



THE VOICE of ELIJAH

Restoring the hearts of the fathers to the children

Get It? The Soul Is Like an Umpire.

So many meanings occur to us at once of the word *arche*. We have now to ask which of them we should adopt for our text, "In the beginning was the Word." It is plain that we may at once dismiss the meaning which connects it with transition or with a road and its length. Nor, it is pretty plain, will the meaning connected with an origin serve our purpose. One might, however, think of the sense in which it points to the author, to that which brings about the effect, if, as we read, "God commanded and they were created."

For Christ is, in a manner, the demiurge, to whom the Father says, "Let there be light," and "Let there be a firmament." But Christ is demiurge as a beginning (*arche*), inasmuch as He is wisdom. It is in virtue of His being wisdom that He is called *arche*. For Wisdom says in Solomon: "God created me the beginning of His ways, for His works," so that the Word might be in an *arche*, namely, in wisdom.

Considered in relation to the structure of contemplation and thoughts about the whole of things, it is regarded as wisdom; but in relation to that side of the objects of thought, in which reasonable beings apprehend them, it is considered as the Word. And there is no wonder, since, as we have said before, the Saviour is many good things, if He comprises in Himself thoughts of the first order, and of the second, and of the third. This is what John suggested when he said about the Word: "That which was made was life in Him." Life then came in the Word. And on the one side the Word is no other than the Christ, the Word, He who was with the Father, by whom all things were made; while, on the other side, the Life is no other than the Son of God, who says: "I am the way and the truth and the life."

As, then, life came into being in the Word, so the Word in the *arche*. Consider, however, if we are at liberty to take this meaning of *arche* for our text: "In the beginning was the Word," so as to obtain the meaning that all things came into being according to wisdom and according to the models of the system

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A Note From the Editor

There is a very familiar sight on page 28 of this issue of *The Voice of Elijah*®. Take a quick look at it; I'll wait. I'll bet not a few of you stopped to read *The Forecast* (pages 25–28) before returning back to this *Note From the Editor*. I would have too! What Larry discusses in that column is very familiar to those who have read the back issues of *The Voice of Elijah*®. It is the very imagery used in *The Voice of Elijah*® logo, as Larry explained way back in 2001:

The Voice of Elijah® logo is, as your subscriber accurately concluded, a mushroom cloud. And as everyone knows, that very distinctive cloud results from a nuclear explosion. So why do you suppose anyone would use it as a religious/parabolic symbol of some sort? The short answer is, "Because God did."

The Voice of Elijah®, January 2001, p. 27

So that you don't feel like you are coming in at the middle of a conversation, here are a few other things Larry has said regarding the nuclear cloud, fire, and/or "the burning" in previous issues:

Pay attention to what Paul says. There are two parabolic baptisms described in the Passover Parable—one in water, the other in fire:

And all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.
(1 Corinthians 10:2) —NASB

Lacking knowledge of the fact that the Glory of the Almighty God—the One Who is a consuming fire (Heb. 12:29)—inhabited the cloud that Paul mentions, one might fail to understand that he is talking about a baptism by fire. But given that information, one can easily "see" what the parabolic imagery points to. The Truth is, the baptism Paul mentions is the same baptism that John the Baptist mentions in this passage: Matt. 3:4–12.

John was—like Paul—speaking parabolically. As he explains, the baptism by fire was yet to come at that point in time. So he was obviously describing some future historical event. ... it should be obvious that the "baptism" of fire that John had in mind for the Pharisees and Sadducees is a parabolic description of "the burning" which will occur when Christ appears. That is made clear by the parable Jesus told about the burning of the "tares" at the End of the Age:

"Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, 'First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.'"
(Matthew 13:30) —NASB

The Voice of Elijah®, January 2001, pp. 11–12

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When Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God, is revealed, mankind will finally see the Glory of God, not parabolically, but as He actually is. As John puts it:

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.

(1 John 3:2) —NASB

The Voice of Elijah®, January 2001, p. 12

*The essential piece of information that one needs to know, but one which Moses expects the informed reader to glean from scattered references, is the fact that **the fire burning within both the pillar and cloud above it was the Glory of God.** He provides the facts that one needs to know in these passages: Ex. 16:10, 24:15–18, 40:34–38.*

The Voice of Elijah®, January 2001, p. 28

*When Paul says, “the useless,” [2 Cor. 3:1–18] he is referring to the flesh of the physical body—which bears the image and likeness of Adam. “**The End of ‘the useless’” that he has in mind is “the burning” that is going to occur at the End of this Age.** That is, “the man” Adam is going to die at “the End” of the sixth “day” of Creation just as God said he would if he ate from the tree in the Garden (Gen 2:17). ... Paul’s point in the passage above is concerned with how one gets from abject ignorance of the Truth to COMPLETE insight into The Apostolic Teaching, which is the “Spirit” of the Living Word of God that God is. The True Believer does that by having the outlines of that “Spirit” inscribed on his heart when he repents and believes the Gospel, which is the introduction to The Apostolic Teaching.*

The Voice of Elijah®, October 2006, pp. 21–22

God Himself—in the Person of Jesus Christ—is going to reveal Himself in a sudden blaze of Glory.

The Voice of Elijah®, April 2009, p. 5

So get ready, those two ideologies (Communism/Dispensationalism) are hell-bent for a confrontation that will prove one simple fact—both are but a fantasy that Satan used to accomplish the following:

(4) [Then] [he tells] [me]:

(a) “[The] [Waters] [that] [You saw]—[where] [The] [Prostitute] [is sitting]—[are]

- (i) [Peoples] [and]
- (ii) [Crowds] [and]
- (iii) [Nations] [and]
- (iv) [Tongues]. [And]

(b) [The] [ten] [Horns] [and] [The] [Beast] [that] [You saw]?

(i) [These Individuals] [will hate] [The] [Prostitute]; [so]

(ii) [they will make] [her]

{(a)} [deserted] [and]

{(b)} [naked], [and]

(iii) [they will]

{(a)} eat] [her] [Flesh] [and]

{(b)} [burn [her] up] [in] [a Fire].

(Revelation 17:15–16) —HSSB

*Those two verses are describing exactly the same thing—a **nuclear holocaust**—that Zephaniah describes in much greater detail. Believe it if you care to; disbelieve it if you dare to. But when the world sees the clouds of glory in which Jesus Christ returns for His Own, I am fairly certain you will have much the same reaction as the stupid Capitalists who made it all possible:*

(vi) [Then] [The] [Merchants] [of The] [Earth] [are going to]

{(a)} weep] [and]

{(b)} [mourn] [over] [her], [because]

[nobody] [is going to buy] [their] [Cargo] [any longer].

(Revelation 18:11) —HSSB

The Voice of Elijah®, January 2019, p. 28

In Him,

Marcia Harper

It Is Possible to Make a Decision by Not Making a Decision

Over 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. But first, let’s review.

October 2020

In this issue of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter, I told you that 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. I said the Bible is not all that easy to understand simply because God does not think “*The Way*” we think. And I pointed out Isaiah 55, where the Prophet Isaiah issues God’s invitation to anyone who is willing to give up his own thoughts and ideas and think “*The Way*” God thinks.

I told you Isaiah 55:11 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. I said you may or may not yet be one of those; but if you aren’t, you can be. I told you to just keep reading, listening, and striving to learn more about what God has done, is doing, and plans to do to *fulfill the promise* He made so long ago.

I told you the Scriptures speak *parabolically*. That is, they speak *parabolically* in terms of comparisons. I explained that is what a parable is: a comparison. It is a story that compares one thing to some other thing. But I told you that you can’t understand the *meaning* of a parable if you don’t know what two things are being compared. So I explained that 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. I told you 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.

I explained that 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. And I told you that is the blindness Jesus had in mind when He spoke to the Pharisees in John 9:35–41 after they refused to believe He had healed a blind man. I told you 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.

I told you 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. 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.

Then I gave you my translation of John 6:35–58 and told you Jesus is saying much the same thing that Isaiah said when he invited us to think "*The Way*" God thinks. I said 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. And 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.

I told you Jesus says essentially the same thing in a different way in John 14:1–7. But I told you 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 want to 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." It was made to contain the Truth that the *Living* 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. I told you that is what the Apostle Paul had in mind in 2 Corinthians 4:3–7, where he *talks about* the Truth of *The Apostolic Teaching* that he understood and preached.

I said Paul's mention of "*The Light*" in that passage is a *parabolic image* of the Truth of *The Apostolic Teaching*. The Truth is, *The Apostolic Teaching* illuminates. Paul calls it a "treasure," which is exactly what it is. The awesome power of the *Living* God resides in the Truth, and the only limitation on that power is a lack of belief on the part of the person who hears it. I told you 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.

Then I showed you 1 Thessalonians 4:1–4, Romans 9:19–21, 2 Timothy 19–21a, Acts 9:1–18, and Mark 3:20–27. I told you 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. I told you that you may not know it, but your eternal life depends on whether or not you believe what I am telling you is true. But I said I doubt that all that many will believe me, so I went on to explain how we all got into the miserable situation we are in today.

I told you that when God created Adam, He gave him a living soul. Moses plainly states that fact 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. I reminded you that your soul is *parabolically*—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. I said 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.

I stated again that 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 I told you that 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. I told you the sole 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. I also told you that is what Jesus is *talking about* in Luke 19:8–10.

Then I went on to explain "*The Way*" your soul interacts with your spirit. I explained that the Scriptures describe your spirit as a "wind" because that is what the Hebrew term for "spirit" actually *means*. I told you Bible translators even translate the Greek term for "spirit" as "wind" in some instances because 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 deal with in the physical realm.

I told you 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 they 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 minds via the metaphysical

realm in which our spirit exists. I told you that is what Jesus is describing in Luke 11:14–26. I told you the Apostle Peter alludes to that passage in 2 Peter 2:1–22, where he reveals he knew Jesus was *talking about* the lies that people have *chosen* to believe.

I said 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 can not 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 this: When Paul mentions the "eyes of the heart" in Ephesians 1:18, he knows True Believers can mentally "see" the thoughts, feelings, and emotions that pass through their minds if they just pay attention; and I told you God expects them to do just that.

I told you Paul's point in Ephesians 1:15–20 is this: 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. I showed you Paul says that in 1 Corinthians 2:1–16.

I told you that, 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 a different perspective on Luke 24:27–47, where Luke tells us what happened after Jesus arose from the dead. I also told you that, 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. I said that agrees perfectly with what Paul told us.

Then I told you that, if you are a True Believer, you have already come to an incipient knowledge of the Truth. I said 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.

I stated the Truth forthrightly and told you that, if you have been born again by believing the Gospel and apologizing, God expects you to keep the evil “winds”—that is, the lies of Satan—out of your mind. I told you that 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 evil “winds” out of your mind. So here we go.

January 2021

In this issue of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter, I reminded you that, as I have explained over and over again, *you are what you have chosen to believe*. That is where the “winds” have an advantage over you. They have known the Truth all along, and you haven’t, up to this point. That is about to change dramatically for those who have been born again and have held on to the constant feeling that there had to be something more, that there had to be someone who knew the Truth. Then I explained a bit more of the Truth that can make a huge difference—if you believe it.

I told you God is the *Living Word* of the Truth, and for the past two thousand years He has been working as the Truth that lives within His Children to

shape them into His image and likeness. All the while, the “winds” have been working overtime to entice God’s Children to go back to being crafted into the image and likeness of the lies that the “winds” are. What that *means* is this: The only difference between God’s Child and Satan’s child is what they *choose* to believe. I told you that you had best keep that in mind.

I told you bluntly that, if you have been born again, the “winds” are trying to kill you, to make sure your soul does not continue to believe *the promise* that gave it life. They are working to ensure that, when the time comes for *the fulfillment of the promise*, you do not *inherit what was promised*. If the “winds” are successful in convincing you to give up the Truth by believing a lie, you will become just another one of those who have denied the Truth that Jesus Christ is, was, and always has been. I told you the Apostle Peter describes those unfortunate people in 2 Peter 2:1–22.

I explained that, in the *parabolic imagery* that Peter had in mind, *The Teaching of Moses* is the “water” that came down as the “Early Rain” after the Resurrection of Christ. But to understand the mind-set of Moses, you need to know how he and the other Prophets of Israel mocked the Canaanite mythology related to the resurrection of Baal. And I told you Moses became the source of the *parabolic image* when he equated his *Teaching* with “rain” in Deuteronomy 32:1–2.

I pointed out that knowing Moses was ridiculing the Canaanite belief in the resurrection of Baal in that text makes it a bit easier to understand Peter’s comment. Peter is saying those who have been born again but have gone back on their commitment to the Lord have little to no Truth at all. And I showed you Jude 1:1–16, where Jude is even more pugnacious in describing those who have been born again but have *chosen* to deny the Truth they had the opportunity to hear.

I told you I am under no illusion as to the reaction of those who have been born again but are tenaciously holding on to the “easy-believism” lie that tells them “once saved, always saved.” The Truth is, God’s Children will be saved by belief, just as the Protestant Reformers claimed. But that is not *belief in the sense of that you believe*; it is *belief in the sense of what you believe*. Nobody has ever, or will ever, be saved by believing a lie. The “winds” lie to kill your soul and make you one of those who are sarcastically described in Jude 1:10–13.

Then I explained that, to counter the nonsense spouted by those who have *chosen* to believe the lie

that one cannot go back to believing the lies of the “winds” after believing the Truth, I quoted what Jesus says in Matthew 7:13–23 about those who *choose* not to believe the Truth regarding “*The Way*” that Moses taught. I told you that, if you *choose* to believe what Jesus says in that passage, you already know a lot of folks are going to wake up on Resurrection Morning to discover they have been hoodwinked.

I told you Satan’s objective is to make sure you remain completely complacent and unconcerned about your eternal destination. God called me to wake you up and prepare you for what lies ahead. There is a vicious spiritual battle going on all around you, and whether you like it or not, you are expected to fight. The “winds” will either triumph over you and you will lose your soul, or you will triumph over them and save it; there is no middle ground. But I said it’s your *choice* as to whether or not you *choose* to believe me.

