God], <sup>20</sup>[after being built] [on] [The] [Foundation]  
[of The] [Apostles] [and] [Prophets], [its]  
[Cornerstone] [being] [The Anointed One],  
[Jesus]:

<sup>21</sup>{(a)} [in] [Whom] [a [whole] Building]—  
[which is being precisely framed together]—[is  
being made to grow] [into] [a [holy]  
Sanctuary] [for] [His Majesty];  
<sup>22</sup>{(b)} [in] [Whom] [you] [also] [are being  
built together\*]:

{(i)} [by] [a Spirit],  
{(ii)} [into] [{the} Home] [of The]  
[{Living} God].

(Ephesians 2:1–22) —HSSB

I am going to explain what Paul is talking about in that chapter; but first, there is a wee bit of information you need to know before you can understand what he wrote, so listen up: You are what you believe. Have you heard me say that before? You should have, if you have read the things I have written over the past thirty years; but some of you may not have stopped to study the stupendous secondary suggestions stemming from such a seemingly simple statement. So let me set out a series of things you need to know about the Apostle Paul's mind-set. (Alliteration is so silly, yet abSolutely satisfying.) :-)

First, I need to show you what the Apostle John says about "The Word":

<sup>1</sup>[In] [The Beginning], [there was] [The] [Word];  
[and] [The] [Word] [was] [with] [The] [{Living} God],  
[and] [The] [Word] [was] [God]. <sup>2</sup>[This Individual]  
[was] [with] [The] [{Living} God] [in] [The Beginning].  
<sup>3</sup>[Everything] [has come into being] [via] [Him], [and]  
[not even] [One Thing] [that] [has come into being] [has  
come into being] [apart from] [Him]. <sup>4</sup>[Life] [was] [in]  
[Him], [and] [His] [Life] [was] [The] [Light] [of] [Men].  
<sup>5</sup>[So] [The] [Light] [appears] [in] [The] [Darkness], [yet]  
[The] [Darkness] [has [never] grasped] [it].  
(John 1:1–5) —HSSB

It should be abundantly apparent to even a mindless moron that John had something definite in mind when he wrote that statement, but what is not so apparent is what it was. So let's start with the fact that

you are what you **choose** to believe. Then we move on to consider the same thing applies to God, *He is what He chooses to believe*. The primary difference between what we **choose** to believe and what the Lord **chooses** to believe is actually quite easy to understand; *what He chooses to believe* is the absolute Truth that He is, while we tend to prefer to believe any lie that will allow us the "freedom" to do whatever we want to do.

Don't get off into the weeds here; just keep in mind the simple fact that *God is the Truth He chooses to believe*, and He has revealed a small part of Who He is by what He has said in the Scriptures. The Truth in that regard should not need further confirmation, but I will provide it, just in case some nascent Neanderthal may have somehow found his or her way into this article.

In the same way that we reveal a small part of who we are by what we say, the same applies to God. He has revealed Who He is through the things the Prophets and Apostles have stated in the Scriptures. That is an incredibly important insight, so make note of it. We do not reveal the totality of who we are by what we say; but if we "give our word" to someone and do not do what we **promised** we would do, they can come to know all they need to know about us rather quickly: That is, they can easily determine we are not trustworthy. The very same thing applies to God. And therein lies the essence of what the Prophets and Apostles had in mind when they *talk about "The Word"* of God; His "Word" is **the promise** that He made to Adam and Eve right before He booted them out of the Garden. That is, He "gave them His Word" that they and their descendants could come back into the Garden if they **chose** to believe **the promise**. And the Scriptures are a historical record of how God has gone about keeping "The Word" He "gave" Adam and Eve.

Now, if you understand the *parabolic imagery* of the Passover Parable that I have mentioned over the years, you should already know the "Spirit" embodied in "The Word" that God gave Adam and Eve is the Spirit of Jesus Christ Himself. That is, He is the One Who existed in Heaven before He "emptied Himself" to come down and take on our image and likeness. But you probably don't know when He "emptied Himself," so let me be the first to tell you. It wasn't when He became incarnate, it was when He left the Garden of Eden as a Spirit that they "carried" with them. If you doubt that, just take a look at the *parabolic imagery* of the

Passover Parable: The casket that was hidden behind a curtain in the Tabernacle—the mortuary in which the King of Israel lay in state—was patterned after the casket in the Tabernacle in Heaven. That can only *mean* the King of *Corporate* Israel—Jesus Christ—had already “died”—in Heaven—before Moses brought those two stone tablets down from the Mountain of God.

Don’t wander off into the weeds here; I’m merely telling you when the *spiritual* death of Jesus Christ happened; it happened when He “emptied Himself.” What did He “empty” Himself of? The contents of His Spirit, of course; the Spirit that left the Garden with Adam and Eve to come down here, into the realm of the dead. If you did not know you are living in the realm of the dead, wake up and smell the roses, provided you can detect that sweet smell over and above the putrid smell of death emanating from every stinking person around you. You have been trained to think of death as aging; I suggest you might want to think again. “Aging” is death, pure and simple. We are all dying, one day at a time; and death will one day overtake you, you can count on it. But I digress—again.

To understand the *parabolic imagery* of the Passover Parable in which the Spirit of the King of *Corporate* Israel—Jesus Christ—has been making His trek through the realm of the dead, you need to stop thinking about death in terms of existence and nonexistence. It is instead a *change of state*. That is, the dead do not cease to exist; they continue to exist, but in a different *state*. You already believe that, but you most likely haven’t stopped to think about the implications of that belief: When Jesus Christ “emptied Himself,” He did so in order to take up a different *state* down here, in the realm of the dead. Keep that in mind, Paul is going to mention it in Ephesians 2.

If you want to understand what the Apostles understood about Jesus Christ as the Spirit embodied in “*The Word*” of *the promise*, you have to pay close attention to what they say about it. So let me lay out a few basic passages for you. Listen to what Jesus said about “*The Word*” when He explained the *meaning* of the Parable of the Sower:

<sup>16</sup>[But] [your] [Eyes] [are fortunate], [because] [they are looking at {the mysteries}]; [and] [your] [Ears], [because] [they are hearing {the mysteries}].  
<sup>17</sup>[For] [without doubt], [I tell] [you] [that] [a lot of] [Prophets] [and] [Those Who Were Blameless] [desired]

[to see] [the things that [you are looking] at], [and] [they did [not] see {them}], [and] [to hear] [the things that] [you are hearing], [and] [they did [not] hear {them}].