I told you Paul is referring to the spiritual battle against the “winds” in Ephesians 6:10–20. And I said my point in showing you these things is to remind you that God expects you to do but one thing: Make sure that *what you believe* is the Truth. I said that, in so doing, you will “bring about your own salvation,” as Paul mentions in Philippians 2:12–13. I warned you that only a fool would play nice with killers, but I conceded that you can certainly continue to entertain the stupid notions they blow at you, if you *choose* to. It is, after all, your *choice*. So I also warned you that, if you continue to allow those killers access to your mind, they will eventually gain control over you. It is just a matter of time—time that you no longer have.

I said the “winds” are terrific salesmen, constantly insisting that something is worthwhile when it isn’t, trying to convince you that you want something so that you give in to wanting it. The Truth is, they sell imaginary things, things that don’t exist—a complete fabrication. Their best lie is the one that gets you to want something you can never have, either because it doesn’t exist or because your circumstances prevent you from having it. I told you I call that predicament “chasing the dragon” just because fire-breathing dragons are a myth; but even if they did exist, only a fool would be dumb enough to chase one.

I said the “winds” are working to craft us all into their own image and likeness. They began when we were youngsters, and they have been continually trying to train us to think “*The Way*” they do our entire

lives. But they always lie. And they will do their best to convince you a lie is the absolute Truth. The Truth is, the “winds” are deathly afraid of the Truth. They are cowards, and they will turn tail and run if you just stand up to them as Peter says in 1 Peter 5:5–9.

I told you that you can’t withstand the “winds” on your own, but the Truth can. That *means* you have to do it “*The Way*” Paul explains in Ephesians 6:10–20; you have to use the Truth you are absolutely convinced is true. It doesn’t matter what Truth you use, the “winds” are cowards; they are afraid of anything that is true. They do their best to hide from the Truth, and they will do everything they can to get you to hide from it as well. One way they do that is by “blowing” the lie that they are not real—that they don’t exist, that your every thought is your own. I told you that is a monstrous lie.

The Truth is, not every thought you have originates with you. Many, if not most, of those thoughts are a “wind” talking to you, suggesting you think this, that, or the other. So you have to learn to recognize them when they “blow” some stupid notion into your mind. If you can recognize them, it is a simple matter to simply say, “That’s not me,” and they will leave immediately—provided you are firmly convinced the thought is not your own. If you doubt, they will have won the battle for your mind; and the thought becomes your thought. You claimed it. For that reason the “winds” will suggest that you can only think about the things that they suggest. But you are the one who *chooses* to think about what you think about. And the time has come for you to put the “winds” out and think about only the things you know you should.

I told you the problem is, if you believe one lie that the “winds” tell, they will suggest yet another, one that is even more ridiculous than the first. They do that because they are trying to make sure your soul does not retain the life it attained when you were born again. So they do their best to convince you that what they say is true. If they can convince you to believe a lie is the Truth, you won’t believe anyone who comes along later, telling you the Truth. That’s because the “winds” have already convinced you that *you know better*. And if you begin to doubt that their lie is true, they will step in immediately to make sure you continue to believe that *you know better*. Don’t believe that stupidity; the Truth is, you don’t always *know better*.

Some “winds” are much stronger than others. But every last one of them will tell you that you want to do

what they say. They know what bothers you; so they will blow the same enticement at you for hours, days, and even weeks, months, and years on end—whatever it takes to get you to respond. They are constantly setting you up for failure. They sell fantasy, and they make you eagerly anticipate things so they can change direction and blow negative when reality arrives.

I told you that, if you listen to me long enough, you will eventually hear me say you have to know, and fight to remain in, your “center.” I am referring to a mental state where you are completely at peace with God. If you have never been there, you have not been born again by going to the Lord and asking. I explained that your “center” is the place where you have to stay or you will never triumph over the “winds.” I told you it is, in fact, the place John describes in 1 John 1:5–10; and I concluded the January 2021 issue of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter with the admonition of Paul found in Ephesians 4:1–24.

April 2021

In this issue of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter, I reminded you that I had already explained “*The Way*” God views our desperate situation here on Planet Earth. I said we are “living” (actually just existing) in the realm of the dead. When we showed up here at birth, our soul was dead and our body was in the process of dying. I pointed out that, for most people, that is still the circumstance in which they exist; but for a certain select few—those who have been born again and still believe the things they believed when they were born again—their current circumstances are far different. Their body is dying, but their soul is alive and yearning to know yet more Truth.

I explained that God’s purpose for those who have been born again is nothing less than creation in the very image and likeness of God Himself. That’s why, in John 1:1–13, the Apostle John says we have been given the right to be called God’s “Children.” Our generation firmly believes Adam and Eve were created in the image and likeness of God; therefore, they believe everyone is a Child of God. But I told you that is clearly not the case; if it were, there would be no reason for the New Testament to *make a distinction between* the “Children” of God and everyone else, as the Apostle Paul does on several occasions. Then I showed you Romans 9:6–8, where Paul states that plainly; and said if

that is not enough to convince even the blindest of the blind that the “conventional wisdom” you hear bandied about today came straight up out of the Pits of Hell, maybe Romans 8:1–19 would.

I told you the fools in control of God’s Church adamantly insist we are all God’s Children. But they have been reading the mail the Prophets and Apostles sent to those who actually are God’s Children. I said there is no need to tell them, they will realize their error soon enough. In the meantime, your only obligation is to give God what God requires of all His Children: unwavering belief in His *promise*. I warned you that, if you do not know *what was promised*, you are more than a little bit behind the curve simply because He not only requires that you know *what was promised*, He also requires that you understand and believe the content of *the promise*. Then and only then will you be able to triumph over the “winds.”

I also told you the only appropriate response anyone should have upon learning about *the promise* of God and *what* God *requires* is “Thank You!” For True Believers, that has already happened; it happened when they heard the Gospel, believed, apologized, and were born again. But believing the Gospel is but the beginning of a True Believer’s walk with the Lord. The Truth is, every last one of God’s Children is going to face one difficult test after another in this life. I explained that is because the Lord disciplines every Child He has engendered in an effort to teach them how they should behave, and I told you that is what James is *talking about* in James 1:2–4.

I said James is explaining why the Lord allows us to be tested. It is to prove that we actually believe *the promise*. But he has also told us we should respond to testing with joy. Then I showed you 1 Peter 1:3–9, where the Apostle Peter says exactly the same thing, in a slightly different “*Way*,” to those who have been “engendered again.” And I pointed out that, in the process, he tells us we should be joyful because testing allows us to prove our belief in God’s *promise*.

I told you that, if you are a True Believer, you most likely already know someone who claims to be a Christian but is a whiner and complainer, constantly playing the victim card—that is, blaming their difficult circumstances on something other than themselves. I said the Truth is, God uses the tests we face to prove whether or not we actually believe *the promise* He made to Adam and Eve, and those folks are failing

every test. I explained you could be encountering circumstances that are difficult to face because you did something wrong, but they could just as easily be because you are doing everything right. Either “Way,” the Lord expects you to rejoice. Then I told you why.

I started with those exceptional few who are doing everything right. I said the Lord has *blessed* them, and they know it. But suddenly things change; their good fortune takes a one-eighty and a whole host of bad things end up on their front step. Why did this happen? Did they do something wrong? Maybe. But maybe not. Remember Job? He didn’t do anything wrong. As a matter of fact, he did everything right; and he still got slammed into the dirt. I know that because, as the children’s song goes, “the Bible tells me so” in Job 1:1–22.

I said the point of the Book of Job could not be more clearly expressed than it is in that passage, yet folks continue to ignore what is clearly stated. As James says, God does not test anyone; we do it to ourselves when we want something we cannot have. But the Book of Job tells us God allows Satan to create circumstances for us to be tested when it suits His purpose. And I stated that anyone who has read the entirety of that book should already know God allowed Satan to push a completely sinless man to the very limits of his ability to endure, so maybe you should wake up and smell the roses.

I told you that if you are facing difficult circumstances, you should be joyful. You may not be as sinless as Job, but you do have an opportunity to prove to the Lord that you believe *the promise*. And the good news is, you will never be tested above what you are able to stand, simply because God won’t allow it. I showed you Paul says that in 1 Corinthians 10:1–13 and reminded you that every test is an opportunity; it is entirely up to you whether you take it that way. You can either accept it with joy, or you can slip into a funk and throw a pity party. If I were to give advice, which I don’t, I would seriously advise against the latter. But that’s your *choice*.

I said True Believers are expected to respond to every test in the same way: “Thank You, Lord, for giving me yet another opportunity to prove myself.” That is why, when you wake up and find yourself right in the middle of a serious test, you should be thankful you have been chosen to suffer for Christ. Every test that comes your way is one more opportunity for you to prove yourself worthy of His Kingdom. So now that

you have heard the Truth, you had better be grateful for that opportunity; otherwise, you might lose everything *you thought you had*. Be thankful you have been chosen to suffer rather than taking the pity-party route of whining and complaining about the things you have to endure. We all have to prove ourselves worthy of the Lord’s Kingdom, and every time we prove ourselves, we store up one more bit of treasure in Heaven.

I told you that when your life gets totally turned upside down by some difficult circumstance, you can be absolutely certain the “winds” are going to step in and start testing you by suggesting you think this “Way” or respond that “Way” to the test. I pointed out that it’s up to you to decide how you respond at that point. If you hesitate for even a second, the “winds” have already achieved their objective—you have failed the test. I said that’s what James had in mind when he wrote about the doubtful person in James 1:2–8.

James makes it clear God does not test us, and Job tells us He allows Satan to do the dirty work. So every time the “winds” “blow” some thought your way, they are testing you. But I told you the Lord does that so we can demonstrate our belief in *the promise* and prove ourselves—show that we believe the Truth. I concluded by telling you that in your relationship with the Lord, He demands openness, honesty, and commitment. By contrast, the “winds” want you to hide from the Lord, lie to yourself, and go back on the commitment you made to the Lord. So they “blow” at you to do the opposite of what you should do when you fail a test: APOLOGIZE! But I told you those who are stupid will go with the “winds,” just like the “chaff” they are.

That is what I have told you so far. In this issue, I am going to pick up where I left off in the April issue.

Be Thankful for His Discipline

The author of the Book of Hebrews tells us God disciplines those He loves. But he also says you are not God’s Child if He does not discipline you. I assume your Bible says the same thing as mine, but maybe not. Or maybe it’s just that you have never read it. This is what it says:

⁵(3) [Have you completely forgotten*] [even] [The] [Encouragement] [that] [is addressed] [to you] [as] [Sons]:

"[My] [SON], [DO [NOT] REGARD [His Majesty's]
[Tutoring] AS INSIGNIFICANT*],
[NOR] [GIVE UP] [WHEN REPRIMANDED] [BY] [HIM];
⁶[FOR] [His Majesty] [Tutors]
[THE ONE THAT] [HE LOVES],
[BUT] [HE SCOURGES] [EVERY] [SON]
[THAT] [HE ACCEPTS AS LEGITIMATE]."

⁷(4) [Continue on under harsh circumstances] [for]
[Tutoring]! [The] [{Living} God] [is being brought and
presented] [to you] [as] [Sons], [for] [what] [Son] {is
there} [whom] [a Father] [does [not] tutor]? ⁸[But] [if]
[you are] [without] [Tutoring]—[of which] [all {of us}]
[have become] [Partners]—[then] [you are] [illegitimate*]
[and] [not] [Sons].

⁹(a) [We did, [in fact], have] [The] [Fathers] [of] [our]
[Flesh] [as Teaching Tutors] [then]; [and]
(b) [we paid deference to {them}], [so] [should we
[not] be [much] [more] submissive] [to The] [Father]
[of our] [Spirits] [and] [live]?

¹⁰(i) [For],

{(a)} [on the one hand], [they] [tutored {us}]
[for] [just a few] [Days] [in accordance with]
[what] [seemed {best}] [to them];
{(b)} [but on the other hand], [He] {tutors
us} [for] [what is] [advantageous for {us}]
[so] [that] [{we} may **receive** some] [of] [His]
[Holiness*].

¹¹(ii) [But] [all] [Tutoring], [for] [the] [present
{time}], [does [not], [in fact], seem] [to be] [Joy],
[but only] [Anguish]; [but] [it [later] pays back]
[{the} [peaceful] Fruit] [of a Declaration of Not
Guilty] [to those who] [have been trained] [by]
[it].

(Hebrews 12:5–11) —HSSB

The source of the Old Testament verses quoted in that passage is Proverbs 3:11–12. If you don't understand the profound *significance* of that statement, you might want to consider the fact that there might be some things you don't know about the Scriptures. The Truth is, Proverbs 1:1–9:18 is a letter God sent to His Son. So if you *think* you are a Child of God and don't know what God says in that letter, you should probably

get about finding out. In it, He *talks about* the importance of submission to the discipline of the Lord. Here's the passage quoted above:

¹¹[My Son], [You must [not] reject]
[{the} Admonishment] [of His Majesty];
[And You must [not] loathe] [His Correction],
¹²[Because] [His Majesty] [will correct]
[whomever] [He loves],
[And like a Father], [He will take great pleasure in]
[{His} Son].

¹³[Those Who Attain the Resurrection of] [Adam]
[are going to find] [Wisdom];
[And a Descendant of Adam]
[will provide] [Understanding],

¹⁴[Because] [Her Profit] {is}
[more than {the} Profit] [of Silver];
[And [Her Crop], more than Pure Gold].
¹⁵[She] {is} [more precious] [than Oxblood Coral Pearls],
[And everything] [That You Want]
[can [not] compare] [with Her].

¹⁶[An Extension] [of Days] {is} [in Her Right Hand];
[Riches] [and Glory], [in Her Left].

¹⁷[Her Ways] {are} [{the} Ways of] [Pleasantness],
[And all] [Her Pathways] {are} [peaceful].

¹⁸[She] {is} [a Tree] [of Life]
[for those who take hold of] [Her],
[And those who hold Her fast]
[are going to attain the resurrection].

(Proverbs 3:11–18) —my interim translation

If I were you—which I am not—and I didn't know how God has ever disciplined me—which I do—I would be quite a bit more than slightly concerned about my eternal destination. But since I'm not you, and I do my dead-level best not to give advice, the most I can do is explain what you need to know about the discipline of the Lord. You can take it from there if you have a mind to, and provided the Lord can still get your attention.

You might want to start by reading the preface to the letter that God sent His Son. In it, He gives the five specific purposes for which He sent the letter, so here it is:

¹[The Parables of] [Solomon], [Son] [{of} David],
[King] [{of} Israel] {are}:

- ²(1) [**For the purpose of knowing**]
[Wisdom] [and Admonishment];
- (2) [**For the purpose of providing an understanding of**]
[Statements of] [Understanding];
- ³(3) [**For the purpose of** [{the} one who gains insight]
accepting] [Admonishment],
[A Declaration of Not Guilty], [as well as a Decision
Based on the Truth] [and What Is Right];
- ⁴(4) [**For the purpose of giving**] [Shrewdness]
[to Morons],
[Knowledge] [and a Sense of Purpose] [to a Boy];

⁵[One who is wise] [will listen],
[and he will continue] [Instruction];
[And one who understands]
[will acquire] [Guidance].

- ⁶(5) [**For the purpose of providing an understanding of**] [a Parable] [and a Mocking Poem]—
[The Words of] [those who are wise]
[and their Riddles].

⁷[The Fear of] [His Majesty] {is}
[{the} Beginning] [{of} Knowledge];
[Idiots] [despise] [Wisdom] [and Admonishment].

- ⁸[My Son], [listen to] [{the} Admonishment]
[{of} Your Father];
[And do [not] forsake] [The Teaching of] [Your Mother],
- ⁹[Because] [they] {are} [a Band of] [Favor]
[for Your Head],
[And Pendants] [for {the} Front of Your Neck].
(Proverbs 1:1–9) —my interim translation

Did you hear what God said? He said, “Listen.” And you will listen, if you are actually interested in knowing the Truth rather than defending the ridiculous lies you already believe. The Truth is, God has five very definite reasons why He allows the “winds” to test you. He lists them one by one in the passage above. The Lord wants you to act like His Child rather than some ruffian who grew up without anyone who cared enough to discipline them. So pay attention. He called me to tell you what you need to know.

The Lord uses all kinds of adverse circumstances to teach you things you need to know. When you do something that displeases Him, and you don’t immediately deal with it by apologizing, He will sometimes use

adverse circumstances to discipline you. So if the same situation comes up repeatedly and you fail to deal with it properly time after time, consider it a lesson you desperately need to learn. The best policy is, when you notice things going the wrong way, take a step back and look at the bigger picture. What should you be learning from the situation?

Adverse circumstances may seem to be easier to deal with than the “winds,” but the Truth is, they aren’t. You can’t always change what exists in your physical situation, but the “winds” are easily subdued if you don’t try to do it on your own. Everything depends on how you look at it. God’s purpose in allowing the “winds” to have constant access to you when you do something stupid is to drive you back to Him. Their purpose is to test you to the limit in hopes that you will give up and turn back from believing the Truth. Your purpose should be to triumph over them and in so doing, prove that you believe the Truth.

Every test you encounter contains a lesson you need to learn, and the Lord expects you to learn something from it. That is why, if you don’t pass a particular test the first time, you can rest assured that same test is going to come around again and again, until you finally wake up and triumph over whatever “wind” has convinced you a lie is the Truth. The “winds” will even try to tell you what lesson you need to learn, but that is just another test. You already know what you need to learn because the Holy Spirit has been convicting you in that regard and you haven’t been willing to listen.

Every test that comes your way *means* the Lord has been trying to teach you something, and now it is time to prove you have learned it. If you have not been shutting down the “winds” as soon as they come into your mind, you won’t be able to pass the test and prove yourself worthy of the Kingdom. So you must approach every test with the steadfast resolve to use it as an opportunity to understand “*The Way*” God thinks so you can pass the test.

I am going to give you a few examples of how God’s “*Way*” may not line up with “*The Way*” you thought before you were born again. But before I do that, I want to give you something else to think about. If you expect to live forever in the *Kingdom of God*, you had best not put your relationship with the Lord on the back burner and forget it; you had better put Him on speed dial and keep your phone handy. You’re going to need it if you intend to make it into the next life alive.

Think about this: When people interrupt you, talk over you, or completely ignore what you say, how does that make you feel? Apply that same circumstance to the Lord. He has already said what He wants to say to us in the Scriptures. If you have repeatedly chosen to ignore what He has to say, what do your actions say about the relationship you *claim* you have with Him? You may *think* your actions are okay with Him, but He may have an entirely different viewpoint. Seems to me He has already said that is quite possibly the case:

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

(Matthew 7:21-23) —HSSB

My point is, if the Scriptures claim to be revelation from God and you don't know what is stated in the Scriptures because you have never read them, why would you *think* you know what sort of behavior God expects of you? Maybe you should think about that for a while. While you do that, I'm going to show you a few things Jesus stated fairly plainly. How about this one:

¹¹"[You are] [fortunate] [whenever] [they ridicule] [you] [and] [persecute {you}] [and] [say] [anything] [nasty] [about] [you]—[lying]—[on account] [of Me]. ¹²[Rejoice] [and] [be extremely joyful], [because] [your] [Wage] [in] [The] [Heavens] {is} [huge]; [for] [they persecuted] [The] [Prophets] [who were] [before] [you] [in the same way]."

(Matthew 5:11-12) —HSSB

Luke puts that same thought this "Way":

"[Woe to {you}] [when] [all] [Men] [speak] [exceptionally well] [of] [you], [for] [their] [Fathers] [acted] [in] [the] [same way] [toward The] [False Prophets]."

(Luke 6:26) —HSSB

Interesting, isn't it? "The Way" He thinks is clearly not "The Way" we think. Everybody is still seeking the accolades Jesus warned against. But He was just getting started, He went on to say this:

²¹"[You have heard] [that] [The] [Ancients] [were told], '[YOU CAN [NOT] MURDER], [then] [Whoever] [it might be who] [murders] [will be] [held accountable] [at The] [Sentencing].' ²²[But] [I] [tell] [you] [that] [anyone] [who] [becomes angry] [with] [his] [Brother] [will be] [held accountable] [at The] [Sentencing]. [But] [whoever] [it might be who] [has called] [his] [Brother] [a Worthless Individual*] [will be] [held accountable for sentencing] [by The] [Council]. [But] [whoever] [it might be who] [has called {him}] [stupid] [will be] [held accountable for sentencing] [to] [The] [Trash Pit] [of The] [Fire]. ²³[Therefore], [when] [You bring and present] [Your] [Offering] [at] [The] [Sacrificial Altar], [and there] [you recall] [that] [Your] [Brother] [has] [anything] [against] [You], ²⁴[leave] [Your] [Offering] [there], [in front] [of The] [Sacrificial Altar], [and] [go]. [First], [be reconciled with*] [Your] [Brother], [and] [then], [after coming back], [bring and present] [Your] [Offering]."

(Matthew 5:21-24) —HSSB

On that same occasion, Jesus makes it perfectly clear that God does not view things down here "The Way" we do. Listen to what He says next:

²⁷"[You have heard] [that] [it was said], '[YOU MUST [NOT] COMMIT ADULTERY]'; ²⁸[but] [I] [tell] [you] [that] [anyone] [who] [looks] [at a Woman] [in order] [to] [desire] [her] [has] [already] committed adultery with] [her] [in] [his] [Heart]. ²⁹[So then], [if] [Your] [Eye]—[Your] [right {one}]—[offends] [You], [take it] out] [and] [throw {it}] [away from] [You]. [For] [it is advantageous] [to You] [that] [One] [of] [Your] [Members] [is done away with] [and] [Your] [entire] [Body] [is] [not] thrown] [into] [The Trash Pit]. ³⁰[And] [if] [Your] [right] [Hand] [offends] [You], [cut it] off] [and] [throw {it}] [away from] [You]. [For] [it is advantageous] [to You] [that] [One] [of] [Your] [Members] [is done away with] [and] [Your] [entire] [Body] [not] go out] [into] [The Trash Pit].

³¹[So] [it was said], '[WHOEVER] [IT MIGHT BE WHO] [DISMISSES] [HIS] [WOMAN] [MUST GIVE] [HER] [A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE].' ³²[But] [I] [tell] [you] [that] [anyone] [who] [dismisses] [his] [Woman], [except for]

[{the} Reason] [of Sexual Promiscuity], [makes] [her] [commit adultery]; [and] [whoever] [it may be who] [marries] [{a woman} who has been dismissed {because of adultery}] [commits adultery].

³³[Again], [You have heard] [that] [The] [Ancients] [were told], '[YOU MUST [NOT] BREAK A VOW*], [BUT] [YOU MUST PAY] [FOR] [YOUR] [OATHS] [TO YOUR] [MASTER].'
³⁴[But] [I] [tell] [you] [not] [to swear any oath] [at all], [neither] [by] [Heaven], [because] [it is] [The] [{Living} God's] [Throne], ³⁵[nor] [by] [The] [Earth], [because] [it is] [a Footstool] [for] [His] [Feet], [nor] [against] [Jerusalem], [because] [it is] [{THE} CITY] [OF THE] [MOST IMPORTANT] [KING]. ³⁶[You should [not even] swear an oath] [by] [Your] [own] [Head]—[because] [You can] [not] [make] [one] [Hair] [white] [or] [black]. ³⁷[So] [let {your} own] [Word] be, '[Yes it is]! [Yes it is]!' {or} '[No it isn't]! [No it isn't]!' [But] [whatever is] [More Than] [These] [is] [from] [The] [One Who Is Nasty].

³⁸[You have heard] [that] [it was said], '[AN EYE] [IN EXCHANGE FOR] [AN EYE], [AND] [A TOOTH] [IN EXCHANGE FOR] [A TOOTH].'
³⁹[But] [I] [tell] [you] [not] [to withstand] [The] [One Who Is Nasty], [but] [whoever] [slaps] [You] [on] [Your] [right] [Cheek], [turn] [The] [Other] [to him] [also]. ⁴⁰[And] [for the one who] [wants] [You] [to be judged] [and] [to take] [Your] [Undergarment], [leave] [Your] [Overgarment] [for him] [also]. ⁴¹[And] [whoever] [compels] [You] [to carry] {something} [one] [Mile*], [go] [with] [him] [Two]. ⁴²[Give] [to the one who] [requests] {anything} [of] [You], [and] [do [not] turn away] [the one who] [wants] [to borrow money] [from] [You].

⁴³[You have heard] [that] [it was said], '[YOU MUST LOVE] [YOUR] [NEIGHBOR] [and] [hate] [Your] [Enemy].'
⁴⁴[So then] [I] [tell] [you], [love] [your] [Enemies] [and] [pray] [for] [those who] [persecute] [you], ⁴⁵[so that] [you may become] [Sons] [of] [your] [Father] [Who is] [in] [{the} Heavens], [because] [His] [Sun] [rises] [on] [Those Who Are Nasty] [and] [Those Who Are Good]; [and] [He showers rain] [on] [Those Who Are Blameless] [and] [Those Who Are Unjust]. ⁴⁶[For] [when] [you love] [those who] [love] [you], [what] [Wage] [do you have]? [Are [not] even] [The] [Tax Collectors] [doing] [The] [same] [Thing]? ⁴⁷[And] [when] [you [only] pay your respects to] [your] [Brothers], [what] [have you done] [More Than What Is Required]? [Are [not] even] [The] [Gentiles] [doing] [The] [same] [Thing]? ⁴⁸[Therefore], [you] [must be] [complete], [as] [your] [heavenly] [Father] [is] [complete]."

(Matthew 5:27–48) —HSSB

¹[So] [pay close attention to] [The] [Declaration of Not Guilty] [you have], [so that {you} do [not] do {things}] [in front] [of] [Men], [in order] [to] [make sure] [they] get a good look at {them}]. [Otherwise], [you are [not] going to have] [a Wage] [with] [your] [Father], [Who is] [in] [The] [Heavens].

²[Therefore], [when] [You make] [a Contribution to the Less Fortunate], [You should [not] sound a trumpet] [ahead] [of You], [indeed, just as] [The] [Hypocrites] [do] [in] [The] [Synagogues] [and] [in] [The] [Streets], [so that] [they may be glorified] [by] [Men]. [Without doubt] [I tell] [you], [they are far away from] [their] [Wage]. ³[So then], [while] [You] are making] [a Contribution to the Less Fortunate], [do [not] let] [Your] [Left Hand] know] [what] [Your] [Right Hand] [is doing], ⁴[so that] [Your] [Contribution to the Less Fortunate] [may be] [in] [Secret]; [and] [Your] [Father], [Who is] [watching] [in] [Secret], [will pay] [You] back].

⁵[And] [when] [you are praying], [you must [not] be] [like] [The] [Hypocrites], [because] [they are fond of] [standing] [to pray] [in] [The] [Synagogues] [and] [on] [The] [Corners] [of The] [Thoroughfares] [so that] [they may be seen] [by] [Men]. [Without doubt] [I tell] [you], [they are far away from] [their] [Wage]. ⁶[So then], [when] [You] [pray], [come in] [to] [Your] [Storeroom] [and] [lock] [Your] [Door] [to pray] [to] [Your] [Father], [Who is] {watching} [in] [Secret]; [and] [Your] [Father], [Who is] [watching] [in] [Secret], [will pay] [You] back].

⁷[But] [while {you are} praying], [you should [not] repeat the same things over and over*], [indeed, just as] [The] [Gentiles]; [for] [they assume] [that] [they will be heard] [for] [their] [Verbosity*]. ⁸[Therefore], [do [not] be] [like] [them]; [for] [your] [Father] [is aware of] [the things that] [you have] [Need] [of] [before] [you] [request {them} of] [Him]. ⁹[Therefore], [you] [must pray] [this way]:

'[Our] [Father], [Who is] [in] [The] [Heavens], [Let] [Your] [Name] be made holy].