<sup>18</sup>[Therefore], [you] [must listen to] [The] [Comparison] [of the One Who] [sowed]:

<sup>19</sup>[When [anyone] hears] [The] [Word] [of The] [Kingdom] [and] [does [not] comprehend {it}], [The] [One Who Is Nasty] [comes] [and] [snatches up] [the one that] [has been sown] [in] [his] [Heart]. [This Individual] [is] [the one who] [was sown] [by] [The] [Way].

<sup>20</sup>[But] [the one who] [was sown] [on] [The] [Rocky Places]? [This Individual] [is] [the one who] [hears] [The] [Word] [and] [accepts] [it] [straightaway] [with] [Joy]; <sup>21</sup>[but then] [he does [not] have] [a Root] [in] [himself], [but] [is] [transitory]. [So], [when [Turmoil] [or] [Persecution] occurs] [because of] [The] [Word], [he is offended] [straightaway].

<sup>22</sup>[But] [the one who] [was sown] [into] [The] [Thorns]? [This Individual] [is] [the one who] [hears] [The] [Word], [and] [Concern about] [The] [Current Age]—[as well as] [The] [Deceitfulness] [of its] [Wealth]—[crowd out] [The] [Word], [and] [it becomes] [unproductive].

<sup>23</sup>[But] [the one who] [was sown] [on] [The] [exceptionally good] [Soil]? [This Individual] [is] [the one who] [hears] [The] [Word] [and] [comprehends {it}]; [the one who], [without question], [bears [and] [produces] fruit]—[One], [One Hundred], [another] [Sixty], [another] [Thirty].”

(Matthew 13:16–23) —HSSB

From what Jesus said to His disciples on that occasion, we know “*The Word*” has a content that a person must hear, accept, and continue to believe. Jesus said so. But Mark also tells us “*The Word*” was the very content of the message that Jesus preached:

[Then], [after leaving], [He] [began] [to preach] [a lot more] [and] [spread the facts about] [The] [Word], [with the result that] [He] [could] [no longer] [come in] [to] [a City] [in plain view], [but] [was] [out] [in] [deserted] [Places]; [and] [they were coming] [to] [Him] [from all sides].

(Mark 1:45) —HSSB

<sup>1</sup>[And] [after coming in] [to] [Capernaum] [again], [it was heard] [several] Days [later] [that] “[He is] [at] [Home].” <sup>2</sup>[So] [Many] [were gathered], [with the result

that] [{they} could [no longer] make room, [not even] for] [The Things] [at] [The] [Door]; [and] [He was speaking] [The] [Word] [to them].  
(Mark 2:1–2) —HSSB

From those two passages, we know “The Word” Jesus preached had a specific content; and we can get a glimpse of that content from this passage:

<sup>27</sup>[Then] [Jesus] [and] [His] [Disciples] [left] [for] [The] [Villages] [of] [Caesarea] [Philippi]. [And] [on] [The] [Way], [He was asking] [His] [Disciples] a question, [saying] [to them], “[Who] [do] [Men] say [that] [I] am?”

<sup>28</sup>[So] [they] [told] [Him], [saying] [that] “{some say} [John] [The] [Baptist]; [and] [Others], [Elijah]; [but] [Others], [that] {You are} [One] [of] [The] [Prophets].”

<sup>29</sup>[So] [He] [was asking] [them] a question: “[But] [you]? [Who] [do you say] [that] [I] am?”

[In response], [Peter] [tells] [Him], “[You] [are] [The] [Anointed One]!”

<sup>30</sup>[Then] [He rebuked] [them], [so that] [they would] [not] tell {anyone} [about] [Him].

<sup>31</sup>[And] [He began] [to teach] [them] [that] “[The] [Son] [of] [The] [Man] [has] [to suffer] [Many Things] [and] [be completely rejected] [by] [The] [Elders] [and] [The] [High Priests] [and] [The] [Scribes], [and] [be killed], [and] [rise] [three] [Days] [later].” <sup>32</sup>[So] [He was speaking] [The] [Word] [candidly]; [yet] [after taking] [Him] [aside], [Peter] [began] [to rebuke] [Him].

<sup>33</sup>[But then], [after turning around] [and] [seeing] [His] [Disciples], [He] [rebuked] [Peter]; [and] [He says], “[Get] [behind] [Me], [Satan], [because] [You do] [not] have Your mind set on] [The Things] [of] [The] [{Living} God], [but only] [on] [The Things] [of] [Men]!”  
(Mark 8:27–33) —HSSB

Jesus rebuked Peter because Peter was rejecting the content of the message that the Apostles would later call “The Word.” But from Jesus’ rebuke of Peter we know the content of that message explained Jesus would be killed and then resurrected. Therefore, we can be fairly certain “The Word” also contained the Gospel message of salvation by belief in the Truth of *the promise*. That becomes clear from what John says in this passage:

<sup>13</sup>[Now] [The] [Passover] [of] [The] [Jews] [was] [near], [so] [Jesus] [went up] [to] [Jerusalem]. <sup>14</sup>[And] [He

found] [those who] [were selling] [Cows] [and] [Sheep] [and] [Doves]—[even] [The] [Coin Changers\*]—[sitting] [in] [The] [Temple]. <sup>15</sup>[So], [after making] [a Whip\*] [out] [of] [Ropes], [He threw] [everything] [out] [of] [The] [Temple], [both] [The] [Sheep] [and] [The] [Cows]; [and] [He poured out] [The] [Coins\*] [of] [The] [Moneychangers] [and] [overturned] [their] [Tables]; <sup>16</sup>[and] [He told] [those who] [were selling] [The] [Doves], “[Take] [These Things] away] [from here]; [do] [not] make] [My] [Father’s] [House] [a] [Market\*] House!”

<sup>17</sup>[His] [Disciples] [recalled] [that] [it is] [written], “[THE] [ZEAL] [FOR] [YOUR] [HOUSE] [WILL DEVOUR] [ME].”

<sup>18</sup>[Therefore], [The] [Jews] [responded] [and] [said] [to Him], “[What] [Sign] [are You going to show] [us] {as the reason} [that] [You are doing] [These Things]?”

<sup>19</sup>[Jesus] [responded] [and] [told] [them], “[Undo] [This] [Sanctuary], [and] [I will raise] [it] up] [in] [three] [Days].”