¹⁰[Let] [Your] [Kingdom] come];

[Let] [Your] [Will] be done],

[Even] [on] [Earth] [as] [in] [Heaven].

¹¹[Give] [us] [Today]

[Our] [Bread] [for] [the] coming day].

¹²[And] [forgive] [us] [our] [Obligations],

[As] [we] [have] [also] forgiven]

[those who are] [obligated] [to us].

¹³[And] [do [not] bring] [us] [in] [to] [Testing],

[But] [deliver] [us] [from] [The] [One Who Is Nasty].'

¹⁴[For] [when] [you forgive] [Men] [their] [Transgressions], [your] [heavenly] [Father] [will] [also] [forgive] [you]. ¹⁵[But] [when] [you do] [not] [forgive] [Men], [neither] [will] [your] [Father] [forgive] [your] [Transgressions].

¹⁶[And then], [when] [you are fasting], [do] [not] [be] [sullen-looking] [like] [The] [Hypocrites]. [For] [they make] [their] [Faces] [downcast] [so that] [they may appear] [to] [Men] [to be] [fasting]. [Without doubt] [I tell] [you], [they are far away from] [their] [Wage]. ¹⁷[So then], [when] [You] [fast], [smear {oil}] [on] [Your] [Head] [and] [wash] [Your] [Face] ¹⁸[so that] [You are] [not] [seen to be] [fasting] [by] [Men], [but only] [by] [Your] [Father], [Who is] [in] [The] [Secret Place]; [and] [Your] [Father], [Who] [is watching] [in] [The] [Secret Place], [will pay] [You] [back].

¹⁹[Do] [not] [store up] [Treasures] [for yourselves] [on] [The] [Earth], [where] [Moth] [and] [Rust] [make {it}] [disappear], [and] [where] [Thieves] [dig through a wall] [and] [steal]. ²⁰[But] [store up] [Treasures] [for yourselves] [in] [Heaven], [where] [neither] [Moth] [nor] [Rust] [make {it}] [disappear], [and] [where] [Thieves] [do] [not] [dig through a wall] [or] [steal]. ²¹[For] [wherever] [Your] [Treasure] [is], [Your] [Heart] [will be] [there] [also].

²²[The] [Lamp] [of The] [Body] [is] [The] [Eye]. [Therefore], [when] [Your] [Eye] [is] [single-minded], [Your] [entire] [Body] [will be] [illuminated]. ²³[But] [if] [Your] [Eye] [is] [nasty], [Your] [entire] [Body] [will be] [dark]. [Therefore], [if] [The] [Light] [that is] [in] [You] [is] [Nether Darkness], [how much] {is} [The] [Nether Darkness]?

²⁴[Nobody] [can] [be a slave] [to two] [Masters], [for] [he will] [either] [hate] [The] [One] [and] [love] [The] [Other], [or] [he will hold tightly] [to One] [and] [despise] [The] [Other]. [You can] [not] [be a slave] [to God] [and] [a Tangible Asset]. ²⁵[For] [This Reason] [I tell] [you], [do] [not] [be concerned about] [your] [Soul]—[what] [you should eat] [or] [what] [you should drink]—[or] [what] [you should slip on] [your] [Body]. [Is] [your] [Soul] [not] [more than] [What] [you] [Eat], [and] [your] [Body] [more than] [your] [Clothing]? ²⁶[Look intently] [at] [The] [Winged Creatures] [of] [Heaven], [because] [they do] [not] [sow], [neither] [do they reap], [nor] [do they gather {anything}] [into] [a Storehouse]; [and] [your] [heavenly] [Father] [provides food for] [them]. [Do] [you] [not] [matter] [even more] [than] [they]? ²⁷[So then], [which one] [of] [you] [who is concerned about {such things}] [can] [add] [one] [Half Meter] [onto] [his] [Stature]?

²⁸[And] [why] [are you concerned] [about] [Clothing]? [Carefully study*] [The] [Lilies] [of The] [Field]: [How] [do they grow]? [They do] [not] [labor], [neither] [do they spin]! ²⁹[But] [I tell] [you] [that] [not even] [Solomon], [in] [all] [his] [Glory], [wrapped {anything}] [around himself] [like] [One] [of These]. ³⁰[So then], [if] [The] [{Living} God] [attires] [The] [Grass] [of The] [Field] [this way], [which is] [Today] [and] [is thrown] [onto] [Burning Embers] [Tomorrow], {will He} [not] {attire} [you] [with a lot] [more]? [You Little Believers]!

³¹[Therefore], [you should] [not] [be concerned], [saying], '[What] [will we eat]?' [or] '[What] [will we drink]?' [or] '[What] [will we wrap around ourselves]?' ³²[For] [The] [Nations] [diligently seek] [all] [These Things]. [For] [your] [Father]—[the] [heavenly {One}]—[is aware] [that] [you need] [every one] [of These Things]. ³³[So then], [seek] [The] [Kingdom] [of The] [{Living} God] [and] [His] [Declaration of Not Guilty] [first], [and] [all] [These Things] [will be added] [to you].

³⁴[Therefore], [you should] [not] [be concerned] [about] [Tomorrow]; [for] [Tomorrow] [will be concerned about] [itself]. [The] [Awfulness] [it has] {is} [enough] [for its] [Day]."
(Matthew 6:1–34) —HSSB

If you have ever had a new-birth experience in which you honestly turned your life over to the Lord, you may not have known it at the time; but you made a commitment to change "The Way" you think and think "The Way" God thinks. That is precisely what the Apostle Paul is referring to when he says this:

¹(1) [Therefore], [I implore] [you], [Brothers], [via] [The] [Compassion] [of The] [{Living} God],

(a) [to present] [your] [Bodies] [as a] [living], [holy] Sacrifice], [well-pleasing] [to The] [{Living} God]—[your] [logical] [Priestly Service]; ²[and]
(b) [to] [not] be shaped] [by] [This] [Current Age], [but]

(c) [to be transformed] [by The] [Renewing] [of your] [Mind], [so] [that] [you] [approve of] [what] [The] [Will] [of The] [{Living} God] {is}—[which is]

- (i) [good] [and]
- (ii) [well-pleasing] [and]
- (iii) [complete].

³(2) [For] [I tell] [everyone] [who] [is] [among] [you]—
[via] [The] [Favor] [that] [was given] [to me]—

(a) [to [not] have a mind-set more high-minded*]
[than] [{the} mind-set [that] [one should] have], [but]
(b) [to have a mind-set] [so as] [to] [have good com-
mon sense]—[in each one] [as much as] [The]
[{Living} God] [has divided out] [a Measure] [of
Belief in God's **Promise**].

(Romans 12:1–3) —HSSB

Paul has that in mind when he says this:

¹⁰(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].
¹¹(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].

¹²(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],
¹³[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].

¹⁴(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].

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

¹⁶(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 2:10–16) —HSSB

If you intend to be part of “The Woman” that Jesus Christ “redeemed” when He died, you had best get with it. The Apostle Paul, speaking *parabolically* of course, says you ain’t gonna be a member of the “Remnant” of that *spiritual* Body if you keep thinking “The Way” you have been thinking:

²⁵(3) [You] [Men] [must love] [your] [Women], [just as]
[The] [Anointed One] [also] [loved] [The] [Summoned
Assembly] [and] [handed [Himself] over] [for [Her] sake]:

²⁶(a) [so that] [He could make [Her] holy], [after
cleansing {Her}] [in The] [Bath] [of The] [Water]
[in] [a Statement {He} Made];

²⁷(b) [so that] [He] [could present] [The] [glorious]
[Summoned Assembly] [to Himself], [not] [having]
[a Stain] [or] [Wrinkle*] [or] [any] [of The Things]
[like these]; [but only]

(c) [so that] [She would be] [holy] [and]
[unblemished].

(Ephesians 5:25–27) —HSSB

The Scriptures make it perfectly clear that only a fool would trifle with the Living God. Their message is, either give Him what He expects or be prepared to accept the consequences. You have been deluded up ‘til now, thinking you could get away with pretty much anything; but now that I have told you what God expects, you have no excuse. God called me to prepare True Believers for what the Early Church Father Irenæus calls “the last contest of the righteous.” It’s up to you to decide whether you are in or out.

To be the person God wants you to be, you have to be willing to see things “The Way” He sees them. He demands belief in the Truth revealed in the Scriptures! If you don’t firmly believe that Truth, the “winds” will continue to triumph over you. You can read and listen to the things I have stated over and over again, but if you are not willing to change “The Way” you think, nothing will change until you decide to think “The Way” God thinks. The Lord wants to retrain us to the point where His Spirit is the only “Wind” that we respond to. He gives us a choice to freely believe the Truth, but the “winds” do their dead level best to convince us a lie is the Truth so that we do whatever it is they want us to do. Our goal in this life should be to listen to the Lord and let the Truth—His Spirit—change us so that the “winds” become just an annoyance. ■



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

Editor: Some questions that were sent to us deal with the genealogy of Jesus. The man writes:

"In Luke 3:38, at the end of the verse which describes a genealogy, why would it end with saying '... Adam, the {son} of God'? Why would Luke say that this Adam is a son of God? What is the meaning or is this a mistranslation? What type of son of God is this Adam, being that The Second Adam is the Son that was 'created', 'made', 'came' or is the One who is the image and likeness of God, His Father?"

Elijah: The difficulty we have in understanding *why* the Scriptures state *what* they state goes right back to Isaiah 55. So let me show you what Isaiah says:

¹"[Woe!] [Everyone] [who is thirsty],
[come] [for {the} Water];
[And whoever] [has] [no] [Silver],
[come {for the water}].
[Buy grain] [and eat], [and come {for the water}].
[Buy grain] [with no] [Silver],
[And [Wine] [and Milk] with nothing] [of Market Value].
²[Why] [would you weigh out] [Silver]
[for {what is} not] [Bread]—
[Your Production] [for {what has} no] [Satisfaction]?
[Listen] [carefully] [to Me] [and eat] [a Good Thing],
[So that your Soul] [may take delight] [in {the} Grease].

³[Cup] [your Ear] [and come] [to Me];
[Listen], [so that {your Soul} may live].
[Then I will cut] [an [eternally burning]
Legal Agreement] [for you]—
[Those who believe] [{the} Loving-kindnesses of] [David].
⁴[Guess what!] [Kinfolk have] [a Witness].
[I will make Him] [a Leader]
[and one who gives commands to] [Kinfolk].
⁵[Guess what!] [You will call] [a Nation]
[You do {not} know],
[And a Nation]—[they will {not} know You]—
[will run] [to You]
[For the sake of] [His Majesty], [Your God],
[And to [Israel's] Holy One],
[When] [He has made You beautiful]."
⁶[Diligently seek] [His Majesty] [while He can be found];
[Call out to Him] [while He is] [near].
⁷[Let [a guilty {man}] abandon] [his Way];
[And a [contentious] Man], [his Thoughts],
[So that he may return] [to] [His Majesty],
[So that He may have compassion on him],
[And to] [our God]:

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

¹¹[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

I have quoted that passage repeatedly over the past three decades simply because it is the basis on which God's call to those who will *choose* to be "redeemed" is based. If you do not *choose* to think "The Way" God thinks, you have no part in Him. That is because God is *what He believes* in the same "Way" that *you are what you believe*. The basic difference is, *what you believe* is sometimes an outright lie; *what God believes* is always true simply because He is the Truth. As Jesus put it when Thomas asked Him about knowing "The Way":

⁶[Jesus] [tells] [him]: "[I] [AM] [The] [Way] [and] [The] [Truth] [and] [The] [Life]; [nobody] [is going to come] [to] [The] [Father] [except] [through] [Me]. ⁷[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 14:6–7) —HSSB

You can't fully understand the *significance* of that exchange if you don't know what I have already explained in *The Mystery of Scripture, Volume 1*. That is, Moses and the other Prophets of Israel referred to *The Teaching of Moses* as "The Way." So to put the case just about as succinctly as possible, *The Teaching of Moses* is "The Way" God looks at our miserable condition, which is pretty much the same sentiment summed up in what Jesus said to the local church at Laodicea:

¹⁴[And] [write] [to The] [Messenger] [of The] [Summoned Assembly] [in] [Laodicea]:

(a) [So [The One] [Without Doubt]—[The] [Witness] [Who is] [believable] [and] [true], [The] [Beginning] [of The] [Creation] [of The] [{Living} God]—[says] this]:

- ¹⁵(b) '[I am aware of] [Your] [Works]—[that] [You are] [neither] [cold] [nor] [boiling hot];
- (c) [I really wish that] [You were] [cold] [or] [boiling

hot]. ¹⁶[So]

(d) [I am going] [to vomit*] [You] [out] [of] [My] [Mouth],

- (i) [because] [You are] [lukewarm*], [and] [neither] [boiling hot] [nor] [cold],
- ¹⁷(ii) [because]:

{(a)} [You say] [that]

- {(i)} "[I am] [wealthy]," [and]
- {(ii)} "[I have become wealthy]," [and]
- {(iii)} "[I do [not] have] [any [Need] at all]"; [and]

{(b)} [You are [not] aware] [that] [You] [are] [those who are]

- {(i)} [miserable] [and]
- {(ii)} [wretched] [and]
- {(iii)} [poor] [and]
- {(iv)} [blind] [and]
- {(v)} [naked],

¹⁸(e) [I advise] [You] [to buy] [from] [Me]:

- (i) [Gold] [that has been burned] [with] [Fire] [so that] [You may become wealthy], [and]
- (ii) [white] [Overgarments] [so that]

{(a)} [You may be wrapped in {them}] [and]
{(b)} [The] [Shame] [of] [Your] [Nakedness] [might [not] be visible], [and]

- (iii) [an Ointment*] [to apply as an anointing to*] [Your] [Eyes] [so that] [You may see]."

(Revelation 3:14–18) —HSSB

My point is, *God is what He believes*, and *what He believes* can be found *parabolically* stated and illustrated in *The Teaching of Moses*. Consequently, if someone should happen to come along and accurately explain those things, you have a *choice*: Do you believe him, or don't you? If what he teaches is true and you reject it, you have thereby *chosen* not to think "The Way" God thinks. And now that I have told you that, you have no excuse for not carefully scrutinizing everything you hear taught in the Church today. Most of the things

“Christians” believe today have little in common with the things the Apostles understood. That certainly applies to the passage in Luke that *supposedly* calls the first Adam “the son of God.” Here it is:

³⁷[the {son}] [of Methuselah*], [the {son}] [of Enoch], [the {son}] [of Jared*], [the {son}] [of Mahalaleel*], [the {son}] [of Cainan], ³⁸[the {son}] [of Enosh*], [the {son}] [of Seth*], [the {son}] [of Adam], [the {son}] [of God].
(Luke 3:37–38)—HSSB

You can see from the brackets in my translation that the biblical text doesn’t actually say the first Adam was “the son of God.” Instead, it says, “the {one} of God,” or “the {one} from God.” The reason for that can be found in the Book of Ruth, where it describes how Boaz “gave a seed” to “The House” of Elimelech, thereby merging his “House” with that “House,” and as a result ended up with a brief mention in the genealogy of Jesus Christ. When you consider the fact that Boaz was the “Redeemer” of Elimelech’s “House” and Isaiah tells us repeatedly that God is going to be the “Redeemer” of “The House” of Israel, the *parabolic imagery* related to Adam as “the one from God” stands out in sharp relief: When God “built a House,” “raised up a Seed,” and “made a Name” for David through the Virgin Mary, He not only became the “Redeemer” of “The House” of Israel, He also became the “Redeemer” of “The House” of Adam.

This is where the *parabolic imagery* related to “redemption” gets a bit complicated, so stay with me. Without an understanding of the *parabolic imagery* of levirate marriage in which one man “takes” another man’s woman and “builds a house” for him after he has died, you will never understand how God became the “Redeemer” of Adam and the long line of “Names” who came along after Adam. Here are the basics:

(1) The first thing you need to keep in mind is this: The *Living* God dwells in a timeless dimension where all things happen simultaneously. You can’t understand how that can be, nor can I; it just is. So get over it.

(2) The second thing you need to keep in mind is this: The *Corporate* mind-set related to *Corporate* Israel is foundational to the Truth revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures. That is, the *Corporate* body is the essential element; the individual is expendable. What that *means*

is, as long as one member of a *Corporate* body remains in that “House” as a “*remnant*” of the *Corporate* body, the *Corporate* body can continue to live on in that one individual.

(3) The third thing you need to keep in mind is this: The message hidden in the Hebrew Scriptures explains how God “redeemed” a “*Remnant*” of the *Corporate* body of “The House” of Israel so that the members of that “*Remnant*” may continue to live forever as members of the *Corporate* body.

The *Corporate* mind-set I just described is summed up by the Apostle Paul in this passage:

¹(2) [Therefore], [we [who have been acquitted] [on the basis] [of Belief in God’s **Promise**]

(a) have] [Peace] [with] [The] [{Living} God] [via] [our] [Master], [Jesus], [The Anointed One], ²[via] [Whom] [we [also]—[by our] [Belief in God’s **Promise**]

(b) have] [Access] [to] [This] [Favor] [in] [which] [we stand] [and]

(c) [boast] [about] [a Hope] [of The] [Glory] [of The] [{Living} God]. ³[Yet] [not] [only {this}], [but] [we [also]

(d) boast] [about] [The] [Things That Cause Turmoil], [aware] [that]

(i) [The] [Turmoil] [is going to bring about] [Perseverance]; ⁴[then]

(ii) [The] [Perseverance], [Approval]; [then]

(iii) [The] [Approval], [Hope].

⁵(1) [And] [our] [Hope] [is [not] going to embarrass {us}], [because] [The] [Love] [of The] [{Living} God] [has been poured out] [into] [our] [Hearts] [via] [a [holy] Spirit] [that] [has been given] [to us].

⁶(a) [For] [while [we] were] [still] [weak], [The Anointed One] [still] [died]

(i) [on] [Time],

(ii) [for the sake] [of those who are depraved].

⁷{(a)} [For] [with great difficulty] [someone] [might die] [for the sake] [of One Who Is Blameless],

{(b)} [for] [it could be that] [someone] [might even] dare [to die] [for the sake] [of the one who is] [good];

⁸{(c)} [but] [The] [{Living} God] [com-mends] [His] [Own] [Love] [for] [us], [because] [while [we] were] [still] [Sinners], [The Anointed One] [died] [for] [us]. ⁹[Much] [more], [therefore], [will we—[those who have now] been acquitted] [by] [His] [Blood]—be saved] [from] [His] [Anger] [via] [Him].

¹⁰(b) [For] [if] [we [who were] [Enemies] were reconciled] [to The] [{Living} God] [via] [The] [Death] [of] [His] [Son], [much] [more] [will we [who have been reconciled] be saved] [by] [His] [Life]; ¹¹[yet] [not] [only {reconciled}], [but] [also] [boasting] [about] [The] [{Living} God] [through] [our] [Master], [Jesus], [The Anointed One], [through] [Whom] [we have [now] **received**] [Reconciliation].

¹²(i) [For] [This Reason], [indeed, just as] [via] [one] [Man] [The] [Sin] [came in] [to] [The] [World]—[and] [Death] [via] [his] [Sin]—[so] [also] [Death] [passed through] [to] [all] [Men], [because] [everyone] [sinned].

¹³(ii) [For] [up to the time] [of Law], [Sin] [was] [in] [The World]; [but] [Sin] [is [not] charged to one's account] [when there is] [no] [Law]. ¹⁴[But] [Death] [was king] [from] [Adam] [until] [Moses], [even] [over] [those who] [did [not] sin] [in] [The] [Likeness] [of The] [Violation] [of Adam]—[who] [is] [a Pattern] [of the One who] [was going to come].

¹⁵(2) [But] {it is} [not]: [As] [The] [Transgression], [so] [also] [The] [Gift].

(a) [For] [if] [The] [Many] [died] [in The] [Transgression] [of The] [One], [The] [Favor] [of The] [{Living} God]—[and] [The] [Bequest] [in] [His] [Favor] [for The] [one] [Man], [Jesus], [The Anointed One]—[produced [a lot] [more] excess] [for] [The] [Many], ¹⁶[then] [The] [{Bequest} That Is Given] {is} [not] [like] {the bequest that came} [via] [One] [who sinned].

(b) [For]:

(i) [on the one hand], [His] [Judgment] {came} [in] [a Verdict of Guilty] [because of]

[one {transgression}]; [but

(ii) on the other hand], [His] [Gift] {of the bequest came} [in] [a Legal Requirement] [because of] [many] [Transgressions].

¹⁷(c) [For]:

(i) [if], [by The] [Transgression] [of The] [One], [Death] [became king] [via] [The] [One],

(ii) [much] [more] [will [those who] **receive**] [The] [Abundance] [of His] [Favor] [and] [The] [Bequest] [of His] [Declaration of Not Guilty] be king] [for] [Life] [via] [The] [One]—[Jesus], [The Anointed One].

¹⁸(d) [So then], [therefore], [since]

(i) {there was} [a Transgression] [resulting in] [a Verdict of Guilty] [on] [all] [Men] [via] [One], [so] [also]

(ii) {there is} [a Legal Requirement] [for] [an Acquittal] [resulting in Life] [for] [all] [Men] [via] [One].

¹⁹(e) [For] [indeed, just as]:

(i) [via] [The] [one] [Man's] [Unwillingness to Attentively Listen and Comply], [The] [Many] [were appointed as] [Sinners]; [so] [also]

(ii) [via] [The] [One {Man's}] [Willingness to Attentively Listen and Comply], [The] [Many] [will be appointed as] [Those Who Are Blameless].

(Romans 5:1–19) —HSSB

What Paul does not explain in that passage—because he knew the Believers in the church at Rome were already well aware of the Truth—is this: You, me, and every other member of the human race were born into a state of “sin” because our forefather Adam was booted out of the Garden and into the realm of the dead before we were born. Consequently, we were born into the realm of the dead, without any knowledge of the Truth. Therefore, because we were “in Adam” at birth, we had no choice in the matter.

Paul's point is, Believers become members of the Corporate Body of Jesus Christ when they are joined

with the Spirit of Christ via their belief in *the promise*, and they will *inherit what was promised* when they are resurrected in God's Own image and likeness. But my point is, in the Corporate mind-set, the "Remnant" of David, Israel, and Adam that God "redeemed" is none other than Jesus Christ. And in that Corporate mind-set, that "Remnant" is nothing less than the totality of the first Adam, the Person that God "redeemed." He is, in fact, "The Name" of the Person that God "redeemed"; the One Who will "carry The Name" Adam forever.

Now that I have explained the mind-set you need to understand *why* Luke wrote *what* he wrote, let me show you the difference between the genealogy of Jesus given by Matthew and the genealogy given by Luke. Here is Matthew's:

¹[A Book] [about {the} Origin] [of Jesus], [The Anointed One], [Son] [of David], [Son] [of Abraham]:

²[Abraham] [engendered] [Isaac]; [then] [Isaac] [engendered] [Jacob]; [then] [Jacob] [engendered] [Judah] [and] [his] [Brothers]; ³[then] [Judah] [engendered] [Perez] [and] [Zerah*] [out] [of] [Tamar*]; [then] [Perez] [engendered] [Hezron]; [then] [Hezron] [engendered] [Ram]; ⁴[then] [Ram] [engendered] [Amminadab]; [then] [Amminadab] [engendered] [Nahshon]; [then] [Nahshon] [engendered] [Salmon]; ⁵[then] [Salmon] [engendered] [Boaz] [out] [of] [Rahab*]; [then] [Boaz] [engendered] [Obed] [out] [of] [Ruth*]; [then] [Obed] [engendered] [Jesse]; ⁶[then] [Jesse] [engendered] [David] [The] [King].

[Then] [David] [engendered] [Solomon] [out] [of] [the {woman}] [Uriah had*]; ⁷[then] [Solomon] [engendered] [Rehoboam]; [then] [Rehoboam] [engendered] [Abijah]; [then] [Abijah] [engendered] [Asa]; ⁸[then] [Asa] [engendered] [Jehoshaphat]; [then] [Jehoshaphat] [engendered] [Joram]; [then] [Joram] [engendered] [Uzziah]; ⁹[then] [Uzziah] [engendered] [Jotham]; [then] [Jotham] [engendered] [Ahaz]; [then] [Ahaz] [engendered] [Hezekiah]; ¹⁰[then] [Hezekiah] [engendered] [Manasseh]; [then] [Manasseh] [engendered] [Amon]; [then] [Amon] [engendered] [Josiah]; ¹¹[then] [Josiah] [engendered] [Jeconiah] [and] [his] [Brothers], [at the time] [of The] [Babylonian] [Deportation].

¹²[Then], [after] [The] [Babylonian] [Deportation], [Jeconiah] [engendered] [Shealtiel]; [then] [Shealtiel] [engendered] [Zerubbabel]; ¹³[then] [Zerubbabel] [engendered] [Abihud]; [then] [Abihud] [engendered] [Eliakim]; [then] [Eliakim] [engendered] [Azor]; ¹⁴[then] [Azor]

[engendered] [Zadok]; [then] [Zadok] [engendered] [Achim]; [then] [Achim] [engendered] [Eliud]; ¹⁵[then] [Eliud] [engendered] [Eleazar]; [then] [Eleazar] [engendered] [Matthan]; [then] [Matthan] [engendered] [Jacob]; ¹⁶[then] [Jacob] [engendered] [Joseph], [Mary's] [Man], [the {woman} [from] whom] [Jesus]—[the One Who] [is called] "[The Anointed One]"—[was engendered].

¹⁷[Therefore], [all] [The] [Generations] [from] [Abraham] [up to] [David] [are] [fourteen] [Generations], [and] [fourteen] [Generations] [from] [David] [up to] [The] [Deportation] [to Babylon], [and] [fourteen] [Generations] [from] [The] [Deportation] [to Babylon] [up to] [The] [Anointed One].

(Matthew 1:1–17) —HSSB

As you can see from the first verse, Matthew wants us to know Jesus is legitimately a Son of both David and Abraham:

[A Book] [about {the} Origin] [of Jesus], [The Anointed One], [Son] [of David], [Son] [of Abraham]:
(Matthew 1:1) —HSSB

That states the purpose for which Matthew includes the genealogy, but *what you don't know* is sometimes more important than *what you do know*. So let me explain something you may not know. Your accurate understanding of *why* Matthew states things "The Way" he does is concealed in one little four-letter word (*whom*) in this verse:

[then] [Jacob] [engendered] [Joseph], [Mary's] [Man], [the {woman} [from] **whom**] [Jesus]—[the One Who] [is called] "[The Anointed One]"—[was engendered].
(Matthew 1:16) —HSSB

After repeatedly using the active form of the Greek verb *gennao* to give us a long line of men who "engendered" the next man in line, Matthew ends the genealogy with a passive form of the same verb to say "from *whom* Jesus ... was engendered." Do you have any idea *why* he would put it that way? For the benefit of those who are still teachable and are not absolutely certain they already know the Truth, I am going to tell you what you need to know.

One thing is absolutely certain: The genealogy that Matthew gives is not the genealogy of Jesus, it is instead the genealogy of Joseph. That is made clear

from the fact that he tells us one man “engendered” another in a long line of men until finally “Jacob *engendered* Joseph, Mary’s Man.” From that simple statement we know Matthew has given us the genealogy of Joseph, but we don’t yet know *why*. That bit of information resides in what he tells us immediately after he gives us the genealogy of Joseph:

¹⁸[Now] [The] [Origin] [of] [Jesus], [The Anointed One], [was] [like this]: [After [Mary], [His] [Mother], was promised in marriage] [to] [Joseph], [she was found to be] [one who had] [a Baby [in] her Tummy] [from] [a [holy] Spirit], [right] [before] [they] [came together]. ¹⁹[So then] [her] [Man], [Joseph]—[who was] [blameless] [and] [not] [wanting] [to make [her] an example]—[was determined] [to dismiss] [her] [covertly].