<sup>20</sup>[Therefore], [The] [Jews] [said], “[This] [Sanctuary] [was being built] [{for} forty]-[six] [Years], [and] [You] [will raise] [it] up] [in] [three] [Days]?”

<sup>21</sup>[But] [That Individual] [was talking] [about] [The] [Sanctuary] [of] [His] [Body]. <sup>22</sup>[Therefore], [when] [He arose] [from] [Those Who Are Dead], [His] [Disciples] [recalled] [that] [this is what] [He had been saying]; [and] [they believed] [The] [Scripture] [and] [The] [Word] [that] [Jesus] [had spoken].  
(John 2:13–22) —HSSB

Pay attention now! If you believe what I have told you about Nathan’s prophecy to David in 2 Samuel 7, you already know Jesus is mocking the know-nothing leaders of the Jews who were absolutely certain they understood the Scriptures but had no insight at all into the fact that the Almighty God, speaking through Nathan, had *promised* David He would “build a house,” “make a name,” and “raise up a *Seed*” for David if the need ever arose. He had also *promised* David that the Son He “gave” to David would “build a house” for Him.

Second Samuel 7 is obviously “the Scripture” (“the Scripture” *singular*, not “the Scriptures” *plural*) that John had in mind when he said “they believed the Scripture and *The Word* that Jesus had spoken.” But what does John have in mind when he says, “*The Word* that Jesus had spoken”? It can only be the *oral Teaching* that Jesus *handed down* to His disciples when He explained the written text of the Scriptures (plural).



Keep up with me now, I'm delving into things I explained several years ago in *The Mystery of Scripture, Volume 1*. Do you remember what I told you? I told you Moses gave the sons of Israel both an *oral Torah* and a *written Torah*. The purpose of the *written Torah* was to confirm the Truth of the *oral Torah* when the time came for such confirmation. I said the *written Torah* would be unsealed and the two would be compared to determine who had the Truth. Those two types of *Torah* are what John had in mind when he wrote, "they believed *the Scripture and The Word* that Jesus had spoken."

So now, on the basis of the things I have just explained, we know "*The Word*" refers to what Jesus and the Apostles taught *orally* to explain what Moses and the other Prophets of Israel had *written* long before the First Advent of Christ. Multiple passages in the Book of Acts confirm that. The following is but one of the many I could show you but don't have the space, time, or inclination to do so at this point. You can use the HSSB App to find all of those passages for yourself. Just search for "[*The*] [*Word*]." Here is but one of the many I could cite:

<sup>3</sup>[*And then*] [*Saul*] [*began decimating\**] [*The*] [*Summoned Assembly*]—[*going into*] [*each and every one of*] [*their*] [*Houses*], [*hauling out*] [*both*] [*Men*] [*and*] [*Women*]—[*handing {them} over*] [*to*] [*a Guard House*].  
<sup>4</sup>[*Therefore*], [*some {of them}*]—[*those who were scattered about*]—[*passed through {other areas}*], [*proclaiming [The] [Word] as the good news of the fulfillment of the promise*].  
 (Acts 8:3–4) —HSSB

So what does my explanation regarding "*The Word*" have to do with the things Paul talks about in Ephesians 2? Everything. You see, the last time I checked, Ephesians 2 follows Ephesians 1; and I can confidently assert that happy circumstance is still the case. In Ephesians 1, Paul is giving a prelude to what he says in Ephesians 2; and in so doing, he briefly mentions the role that "*The Word*" plays in the salvation process. Therefore, you need to know what he says in Ephesians 1 before you can fully understand what he says in Ephesians 2. So here is my translation of Ephesians 1:

<sup>3</sup>(1) [**Blessed** be] [*The*] [{*Living*} God] [*and*] [*Father*] [*of*] [*our*] [*Master*], [*Jesus*], [*The Anointed One*],

(a) [*Who*] [*has blessed*] [*us*]:

- (i) [*with*] [*every*] [*spiritual*] [**Blessing**],
- (ii) [*with*] [*the {beings} who are*] [*in Heaven*],
- (iii) [*with*] [*The Anointed One*],

<sup>4</sup>(b) [*just as*] [*He chose*] [*us*]:

- (i) [*with*] [*Him*],
- (ii) [*with*] [*Love*],
- (iii) [*before*] [*The Establishment*] [*of The World*],
- (iv) [*so that [we] would be*] [*holy*] [*and*] [*unblemished*] [*in [His] very presence*],
- <sup>5</sup>(v) [*after deciding on [us] [for] [Adoption] [to] [Himself] beforehand*]:

{(a)} [*via*] [*Jesus*], [*The Anointed One*];  
 {(b)} [*in accordance with*] [*The*] [*Thing That Is Delightful*] [*to*] [*His*] [*Will*];  
<sup>6</sup>{(c)} [*for*] [{*The*} *Commendation*] [*of The*] [*Glory*] [*of [His] Favor*], [*with which*] [*He favored*] [*us*]

{(i)} [*in*] [*the One Who*] [*has been loved*];  
<sup>7</sup>{(ii)} [*in*] [*the One Whom*] [*we have*] [*Emancipation*] [*via*] [*His*] [*Blood*], [*The*] [*Forgiveness*] [*of our*] [*Transgressions*] [*in accordance with*] [*The*] [*Wealth*] [*of*] [*His*] [*Favor*], <sup>8</sup>[*which*] [*produces*] [*for*] [*us*] [*an excess*] [*in*] [*all*] [*Wisdom*] [*and*] [*Common Sense*], <sup>9</sup>[*after making known*] [*to us*] [*The*] [*Mystery*] [*of*] [*His*] [*Will*], [*in accordance with*] [*The*] [*Thing That Is Delightful*] [*to Him*]—[*what*] [*He intended*] [*in*] [*Him*] <sup>10</sup>[*as*] [*Responsibility for the Management*] [*of The*] [*Fulfillment*] [*of The*] [*Times*]—[*so that*] [*Every Last Thing*]—[*The Things*] [*in*] [*The*] [*Heavens*] [*and*] [*The Things*] [*on*] [*The*] [*Earth*]—[*would be summarized*] [*in*] [*The*] [*Anointed One*]; [*in*] [*Him*],  
<sup>11</sup>{(iii)} [*in*] [*the One Whom*] [*we*] [*also*] [*have been designated as heirs\**], [*after being decided on beforehand*] [*in accordance with*] [{*the*} *Plan*] [*of the One Who*] [*is working in*] [*Every Last Thing*] [*in accordance with*] [*The*] [*Decision*] [*of*] [*His*] [*Will*], <sup>12</sup>[*so*] [*that*] [*we*]—[*those*]