²⁰[But] [guess what!] [After [he] had contemplated] [These Things], [His Majesty’s] [Messenger] [appeared] [to him] [in] [a Vivid Dream], [saying]: “[Joseph], [Son] [of David], [Do [not] be afraid] [to take [Mary], [Your] [Woman], to Yourself]; [for] [the One Who] [has been engendered] [in] [her] [is] [from] [a [holy] Spirit]. ²¹[So] [she will give birth to] [a Son], [and] [You will call] [His] [Name] ‘[Jesus],’ [for] [He] [will save] [His] [People] [from] [their] [Sins].”

²²[But] [This [entire] Thing] [occurred] [so that] [the] [statement that was made] [by] [His Majesty] [via] [The] [Prophet] [would be fulfilled], [which says]: ²³[GUESS WHAT!] [THE] [VIRGIN] [WILL HAVE] [A BABY [IN] HER TUMMY] [AND] [GIVE BIRTH TO] [A SON]; [AND] [THEY WILL CALL] [HIS] [NAME] [‘IMMANUEL*’],” [which] [is] [translated], “[THE] [Living] GOD [is] [WITH] [US].” (Matthew 1:18–23) —HSSB

Did you notice the fact that he has now told us the “origin” of Jesus? If not, let me remind you what he says about it in the first verse:

[A Book] [about {the} Origin] [of Jesus], [The Anointed One], [Son] [of David], [Son] [of Abraham]: (Matthew 1:1) —HSSB

Now that you know *what* he says about that, let me tell you *why* he includes the genealogy of Joseph. Matthew gives us the genealogy of Joseph because you need to know one very specific detail related to the “origin” of Jesus before he actually describes His “origin.” But you can only understand what he is thinking

if you know what Nathan said to David in 2 Samuel 7. If you know that, you also need to know *the fulfillment of the promise* God gave to David on that day was in dire danger of never being able to be *fulfilled*. That is *why* Matthew tells us God stepped in “after Mary ... was promised in marriage to Joseph” and “right before they came together” (Matt. 1:18). *Why* are those two things important? Because Mary was most likely an only child, or perhaps the eldest among sisters. That is, she was the last member of David’s lineage who could still transfer to Jesus title to *the promise* God gave David through Nathan. If she became “one” with Joseph, all hope would be lost simply because Joseph came from the lineage of a man about whom God had said this:

¹⁸[Therefore], [this is what] [His Majesty] [has said] [concerning] [Jehoiakim], [Son] [of Josiah], [King] [of Judah]:

“[They will [not] lament] [for him]:

‘[Woe!] [My Brother]!’

‘[Woe!] [My Sister]!’

[They will [not] lament] [for him]:

‘[Woe!] [Master]!’

‘[Woe!] [Majestic Splendor]!’

¹⁹[He will be buried] [{with the} Burial of] [a Jackass]— [Dragged away] [and thrown] [out beyond] [{the} Gates of] [Jerusalem].

²⁰[Go up to] [The Lebanon Mountain Range] [and cry out],

[And [raise] [Your Voice] in Bashan].

[Then cry out] [from The Regions Beyond]

[Because] [all of] [those who loved You]

[have been broken].

²¹[I talked [to You] about] [Your Self-Satisfaction]; [You said], ‘[I will [not] listen]!’

[This] {has been} [Your Way] [since Your Youth] [Because] [You have [not] listened] [to My Voice].

²²[A Spirit] [will shepherd] [all] [Your Shepherds], [And those who love You] [will go] [into Captivity]; [You will [definitely] be ashamed] [and humiliated] [at that time]

[Because of all] [Your Bad Behavior].

²³[{You} who are dwelling]

[in The Lebanon Mountain Range],

[{You} who have built a nest] [in {its} Cedars]:
 [How] [will You find favor]
 [when [Labor Pains] come] [over You],
 [An Agony] [like one going through labor]?

²⁴[I swear on [My] life!]” [declares] [His Majesty],
 “[that] [if] [Coniah], [{the} Son] [of Jehoiakim], [King] [of
 Judah], [were] [a Seal] [on] [My [right] Hand], [I would
 [definitely] pull You off] [of there]. ²⁵[So I will put You] [in
 {the} Hand] [of those who are seeking] [Your Soul], [even
 in {the} Hand] [of those [before] [whom] [You] [cower],
 [even in {the} Hand] [of Nebuchadnezzar], [King] [of
 Babylon], [even in {the} Hand] [of The Chaldeans].
²⁶[Then I will hurl] [You] [and] [Your Mother] [who]
 [engendered You] [over to] [another] [Land], [one where]
 [you were [not] engendered], [and [you will die] there].
²⁷[But regarding] [The Land] [to [which] [they] [lift up]
 [their Soul] to return], [they will [never] return] [there].

²⁸[Is [This] [Man] [Coniah] a [despised],
 [pulverized] Jar*]?
 [Or] [a Container] [in which] [there is not any]
 [Pleasure]?
 [Why] [would [he] [and his Seed] be hurled out]
 [And thrown down] [on] [a Land]
 [that] [they have [not] known]?
²⁹[Land]! [Land]! [Land]!
 [Listen to] [{the} Word] [of His Majesty]!
³⁰[This is what] [His Majesty] [has said],
 ‘[Write [This] [Man] down] [childless]!
 [A **Gibbor**] [will [never] succeed] [during his Days]
 [Because] [a Man] [from his Seed]
 [will [never] succeed in]
 [Sitting] [on] [{the} Throne] [of David]
 [Or having authority] [again] [in Judah].’”
 (Jeremiah 22:18–30) —my interim translation

My point is, in giving us the genealogy of Joseph, Matthew has in mind three things: (1) the genealogy of Joseph, (2) the “origin” of Jesus, and (3) *the fulfillment of the promise*. He assumes his reader will know how all three of those fit together nicely into one coherent whole. If you didn’t already know that, now you do—provided you have any part in *the promise* of God.

In contrast to the genealogy in Matthew, Luke does give us the genealogy of Jesus, but not for the reason one would normally suppose. This is the account that Luke gives:

²³[Now], [when [Jesus] began {His ministry}], [He] [was] [approximately] [thirty] [Years {old}], [being] [a Son]—[as] [it was presumed]—[of Joseph], [the {son}] [of Eli*], ²⁴[the {son}] [of Matthat], [the {son}] [of Levi], [the {son}] [of Melchi], [the {son}] [of Jannai*], [the {son}] [of Joseph], ²⁵[the {son}] [of Mattathias], [the {son}] [of Amos], [the {son}] [of Nahum*], [the {son}] [of Hesli*], [the {son}] [of Naggai*], ²⁶[the {son}] [of Maath*], [the {son}] [of Mattathias], [the {son}] [of Semein*], [the {son}] [of Josech*], [the {son}] [of Joda*], ²⁷[the {son}] [of Joanan*], [the {son}] [of Rhesa*], [the {son}] [of Zerubbabel], [the {son}] [of Shealtiel], [the {son}] [of Neri*], ²⁸[the {son}] [of Melchi], [the {son}] [of Addi*], [the {son}] [of Cosam*], [the {son}] [of Elmadam*], [the {son}] [of Er*], ²⁹[the {son}] [of Joshua], [the {son}] [of Eliezer*], [the {son}] [of Jorim*], [the {son}] [of Matthat], [the {son}] [of Levi], ³⁰[the {son}] [of Simeon], [the {son}] [of Judah], [the {son}] [of Joseph], [the {son}] [of Jonam*], [the {son}] [of Eliakim], ³¹[the {son}] [of Melea*], [the {son}] [of Menna*], [the {son}] [of Mattatha*], [the {son}] [of Nathan*], [the {son}] [of David], ³²[the {son}] [of Jesse], [the {son}] [of Obed], [the {son}] [of Boaz], [the {son}] [of Salmon], [the {son}] [of Nahshon], ³³[the {son}] [of Amminadab], [the {son}] [of Admin*], [the {son}] [of Ram], [the {son}] [of Hezron], [the {son}] [of Perez], [the {son}] [of Judah], ³⁴[the {son}] [of Jacob], [the {son}] [of Isaac], [the {son}] [of Abraham], [the {son}] [of Terah*], [the {son}] [of Nahor*], ³⁵[the {son}] [of Serug*], [the {son}] [of Reu*], [the {son}] [of Peleg*], [the {son}] [of Heber*], [the {son}] [of Shelah], ³⁶[the {son}] [of Cainan], [the {son}] [of Arphaxad*], [the {son}] [of Shem*], [the {son}] [of Noah], [the {son}] [of Lamech*], ³⁷[the {son}] [of Methuselah*], [the {son}] [of Enoch], [the {son}] [of Jared*], [the {son}] [of Mahalaleel*], [the {son}] [of Cainan], ³⁸[the {son}] [of Enosh*], [the {son}] [of Seth*], [the {son}] [of Adam], [the {son}] [of God].
 (Luke 3:23–38) —HSSB

The first verse in that passage is rather inscrutable. That is, it is difficult to understand how Luke intends what he has written to be read. It is possible that it should be read this “Way”:

[Now], [when [Jesus] began {His ministry}], [He] [was] [approximately] [thirty] [Years {old}], [being] [a Son]—[as] [it was presumed], [of Joseph]—[the {son}] [of Eli*].
 (Luke 3:23) —my (revised) translation

One thing is beyond all doubt: Given that Matthew's genealogy is Joseph's, this genealogy can only be the lineage of Mary's father. That is *why* Luke does not say, "the son of" this individual or that; instead he says, "the {one} of." He is concealing the fact that Jesus Christ was not actually the Son of any of those men. He was instead a male Child Whom God "engendered" and "gave" to David to **fulfill the promise** He made in 2 Samuel 7. In so doing, He merged "The House" of David, Jacob, Isaac, Abraham, and Adam with "The House" of God in the male Child He "gave" David in **fulfilling the promise** Nathan gave David in 2 Samuel 7. That *parabolic imagery* is what Paul had in mind when he wrote this:

¹(1) [Now] [you] {are} [those who were] [dead]

- (a) [in your] [Transgressions] [and]
- (b) [in your] [Sins]—²[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].

³(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}].

⁴(3) [Then] [The] [{Living} God]—[Who is] [wealthy] [in] [Mercy]—[because of] [His] [copious] [Love] [with which] [He loved] [us], ⁵[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]); ⁶[and]

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

(c) [seated {us} together] [with] [those who are] [in Heaven]—[in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus]—

⁷[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].

⁸(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]—⁹[not] [because of] [Works]—[so that] [no] [one] [could boast].

¹⁰(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].

¹¹(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]. ¹²[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].

¹³(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]. ¹⁴[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],
¹⁵[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],
¹⁶[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].

¹⁷(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]; ¹⁸[because]—[via] [Him]—[both of us]
 [have] [Access] [to] [The] [Father] [by] [one] [Spirit].

¹⁹(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], ²⁰[after being built] [on] [The] [Foundation]
 [of The] [Apostles] [and] [Prophets], [its]
 [Cornerstone] [being] [The Anointed One],
 [Jesus]:

²¹{(a)} [in] [Whom] [a [whole] Building]—
 [which is being precisely framed together]—[is
 being made to grow] [into] [a [holy]
 Sanctuary] [for] [His Majesty];
²²{(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

Knowing the Truth in regard to the Hebrew idiom “build a House” and *the promise* God gave David in 2 Samuel 7 makes a HUGE difference in your understanding of some New Testament passages, does it not? Don’t get too excited over that one, I have a whole lot more to show you before the End of the Age shows up and “enlightens” all the scoffers. Wouldn’t want you to become too accustomed to “seeing” the most amazing things in the Scriptures, things that have been hidden right out in the open. :-)

Paul is *talking about* the fact that “The House” of Adam and “The House” of God were merged in the Person of Christ. He thereby became “The Remnant” of Adam, the only “Seed” of Adam God ever intends to salvage. Therefore, the only hope we have of ever returning from the realm of the dead in which we now exist lies in our becoming “One” with Christ. Therein lies the *parabolic image* of “The Bride” of Christ. The Truth is, Luke’s genealogy of Mary traces her lineage back to Adam in order to show that the lineage of her father Eli was not contaminated by the lunatics mentioned in this passage:

¹[So it was] [that] [The Descendants of Adam]
 [began] [to increase] [on] [{the} Surface of] [The Ground],
 [and Daughters] [were engendered] [for them]. ²[And
 [{the} Sons of] [The {Living} God] saw] [{the}
 Daughters of] [The Descendants of Adam]—[that]
 [they] {were} [good], [so they took] [Women] [for
 themselves] [from all] [that] [they chose]. ³[So [His
 Majesty] said]: “[My Spirit] [will [not] adjudicate the case
 of] [The Descendants of Adam] [for a Burning Eternity].
 [When they were intoxicated], [he] {was} [Flesh]; [so [his
 Days] will be] [a hundred] [and twenty] [Years].” ⁴[The
 Nephilim] [were] [on {the} Earth] [in [those] Days] [and
 even] [after that]. [When] [the Sons of] [{the} {Living}
 God] [entered] [{the} Daughters of] [The Descendants
 of Adam], [they engendered {sons}] [for them]. [These]
 {were} [The Gibbors] [who] {were} [from a Burning
 Eternity]—[Men of] [The Name].

(Genesis 6:1–4) —my interim translation

If you think that nefarious activity ended with the Flood, think again. It is, in fact, the reason why God found the practice of the *zonah* ritual to be so repugnant; it posed a threat to the purity of the lineage of Adam. Luke is merely letting us know the males in the lineage of Mary made it through unscathed.

Editor: Here is a request from a new contributor who states he needs help.

"I have sought truth for over fifty years. Since studying with VOE, I have been discarding a lot of false teachings, which are many, as you point out. I want you to 'shoot holes' in a teaching for those of us who have been taught such garbage. In Genesis 3:6 it has been taught that when Eve was approached and 'wholly' seduced by an Angel of Light (Satan disguised) she not only believed Satan's lie thereby calling God a liar; but also took of his 'fruit.'