who] [have hoped beforehand\*] [in] [The] [Anointed One]—[would be] [for] [{the} Commendation] [of] [His] Glory; <sup>13</sup>{(iv)} [in] [the One Whom] [you] [also] {were designated as **heirs**}, [after hearing] **[The] [Word]** [of The] [Truth], [The] [Good News of the Fulfillment of the Promise] [of] [your] [Salvation]; {(v)} [in] [the One Whom], [after believing God's promise], [you were also sealed] [by The] [Spirit] [of The] **[Promise]**—[the Spirit] that is [holy]—<sup>14</sup>[Which] [is] [an Initial Payment] [of] [our] **[Inheritance]**, [for] [{the} Emancipation] [of The] [Acquisition]—[for] [{the} Commendation] [of] [His] [Glory].

<sup>15</sup>(2) [For] [This Reason] [I also]—[after hearing about] [The] [Belief in God's **Promise**] [with regard to] [our] [Master], [Jesus], [{that is} in each and every one of] [you]; [and] [your] [Love] [for] [all] [The] [Holy Ones]—<sup>16</sup>[do [not] stop]:

(a) [giving thanks] [for] [you];  
(b) [making] [Mention of {you}] [in] [my] [Prayers], <sup>17</sup>[so that] [The] [{Living} God] [of] [our] [Master], [Jesus], [The Anointed One], [The] [Father] [of our] [Glory], [would give] [you] [a Spirit] [of Wisdom] [and] [Revelation] [with] [Full Knowledge of the Truth] [concerning Him], <sup>18</sup>[after [The] [Eyes] [of] [your] [Heart] have been provided light] [so] [that] [you] [are aware of]:

(i) [what] [The] [Hope] [of] [His] [Invitation] [is];  
(ii) [what] [The] [Wealth] [of The] [Glory] [of] [His] **[Inheritance]** [in] [The] [Holy Ones] {is}; <sup>19</sup>[and]  
(iii) [what] [The] [incredible] [Greatness\*] [of] [His] [Supernatural Power] {is} [in] [us], [those who] [believe God's **promise**], [in accordance with] [The] [Energy] [of The] [Power] [of] [His] [Might]—<sup>20</sup>[which {energy}] [worked] [in] [The] [Anointed One]:

{(a)} [when raising] [Him] [from] [Those Who Are Dead]; [and]

{(b)} [when seating {Him}] [at] [His] [Right Hand] [among] [the {beings}] [in Heaven], <sup>21</sup>[up above] [every]

{(i)} [Ruler] [and]  
{(ii)} [Authority] [and]  
{(iii)} [Supernatural Power] [and]  
{(iv)} [Lordship], [and] [every]  
{(v)} [Name] [that is going to be given a name], [not] [only] [in] [This] [Current Age], [but] [also] [in] [the {age} that] [is going to come].

<sup>22</sup>([He has [also] made [everything] submit] [under] [His] [Feet]; [and] [made] [Him] [Head] [over] [The] [whole] [Summoned Assembly], <sup>23</sup>[which] [is] [His] [Body], [The] [Fullness] [of the One Who] [completely fills] [Every Last Thing] [in] [everything]!)]  
(Ephesians 1:3–23) —HSSB

Did you happen to notice how many times Paul used the preposition *in* to refer to our position “in” Christ? If not, go back and take a good long look; you need to get the *parabolic imagery* that Paul had in mind firmly fixed in your own mind so that you can see how deeply it runs throughout the entire New Testament. True Believers are nothing more than “members” of the Body of Christ, the One Who is *Corporate Israel*. But we gain that position through our *inheritance of the promise* from Christ. So make note of what Paul says about *the inheritance of the promise* as a spiritual *blessing* before he launches into a long string of prepositional phrases introduced by the preposition *in*:

<sup>3</sup>(1) **[Blessed be]** [The] [{Living} God] [and] [Father] [of] [our] [Master], [Jesus], [The Anointed One],

(a) [Who] [has **blessed**] [us]:

(i) [with] [every] [spiritual] **[Blessing]**,  
(ii) [with] [the {beings} who are] [in Heaven],  
(iii) [with] [The Anointed One],

<sup>4</sup>(b) [just as] [He chose] [us]:

(i) [with] [Him],  
(ii) [with] [Love],  
(iii) [before] [The Establishment] [of The World],

(iv) [so that [we] would be] [holy] [and]  
[unblemished] [in [His] very presence],  
<sup>5</sup>(v) [after deciding on [us] [for] [Adoption] [to]  
[Himself] beforehand]:

{(a)} [via] [Jesus], [The Anointed One];  
{(b)} [in accordance with] [The] [Thing That  
Is Delightful] [to] [His] [Will];  
<sup>6</sup>{(c)} [for] [{The} Commendation] [of The]  
[Glory] [of [His] Favor], [with which] [He  
favored] [us]

{(i)} [in] [the One Who] [has been loved];  
<sup>7</sup>{(ii)} [in] [the One Whom] [we have]  
[Emancipation] [via] [His] [Blood], [The]  
[Forgiveness] [of our] [Transgressions] [in  
accordance with] [The] [Wealth] [of] [His]  
[Favor], <sup>8</sup>[which] [produces [for] [us] an  
excess] [in] [all] [Wisdom] [and] [Common  
Sense], <sup>9</sup>[after making known] [to us]  
[The] [Mystery] [of] [His] [Will], [in  
accordance with] [The] [Thing That Is  
Delightful] [to Him]—[what] [He  
intended] [in] [Him] <sup>10</sup>[as] [Responsibility  
for the Management] [of The] [Fulfillment]  
[of The] [Times]—[so that [Every Last  
Thing]—[The Things] [in] [The]  
[Heavens] [and] [The Things] [on] [The]  
[Earth]—would be summarized] [in]  
[The] [Anointed One]; [in] [Him],  
<sup>11</sup>{(iii)} [in] [the One Whom] [we also]  
**have been designated as heirs\***, [after  
being decided on beforehand] [in  
accordance with] [{the} Plan] [of the One  
Who] [is working in] [Every Last Thing]  
[in accordance with] [The] [Decision] [of]  
[His] [Will], <sup>12</sup>[so] [that] [we]—[those  
who] [have hoped beforehand\*] [in] [The]  
[Anointed One]—[would be] [for]  
[{the} Commendation] [of [His] Glory];  
<sup>13</sup>{(iv)} [in] [the One Whom] [you]  
[also] {were designated as heirs}, [after  
hearing] [The] [Word] [of The] [Truth],  
[The] [Good News of the Fulfillment of  
the Promise] [of] [your] [Salvation];  
{(v)} [in] [the One Whom], [after  
believing God's promise], [you were  
also sealed] [by The] [Spirit] [of The]

[Promise]—[{the Spirit} that is]  
[holy]— <sup>14</sup>[Which] [is] [an Initial  
Payment] [of] [our] [Inheritance], [for]  
[{the} Emancipation] [of The]  
[Acquisition]—[for] [{the}  
Commendation] [of] [His] [Glory].