It kind of explained why Eve added to God's instructions 'neither shall ye touch it.' It has been taught that there were two seeds sown and thereby engendered with God Himself putting enmity between the serpent's seed and woman's seed. Adam knew his wife after and Eve had two sons (different fathers); Cain first, and continued in labor and bore Abel.

I have done all I can with my limited knowledge which equates to a Strong's Exhausted Concordance and Green's Interlinear, but I need your expertise to set this straight. This is a huge nondenominational ministry that teaches this, and you probably already know to whom I refer. Please discuss John 8:44 and whether it has any part in this carefully built doctrine. I believe what you explain in the January 2018 newsletter."

The newsletter article he is referring to is: "It Would Be Best to Not Call God a Liar."

Elijah: It is my understanding that this particular belief is part of a much larger belief system in which the Jews are the physical descendants of the "seed" engendered by Satan. The passage on which that belief is based can be found in what the Apostle John says here:

¹²[Therefore], [Jesus] [spoke] [to them] [again], [saying]: "[I] [AM] [The] [Light] [of The] [World]! [The one who] [follows] [Me] [will] [definitely not] walk [in] [The] [Darkness], [but] [will have] [The] [Light] [of His] [Life]."

¹³[Therefore], [The] [Pharisees] [told] [Him]: "[You] [are providing testimony] [about] [Yourself]! [Your] [Testimony] [is] [not] [truthful]!"

¹⁴[Jesus] [responded] [and] [told] [them]: "[Even if] [I] [provide testimony] [about] [Myself], [My]

[Testimony] [is] [truthful], [because] [I am aware of] [where] [I came] from [and] [where] [I am going]. [But] [you] [are] [not] aware of [where] [I came] from [or] [where] [I am going to go]! ¹⁵[You] [judge] [in accordance with] [The] [Flesh]; [I] [am] [not] judging [anybody at all]. ¹⁶[But] [even] [if] [I] [were to judge], [The] [Sentence] [that] [I have] [is] [true]; [because] [I am] [not] [alone] [in judging], [but] [I] [and] [The] [Father] [Who sent] [Me]. ¹⁷[But] [even] [in] [your] [own] [Law] [it has been written] [that] [The] [Testimony] [of two] [Men] [is] [truthful]. ¹⁸[I] [AM] [the One Who] [is providing testimony] [about] [Myself]; [and] [The] [Father] [Who sent] [Me] [is providing testimony] [about] [Me]."

¹⁹[Therefore], [they were saying] [to Him], "[Where] [is] [Your] [Father]?"

[Jesus] [responded]: "[You know] [neither] [Me] [nor] [My] [Father]! [If] [you knew] [Me], [you] [would] [also] know [My] [Father]!"

²⁰[He made] [These] [Statements] [in] [The] [Treasury], [while teaching] [in] [The] [Temple]; [and] [nobody] [laid hold of] [Him], [because] [His] [Hour] [had] [not yet] come. ²¹[Therefore], [He told] [them] [again]: "[I] [am going to go], [and] [you will look for] [Me], [and] [you will die] [in] [your] [Sin]! [Where] [I] [am going], [you] [can] [not] [come]!"

²²[Therefore], [The] [Jews] [were saying], "[He would] [not by any means] kill [Himself] {would He}, [because] [He says], '[Where] [I] [am going], [you] [can] [not] [come]'?"

²³[So] [He was telling] [them]: "[You] [are] [part] [of the things that are] [down below]; [I] [AM] [part] [of the things that are] [above]! [You] [are] [part] [of] [This] [World]; [I] [AM] [not] [part] [of] [This] [World]! ²⁴[Therefore], [I told] [you] [that] [you will die] [in] [your] [Sins]; [for] [if] [you do] [not] believe [that] [I] [AM], [you will die] [in] [your] [Sins]!"

²⁵[Therefore], [they were saying] [to Him], "[Who] [are] [You]?"

[Jesus] [told] [them]: "[The] [Beginning]—[even] [that] [which] [I am speaking] [to you]! ²⁶[I have] [to speak] [and] [decide] [Many Things] [about] [you], [but] [the One Who] [sent] [Me] [is] [truthful]; [and] [the things that] [I] [have heard] [from] [Him], [These Things] [I speak] [in] [The] [World]."

²⁷[They did] [not] know [that] [He was talking] [to them] about [The] [Father]. ²⁸[Therefore], [Jesus] [told] [them]: "[When] [you elevate] [The] [Son] [of The] [Man], [at that time] [you will know] [that] [I] [AM];

[and] [I am [not] doing {anything}] [of] [My Own accord], [but] [I am speaking] [These Things] [just as] [The] [Father] [taught] [Me]. ²⁹[And] [the One Who] [sent] [Me] [is] [with] [Me]. [He has [not] left] [Me] [alone], [because] [I] [always] [do] [the things that are] [pleasing] [to Him]."

³⁰[While [He] was speaking] [These Things], [Many] [believed God's **promise**] [about] [Him].

³¹[Therefore], [Jesus] [was saying] [to] [The] [Jews] [who believed] [Him], "[If] [you] [continue on] [in] [The] [Word] [that] [I have], [you [truly] are] [My] [Disciples];

³²[and] [you will know] [The] [Truth], [and] [The] [Truth] [will set [you] free]."

³³[They responded] [to] [Him], "[We are] [Abraham's] [Seed] [and] [have [not] ever] been slaves to {anybody}; [how] [can [You] say] [that] 'You will become] [free]?'"

³⁴[Jesus] [responded] [to them]: "[Without doubt]! [Without doubt], [I tell] [you] [that] [anyone] [who] [commits] [Sin] [is] [a Slave] [of his] [Sin]. ³⁵[But] [The] [Slave] [is [not] GOING TO CONTINUE ON] [in] [The] [House] [INTO] [THE] [AGE TO COME]; [The] [Son] [is GOING TO CONTINUE ON] {in the house} [INTO] [THE] [AGE TO COME]. ³⁶[Therefore], [if] [The] [Son] [sets [you] free], [you [really] will be] [free]. ³⁷[I am aware] [that] [you are] [Abraham's] [Seed]; [but] [you are seeking] [to kill] [Me], [because] [The] [Word] [that] [I have] [is [not] making room {for itself}] [in] [you]. ³⁸[I am talking about] [the things that] [I] [have seen] [with] [My] [Father], [so] [therefore] [you] [are acting in accordance with] [the things that] [you have heard] [from] [your] [Father]."

³⁹[They responded] [and] [told] [Him], "[Our] [Father] [is] [Abraham]!"

[Jesus] [tells] [them]: "[If] [you were] [Abraham's] [Children], [you would be doing] [The] [Works] [of] [Abraham]. ⁴⁰[But] [you are [now] seeking] [to kill] [Me], [a Man] [Who] [has told] [you] [The] [Truth]—[what] [I heard] [from] [The] [{Living} God]. [Abraham] [did [not] do] [This]. ⁴¹[You] [are doing] [The] [Works] [of] [your] [Father]."

[Therefore], [they told] [Him], "[We] [were [not] engendered] [on the basis] [of Sexual Promiscuity]; [we have] [one] [Father]—[The] [{Living} God]!"

⁴²[Jesus] [told] [them]: "[If] [The] [{Living} God] [were] [your] [Father], [you [would] love] [Me]; [for] [I] [came out] [of] [The] [{Living} God], [and] [I have come], [for] [I did [not even] come] [of] [My Own accord], [but] [That Individual] [sent] [Me].

⁴³[Why] [do you [not] know] [What [I] Said]? [Because] [you can] [not] [hear] [The] [Word] [that] [I have]! ⁴⁴[You] [are] [part] [of your] [Father], [The] [False Accuser]; [and] [you want] [to act in accordance with] [The] [Selfish Desires] [of] [your] [Father]. [That Individual] [has been] [a Killer] [since] [The Beginning]; [and] [he does [not] stand] [in] [The] [Truth], [because] [Truth] [is] [not] [in] [him]. [Whenever] [he speaks] [The] [Lie], [he is speaking] [on the basis] [of his] [own {thoughts}], [because] [he is] [a Liar] [and] [The] [Father] [of it].

⁴⁵[But] [because] [I] [am speaking] [The] [Truth], [you do [not] believe] [Me]. ⁴⁶[Which one] [of] [you] [is going to reprimand] [Me] [with regard to] [Sin]? [If] [I am telling {you}] [{the} Truth], [why] [do [you] [not] believe] [Me]? ⁴⁷[The one who] [is] [part] [of The] [{Living} God] [hears] [The] [Statements Made] [by The] [{Living} God]. [For] [This Reason] [you] [do [not] hear {them}], [because] [you are] [not] [part] [of The] [{Living} God]!"

(John 8:12–47) —HSSB

To accurately understand that passage, one has to ask the question, "How does one become a Child of God?" If you can answer that question correctly, you can understand the point Jesus is making. If you can't, you can't. His point is actually quite easy to comprehend, so let me answer the question I just posed: You become a Child of God by believing the Truth. Likewise, you become a child of Satan by believing his lies. Case closed. Jesus is not *talking about* the physical.

As far as some supposed sexual intercourse with Eve is concerned, I have already told you the Hebrew idiom "knowing good and evil" means "to be sexually mature." Since a girl becomes sexually mature when she begins ovulating and Eve became sexually mature *after* she believed Satan's lie and started to die ("age"), *why* would anyone have reason to believe she had a sexual encounter with Satan when the Hebrew text specifically states otherwise? Take a look:

[Then The Adam] [knew] [his Woman] [Eve], [and she got pregnant] [and engendered] [Cain]. [And she said], "[I have acquired] [a Man]—[His Majesty]."

(Genesis 4:1) —my interim translation

Anyone with even a smattering of Hebrew knows the Hebrew *and* indicates consecutive events. ■



The Voice of Elijah® includes this column to show you how some of the underlying parabolic images of the Gospel message of the Old Testament speak to the times in which we find ourselves. There are a variety of weather images to be found in the parables of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Most are associated in some way with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

In case you haven't noticed, things have recently been getting downright "windy" here on Planet Earth. That being the case, I thought it might be time to give you a heads-up and let you know a few things that indicate we are moving right into the vortex of an incredibly powerful "storm." Before long, it will become obvious to all but the mentally myopic that there is no turning back from the inevitable.

The Communists have been indoctrinating the gullible for nearly a century now, and they have no intention of ever giving up their insipid belief that an amazing political Utopia can be created here in the realm of the dead. Unfortunately, they have been spitting into the wind all that time and ignorantly ignoring the spit that ends up in their eyes. Now that the devious designs of the Communists are out in the open here in the States, it's time to call out the Capitalists who have craftily contributed to the confusing countercurrents circling the globe today.

The Capitalists have been equally unceasing in trying to corner the market and create an economic Utopia for themselves and their friends. It is an impossible task, but they simply will not give it up. Now that "bean counters" have replaced the engineers who used to stand watch at the helm of major corporations, product quality no longer matters; it's all about the bottom line. That has presented a perfect opportunity for the Communists to teach the Capitalists how to leave the consumer twisting in the wind by producing inferior products and a plethora of counterfeits.

The Christians are a group the other two have not counted on, but they are about to make a resurgence, much to the chagrin of both the Communists and the Capitalists. When they do, things are going to get ugly in a hurry. But don't worry; be happy; God's got it all under control.

Communist, Capitalist, Christian?

The sad fact of the matter is this: Everyone down here in this hell-hole in which we live is "chasing the dragon" in one "way" or another. That is, they are all dreaming of a Utopia that does not, and will never, exist. It only exists as a fantasy in their mind, yet they keep on hoping to happen upon it in spite of the long trail of detritus that clearly indicates it will never be.

Take the marriage relationship for example: Two people go into it with high hopes and expectations, both hoping to "get" as much as they can "get" out of it. Then they wonder why it all falls apart so quickly. "Get" what I mean. No real love there, only two people *wanting* rather than *giving*. But *individual* wants and desires are not what I plan to *talk about* here. Instead, I am going to explain *why* the *corporate* wants and desires of our generation are nothing more than a pack of fools "chasing the dragon."

Psalm 2 is the first thing that comes to mind when I read or hear what some fool has spit out about how much better things will be if we just change this or that. If you are not familiar with the psalm, take a good long look at what the psalmist wrote:

¹[Why] [are [Gentiles] conspiring together*],
[And Kinfolk] [cooing over] [Emptiness]?

²[The Kings] [of Earth] [will position themselves],
[And Authorities] [will be founded] [together]
[Against] [His Majesty]—[even against]

[His Anointed One]:

³"[Let's snap] [their Shackles]

[And toss] [their Cords] [from us]!"

⁴{One} Who sits] [in The Sea of Waters] [will laugh]!
[My Master] [will jeer] [at them].

⁵[At that time], [He will speak] [to them]
[in His Anger];

[And [He will frighten them] with His Burning]:

⁶"[But I] [have {already} poured out [My King]
as a cast image]

[On] [Zion], [{the} Mountain] [of My Holiness]!"