(Ephesians 1:3–14) —HSSB

Can I safely assume you saw how a Believer becomes an *heir of the promise*? Maybe not, so I will explain it for you. That phenomenal event happens when one believes *the promise* and apologizes to God. At that point, the spirit they were born with is united with the Spirit of God and those two “spirits” become one. I didn’t say that, the Apostle Paul did; I’m just repeating what he said because you need to know the *parabolic imagery* that describes the salvation process:

<sup>14</sup>(3) [So then] [The] [{Living} God] [also] [raised up]  
[His Majesty], [and] [He will promote] [us] [via] [His]  
[Supernatural Power].

<sup>15</sup>(a) [Are you [not] aware] [that] [your] [Bodies] [is]  
[Members] [of {the} Anointed One]? [Therefore],  
[after taking away] [The] [Members] [of The]  
[Anointed One], [should I make {them}] [Members]  
[of a Prostitute]? [Certainly] [not]!

<sup>16</sup>(b) [Or] [are you [not] aware] [that]

(i) [the one who] [attaches himself] [to The]  
[Prostitute] [is] [one] [Body]? [For] [He declares],  
“[THE] [TWO] [WILL BECOME] [ONE] [FLESH].”

<sup>17</sup>[But then] {that}

(ii) [the one who] [attaches himself] [to] [His  
Majesty] [is] [one] [Spirit] {with Him}.

<sup>18</sup>[Flee] [Sexual Promiscuity]. [Every] [Sinful  
Act] [that] [it may be that] [a Man] [commits] [is]  
[outside of] [his] [Body]. [But]

(iii) [the one who] [is sexually promiscuous] [sins]  
[against] [his] [own] [Body].

<sup>19</sup>(c) [Or] [are you [not] aware] [that]

(i) [your] [Body] [is] [a Sanctuary] [of The] [holy]  
[Spirit] [within] [you], [which] [you have] [from]  
[God], [and]

(ii) [you are] [not] [your own], <sup>20</sup>[for] [you were  
bought with] [Something Valuable]? [Without  
question],



(iii) [you must glorify] [The] [{Living} God] [in]  
[your] [Body].  
(1 Corinthians 6:14–20) —HSSB

In another passage, Paul explains the amazing result that stems from a person believing the Truth, apologizing, and accepting the “Spirit” of the *Living* God:

[So] [we] [did [not] **receive**] [The] [Spirit] [of The] [World], [but] [The] [Spirit] [that is] [from] [The] [{Living} God], [so that] [we would be aware of] [the things that] [have been granted to us] as a favor [by] [The] [{Living} God].  
(1 Corinthians 2:12) —HSSB

The point is, one cannot understand the Truth of “The Word” that is still making His trek through the realm of the dead if they are unwilling to accept the “Spirit” that God provides in *the promise*. But my point is, the instant that one gives in to the Truth of “The Word” and asks for forgiveness, they become a member of the Body of Jesus Christ, the One Who is Corporate Israel, *the Heir of the promise*. At that point in time, they become an *heir of the promise* themselves and are transferred out of Satan’s “kingdom” into the “Kingdom” of God:

<sup>9</sup>(2) [For] [This Reason] [we] [have [also], [since] [what-ever] [Day] [we heard about {your belief in God’s **promise**}, [not] stopped] [praying] [for] [you] [and] [requesting] [that] [you would be completely filled]:

(a) [with The] [Full Knowledge of the Truth] [concerning] [His] [Will],  
(b) [with] [all] [Wisdom], [and]  
(c) [with [spiritual] Insight], <sup>10</sup>[so that {you} may walk] [worthy] [of] [His Majesty]:

(i) [with] [every] [Desire to Please {Him} \*],  
(ii) [while bearing fruit] [in] [every] [good] [Work], [and]  
(iii) [while being made to grow] [into The] [Full Knowledge of the Truth] [concerning The] [{Living} God];

<sup>11</sup>(iv) [while being made able {to grow}]:

{(a)} [by] [all] [Supernatural Power] [in

accordance with] [The] [Power] [of] [His] [Glory],  
{(b)} [with] [all] [Perseverance] [and] [Patience], [along with] [Joy];

<sup>12</sup>(v) [while giving thanks] [to The] [Father]:

{(a)} [Who], [through] [The] [Light], [made [you] worthy of consideration] [for] [your] [Part] [of The] [Inheritance] [of The] [Holy Ones];

<sup>13</sup>{(b)} [Who] [delivered] [us] [from] [The] [Authority] [of The] [Nether Darkness] [and] [displaced {us}] [into] [The] [Kingdom] [of The] [Love] [of] [His] [Son]:

<sup>14</sup>{(i)} [in] [Whom] [we have] [our] [Emancipation], [The] [Forgiveness] [of our] [Sins];

<sup>15</sup>{(ii)} [Who] [is] [an Image] [of The] [{Living} God]—[Who is] [invisible]—[a Firstborn] [of [all] Creation].

(Colossians 1:9–15) —HSSB

In case you missed it somewhere along “The Way,” all this talk about “light” and “darkness” is just a parabolic “way” of saying “God’s Truth” and “Satan’s lies.” So wherever you find those two mentioned together in the text of the Scriptures, you can easily substitute *Truth* for *light* and *lies* for *darkness*. Those who have been born again have accepted “The Light”; those who reject the Truth embodied in “The Word” remain in “the darkness” of their own ignorance. That is precisely what John is stating when he says this:

<sup>1</sup>[In] [The Beginning], [there was] [The] [Word]; [and] [The] [Word] [was] [with] [The] [{Living} God], [and] [The] [Word] [was] [God]. <sup>2</sup>[This Individual] [was] [with] [The] [{Living} God] [in] [The Beginning]. <sup>3</sup>[Everything] [has come into being] [via] [Him], [and] [not even] [One Thing] [that] [has come into being] [has come into being] [apart from] [Him]. <sup>4</sup>[Life] [was] [in] [Him], [and] [His] [Life] [was] [The] [Light] [of] [Men]. <sup>5</sup>[So] [The] [Light] [appears] [in] [The] [Darkness], [yet] [The] [Darkness] [has [never] grasped] [it].

<sup>6</sup>[A Man] [who had been sent] [from] [God] [came]; [his] [Name] {was} [John]. <sup>7</sup>[This Individual] [came] [for] [a Testimony],

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

<sup>8</sup>[That Individual] [was] [not] [The] [Light], [but] {he came} [so that] [he could provide testimony] [about] [The] [Light].

<sup>9</sup>[The] [Light] [was] [the] [real {Light}], [the One Who] [provides light for] [every] [Man] [who comes] [into] [The] [World]. <sup>10</sup>[He was] [in] [The] [World], [and] [The] [World] [came into being] [via] [Him], [yet] [The] [World] [did not] know [Him]. <sup>11</sup>[He came] [to] [His] [Own], [and] [His] [Own] [did not] take [Him] to themselves. <sup>12</sup>[So then], [to as many as] [accepted] [Him], [to them]—[to those who] [believe God's promise] [about] [His] [Name]—[He gave] [Authority] [to become] [God's] [Children]: <sup>13</sup>[those who] [were not] engendered]

- (1) [by] [Blood] [or]  
(2) [by] [{the} Will] [of Flesh] [or]  
(3) [by] [{the} Will] [of Man], [but {were} only] {engendered} [by {the will}] [of God].

(John 1:1–13) —HSSB

John, speaking *parabolically*, is describing the effect that believing the Truth of *the promise*—which is the Spirit of Christ—has on a person. It makes them a “Child” of God. So get over it; there is no other “way” to become one of God’s “Children”—no other “way” to become a member of the Body of Jesus Christ. You either believe the Truth of *the promise*—which is the Spirit of Christ that left the Garden with Adam and Eve—or you don’t. There is no way you can fake it. And that is how God is going to easily separate the “wheat” from the “tares” here at the End of the Age. Believe it if you care to; disbelieve it if you dare to. It makes no difference to me *what you choose* to believe; I’m just doing what God called me to do. I am certainly not responsible for *what you choose* to believe. But I digress—again. So here is my translation of Ephesians 2—again:

<sup>1</sup>(1) [Now] [you] {are} [those who were] [dead]

- (a) [in your] [Transgressions] [and]  
(b) [in your] [Sins]—<sup>2</sup>[in] [which] [you walked] [at one time]:

- (i) [in agreement with] [The] [Current Age] [of] [This] [World],  
(ii) [in agreement with]

{(a)} [The] [Ruler] [of The] [Authority] [of The] [Air],  
{(b)} [The] [Spirit] [of the one who] [is now] working [in] [The] [Sons] [of] [Apathy].

<sup>3</sup>(2) [Among] [whom] [we] [all] [at one time] [also]:

(a) [conducted ourselves]:

- (i) [in] [The] [Selfish Desires] [of] [our] [Flesh],  
(ii) [while acting in accordance with] [The] [Will] [of our] [Flesh] [and] [Understanding]; [and]

(b) [were] [by Nature] [also] [Children] [of Anger], [like] [The] [Rest of {the sons of apathy}].

<sup>4</sup>(3) [Then] [The] [{Living} God]—[Who is] [wealthy] [in] [Mercy]—[because of] [His] [copious] [Love] [with which] [He loved] [us], <sup>5</sup>[also]:

(a) [made us]—[those who were] [dead] [in our] [Transgressions]—alive together [in The] [Anointed One] ([you are] [those who have been saved] [as a Favor]); <sup>6</sup>[and]  
(b) [raised {us} up together]; [and]  
(c) [seated {us} together] [with] [those who are] [in Heaven]—[in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus]—<sup>7</sup>[so that], [in] [The] [Ages] [that are] [going to come], [He might present {us} as evidence of] [The] [incredible] [Wealth] [of] [His] [Favor] [in] [{His} Benevolence] [for] [us] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus].

<sup>8</sup>(i) [For] [because of His] [Favor] [you are] [those who have been saved] [via] [Belief in God's **Promise**], [and] [This] [Offering] [of God] {is} [not] [because of] [you]—<sup>9</sup>[not] [because of] [Works]—[so that] [no] [one] [could boast].  
<sup>10</sup>(ii) [For] [we are] [What He Made]—[those who have been created] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus], [for] [good] [Works], [the {good works} that] [The] [{Living} God] [prepared beforehand], [so that] [we could walk] [in] [them].

<sup>11</sup>(4) [Wherefore], [remember] [that]

(a) [you] {were} [at one time]

- (i) [The] [Gentiles] [in] [Flesh],
- (ii) [those who] [are called] "[uncircumcised]" [by] [what] [is called] "[The Circumcision]" [made [in] [Flesh] by human hands]. <sup>12</sup>[Because]

(b) [you were] [at That] [Time]:

- (i) [separate from] [The Anointed One],
- (ii) [estranged from] [The] [Citizenship] [of] [Israel], [and]
- (iii) [Strangers] [to The] [Testaments] [of **The** **Promise**]—
- (iv) [those who did [not] have] [a Hope] [and] {were} [without God\*] [in] [The] [World].

<sup>13</sup>(c) [But] [now]—[in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus]—[you] [who] [were] [at one time] [far away] [have come to be] [near] [because of] [The] [Blood] [of The] [Anointed One]. <sup>14</sup>[For] [He] [is]

- (i) [our] [Peace],
- (ii) [the One Who] [made] [both of us] [One] [and] [undid] [The] [Partition-wall\*] [of The] [Hedge]—[The] [Hostility]—[in] [His] [Flesh], <sup>15</sup>[after abrogating] [The] [Law] [of The] [Commandments] [in] [Decrees], [so that] [in] [Himself]:

{(a)} [He could create] [The] [Two] [into] [one] [New] [Man] [Who makes] [Peace], <sup>16</sup>[and]  
{(b)} [He could completely reconcile] [both of them] [to The] [{Living} God]

{(i)} [in] [one] [Body],  
{(ii)} [via] [The] [Cross],  
{(iii)} [after killing] [The] [Hostility] [in] [Himself].