⁷"[I will recount] [concerning] [{the} Statute]
[of His Majesty]:
[He said] [to Me]: 'You {are} [My Son]!
[I engendered You] [Today]!
⁸[Ask] [of Me], [and I will give] [Gentiles]
[as Your **Inheritance**];
[The Ends] [of Earth], [as Your Property].
⁹[You will break them] [with an [iron] Staff];
[You will pulverize them] [like a Thing]
[that is being formed]."
¹⁰[So now], [O Kings], [gain insight];
[Accept admonishment], [O Judges] [of Earth].
¹¹[Work for] [His Majesty] [in Fear],
[And be happy] [with Shudders].
¹²[Kiss] [{the} Son], [lest] [He becomes angry]
[And you go [{the} Way] to Hell],
[Because] [His Anger] [will burn] [for a little {while}].
[Those Who Attain the Resurrection] {are}
[all] [who take refuge] [in Him].
(Psalm 2:1–12) —my interim translation

You are about to see the fulfillment of the last verse of that psalm. Just wait; you'll see. The leaders of the major countries of the world are becoming more and more convinced it is possible to create a Utopia here on Earth. It's a stupid belief, I know; but they firmly believe it. This is a precise description of their thinking:

²[The Kings] [of Earth] [will position themselves],
[And Authorities] [will be founded] [together]
[Against] [His Majesty]—[even against]
[His Anointed One]:
³"[Let's snap] [their Shackles]
[And toss] [their Cords] [from us]!"
(Psalm 2:2–3) —my interim translation

Take note of what those big boys are saying, then ask yourself, "What 'shackles' and 'cords' has the Lord placed on us that mentally medacious morons *think* they are going to be able to remove?" Oh! Wait! I think I might have one! What about death? Wouldn't it be great if folks could go on living forever down here in this sewer? Seems to me I remember something about the Lord putting a "shackle" on us in regard to that one, but maybe I'm wrong. Let's see what you think:

²²[Then [His Majesty]—[God]—said], "[Guess what!] [The Adam] [has become] [like one] [of Us],

[knowing] [good] [and bad]. [But now], [so that] [he does [not] [also] stretch out] [his Hand] [and take] [some of {the} Tree] [{of} Those Who Are Living] [and eat] [and live] [for a Burning Eternity], ²³[His Majesty]—[God]—[must send him] [out of {the} Garden] [{of} Eden], [to work] [The Ground] [from] [where] [he was taken]."

²⁴[So He drove [The Adam] away] [and caused [The Cherubim] [and the Flame*] [{of} The [constantly turning] Sword] to take up residence] [away from **Qedem**] [at the Garden] [{of} Eden], [to stand watch over] [The Way] [{of the} Tree] [{of} Those Who Are Living].
(Genesis 3:22–24) —my interim translation

Would it surprise you to learn scientists are working on various ways to lengthen the lifespan of people under the age of fifty so they have more time to solve the death problem? They are—diligently. And a lot of other people think they will eventually succeed. The headline on a recent copy of the *MIT Technology Review* read "Old Age Is Over! If You Want It." A great big bunch of people believe that. Never mind that a limited lifespan is just another "shackle" God placed on us. At least that's "The Way" I read what God said in this passage:

¹[So it was] [that] [The Descendants of Adam] [began] [to increase] [on] [{the} Surface of] [The Ground], [and Daughters] [were engendered] [for them]. ²[And [{the} Sons of] [The {Living} God] saw] [{the} Daughters of] [The Descendants of Adam]—[that] [they] {were} [good], [so they took] [Women] [for themselves] [from all] [that] [they chose]. ³[So [His Majesty] said]: "[My Spirit] [will [not] adjudicate the case of] [The Descendants of Adam] [for a Burning Eternity]. [When they were intoxicated], [he] {was} [Flesh]; [so [his Days] will be] [a hundred] [and twenty] [Years]."
⁴[The **Nephilim**] [were] [on {the} Earth] [in [those] Days] [and even] [after that]. [When] [the Sons of] [{the} {Living} God] [entered] [{the} Daughters of] [The Descendants of Adam], [they engendered {sons}] [for them]. [These] {were} [The **Gibbors**] [who] {were} [from a Burning Eternity]—[Men of] [The Name].
(Genesis 6:1–4) —my interim translation

Could it possibly be that one day we could just pop a pill or two and live longer? Maybe. More than a few scientists are convinced they will soon "have a drug for that." Juan Carlos Izpisua Belmonte, who works at

the Gene Expression Laboratory at San Diego's Salk Institute for Biological Studies doesn't just think so, he has already shown it is possible in mice. From the work he has done, he believes the human life span can be extended by 30 to 50 years, which might be just long enough for one person to gain enough insight to work the magic necessary to overcome death. You don't think so? Maybe you haven't been reading your Bible. Mine says it can happen; at least it says God said so, but maybe you *choose* to think otherwise:

¹[Now [The [whole] Earth] was] [one] [Language] [and [one] Vocabulary]. ²[And it happened], [while they were journeying] [out of Qedem], [that they found] [a Broad Valley] [in {the} Land] [{of} Shinar] [and dwelled] [there].

³[Then [Each One] said] [to] [his Neighbor]: "[Come on!] [Let's make] [Bricks] [and burn {them} thoroughly] [by burning {them}]." [So [The Brick] became] [Stone] [for them], [and The Tar] [became] [Clay] [for them].

⁴[Then they said]: "[Come on!] [Let's build] [a City] [and a Tower] [for ourselves]. [Its Top] {will be} [in {the} Sea of Waters!] [And let's make] [a Name] [for ourselves], [lest] [we be dispersed] [over] [{the} Surface of] [The [whole] Earth]."

⁵[Then [His Majesty] came down] [to look at] [The City] [and] [The Tower] [that] [{the} Sons of] [The Adam] [had built]. ⁶[And [His Majesty] said]: "[Guess what!] [All of them have] [one] [People] [and [one] Language]. [But [doing] this] [has polluted them], [and now] [nothing] [that] [they intend] [to do] [will be withheld] [from them]. ⁷[Come on!] [Let's go down] [there] [and mix up] [their Language] [so that] [Each One] [can [not] hear] [{the} Language of] [his Neighbor]."

⁸[So [His Majesty] dispersed] [them] [from there] [over] [{the} Surface of] [The [whole] Earth], [and they quit] [building] [The City]. ⁹[Therefore], [its Name] [is called] "[Babylon]" [because] [His Majesty] [mixed up] [{the} Language of] [The [whole] Earth] [there]; [and from there] [His Majesty] [dispersed them] [over] [{the} Surface of] [The [whole] Earth].

(Genesis 11:1-9) —my interim translation

I don't know about you, but when God says, "nothing that they intend to do will be withheld from them," I can't see how He could *mean* anything other than the plain *meaning* of the text. But did you notice

that passage also describes the Lord putting one more "shackle" on us. I mentioned it more than twenty years ago when I told you the day would soon come when a person could speak in his native language and another person would hear him speaking in his own language. That day has long since come and gone, so what does that say with regard to all the "shackles" the Lord has placed on us? Not a whit less than everything.

You see, Psalm 2 does not say that it is impossible to remove the "shackles" with which the Lord has bound us. It says that the effort to remove them is the catalyst that will bring the terrifying fire of the Lord down on this civilization. Maybe you didn't see that the first time around. Here, have another look at how the psalmist describes the End of the Age:

¹[Why] [are [Gentiles] conspiring together*], [And Kinfolk] [cooing over] [Emptiness]?

²[The Kings] [of Earth] [will position themselves], [And Authorities] [will be founded] [together] [Against] [His Majesty]—[even against]

[His Anointed One];

³"[Let's snap] [their Shackles]

[And toss] [their Cords] [from us]!"

⁴[{One} Who sits] [in The Sea of Waters] [will laugh]! [My Master] [will jeer] [at them].

⁵[At that time], [He will speak] [to them] [in His Anger];

[And [He will frighten them] with His Burning];

⁶"[But I] [have {already} poured out] [My King] [as a cast image]

[On] [Zion], [{the} Mountain] [of My Holiness]!"

⁷"[I will recount] [concerning] [{the} Statute] [of His Majesty];

[He said] [to Me]: '[You] {are} [My Son]!

[I engendered You] [Today]!

⁸[Ask] [of Me], [and I will give] [Gentiles] [as Your **Inheritance**];

[The Ends] [of Earth], [as Your Property].

⁹[You will break them] [with an [iron] Staff];

[You will pulverize them] [like a Thing] [that is being formed]."

¹⁰[So now], [O Kings], [gain insight];

[Accept admonishment], [O Judges] [of Earth].

¹¹[Work for] [His Majesty] [in Fear],

[And be happy] [with Shudders].

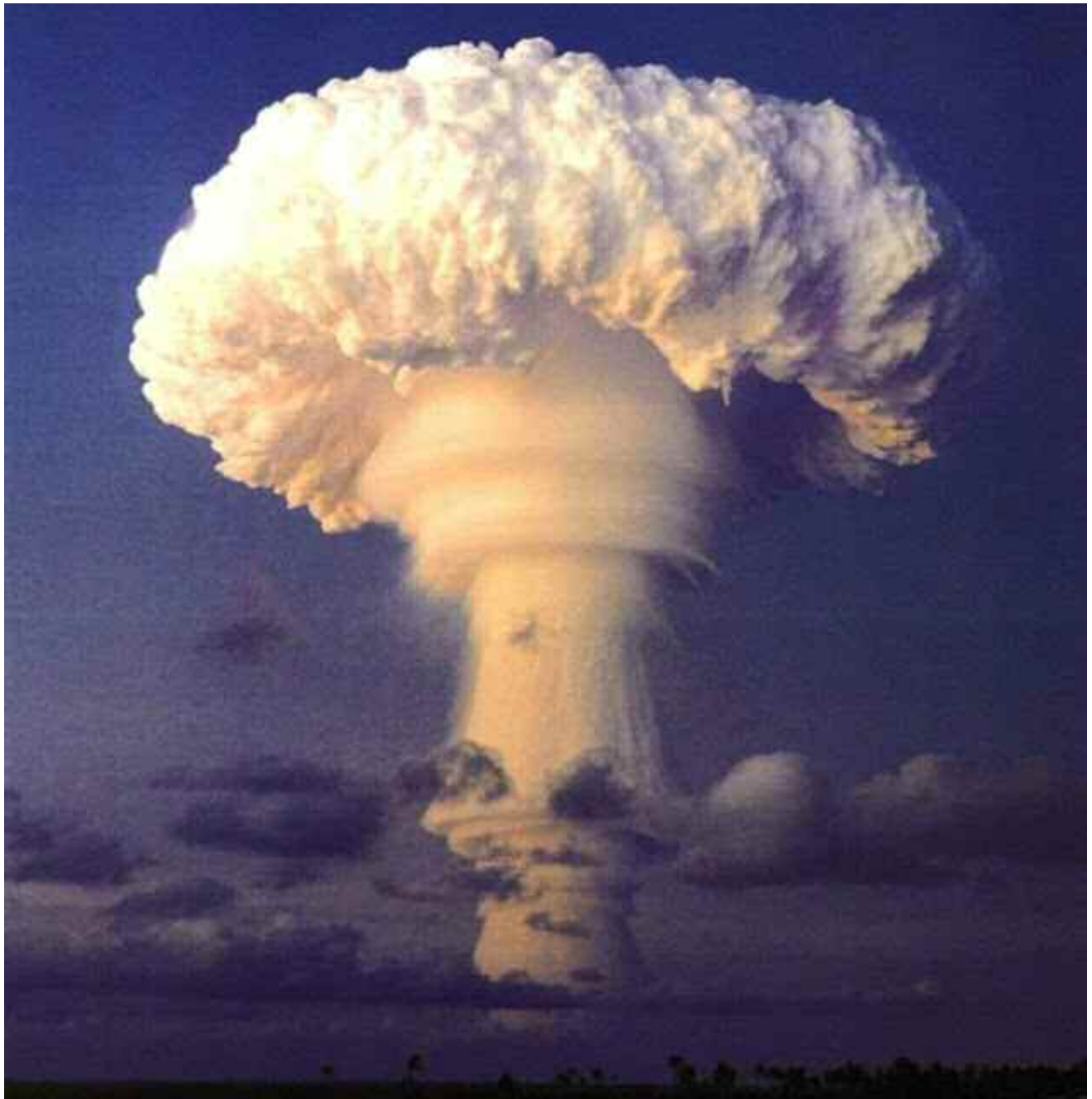
¹²[Kiss] [{the} Son], [lest] [He becomes angry] [And you go [{the} Way] to Hell],

*[Because] [His Anger] [will burn] [for a little {while}].
[Those Who Attain the Resurrection] {are}
[all] [who take refuge] [in Him].
(Psalm 2:1–12) —my interim translation*

As I have been telling you for several years now, the clouds that rise from the fires of Hell have already appeared on the horizon. The sons of Israel were the first to see their awesome power when God appeared in the form of the fire emanating from a nuclear pillar and cloud on that first Passover. But we all have had opportunity to see the devastation wrought when they

rose up over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They were on public display again any number of times over Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands between 1946 and 1958. One of the nuclear weapons detonated there was over a thousand times more powerful than the one dropped on Hiroshima. The weapons manufactured today are thousands of times more powerful than that one.

Can you imagine the carnage if all of the nuclear weapons created over past decades were unleashed in a single day? Get used to the idea; the reality is coming. It will be along shortly. The Lord is just waiting for the right time to show the horrifying sight of His “face.” ■



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which are present in his thoughts. For I consider that as a house or a ship is built and fashioned in accordance with the sketches of the builder or designer, the house or the ship having their beginning (arche) in the sketches and reckonings in his mind, so all things came into being in accordance with the designs of what was to be, clearly laid down by God in wisdom.

And we should add that having created, so to speak, ensouled wisdom, He left her to hand over, from the types which were in her, to things existing and to matter, the actual emergence of them, their moulding and their forms. But I consider, if it be permitted to say this, that the beginning (arche) of real existence was the Son of God, saying: "I am the beginning and the end, the A and the Ω, the first and the last." We must, however, remember that He is not the arche in respect of every name which is applied to Him. For how can He be the beginning in respect of His being life, when life came in the Word, and the Word is manifestly the arche of life? It is also tolerably evident that He cannot be the arche in respect of His being the first-born from the dead. And if we go through all His titles carefully we find that He is the arche only in respect of His being wisdom. Not even as the Word is He the arche, for the Word was in the arche. And so one might venture to say that wisdom is anterior to all the thoughts that are expressed in the titles of the first-born of every creature.

Now God is altogether one and simple; but our Saviour, for many reasons, since God set Him forth a propitiation and a first fruits of the whole creation, is made many things, or perhaps all these things; the whole creation, so far as capable of redemption, stands in need of Him. And, hence, He is made the light of men, because men, being darkened by wickedness, need the light that shines in darkness, and is not overtaken by the darkness; had not men been in darkness, He would not have become the light of men. The same thing may be observed in respect of His being the first-born of the dead.

Origen, "Commentary on John," Book 1, Chap. 22, in Roberts and Donaldson (Eds.), *The Ante-Nicene Fathers* (1887), Vol. 10, pp. 307–308.

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