<sup>17</sup>(5) [So], [AFTER COMING], [HE PROCLAIMED THE GOOD NEWS OF **THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISE**] [AS PEACE] [TO YOU] [WHO WERE] [FAR AWAY], [AND] [PEACE] [TO THOSE WHO WERE] [NEAR]; <sup>18</sup>[because]—[via] [Him]—[both of us] [have] [Access] [to] [The] [Father] [by] [one] [Spirit].

<sup>19</sup>(a) [So then]—[therefore]—[you are] [no longer]:

- (i) [Strangers] [and]
- (ii) [Temporary Residents];

(b) [but] [you are]:

- (i) [Fellow Citizens\*] [with The] [Holy Ones], [and]
- (ii) [Members of the House] [of The] [{Living} God], <sup>20</sup>[after being built] [on] [The] [Foundation] [of The] [Apostles] [and] [Prophets], [its] [Cornerstone] [being] [The Anointed One], [Jesus]:

<sup>21</sup>{(a)} [in] [Whom] [a [whole] Building]—[which is being precisely framed together]—[is being made to grow] [into] [a [holy] Sanctuary] [for] [His Majesty];  
<sup>22</sup>{(b)} [in] [Whom] [you] [also] [are being built together\*]:

{(i)} [by] [a Spirit],  
{(ii)} [into] [{the} Home] [of The] [{Living} God].

(Ephesians 2:1–22) —HSSB

Keep in mind what I have told you about "The Word" that Jesus Christ is; otherwise, you will get lost in the weeds. Jesus Christ is, was, and always will be the Spirit that is embodied in the Truth of "The Word." That is, He is "The Word" of *the promise* that accompanied Adam and Eve when God booted them out of the Garden and condemned them to die one day at a time in this realm of the dead in which we exist with only a residual of the life they had before they screwed it all up. The only "way" to become "one" with "The Word" that Christ is, is to believe it. *You can believe that if you care to; disbelieve it if you dare to.* It is what it is.

"The Word" made His trek through this realm, the realm of the dead, up until the time of His Resurrection; but He came back down on the Day of Pentecost to continue on *in* us, instead of just *with* us, until the End of the Age. Now that we are rapidly approaching that apex, He is just about ready to emerge from His hiding place in a realm where He *literally* is light as opposed to just "The parabolic Light" of the Truth of *the promise*. So you might want to consider giving up on this life and getting ready for the next. Just a thought. Peter has already warned you not to be complacent, I'm just seconding the suggestion:



<sup>1</sup>(1) [Beloved Brothers], [I am [already] writing] [This] [second] [Letter] [to you], [by] [which] [I am {trying to} wake up] [your] [unalloyed] [Understanding {of the truth}] [with] [a Reminder] <sup>2</sup>[so that {you} would recall]:

- (a) [The] [Statements] [that were made beforehand] [by] [The] [holy] [Prophets]; [and]
- (b) [The] [Commandment] [of your] [Master] [and] [Savior], {that was spoken} [via your] [Apostles], <sup>3</sup>[knowing] [This], [first of all], [that] [in] [The] [last] [Days] [Mockers] [will come] [with] [Mockery\*]—[those who are

- (i) walking] [in accordance with] [their] [own] [Selfish Desires] <sup>4</sup>[and]
- (ii) [saying]: “[Where] [is] **[The] [Promise]** [of] [His] [Coming]? [For] [ever since] [The] [Fathers] [fell fast asleep]—[since] [The Beginning] [of Creation]—[everything] [continues to be] [the same].”

<sup>5</sup>(2) [For] [wanting [This] to be {true}], [it has escaped [their] notice] [that]

- (a) [{the} Heavens] [were] [from long ago] [and]
- (b) [{the} Earth] [stood up together with {them}]

- (i) [out] [of Water] [and]
- (ii) [through] [Water]
- (iii) [by **The** **[Word]** [of The] [{Living} God], <sup>6</sup>[by] [which] [The] [World] [at that time], [which was flooded by\*] [Water], [was done away with].

<sup>7</sup>(3) [So] [now] [The] [Heavens] [and] [The] [Earth], [which have been stored up] [by **The** [same] **[Word]**, [are] [being kept] [for a Fire] [on] [{the} Day] [of {the} Sentencing] [and] [Eternal Damnation] [of] [depraved] [Men].

<sup>8</sup>(4) [So] [do [not] let [this] [One Thing] escape [your] notice], [Beloved Brothers], [that] [with] [His Majesty] [one] [Day] {is} [like] [one thousand] [Years]; [and] [one thousand] [Years] {are} [like] [one] [Day].

- <sup>9</sup>(a) [His Majesty] [is [not] delaying] **[The] [Promise]**—[as] [some] [deem] [a Delay\*]—[but]
- (b) [He is being patient] [with] [you], [determined]

- (i) [that [no] [one] would be done away with], [but]
- (ii) [that [everyone] would make room] [for] [an Apology].

<sup>10</sup>(5) [So] [{the} Day] [of His Majesty] [will come] [like] [a Thief], [on] [which {day}]

- (a) [The] [Heavens] [will pass away]—[whistling\*]—[and then]
- (b) [Elementary Things], [which are going to be incinerated], [will be undone], [and]
- (c) [{the} Earth] [and] [The] [Works] {done} [on] [her] [will be found to be {what they are}].

<sup>11</sup>(1) [Since [all] [These Things] are going to be undone] [like this], [what sort of {person}] [should] [you] [be] [in] [holy] [Behavior] [and] [Godliness], <sup>12</sup>[while expecting] [and] [hurrying] [The] [Arrival] [of The] [Day] [of The] [{Living} God], [because of] [which {day}]

- (a) [{the} Heavens] [will be undone] [by being burned], [and]
- (b) [Elementary Things] [is going to be melted\*] [by being incinerated]?

<sup>13</sup>(2) [But] [in accordance with] [The] [Thing That [He] **Promised**], [we are expecting]

- (a) [new] [Heavens] [and]
- (b) [a [new] Earth] [in] [which] [a Declaration of Not Guilty] [dwells].

<sup>14</sup>(3) [Wherefore], [Beloved Brothers], [you [who are expecting] [These Things], must

- (a) make every effort] [to be found] [in Him]—[unstained] [and] [without blemish\*] [in] [Peace]. <sup>15</sup>[And]
- (b) [deem [The] [Patience] [of] [our] [Master] to be] [Salvation], [just as] [Paul], [our] [beloved] [Brother], [also] [wrote] [to you] [in accordance with] [The] [Wisdom] [that was given] [to him], <sup>16</sup>[as] [also] [in] [all] [{his} Letters]—[talking] [about] [These Things] [in] [them]—[in] [which {letters}] [there is] [some [hard to understand\*] things] [that] [the] [unlearned\*] [and] [unsettled] [twist\*] [to] [their] [own] [Eternal Damnation]—[like] {they twist} [The Rest of] [The] [Scriptures] [also].

<sup>17</sup>(1) [Therefore], [you] [Beloved Brothers] [who know {the Truth} beforehand],

(a) [be on guard] [so that] [you do [not] fall away from] [your] [own] [Resoluteness\*], [after being carried away] [by The] [Deception] [of those who are] [morally corrupted]. <sup>18</sup>[And then],  
(b) [grow] [in]

(i) [{the} Favor] [and]  
(ii) [Knowledge of the Truth] [concerning] [our] [Master] [and] [Savior], [Jesus], [The Anointed One].

(2) [The] [Glory] {is} [His], [both] [now] [and] [in] [{the} Day] [of {the} Age to Come]. [Without doubt]!  
(2 Peter 3:1–18) —HSSB

Now that I have rambled around, intentionally skirting issues here and there to confound those who have no interest in the Truth, I am going to tell you what Paul is *talking about* in Ephesians 2. He is *talking about* “death” and “life.” You can pick up a few more key concepts regarding “death” in the article I wrote for this issue. For now, all you need to know is this: “Death” is nothing more than a *state* of mind. (I had fun coming up with that one, knowing full well that those who love this world will never be able to understand it “*The Way*” I meant it.) Paul puts his view of “death” this “way”:

<sup>1</sup>(1) [Now] [you] {are} [those who were] [dead]

(a) [in your] [Transgressions] [and]  
(b) [in your] [Sins]—<sup>2</sup>[in] [which] [you walked] [at one time];

(i) [in agreement with] [The] [Current Age] [of] [This] [World],  
(ii) [in agreement with]

{(a)} [The] [Ruler] [of The] [Authority] [of The] [Air],  
{(b)} [The] [Spirit] [of the one who] [is [now] working] [in] [The] [Sons] [of] [Apathy].

<sup>3</sup>(2) [Among] [whom] [we] [all] [at one time] [also]:  
(a) [conducted ourselves]:

(i) [in] [The] [Selfish Desires] [of] [our] [Flesh],  
(ii) [while acting in accordance with] [The] [Will] [of our] [Flesh] [and] [Understanding]; [and]

(b) [were] [by Nature] [also] [Children] [of Anger], [like] [The] [Rest of {the sons of apathy}].

<sup>4</sup>(3) [Then] [The] [{Living} God]—[Who is] [wealthy] [in] [Mercy]—[because of] [His] [copious] [Love] [with which] [He loved] [us], <sup>5</sup>[also]:

(a) [made us]—[those who were] [dead] [in our] [Transgressions]—**alive together** [in The] [Anointed One] ([you are] [those who have been saved] [as a Favor]); <sup>6</sup>[and]

(b) [raised {us} up together]; [and]

(c) [seated {us} together] [with] [those who are] [in Heaven]—[in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus]—<sup>7</sup>[so that], [in] [The] [Ages] [that are] [going to come], [He might present {us} as evidence of] [The] [incredible] [Wealth] [of] [His] [Favor] [in] [{His} Benevolence] [for] [us] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus].

(Ephesians 2:1–7) —HSSB

In this article, I have already explained what you need to know to understand what Paul is *talking about*, so let me summarize the main points in the short space I have remaining. The unregenerate person is dead—*literally* dead. He doesn't know it, but it is true nonetheless. He was born into the realm of the dead, which is why his body began dying the minute it hit the open air. But his *state* of “death” consists in the fact that his soul has no understanding of the Truth of *the promise*. Therefore, his only hope of attaining real life is to somehow change his *state* of mind by coming to a knowledge of the Truth. That is, his spirit must become “one” with the Spirit of Christ, which can only be found in “*The Word*” of *the promise*. Lacking that, he will remain dead forever.

Jesus succinctly stated the Truth concerning our predicament this “way”:

<sup>63</sup>“[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**]. <sup>64</sup>[But] [some] [of] [you] [are] [those who] [do [not] believe God's **promise**].”  
(John 6:63–64a) —HSSB ■

Continued from front cover

That which he says, "He shall send to Thee the rod of power out of Jerusalem," is predictive of the mighty word, which His apostles, going forth from Jerusalem, preached everywhere; and though death is decreed against those who teach or at all confess the name of Christ, we everywhere both embrace and teach it. And if you also read these words in a hostile spirit, ye can do no more, as I said before, than kill us; which indeed does no harm to us, but to you and all who unjustly hate us, and do not repent, brings eternal punishment by fire.

But lest some should, without reason, and for the perversion of what we teach, maintain that we say that Christ was born one hundred and fifty years ago under Cyrenius, and subsequently, in the time of Pontius Pilate, taught what we say He taught; and should cry out against us as though all men who were born before Him were irresponsible—let us anticipate and solve the difficulty. We have been taught that Christ is the first-born of God, and we have declared above that He is the Word of whom every race of men were partakers; and those who lived reasonably are Christians, even though they have been thought atheists; as, among the Greeks, Socrates and Heraclitus, and men like them; and among the barbarians, Abraham, and Ananias, and Azarias, and Misael, and Elias, and many others whose actions and names we now decline to recount, because we know it would be tedious. So that even they who lived before Christ, and lived without reason, were wicked and hostile to Christ, and slew those who lived reasonably. But who, through the power of the Word, according to the will of God the Father and Lord of all, He was born of a virgin as a man, and was named Jesus, and was crucified, and died, and rose again, and ascended into heaven, an intelligent man will be able to comprehend from what has been already so largely said.

Justin Martyr, "The First Apology," Chaps. xlii–xlii, in Roberts and Donaldson (Eds.), *The Ante-Nicene Fathers* (1867), Vol. 1, pp. 177–178.

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